

ADVOCACY REPORT

100
1919-2019

ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

SILVEY NAMED ILLINOIS ESGR CHAIR



President of the Illinois Chamber Center for Business Management, Laurie Silvey was named Chair of the Illinois Employer Support of Guard & Reserve (ESGR) Committee on November 15, in Washington D.C.

The Chamber has supported Illinois ESGR for the past 15 years in a variety of ways to help promote and grow positive working relationships between employers and service members.

Pictured at left: Incoming ESGR Illinois Chair Laurie Silvey accepting her charter from ESGR National Chair Ron Bogle at a ceremony in Washington D.C.

[See full press release here.](#)

CHAMBER RELEASES RESULTS OF PAID HOLIDAY SURVEY

The Chamber released the results of the annual Paid Holiday Survey giving insight into how Illinois employers and their employees will be handling paid holidays in 2020. The survey is an instrumental tool for many Illinois businesses in helping them to make a decision on holiday benefits for employees.

[View the results online here.](#)

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If you are interested in learning more about the Illinois Chamber you may [click here](#) to contact Jeanette Anderson



“

I think public locations are really skeptical of saying, ‘Hey, we don’t know how much they’ve ingested and what the impact’s going to be.’ ”

—Todd Maisch on legislation regarding cannabis consumption in public establishments, News Channel 20



MAISCH WEIGHS IN ON CANNABIS LEGISLATION

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch spoke with Nikki McGee from WICS News Channel 20 on Senate Bill 1557, regarding cannabis usage in public places at the Chamber office on November 15. Though the Chamber was initially opposed to the legalization of recreational cannabis in Illinois, staff members worked with the Illinois legislature to ensure that home rule and the strongest work place protections in the country were included in the final legislation.

[Watch the full interview here.](#)

CHAMBER JOINS AMEREN TO SPREAD UTILITY SCAM AWARENESS

The Chamber joined member Ameren Illinois in spreading the word on how people can protect themselves from utility scammers by sharing Ameren’s scammer video and joining representatives of the utility for media interviews in Illinois for National Utility Scam Awareness Week.

[See video here.](#)





“

It's going to be tough to find all the right people with unemployment sitting at 3.6 percent.

”

—Todd Maisch on holiday employment,
Illinois Radio News Network



MAISCH TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON EO

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch testified before the Senate Executive Committee on the Chamber's opposition to ethylene oxide legislation HB 3888 at the Statehouse in Springfield on November 13. Maisch raised serious concerns about the dangerous effects the legislation could have on Illinois sterilized medical equipment supply chain.

[See video here.](#)



CHAMBER RECEIVES HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING CENTENNIAL

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch was honored to accept House Resolution No. 507 in acknowledgement of the Chamber's centennial anniversary, along with State Representative Dan Ugaste (R-Geneva), from State Representative Darren Bailey (R-Louisville) on the House floor on November 12. Since its establishment in 1919, the Chamber has been dedicated to protecting and promoting the business climate in Illinois. The Chamber thanks the General Assembly for this recognition of the Chamber's work promoting stronger business and a stronger Illinois.



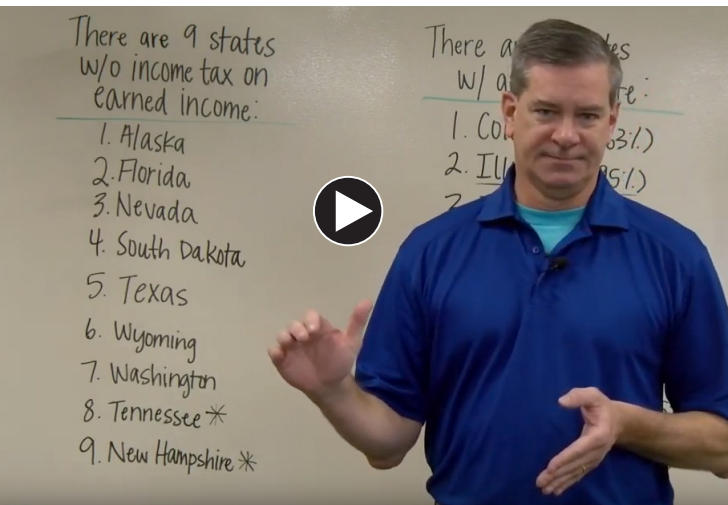
“

It doesn't matter what kind of business you're in — if you can't go ahead and get very fast computing speeds into your business, it's going to be a real problem and it's holding back economic development in certain regions of the state.”

