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Illinois Senate President John Cullerton and House Speaker Michael J. Madigan Announce Schedule and Subject Matter for Joint Committee on Government Reform Hearings

SPRINGFIELD, IL – On Tuesday, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton and House Speaker Michael J. Madigan announced that the Joint Committee on Government Reform would hold a series of seven hearings covering a wide range of topics related to campaign and government reform. The committee, created earlier this month, is co-chaired by Cullerton and Madigan.

“We hope that the release of this schedule will help everyone to better understand the scope of the work that the Joint Committee plans to undertake,” Madigan said.

“We will be reaching out to experts and observers from across the nation who can offer their insights to the Joint Committee,” Cullerton added.

The leaders noted that the impetus for some of the subjects the committee will review came as a result of the recent impeachment hearings and trial. Other topics have been considered as legislative proposals in past sessions.

The Joint Committee will convene subject matter hearings on four topics: open government, outside influences, campaign reform and procurement issues. The hearings will begin on February 18 and continue through March 31.

The leaders said that consideration of legislative proposals generated through the committee’s work will begin in April. The committee is expected to meet weekly. Additional meetings may be added to the schedule should the need arise.

Madigan has named Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, Deputy Majority Leaders Art Turner and Gary Hannig and Assistant Majority Leader Edward Acevedo to the committee. Cullerton’s appointees are Majority Leader James Clayborne, Majority Caucus Whip Susan Garrett, Senator Maggie Crotty and Senator William Delgado.

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Tentative agenda of subject matter topics and dates:

Topic 1: Open Government

Proposed Dates: Feb. 18, 24

- FOIA
- Ethics Commissions—public disclosure of reports and other reforms
- Accessing information online
- Public reporting of governmental waste (including whistleblowing)
- Reforms to Compensation Review Act

Topic 2: Outside Influences on Government

Proposed Dates: March 3, 10

- Special government agents
- Revolving door
- Gift ban
- Ex parte communications with government officials
- Lobbyist registration

Topic 3: Campaign Reform

Proposed Date: March 17

- Contributions from state contractors, appointees
- Judicial races
- Contribution limits
- Public finance

Topic 4: Procurement Issues

Proposed Dates: March 24, 31

- Narrow/eliminate loopholes to competitive bidding requirement
- Tighten conflict-of-interest provisions
- Increase Procurement Policy Board oversight
- Public disclosure of contracts
- Consultant contracts for pension boards—competitively bid, limitation on terms, etc.
- Gift ban for pension trustees

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