

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 84TH DISTRICT

STEPHANIE KIFOWIT



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2022 Session and Happy New Year!

Happy January

I've lived in the Midwest for my whole life, with the exception of when I served in the Marines, and the extreme cold weather is something that I don't think anyone can get used to. I love the snow, in fact I missed the snow when I was in service, and the winter weather. However, the below freezing temperatures always makes me worry about those individuals who are working outside, having heating issues, and family pets that might be left outside. Please be careful when the temperatures dive down below freezing, and I am happy to return to more "normal" winter weather.

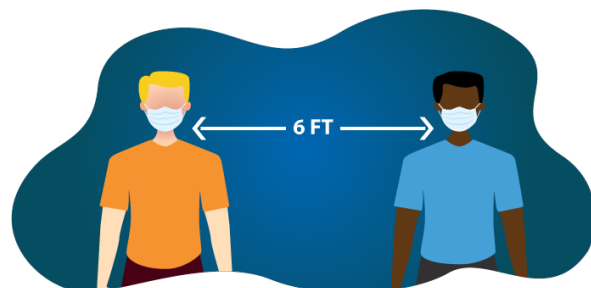
Last week, the 102nd Illinois General Assembly resumed session. Currently, we are introducing our bills in the House. I know a lot of you have seen that the COVID-19, possibly the Omicron Variant, has led to session days being cancelled in Springfield; however, I want to reassure you that we are working remotely with virtual committee meetings. Many of my fellow representatives have tested positive for COVID-19, so operating virtually was the safest and most responsible thing to do during this time. Regardless of how many days we spend in session, I am confident that we will be able to do the work of the people and pass legislation to help citizens and continue to get Illinois on the right track.

Below are also many state programs and resources to help assist you or someone in your life who may need the extra hand. Now more than ever, it's important to check in on our family, friends, and neighbors to spread generosity, and make a positive impact in someone's life. Illinois offers many solutions to help those in need; please contact my district office at (630) 585 1308 for any extra assistance.

As we begin 2022, I hope that this year is better than 2021 and that it brings you and your family many blessings.

Take care and be well,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie".



P.S. I know the winter months can be difficult for many individuals. If you need someone to talk to or if you are feeling depressed please call a friend, a family member or even our office. The Depression help hotline is 866-903-3787 and [you can click here for more information.](#)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day January 17th, 2022

On Monday the 17th, we honor the monumental legacy of MLK and the impact he had on changing this nation for the better. His determination to root out racial injustice and inequity helped propel America to become more inclusive and to recognize the social issues in our country. Today we continue to fight against racial inequities in our society, and we continue to honor a man who led the Civil Rights Movement and made so many lives better as a result of his leadership.



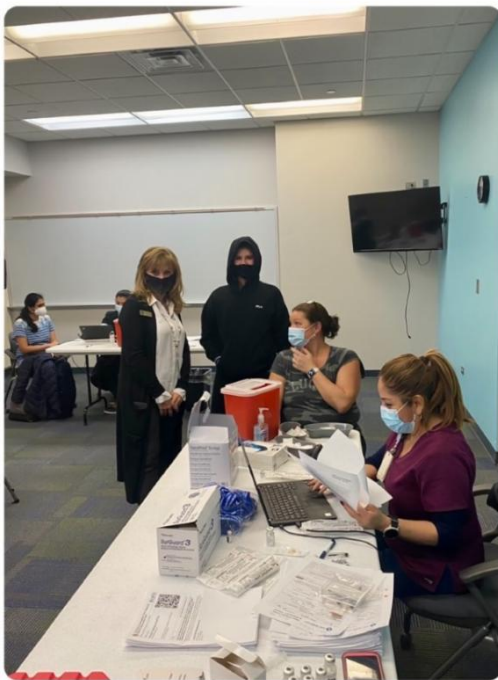
"The Time is always right to do what is right"
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

Vaccine Success!

On Jan 5th, my office partnered with Aurora Alderwoman Patty Smith and VNA Healthcare to host a terrific vaccine clinic that was open to the surrounding communities. In total, we had over 100 vaccines administered! Thank you to everyone who attended and for getting your vaccine(s). A big thanks to the nurses for working the event and the Eola Public Library for allowing us to host it.

I would also like to remind everyone that if you got your initial Covid-19 Vaccine in early 2021, that now is the time to get your booster! While wearing a mask and getting these vaccines may sound tedious, it's the best way to help keep yourself and everyone around you safe and healthy.

