

ADVOCACY REPORT

Illinois Chamber Advocacy | Summer 2026

In this Issue

Chamber Day

International Business
Relations

Upcoming Events and
News

Government Relations

Out and About

Grow, Connect, Celebrate

Women in Business

Spotlight on Members



Chamber Day 2026

KICKOFF

The Illinois Chamber Government Relations team alongside the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) was proud to represent our membership in Springfield by engaging in meaningful discussions and visits with state lawmakers.

"As Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, I'm incredibly proud to be a part of the legislative efforts of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, said [Rob Carney](#), Chairman of GAC. "Working with my colleagues, and the Chamber's government affairs team, we've put together a great Chamber Lobby Day program that shows the strength of our diverse membership and focuses on the issues that matter most to Illinois employers."

These conversations focused on advancing policies that support and strengthen the business community, ensuring the perspectives of our members are represented.

Chamber Day Highlights





"It was a pleasure and honor spending the day with the GAC and Advisory Council, as we kick off our Chamber Day programming," said [Jimmy Clayton](#), Illinois Chamber President and CEO. "Advocacy is a core mission of the Chamber and we appreciate the lawmakers who took time out of their busy schedules to hear from the business community."

Together, we will keep advocating for policies that drive growth, opportunity, and success for businesses across Illinois.

LOBBY DAY

The IL Chamber hosted another successful Chamber "Lobby Day" in Springfield at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel. We want to thank all of the four legislative leaders who took time out of their busy schedules to address attendees; your insights and engagement are truly appreciated!

In addition to remarks from House and Senate leadership, this year's program included a timely and informative panel on key AI and technology policy issues at the statehouse, featuring Leader [Ann M. Williams](#) and Leader [Jeff Keicher](#). Their perspectives added valuable depth to the conversation on emerging technologies and public policy.

We were also honored to welcome [Harley Johnson](#), Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, as one of our featured speakers.

COLLABORATION

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Canada and the provincial offices of Quebec, Alberta, and Ontario, hosted a focused Illinois-Canada economic program as part of Chamber Day 2026. The session highlighted one of Illinois' most important trade relationships, an integrated economic corridor representing over \$92 billion in annual two-way trade and supporting thousands of jobs across energy, agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and services.

We would like to thank [Earl Provost](#), Ontario Agent General, Chicago; [Jean-François Hould](#), Delegate, Quebec Government Office in Chicago; and [Bin Lau](#), Director, U.S. Midwest Alberta Office, along with [Peter](#)

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS RELATIONS



Apr. 23 | Thank you to [Eric A. Moorer Jr.](#), Heartland Director at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition ([USGLC](#)), for inviting the Chamber's Executive Director of the Illinois Business Council, [Laura Ortega Lamela](#), to attend USGLC's "When America Leads, Illinois Wins" event at the Hyatt Regency. Laura also had the opportunity to introduce [Paul Marin](#), Director of Public Affairs for the USTDA.

This gathering brought together leaders from the Chicago region to discuss how strategic U.S. international engagement strengthens national security while expanding economic opportunities for Illinois businesses and workers.



Apr. 28 | The Illinois Chamber of Commerce was proud to convene the Illinois–Taiwan Business Forum on Technology and the Global Supply Chain, bringing together senior government officials, industry leaders, and technology experts from Illinois and Taiwan to deepen bilateral cooperation in next-generation technologies.



A major milestone in the Illinois–Taiwan relationship was marked with the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Illinois Chamber President & CEO [Jimmy Clayton](#) and CIECA Chairman [Joseph Jye-Cherng Lyu](#). This historic agreement represents the first MOU ever signed between CIECA and a U.S. state-level organization, underscoring Illinois' strength and uniqueness in the global technology ecosystem.

CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS



The Illinois Chamber Foundation will host its second Annual State Civics Competition in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation on **Friday, July 31, 2026**.

