

Legislative Report

November 30, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Michael Nejman and Linda Kolbusz-Kosan

- **The governor's race is beginning to heat up:** Chicago billionaire Ken Griffin says he'll support the Republican candidate who can beat Governor Pritzker, however it's unclear who that candidate will be. Currently there are four declared candidates for governor: businessman Gary Rabine, State Senator Darren Bailey, former State Senator Paul Schimpf, and venture capitalist Jesse Sullivan. There could be a fifth, former state senator and two-time gubernatorial candidate Kirk Dillard. And, possibly, U.S. Representatives Adam Kinzinger and Rodney Davis, could consider a run, although Davis has told associates he wants to run for re-election, and many insiders expect Kinzinger wants to remain active in Washington, not Springfield. (Juice, November 11, 2021)

- **Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed Illinois' new congressional district map into law on November 23, formalizing political boundaries.**

The map was approved in October by the Illinois Legislature. The state lost one congressional seat due to population loss. Democrats said the new map reflected Illinois' diversity by adding a second predominantly Latino district and maintaining three predominantly Black districts. In a prepared statement, Pritzker said those maneuvers were key in preserving the Illinois delegation's minority representation in line with federal law barring discrimination based on race, color or membership in a protected language minority group.

"These maps align with the landmark Voting Rights Act and will ensure all communities are equitably represented in our congressional delegation," Pritzker said.

Republicans and others criticized the new boundaries as heavily gerrymandered, or drawn to benefit the political party in power. As happened in the recrafting of state legislative districts, interest groups and activists, many aligned with Democrats on most issues, criticized the secretive process and the result.

The law Pritzker signed Tuesday creates "predetermined winners and losers in nearly all seventeen districts" and strips voters of ballot decisions with which they can hold politicians to account, said Madeleine Doubek, executive director of CHANGE Illinois, which advocates map-drawing by politically independent commissions.

Illinois' new map, which will be used for elections through 2030, is aimed at creating a congressional delegation of 14 Democrats and three Republicans, a change from the current 13-5 split. The political fallout was almost immediate. (US News and World Report, November 23, 2021)

- **SUAA at The Capitol: 2022 Legislative Platform**

SUAA's legislative platform is a general guideline for our positions on legislation that directly affect pension, health insurance and other retirement benefits for SURS participants. Our main goal for 2022 is to protect the retirement security for all past, present and future employees of Illinois public universities, community colleges and their families. (From the SUAA website; Embedded link to pdf with proposed platform for 2022, see attached).

- **Mark your calendars:** Governor Pritzker will give his State of the State/Budget Address from the State Capitol in Springfield on February 2, 2022. (We wonder what happens if he sees his shadow?)