

ADVOCACY REPORT

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1919-2019

ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

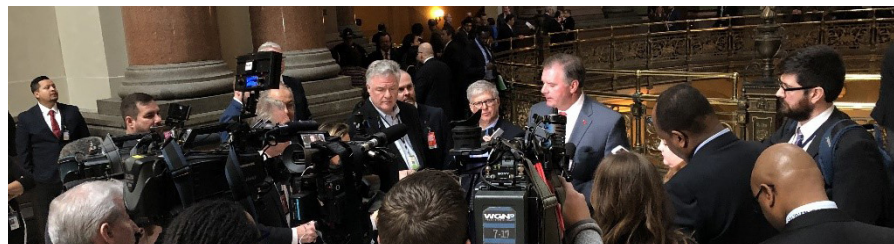


(Above) Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch speaks with reporters on March 7 at the Illinois State Capitol.

(At right) Illinois Senate GOP Leader Bill Brady (R-Bloomington) speaks to reporters following the budget address at the Illinois State Capitol.

On February 20, Governor Pritzker gave his 2019 Budget Address to the Illinois General Assembly. Following the speech, Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch spoke with the media on the governor's proposals. Chamber staff spoke with legislators on their takeaways from the address and thoughts on this year's legislative initiatives. Chamber staff will use the videos to inform members on legislator's positions on issues throughout the year.

(At right) Illinois Chamber Government Affairs Intern Brinton Wilkey Jr. speaks with State Representative Randy Frese (R-Paloma) on his reaction to the governor's budget address.



ILCHAMBER.ORG

CAPITAL CITY OFFICE
215 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701
312-522-5512

CHICAGO OFFICE
300 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60606
312-983-7100

If you are interested in learning more about the Illinois Chamber you may [click here](#) to contact Jeanette Anderson



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“It’s imperative that members focus their advocacy efforts on your state representatives and tell them to vote NO on any increase in the minimum wage without any protections for job creators,” Diers said.

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ADVOCACY LEADING UP TO MINIMUM WAGE VOTE



Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch speaks with WICS on the possible passage of raising Illinois’ minimum wage to \$15 on February 7 at the Illinois Chamber’s Springfield office.



On February 12, Maisch spoke with Sam Madonia of 1450 on why the minimum wage increase will hurt businesses in

the state of Illinois. [Listen here](#)

On February 14, Legislative Relations Tyler Diers encourages local communities to make their voices heard on the minimum wage vote. “It’s imperative that members focus their advocacy efforts on your state representatives and tell them to vote NO on any increase in the minimum wage without any protections for job creators,” Diers said. [See report here.](#)



CAPITAL BILL HEARING

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch testified before the Illinois House Appropriation - Capital Committee on the need for a capital bill at the Illinois State Capitol on March 7, 2019.



CHAMBER SIGNS LETTER WARNING OF PRIVACY LAWS

On March 26, the Illinois Chamber joined 35 other local and state business chambers across the U.S. in an open letter urging state lawmakers to avoid harmful California-style privacy law.

[Read the letter here](#)



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Chamber members were able to converse with speakers and each other through lunch and a break out session in the afternoon at the annual Illinois Chamber Day.

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CHAMBER DAY

Illinois Chamber Day was held at the State House Inn on March 22, 2019. The day was filled with distinguished speakers including United States Congressman Rodney Davis, State Representatives Tim Butler, R-Springfield and Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis and Acting Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation Omer Osman at the 2019 Illinois Chamber Day.

The agenda includes discussion on transportation, recreational cannabis, association health plans, updates from the United States Chamber of Commerce and other business topics. Chamber members were able to converse with speakers and each other through lunch and a break out session in the afternoon.

To view agenda click [here](#).



Daniel Wagner, SVP Government Relations at The Inland Real Estate Group, LLC with Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL) from the 13th District.



Executive Director of Policy and the Infrastructure Council at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce poses with Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL) of the 13th District following his remarks at the Statehouse Inn on March 20.



Katie Mahoney, vice president of Health Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gives an on-camera interview following her presentation on Association Health Plans at the Statehouse Inn on March 20.



