

# Public Policy Newsletter

February 11, 2021



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## ***New Jobless Claims Trend Lower***

States reported that 793,000 U.S. workers filed for [new unemployment benefits](#) during the week ending Feb. 6, a decrease of 19,000 from the previous week's upwardly revised level. The total number of workers continuing to claim unemployment benefits fell to 4.5 million. About 20 million people are receiving some type of unemployment aid.

First-time weekly unemployment claims have generally trended down in recent weeks, tracking a decline in COVID-19 cases since a holiday spike. Meanwhile, extended unemployment programs are slated to expire in mid-March unless Congress passes another round of stimulus.

## **Other federal public policy and related news**

House Speaker expects [new COVID relief legislation](#) to pass and be signed into law before unemployment programs expire.

Durbin and Duckworth reintroduce bill to make [Springfield Race Riot site](#) a National Monument.

Congressmen want Biden to retain [U.S. Attorney John Milhiser](#) in short term.

Durbin, Duckworth to Biden: Do not fire top Chicago [federal prosecutor John Lausch](#).

CDC says [fully vaccinated people](#) can skip COVID quarantines.

Pfizer expects to cut [COVID vaccine production](#) time by close to 50%.



## **State public policy and related news**

[Illinois House adopts new rules](#) including 10 year term limits for the speaker and minority leader.

Governor proposing [no spending increases, no tax increases](#) in next budget.

[State to expand vaccine eligibility](#) to individuals with underlying conditions.

[Illinois reopens ACA Marketplace](#) to allow residents to purchase health insurance coverage.



ILLINOIS

## Local public policy and related news

Springfield City Council [amends, passes development agreement](#) with park district.

Ald. Doris Turner sworn in as State Senator, [submits resignation to Springfield Mayor](#).

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:** Replacement of Bottom Layer of Unit 4 Catalyst, Transformer Alliance, FY2022 Maltene-Based Rejuvenator and Restorative Seal for Bituminous Pavements, FY2022 Sidewalk Program, Lead Service Line Replacement Project - FY2022-2023, #2 Dyed Fuel for CWLP Turbines, FY2022 Crackfilling, Underground Electric Components, Power Line Components, FY2022 Bituminous Overlays, FY2022 Concrete Patching.

**Requests for Proposals:** Sale of Real Property 2019, 2021 Large Item Collection and Drop Off Service, 2021 Electronic Recycling Drop Off Service.

**Sangamon County** is seeking applications for expiring and vacant positions on various [boards and commissions](#).

