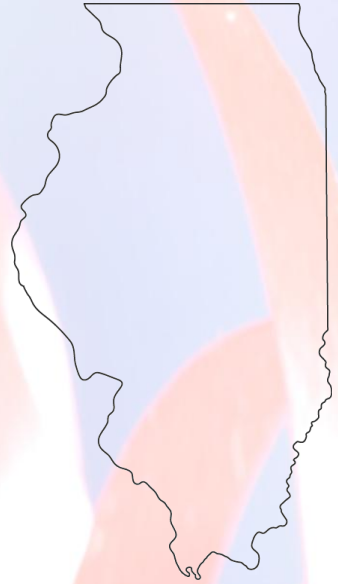


Economic Development Downstate Summit



Creating a Common Voice



Hosted by

East Central Illinois Development Corporation (ECIDC)

September 29, 2011

Thelma Keller Convention Center

1202 N. Keller Dr., Effingham, IL



Dear Attendee:

The East Central Illinois Development Corporation (ECIDC), in partnership with sponsors from around the state, welcome you to an economic development summit: **Creating a Common Voice.**

Designed to bring together downstate leaders for a day of education, exploration and brainstorming and to create a common voice on economic development issues that will be heard in Springfield and Washington D.C., we hope to create a shared statewide agenda supported by both economic developers and legislators that will spearhead effective economic development for the state of Illinois.

Throughout the day, you will be asked to respond to survey questions relevant to the topics being presented. Please add your voice by participating in this survey. Collective responses will be shared with downstate development leaders and legislators following the Summit.

The regional partners planning this event wish to ensure a positive atmosphere for all attendees, one which will bring development leaders and legislators together to build new relationships within downstate Illinois and to support the revitalization of a downstate bipartisan caucus. Throughout the day's events, a facilitator will moderate questions ensuring a non-threatening environment without retribution or criticism.

We thank you for joining us in this inaugural event to create a common voice and effect change for downstate Illinois.



Stepheny McMahon
ECIDC President



Jean Anne Grunloh
ECIDC Executive Director

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Inaugural Downstate Summit: Creating a Common Voice

September 29, 2011, Keller Convention Center, Effingham, IL

Agenda

- 8:30-9:30 a.m.** **Registration & Coffee**
- 9:30 a.m.** **Welcome and Opening Remarks - Room A/B**
~ Stepheny McMahon, ECIDC President & Director of the Sullivan Chamber and Economic Development
- 9:40 a.m.** **Keynote Presentation - Room A/B**
~ Honorable Sheila Simon, Lieutenant Governor and Chair, Governor's Affairs Rural Council
Moderator: Stepheny McMahon
- 10:00 a.m.** **Trends, Issues, and Potential in Downstate Illinois and Reasons for Building Solidarity on Economic Development Issues - Room A/B**
Presenters and Expert Panelists:
~ Norman Walzer, Senior Research Scholar, NIU
~ James Nowlan, Senior Fellow, Institute for Government & Public Affairs at the University of Illinois
Moderator: Angela Griffin, President, Coles Together
- 10:45 a.m.** **Break**
- 11:00 a.m.** **Quality of Life Survey Results from Rural Partners and Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) - Room A/B**
Presenter and Expert Panelist: Christopher Merrett, Manager, IIRA
Expert Panelists:
~ Norman Walzer
~ James Nowlan
Moderator and Expert Panelist: Jerry Townsend, Chair, Rural Partners
- 11:45 a.m.** **Lunch - Room C/D**
Keynote Presentation
~ Colleen Callahan, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Illinois
Moderator: Pamela Crisman, Vice President for Development, Lake Land College
- 12:20 p.m.** **Creating a Bipartisan Downstate Voice - Room C/D**
Introduction of Legislators
Presenter and Expert Panelist: State Representative Roger Eddy, 109th District
Expert Panelists: Legislators in Attendance
Moderator: Pamela Crisman, Vice President for Development, Lake Land College

- 1:15 p.m. Vital Tools and Resources for Downstate (Rural) Economic Development
Part I - Enterprise Zones – Room A/B**
Presenters and Expert Panelists:
~ John Thompson, President, Illinois Enterprise Zone Association
~ Craig Coil, Vice President, Illinois Enterprise Zone Association and President/CEO
EDC of Decatur & Macon County
Expert Panelists:
~ Norman Walzer
~ James Nowlan
Moderator: Angela Griffin
- 2:00 p.m. Vital Tools and Resources for Downstate (Rural) Economic Development
Part II – TIF Districts – Room A/B**
Presenters and Expert Panelists:
~ Tom Henderson, Executive Director, Illinois Tax Increment Assoc.
~ Steve Kline, President/CEO, The Economic Development Group, Ltd.
~ Herb Klein, Attorney, Jacob & Klein, Ltd.
Expert Panelists:
~ Norman Walzer
~ James Nowlan
~ James M. Snyder, Ice Miller, LLP
Moderator: Stepheny McMahon
- 3:00 p.m. Tri-State Development Summit: “Power of Coming Together” – Room A/B**
Presenter and Expert Panelist:
~ Jim Mentesti, President, Great River Economic Development Foundation
Moderator and Expert Panelist: Jack Schultz, Founder & CEO, Agracel, Inc.
- 3:15 Making Illinois More Competitive – Room A/B**
Small Group Discussions - “What could we do, what should we do next?”
Moderator and Expert Panelist: Brian Moody, ECIDC Vice President and Executive
Director of Tuscola Economic Development Inc. and Tuscola Tourism
Expert Panelists:
~ Angela Griffin
~ Stepheny McMahon
~ Craig Coil
~ Jim Mentesti
- 4:25-4:30 p.m. Closing Remarks / Evaluations**
~Jean Anne Grunloh, ECIDC Executive Director

Note - beginning at 10:00 a.m., all sessions will include open discussion with expert panelists as well as survey questions moderated by Gisele Hamm, Manager, IIRA, MAPPING the Future of Your Community Program.

Keynote Speakers



Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon offers a lifetime and legacy of public service. She is a lawyer, teacher and working mother. Her record includes four years as a Jackson County prosecutor fighting crime, a decade as a Southern Illinois University law professor teaching young legal minds and participation in the Illinois Reform Commission, which aimed to restore ethics and trust in government. Simon was elected Lieutenant Governor on November 2, 2012, filling the post vacated since January 2008 when former Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn succeeded to Governor. Simon is the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor. She acts as the Governor's point person on education reform and is leading efforts to increase college completion, inspire ethical government, protect our military bases from closure, improve services in rural areas and keep our waterways clean and safe. Simon also chairs the Governor's Rural Affairs Council (GRAC) which is tasked with improving delivery of state services to rural Illinois and expanding opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural residents. Simon graduated from Georgetown University's law school in 1987 after which she began working at Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance where she advocated there for people facing domestic violence, discrimination and loss of housing. Her parents, the late Paul and Jeanne Simon, served in the Illinois House together, and were a lifelong team of public servants. Her father, Paul, is remembered across the state for his honesty and integrity in public service. Simon and her husband, Perry, were married in 1987, and they have two daughters.



Colleen Callahan grew up on a purebred Hampshire hog, Angus cattle and grain farm near Milford, Illinois. She received her bachelor's degree in agricultural communications from the University of Illinois. She was the first woman agribusiness director for WMBD Radio and TV in Peoria. After 30 years with WMBD, Colleen started her own communications firm, specializing in giving motivational speeches, facilitating meetings and debates, and coaching individuals and organizations in public speaking and preparing for media interviews. She has traveled on official missions to Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East and Cuba. Colleen has a strong commitment to public service and has served on numerous executive boards throughout the Peoria area and the State of Illinois. She also served as the first woman president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and this fall will become the first woman inducted into its Hall of Fame. The Obama Administration named Colleen State Director for USDA Rural Development in Illinois, and she began her duties in July 2009. She oversees the agency's 13 offices and its \$3 billion loan portfolio with investments in housing, business and community development in rural Illinois.