Illinois Acting Transportation Secretary Omer Osman discusses transportation at the Statehouse Inn on March 20.



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Todd Maisch spent the morning speaking with local elected officials and community members as the guest host for Sam Madonia on WFMB Sports Radio 1450 in Springfield on February 25.

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MAISCH GUEST HOSTS FOR SAM MADONIA

On February 25, Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch spent the morning speaking with local elected officials and community members as the guest host for Sam Madonia on WFMB Sports Radio 1450 in Springfield. He also sat down with the Chamber’s Rebecca Mason and state-house reporter Hannah Meisel from the Daily Line to talk about this year’s legislative session.



MASON DISCUSSES TRANSPORTATION WITH THE ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU



Illinois Chamber’s Infrastructure Executive Direction and Director of Policy Rebecca Mason gave a presentation on transportation costs to about 50 people at the Farm Bureau Convention at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.





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“Taxing healthcare to get more federal funds to cover Medicaid isn’t going to result in more affordable healthcare options for the everyday worker,” Winters said.

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CHAMBER HEARS FROM ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER

Corporate Diversity Lead at Illinois American Water Rhonda Carter Adams films a video with Chamber’s Director of Communications and Advocacy Whitney Barnes on why the company has decided to sponsor the Chambers Women in Business Conference and how diversity and inclusion are vital in the business world today.

[Watch full interview here.](#)



WINTERS TALKS MANAGED CARE



Illinois Chamber Executive Director of the Healthcare Council Aaron Winters spoke with WSIU Public Radio on the Managed Care Assessment. “One of the most important issues for everyday citizens is the rising cost of health care,” said Winters. “Taxing healthcare to get more federal funds to cover Medicaid isn’t going to result in more affordable healthcare options for the everyday worker.”

[Full report here](#)



MAISCH COMMENTS FEATURED IN WALL STREET JOURNAL

Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch was featured in the Wall Street

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Journal’s coverage of Illinois’ minimum wage increase. “We took our hits this week, but we’re not leaving the field,” Maisch said. “We’re going to continue to talk to the legislature about other ways to lessen the blow from this \$15 an hour bill.” [Read full article here](#)



Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch wrote an op-ed on Governor Pritzker's proposed graduated income tax rates for the April 2019 edition of the Springfield Business Journal.



GRADUATED INCOME TAX RATES RELEASED



Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch gives interviews with a statehouse reporters on the negative impact the graduated income tax could have on Illinois business on March 7, outside the Governor's Office at the Illinois State Capitol.



Governor Pritzker unveils his administration's proposed graduated income tax rates in his office at the Illinois State Capitol on March 7.

OP ED ADDRESSING GRADUATED INCOME TAX

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch wrote an op-ed on Governor Pritzker's proposed graduated income tax rates for the April 2019 edition of the Springfield Business Journal.





Thank you to our sponsors for the second annual Women in Business Conference: SmithAmundsen, Advocate Health Care, Illinois American Water, UnitedHealthcare, SSM Health, Humana, Union Pacific Railroad, Nationwide and Vantage Outsourcing.



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce hosted about 150 attendees at its second annual Women in Business Conference March 15 at Pinstripes in Oak Brook, IL.

“As the second female Illinois Chamber of Commerce chairperson of the board in our 100 year history, I am proud to have opened our Women In Business Conference,” said Woltman, who is also vice president of government and community relations for Advocate Aurora Health. “The programs give practical examples of how businesses can reap the benefits of more inclusive practices internally and externally. The conference shines a light on how working to support and promote diversity in skills, talent and background helps create stronger business and a stronger Illinois.”

The agenda and speaker's bios can be [viewed here](#).



Candace Gerritsen, COO at the Illinois Chamber, panelist Maria Doughty, director of Public Policy and Corporate Counsel at Allstate Insurance Company and guests Mary Caban and Teresa Biafora from the Illinois Bone & Joint Institute who sponsored the event.