Interview with Aisha Chavda, Illinois Winner

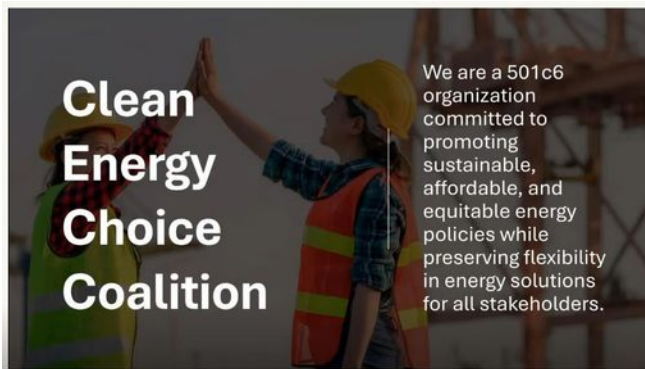


The Annual Luncheon is the Chamber's signature event, bringing together business leaders from across the state. It will take place at the Hilton Chicago Continental Room in Chicago on **Thursday, September 24, 2026**. Mark your calendars!



Please join us for the 2026 ILCC and ISIA Workers' Compensation and Safety Conference on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**. This year's event includes the latest information from experts on workers' compensation, healthcare, legislation, self-insurance and more.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Andrew Cunningham



Aubrie Mozingo



Tom Cullerton

Apr. 2 | [Andrew Cunningham](#) and [Aubrie Mozingo](#) from the IL Chamber's Government Relations team hosted a Local Chamber Network Advocacy call focused on the legislative and policy issues most pressing to our chamber partners and small businesses throughout the state.

During the call, we were also pleased to welcome our guest speaker, **[Thomas E. Cullerton](#)**, Chief Public Affairs Officer at Strategia Consulting to discuss his

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce Statement on the FY27 Budget Package

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce entered this legislative session focused on advancing policies that address the priorities most frequently identified by our members: strengthening economic development, ensuring affordable and reliable energy, attracting, and retaining a world-class workforce, and creating a more competitive regulatory environment.

The FY2027 Budget makes some important investments that align with those exact priorities, and we commend the General

leadership and efforts of the Clean Energy Choice Coalition. Tom shared about the critical need of for an “all of the above” approach to energy generation, and sound energy policy as a foundation for economic competitiveness.



May 8 | Thank you to Greater St. Louis, Inc. for inviting Senior Director of Government Relations [Andrew Cunningham](#), to speak during your Lobby Day in Springfield. Andrew shared insights on the Chamber's Legislative Agenda and what the remainder of the 2026 session looks like for businesses in Illinois.

Thank you for inviting us back again, it was great to see many members and partners in attendance. We always appreciate the opportunity to join partners like you from across state when you're in Springfield!

June 1 | Each spring session, the Illinois Chamber Government Relations team proudly represents every business in every sector of the Illinois economy at the State Capitol. From authoring and promoting pro-growth legislation to defending and protecting against harmful policies, your Illinois Chamber GR team advocates relentlessly for our valued membership and the entire Illinois business community.

To learn more about the GR team's advocacy and what to expect in the final two weeks of session, check out the Under the Dome Dispatch.

May 2026 Session Recap & Forecast

Assembly for advancing several important pro-growth initiatives. The extension of the Research and Development Tax Credit, River's Edge Program, the Pass-Through Entity tax election, and the Angel Investment Tax Credit, all will help support innovation, entrepreneurship, and capital investment across Illinois. We also appreciate lawmakers' decision to delay implementation of the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act, providing additional time to address the significant operational concerns associated with the legislation.

While the FY2027 Budget includes several meaningful investments, we are concerned with the reliance on a number of burdensome tax proposals to achieve balance. Measures such as the changes to the Net Operating Loss (NOL) deduction cap, along with revenue initiatives that are likely to face significant legal scrutiny, including the Targeted Advertising Services Tax Act, Digital Asset Tax and the Social Media Platform Fee, risk undermining Illinois' competitiveness and sending an unfavorable signal to employers, investors, and job creators considering long-term commitments in our state.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce remains committed to working collaboratively with members of the General Assembly, the Governor's Office, and stakeholders across the state to advance policies that foster economic growth, encourage investment, and strengthen Illinois' position as a premier

June 1 | Senior Director of Government Relations [Andrew Cunningham](#), provided oral testimony to House Executive Committee in opposition to the latest health data privacy proposal.