Speakers and Expert Panelists



J. Craig Coil began his economic development career over 20 years ago after joining the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) as an Area Development Representative. During his career with the State of Illinois he held various positions including Targeted Industry Specialist, Division Manager of Industry Development, Division Manager of Market Development and Senior Corporate Services Manager. While working for the State of Illinois, he received the Distinguished Economic Developer Award from the Illinois Development Council (IDC), a statewide association of economic development professionals. In July of 2002, Coil was named

President of the Economic Development Corporation of Decatur and Macon County (EDC). In 2007, Coil was presented with the IDC Chairman's Award for outstanding service to the Association and for outstanding contributions to Illinois Economic Development, the first award of its kind given to an IDC member. Coil is Vice President and President-elect of the Illinois Enterprise Zone Association, Past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Development Council and serves on the boards of numerous Decatur regional organizations. He is also a member of the International Economic Development Council, the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones and the Council for Development Finance Agencies. A graduate of Illinois State University, with professional studies at Ohio State University and the University of Oklahoma, Coil resides in Decatur, Illinois and Petersburg, Illinois.



Roger Eddy has been State Representative in the 109th District for the past nine years. He has been a coach, teacher, principal and now Superintendent in Illinois for the past 30 years and is currently in his 16th year as Superintendent at Hutsonville CUSD # 1. His committee assignments in the Illinois House include: Elementary & Secondary Education, Labor, Bio-Technology, Health Care Disparities and he is the Minority Spokesman on the Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriations Committee. He has been a member of the Pension Task Force, School Mandates Task Force and the task force on streamlining educational delivery in Illinois. His efforts in education and agriculture have resulted in numerous awards during his four terms in the House

of Representatives. He has served on many economic development committees and is an executive Board Member and co-founder of the United Way of Crawford County and Crawford County Leadership. He serves on numerous statewide education advisory boards for Education Funding Reform and Early Childhood Education including the Erikson Institute's Early Childhood Advisory Board and National St. Louis University's Funding Reform Commission.

Representative Eddy earned his Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University in 1986 and his Specialist Degree in 1996 also from Eastern to go along with his undergraduate degree in education from Northern Illinois University. Roger and his wife Becca, who is an early childhood teacher, have five children and two grandchildren.



Angela Griffin, President of Coles Together, holds a BA in Economics from the University of Illinois at Springfield and has over 18 years of economic development experience. She started her career with the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity where she served as a team leader and liaison with national site selection firms and corporate location specialists. As President of Coles Together, Angela is responsible for the overall management of the organization. She draws on her professional experience, as well as an extensive network of development allies throughout the State of Illinois, to ensure the success of industrial projects in Coles County. Angela also serves as the administrator of the Coles Together Enterprise Zone and on the boards of the Coles County Community Development Corporation, the Eastern Illinois Railroad Company, the Salvation Army, and the Illinois Development Council.



Gisele Hamm is Manager of the MAPPING the Future of Your Community Program, a unit of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. The MAPPING program is a strategic visioning and planning program in which local residents of rural communities create a long-range vision for their community and a plan of action for achieving it. In addition to managing the MAPPING program, Gisele currently manages the AmeriCorps*Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program at IIRA as well as other community technical assistance grant-funded projects. Gisele earned a B.S. in agricultural business and a M.A. in economics from Western Illinois University. She joined the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs in 2003 to manage a study of brownfields in Illinois municipalities, and subsequently worked as a rural technology specialist in the Rural Information Planning Project (RITPP), managed the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), and the AmeriCorps*VISTA program. She has published several articles in national and state outlets on brownfields and other development issues and has made numerous presentations to state and national conventions.



Thomas R. Henderson, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Illinois Tax Increment Association (ITIA), came to the ITIA from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) where he was the statewide administrator of the Enterprise Zone, High Impact Business, and River Edge Redevelopment Zone Programs and provided technical assistance to those communities inquiring about the Tax Increment Finance Program. As ITIA Executive Director, he is responsible for the planning and implementation of the programs and activities of the ITIA. In addition to his ITIA duties, he is an active member of the Illinois Development Council (IDC), the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) and has served on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Enterprise Zone Association (IEZA) for approximately 20 years. He was awarded the “1996 Economic Developer of the Year Award” by the IEZA. Earlier in 2011, he was appointed to the Local Government Advisory Board by Illinois Comptroller Judy Barr Topinka and was presented with “The Distinguished Economic Developer Award” by the Illinois Development Council.

Herbert J. Klein is the President of Jacob & Klein, Ltd., specializing in areas relating to Government Law – (representing both municipalities and other taxing districts); Economic Development Law; and Real Estate Law. Mr. Klein has extensive experience in Tax Increment Financing with an emphasis on negotiating municipal/taxing district intergovernmental agreements and private redevelopment agreements. Mr. Klein received his undergraduate degree from Eastern Illinois University and his Juris Doctor from Northern Illinois University College of Law. Mr. Klein is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the LaSalle County Bar Association, Attorney’s Title Guaranty Fund, the ATGF Trust Company, and the Local Government Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association. He is also a member and past Chair of the Illinois State Bar Association’s Business Advice and Financial Planning Section, past member of the ISBA Assembly, and an Illinois Bar Foundation Fellow. He is a contributing author to attorney education publications and a speaker at legal education conferences as well as at State and regional economic development conferences.



Steven E. Kline is the President/CEO of The Economic Development Group, Ltd. (EDG) in Bloomington, Illinois. In tandem with Jacob & Klein, Ltd., an economic development law firm, EDG provides technical assistance and administrative support services to Illinois municipalities engaged in a variety of economic development activities. Together, the two firms have helped create more than 130 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts which have generated more than \$2 billion of new development and retained or created more than 4,000 jobs in Illinois. Prior to joining The Economic Development Group, Ltd., Kline was a research associate at the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University where he helped create and administer a strategic visioning and planning process called MAPPING the Future of Your Community in more than 80 Illinois cities, towns and villages. As an advocate for rural development and the creation of broad-based public-private partnerships, Kline is a past chairman and current member of the Board of Directors for Illinois Rural Partners, the State Rural Development Council representing the State of Illinois in the National Rural Development Partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kline has a B.S. in Agriculture and a Masters in Business Administration from Western Illinois University.



Stepheny McMahon is the Director of the Sullivan Chamber and Economic Development in Sullivan, IL where she works to support existing local businesses, promote tourism and bring new business to the area. Stepheny is a 1985 graduate of Sullivan High School and holds a bachelor’s degree in International Business from Illinois State University. Stepheny serves on the boards of various local organizations including the East Central Illinois Development Corporation, Amish Country of Central Illinois CVB, Eastern Illinois University Business Solutions Center Advisory Board and the Southeastern Illinois SCORE Chapter.