Keep an eye out for another vaccine event in February!



VNA Healthcare Staff, Eola Librarians, Alderman Smith and Rep. Kifowit's Staff helping administer vaccines

What I Do Down In Springfield

Let 2022 Session begin! This year we are again under the leadership of Speaker Welch in the Illinois House. A lot of time is spent in committees along with on the House floor debating and casting votes on bills. I am honored to be the Chair of State Government Appropriations (Budget committee) and the Chair of Veterans Affairs along with several other important committees. These committees allow for us to delve deeper into policy issues and work in a bipartisan manner to create and talk on possible bills. I am excited to get back to work on behalf of all of you down in our state's Capitol and virtually.

If you would like to see a full list of the Illinois House Committees click [here](#).

House Committees I'm Currently Serving for Illinois



Veterans' Affairs
Chairwoman



State Government Administration
Chairwoman



Appropriations
General Services (Budget)
Vice Chairwoman



Revenue & Finance



Public Utilities

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Veteran Health Resources

The US department of Veterans Affairs continues to offer amazing health benefits to our all our service members. With the new year starting, let's make sure we're all staying healthy and ensuring our veterans receive the best care possible. If you qualify for VA health care, you'll receive coverage for the services you need to help you get—and stay—healthy. Learn more on the Veterans Affairs website [here](#).

YOU HAVE IT IN YOU.

*Talk with your VA provider
about how to rediscover
your best health.*



New Illinois Laws All Effective as of January 1st, 2022

As your State Representative, I always like to ensure that my constituents are aware of any changes taking place in the 84th district, and in the state of Illinois. This past year, the Illinois General Assembly passed over 300 new laws into place that took affect January 1st, 2022. I have highlighted some important bills below for your reading. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together in 2022.

New IL Laws 2022

- ▶ **SB 1846** Child Beverages - Requires restaurants to serve water, milk, milk alternative or juice with children's meals as the default rather than soda
- ▶ **SB 1892** Child Pornography - Makes possession of child pornography when a child is in a household or a family member of the defendant a non-probational offense that will require jail time in sentencing
- ▶ **SB 0139** Marriage Certificates - Allows a person currently married to request a copy of their marriage license with the term "spouse" rather than gender identifying language
- ▶ **SB 0817** Hairstyles - Bans Schools from discriminating against student hairstyles associated with racial, ethnic, cultural traditions
- ▶ **SB 1596** Addressing Hate Crimes - Committing a crime against a person because of their actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status is now a hate crime in the state of IL
- ▶ **HB 3217** Ethnic Group Terminology - Amends numerous state statues by deleting the use of "Haitian" or "Negro" and instead uses "Black" or "African American"
- ▶ **HB 2589** Substance Use - Expands the use and reimbursement of dispensing opioid antagonists to prevent overdose deaths and improves treatment services
- ▶ **SB 0564** Faith Curriculum - Requires schools to include contributions by Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhists, and any other collective community of faith that helped shape American History
- ▶ **SB 1577** Mental Health - Public Schools shall be granted up to five days of excused absences for mental or behavioral health, with no medical note required
- ▶ **SB 0147** Medicare Enrollment - Annual open enrollment period lasting at least 45 days starting on their birthday to buy a supplement policy, claims experiences, or medical conditions
- ▶ **HB 3653** Body Cams - Counties/cities with population of 500,000 will require all law enforcement to wear body cameras.
- ▶ **HB 0020** Gold Star Families - Repeals the registration fee for Gold Star license plates for surviving spouses or parents of deceased vets
- ▶ **HB 00122** Early Cancellation - Ends early terminal fees for customers of telephone, cellphone, television, internet, energy, medical, alert system or water services who die before the end of thier contacts
- ▶ **HB 0307** DCFS Travel Bags - DCFS to provide replacement travel or tote bags to all foster care youth instead of garbage bags

As always I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished down in Springfield. If you would like to see a complete list of the laws going into affect in 2022 click [here](#).

I also helped passed 14 new bills in 2021 which is all available on our website at <http://www.ildistrict84.com/legislation.html>

If you need any help navigating the Illinois General Assembly website or have any questions on any bills please email sebastian@ildistrict84.com or call my office at (630) 585-1308.

**Fox River Valley Scholarship Deadline
January 18th, 2022**

Know someone who is planning for college or trade school next year?

