



Newsletter

Legislative News, Latino Caucus, and Local Opportunities

Dear Friend,

As we near the end of February, I've been looking forward to the upcoming Spring months. As a Latino Caucus, our phrase for our legislative priorities is 'Raíces' or Roots, accompanied by the expression "From our Roots, Flowers Bloom." Take a look at this newsletter to see the seeds I'm planting in the form of bills, to hopefully nurture into flowers.

Session Updates



This session I've worked hard to hit the ground running, filing a total of 27 bills. These bills cover a diverse range of areas, but some of the highlights include offering home modification services to the disabled ([SB120](#)), providing a diaper allowance to low-income families with infants and toddlers ([SB1294](#)), school board inclusivity training ([SB98](#)), and pesticide use and penalties ([SB187](#)). That's just to name a few, but you can see the full list of my bills [here](#). If you ever have questions regarding any of my bills, please contact my staff via phone or email at (630)326-9319 or info@senatorvilla.com.

Latino Caucus State of the Budget Address Response

I was honored to speak on the Latino Caucus' Priorities for this upcoming session in response to the Governor's own State of the Budget address. This budget laid out a great foundation, however, our budget should ensure every State Department in Illinois has a language access plan that is culturally competent and receptive to our communities. Illinois is known as a welcoming state for immigrants, and our state agencies should reflect these same values by notifying the public of the information and services they provide using the language they speak. 60% of immigrants struggle to access state information and services, and less than 5% of state agencies are led by Latines.



Deadline: 4/6/23 at 5pm

More Information: [here](#)

This grant provides funding between \$500,000 – \$5 million (depending upon acreage) for the site development of megasites to attract large-scale industrial investment in both underutilized areas and former industrial sites. Local governments, businesses, and nonprofits can apply. A 1:1 match is required, the property must be owned by the grant applicant, be zoned as agricultural or industrial, and be at least 200 acres.



Grant Prep - GATA Pre-Award & NOFO Preparation Session



This session is offered by the Illinois Small Business Development Center to teach applicants how to prepare themselves to take advantage of grant opportunities. The Informational session will cover the Grant Accessibility and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee portal, and how to position your business to take advantage of Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO). The session will be held on 3/16/23 from 9–10am. More information and registration details can be found [here](#).

Looking for More Grant Opportunities? Visit [here](#).

Senior Real Estate Tax Deferral

The Senior Citizens Tax Deferral Program can help seniors cover property tax payments and defer up to \$7,500 per tax year. Adults aged 65 and older whose household income is \$65,000 or less can apply through their local County Collector's Office by March 1, 2023.

- [Dupage County Collector's Office:](#) 630-407-5900
- [Kane County Assessor's Office:](#) (630)208-3818
- [Cook County Treasurer's Office:](#) (312)443-5100



Illinois Secretary of State: Safe Driver Online Renewal Program



Do you have a lack of transportation or are struggling to make time to get to the DMV? The Illinois Secretary of State has launched a Safe Driver Renewal program which allows eligible drivers to renew their licenses online, purchase license plate stickers, and request a duplicate ID. Drivers eligible to renew online will receive a letter in the mail 60–90 days before their license is set to expire with a pin and instructions on how to renew online. If a letter is not received one can check their eligibility for online renewal [here](#). This program is currently only available in English and more information can be found [on the ILSOS website here](#).

Use Your Voice, Take Our District Survey!

To better acquaint ourselves with the needs of our new district, we encourage those within it to take our [District Survey](#). My office has crafted this tool to hear from you regarding your views on the needs of the community you live in, as you serve as the expert of this experience. Our office will in turn use the responses we receive to best formulate a plan tailored to your needs from the feedback we receive from you. You can access the full survey [Here!](#)



Stay in Touch! Follow us on Social Media:



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Our office partners with State Representative Maura Hirschauer and co-runs four advisory committees: Environmental and Agriculture, Mental Health, Seniors, and Education. These committees are a limited public forum led by volunteer chairs and seek to create compassionate conversation among the voices of the 25th/49th districts in order to give effective representation. To join these committees you can email the following for more information and meeting information:

- Environment / 4th Thursday at 7pm / environment.49th@gmail.com
- Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com
- Seniors / 2nd Friday at 10am / seniors.25th@gmail.com
- Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / education.49th@gmail.com

My staff and I look forward to hearing from you. I encourage you to reach out to us at 630-326-9319 (English), 630-326-9419 (Spanish) or constituentservices@senatorvilla.com. Textline is (331)465-9690.

Be well!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karina Villa'.

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District