



## **Post-Election Day Update: November 9, 2022**

The Illinois General Election was held yesterday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, for all Congressional, Statewide Constitutional Officers (i.e. Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer and Attorney General), and State Legislative (House and Senate) seats.

The winners of the General Election will be sworn in to serve for their respective terms which begin in January 2023. For perspective, all 177 Illinois State Legislative seats (because this is the first election cycle under the newly created legislative district maps), all statewide constitutional officers, all United States House of Representative seats and one United States Senate seat (Senator Dick Durbin was not up for re-election) were on the ballot. With respect to the Illinois Congressional districts, there were 17 districts/seats up for election, which is one less district/seat as compared to the previous legislative map due to the 2020 Decennial Census results.

The 2023 Election was a big success for Democrats up and down the ticket. Democrats swept the statewide races, with each candidate winning by double digits. Five incumbent statewide officers won re-election (Governor Pritzker, Lt. Governor Stratton, Treasurer Michael Frerichs, Comptroller Mendoza, and Attorney General Raoul). The Office of Secretary of State will have a new office holder, Alexi Giannoulias, following the retirement of longtime serving Secretary of State, Jesse White.

In addition to their statewide success, Democrats maintained their Supreme Court majority, and won both contested court seats with Elizabeth Rochford (D) defeating Mark Curran (R) and Mary Kay O'Brien (D) defeating Michael Burke (R). As the results stand right now, it appears Democrats will maintain super-majorities in the Illinois House and Senate. Illinois House Democrats are likely to gain up to a net 4 seats, bringing their majority status up to 77 seats from 73. The House Democrats faced a surprisingly big loss as State Representative LaToya Greenwood (D-East St. Louis) was defeated by Kevin Schmidt (R-Millstadt) in the 114<sup>th</sup> House District. The Senate Democrats currently hold 41 seats, as such, the chambers' majority status was never really in question (36 seats needed for supermajority). The Senate Democrats are likely to lose one, possibly two, members of their caucus. Senator Kris Tharp (D-Wood River)

appears to have lost to Republican Erica Conway Harris in the 56<sup>th</sup> Senate District and State Senator Michael Hastings (D-Frankfort) is trailing his opponent, Republican Patrick Sheehan by a mere 68 votes.

Also appearing on the ballot was a proposed Amendment to the Illinois Constitution for ratification by Illinois voters throughout the state. The proposed Amendment will add a new Section 25, entitled “Workers’ Rights”, to Article 1 of the Illinois Constitution – Illinois’ Bill of Rights. In short, this amendment would make it a constitutional right for all workers in Illinois to collectively bargain with their employers. Although organized labor declared victory on the Workers’ Rights amendment, it is still unclear whether this initiative received enough votes for adoption. These results are currently labeled “too close to call”. It is important to note that votes are still being counted, including mail-in votes, early, and provisional votes. As a result, current margins and leads are likely to change as additional votes are counted and the election results are certified.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin announced that he will not be seeking another term as the Illinois House Republican Leader. Accordingly, the House Republicans will have a new leader for the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, which will start on January 11, 2023. At this time, it is unknown who will become the next House Republican Leader – but two potential candidates to keep an eye on include State Representative Tim Ozinga (R-Mokena) and State Representative Martin McLaughlin (R-Lake Barrington).

IMSCA would like to thank our members for your interest and participation in the 2022 General Election. In addition, we look forward to continuing building relationships with members of the Illinois General Assembly who were re-elected and forging new relationships with new members who will be inaugurated in January.

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to return to Springfield for the Fall Veto Session on November 15-17 and November 29-December 1. It is rumored, and is very possible, that some of the scheduled session days may be cancelled. It also seems likely that there will be a “Lame Duck” session between January 1-11, 2023. Issues that **may** be considered during the Fall Veto Session and/or Lame Duck session include criminal justice reform, gun control, reproductive health, and energy.

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