Our Scholarship application is available on our website until Tuesday January 18th at 4 p.m. One application, close to 200 scholarship opportunities!

Click on the link [HERE](#) to apply today.

Scholarships are available!

One application, many opportunities!

November 22, 2021- January 18, 2022

Visit cfrv.org to start your application



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE FOX RIVER VALLEY



Secretary of State Offices To Open Soon January 3rd - 17th

Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases statewide, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is announcing that all Secretary of State departments will not conduct in-person transactions – including Driver Services facilities – from Jan. 3, 2022, through Jan. 17, 2022. All departments and Driver Services facilities will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Visit <https://www.ilsos.gov/> for more information or click on the image below.

NOTICE

Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, all Secretary of State departments and Driver Services facilities will be **CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON TRANSACTIONS FROM JAN. 3 – 17.**

Expiration dates for driver's licenses and ID cards have been extended until March 31, 2022. CDL holders are excluded.

Online services remain available at ilsos.gov for transactions such as:

- Renewing a license plate sticker;
- Renewing a driver's license or ID card for qualifying individuals;
- Obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card;
- Filing Business Services documents, such as incorporations and annual reports.

ilsos.gov

JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Drivers License and ID Card Expiration Dates Extended Until March 31st, 2022

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that the expiration dates for driver's licenses and ID Cards have been extended an additional three months from Jan. 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits. This will be the final extension.

Please visit the Secretary of State's website for more information by clicking [HERE](#).

EXTENSION

**Driver's license and ID
card expiration dates
have been extended until
March 31, 2022.**

Please visit ilsos.gov
for additional information.

JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Energy Assistance for Winter Applications Open until May 31st 2022

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Citizens Utility Board are reminding residents to apply for \$200 million remaining in utility assistance under Gov. JB Pritzker's Help Illinois Families initiative, an expansion of the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program under the American Rescue Plan.

Designed to support Illinois' most vulnerable families, the program will help cover the cost of heating and energy bills, including expanded benefits provided this year from \$750 to \$1,000, on average per household. Last day to apply **online** with the Request for Services form is **April 15**. After that date you can still apply through your local administering agency through May 31 2022.

To learn more and to fill out a new application, visit helpillinoisfamilies.com



LIHWAP Applications Open Until August 31, 2023

Do you or someone you know need help paying their water bill? The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Plan (LIHWAP). This plan will help families in need of paying their water and sewage bills.

Applications will be accepted through August 31, 2023 or until funds run out. You can apply online [here](#) or call the hotline at 1-(833)-711-0374.

ANNOUNCING: \$40M Water Assistance Program for Shut-off Avoidance

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Plan (LIHWAP)



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor



COVID-19 Updates

I'm excited COVID-19 booster shots are becoming more and more available and I urge everyone to get one. Thank you for doing your part in getting the vaccine or a booster, wearing a mask when needed, hand sanitizing, and keeping your distance to stop the spread.

Getting your vaccines not only keeps you healthy and safe, but everyone else around you

as well. The best protection against the recently emerged Omicron variant is getting fully vaccinated and getting a booster shot.

If you need assistance in obtaining a Covid Vaccine or a Flu shot contact my district office and we can find a Vaccine Clinic near you. Or click on this link [Here](#) to locate a clinic online.

If you are in need of more information on the vaccine, booster shots, and travel guidance for the new year please visit [IDPH](#) for information!



State Representative

Stephanie Kifowit



**LIKE A SEATBELT
A MASK ONLY WORKS IF YOU WEAR IT**

Keep up the fight to defeat Coronavirus!



**Watch your
distance**



**Wash your
hands**



**Wear face
coverings**

For more information, please visit the IDPH website (dph.illinois.gov).

FB Lives Mondays at 9 AM

I continue to host Monday Morning Coffee live via Facebook at 9:00am-10:00am where you can post your comments and questions.

I realize not everyone has Facebook. The good news is that you can still participate. If you would like to join us on Monday mornings, you can join in via ZOOM! Once connected via ZOOM, you'll be able to interact just as if you were on Facebook. Don't worry you will not

be on live - your video feed and mic will be muted.

The ZOOM link will be emailed to everyone separately for Monday morning participation.

If you would like to join us, please email Michelle@ILDistrict84.com or call the office at 630.585.1308.

Monday mornings at 9:00am
@ILDISTRICT84

Coffee with Rep. Kifowit
630.585.1308

f LIVE

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