June 10 | Senior Director of Government Relations [Andrew Cunningham](#) had the pleasure of joining local leaders and industry partners for a tour of the Mel Price Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River in Alton and a presentation on the barge industry. The tour highlighted the incredible contributions of the maritime industry and our inland waterways to the multimodal movement of freight across the nation. Millions of tons of commerce are transported using the Mississippi River and Mel Price annually, including agricultural products, energy, construction materials, chemicals, and much more. The Lock and Dam is a key checkpoint between the Upper and Lower Mississippi, which is a vital asset for connecting Illinois businesses to both domestic and international markets. Operational in 1994, the facility features both a 1,200-foot lock and a 600-foot lock.



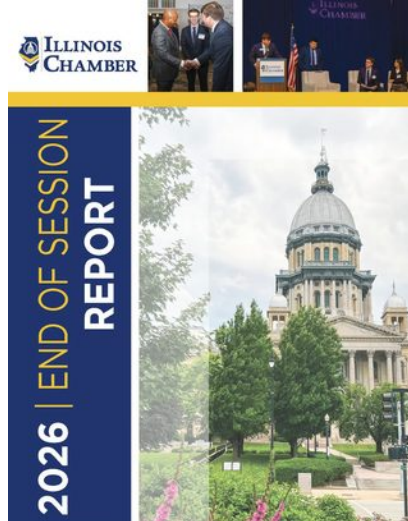
Thank you to [Angela Grett](#) and Ingram United Barge for the invitation to join the session, and to [Mary Lamie](#) and the St. Louis Regional Freightway for the great programming at FreightWeekSTL.



FreightWeekSTL highlights innovations, infrastructure improvements and trends impacting global freight movement and reinforces how the St. Louis region continues to strengthen its position as a world-class logistics hub. Other Chamber members contributing to this year's events include [Dennis Wilmsmeyer](#), [America's Central Port](#) and [Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis](#).

June 17 | The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present its 2026 End of Session Report. The End of Session Report is a high-level and in-depth look at the events of the 2026 Legislative Session. In the Report you will find recaps of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Team's actions in the Statehouse, the Illinois Chamber's most ambitious legislative agenda to date, and analysis and status updates on critically important legislation to Illinois Chamber Members.

[View End of Session Report](#)



June 23 | Illinois Chamber Vice President of Public Policy & Strategy, [Ramiro Hernandez](#), was featured on a WTTW/Chicago PBS panel to discuss recent regulatory and legislative efforts threatening the data center industry in Illinois. Ramiro joined industry representatives and environmental policy advocates to debate recent legislative efforts to impose new regulations on data centers (such as the so-called Power Act), recent actions to pause the vital Data Center Tax Incentive, and express caution over enacting measures that may impact the continued growth and investments by the industry in Illinois.

The Illinois Chamber stands ready to work with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly on crafting reasonable and balanced policies that secure and foster continued growth for the data center industry in Illinois and help address the critical challenges facing businesses today.



[Entire Story Here](#)

OUT AND ABOUT



Apr. 29 | Over the past several weeks, the Chamber has maintained a strong presence in the press, highlighting our advocacy efforts and elevating the voice of our membership on key issues. We look forward to building on this momentum as we advance our mission, ensuring our members remain at the forefront of the public conversations that matter most.



Below you will find a spotlight on our new President & CEO, [Jimmy Clayton](#), coverage of Chamber Day 2026, and our comments on major policy discussions at the statehouse.



