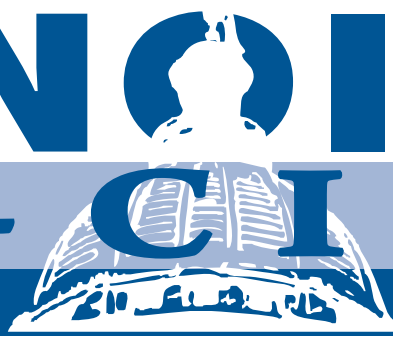


# ILLINOIS AFL - CIO

NEWS UPDATE - 01/31/20



*General Assembly Session, February 4-6  
Deadline for bill introductions, February 14  
Governor's budget address, February 19*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Pritzker Says Past Accomplishments Will Guide Future Success**

*State of the State Address Focuses On Investing In People: "Illinois is great because our people are great"*

Highlighting the accomplishments of the past year and focusing on priorities such as ethics reform, Governor JB Pritzker delivered the annual State of State Address at the State Capitol on Wednesday.

Pritzker highlighted the accomplishments of last year's historic legislative session – his first – including a \$45 billion capital infrastructure plan, record investments in education, a balanced budget, cannabis legalization, and a truly balanced budget that significantly improves the state's financial outlook.

Pritzker said the capital plan is about more than buildings and roads.

"Rebuild Illinois is about more than just roads, bridges and universities," Pritzker said. "It's about jobs – middle class careers with wages and benefits, the kind of jobs that help you raise a family."

Pritzker recognized Reggie Marizetts, Jr., an apprentice with Laborers' Local 165 in Peoria, who was in attendance for the speech.

"Gov. Pritzker's address was about obtaining results for all Illinoisans. For far too long we've been subjected to finger-pointing, blame and political rhetoric – while the state sank under the weight of inaction. Gov. Pritzker and the General Assembly went to work last year and now our state is in

a much better place. There is still a lot of work to do and issues to address, but the women and men of the Illinois AFL-CIO applaud the work accomplished and stand ready to help Illinois move forward."

During the address in the House chamber, Pritzker laid out his priorities for this session including, ethics reform for elected officials, passing a balanced budget, education investment, criminal justice reform, clean energy, and property tax reduction.



*Gov. Pritzker pictured with Laborers 165 apprentice Reggie Marizetts, Jr., MK Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton*

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
**FEBRUARY 1 - 29, 2020**

## Harmon Elected Senate President



State Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) was recently elected Senate President, replacing Sen. John J. Cullerton, who announced plans to retire late last year.

Harmon has served in the State Senate since 2003. He named his leadership team this week. It includes:

- Sen. Kimberly Lightford** – Majority Leader
- Sen. Bill Cunningham** – President Pro Tempore
- Sen. Laura Murphy** – Deputy Majority Leader
- Sen. Linda Holmes** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Sen. Dave Koehler** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Sen. Iris Martinez** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Sen. Antonio Munoz** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Sen. Mattie Hunter** – Majority Caucus Chair
- Sen. Jacqueline Collins** – Deputy Majority Caucus Chair
- Sen. Omar Aquino** – Majority Caucus Whip
- Sen. Napoleon Harris, III** – Majority Caucus Whip
- Sen. Michael Hastings** – Majority Caucus Whip

“On behalf of the working women and men of the Illinois AFL-CIO, we congratulate Senator Don Harmon on becoming the new Illinois Senate President. The Illinois AFL-CIO has worked closely with Sen. Harmon on developing legislation and creating policy – addressing big issues and small – during his tenure in the Senate and we look forward to continuing that relationship. He has long been an advocate and strong ally of the labor movement and all working families,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea. “We look forward to working with Senate President Harmon and the entire Illinois Senate as we continue the progress for Illinois workers.”

## Illinois AFL-CIO Brick Pavers Still Available

The Illinois AFL-CIO is renovating the front plaza of their office building in Springfield which includes erecting the Reuben Soderstrom statue and labor history memorial. Your union can celebrate organized labor with an engraved brick paver installed at the front plaza of the Illinois AFL-CIO. The project literally builds a piece of history, cementing donors’ support in perpetuity. Two levels of sponsorship provide small and large engraved brick sizes. The 4” x 8” bricks are \$400 and the 8” x 8” bricks are \$800. The order form can be found by clicking the Illinois AFL-CIO Paver Fundraiser link here: <http://bit.ly/2S9jdjJ>

## Appointments to Key Boards and Commissions

Governor Pritzker has appointed the following individuals to key boards and Commissions:

- Steve Powell** – Liquor Control Board
- Pat Devaney** – Employment Security Advisory Board
- Adam Hindrichs** – Worker Comp. Commission Arbitrator
- Bill McLaughlin** – Workers Comp. Commission Arbitrator
- Dennis O’Brien** – Workers Comp. Commission Arbitrator
- Manuel Sanchez** – Chair, IL Sports Facility Authority
- Leslie Darling** – Member, IL Sports Facility Authority
- Michael Forde** – Member IL Sports Facility Authority
- John Spiros** – Upper IL River Development Authority
- Charles Knell** – Workers Comp. Advisory Board (Employer)
- Tim Drea** – Workers Comp. Advisory Board (Employee)
- David Fletcher** – Workers Comp. Medical Fee Advisory Board (Provider)
- Tanya Triche** – Workers Comp. Medical Fee Advisory Board (Employer)

The Governor also appointed the following Trustees to the Firefighters’ Pension Investment Fund created under the Public Act 101-610.

Chuck Sullivan, President AFFI; George Schick; Kevin Bramwell; Matthew Kink; Patrick Nichting; Russell Hunt; Jeff Rowitz; Steve Chirico; and Brad Cole (employer).

## University of IL to Honor Rueben G. Soderstrom Posthumously

In addition to erecting a statue of former Illinois AFL-CIO President Reuben G. Soderstrom in “Soderstrom Plaza” behind the School of Labor and Employment Relations, the University of Illinois’ Chancellor has announced that it will recognize Soderstrom with a posthumous award in the Fall of 2020. The award will be in conjunction with the International Reuben G. Soderstrom Professorship which was bestowed upon the University of Illinois to begin in 2020. This is a full-time tenured position that combines research with teaching in the School’s Master’s and PhD programs in human resources and industrial relations.

The Illinois AFL-CIO will also help coordinate international labor leaders, professors and academics to produce an annual Reuben G. Soderstrom lectureship at the University. Reuben Soderstrom served as Illinois AFL-CIO President from 1930-1970.