

Item #13:
Village Clerk Schultheis
Legislative Updates



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Elections

Filing Deadline Extended for Election Candidates

Those planning to run for office in the spring have until Dec. 26 to file their paperwork.

By [Cristel Mohrman](#) [Email the author](#) 5:53 am

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Those planning to run for elected office in the spring will have a couple of extra days to declare their candidacies. The Illinois state legislature has moved the deadline to 5 p.m. Dec. 26.

Originally, candidates were required to file by 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, a day when many public buildings will be closed.

Filing for the April 9 election, which will include village, school and library board positions, begins at 8 a.m. Dec. 17. While prospective candidates are now circulating nominating petitions, their candidacies won't become official until they file the required paperwork.

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[Vernon Area Library](#)

8:46 am on Wednesday, December 5, 2012

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David Lothspeich

From: IML Legislation [IMLLegislation@iml.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 10:22 AM
Subject: IML Statehouse Briefing - December 6, 2012

IML Statehouse Briefing



On the ground news and insider information!

December 6, 2012

The General Assembly concluded the 2012 Veto Session early when both the House and Senate cancelled session for Thursday, December 6. A few issues were resolved while others remain pending. Among those issues resolved include the defeat of legislation to preempt local control over plastic bag recycling, the extension of the deadline for filing candidate nomination petitions, and legislation addressing the problems related to foreclosed property.

Several issues remain pending, including reforms for the state pension systems, police and fire pension fund trustee training requirements, gaming expansion, temporary drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants, an expansion of prevailing wage requirements, corporate income tax reporting requirements, and an E-911 extension. Several of these issues will receive further work during the "lame duck" session from January 2-8.

Pension Reform Delayed: Sufficient votes in support of a singular pension reform bill for the state-funded pension systems continue to elude Legislative Leaders. Newly-elected members of the House have been told that they may be asked to cast votes in support of pension reform during the 98th General Assembly, implying that the Legislative Leaders remain uncertain that the votes will be present during the "lame duck" session in early January. It remains very possible that any action on pension reform could be delayed until later in the spring. It should be noted that, on December 5, a bipartisan group of House members [unveiled a pension reform proposal](#) for the state-funded pension systems that does not appear to have the support of the Legislative Leaders at this time. The legislation is [HB 6258](#) (Rep. Nekritz, D-Northbrook).

Gaming Unaddressed: The sponsors of [SB 1849](#) (Sen. Link, D-Waukegan and Rep. Lang, D-Skokie) elected not to attempt an override of Governor Quinn's Veto. The bill proposed to authorize 5 additional casinos and allow slots at horse racing tracks. The Governor and Mayor of Chicago are expected to continue to work toward an agreement on gaming expansion that could be presented as early as the "lame duck" session in early January.

General Assembly Approves Foreclosure Legislation: Both chambers approved [SB 16](#) (Sen. Collins, D-Chicago and Rep. Lyons, D-Chicago) with the goal of addressing the abandoned property crises. The bill [includes several provisions](#), among them being the imposition of foreclosure filing fees and an expedited foreclosure process. SB 16 will be sent to the Governor. **IML SUPPORTS**

Candidate Petition Filing Deadline: [SB 3338](#) (Sen. Harmon, D-Oak Park and Rep. Currie, D-Chicago) was signed into law as P.A. 97-1134. The new law extends the final day for filing a candidate petition from December 24 to December 26 so that the offices of municipal and township clerks, as well as school and park district administrative offices are not required to be open to accept

petitions on Christmas Eve.

Pension Fund Trustee Training Requirements: The Senate approved [HB 4666](#) on a vote of 51-0-2. The bill would reduce the training requirements for police and firefighter pension fund trustees by providing two years to accomplish the initial 32-hours of training required for new appointees while allowing the 16 hours of continuing training to be met every two years instead of annually. HB 4666 (Sen. Maloney, D-Chicago and Rep. Burke, D-Evergreen Park) is presently on Order of Concurrence in the House. **IML SUPPORTS**

Undocumented Immigrant Drivers' Licenses: [SB 957](#) (Sen. Cullerton, D-Chicago and Rep. Acevedo, D-Chicago) was approved by the Illinois Senate by a vote of 41-14-1. The bill would allow the Secretary of State to award temporary drivers' licenses to undocumented immigrants. Proponents of the legislation estimate that there are approximately 250,000 undocumented motorists in Illinois, and that these undocumented drivers have contributed to over \$660 million in insurance claim costs. The bill is currently in the House Transportation - Vehicles and Safety Committee. A hearing will likely occur during the "lame duck" session in early January.