May 1 | Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO [Jimmy Clayton](#) sat down with [Ben Szalinski](#) from Capitol News Illinois for an in-depth conversation about the Chamber's policy priorities for the spring legislative session and beyond. The discussion covered a range of key issues, including the Chamber's strategic goals, the growing impact of artificial intelligence for Illinois industries, data center development, housing, and other pressing topics shaping the state's economy.

[Read Full Article Here](#)



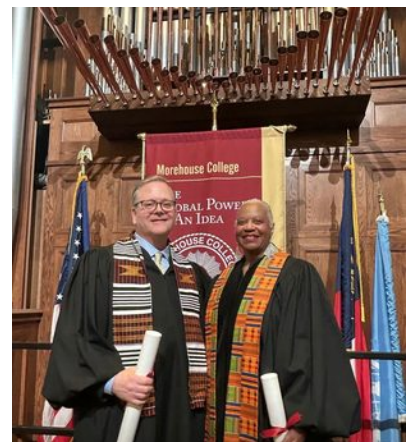
May 7 | Illinois Chamber President & CEO, [Jimmy Clayton](#), was proud to take part in the Quantum Prairie Economic Symposium hosted by Chamber member Argonne National Laboratory at the University of Chicago Hyde Park Labs, joining an expert panel to discuss the vibrant business opportunities and economic development potential that the quantum computing industry will represent for the Chicagoland Region and State of Illinois.

[Jimmy](#) was joined by [Dr. Harley Johnson](#) of the Illinois Quantum Computing Campus, [Sean Sullivan](#) of memQ, and Wendy Wu of World Business Chicago. The insightful discussion was moderated by [Kate Waimey Timmerman](#) from our partners at the Chicago Quantum Exchange.

GROW | CONNECT | CELEBRATE

Apr. 13 | We are incredibly proud of Illinois Chamber Past Chairman, [Dan Wagner](#), and all that he continues to do to make a meaningful impact in our community and beyond.

As Co-Chair of the DuPage County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Advisory Council and Unity Breakfast, Dan was officially inducted into the Board of Sponsors for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. International College of Ministers and Laity at Morehouse College.



We are grateful for all that he does and proud to have him represent the Chamber so well!

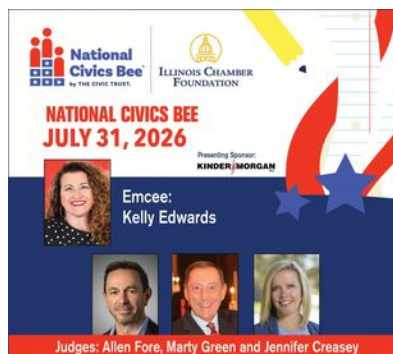
May 26 | We are excited to introduce the emcee and judges for this year's National Civics Bee® State Competition!

Emcee: [Kelly Edwards](#), State Farm

Judges:

- [Allen Fore](#), Kinder Morgan
- [Marty Green](#), Illinois CPA Society
- [Jennifer Creasey](#), University of Illinois System

Join us on **July 31st at 2:00 PM** as students take the stage to showcase their knowledge, ideas, and passion for civics. Come cheer on these inspiring young leaders and support the next generation of engaged citizens!



[More Info Here](#)

June 2 | It was an honor for the Illinois Chamber to attend the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce's 122nd Annual Meeting in Chicago. We were proud to have Illinois Chamber Board Past Chair [Dan Wagner](#) of The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies, Inc., alongside Board Chair, [Tony Reinhart](#) of Ford Motor Company, representing our organization at this outstanding event.

Congratulations to [Jack Lavin](#), President and CEO of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, and the entire Chicagoland Chamber team on hosting another successful Annual Meeting. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership as we work together to strengthen Illinois' business community and drive economic growth across the state.



June 11 | The Illinois Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of [Tony Reinhart](#) of Ford Motor Company as its new Board Chairman. Tony was elected during the board meeting, held at the DuPage Foundation in Downers Grove.

Chamber Announces New Leaders

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce new members of our Executive Board leadership for the coming year as well as new additions to our Board of Directors.

