



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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Spring 2019

MOST OF THE PREDICTIONS leading up to last month's election results proved to be fairly accurate with only a few surprises taking place. It was generally assumed that the question wasn't whether both chambers would remain in democratic control but whether or not both would be able to win a super majority; and after a two year absence democratic super majorities will again control the House and the Senate in Illinois. Likewise, poll results for the Governor's race had the democratic nominee ahead by double digit margins for months leading up to the election and those results held true.

With the election now past us the question that remains is how will the outcomes effect the coming year and what changes can we expect for the 101st General Assembly?

There are a few issues that the Governor-elect has personally said are priorities for him. We know that legislation to legalize marijuana will likely be introduced in the spring and that a capitol bill has strong support from just about every organization in the state. Illinois infrastructure is in desperate need of help, however, the problem with any capitol bill is how to fund it. If revenue projections of legalization are to be believed than rumors connecting marijuana and a capitol bill might indeed be true. However, there is also work being done to look at online gaming, expanding sales tax to services and an increase in a motor fuel tax as potential sources of revenue for a capitol plan. While the funding stream will no doubt be a challenge, it appears work to pass a capitol bill is underway.

The Governor-elect has also made no attempt to hide the fact that he has strong interest in looking at moving Illinois to a progressive income tax. However, such a change in law would require a constitutional amendment and the General Assembly could wait until the spring of 2020 before voting on the measure.

While the soon-to-be Governor has tipped his hand on some issues, what we can expect in other legislative introductions is still the great unknown for next year.

Typically the first year of a new General Assembly will have somewhere in the neighborhood of 6,000 plus bills introduced. Yet, with the nearly forty new legislators that will be sworn into office many are speculating that we could see far more measures introduced in 2019. With so many new faces it is not easy to predict which issues will raise to the forefront and which issues might be lost in the shuffle. We do anticipate local government consolidation to remain a hot topic and are preparing to work with allies to ensure the continued protection of Townships and the voters the serve. There is little doubt that Townships will be besieged again but the form it will occur in may be measures we have seen before or entirely new concepts and we must be prepared for both.

And although the Democrats might control both chambers and the Governor's office we expect there to be plenty of conflict to go around. It might not reach the level of acrimony which existed between Rauner and Madigan, and we certainly don't expect another budget impasse; however, there still remains a plethora of issues that could see the democratic leaders at loggerheads with one another.

With all of that said, there is still no way to perfectly predict what will happen in the upcoming year. Which is why we continue to stress the need for Township officials to reach out and educate those elected officials in your area. Invite them to township functions and set up meetings with them so they can see and hear firsthand all of the good work being down at the local level, work that but for townships otherwise would not be getting done. Because the one thing we know for sure is that the Spring of 2019 will be filled with both challenges and opportunities and TOI stands ready to face both.

May you all have a Happy New Year.



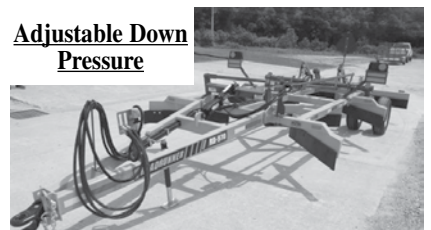
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