Jim Mentesti serves as President of the Great River Economic Development Foundation (GREDF). He has been helping businesses grow in Quincy and Adams County since 1986. Prior to joining GREDF, Jim served as director of development for eleven years at Quincy College and was later administrative manager of Quintron Corporation in Quincy. Jim serves as a director of the Rural Adams Development Corporation and member of the 35-county Tri-State Development Summit Steering Committee. He is active in the Western Illinois Corridor Council and is a past board member of the Workforce Investment Board of Western Illinois. He is also a past president of the Illinois Development Council. Jim graduated from Quincy College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. Jim's community leadership roles include: Charter Director of the Community Foundation of the Quincy Area; Quincy University Trustee Emeritus; President of the Quincy University Foundation; Past President of the Quincy Parks Foundation; Board Member of the Jackson Lincoln Swimming Complex; Past President of the First Tee of Great River; Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Quincy; Past President of Spring Lake Country Club; Board Member of the Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce; and Steering Committee Member of the Salvation Army Kroc Center.



Christopher D. Merrett earned his Ph.D. (University of Iowa) in Geography and Planning. He currently serves as the director of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. The IIRA is a university-based research, outreach and policy center focused on promoting strategies for sustainable rural community economic development. Merrett has authored or collaborated on more than 100 publications in the area of globalization, community development, sustainability, and social justice. Most recently, he co-edited two books: "A Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development" and "Cooperatives and Local Development: Theory and Applications for the 21st Century." Previously, Merrett authored the book "Free Trade: Neither Free nor About Trade." In addition to his academic career, he served as an officer in the Canadian Air Force. He also worked for the Great Lakes Power Corporation, a hydroelectric public utility located in Northern Ontario.



Brian Moody has been the Executive Director of Tuscola Economic Development, Inc. (TEDI) since 2005. A Tuscola native, he received his undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and an MBA from Eastern Illinois University. He recently completed Year 3 of the Midwest Community Development Institute. Currently the Vice President of ECIDC, Brian has been a vocal advocate for increased regional collaboration. He also is a member of the Illinois Development Council and on the Board of Directors of the East Central Illinois Economic Development District. Like most rural economic developers, Brian has worn a number of "hats" in Tuscola including: city councilman, chamber president, festival chairman, firefighter, deputy corner and general manager of a small business. Brian and his wife Kate make their home in Tuscola with their sons Braxton (4) and Elijah (7 months).



James D. Nowlan, professor, politician, newspaper publisher, and senior aide to three Illinois governors, is the author of scholarly works as well as novels about American politics, public management, and social change. Following four years as the founding director of the Civic Leadership Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in 2008 Nowlan returned to his role as a senior fellow with the University's Institute of Government and Public Affairs. In 2005, the University of Illinois Alumni Association named Nowlan "Educator of the Year" at the University of Illinois. In 2005, Fudan University in Shanghai named Nowlan a Foreign Expert in the School of International Relations and Public Affairs. He is also an adjunct professor of public management at Xi'bei (Northwest) University in Xi'an, China. As a result of Nowlan's teaching about America in China, he has become a periodic columnist for the *Oriental Morning Post*, a leading Chinese-language daily newspaper in Shanghai. Nowlan's column is titled, *Understanding America*. Nowlan returned in the Spring of 2008 to teach and lecture at Fudan, Xi'bei, Nanjing, and other universities in China. Nowlan considers himself a jack-of-all-trades in government and politics. He is a former Illinois state agency director (on three occasions), member of the Illinois House of Representatives, and counselor to Illinois Republican governors Richard Ogilvie, Jim Thompson, and Jim Edgar. Nowlan publishes *The Stark County News* and *The Chillicothe Independent*, community newspapers in central Illinois, and operates a music venue and historic community center in his home village of Toulon.



Jack Schultz is the founder and CEO of Agracel, Inc., an industrial development firm majoring in rural America. Agracel began in 1986 and birthed its first development project in 1993. Since then Agracel has completed projects in sixteen states owning seven million square feet of industrial space, which has facilitated over 5,000 jobs. Agracel also owns fifteen business parks and a short line railroad. Schultz's book, *Boomtown USA: The 7 1/2 Keys to Big Success in Small Towns*, was published in early 2004. The Boomtown USA project took more than 3 years of intense research beginning with 15,800 small towns across the country. The list was narrowed to an outstanding group of 397 towns, that Jack affectionately calls AGURBS. Jack's research has been featured in *USA Today*, *Forbes*, *BusinessWeek*, and *Economic Development America* among numerous other publications. Jack has been a guest on many radio and television programs including Bloomberg Business Television. The Boomtown Speaking Tour began shortly after the book was published. Since February 2004, Jack has spoken to over 300 communities in 44 states. Jack has become a national expert in economic development. He is a sought-after speaker on the topics of building up town economics, revitalizing towns, and on the keys to becoming a Boomtown. In 2005, Jack was named Ernst & Young's Illinois Entrepreneur of the Year. In 2006, Jack received the Beta Gamma Sigma Medallion for Entrepreneurship. Jack has an MBA from Harvard, is married and a father of twin sons.



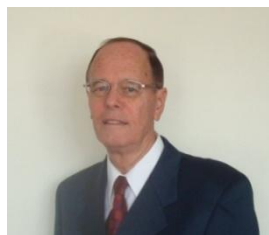
James M. Snyder, Ice Miller, LLP, is an attorney whose practice concentration is municipal finance, with an emphasis on economic development transactions such as those involving tax increment financing, multifamily housing, solid waste disposal facilities, manufacturing facilities and recovery zone facilities. Jim is a frequent speaker on bond issues that involve economic development. He serves as bond counsel, underwriter’s counsel, bond purchaser’s counsel and special counsel on a variety of public finance transactions, including general obligation financings, tax increment bond financing, industrial development revenue bonds, multifamily housing financings, solid waste disposal facility bonds, section 501(c)(3) revenue bond

financings, and Midwest disaster bonds. Jim is a graduate of The Ohio State University and The Ohio State University College of Law. Ice Miller, LLP has office in Chicago and Indianapolis.



John Thompson, IOM, ACE, is in his 23rd year as the President/CEO of the Dixon Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also President/CEO of Lee County Industrial Development Association (LCIDA), a countywide economic development organization. John is a 1994 graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institutes for Organizational Management at the University of Notre Dame. He is an Accredited Chamber of Commerce Executive (ACE) of the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. He is a past-recipient of the Carson DeJarnatt Economic Development Award from Blackhawk Hills RCD for his contributions to

the development of Lee County. Mr. Thompson is past-president of the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and has served on the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. He is a past-recipient of the Lester W. Brann Jr. Distinguished Chamber of Commerce Executive Award presented by the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. He is President of and Legislative Liaison for the Illinois Enterprise Zone Association and a former Northwest Illinois Director of the Illinois Development Council and serves on its Government Affairs Committee. Mr. Thompson has served as lead economic developer for a number of key projects for Dixon, IL and the Lee County area. Direct investment in these projects exceeds \$1 billion. He is a graduate of Sauk Valley Community College and he attended Northern Illinois University and Western Illinois University.



