



Nicole Blodgett &lt;nblodgett@panaschools.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: New legislative class large and talented**

1 message

---

**Jason Bauer** <jbauer@panaschools.com>  
To: nblodgett@panaschools.com

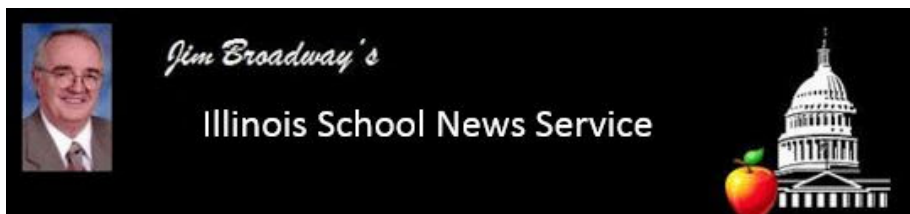
Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 7:18 AM

January board meeting  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** State School News Service <j.m.broadway74@gmail.com>  
**Date:** January 11, 2019 at 2:02:37 AM CST  
**To:** jbauer@panaschools.com  
**Subject:** New legislative class large and talented  
**Reply-To:** j.m.broadway74@gmail.com

[Subscribe to ISNS](#)



Volume 25, Number 2, January 11, 2019

To view the web version, [click here](#).

## **New legislative class large and talented**

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

Since I began to report on Illinois government and politics - that would be in 1970 - I don't believe I've seen as much turnover in the state legislature as we saw happen in the November elections. I think even the first post-Watergate election didn't turn so many legislators into "former" senators and representatives.

Some pretty good public officials saw their careers come to an end this week. But the incoming freshmen, and freshwomen, seem very impressive to me, seem to have excellent potential to serve the public with distinction. There's an excellent source; I'll let you decide for yourselves.

Yes, this is part of the ongoing civics lesson. Go to the home page of the [General Assembly](#); you'll notice below the House links in the right column - under "Additional Resources" - there's a link labeled "[Legislative Support Services](#)." Click it. Now you see another column of links; click the one marked "[Legislative Research Unit](#)."

(Sure, you could have just gone directly to the LRU link above.)

The LRU produces interesting documents - for legislators and for the rest of us. In the center panel you'll find the words, "What's new at LRU?" Below that, the second bullet point, is a link labeled "[First Reading \(11/18\)](#)." Click it and you're there. Yes, it's the November issue of a newsletter called *First Reading*.

**The first page is an overview of the election** outcomes. You'll notice a reference to four legislative elections that were "too close to call" at the time this issue was written. All were contests pitting incumbent Republicans against challengers of the Democratic persuasion. (Eventually, all the incumbents lost.)

Starting on the second page are biographical sketches of newly arriving members of the House. The list does go on and on. It is not until the 9th page that the list of legislators who are new to the Senate begins. After the Senate newcomers are described, the candidates in undecided races are described (p. 12).

One of those candidates (one of the winners) is Rep. Mary Edly-Allen of Lake County. Here's [her web site "about" page](#). She's an educator, of course, a bilingual teacher in Grayslake. Her educational attainment and history of contributing to the community in various ways make you just want to welcome her to the House.

There are many aspects to the explanation of why Democrats fared so well in Illinois elections. The failures of Gov. Bruce Rauner hurt his party's chances for sure, as did the words and actions of President Donald Trump. But in my view the most influential factor was the Democratic party's candidate-recruitment processes.

**We'll look at more tools for understanding** civics at the state level in future ISNS issues. The legislators of the brand-new 101st General Assembly had opportunities on Wednesday and Thursday to begin to assemble [a policy agenda](#) for the spring session that will run until May 31. What kinds of bills are they filing?

If you clicked the link you noticed that only 40 Senate bills were filed. In [SB 10](#), [Sen. Andy Manar](#) (D-Bunker Hill) is trying again to put a more realistic minimum salary for teachers into state law. (More realistic than the current \$9,000 per year minimum, anyway.) Manar got the bill passed last year, but Rauner vetoed it.

[SB 28](#), sponsored by [Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant](#) (D-Plainfield), would codify the calculation of daily pupil attendance under a wide variety of circumstances. It is a concept that is important in the calculation of a district's state funding. It's a bill that many ISNS subscribers will want to follow all the way through.

By the way, bills with the term "TECH" in their short titles are "shell bills." They have no substantive effect as filed, but will be available as a "vehicle" for some policy ideas to be amended onto. There are many legitimate reasons for the use of shell bills in the pollicy process - and a few not so legitimate ones.

**As usual, the House is more impetuous** than the Senate. At this writing there are already 326 House bills on file. Among the most impetuous of House members is [Rep. Mary Flowers](#) (D-Chicago), whose passion for children and educators and public health has not dimmed one iota since she first entered the House in 1985.

Mary Flowers appears to be the sponsor of the first 24 House bills. The subjects of those bills will tell you a lot about her. [HB 12](#) would give ISBE \$1 million for autism programs; [HB 16](#) would make Chicago kids safer as they walk to school; ISBE would get \$15 million for transportation reimbursement to parents via [HB 17](#).

