



Political Papers

DECEMBER 2012

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

Jan 3—113 Congress convenes

Jan 21—Presidential Inauguration

Jan 14-25—Session

Feb 4-15—Session

Feb 25-Mar 22—Session

Apr 8-26—Session

May 6-24—Session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

Jan 9-May 31—Legislative Session

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COMMERCE STOPS ON UPPER MISS

The drought of 2012 and the extremely low water levels as a result may completely stop commerce on the Mississippi River during the winter of 12-13.

Low water caused by the drought and the cessation of water releases from the Missouri River in accordance with the Army Corps of Engineers yearly plan will eliminate the potential for barge traffic to carry goods up and down the

river. Additionally, the low water reveals hazardous rock formations near Thebes and Grand Ridge that also make barge traffic impossible.

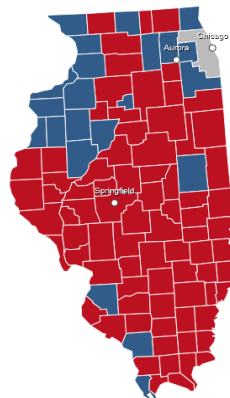
IL Corn has asked for a Presidential Disaster Declaration allowing for speedy removal of the rock formations and for water releases from the Missouri to continue.

If Mississippi River Commerce were to close in the two month period of December to January:

- Over 410 tows would be impacted, and more than 10,600 barges would be stopped
- 4,100 towboat jobs would be impacted
- 5 million barrels of domestic crude oil would be replaced by imported crude, costing \$545M in additional imports
- About 300 million bushels of farm products delayed in reaching market

ILLINOIS DELEGATION POST ELECTION

November 6 came and went, four million dollars were spent, and your legislature remains largely the same. Yes, some of you were disappointed by the results but change does abound in Illinois. Whether or not it was the sort of change you were hoping for, your association is poised and ready to build new relationships and capitalize on opportunities in Washington, DC. In 2013, you have seven new Congressmen and women to work with, most of which are Democrats. Most of this swing can be attributed to the newly



In Illinois, President Obama won 57% of the popular vote.

drawn congressional map, drawn by the Democratic party to favor the Democratic party.

In the new District 8, Joe Walsh (R) lost to Tammy Duckworth (D).

In the new District 10, Robert Dold (R) lost to Brad Schneider (D).

In the new District 11, Judy Biggert (R) lost to Bill Foster (D).

In the new District 17, Bobby Schilling (R) lost to Cheri Bustos (D).

In the new District 13, Congressman Tim Johnson left an open seat with his retirement that was filled in the general election by Rodney Davis (R), a former staff member for Congressman John Shimkus. Davis eked out a .4% win (approximately 1000 votes)

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YOUR CANDIDATE LOST? NOW WHAT?



One of the facts of political life is that from time to time, the candidate you support, not only politically, with your vote, but financially, with your wallet, will lose. Given this, there are a few important things to consider going forward, especially if one of your goals in supporting a particular candidate was to gain access to them or hope that they would advocate on your behalf.

One option is to look to other elected officials from your region who might be able to help advance your cause, no matter what it might be. In our case, we want to support candidates who will actively support the Farm Bill and related agricultural programs, as well as those who will support ethanol and transportation policies that will help keep

the agricultural economy in Illinois, and nationally, strong.

A second option is to support the newly (or reelected) elected Member of Congress or Senator whom you did not support in hopes of, over time, gaining their trust and support. This could come in the form of political campaign contributions or attending local town hall meetings where that Member may be and saying something positive or favorable about him or her. Inviting him or her to your farm, to your local ethanol plant, or to a nearby lock and dam system can help to show that politician what your day to day life is like or how a particular facility or piece of infrastructure functions and the related ripple

effect that it creates in the local community and economy.

At the end of the day, what we want as Illinois corn growers is a strong connection to the Members of the House and Senate, and those in the Administration, who will make decisions that will impact our ability to grow and market corn. Getting to know your Member of Congress will help us advance our goals of growing our industry and simultaneously, the Illinois economy. Until the next election, it's a good idea to spend some time trying to get to know your local elected officials, even if you didn't vote for them.

—David Beaudreau,
D.C. Legislative and
Regulatory Services

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PAC EVENT RAISED \$20,000

On November 19, the Illinois Corn Growers Association Political Action Committee held their fourth annual PAC fundraiser.

The event raised over \$20,000 to support Congressmen and women that support agricultural issues.

This year, the event featured a casino night where members could gamble with fake chips for an entrance fee/



Steve Pigg, Keith Yohnka, Garry Niemeyer, and Jeff Scates enjoyed "casino night" at the 2012 Illinois Corn Growers Association Political Action Committee event. In total, over \$20,000 was raised for ICGA to support elected officials that support agriculture.

donation to benefit the ICGA Federal PAC.