—Todd Maisch on the need for broadband, *State Journal Register*



[Read full article here.](#)



CHAMBER BEGINS GRADUATED INCOME TAX VIDEO SERIES

The Chamber published the first video in a new series of Two Minute Drills dispelling myths on the need for a graduated income tax on November 8. In the clip, Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch explained why Illinois is already in the mainstream of income tax policy with the state's current fair flat tax.

[Watch video here.](#)



STONEWATER PARTICIPATES IN AT&T'S BELIEVE CHICAGO

Executive Director of the Chamber Energy Council Katie Stonewater participated in Chamber member AT&T's Believe Chicago initiative in Pilsen and Little Village on November 4. Believe Chicago is an employee-driven, grassroots initiative to improve lives in 19 Chicago neighborhoods most affected by gun violence and high unemployment through hiring, services, contributions, and volunteering.



“

While we recognize the need to fill a structural deficit built up over generations, we also know the city cannot take this money from those who can least afford it.

”

—Illinois Chamber in an op-ed opposing Chicago's proposed ride-sharing tax, *Crain's Chicago Business*

CRAIN'S
CHICAGO BUSINESS.



RIDE-SHARE TAX ADDRESSED

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch joined President and CEO of the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Jaime di Paolo and Senior Vice President of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Michael Reever in an op-ed opposing Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's proposed ride-sharing tax in *Crain's Chicago Business*. The op-ed voiced concerns on the negative impact the increased fees will have on businesses, their employees and the amount of revenue raised by the city each year.

[Read entire article here.](#)



DIERS DISCUSSES NEW MINIMUM WAGE LAW

Chamber Director of Legislative Relations Tyler Diers' gave an update on the new Illinois minimum wage law to a packed house at the McLean County Chamber of Commerce on November 20, in Bloomington. Diers discussed the increases taking effect next year and how the law will impact local businesses.

TECH COUNCIL TALKS DATA BREACH

With the November 2020 election just a year away, officials from the Illinois State Board of Elections spoke to members of the Chamber's Tech Council on cyber and election security on November 4, at GoGo in Chicago. The board's presentation briefed members on the 2016 data breach on Illinois voters and what the state is doing to protect the integrity of our elections for next year.

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of November, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois. Below is a selection of stories where the Chamber has advocated its position on a variety of topics.

BROADBAND POWER

- [Statewide broadband access goal of 'Connect Illinois'](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

CANNABIS

- [New bill designates public places to smoke cannabis](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [United States: Illinois General Assembly Passes Amendments To Recreational Cannabis Law That Help Reduce Employer Liability](#) – Chamber mentioned
- [BREAKING NEWS: Illinois Recreational Cannabis Law Protections For Employers & The Workplace Clarified!](#) – Chamber mentioned

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

- [Rep. Charlie Meier Provides Fall Veto Session Update](#) – Chamber mentioned

RETAIL (RETAILERS)

- [Retail Stores Face Difficulty Finding Temp Holiday Help](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Retailers could face Black Friday staffing challenges amid record-low unemployment](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Seasonal hiring during busy holiday season](#) – Chamber mentioned

TECH

- [Mayor's budget plan unfairly targets ride-sharing](#) – co-authored by Todd Maisch
- [State Elections Board: 'We're Under Constant Threat' from Foreign Interference](#) – Chamber mentioned
- [Tech giants vs. small businesses](#) – Tyler Diers mentioned
- [The new Uber tax will be good for the economy and good for equity](#) – Chamber mentioned
- [Chambers of Commerce Leaders Believe Proposed Ride-Share Tax Will Hurt Downtown Restaurants](#) – Chamber mentioned

Chamber member **Advocate Aurora Health** announced their commitment \$50 million over five years to support and improve economic development in low-income communities in Wisconsin and Illinois.

[Read more here.](#)



Chamber member **Google** committed to doubling its Chicago workforce. As part of this expansion, Google is also assigning staff to work with neighborhoods and local chambers of commerce to bring digital training to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

[Read more here.](#)

