



Local Information, News and Know-How

Dates:



Feb. 29-Mar 1  
[Governmental Affairs](#)  
[Leadership Conference](#)

Mar. 7-8, 2012  
IIRA's Rural Community  
Economic Development  
Conference

Mar. 20, 2012  
General primary election

Apr. 10, 2012  
Annual Town Meeting

Apr. 24, 2012  
Illinois Rural Health  
Association's Annual Conf.

January / February 2012

Volume 3 Issue 1

## Primary election—March 20

### County board members and officers top local ballots

It is the presidential election that draws all the media attention. But members are reminded that besides Presidential candidates, members of Congress and state legislators on the ballot, you'll also find a host of local offices up for election.

County board members and county officers head the local listing. Regional Superintendents and judges filling vacancies make up the bulk of the remaining races.

Among the county officers up for election are: Auditor (large counties), Circuit Clerks, Coroners, Record of deeds (large counties), and State's Attorneys.

The most prominent judicial position on the ballot is for the vacancy left by departing Su-

preme Court Justice from Cook County, Judge Thomas R. Fitzgerald. At the Appellate level there are a total of 9 vacancies to be filled and among the downstate circuit courts a total of 32 positions up for election.

Six Superintendent of School races are on the ballot for March. They include the following regions: (Bond/Effingham/Fayette), (Brown Cass/Morgan/Scott), (Carroll/JoDavies/Stephenson), (Christian/Montgomery), (Clay/Crawford/Jasper/Lawrence/ Richland), and (Iroquois/Kankakee.)

There can also be questions of public policy regarding taxes, land use or a host of other topics that might have a far more direct impact

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Did you know...

Illinois is the home for nine national cemeteries.



## Cemetery Oversight Act update

### Legislation Awaits Governor's Signature

In the November/December issue of this publication, information was provided on proposed legislation that would ease regulations placed on smaller cemeteries. The introduction of this legislation was in response to the passage of the Illinois Cemetery Oversight Act in 2009. This Act created new regulations for cemeteries that have been viewed as overly burdensome for smaller cemeteries.

An amendment to SB 1830 in the last days of Veto Session provided for changes to these cemetery regulations. Among those changes made by this bill are: a complete exemption

from the Act for cemeteries that are family or religious burying grounds; have not had an interment, inurnment, or entombment in 10 years; or are less than three acres.

The bill also provides a limited exemption for a cemetery that has engaged in 25 or fewer interments, inurnments, or entombments of human remains for each of the preceding 2 calendar years as a public cemetery; or operates as a religious cemetery.

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# Illinois Wind for Schools

## Wind energy education targeting middle/high schools

Source: *Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs*

A new program designed to incorporate wind energy topics into middle and high school classrooms is slated to begin during the 2012-2013 school year. [Illinois Wind for Schools](#) (ILWFS) is an initiative sponsored through a partnership with the [Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs](#) (IIRA) at Western Illinois University, the [Western Illinois University Department of Engineering Technology](#), the [Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University](#), and the College of Education at Illinois State University. It will offer curriculum development resources, teacher professional development, on-site technical assistance and instructional equipment at no charge to schools selected for the program. That funding is made possible through an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant.

IIRA Wind Energy Program Coordinator Jolene Willis noted the ILWFS program addresses specific Illinois Learning Standards goals in mathematics, including estimation and measurement, as well as data analysis and probability.

Matt Aldeman, senior energy analyst for the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University, said the program's purpose is to engage Illinois teachers and students in energy education, specifically targeting wind energy. "We will also be able to provide technical assistance to school administrators about renewable energy integration in school facilities," Aldeman said.

Through an application process, three to five middle and/or high schools will be selected as ILWFS

partner schools for each school year. The program will begin with an early summer 2012 teacher workshop held on site at each partner school.

The curriculum will focus on lesson plans in five distinct areas: energy and electricity; wind and weather; turbines and engineering; environmental considerations; and economics. In the fall of 2012, the ILWFS staff will install scientific weather instrumentation on the school grounds. Teachers and students will then be able to easily access data collected by the weather instrumentation using any Internet connection. Wind energy lessons will be integrated into the existing curriculum at teachers' discretion throughout the school year, and the program will conclude in spring 2013.