The evening also featured silent auction items from Sloan's Implement, John Deere Corporate, Case IH,

Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, Rodney Weinzierl, Ropp's Dairy, and Tractor Supply. The player with the most "money" at the end of the night received 50 hours use of a Case IH tractor.

DONATIONS IN 2012

During the 2012 election cycle, the ICGA Federal PAC donated funds to the following Illinois Congressional candidates:

Bobby Rush, District 1
Bill Lipinski, District 3
Mike Quigley, District 5
Robert Dold, District 10
Bill Foster, District 11
Jason Plummer, District 12
Rodney Davis, District 13
Randy Hultgren, District 14
Bobby Schilling, District 17

ELECTIONS (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

over David Gill (D), a four time candidate who has never won an election.

In the new District 12, the vacant seat left by Congressman Jerry Costello's retirement will be filled by Bill Enyart (D) who defeated Jason Plummer (R) in the general election.

Finally, as Congressman Jesse Jackson steps down from the new District 2, we will see a new Congressman fill his seat for the 113th Session of Congress.

Illinois House delegation in Congress for the next session will be 11 Democrats, 7 Republicans.

In Illinois where the new districts also heavily favored the Democratic party, the swing was also noticeable. The change in governance was as follows:

Illinois House: 71 Democrats, 47 Republicans (changed from the current 64 D 54 R—a loss of 7 seats by House Republicans).

Illinois Senate: 40 Democrats, 19 Republicans (changed from the

current 35 D 24 R—a loss of 5 seats by Senate Republicans).

Some of the swing can also be attributed to higher voter turnout for the Presidential election, with a higher percentage of democratic leaning voters showing up at the polls.

We will watch for changes in leadership at both the state and national levels, including the makeup of the House Ag Committee which now includes freshman member of Congress, Rodney Davis.

NEW DEPARTMENT OF AG DIRECTOR FLIDER

FLIDER NEW DIRECTOR

The Senate took action and approved legislation that nominated Robert Flider as Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The original nomination was made on March 1, 2012, which started a 60 session day clock for the Senate to take action.

It has become an accepted protocol for the Senate to let appointment nominations run close to their statutory length. This has allowed the nominees to serve in their roles and show their skills and be somewhat evaluated. The proponents of the nomination stated during debate that they have been pleased with Interim Director Flider's performance.

The Senate approved the nomination with 33 yes and 16 no votes making Bob Flider the new

permanent Illinois Director of Agriculture.

"His experience with agriculture, and his ability to work with the various agricultural interests, will be helpful to Illinois farmers," said Jeff Scates, Shawneetown farmer, of Bob Flider.

IL CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

In early December when the new legislators visited the State House for their orientation, individual caucus meetings were also held to nominate their respective leaders. With the overwhelming Democrat majorities in the House and Senate, it is no surprise that Speaker Madigan and President Cullerton were re-nominated to lead their respective caucuses.

House Republican Leader Cross was re-nominated to lead his

caucus as well. However, in the Senate Republican Caucus there was a different scene. There has been speculation for months that Senate Republican Leader Christine Radagno could face a challenge. That became reality when Senator Kyle McCarter challenged Senator Radagno for leadership of the Senate Republican Caucus. At the end of the caucus meeting, Senator Radagno was nominated and will continue to serve as leader.

The official election of the leaders will take place after the inauguration of the 98th General Assembly on January 9th.



Illinois Director of Agriculture, Bob Flider

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FUTURE OF ETHANOL IN ILLINOIS

ICGA has been working hard for the last two years to pass the Consumer Fuel Choice for Illinois Act which would transfer the state sales tax incentive from E10 to E15, the recently certified fuel consisting of 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent gasoline.

Currently, the market for E10 in Illinois is saturated. The current incentive for E10 has been successful, but is no longer viable to increase ethanol demand in our state. The new E15 fuel incentive will encourage petroleum marketers to begin carrying and selling the fuel. With the incentive, E15 should be cheaper than E10 at the pump.

Our proposed legislation will transfer the current E10 incentive of 20 percent sales tax savings for a new E15

incentive at 10 percent sales tax savings. ICGA estimates that Illinois will increase revenue by over \$100 million per year by transferring and lowering the incentive, while still accomplishing growth in the Illinois ethanol industry and stimulating our rural economies.

We propose that some of this savings will be used to fund blender pump installation, new technologies for the ethanol industry, and corn-based ethanol research at our universities.

This legislation may be considered by the General Assembly in January.

The Consumer Fuel Choice for Illinois Act is critical to Illinois corn farmers and the growth of the ethanol industry. Please consider speaking in support of this legislation with your local elected officials.

DONATE

Donating to the ICGA PAC is easy!
Simply complete your personal check and fill out the form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____

PAC contributions are not tax deductible and cannot be treated as a business expense. For ICGA's PAC Policies and Guidelines, contact the ICGA office at 309-557-3257.