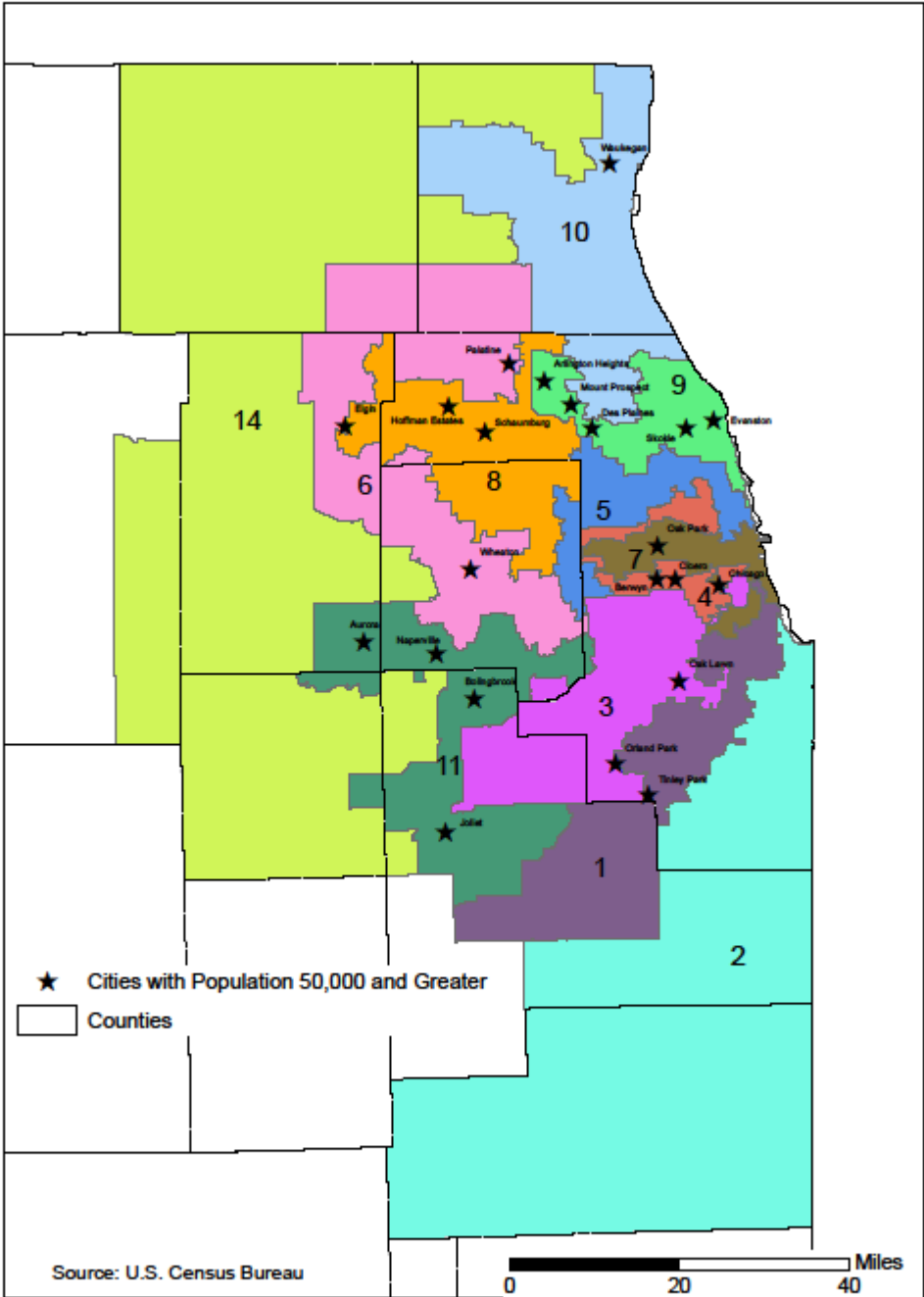
Gerald A. (Jerry) Townsend has served on the Rural Partners board for over twenty years and currently serves as board chair. He serves on a number of boards for nonprofits and community organizations. Jerry retired from USDA Rural Development as Community Programs Director and had oversight of a loan and grant program of over \$1 billion to Illinois units of government and nonprofit organizations for a variety of community facilities. He previously served in the U.S. Army and Peace Corps and is a graduate of the University of Illinois. Jerry

and his wife Kay live in Urbana and have five grown children and thirteen grandchildren.

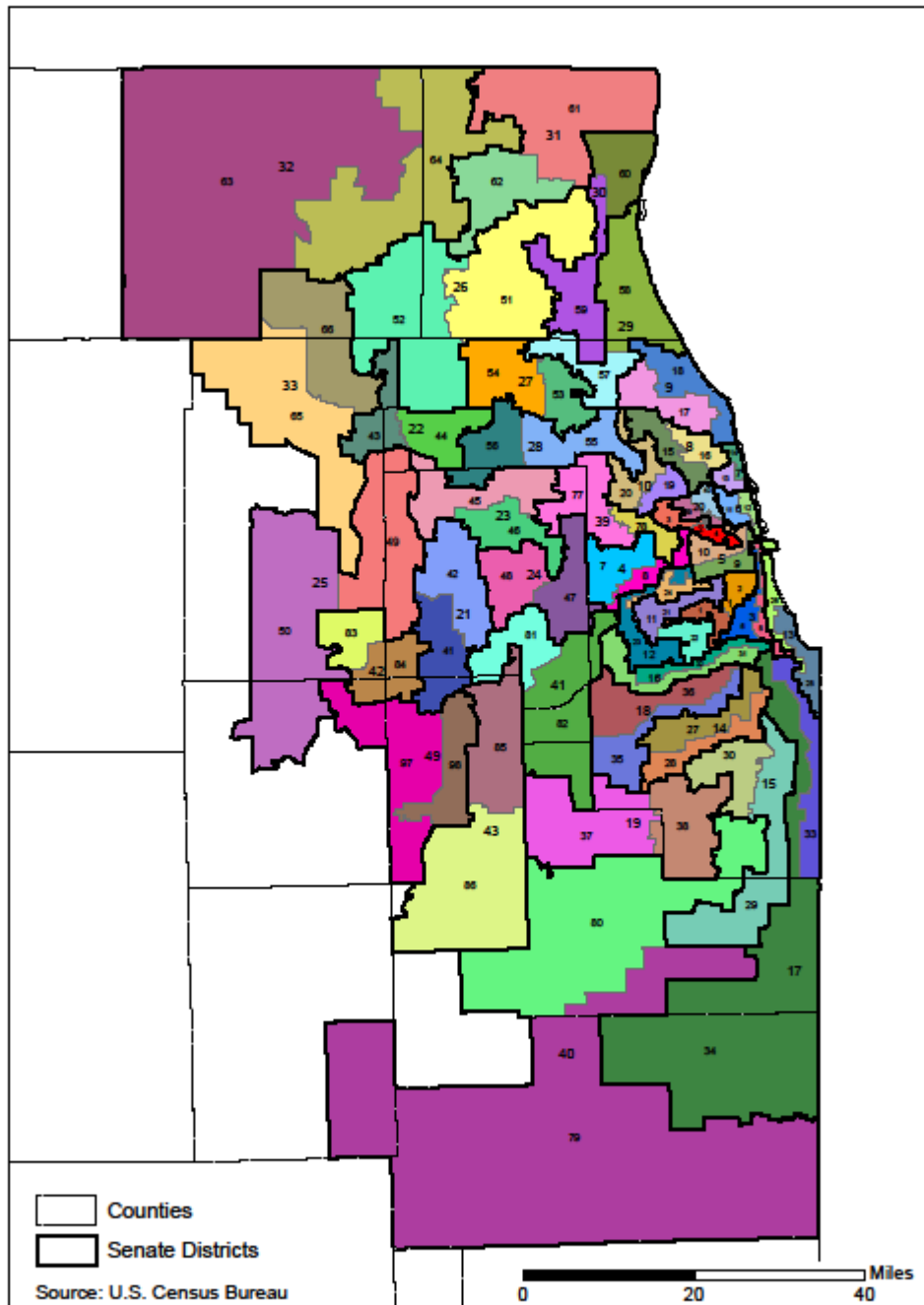


Norman Walzer, Ph.D., is Senior Research Scholar in the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University where he researches local economic development issues and helps community leaders find effective development strategies. He started the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University and directed it until he retired in 2006 and joined CGS. He is currently working with the State of Ingenuity in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin to find and implement innovative successful financing practices for business start-up. He also is studying the effects of governmental structure on local taxes and expenditures as well as the continued ability of small governments with declining populations to deliver public services efficiently. He is widely published and his forthcoming edited book on Innovative Community Visioning Programs will be available in 2012.