Beverly Alfon, partner at SmithAmundsen moderates the It Matters: Inclusion and Diversity panel discussion at this year's Women in Business Conference in Oakbrook on March 15. Panelists include: Alexis Robertson, North America manager of Diversity and Inclusion at Baker & McKenzie LLP, Leslie J. Drish, manager of Inclusion and Diversity at Tyson Foods and Chipo Nyambuya, founder and principal of Virgil LLC.



Jennifer Donner-Reiche from United Healthcare attended the event.



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The Indian Ambassador provided an overview of India's plans to build a competitive economy by 2030, and his views on the potential for growth in the U.S.

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Executive Director of the International Business Council at the Illinois Chamber Laura Ortega with Indian Ambassador to the United States H.E. Harsh Vardhan Shringla and other attendees at the London House in Chicago on March 22.

INDIAN AMBASSADOR

Indian Ambassador to the United States H.E. Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressed business leaders, government officials and other stakeholders on Friday, March 22 at the London House in Chicago. The event was held by the Consulate General of India in Chicago and The International Business Council (IBC) at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce under the direction of IBC Executive Director Laura Ortega.

The ambassador provided an overview of India's plans to build a competitive economy by 2030, and his views on the potential for growth in the U.S. – India bilateral relationship by promoting new areas of trade and connecting small to medium sized enterprises.

He was followed by a panel of leading industry experts in a discussion on India's growing influence on global economy and ways to promote bilateral trade with the Midwest in the energy, aviation, technology, pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

SILVEY EMCEES AWARDS EVENT

On March 22, 2019, Illinois Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve held their annual Northern Illinois Awards Banquet at Great Lakes Naval Base.

Illinois Chamber Assoc. VP of Business Services, Laurie Silvey, acted as Awards emcee for the event. Laurie is also the Employer Outreach Director for the Illinois Committee of ESGR. Illinois Chamber members who received honors at the event included: Takeda Pharmaceuticals USA, PepsiCo, JP Morgan Chase, and Tyson Foods.

(Photo at left) Laurie Silvey presenting an award to Richard Hill of Northern Ministries.





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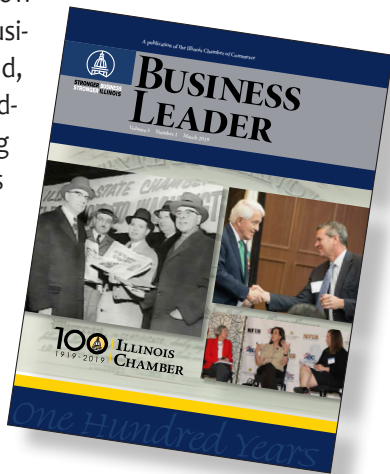
We do not take tax increases lightly,” said Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch. “That is why the Illinois Chamber drafted, introduced and lead a coalition to support the ‘lock box amendment’ that passed with overwhelming support in 2016, guaranteeing that funds raised for transportation would be spent on transportation.

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BUSINESS LEADER MAGAZINE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

The latest issue of Illinois Business Leader is available [here online](#).

This issue features the kickoff of the Illinois Chamber’s 100th birthday celebration. We talked with the Cubs management to find out how they work with small businesses in Illinois. And, we spoke to the founders of the Celebrating High School Innovators Awards program to see how they celebrate the most innovative high school students in the state of Illinois.



PLAN FOR TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION

The Chamber backed a transportation modernization plan to invest in our roads, bridges and transit and reduce congestion so Illinoisans can spend less time in traffic and more time living life. HB 3823, introduced by Representative André M. Thapedi, D-Chicago, would raise \$2 billion in annual revenue offset with pro-consumer and pro-business reforms.

The bill phases out the state sales tax on motor fuel, so consumers will realize a combined 15 cent per gallon Motor Fuels Tax increase. The sales tax swap eliminates a state tax on motor fuel, narrows the price gap between Illinois and neighboring states, and will create consumer savings when gas rises above \$2 per gallon.

“We do not take tax increases lightly,” said Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch. “That is why the Illinois Chamber drafted, introduced and lead a coalition to support the ‘lock box amendment’ that passed with overwhelming support in 2016, guaranteeing that funds raised for transportation would be spent on transportation.”