Longtime ISNS readers know that I have great respect for Mary Flowers. But that does not keep me from referencing many of her bills a parts of the "Mary's Mandates" package. [HB 18](#), for example, is her idea for improving - and informing the public and the news media about - "character education" in Illinois schools.

By early next week, I'll have posted a document with all pending School Code-amending bills for your review. Meanwhile, you can wander through the early bill lists

at your liesure. If any of the bills stir questions, feel free to use the comment link below to bring them to my attention. It's a seminar, after all.

Some questions have already arrived. I'll express my views on them next week as well.

**That Bruce Rauner, I'm sure going to miss him.** I've observed Illinois governors pretty closely since Richard Ogilvie (easily the best in my lifetime), and Bruce is by far the most creative storyteller of them all, better even than the hair guy, Rod Blagojevich. (Yes, I miss writing about him, too.)

In his latest - his final - missive to the legislators and, through them, to the people of Illinois, Rauner presents a list of the "achievements" of his four-year administration. What does he place at the top of the list? Education! Here is what he had to say about that in his Wednesday [memo to the new General Assembly](#):

*"Our administration created and led a bipartisan task force which developed a new and more equitable school funding system that had eluded elected officials in Illinois for more than twenty years. We led a collaborative effort that achieved record K-12 funding, record early childhood education funding, equal funding for charter schools, expanded student apprenticeships, created a historic tuition scholarship tax credit program, and developed perhaps the best ESSA plan in America focused on objective measurement of student growth.*

*"We hope that, in the future, apprenticeships will expand dramatically and that we will focus on granting technical and vocational certificates in high school so that our students are ready to pursue careers at age 18 without high tuition costs or debt. We helped set in motion the effort to rationalize and properly fund a higher education system focused on centers of excellence. We hope you can bring it to successful implementation."*

**Fact-Check Notes:** There's almost too much misinformation to describe in the two paragraphs above. The Vision 2020 and other education advocacy organizations developed and were pushing evidence-based funding long before Rauner was ever elected; he vetoed funding reform bills twice, and the budget to pay for it was enacted only after a few House Republicans sided with Democrats to override yet another Rauner veto.

It was Blagojevich, not Rauner, who stimulated the surge in early childhood funding. Forcing higher charter schools funding was a bad idea - but it was Rep. Dan Burke, not Rauner, who forced it into law. The tuition scholarship tax credit is awful policy, a result of a compromise that seems likely to be undone now. The outgoing governor has a lot of nerve to even mention higher education; state universities will suffer from his budget impasse for years to come.

**What is going on in DuPage County?** When I lived there, 1984-1988, they wouldn't even reveal to a Democrat where the polling place was. These days, they're actually electing Democrats to public office. And to do that, they're even voting out some of their best public officials, apparently just for leaning Republican.

Case in point. Until this week, House District 81 was represented by [David Olsen of Downers Grove](#), a bright young man who had distinguished himself in elective positions ever since he was *student body president at UIU-C*. He was on a House education committee and sponsored [a lot of good bills](#), passing many of them.

Olsen really looked like a keeper, but DuPage voters tossed him aside (albeit by less than 1 percentage point) for a young Democrat whose web site is not very specific about what she hopes to achieve, or even what she has been doing except that she likes "gardening, bowling, sewing, and a wide range of artistic endeavors."

[Rep. Anne Stava-Murray](#) seems likely to be - actually she is *hoping* to be - a short-termer in Springfield. Even before she was sworn in as a state representative, she [announced a](#)

[run abainst U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin](#) for the U.S. Senate in 2020. Now, that seems a bit overly ambitious, but we'll see.

**The only way to contact me:** Use the link below. As soon as you "submit" your message, it is sent to me by email. Your message may be complex and "attached" to a document, or it may be as simple as "call me."

IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK WITH ME directly, leave a phone number for me to call and tell me what would be a good time to converse. I am always connected to my email, and I promise to respond to you as soon as possible.

**Invoice Reminder:** All invoices are *emailed* via the PNC Bank. ISNS is *now paperless*. If you need me to resend an invoice, use the contact link to tell me. I deeply appreciate your support of ISNS. This service cannot exist without you.

**Your inputs - questions, comments, suggestions** - are valued. For twenty-four years ISNS has been guided by wisdom "from the field." To contribute in this way, just [click this link to our contact form](#).

State School News Service (C) 2018

### **Subscribe to ISNS**

**DO NOT CLICK THE 'UNSUBSCRIBE' LINK!** That would automatically drop you from the ISNS subscriber list. The "unsubscribe" link is required so we cannot remove it. But to continue receiving the ISNS newsletter, DO NOT CLICK IT. If you wish to update your account, including choosing your email preference (HTML or text-only) please [submit this form](#). Otherwise, use the "contact form" link in the last paragraph of today's newsletter to contact Jim Broadway for any reason. Thank you.

State School News Service, [347 S Durkin Dr, Springfield, IL 62704](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ [jbauer@panaschools.com](mailto:jbauer@panaschools.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [j.m.broadway74@gmail.com](mailto:j.m.broadway74@gmail.com) in collaboration with



Try it free today