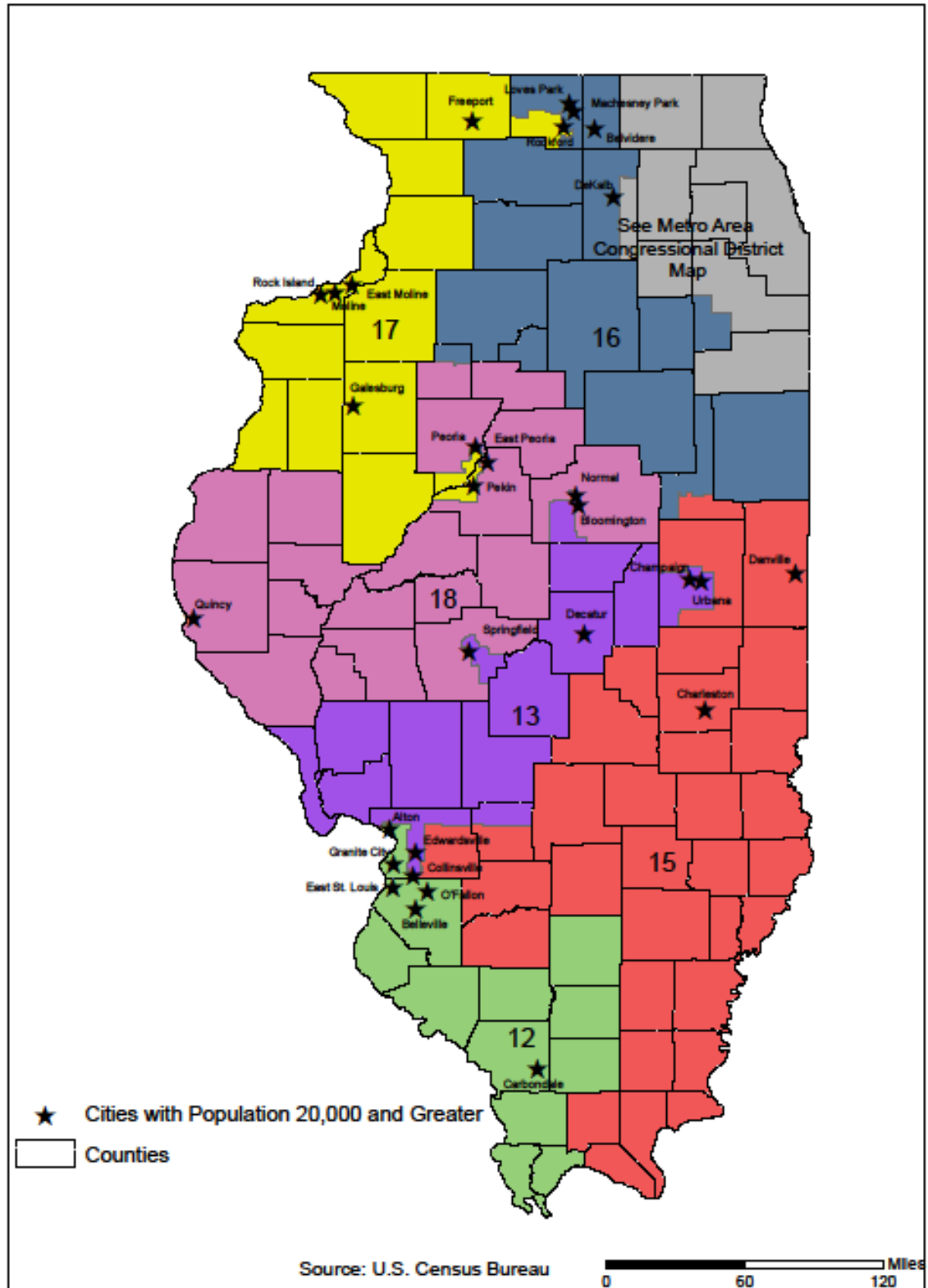
Chicago Metropolitan Area Congressional Districts



Chicago Metropolitan Area Illinois Legislative Districts



Downstate Illinois U.S. Congressional Districts



Rural Caucuses: Structure and Outcomes

By

Lilia Tzvetanova
Research Assistant

and

Norman Walzer
Senior Research Scholar

Prepared for

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Center for Governmental Studies
Northern Illinois University
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Rural caucuses have been started in many states to recognize and address growing challenges faced by rural areas. The caucuses typically include select members of state legislatures representing these areas interested in pursuing shared legislative objectives. Continued population declines in the rural areas have made it more difficult for representatives to make the case for programs that represent relatively fewer residents than in the past. A caucus focusing on rural areas, then, offers an attractive way to bring resources to these concerns.

Illinois has formally addressed rural issues in the Executive Branch, since 1986, through the Governor's Rural Affairs Council (GRAC) that includes representatives of state departments and agencies involved with rural issues. In 1990, the Illinois House and Senate passed a Joint Resolution adopting the *Rural Revitalization: The Comprehensive State Policy for the Future*. The GRAC has published annual reports describing the status of rural often with recommendations for policy actions to address perceived rural needs. Until this time, however, the Illinois General Assembly has not created a continuing caucus dealing directly with rural issues.

In recent years, many states have used a rural Caucus to increase the voice for rural issues within the state legislature. The issues addressed respond to changing demographics and economic conditions facing rural areas. Economic trends have increased the linkages between metro and rural counties because many jobs held by rural residents are in metro centers. Likewise, metro centers rely on surrounding rural counties for their work force.

This Research Memo describes efforts in select states to organize a Caucus focusing on rural issues. The purpose or mission of the Caucus is described along with excerpts from the URLs listed below that include several key outcomes of legislative issues addressed in each state.

1. California Legislative Rural Caucus

Mission:

The California Legislative Rural Caucus was formed in January, 2003 to address policy issues and concerns of rural areas and communities and to protect and promote the interest of rural California. The members of the bipartisan, bicameral Caucus support the passage of legislation addressing critical issues in constituent communities.

Projects & Bills Passed:

-Assembly Bill 1265 would reinstate SB 863 (the Williamson Act), which protects 16 million acres of California agriculture land. This Act is important financially because it provides discretionary local revenues that can be used for county services such as public safety, land use, elections, and road maintenance.

- Senate Bill 121 authorized operation of the Central Coast Rural Crime Prevention Program until July 1, 2013 and is one of the nation's only programs directly targeting crime prevention in rural areas.

- Continued funding for Rural Health Care Equity Program to reimburse out-of-pocket health care costs incurred by State employees and retirees in rural areas not served by HMOs.

- Provided resources to expand Medi-Cal Managed Care into 13 counties including El Dorado, Placer, Imperial, Merced, Madera, Kings, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, San Benito, Lake, and Mendocino.

-The California Legislative Rural Caucus sponsors numerous educational events to foster better understanding of rural issues within rural communities and among urban and rural legislators and state government representatives.

For more information contact: Chair Linda Halderman -- (916) 319-2029

<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/ruralcaucus/>

2. The Rural Caucus of the Maine State Legislature

Mission:

The Rural Caucus of the Maine State Legislature is a bipartisan, bicameral organization that develops proposals and positions related to rural Maine, appeals to rural mainstream values in the public, and fosters rural community economic development. Provided that the Maine Rural Caucus is independent of the leadership of either party, it influences the legislative process collectively.

