



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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Lame Duck/102nd General Assembly

IN NOVEMBER, when Veto session was cancelled, it was widely speculated that a lame duck session would take place in January, but nothing was concrete and at the time many felt it too would be cancelled. By January 1 it was confirmed that a lame duck session would be held from January 8th through January 12 and possibly even January 13th. Which was the day of inauguration meaning any lame duck session on that day would have to end by noon. At the time, no one could have predicted how substantial of a lame duck session it would be. Legislators used every bit of time they allotted for themselves, staying in session on January 12 until the early hours of the 13th (the senate adjourned around 5:30 a.m.). Then reconvening just four hours later to finish up before the noon deadline.

To say this lame duck session was a break from the norm would be like classifying the year 2020 as a bit unusual. Most lame duck sessions are generally focused on one or two big ticket issues. Typically, a change in the tax code or something budget related. This lame duck instead, focused on several massive, complex issues. The black caucus put together and agenda that concentrated on four pillars to respond to issues of systemic racism and lack of equity. The four pillars are criminal justice reform/police accountability, healthcare reform, economic equity, and education reform. Each of the four pillars were introduced in massive, multi-hundred-page, omnibus pieces of legislation. Stemming from the federal investigation into legislative abuse of power, an ethics reform package was put together. There were also bills introduced to help the State deal with an over \$2.5 billion budget gap for FY 21 (the current fiscal year). Not to mention, that in the midst of the pandemic the House and Senate could not both meet in the Capitol and that the public and others were unable to directly participate in the legislative process. And if that was not enough, hanging over the entire proceedings was the uncertainty of the outcome of the Speaker's race, something that has not been in doubt for over 30 years. Needless to say, it was a lame duck session appropriately timed to follow the year of 2020.

Although Spring Session officially started on January 13th, the 102nd General Assembly is still ramping up and it likely will not be until the month of March that legislators will be in full swing. There are many

unknowns at this time and just how this spring session will unfold is one of them. Will the Capitol be able to return to normal before session wraps up or will the General Assembly pass legislation to meet remotely? There are many questions surrounding both the House and the Senate as well. What will Speaker Welch's priorities be and how much different will things be without Speaker Madigan at the helm. A new General Assembly also means that committee assignments will change. The all-important position of committee chairpersons will be closely watched as those decisions are made. For local governments this is particularly important as these committees are the best chance we have at advocating, as local government committee members usually have local government backgrounds. Most of the time that means the legislator understands the good work being done at the local level and the challenges they local officials face.

As the unknown becomes known and as the legislature begins to move bills through the process, whatever process that might end up being, TOI will continue to advocate on behalf of townships and make sure you to keep you abreast of priorities issues. Here are a few important dates for 2021 Spring Session:

January 13	Inauguration-Spring Session Begins
February 17	State of the State/Budget Address
February 19	Deadline Introduction
February 23	Consolidated Primary Election
March 26	Senate/House Committee Deadline
April 6	Consolidated Election
April 21	Topics Day
April 23	Deadline Passage of Bills from Chamber of Origin
May 14	Deadline for Bills from Opposite Chamber out of Committee
May 28	Deadline for Passage of Bills from Opposite Chamber
May 31	Memorial Day/Adjournment



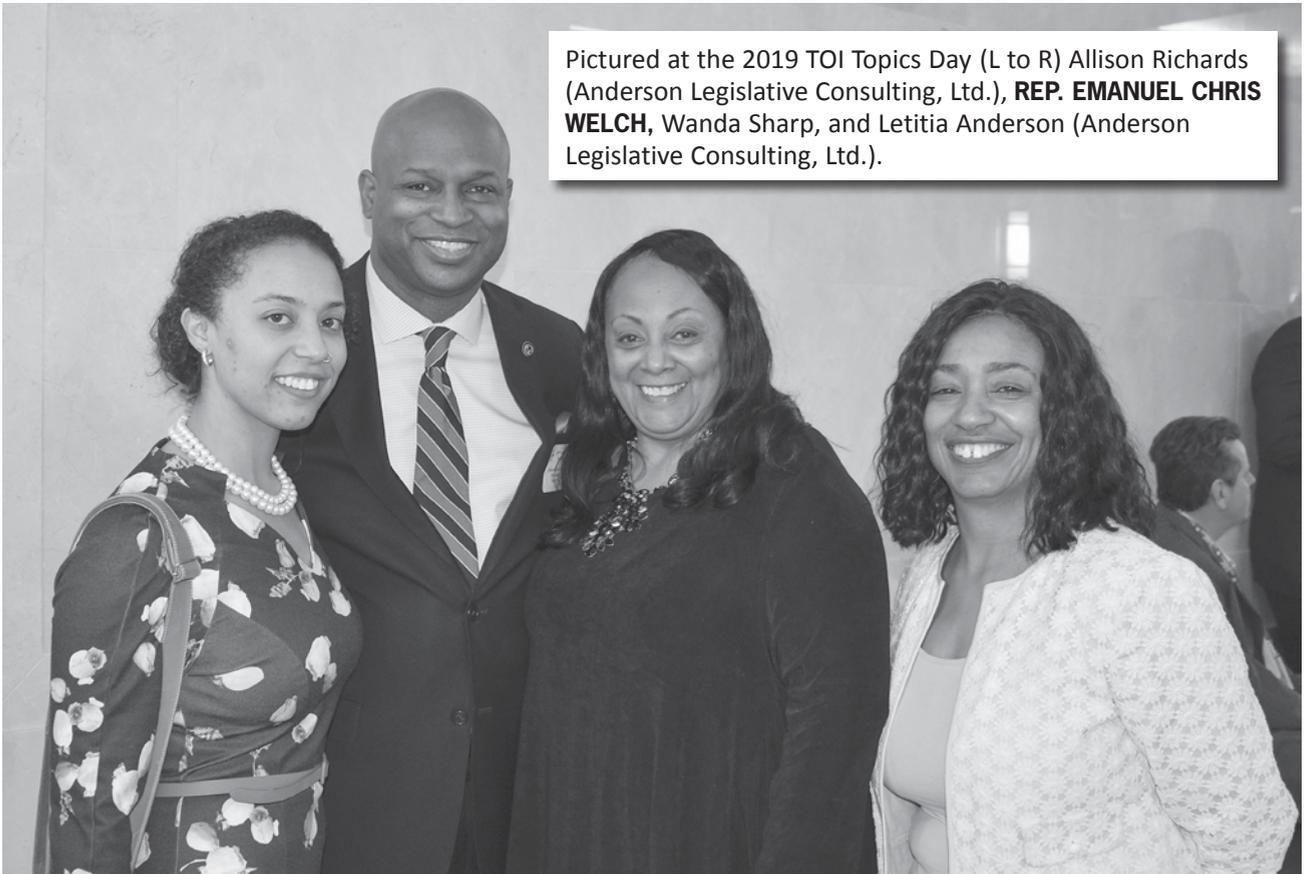
THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS congratulate Representative Emanuel Chris Welch (D) 7th District on being elected as Speaker of the Illinois House.



Pictured at the 2018 TOI Topics Day **REP. EMANUEL CHRIS WELCH** with Carla Sloan, Supervisor River Forest Township (Cook Co.).



The Township Officials of Illinois congratulate **SENATOR DON HARMON (D)** 39th District on being elected as President of the Illinois State Senate.



Pictured at the 2019 TOI Topics Day (L to R) Allison Richards (Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd.), **REP. EMANUEL CHRIS WELCH**, Wanda Sharp, and Letitia Anderson (Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd.).