At our Q2 Board of Directors Annual Meeting, we welcomed a distinguished group of business leaders who will help guide the Chamber's mission of advancing a strong business climate and promoting economic growth throughout Illinois.

Congratulations to our Officers:

- Chairman | Tony Reinhart, Ford Motor Company
- Vice Chairman | Kelly Edwards, State Farm
- Treasurer & Finance Chairman | Del Wilkins, Canal Barge Company

"Being elected to serve as Chairman of the Illinois Chamber is a true honor," said Tony Reinhart of Ford Motor Company. "I appreciate the confidence of the Board and look forward to building on the progress we've made, working alongside my fellow board members, and continuing to advance the Chamber's mission across Illinois."

"Few organizations are fortunate enough to experience a leadership transition between two individuals of Dan Wagner's and Tony Reinhart's caliber," added President and CEO Clayton. "Dan Wagner is an extraordinary leader, trusted advisor, and steadfast champion for the Illinois Chamber. Over the past two years, Dan has led with integrity, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to strengthening our organization. We are grateful for his service and for the enduring impact he has made on the Chamber and the business community we represent."

We extend our sincere appreciation to Dan for his dedicated service and commitment to the Illinois Chamber of Commerce over the past two years. His leadership has been instrumental to our work, and while he is stepping down as Chairman, we look forward to his continued engagement and presence within our broader Chamber community.

[Full Statement Here](#)

- Secretary | Meena Beyers, Nicor Gas
- Immediate Past Chairman | Dan Wagner, The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies, Inc.

We also congratulate our newly elected Executive Committee Members:

- District 2 | Jason Crowder, First Mid
- District 3 | Jeff Ball, Hanson Professional Services
- District 6 | Kate Collins, Collins Engineers, Inc.
- District 7 | Eric Whitfield, Ameren Illinois

Congratulations to our new Board Members:

- Jennifer Creasey, University of Illinois System
- Larry Lewis, Jr., Cigna Healthcare

These leaders bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and commitment to the Illinois business community. We look forward to their leadership and the important role they will play in shaping the Chamber's priorities, advocating for employers, and helping create a stronger economic future for our state.



June 11 | The Illinois Chamber Board of Directors gathered ahead of the board meeting to connect and engage with fellow board members from across the state. We value the opportunity to spend time together and strengthen the relationships that support our work throughout the year.



June 11 | During our Q2 Illinois Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting, we were excited to hear from guest speaker [Jean-François Hould](#), Director of the Quebec Government Office in Chicago.

Jean-François Hould spoke on the growing economic partnership between Illinois and Québec. From advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies to critical mineral supply chains, his insights highlighted the many opportunities for collaboration and the importance of strengthening cross-border business relationships.



Women in Business Highlights



WOMEN IN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

June 8 | The Illinois Chamber staff is geared up and ready for our Ninth Annual Women in Business Conference at Northern Illinois University! We were excited to welcome attendees for a day of meaningful connections, valuable insights, and professional growth.

KICKOFF

We started the day with [Elaine Hand](#) of InnerView, LLC and her opening session, **It's Not About How You Start – It's About How You Finish.**

Elaine is sharing practical insights on innovation, adaptability, and the everyday habits that help leaders navigate challenges, embrace opportunities, and finish strong. A great start to a day focused on leadership, growth, and connection!

PANEL DISCUSSION

Cultivating Innovation: Women Professionals in Agriculture and Technology

The panel discussion included exploring how emerging technologies, including AI, digital tools, and precision agriculture, are shaping the future of agriculture and driving innovation across the industry.