Projects:

The Caucus has briefings on issues of concern to rural Maine and discusses whether a position or other action should be taken as a group.

For more information contact: Jeffery Allen Gifford -- (207) 290-5088,

RepJeff.Gifford@legislature.maine.gov

<http://www.mainerural.org/legislativecaucus/>

3. Indiana's Rural Caucus

In 2009, the Indiana General Assembly created the first Rural Caucus, a bi-partisan group of legislators from the State Senate and State House of Representatives.

Mission:

Indiana's Rural Caucus addresses challenges related to demographic changes, job creation, access to capital, land use, the environment, and community and historic preservation. The Indiana Rural Caucus' primary goal is to act as an advocate for concerns and interests of rural communities.

Projects:

According to Spokespersons, the Rural Caucus will make sure that various services and facilities, such as adequate transportation networks (local transit systems) are available to rural communities and that those services and facilities are provided in a cost-effective manner.

For more information contact: Co-Chair and founding sponsor State Senator Richard D. Young, Jr. -- (800) 382-9467

http://www.in.gov/legislative/senate_democrats/indiana-rural-caucus.htm

4. Minnesota Rural Caucus

On January 21, 2011 Republican members of the Minnesota Senate and House formed the Minnesota Legislature's Republican Rural Caucus.

Mission:

The Caucus, open to Republican legislators, seeks to discuss with greater focus and awareness the issues facing rural legislators within their respective chambers.

Projects:

The Caucus works regularly with leaders and policy experts to focus on long-term trends in Minnesota's rural economy. In addition, the group helps inform many Minnesota metro colleagues about the challenges facing rural communities, and also advocates strengthening rural Minnesota's economy and quality of life. Additional areas of concern include redistricting, effects of an aging rural population, the slowing growth of the labor force, rural health care, and worldwide trends related to agriculture demand. (No Democratic Rural Caucus)

For more information contact: Chris Van Guilder -- 651-296-1388,

christopher.vanguilder@senate.mn

http://www.senate.mn/members/member_pr_display.php?ls=5&id=3671

5. The Rural Caucus of the Texas Legislature

The Rural Caucus of the Texas Legislature was created in 1999 and includes 83 House and Senate Members.

Mission:

The Rural Caucus is an informational resource for members of the Texas legislature on issues which have a significant impact and are vital to the rural areas of the state, including transportation, education, economic development, taxes and access to healthcare. The Caucus meets weekly throughout the legislative session to provide members with insights regarding the latter issues. Moreover, the Caucus strives to be a cohesive group that formulates policy to benefit all Texans, whether they reside in urban, suburban or rural areas.

For more information contact Vice Chair Jim Landtroop -- (512) 463-0604 (Capitol Office)

<http://jimlandtroop.com/wordpress/news/the-rural-caucus-of-texas-welcomes-landtroop-as-vice-chair/>
http://www.laits.utexas.edu/txp_media/html/leg/features/0300_01/slide5.html

6. Maryland Rural Caucus

The Maryland General Assembly's Rural Caucus introduced legislation permanently establishing the Maryland Rural Development Council as an independent State agency, and renamed it the "FORVM for Rural Maryland".

Mission:

The FORVM conducts the "Ears to Rural Maryland Tour" by making visits and holding town meeting-type sessions in a various regions located rural Maryland. The Maryland Rural Council is concerned with job creation in rural areas, value-added agricultural development, broadband communications deployment, and microenterprise development.

Projects:

The FORVM, with the leadership of the Rural Caucus, successfully initiated the creation of the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which was established to provide financial assistance to rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses. In addition, legislation supported by the FORVM was passed that doubled State financial support for rural regional libraries located in Southern and Western Maryland as well as on the Eastern Shore.

For more information contact: RMC Chair: Dr. Bonnie Braun -- 410-841-5772
http://www.rural.state.md.us/Publications/2008_RMC_Brochure.pdf
http://www.rural.state.md.us/News/Awards_2005.html

7. Missouri Rural Caucus

Mission:

The mission of the Missouri Rural Caucus is to promote, publicize and inform rural needs to the general public, government bodies and agencies and professional organizations and to elect Democratic candidates who represent and promote rural concerns.

Projects & Bills Passed:

- Revised the composition of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Created the Agribusiness Development Authority
- Regulated unsolicited telephone sales calls
- Required National Guard to establish pilot public school program to teach military discipline
- Modified the reporting of elder abuse and neglect and the delivery of in-home services for the elderly
- Created new provisions relating to trespassing

For more information contact: Jerry Howard -- (573) 624-2246
<http://www.jerryhoward.com/caucus.html>

8. Rural Caucus of the Connecticut General Assembly

Mission:

The Rural Caucus of the Connecticut General Assembly is a bi-partisan Caucus responsible for reviewing legislation and ways that it affects the state's smaller (rural) communities.

Projects:

The Caucus brings together legislators with similar concerns and allows them to review bills that could have both a positive and negative affect on rural and suburban areas. Areas of concern include issues relating, but not limited to, open space, agriculture, and zoning.

For more information contact: State Senator (Chair) Tony Guglielmo -- 1-800-842-1421
<http://www.senatorepublicans.ct.gov/press/guglielmo/2010/040710.html>

9. Iowa House Rural Caucus

Mission:

The Iowa Rural Caucus was created by House Democrats in 2010 to give Iowa's rural economy a boost by focusing on rural job creation, meeting Iowa's rural infrastructure needs, and guaranteeing adequate resources for rural schools. State Rep. Andrew Wenthe of Hawkeye was elected Chair of the Rural Caucus and Rep. Dan Muhlbauer of Crawford County was elected Vice Chair of the Rural Caucus.

Projects:

The House Rural Caucus supports bills to help strengthen Iowa's rural economy and expand Iowa's renewable energy industry. The focus is on investments in renewable energy, supporting commodity producers, and protecting cooperatives, thus, helping grow Iowa's rural economy. Bills supported by the Rural Caucus include expanding and extending the biodiesel tax credit, encouraging retailers to offer more biofuels, changing inspections to ensure egg safety, protecting local cooperatives, and streamlining agriculture development authority. Another project involves Iowa Rural Caucus efforts to keep 39 workforce offices in rural communities open. Thus, it aims at supporting job development, placement assistance, and local businesses.

For more information contact State Representative (Chair) Andrew Wenthe -- 563-427-4831
<http://iowahouse.org/2011/02/20/rural-caucus-keep-workforce-centers-open/>
<http://www.iowapolitics.com/index.ihtml?Article=228182>

10. Wisconsin Rural Caucus

Mission:

The Wisconsin Rural Caucus was created in 2009 by Democratic legislators representing rural parts of the state to ensure that rural communities have a stronger voice in Madison and that rural issues are made a priority.

Projects:

One of the main focus areas of the Wisconsin Rural Caucus is education reform. In February, 2010, the Rural Caucus introduced a series of bills to help rural schools. The education reform package included a plan to expand and reform the SAGE program, increased flexibility for the districts facing declining enrollment or consolidation, and improvements to the school transportation aid program. In addition, the package includes legislation to reallocate more than \$1 million in excess school transportation aid that would otherwise lapse to the general fund.

