

ICCA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – NOV. 2016 by Margaret Vaughn

MADIGAN LOOSES VETO PROOF MAJORITY in HOUSE

With Governor Rauner spending \$14 million on Illinois legislative races to attack Speaker Madigan's super majority in the House, the GOP was able to net 4 House seats and two in the Senate. Incumbents Representatives Cloonen (D-Kankakee), Deputy Majority Leader John Bradley (D-Marion), Mike Smiddy (D-Moline) and Andy Skogg (D-Spring Valley) all lost and the GOP won the open seat of Jack Franks (D-Woodstock) who ran for county board. On the Senate side, Senate President Cullerton was able to hold onto his veto proof majority, but the GOP picked up the open seat of retiring Senator John Sullivan (D-Quincy) and defeated Gary Forby (D-Benton). To put in in perspective, over \$4 million dollars was spent on Rep. Cloonen's race for a position that pays \$67,000.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

In addition to the upset wins, there were also a great number of legislators who did not seek re-election will leave the General Assembly with high percentage of new faces. The Chicago Roofing Contractors Association are planning to host a legislative reception and invite the building contractors and architects to participate as well. They are hoping to have a workshop on the latest issues impacting the building and energy codes during the afternoon followed by the evening legislative cocktail party. As soon as the spring legislative schedule is available next month a date will be set. It would be great if ICCA or their member code groups could participate to get to become better acquainted with the many new legislators.

ACCESSABILITY CODE

The Capitol Development Board has not yet filed the administrative rules yet for the Illinois Accessibility Code with JCAR but they hope to soon. They have made some minor adjustments based on the feedback they have received so far from public comments. There will also be a 45 public comment period once the Rules are filed.

OVERRIDE GOVERNOR'S VETO of SB 2982 ROOFING BILL

SB 2982 closes loophole in Roofing Industry Licensing Act that had allowed employees to be completely exempt from having a roofing license to work on their employer's roof. The legislation narrows the exemption to only "roof repair" as defined by the ICC which is just to maintain the current roof. Anything beyond that must be done through a licensed roofing contractor. Even though the bill passed overwhelmingly, the Governor vetoed SB 2982 because of the perception that it was a "union bill". I am working towards an override of the veto in the upcoming fall veto session which begins Nov. 15th and runs for two weeks. This fall I met with House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, Senate Minority Leader Chris Radogno and the Governor's office to educate them further on the fact that this is a safety bill for both the workers and occupants of the building. OSHA fines also increased 80% August 1st for the first time in 25 years because legislation was passed in DC striking the exemption the fines had from the cost of living increase. This could have a crippling effect on a business with a janitor on the roof.