



ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

TAX INSTITUTE

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

TAX INSTITUTE

The Tax Institute aggressively and proactively promotes the interests of the Illinois business community by advocating pro-business tax policies at the federal, state and local levels.

Membership in the Illinois Chamber Tax Institute provides those members with a forum to effectively share tax knowledge and experience and participate in the development of pro-business tax policies in Illinois. The Tax Institute provides regular guidance to the Illinois Chamber Board of Directors on tax policy issues to assist the board in formulating tax policy positions that encourage sound economic growth and increasing business investment in our state.

Legislators and business leaders seek the advice of Tax Institute staff on key tax policy issues. Whether responding to the hundreds of anti-business tax bills filed every year in the General Assembly, proposed Department of Revenue regulations or administrative policies that affect the business community, the Tax Institute is there to educate and explain to legislators and their staff the potential impact of their actions on business and advocate for better solutions whenever and wherever needed.

The Tax Institute members are a reflection of the diverse nature of the Illinois business community. This diversity brings invaluable expertise that makes us so effective. Through its members, the Tax Institute seeks solutions, builds consensus, formulates action plans and offers leadership in Springfield that facilitates pro-business tax policy.

The collective experience and expertise of the Tax Institute members, along with executive director Keith Staats' familiarity and experience with the state and local tax laws and the Illinois legislative and regulatory processes, make the Tax Institute the go-to tax policy association in Springfield.

DEVELOPING TAX POLICY

The Tax Institute meets at least quarterly for tax policy updates, to develop pro-business tax initiatives, and to hear and share expertise with state legislators and agency directors about key tax issues. Members may choose from an array of engagement opportunities the Tax Institute offers within the legislative process, including:

- Weekly government affairs calls to advise, and seek input from, members on key tax legislation
- Spring lobby days to meet face-to-face with legislators in Springfield
- Conference calls to discuss particular tax policy issues
- The "Tax Institute Update" issued each Friday to report on the week's legislative and regulatory actions, as well as tax-related litigation
- Webcasts to review tax topics



Recent Successes and Accomplishments

PROMOTING GOOD TAX POLICY

The Tax Institute staff regularly speaks with legislators, regulators, reporters, business leaders and other associations and trade groups to explain the potential impact of proposed legislation, rules or administrative policies on businesses. We research and report to members of the General Assembly about important tax issues — frequently to debunk myths and misinformation.

ON THE FRONT LINES EVERY DAY

We meet with, talk to, and correspond with regulators and legislators in support of, or in opposition to, tax legislation or rules that affect our members. Tax Institute staff relentlessly promotes tax policy that results in an even playing field for all types of business. We strive for state laws and regulations that are clear and predictable.

We testify at House and Senate Revenue Committees to raise legislative awareness on key business tax issues and work with legislative staff to develop alternative proposals when needed. Last but not least, the Tax Institute speaks with reporters, radio show hosts, and editorial boards to educate the public by raising awareness of the business community's perspective on tax policy issues.

- Successfully drafted and led the initiative to pass the Data Center Tax Incentive program;
- Lessened burdens to businesses by modifying the foreign tax credit allowing for a tax credit to employees who work in neighboring states;
- Advocated against the Cook County Assessor from passing legislation imposing onerous income and expense data filing requirements on any business that is an owner of "income producing property;"
- Defeated the Water's Edge legislation that would have radically changed the way in which corporations are required to calculate their taxable income and prevented a list of "Tax Haven" countries; and,
- Provided technical support to the sponsors of the recreational marijuana legalization legislation on tax provisions to ensure consistency with other Illinois tax laws.



KEITH STAATS

An expert in tax law, Keith Staats took over as the executive director of the Chamber's Tax Institute after working for the Grant Thornton and the McDermott Will & Emery State and Local Tax (SALT) practices in Chicago. He also served as general counsel of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

OTHER COUNCILS

THE EMPLOYMENT LAW COUNCIL effectively represents Illinois business on employment law topics such as workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and other management/employee issues. It also pursues public policy actions that advance the interests and viewpoints of employers, and assists in creating a political climate conducive to improving Illinois' ability to create and retain jobs.

THE ENERGY COUNCIL encourages the development and availability of all kinds of energy and conservation measures in an environmentally-responsible and cost-effective way. Illinois needs policies that promote the continued expansion of energy production in the state, allow for development of energy resources, and the development of infrastructure to meet the state's and nation's increasing energy demands.

THE HEALTHCARE COUNCIL develops and takes actions to achieve affordable, accessible, efficient, and high-quality healthcare for the employers and residents of our state. The council represents employers in seeking market-based approaches to help them provide affordable, quality healthcare coverage for their employees, and works closely with providers to help strengthen Illinois' healthcare system.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL focuses on public systems that are essential to Illinois business; roads and bridges, railways (freight and public transit), shipping via waterways and airports. The council is seeking new members to initiate efforts for water supply and treatment, utilities, pipelines, power generation, power distribution systems and communications networks. All of these systems impact the civic, social, and economic

THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL focuses on building strategic partnerships to maximize the resources of the Illinois Chamber's members to expand in foreign markets and foster trade and investment in Illinois. The International Business Council's outreach includes Illinois businesses and a global network of local and foreign chambers of commerce, along with state and federal agencies and high-level political and diplomatic circles.

THE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COUNCIL seeks to aggressively and proactively promote the interests of the Illinois technology community by advocating for public policy that fosters innovation and promotes economic growth. The council seeks to promote workforce development policies, advocate for world-class technology infrastructure, avoid overregulation on the industry and support innovators access to the capital they need to grow.

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