For more information contact Caucus Chair Tom Crofton -- tcrofton@countryrspeed.com

<http://www.wisdems.org/about/Caucuses>

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/asm42/news/Press%20Releases/Press%20Releases/PRESS%20RELEASE%20-%20Rural%20Caucus%20Intro%20Ed%20pckge.pdf>

State Rural Caucuses represent a unified voice for rural communities in their respective state legislatures. The Caucuses vary in size, maturity, party affiliation, and membership. However, despite their organizational differences, the Caucuses have similar goals and commitment to rural community development and preservation. Caucus priorities include economic development, job creation, support for local businesses, access to capital, land use, preservation of the environment, community and historic conservation, improvement of the infrastructure and community services, and education.

Executive Order: White House Rural Council

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE RURAL COUNCIL – June 9, 2011

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in order to enhance Federal engagement with rural communities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. Sixteen percent of the American population lives in rural counties. Strong, sustainable rural communities are essential to winning the future and ensuring American competitiveness in the years ahead. These communities supply our food, fiber, and energy, safeguard our natural resources, and are essential in the development of science and innovation. Though rural communities face numerous challenges, they also present enormous economic potential. The Federal Government has an important role to play in order to expand access to the capital necessary for economic growth, promote innovation, improve access to health care and education, and expand outdoor recreational activities on public lands.

To enhance the Federal Government's efforts to address the needs of rural America, this order establishes a council to better coordinate Federal programs and maximize the impact of Federal investment to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in our rural communities.

Sec. 2. Establishment. There is established a White House Rural Council (Council).

Sec. 3. Membership. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall serve as the Chair of the Council, which shall also include the heads of the following executive branch departments, agencies, and offices:

- (1) the Department of the Treasury;
- (2) the Department of Defense;
- (3) the Department of Justice;
- (4) the Department of the Interior;
- (5) the Department of Commerce;
- (6) the Department of Labor;
- (7) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (8) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (9) the Department of Transportation;
- (10) the Department of Energy;
- (11) the Department of Education;
- (12) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (13) the Department of Homeland Security;
- (14) the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (15) the Federal Communications Commission;
- (16) the Office of Management and Budget;
- (17) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (18) the Office of National Drug Control Policy;
- (19) the Council of Economic Advisers;
- (20) the Domestic Policy Council;
- (21) the National Economic Council;
- (22) the Small Business Administration;
- (23) the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (24) the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs;

(25) the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs; and such other executive branch departments, agencies, and offices as the President or the Secretary of Agriculture may, from time to time, designate.

(b) A member of the Council may designate, to perform the Council functions of the member, a senior-level official who is part of the member's department, agency, or office, and who is a full-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) The Department of Agriculture shall provide funding and administrative support for the Council to the extent permitted by law and within existing appropriations.

(d) The Council shall coordinate its policy development through the Domestic Policy Council and the National Economic Council.

Sec. 4. Mission and Function of the Council. The Council shall work across executive departments, agencies, and offices to coordinate development of policy recommendations to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural America, and shall coordinate my Administration's engagement with rural communities. The Council shall:

(a) make recommendations to the President, through the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and the Director of the National Economic Council, on streamlining and leveraging Federal investments in rural areas, where appropriate, to increase the impact of Federal dollars and create economic opportunities to improve the quality of life in rural America;

(b) coordinate and increase the effectiveness of Federal engagement with rural stakeholders, including agricultural organizations, small businesses, education and training institutions, health-care providers, telecommunications services providers, research and land grant institutions, law enforcement, State, local, and tribal governments, and nongovernmental organizations regarding the needs of rural America;

(c) coordinate Federal efforts directed toward the growth and development of geographic regions that encompass both urban and rural areas; and

(d) identify and facilitate rural economic opportunities associated with energy development, outdoor recreation, and other conservation related activities.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

(a) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Council. Each executive department and agency shall bear its own expense for participating in the Council.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(d) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

BARACK OBAMA
THE WHITE HOUSE

Governor's Rural Affairs Council

(Source: <http://www2.illinois.gov/ltgov/pages/RuralAffairs.aspx>)

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon chairs the Governor's Rural Affairs Council (GRAC) which is tasked with improving delivery of state services to rural Illinois and expanding opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural residents.

Mission

The 25-member council was created in 1987 but re-launched in 2011 by Executive Order 11-04 with a new mission and membership focused on developing markets for local foods, improving emergency services in rural areas and monitoring other emerging rural issues. Members of the council serve on a voluntary basis and take an active role in the legislative process by reviewing bills and voicing support for policies that would provide greater opportunity for rural residents.

Goals

Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Simon, the Rural Affairs Council will work to improve the economic vitality of rural communities and the overall quality of life for rural citizens, revive the Rural Affairs Council grant program using money from the Ag Premium Funds, and develop new first responder units in rural areas, while enhancing existing units.

To help ensure greater access to local foods in Illinois, the council will encourage compliance with the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act (30 ILCS 595). The Act's goal is to direct 20 percent of food purchases by state agencies and state-owned facilities, and 10 percent of food purchases from state-funded entities, to local food producers by 2020.

Past Accomplishments

The council helped create the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, the Illinois Bond Bank, the Center for Rural Health, and the Illinois Main Street Program. In addition to providing grant funding to partner organizations like the University of Illinois, Illinois State University and Western Illinois University, the council funded the Digital Main Street IT pilot project in Nauvoo and the One Laptop per Child pilot project at the Illinois School for the Deaf.

Rural Affairs Council Members

Those interested in becoming a member of the council can submit applications at www.appointments.illinois.gov. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis when positions are open. As members are appointed to the Rural Affairs Council, member biographies will be available here.

Member Agencies/Institutions

Illinois Department on Aging
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Transportation
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Community College Board
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois State Board of Education
University of Illinois-Cooperative Extension Service
Illinois Housing Development Authority
Southern Illinois University
Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University
Illinois Finance Authority

Meeting Notices, Agendas & Minutes

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Rural Affairs Council. Meetings are typically scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every third month, at locations across the state. Check www2.illinois.gov/ltgov/pages/RuralAffairs.aspx for the latest notices, agendas and minutes.

The next meeting dates for 2011-12 are:

- Wednesday, October 19, 2011
 - Wednesday, January 18, 2012
 - Wednesday, April 18, 2012
 - Wednesday, July 18, 2012
 - Wednesday, October 17, 2012
-

Building a Brighter Future for Rural Illinois- Executive Summary

Goals for Stronger Communities

Published by Rural Illinois Partners, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 302, Springfield, IL 62703

August 1998

In July 1996 a small group of public and private allies of Rural Partners undertook the task of drafting a document that would: reflect the most inherent needs and desires for effective rural development in the State of Illinois; provide an inclusive platform for further discussion, input and collaboration; and ultimately set a direction by which rural development agencies, policy makers and local citizens may work together more effectively to channel scarce resources and avoid duplication of efforts.

Development of this information has resulted from input from a variety of rural constituents. Representatives of public and private sector agencies have continued to work closely with Rural Partners to ensure that rural Illinois' concerns and aspirations for community and economic development are accurately reflected. More than 500 comments were recorded and incorporated into the planning process following a series of eight regionally sponsored public meetings held throughout Illinois in the spring and early summer of 1997. In September 1997 Rural Partners sponsored a statewide Benchmarking Conference to examine principles of benchmarking and performance monitoring for state and local development. In March 1998 a written survey of attendees at the 9th Annual Rural Community & Economic Development Conference was distributed in an effort to identify high-priority goals from a list of more than 50 potential initiatives that had been proposed through the planning process. The survey returned nearly 100 responses- a necessary basis from which the Rural Partners planning team has been able to extract "Goals for Stronger Communities."

