



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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IN A SURREAL YEAR, that added new depth to the term “unusual” it should come as no surprise that the election held on November 3, 2020 followed suit. At the time of writing this article, several races in Illinois have yet to be certified, as votes continue to be counted towards the final results. As it stands the House Democrats are predicted to lose two seats bringing their super majority down from 74 to 72 members. However, the Senate Democrats look to gain a seat and increase their super majority from 40 to 41 seats. Its not clear, at this time, if these results will have much of a tangible effect on the spring session in 2021 or actions considered.

What will be different is the Senate minority leadership as Senator Dan McConchie (R-Lake Zurich) made a successful bid to replace former minority leader Senator Bill Brady (R-Bloomington) and become the new Republican Leader in the Senate. House minority leader Representative Jim Durkin (R-Burr Ridge) also received a challenge to his leadership but Representative Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) withdrew her challenge before a vote could be taken and pledged to continue to work with current Leader Durkin. The challenges are not limited to the minority party as long time Speaker Madigan faces challengers to his leadership position within his own caucus for the first time in many years.

In another unusual move, the 2020 veto session has been cancelled. Veto session were originally scheduled for Nov. 17-19 and Dec. 1-3. In a press release President Harmon and Speaker Madigan outlined their thoughts for why cancelling veto session was necessary.

“The front page in today’s Springfield paper warns of a COVID ‘tsunami’ sweeping the region and its health care system. This is not the time to physically bring together hundreds of people from all around the state. Given what’s happening, it was an obvious decision. It’s not safe or responsible to have a legislative session under these circumstances,” Illinois Senate President Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) said in a statement from spokesman John Patterson.

“The health and safety of the people who work for and serve in the Illinois General Assembly, and their respective families, is paramount. We will continue to monitor the situation, consult medical experts and do intend to schedule additional session days so we can

finish our important work,” Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) said in the same statement.

In a previous article, we discussed how, due to the pandemic shortened year, there were no vetoes to take up, so the lack of a veto session will not overtly impact any pending legislative decisions for 2020. However, it is still very unusual even if legislators continue to work via remote zoom committee meetings and working groups. Last month talks of a potential lame duck session were floated but those have cooled since veto session was cancelled. If a lame duck session were to be held it would need to take place before January 13, as that will be the inaugural for the 102nd General Assembly. The discussion of a lame duck session has gained importance since the failure of the Governor’s fair tax initiative. Illinois will be facing a severe budget shortfall without the additional revenue. Some have projected the budget deficit could be as much as \$4 billion. This is of particular importance to local governments as the state tends to look at local government revenues first to make up any short falls in the state budget. The Corporate Personal Property Replacement tax (CPPRT) is a frequent victim of raiding by the state and could see future sweeps in 2021.

Please also be aware that a new law taking effect January 1, 2021 will require those townships that currently have a website to do the following:

IMRF is now required by law to post information on their website regarding public bodies that participate in the fund. This includes links to various resolutions as well as past and projected contributions for those public bodies. Beginning January 1, 2021, any public body that participates in IMRF and has a website, must provide a link on its website to that information. This **does not** mandate that you create a website. This only applies if you have a website currently.

The IMRF URL which must be linked, for those with a website, can be found below:

<https://www.imrf.org/en/about-imrf/transparency/employer-cost-and-participation-information>