Thank you to moderator [Aubrie Mozingo](#), Manager of Government Relations, (Illinois Chamber) and panelists



[Kanlaya Barr, Ph.D.](#), Director of Corporate Economics, ([John Deere](#)), [Stephanie Brenden](#), Director, Global Regulatory Affairs, ([BRANDT®](#)), and [Luz Najera](#), VP Global Government Affairs and Legal Sustainability, ([Ingredion Incorporated](#)) for sharing their expertise and insights on innovation, leadership, and the future of agriculture.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Maximize Capacity: Brain–Body Strategies for Stress, Growth, and Intentional Living

[Melissa Hedlund Nelson, PhD, ATR-BC, CADC, SEP](#) shares practical, evidence based brain–body strategies to help you manage stress and build resilience.

The Future is Here: AI, Compliance, and the Modern Workplace

[Beverly Alfon](#), Partner at Amundsen Davis, explores how artificial intelligence is transforming the workplace - from hiring and performance management to workforce analytics.

Negotiating with Confidence

[Joan M. Phillips-Hernandez](#), PhD, Dean at Northern Illinois University College of Business, leads a practical session on negotiation as a core leadership skill, not just in the boardroom, but in everyday leadership. Drawing on behavioral science and real-world examples, this session focuses on building influence while maintaining authentic, effective relationships.

Thank you to all of our exhibitors, staff, panelists, and attendees for joining us at yesterday's ninth annual Women in Business Conference!

Spotlight on Members

Apr. 2 | Big congratulations to Chamber Member [Hanson Professional Services Inc.](#) on your office expansion! Exciting growth ahead!



Apr. 28 | The Illinois Chamber team attended [Motorola Solutions](#)' State Public Safety Technology Showcase in Springfield. The event highlighted a range of public safety-enhancing technologies offered by Motorola, including drones to help first responders operate quickly and with



better situational awareness. Other demonstrations included solutions for event security, including drone detection capabilities for large gatherings and sensitive locations and innovative sensors that can help detect security concerns in private spaces, schools, or other public facilities.

May 1 | Congratulations to [United Airlines](#) on reaching an extraordinary milestone, 100 years of connecting people, businesses, and communities across the globe. We are proud to have United Airlines as a Chamber member and to celebrate their continued impact in Illinois and beyond. [More Here](#)



May 13 | Congratulations to Chamber member [Continental](#) on announcing the construction of a new, highly automated finished goods warehouse in Mount Vernon, IL. Designed to grow demand across North America, the facility will enhance service levels and customer support throughout the region.



May 20 | The Illinois Chamber of Commerce Foundation is proud to announce that Chamber Member [Kinder Morgan, Inc.](#) will once again serve as the Presenting Sponsor of our National Civics Bee Competition on July 31st! [Register Here](#)



June 3 | Thank you, [Union Pacific Railroad](#) and Illinois Chamber Board Member, [Tom Evenson](#), for inviting President & CEO [Jimmy Clayton](#) for breakfast aboard Union Pacific's Heritage Fleet this morning before Big Boy's public display in West Chicago. Tom and the team were incredible hosts!



June 22 | Thank you, Illinois Chamber Member [Fuyao Glass Corporation of America](#) for inviting President and CEO [Jimmy Clayton](#) and the Illinois Chamber team to tour your manufacturing facility in Decatur.



June 24 | This month, we're proud to recognize [BOPI](#) as our Chamber Member Spotlight. Since 1947, BOPI has grown from a small Bloomington print shop into a leading commercial printing and communications company, serving customers across Illinois and beyond. Congratulations to BOPI on being featured as our Member Spotlight this month, and thank you for your continued support of the Illinois Chamber!



June 24 | Thank you, [Tyler Diers](#), public policy manager at [Meta](#), for inviting the Illinois Chamber staff to tour your Chicago office. Meta is a tremendous employer and partner to both Chicago and the broader Illinois business community.



June 24 | Illinois Chamber Member [Lenovo](#) hosted a tour for policymakers and community organizations at the Motorola Mobility office in the world-renowned Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Thank you, [Khalid W. Pagan](#) with Lenovo for inviting the Chamber team.



Together, we're building a stronger, more prosperous Illinois.



Sent to: dkeltner@ilchamber.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

Illinois Chamber of Commerce, 215 E. Adams, Springfield, IL 62701, United States