Responsible Bidder Requirement: [SB 2643](#) (Representative Lilly, D-Chicago) would result in fewer contractors being eligible to bid on public works projects under the Prevailing Wage Act because eligible bidders would have to demonstrate participation within a United States Department of Labor approved apprentice and training program. This legislation re-emerged on December 5 when the House Rules Committee voted unanimously to move it to Third Reading. The IML anticipates that there will be an attempt to pass this legislation in early January. **IML OPPOSES**

E-911 Extension: [SB 1543](#) was amended to extend the sunset deadline for the Wireless Emergency Telephone Safety Act to July 1, 2013. The Act is set to expire on April 1, 2013. This Act partially provides the operations and funding authority for 911 systems throughout the State. Without this Act, local governments would face a crisis in operating 911 systems. The bill was unanimously approved by the House and will likely be considered by the Senate in January. **IML SUPPORTS**

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David Lothspeich

From: IML Legislation [IMLLegislation@iml.org]
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2012 11:34 AM
Subject: IML Statehouse Briefing - November 30, 2012

IML Statehouse Briefing



On the ground news and insider information!

November 30, 2012

The General Assembly concluded the first half of the six-day veto session following action on several issues. The IML had a successful week advocating on behalf of our members. This past week's success saw the preservation of home rule power and local control over plastic bag recycling programs and an extension in the candidate petition filing deadline that will allow municipal and township clerks, as well as school and park district offices, to close their offices on Christmas Eve. The week also saw votes that angered both labor and business interests.

Following the end of Veto Session on December 6, the General Assembly is officially scheduled to reconvene for the "lame duck" session during the first week of January. The Senate is scheduled to convene at 3 p.m. on January 2 and the House is scheduled to convene on January 3. Both chambers are scheduled to work through January 8, which is the final full day of the 97th General Assembly. The 98th General Assembly will be sworn in on January 9, 2013.

Local Control Over Recycling Programs: The Senate upheld the important principle of local control and home rule powers in [defeating an attempt to override the Governor's Veto](#) of SB 3442. The bill would have restricted local communities from instituting plastic bag recycling programs that would have been more effective than a proposed statewide requirement. The IML requested the veto and joined environmental groups to successfully lobby the General Assembly to prevent an override of the veto. Special thanks to Senators Frerichs and Righter for speaking out so strongly on behalf of local control during the floor debate.

Candidate Petition Filing Extension: Legislation moving the final day for filing nomination petitions to run in the 2013 consolidated election from Christmas Eve to the day after Christmas was [approved by both the House and Senate](#) without a single opposing vote and will next be considered by the Governor. The IML would like to offer sincere thanks to the sponsors of the bill, Senator Harmon and Representative Currie, the Municipal Clerks of Illinois, the Governor's Office, and the House and Senate Caucus staffs for working with us to successfully pass [SB 3338](#). **IML SUPPORTS**

Pension Trustee Training: A bill to [ease the training requirements](#) for police and firefighter pension fund trustees is working its way through the General Assembly. Several municipalities have contacted the IML with concerns about the training requirements being onerous enough to discourage interest in serving on pension boards. The IML supports the changes within HB 4666 (Sen. Maloney, D-Chicago) as a sensible alternative to the existing training requirements. The bill is presently on Third Reading in the Senate. **IML SUPPORTS**

Senate Challenges Governor on Prison Funding: The Illinois Senate voted to override the Governor's reduction veto that removed \$57 million from the Department of Corrections (DOC) budget

in order to re-allocate the money to the Department of Children and Family Services. Following the Senate's vote to restore the \$57 million to DOC, the bill goes to the House. Speaker Madigan has yet to make a public statement about his intentions. In defending his reduction veto, Governor Quinn contends that the issue amounts to "a choice between spending on underutilized prisons or better protection against the abuse and neglect of children." Downstate legislators that would lose funding for prisons in their districts take a different view of the issue.

House Advances Resolution Opposing Pay Raises: The House put a significant number of votes on a resolution declaring that the state has insufficient revenue to offer pay raises to state employees. [HJR 45](#) (Speaker Madigan, D-Chicago) passed by a vote of 84-29, as lawmakers sided with the Speaker in defiance of one of Illinois' most prominent labor unions. The vote further angered AFSCME at a time when the union is objecting to the decision by Governor Quinn to terminate its contract. State Representative John Bradley (D-Marion) defended the vote when he stated that "the days of people sending us the bills or making promises they can't keep are over. We're out of money. We don't have a money tree." HJR 45 is of particular interest to municipal governments because it includes language in support of the position that employee staffing levels should not be subject to the collective bargaining process. This position is consistent with an IML initiative to exempt police and fire manning and staffing requirements from the collective bargaining process. HJR 45 will next be considered by the Senate.

