

**NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019**

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Videoconference

AARP Illinois Chicago office, 222 N. LaSalle Street

AARP Illinois' Legislative Office, 300 West Edwards Street

Conference call line: 1-877-237-9944 | Conference Call ID number: 200 083 607#

AGENDA

1. **Assess CAB engagement levels since using videoconferencing and future preferences**
 - a. Consider preferred number of meetings per year
 - b. Consider preferred day/week of the month for each meeting
 - c. Consider alternating in-person meetings to maximize participation levels
 - d. Suggest ways to engage CAB members between meetings to support NPR Illinois

2. **Nominating Committee update** (*Agenda Attachment 1 provides candidates to date*)
 - a. Review candidates identified to date
 - b. Bylaws allow between 18 and 27 members – We have 22 voting members
 - c. Update on chair and vice chair nominations for June 30, 2019 terms
 - d. **Board action: Identify the preferred number of nominees for 2019**

3. **NPR Illinois updates – Editorial Update and Engagement Strategy Update**
 - a. 100% board giving campaign
 - b. Public Radio Week
 - c. Downtown studio considerations
 - d. New signal
 - e. Editorial update
 - f. Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) program update and considerations
 - g. Civic Education Committee update

4. **Discuss story ideas**
 - a. Story ideas advisory board members submitted in advance (*Agenda Attachment 2*)
 - b. Any other story ideas advisory board members wish to share

5. **Next Meeting: Friday, June 7, 2019**
CAB website: <http://nprillinois.org/topic/community-advisory-board>

6. **Adjourn at 1:30 p.m.**

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STORY IDEAS FOR MARCH 1, 2019 MEETING OF THE NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Community Advisory Board members submitted the following story ideas by email in advance of the March 1, 2019 meeting. The story ideas appear in the order they were received.

1. **The size of Illinois' congressional delegation** (David Kohn) – and its ability to influence legislation and advance the interests of our state – has changed from its initial delegation of one seat in 1818 (the year we joined the Union) to as high as 27 seats during 1913-1943 (63rd-77th Congress). Our current delegation comprises 18 members. Current projections indicate that following the next census, Illinois will likely lose at least one, and perhaps two, seats in the House due to population loss. How will this affect Illinois' ability to secure federal support for the state and its overall influence in the Congress?
2. **Merging the offices of State Treasurer and Comptroller** (David Kohn) is an idea that has been debated on and off for decades in Illinois. Proponents have argued that such a consolidation move – which would require amending the Illinois Constitution – could save millions of dollars on an annual basis. What is the current status (if any) of this proposal? Are any members of the General Assembly or the current Comptroller and Treasurer still discussing this?
3. **Pritzker's first 100 days** (Bill Holland).
4. **Consolidation of local pension funds: pros and cons** (Bill Holland)
5. **Difficulties of rural school districts** (Adam Porter), given declining student enrollment, in providing a good education to their students. If you have 25 students in a graduating class, how do you provide a differentiated math or English (or whatever) program? How small do schools need to be before they consider consolidation with a neighboring district? What are the impediments to consolidation? How do you persuade folks who went to YYYY high school and love the YYYY's mascot that they need to merge with, ZZZZ, their traditional rivals for the good of the students today? At what point can the state step in to try to force / encourage / incentivize consolidation, if local districts refuse to do so?
6. **Promoting environmentalism (i.e., the "Green New Deal")** (Adam Porter). I would be interested in learning how these sorts of programs can be implemented in rural areas. A lot of the things that are often recommended to lower personal greenhouse gas emissions (walking, public transit, bicycling) are not feasible in rural areas. Electric cars -- with more limited ranges than gas vehicles -- work well in cities, where average commutes may be 10-20 miles per day, but would be more difficult to use in rural areas or less populated areas (I know folks who live in SPI and work in Jax or vice-versa: their daily commute is 60+ miles). So if you live on a farm or in a small town, how "green" can you be and is the Green New Deal trying to affect this?
7. **Raising the minimum wage.** (Adam Porter) What are some of the effects, positive and negative, that are likely if the state raises the minimum wage to \$15/hour? This is needed

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in Chicago, where it is expensive to live, but takes away one of the advantages rural communities have to persuade employers to situate plants there. Is this going to push more businesses to locate in IN or MO or IA, which have lower minimum wages? On the other hand, would paying people more money help to invigorate local economies (the multiplier effect)?

8. **Explore challenges facing rural Americans.** (Adam Porter) The electoral map demonstrates that a major predictor of voting patterns is geography: rural / low-population areas tend to vote for the GOP; urban areas tend to favor Dems. One analysis I have heard suggested that rural voters feel abandoned or left behind and ignored. While I have doubts about that analysis, Caterpillar's decision to relocate its executives from Peoria to Chicago suggests that high-income folks are less likely to want to live in smaller cities. This was terrible news for Peoria. If other blue-chip companies do the same, it's going to be terrible, too.
9. **Rural to urban migration.** (Adam Porter) Policy makers may not think migration from rural to urban areas is a problem (and it may be hard to reverse, given that it has been happening for the last 100+ years and is a world-wide phenomenon) but having high levels of unhappiness in rural areas may be considered a problem. If so, what are policy makers doing to address it?
10. **Starbucks CEO explores presidential run, one year after the Philadelphia Starbucks arrest of two black men waiting for a meeting and the response/effectiveness of holding an all-day training of Starbucks employees on diversity training.** (Deanie Brown) Recently, during a Howard Schultz book tour/Presidential candidacy try out, he recounted the incident by saying the manager and the man who asked to use the restroom exchanged words and she *felt a threat*, so called 911. The (White) woman who shot and released the cell phone video of the incident happened to be in the audience, and she confronted the billionaire CEO by identifying herself and saying "I was there and none of that is what happened, and although you seem to want to be part of the solution, what you're doing is perpetuating the problem." He then apologized again. This has led some pundits to suggest it's ironic that Schultz seems not to have taken or to have truly understood or benefitted from his own diversity training.
11. **Legalization of marijuana in Illinois for new revenue.** (Deanie Brown) Something percolating is the argument that legalizing marijuana enriches mostly affluent Whites at the expense of Black and Latino men whose engagement in drug-related shadow economies has been disproportionately criminalized. Will they have means or access to reap the financial rewards of legalization? This might be of interest even in rural areas of the state not connected with the realities of urban Black and Brown communities, considering making marijuana available medicinally or for recreational use de-stigmatizes it.