

Public Policy Newsletter

April 20, 2020



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Schools to Remain Closed

Friday afternoon, Governor Pritzker announced schools [will remain closed](#) for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Pritzker stated that he did not “take this decision lightly.” For now, e-learning/remote learning becomes the norm. Federal dollars will be used to help students bridge the technological divides that exist in our State.

Pritzker announced a coming [Executive Order](#) that will modify licensing requirements for future educators who are nearly finished with their studies, like student teachers, to ensure that this situation does not impact schools’ ability to hire the qualified teachers they need when students come back. The Governor also stated, “grades should deliver feedback and not be used as a tool for compliance.”

In other state public policy news

Governor Pritzker announced a [regional partnership](#) with other Midwestern governors to chart the reopening of the participating states.

Illinois Workers Compensation Commission approves [emergency rule](#) for essential workers. Implementing the rule creates an automatic presumption that employees diagnosed with COVID-19 contracted the virus at work.

Business leaders ask Governor Pritzker to [delay minimum wage](#) increase.

A \$462,000 payment to a law firm from [Speaker Madigan’s](#) campaign account sparks questions about the ongoing corruption probe.

The State of [Illinois](#) updates its COVID-19 resource page each day as Governor Pritzker begins his daily 2:30 p.m. conference. Watch the daily press conference [here](#).



Federal public policy news

The White House releases its three phase plan for [“Opening Up America Again.”](#)

[Calls to replenish](#) the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) grow as the fund is depleted. A breakdown of committed funds can be found [here](#). Negotiations are ongoing.

Former Vice President Joe Biden gained the [endorsements](#) of Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren as well as President Barack Obama.



China [revises its death toll](#) of COVID-19 deaths for its epicenter Wuhan.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce announces the [Save Small Business Fund](#).

Local public policy and related news

Sample [signage](#) and social distancing [policy](#) that comply with Mayor Langfelder's [emergency order](#) available for essential businesses.

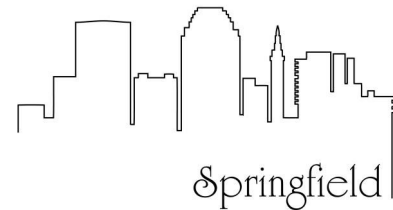
Sangamon County shifts [property tax payment](#) to September.

Sangamon County Coroner [Jim Allmon](#) announced he will be running as a Republican for the position in November.

The Springfield Police Department announces they are [partnering](#) with the Neighbors by Ring phone app.

Horace Mann will give its customers a 15 percent [credit](#) for two months' worth of auto insurance payments.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Business Relief Fund [awards grants](#) to 35 local businesses.



Bids and RFPs

City of Springfield

Bid Opportunities: CWLP FY 21 Underground Electric Rebuilds, Dallman Building Heat Replacement, Contract Work for Shoreline Stabilization, and FY2021 Crackfilling.

Requests for Proposals: Sale of Real Property 2019 and Engineering Services to Perform Signal Improvements and Beautification Projects.