Special thanks to the initial collaborating agencies: USDA Rural Development, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Governor's Rural Affairs Council, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Rural Water Association, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

This publication was compiled and edited by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

Building a Brighter Future for Rural Illinois

In July 1996 a small group of public and private allies of Rural Partners undertook the task of drafting a document that would: reflect the most inherent needs and desires for effective rural development in the State of Illinois; provide an inclusive platform for further discussion, input and collaboration; and ultimately set a direction by which rural development agencies, policy makers and local citizens may work together more effectively to channel scarce resources and avoid duplication of efforts. Throughout

the strategic planning process, several recurring themes have arisen. The Rural Partners planning team offers the following mission, vision, assumptions and guiding principles as a basic foundation to achieve long-range goals for rural community and economic development.

MISSION

“The partners in this statewide strategic plan seek to strengthen and to support local, regional, state and federal efforts to elevate the quality of life and economic capacity in rural Illinois through a coordinated use of public and private resources at local, state and federal levels.”

VISION

“All rural communities in Illinois have developed the leadership and economic vitality to maintain a high quality of life for all of their citizens.”

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Effective approaches for rural development are based on local ownership and collaborative efforts between and among communities. Grassroots ownership and multi-community cooperation/collaboration are essential for rural development in Illinois
2. A coordinate and comprehensive rural development approach will be most effective. Coordinate and specialized assistance by public and private agencies is needed to avoid duplication of services and to help leaders and policy makers in rural Illinois make decision that are consistent with local needs, goals and values.
3. Rural development activities encourage the use of an integrated approach. Integrated decision-making involving disparate groups and constituencies is essential for designing a holistic approach for development of the community before development in the community can occur.
4. Rural Illinois has a diverse base of social and economic support. Rural is not necessarily synonymous with agriculture.
5. The private sector plays a leading role in rural development. Government should not subsidize people and communities to do what the private sector is willing to do.
6. Solutions cannot come from a state and federal government alone. State government should support local efforts to find solutions. Local initiatives, involving all levels, are essential.
7. With continued research analysis, effective policy development and advocacy, rural areas can reach full potential. Based on solid understanding of rural issues, statewide services provide infrastructure needed for local policies to succeed and result in long-term, sustainable improvements.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Local Solutions: With public and private leadership, community-based planning and capacity building, successful rural development will occur from a social, physical and financial perspective.
2. Informational Resources: Leadership capacity and effective community decision-making are enhanced through the use of timely and accurate information resources. Affordable access to information technology is essential.

3. **Recognized Measures of Success:** Continuous improvement in the condition of rural communities must be monitored using appropriate measures of success, particularly in evaluating public sector involvement.
4. **Problem-Solving Networks:** It is essential that collaborative environments be created that foster cooperative efforts between rural leaders and public and private resources.
5. **Stronger Foundations for Growth:** Six basic foundations for growth must be strengthened to improve the competitive positioning of rural communities: a skilled and adaptive workforce; access to capital for business growth and expansion; necessary basic and advanced infrastructure; access to technology and business modernized resources; pro-competitive policies affecting the rural business climate; and the social, cultural, and physical amenities necessary for a high quality of life.
6. **Greater Business Growth Opportunities:** The competitive positioning of rural businesses will be improved by strengthening ties to foreign and domestic markets.
7. **Options for Rural Residents:** Residents of rural communities must be enabled to plan successful futures through access to the opportunities and resources needed to make early choices for advancement.

Goals for Stronger Communities

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1. Local leaders possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to make effective decisions about the future of their communities and are engaged in the rural development process.
2. Rural youth are included in community and economic development efforts providing them with opportunities to develop leadership skills.
3. Community leadership development efforts in the public and private sectors are closely coordinated.
4. Rural leaders have access to effective leadership training and capacity-building programs.
5. Systematic efforts assess the capacity of governments and citizen groups to undertake community and economic development projects.
6. Community and economic development efforts include a method(s) for sustaining an effective leadership component.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

1. A skilled and adaptive workforce possessing a balanced set of basic skills, professional or managerial skills and entrepreneurial talents.
2. Rural areas have a basic and advanced infrastructure including public services, transportation facilities and communication technologies to support local production and export-related activities.
3. Rural entrepreneurs have access to and knowledge of creative or innovative funding strategies. Examples include: adequate access to capital for business start-ups; expansion of young companies; expansion of existing firms; and export opportunities. Also needed are modernization strategies for firms seeking to finance new technology for products or processes, workforce improvement or marketing efforts to maintain overall competitiveness.
4. Rural areas have adequate access to technology and business modernization resources such as current products and process technologies, applied research leading to new local (product or

process) innovations and basic research in multi-disciplinary fields offering economic potential to be competitive globally.

5. Rural areas have adequate resources to capture the economic and social benefits of local tourism.
6. Illinois residents and policy makers are better informed about community and economic development goals of rural areas.
7. A pro-competitive business climate encourages prudent use of tax dollars (e.g., education, transportation, research), stable tax rates and competitive tax burdens among jurisdictions.
8. Economic development recognizes the preservation and advancement of social, cultural and physical amenities essential to a high quality of life.

QUALITY OF LIFE

1. Educational opportunities for all rural Illinois students (i.e. children, workers and life-long learners) are of high quality.
2. Rural schools have a high level of respect and usefulness in community activities.
3. Reasonable access to high quality, affordable, primary health care services exists for all rural Illinois residents.
4. Rural communities are committed to the future growth and well being of more productive, responsible and value-oriented families and children.
5. Comprehensive public transportation programs in rural areas enable rural Illinois recipients better job opportunities and easier access to health care and human services.
6. Rural public leaders and officials are skilled at assessing local needs and creatively seeking appropriate financing from public and private agencies (e.g. grants/loans, conventional credit, partnerships and other sources).
7. The State of Illinois recognized the hardships created by unfunded mandates on units of local government and aggressively works to provide solutions for rural areas.
8. Broad inter-community, inter-governmental cooperation to maximize economic benefits from development projects that would otherwise exclude some rural areas is underway across Illinois.
9. Effective and efficient units of government in rural areas are created through careful analysis and/or reorganized whereby impediments for economic development are removed and duplication of public services is minimized.
10. Rural Illinois residents have access to activities bringing cultural enrichment and exposure to the arts.
11. Key historic and cultural landmarks depicting early American architecture, heritage and cultural themes pertaining to specific ethnic groups are preserved and promoted in rural Illinois communities.
12. Cooperative planning between public and private rural leaders to maintain a balance between the utilization and preservation of natural resources is underway throughout Illinois.
13. Statewide development of “safe-community” plans are developed through coordinated interagency efforts, consistent with state and regional policies, and are driven by standard measures for law enforcement effectiveness.
14. Affordable housing for all rural residents, including individuals with special needs, is available.

Downstate Summit: Creating A Common Voice Planning Committee

Julie Bounds, City of Marshall

Bob Colvin, Paris Economic Development Inc.

Pam Crisman, Lake Land College

Angela Griffin, Coles Together

Jean Anne Grunloh, East Central Illinois Development Corporation (ECIDC)

Tom Henderson, Illinois Tax Increment Association

Steve Kline, The Economic Development Group, Ltd.

Ken Larimore, University of Illinois Extension

Tiffany Macke, University of Illinois Extension

Stepheny McMahon, Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development and ECIDC

Christopher Merrett, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University

Brian Moody, Tuscola Economic Development Inc.

Lloyd Murphy, Tuscola National Bank

Karen Poncin, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University

Paul Ruff, City of Paris

Bill Steichmann, East Central Illinois Development Corporation & Rural Partners

Jerry Townsend, Rural Partners

Nicole Weigand, City of Casey

Notes
