

# SUAAction Newsletter

March 9, 2021

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## Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder?

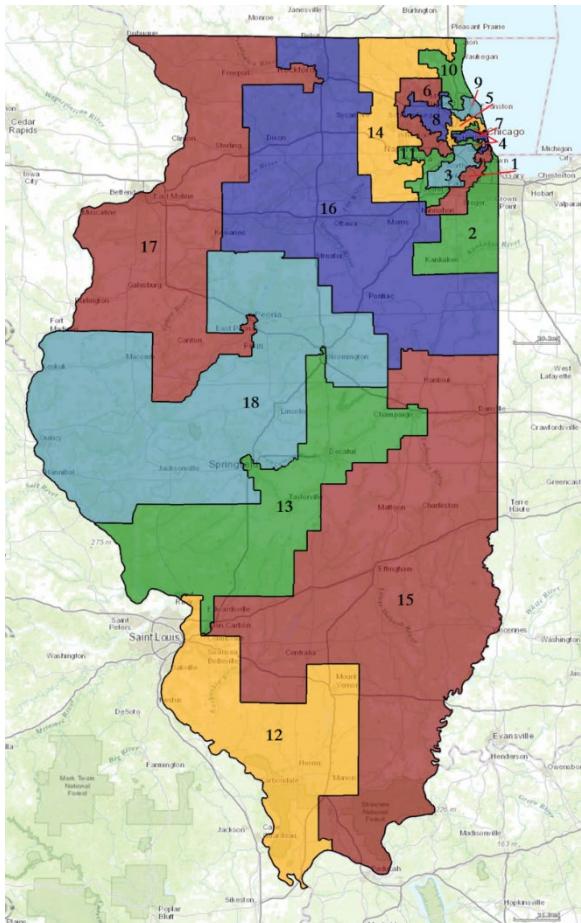
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**The State Senate** will be in Springfield beginning Tuesday for three days - 9, 10 and 11. No one will be in the Capitol but Senators, staff and media who were able to pass the COVID-19 swab test. Everyone else will be in front of their computers, iPads, and cell phones watching the committee hearings and possible floor actions. There is no indication at this writing of when the House will be back in Springfield.

There is an exception: in-person fundraisers are revving up but not necessarily in the districts yet. For Springfield, Monday night fundraisers are coming back. The 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> are filling up. Virtual fundraisers have been going on for a while now. Zoom parties celebrating birthdays and cooking events are popular along with BINGO. Townhalls are also common with legislators vying for facetime with their constituents and others who hold an interest. With the onset of warm weather, there will most likely be a number of outdoor events.

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**This State diagram shows only the Congressional Districts Since 2013.**



**Illinois' current population is 12.65 million.**

**The State will possibly** lose at least one congressional seat and one electoral vote in the Electoral College upon final confirmation of the 2020 Census.

Unfortunately, the US Census Bureau will not be able to provide the Illinois population data until September. The pandemic slowed the gathering of this much needed information.

The Illinois Constitution requires a new redistricting map be approved by June 30, 2021. A formal decision about what to do has not been made. It is clear that a decision needs to be made soon.

All legislators – both House and Senate – will be up for re-election in 2022. This can cause problems with filing to run for an elected office, as those deadlines cannot be initiated earlier. Due to the decrease in population, Illinois will undoubtedly lose another congressional seat. There are currently 18 congressional seats. The high was in 1949 – 1953 with 26. The 26<sup>th</sup> congressional district of Illinois was created in 1949 but was eliminated due to the result of the 1950 Census.

## **What is the ethnicity of the Illinois General Assembly? Is it representative of our current population?**

Diversity counts in the House of Representatives.

69.5% White – State is 76.8% White

18.6% Black – State is 14.6% Black

8.5% Latinx – State is 18.5% Latinx

3.4% AAPI/Native American – State is 6.6% AAPI/Native American

The diversity of the Democrat Caucus is 50.7% White; 30.1% is Black; 13.7% is Latinx; and 5.5% is AAPI/Native American.

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**Congressional Representative** Robin Kelly is now chairing the Illinois Democratic Party. As most of you know, former Speaker of the House Michael Madigan resigned as chair.

Representative Kelly has formed a transition team who will move the committee to a new era of progressives. Currently, the Democratic Party's funds are 83% soft money. Soft money is money that is donated to political parties where the purpose is not to promote a specific candidate.

A short definition of Hard money is money that has been contributed to a specific candidate.

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**The House Republican Organization** has been restructuring too. State Representative Ryan Spain is now chairman, replacing Representative Toni McCombie. New board members include State Representatives Tim Ozinga, Dan Caulkins, Avery Bourne, Tim Butler, Charlie Meier, and House Republican Leader Jim Durkin.

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**Last year, Secretary of State** Jesse White announced his intention of stepping down. To date former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias has thrown his hat in the ring and is campaigning.

City Clerk of Chicago Anna Valencia has formed an exploratory committee. Chicago Alderman Pat Dowell could be looking at running. In addition, Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough stated this past December that she has been interested a long time.

This past week, State Senator Mike Hastings announced that he will be running for SoS. As a side note – Senator Hastings has always been a good friend of SUAA's.

The primary election is a year away. Others will join the list of possibilities.

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Even though 2021 is an off-year for elections, your monetary contributions to SUAAction are essential. SUAAction still functions; still works on your behalf.

As stated earlier, the fundraisers continue. Not only are the events a necessary part of the political scene, but they also become about the only way to interact.

Silence will not allow us to persevere. SUAAction has to stay in the forefront. We cannot influence if the legislators do not know who we are.

Take a moment to contribute to SUAAction. It is quite easy. [SUAAction Website Link](#) will allow you to contribute by credit card or just send a check to:

SUAAction  
P.O. Box 1770  
Springfield, IL 62705-1770

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The pension issue pops up continually. From articles in the Chicago Tribune and Crain's Chicago to keynote speakers such as Treasurer Mike Frerichs and House Speaker Chris Welch the pension questions are always being asked. It does not matter if the original topic was fish, somehow pensions become the focus of the news.

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE**  
The amount is optional!  
The benefit is undeniable!

Let's keep SUAAction viable!

