

EXTRA! EXTRA!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Legislation and Election Update from the Arlington Heights Council of PTAs



Arlington Heights Council of PTAs
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Do you know that

Illinois consistently ranks dead last, or nearly last, among all 50 states in money the state spends to fund education? The people we elect to the Governor's office, Illinois House of Representatives, and Illinois Senate will decide some important legislation that sweepingly affects school funding by the state. The Arlington Heights Council of PTAs hopes you find the information in this newsletter useful as you consider legislation that will impact us in AHSD25 and get information on candidates running for office. We encourage everyone to ask candidates what their positions are on these matters, so you can have an understanding of their views and tell them to provide greater and more stable funding of education in Illinois so every child can have a good school.

Where can I look up...

my candidates for office?

<http://votesmart.org>

[election guide information on candidate positions? www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

an incumbent's voting record?

www.votesmart.org

Type in the incumbent's name and choose "Votes".

additional information?

Register to vote and access more information using pull down menus at: www.cookcountyclerk.com/ELECTIONS/Pages/default.aspx

Candidate Forums

Thurs. Oct. 9, 8:00 PM for Illinois Governor, Gov. Pat Quinn and Bruce Rauner, on PBS television stations and NPR radio stations, hosted by PBS and League of Women Voters of Illinois. It is unknown at this time whether candidate Chadd Grimm will also participate.

Sat. Oct. 11, 10:00 AM for IL House District 54, Representative Thomas Morrison and Laddi K. Singh, at Arlington Heights Village Hall, 33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights, by League of Women Voters – AH, Mt. Prospect, Buffalo Grove.

Some incumbents are running for re-election unopposed, incl. Sen. Matt Murphy (Senate Dist. 27) and Rep. David Harris (House Dist. 53). Consequently, there is no debate or candidate forum.

In this newsletter...

Senate Bill 16 (SB16) If passed into law, this bill would result in funding to AHSD25 being reduced by \$3.29 million each year...Read more p.2.

Illinois State Budget Fiscal Year 2015 Beginning July 1, 2015 the budget that was passed by our lawmakers in office is set to run at a \$2 billion deficit or more...Read more p. 2

Incumbent Illinois legislators voted to not extend the personal income tax rate of 5% and corporate income tax rates set to expire January 1, 2015...Read more p. 2.

SB16 Do you know about Senate Bill (SB16)? If SB16 becomes law in Illinois, as currently written, it will further reduce how much general state funding our schools in AHSD25 receive. According to our school district's published statement (*see the attached*), AHSD25 would lose \$3.29 million each year once it is phased in over a 4-year period.

Illinois relies heavily on property taxes to fund schools locally. SB16 leaves property tax funding untouched. So, money that our schools get from our local property taxes is unaffected by SB16. Rather, SB16 seeks to reform the way state money gets distributed by using an "equalizing" formula to reallocate more money to school districts with higher concentrations of families living in poverty. Consequently, school districts with higher local property wealth would receive less state financial support while needier school districts will receive more in state funds than they currently receive.

The attached information sheet from the Illinois PTA contains additional information and refers to places to get more. However, as it is currently written, SB16 would become effective immediately if and when it becomes a law. It is currently pending in the Rules Committee of our Illinois House of Representatives. The bill has already passed in the Illinois Senate. So, now, if it stays in the House Rules Committee, no further action will be taken. If it comes out of the House Rules Committee, either in its present form or amended in some way, it could be voted upon in the Illinois House of Representatives. After all of that, it would go to the Governor for his consideration. The Governor could then veto it, sign it into law, or do an amendatory veto.

ILLINOIS BUDGET DEFICIT The lawmakers we elect will also decide whether Illinois will continue toward having a deficit of \$2 billion or more beginning July 1, 2015. The day before the regular legislative spring session ended in May, the budget was passed with a \$2 billion gap in revenue to fund spending. The budget did not cut spending. Under the deficit budget school districts across the state are poised to receive less money. AHSD25 is projected to lose another \$762,505 in state funding, as reported by the Governor's Office of Management & Budget. Property taxes would have to increase by 1.3% to offset that reduction in state funding.

LEGISLATURE VOTED AGAINST EXTENDING 5% PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATE AND HIGHER CORPORATE TAX RATE This past year our Illinois legislature voted to roll back an increase in the corporate state income tax rate and the personal state income tax rate. A law passed in 2011 temporarily raised the personal income tax rate to 5% with the rate set to expire this coming January 1st and roll back to 3.75%. Our lawmakers did not pass any alternative way to increase revenue to make up the deficit in the budget caused by this loss in revenue.

As a PTA Council, we try to put useful information in your hands. However, this is not intended as an all-inclusive source of information on candidates, incumbent lawmakers, or legislation. Please refer to the attached sheets for further information on these important issues affecting education.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR ABOUT THESE STATE EDUCATION FUNDING ISSUES.

Senator Matt Murphy (Sen. Dist. 27).....Phone 847-776-1490 or in Springfield 217-782-4471
Representative David Harris (House Dist. 53).....Phone 224-764-2440 or in Springfield 217-782-3739
Representative Thomas Morrison (House Dist. 54)....Phone 847-202-6584 or in Springfield 217-782-8026

***If you do not see your Representative listed here, visit www.ilga.gov to look up contact information.**