

# Pritzker Announces Bond Expansion, Says Progress Has Been Made With Bears

By Jim Talamonti | The Center Square  
Gov. J.B. Pritzker says progress has been made in conversations with the Chicago Bears.

Pritzker announced the expansion of sales tax and revenue bonds for capital projects at a press conference in Belleville on Monday.

The governor said STAR bonds were not written for the Bears.

"This can be used by local governments. We're not specifically looking at it that way, perhaps the Bears are," Pritzker said.

Pritzker said he would let the Bears talk about what they want to get done.

"There's a lot of discussion, a lot of ongoing conversation with the Bears and indeed, frankly, progress that's been made, so I'm pleased about that," Pritzker said.

The governor added that he did not think the Bears were bluffing when they said they had expanded their stadium site search to include Northwest Indiana.

When asked if he was looking to attract the St. Louis Cardinals to Illinois, Pritzker said the state is trying to attract businesses, including teams.

The governor also said he was not looking at "throwing money at a stadium" for anybody.

The expansion of the STAR bonds program follows Pritzker's signing of Senate Bill 1911 in December. The measure initially contained language to amend the property tax code but was changed several times

to decouple Illinois from federal tax code changes, including bonus depreciation for newly-constructed non-residential property.

The amended bill also included language Pritzker said would provide local governments with financing options for capital projects.

The governor said STAR bonds can generate transformational levels of economic growth.

"When all of the current projects are complete, they are projected to generate \$1 billion in sales and more than 5,000 new jobs. That's just at the beginning of this wave of opportunity with STAR bonds," Pritzker said.

The legislation provides that the governor's office has final approval of all STAR bond districts and projects.

The number of projects available for each area is based on the economic development region's population.

Four projects are available for regions with a population of 1 million or more, three projects are available for regions with population between 600,000 and 999,999. Only one project is available to regions with population less than 600,000.

Interested municipalities and counties must notify the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity of an intent to establish a STAR bond district by June 1.

# Illinois Is 2026's State With The Best Dental Health

Many people dislike visiting their dentist, especially if they haven't kept up with their brushing and flossing. Some even have dental anxiety and phobia. But there are other people who wish they could go yet can't afford it. According to the CDC, 35% of adults have gone over a year without seeing a dentist. The costs of frequent dental checks are absolutely worth it, though. Prevention is cheaper than treatment.

Brushing, flossing and getting an annual checkup aren't the only things that impact dental health. Where you live can have an effect, too. For example, certain areas of the U.S. have a higher density of dental professionals. And one of the biggest locational factors is the presence of fluoridated water, which can help prevent tooth decay. Some states provide fluoridated water to nearly all of their residents, while others lag far behind.

In order to determine where people have the healthiest teeth and gums in the U.S., WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 25 key indicators of dental wellness. Our data set ranges from the share of adolescents who visited a dentist in the past year to den-

tal treatment costs to dentists per capita.

"Living in a dental health-friendly state can make a world of difference for your mouth and your wallet. While there are plenty of things you can do on your own, such as brushing and flossing regularly, some states feature things like access to fluoridated water, dental health programs in schools and robust benefits through Medicaid. States that employ a lot of dental health professionals and have low average costs for care are also ideal to live in, giving you more choices at affordable rates."

Chip Lupo, Wallethub Analyst

15. Kansas..... 60.24

## States With The Worst Dental Care

37. Wyoming.....	50.33
38. New Mexico.....	50.03
39. South Carolina.....	50.01
40. North Carolina.....	49.62
41. Tennessee.....	49.12
42. Florida.....	44.66
43. Montana.....	43.83
44. Alabama.....	42.59
45. Kentucky.....	41.81
46. Louisiana.....	41.57
47. Alaska.....	40.06
48. Texas.....	38.50
49. Arkansas.....	35.87
50. West Virginia.....	33.22

## Dental Health in Illinois

(1=Best; 25=Avg.):

### Overall Rank: 1st

- ♦ **8th:** % of Adolescents Who Visited a Dentist in the Past Year
- ♦ **26th:** % Of Adults Who Visited a Dentist in the Past Year
- ♦ **16th:** Dental Treatment Costs
- ♦ **19th:** Dentists per Capita
- ♦ **18th:** Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption
- ♦ **2nd:** % of Adults with Poor or Fair Oral Condition
- ♦ **1st:** % of Adults Who Experienced Oral Pain in the Past Year
- ♦ **23rd:** % of Adults with Low Life Satisfaction Due to Their Oral Condition

## States With The Best Dental Care

State	Score
1. Illinois.....	75.21
2. Minnesota.....	74.09
3. Wisconsin.....	73.88
4. Connecticut.....	73.01
5. Idaho.....	72.61
6. Michigan.....	71.61
7. North Dakota.....	68.12
8. Massachusetts.....	67.95
9. District of Columbia.....	65.64
10. Ohio.....	65.56
11. New Jersey.....	62.14
12. Nebraska.....	61.74
13. Iowa.....	61.32
14. Washington.....	61.18

# GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2026, IN THE COUNTY OF MARSHALL AND STATE OF ILLINOIS, A GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN ALL THE PRECINCTS FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES/QUESTIONS:

**US SENATOR**  
**GOVERNOR and LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**COMPTROLLER**  
**TREASURER**

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**  
16th Congressional District

**REPRESENTATIVE IN IN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**  
53rd & 73rd Legislative District

**REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
105th Representative District

**COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**  
**COUNTY TREASURER**  
**COUNTY SHERIFF**

**REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
(LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam Counties)

**REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
(Peoria County)

**REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
(Bureau, Henry, and Stark Counties)

**REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
(Mason, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties)

**COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT 1**  
**COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT 2**  
**COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT 3**  
**PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON**

(One to be elected from each political party)

**THE POLLS OF SAID GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION SHALL BE OPEN CONTINUOUSLY FROM 6 A.M. TO 7 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026**

**THE FOLLOWING ARE POLLING PLACES IN MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS:**

BELL PLAIN	UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	210 W. CHESTNUT ST, La ROSE
BENNINGTON	AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING	115 W SANTA FE ST, TOLUCA
EVANS	ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HALL	207 W THIRD SOUTH, WENONA
HENRY #1 & #2	UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	225 LINCOLN, HENRY
HOPEWELL	MARSHALL COUNTY AIRPORT	1315 STATE RT 17, LACON
LACON #1 & #2	LACON CATHOLIC CENTER	418 N CENTER, LACON
LAPRAIRIE	LAPRAIRIE TOWNSHIP GARAGE	299 CO RD 650 NORTH, SPARLAND
RICHLAND	MARSHALL COUNTY AIRPORT	1315 STATE RT 17, LACON
ROBERTS	VARNA COMM FIRE PROTECTION DIST	710 TOWN RD., VARNA
SARATOGA D	ENNY BOGNER FARM BUILDING	898 CAMP GROVE RD, SPARLAND
STUEBEN	SPARLAND VILLAGE HALL	123 CENTER ST, SPARLAND
WHITEFIELD	DENNY BOGNER FARM BUILDING	898 CAMP GROVE RD, SPARLAND

Dated this 13th day of February 2026

**Jill M. Kenyon,**  
**Marshall County Clerk & Recorder**

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