The ILWFS staff is currently working with three Illinois schools in a pilot

phase: Ridgeview Community Unit School District (CUSD) #19 located in Colfax, Elmwood CUSD #322 and Fulton County CUSD #3 in Cuba. A weather station has already been installed at each, and curriculum workshops have been provided for teachers.

Teachers in Illinois public school districts who have an interest should apply by Thursday, March 1. Eligible disciplines include math, science, agriculture, industrial technology, engineering and related subjects.

Applications and guidelines are available at the Illinois Wind for Schools website at [www.ILWFS.org](http://www.ILWFS.org).

Contacts:

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## Airport authorities in Illinois

Source: [US Census of Government 2007](#)

*These authorities are created by the circuit court judge upon voter petition and after hearing and referendum. Each authority is governed by a board of commissioners that is appointed by municipal, county, or state officials depending on criteria specified by the authorizing legislation. The authority boards may levy property taxes, fix rates and fees, and issue bonds. Bonds exceeding 3/4 of one percent of assessed value require voter approval.*

*Similar provisions apply to metropolitan airport authorities established by state law in counties with populations of between 600,000 and 3,000,000 and contiguous to a county with a population of more than 1,000,000.*

*Interstate airport authorities may be created by joint agreement between two or more local governments in Illinois and any governmental body of any adjoining state. Each authority is governed by a board composed of an equal number of members from each party state and may include a federal representative. The budget is allocated to the participating governments. The authorities may issue bonds.*

*The Kankakee River Valley Area Airport Authority was established under a special act. The authority is governed by a board appointed by the governing bodies of Kankakee and Will counties. The authority may set rents, rates, and fees and issue bonds. Joint airport commissions may be created by agreement between a park district and a county or municipality. These commissions are not counted as separate governments.*

**There are 32 airport authorities in Illinois**

# USDA funding to improve health care access

Southern Illinois counties & schools among 10 projects in six states to receive grants

*Based on news from USDA RD*

Late last year Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced funding to establish telemedicine and other health care projects to address unmet health care needs in the Delta region, an area that includes 252 counties and parishes in eight south central states, including Illinois.

In Illinois, Rural Development funds were awarded to Connect SI Foundation, Inc. to finance the Southern Illi-

nois Delta Regional Simulation and Learning Lab Project. The \$519,924 grant will help them provide distance learning equipment and related technical support to four local colleges and two high schools so they can provide health education and health care job training through broadband-based technologies.

"The future of health care in rural Illinois depends in large part on preparing our youth for careers in health service," said Colleen Callahan, state director for

USDA Rural Development in Illinois. "With the help of broadband, we can expand educational opportunities to areas where they are especially needed."

The server used for the project will be located at the Regional Simulation Lab on the John A. Logan College campus in Carterville. The lab, a part of Southern Illinois Healthcare, will be the site where classes will be conducted, complete with high-tech mannequins and equipment needed for the courses. Classes will be offered at Shawnee College, Rend Lake College, Southeastern Illinois College and John A. Logan College, making it much easier for nurses in the area to keep current with their continuing education requirements.

The project also includes providing distance learning classes to students at a high school in Pulaski County and another in Alexander County. The goal is to increase health care education opportunities for students and ultimately provide a local workforce to ensure the continuing availability of quality health care. The project will provide convenient, less costly and state-of-the-art educational resources for the students.

Connect SI is a collaborative, regional economic strategy for the southern 20 counties of Illinois. The initiative is built upon broadband connectivity, with the concept that dispersed assets can be connected to make the region a driving force in the world economy.

*Contacts:*

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## Primary

*(Continued from page 1)*

on your day-to-day life than the major candidates. Be sure to check with your election authority for information about any pending referenda in your area.

For local involvement, voter registration is a key first step. In Illinois, registration is open year around except during the 27 day period prior to an election and during the 2 day period after each election (1 day after in Chicago).

Candidates nominated in the primary will face election in the General Election slated for Nov. 6, 2012.