Corporate Income Tax Reporting Measure Advances: Senate President John Cullerton amended and advanced [SB 282](#) during the first week of the veto session. SB 282 requires publicly-traded Illinois corporations to disclose what they pay in state income taxes. Proponents contend that the bill will make it easier to evaluate Illinois' corporate tax structure. Opponents argue that the bill worsens what they already believe is an inhospitable business climate. The bill was approved by the Senate with the minimum 30 votes necessary for passage, and will next be considered by the House.

Assault Weapons Ban: A bill intended to close a loophole to prevent Illinois residents from purchasing ammunition through the mail from Illinois suppliers was re-written by the Governor into an assault weapons ban. The Senate voted to override the Governor's amendatory veto of [SB 681](#) by a vote of 49-4. The House is scheduled to vote on the override next week. If the amendatory veto is successfully overridden by both chambers, then the assault weapons ban language will be eliminated and the underlying bill concerning ammunition purchases will become law.

Undocumented Immigrant Drivers' License Bill Advances: An amendment to ensure that undocumented immigrants have some form of auto insurance to operate a motor vehicle was advanced within the Illinois Senate. [SB 957](#) (Senator Martinez, D-Chicago) was amended during a hearing of the Senate Executive Committee and, following a 12-2 vote, advanced to the Senate Floor. Proponents estimate that there are approximately 250,000 undocumented motorists in Illinois, and that these undocumented drivers have contributed to over \$660 million in insurance claim costs.

Top 2012 Campaign Contributors: The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform has identified the top five campaign contributors during 2012. They are grouped as follows:

- Labor Unions - \$10.7 million
- Attorneys - \$2.5 million
- Nursing Homes - \$1.4 million
- Electric Utilities - \$1.2 million
- Conservative Groups - \$900,000

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Remaining Days of the 97th General Assembly Could See Significant Activity

By: Joe McCoy, Legislative Director, Illinois Municipal League and Jim Norris, Village Manager, Village of Hoffman Estates

The General Assembly is getting back to business following a long summer hiatus. The veto session is scheduled for November 27-29 and December 4-6. Both chambers will then convene from January 2-8 to close the book on the 97th General Assembly. These early January dates are commonly referred to as the "lame duck" session. This upcoming "lame duck" session may yield some very significant legislative outcomes.

Veto Session Activity

This article initially goes to press during the middle of the six-day veto session. While legislative happenings can change in an instant, at the time of this writing the overall veto session looks as if it will be fairly quiet. The following issues are likely to be addressed:

Gaming Expansion

It appears as though gaming expansion may be addressed one way or another. The Governor vetoed SB 1849, but appears a little more willing to seek a compromise. Speaker Madigan looks to become more involved in the issue, which could help it along.

Plastic Bag Recycling

The IML will be working to sustain the Governor's veto of the plastic bag recycling bill (SB 3442). The Governor granted a veto in response to IML's concerns that the bill removed the option for local decision-making concerning how to properly dispense with plastic bags.

Candidate Petition Filings

The IML will also be working to adjust the candidate petition filing date so that municipal clerks don't have to accept petitions on Christmas Eve. The IML is partnering with the Governor's Office and Speaker's Office to achieve a favorable resolution for municipal clerks.

January "Lame Duck" Session

The final days of the 97th General Assembly may prove to be very impactful for Illinois public policy. The elections are over, non-borrowing legislation only needs a simple majority vote for passage, and there are a multitude of "free" votes available because of legislators who will not be coming back for the 98th General Assembly.

Pension Reform

Early January is when we are likely to see a pension reform bill affecting four of the five state-funded pension systems. The reason comes down to simple math. Trying to move a bill prior to January 1 requires a supermajority vote. Only a simple majority is necessary beginning January 1. It also appears increasingly likely that Speaker Madigan will push very hard to pass along some of the Teachers' Retirement System pension costs onto local school districts. As of this writing it appears unlikely that the bill will include police and fire pension changes unless adding such provisions will make it easier to pass the bill. Under this scenario, the IML and others would pursue separate reform legislation for the police and fire systems.

Income Tax Increase Extension

There is a possibility that House and Senate Leadership will move to make the income tax increase permanent in early January. The state budget problems continue to worsen and the many "free" votes available in early January may present the necessary political opportunity.

LGDF

Local officials will also need to be vigilant against a move to take some portion of our Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenue. LGDF collections are up approximately 13% during the current fiscal year. If you recall, the Senate Democrats introduced a budget package late last spring that included a capture of all natural LGDF growth. This package passed the Senate and was held in the House. Legislators may decide to revisit this "capture" to help ease the state budget deficit. We cannot allow that to happen!

Borrowing

The state has a backlog of unpaid bills presently estimated at about \$8 billion. Previous votes to borrow money to pay off these bills have been unsuccessful. There may be another attempt made in early January to send a borrowing bill to the Governor.