

# Public Policy Newsletter

January 14, 2021



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## Chris Welch Elected House Speaker

State Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, a Democrat from suburban Chicago, became the [first Black speaker of the Illinois House](#) on Wednesday, succeeding longtime Speaker Michael Madigan, who on Monday suspended his campaign for another two-year term.

Welch, 49, of Hillside, received 70 votes from House Democrats, avoiding what originally was shaping up to be a days-long struggle among fellow lawmakers over Madigan's candidacy and those running against him.

Speaking to lawmakers after his election and formal opening of the 102nd General Assembly, Welch said he wants to unite lawmakers behind common goals and reduce divisiveness in the House, where Democrats control the chamber with 73 seats to Republicans' 45 seats.

## Other state public policy and related news

Pritzker's plan to reduce state deficit by [decoupling Illinois from business tax breaks](#) provided through federal CARES Act, fails.

Emotions high during Illinois lawmakers' votes on Black caucus' [criminal justice reforms](#).

[Lame-duck session](#) ends with Democratic victories.

Nearly 400K Illinoisans have gotten [COVID-19 vaccine](#) shots, but only 83K are fully protected.

Illinois [National Guard activated](#) for Biden inauguration.



## Federal public policy and related news

[Biden to unveil plan](#) to pump \$1.5 trillion into economy, including increased stimulus and vaccine distribution.

[Trump impeached](#) by House over Capitol riots, first president to face rebuke twice.

First time [unemployment claims rise](#) sharply.

[J&J's one-shot COVID vaccine](#) is safe and generates promising immune response in early trial.



## Local public policy and related news

[Sangamon County unveils vaccine plan](#); rollout to enter new phase Monday.

Langfelder renews push for [Enos Park TIF](#) extension.

CWLP's [Small Business Rate Relief](#) rebate program continues.

Information on additional [CWLP bill assistance](#).

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce provides updated COVID-19 [Funding and Informational Resources](#).



## Bids and RFPs

### City of Springfield

[Bid Opportunities](#): Lead Service Line Replacement Project - FY2022-2023, Purchase of Oils & Lubricants, Truck Testing Services.

[Requests for Proposals](#): Sale of Real Property 2019.