For complete information about elections, visit the website of the State Board of Elections at:

<http://www.elections.il.gov/Default.aspx>

Information about local elections can be found at:

<http://www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/>

[PDF/2012CanGuide.pdf](#)

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## Annual Township Meeting

April 10 — 6:00 p.m.

This is an annual celebration of true democracy where individual voters represent themselves. It is also a venue to enact a myriad of regulatory, financial and tax provisions.

**Be there!**

## Cemetery

*(Continued from page 1)*

In addition, the bill exempts volunteer cemetery managers and customer service employees from being licensed; a requirement originally called for in the Cemetery Oversight Act.

To-date, the most recent update is that SB 1830 passed the Senate unanimously with 52 yes votes and 0 no votes and has been sent to the Governor for his consideration. The bill is currently awaiting the Governor's signature.

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# Reach across broadband's digital divide

Learn how at the Illinois Farm Bureau® Conference, February 29 to March 1 in Springfield

Attendees can expect another great meeting at this year's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) hosted by Illinois Farm Bureau. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield on February 29 - March 1.

If you're interested in what's happening with broadband, you'll want to attend the conference workshop titled: *Broadband: Addressing the Digital Divide*. During this session, the Partnership for Connected Illinois' Mike Rudibaugh will talk about a pilot activity called the *Digital Training and Awareness Program (DTAP)*.

Learn how the DTAP plans to reach out across the digital divide through creative curricula based programming to identify and address populations associated with lowering Illinois' broadband "adoption/take rates" for households. The terms "take rate" and/or "adoption" can be defined as the number of people that have access to internet service that actually sign up for and use those services.

Several recent studies have shown that increasing computer and internet literacy among rural residents, older populations and lower income households has the potential to increase demand for high-speed

internet. Increasing the demand will likely result in higher adoption rates among many rural sectors of the state. This increase in computer and internet use offers incentives for carriers to provide services to a stronger customer base in lower populated areas.

## OFFICERS TO BE NOMINATED AT THE 2012 GENERAL PRIMARY AND ELECTED AT THE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION:

- Representatives in Congress – all 18 districts
- State Senators – all 59 districts
- Representatives in the General Assembly – all 118 districts
- Judges (Additional judgeships if required):
  - ◊ Supreme Court Judges, vacancies will be filled if required
  - ◊ Appellate Court Judges, vacancies will be filled if required
  - ◊ Circuit Court Judges, vacancies will be filled if required
  - ◊ Resident Circuit Court Judges, vacancies will be filled if required
  - ◊ Subcircuits, vacancies will be filled if required
  - ◊ All judges seeking retention will appear on the ballot at the General Election
- County Auditors (in counties of 75,000 – 3,000,000)
- County Board Members (in counties under township organization)
- County Commissioners (in counties not under township organization)
- County Circuit Clerks
- County Coroners
- County Recorder of Deeds (in counties of 60,000 or more)
- Regional Superintendent of Schools (vacancies)
- Sanitary District Commissioners and Trustees (Prairie Dupont Levee and Sanitary District file with State Board of Elections)
- States Attorneys

## OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE 2012 GENERAL PRIMARY:

- Delegates and Alternate Delegates (requirements available in separate publication)
- Precinct Committeemen (all counties except Cook County)
- Ward Committeemen (City of Chicago)
- School Districts under Article 33 of the School Code, Members
- Special Charter Municipalities, Annual Municipal Election, Officers (Contact county clerk, board of election commissioners or municipal clerk for filing information)

## Annual Municipal Election

10/ILCS 5/2A-1.2(b) (3)

- Municipal Primary (if required)....February 7, 2012
- Municipal General Election.....March 20, 2012

Rudibaugh will talk about how DTAP plans to address how increasing education and training and decreasing the technical literacy gap will drive the rate of internet adoption higher. The DTAP will strive to accomplish this through a series of pilot study training events at local community colleges in central and southern Illinois.

During the GALC workshop, discuss how the Partnership for Connected Illinois plans to partner with community colleges, utility co-ops, and Farm Bureau to produce and deliver basic workshops providing a curricula based program and hands-on training to address computer and internet literacy issues.

Attend the GALC workshop to learn how your local Farm Bureau can use outreach and awareness to promote participation in these training programs.

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