

QUARTERLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT – WNSV NASHVILLE, IL 62263

JULY 2023 – SEPTEMBER 2023

07/02/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, two taxes on basic necessities in Illinois are set to increase beginning Saturday. With the start of the new fiscal year July 1, the state's gas tax will increase by 3.1 cents a gallon to a total tax of 45.4 cents. That's the second increase of the motor fuel tax since Jan. 1, when it increased by an additional 3.1 cents. The state's tax on groceries will also go back to 1% after Gov. J.B. Pritzker put a hold on the tax during last year's election cycle. Whether Illinois' gun and magazine bans are constitutional is now up to a federal appeals court. The consolidated cases challenging state and local gun and magazine bans in Illinois were heard Thursday by a three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where two tax necessities in Illinois set to increase on July 1st, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

07/09/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker says he has reached a tentative agreement with the state's largest union regarding their new contract with the state. However, the taxpayer cost has yet to be revealed, leading some to expect increased taxes as a result. With Illinois' gun and magazine ban being challenged in a case expected to go to the U.S. Supreme Court, Gov. J.B. Pritzker says there needs to be a federal ban. On the one-year anniversary of the Independence Day parade shooting in Highland Park Tuesday, Pritzker said there needs to be more gun control. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where the state's largest union and the Governor have reached an agreement for a new contract, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

07/16/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, where motions continue back and forth between former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's attorneys and federal prosecutors alleging Madigan ran a criminal enterprise from through the Illinois Statehouse. In the summer of 2020, federal prosecutors revealed a deferred prosecution agreement between utility ComEd and the government that had the utility agree to pay \$200 million for bribing "Public Official A." It was later revealed through indictments the official was Madigan. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, with more back and forth action with former House Speaker Michael Madigan and his attorneys, as his case continues in court, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

07/23/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, the Illinois Supreme Court makes the decision to end money bond statewide, prosecutors and the law enforcement community are bracing for impact. On Tuesday, the Illinois Supreme Court upheld the Pretrial Fairness Act as constitutional. County court systems across the state have 60 days to implement the law. Supporting the end of cash bail statewide, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart said there are still sureties a court can require of criminal defendants awaiting trial like requirements they not contact a particular person or not violating other laws. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, with the Illinois Supreme Court deciding to end money bond statewide, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

07/30/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, Illinois lawmakers are calling for accountability into the state's handling of unemployment payments during the COVID-19 pandemic after an audit showed \$5.2 billion was overpaid, including tens of millions to some who were incarcerated or deceased. Unemployment spiked at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 after Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued stay-at-home orders impacting the economy in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where lawmakers in Illinois are calling for accountability for the state and how it handles unemployment payments in 2020, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

08/06/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, where a new report from the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting Accountability shows a dramatic increase of overall taxpayer spending over the past six years. COGFA's report on fiscal year 2024 released Monday reviews the annual budget that began July 1. The report details the budget process and how much each state agency and program is set to receive in annual appropriations. While a lot of reporting focuses on the state spending of \$50.4 billion in Illinois General Revenue Funds, overall taxpayer spending is much higher at more than \$193.5 billion when taking into account federal and special funds. That's up from the \$99 billion in total spending for fiscal year 2018, or a 95.3% increase. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where a new report shows that taxpayers have paid a higher amount over the past six years, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

08/13/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, Illinois' gun and magazine ban remains in place after being upheld by a split Illinois Supreme Court. The anticipated ruling in the case brought by state Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, was released Friday. "First, we hold that the exemptions neither deny equal protection nor constitute special legislation because plaintiffs have not sufficiently alleged that they are similarly situated to and treated differently from the exempt classes," the majority opinion said. "Second, plaintiffs expressly waived in the circuit court any independent claim that the restrictions impermissibly infringe the second amendment. Third, plaintiffs' failure to cross-appeal is a jurisdictional bar to renewing their three-readings claim. Accordingly, we reverse the circuit court and enter judgment for defendants on the equal protection and special legislation claims. We express no opinion on the potential viability of plaintiffs' waived claim concerning the second amendment." (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where the gun and magazine ban in Illinois will remain, after a split Supreme Court decision, and more

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08/20/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, Illinois' gun and magazine ban remains in place after being upheld by a split Illinois Supreme Court. The anticipated ruling in the case brought by state Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, was released Friday. "First, we hold that the exemptions neither deny equal protection nor constitute special legislation because plaintiffs have not sufficiently alleged that they are similarly situated to and treated differently from the exempt classes," the majority opinion said. "Second, plaintiffs expressly waived in the circuit court any independent claim that

the restrictions impermissibly infringe the second amendment. Third, plaintiffs' failure to cross-appeal is a jurisdictional bar to renewing their three-readings claim. Accordingly, we reverse the circuit court and enter judgment for defendants on the equal protection and special legislation claims. We express no opinion on the potential viability of plaintiffs' waived claim concerning the second amendment." (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where the gun and magazine ban in Illinois will remain, after a split Supreme Court decision, and more

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08/27/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson says the city of Chicago has had conversations with suburban leaders in Cook and other counties about the possibility of moving migrants into their communities. Thousands of migrant families have arrived in Chicago over the past year. City officials have placed many in police stations, YMCAs and Daley College. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, with Chicago having conversations with suburban leaders in Cook county, plus others surrounding counties on possibly moving migrants, and more

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09/03/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, with a new school year underway or about to begin for students in schools across Illinois, some attending a private school using scholarships from the Invest in Kids program could be left in limbo unless lawmakers take action to continue the program. Gov. J.B. Pritzker made a stop at Community STEM Center in Matteson on Thursday to highlight the start of the school year. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where the new school year is underway, and more

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09/10/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, Chicago Teachers Union President Stacy Davis-Gates, who has been outspoken against the state's school choice program, is sending her child to a private school, according to the Illinois Republican Party and other reports. Since taking office, Davis-Gates has publicly spoken out against the Invest in Kids Act, which allows people to pay for scholarships for students to attend private schools rather than attend public schools in Chicago or throughout the state. Donors get a 75% Illinois income tax credit for their contributions to the program. If legislators do not extend the program, it ends at the end of the calendar year. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where more info comes out on the school choice program, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

09/17/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, with the abolishment of cash bail coming to an end in Illinois Monday (Sept. 18), the debate continues on what the effects will be on victims, particularly of domestic violence. Under the new law as part of the controversial SAFE-T Act upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court two months ago, if a judge decides a defendant does not pose a public safety risk, then they will be released pending trial. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where the abolishment of cash bail is coming to an end in Illinois, and more

St. John's Lutheran Church had a Bible Study program (30:30)

09/24/23 Illinois In Focus- Greg Bishop has the top stories this week, where Illinois Democrats celebrated the end of cash bail statewide on Monday while others worried about an increase in crime. The Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act, was approved by the General Assembly in January 2021. It makes several changes to the criminal justice system, including eliminating cash bail statewide, making it the first state to do so after being enacted on Monday. The Pretrial Fairness Act was supposed to go into effect Jan. 1, but was delayed by court challenges until two months ago when it was upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court. (26:00)

This week's top news and commentary, where the cash bail statewide ended in Illinois and more
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