Find out more about the proposal here:

[Press release](#)

[One page informational sheet](#)

The Illinois Chamber’s initiative was covered in several news outlets including [Crain’s Chicago Business](#), and [The Daily Line](#).

CRAIN’S The Daily Line
CHICAGO BUSINESS.

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the months of February and March, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois. Below is a selection of stories where the Chamber has advocated its position on a variety of topics.

FEBRUARY 2019

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT

- [Todd Maisch Interview with Sports Radio 1450](#)
- [\\$15 minimum wage sponsor: 'The House stands ready to act'](#)
- [--IL lawmaker opposes hike to minimum wage](#)
- [Illinois Chambers of Commerce speak out on minimum wage increases](#)
- [Bill passes House to raise minimum wage to \\$15, heads to Pritzker's office](#)
- [SOCIAL SERVICE CHIEF WARNS OF \\$15 MINIMUM WAGE'S IMPACT ON NON-PROFITS](#)
- [Illinois lawmakers, organizations weigh in on passage of minimum wage bill](#)
- [Illinois House approves \\$15 minimum wage](#)
- [Illinois Governor to Sign Bill Raising Minimum Wage to \\$15 an Hour by 2025](#)
- [Minimum Wage increase signed into law](#)
- [Illinois governor signs \\$15 minimum wage bill into law](#)
- [Illinois Governor to Sign Bill Raising Minimum Wage to \\$15 an Hour by 2025](#)

ILLINOIS ENERGY

- [Activists Call For Smaller-Scale Fracking Transparency](#)

ILLINOIS HEALTHCARE

- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce president opposes health claim tax](#)

INTERNATIONAL

- [First Illinois-Azerbaijan Agriculture Forum to be held in Chicago](#)

ILLINOIS ECONOMY

- [Some optimistic, others worried, about Illinois' budget future](#)
- [Schoenburg: Pritzker continues to reach out to cautious GOP](#)
- [Pritzker's budget plan calls for taxes on plastic bags, tobacco and marijuana](#)
- [Reaction to Taxing Plastic Bags, Tobacco and Marijuana](#)
- [#MeToo Bills Turn Toward Business](#)

OTHER CHAMBER NEWS

- [Todd's Morning Show-Sports Radio 1450](#)

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



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MARCH 2019

ILLINOIS ECONOMY

- [Tobacco 21 measure passes Illinois House](#)
- [With Rauner gone, Democrats moving quickly on issues he blocked](#)
- [Why biz groups are lining up to oppose this bill](#)
- [Rent control bill stalls in House Committee](#)
- [‘It’s a very delicate issue’: Gambling Interests spar over how sports betting should be run in Illinois during first public hearing](#)
- [Illinois Chamber urges Pritzker to keep campaign promise about workers’ compensation reform](#)

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT

- [With Rauner gone, House Democrats revive bill to block employers from asking applicants about salary history](#)

ILLINOIS HEALTHCARE

- [Unpacking Pritzker’s Tax Proposals: MCO Tax](#)

ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Illinois bill would require voter approval for water company buyouts](#)

ILLINOIS TAX

- [Billionaire Illinois Gov. Pritzker seeks higher tax for rich](#)
- [Business community opposes Pritzker’s tax plan](#)
- [The Latest: Business leader skeptical of Pritzker tax plan](#)
- [Income Tax Debate Starts](#)
- [The Latest: Business leader skeptical of Pritzker tax plan](#)
- [Billionaire Illinois Gov. Pritzker seeks higher tax for rich](#)
- [Gov. Pritzker releases details of graduated tax plan](#)
- [Pritzker releases initial rates in push for income tax overhaul](#)
- [Labor unions come out in support of Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s graduated income tax plan](#)

ILLINOIS CAPITAL BILL

- [IDOT seeking at least \\$43 billion over 10 years in next capital-spending bill](#)
- [Capital bill unlikely before construction season](#)
- [State chamber backs 25-cent-a-gallon gas tax hike](#)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce backs modern transport program](#)