

Giannoulas Auto Insurance Reform Bill Clears Illinois House

Legislation Tackles Rising Auto and Home Insurance Costs While Advancing Consumer Protections and Driving Meaningful Change

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas' Driving Change campaign – launched to combat unfair and discriminatory auto insurance practices – is now delivering results, as legislation advancing insurance reforms has passed the Illinois House and will return to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

Senate Bill 1486 builds on the momentum generated by the Secretary of State's statewide advocacy effort, which elevated concerns from Illinois drivers and helped shape a comprehensive proposal to bring greater fairness, transparency and accountability to insurance ratemaking.

"As Secretary of State, I've been clear that driver's deserve quality auto insurance at a fair price," Giannoulas said. "Thanks to the thousands of voices of Illinoisans who shared their stories through our Driving Change campaign, we're now on the verge of passing meaningful reforms that will hold insurance companies accountable and help make coverage more affordable."

Senate Bill 1486 introduces several consumer protections, including:

- Requiring insurers to provide at least 60 days-notice before increasing renewal premiums by more than 10 percent for auto or homeowners policies.
 - Expanding Illinois law to explicitly prohibit auto insurance rates that are excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory – defined as rates that do not reflect actual differences in expected losses and expenses.
 - Granting the Illinois Department of Insurance greater authority to review rate filings and challenge those deemed unfair, with a clear process and timeline for hearings and resolution.
 - Preventing insurers from shifting costs from out-of-state risks, such as natural disasters, to Illinois policyholders.
 - Modernizing the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course by aligning the in-person course requirements with the online course requirements.
- The legislation, which passed the Illinois House, reflects concerns raised during the Driving

Change campaign, which Giannoulas launched to spotlight how insurers use socio-economic data including credit scores, ZIP codes and age to set rates in ways that disproportionately impact seniors, working families and communities of color.

The Driving Change campaign kicked off in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood and included partnerships with organizations such as AARP Illinois.

"As this bill moves through the final stages, we are taking a meaningful step toward a more transparent and accountable insurance marketplace," said Leader Robyn Gabel, a sponsor of the bill. "Illinois drivers and homeowners deserve a system that is rooted in fairness, prioritizes actual risk and protects consumers from excessive or unjustified rate increases."

"For too long, Illinois families have faced rising insurance costs without clear justification. Senate Bill 1486 establishes important guardrails to ensure rates are not only transparent, but fair," said State Representative Thaddeus Jones, a sponsor of the bill. "This is about protecting consumers and making sure insurance companies are accountable."

As part of the campaign, the Secretary of State's office launched an online portal – www.ilsos.gov/drivingchange – allowing Illinoisans to share personal experiences with insurance pricing and advocate for legislative reform. Feedback collected through the site and a series of statewide town halls directly informed the policy framework now advancing in Springfield.

The push for reform comes amid rising insurance costs statewide. Illinois auto insurance rates increased 18 percent in 2024. At the same time, Illinois remains one of only two states that does not require prior review of insurance rates, leaving consumers vulnerable to excessive or unfair pricing.

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Illinois Tobacco Quitline
 Illinois Department of Public Health
1-866-QUIT-YESS
1-866-784-8937

MidAmerica National Bank, a locally owned financial institution in central Illinois, has an opening for a full-time Teller in the Henry Banking Center. Established in 1933, MidAmerica National Bank provides financial services to local communities through our branches located in Fulton, Marshall and McDonough Counties. We pride ourselves in making a positive impact on our customers and area communities. The Teller is responsible for providing excellent customer service while accurately processing financial transactions. The ideal candidate is dependable, detail-oriented, and enjoys building positive relationships with customers while following established bank policies and procedures.

Key Responsibilities

- Process daily banking transactions such as deposits, withdrawals, check cashing, and loan payments accurately and efficiently.
- Assist customers with account inquiries, resolve concerns, and recommend appropriate bank products and services.
- Balance cash drawers, ATM's, and vaults while maintaining security and reporting discrepancies.
- Follow all bank policies, procedures, and regulatory requirements, including fraud prevention and anti-money laundering standards.
- Support banking center operations and collaborate with team members to enhance customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- High School Graduate or General Education Degree (GED): Required
- Strong communication and customer service skills
- Ability to perform work accurately, thoroughly, and responsibly
- Dependable, trustworthy, and detail-oriented
- Previous banking or cash-handling experience preferred, but not required
- Apply online at <https://www.midnatbank.com/careers>
- No phone calls, please.

MidAmerica National Bank is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, disability status or protected veteran status.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET
 Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Hopewell Township Road District, Marshall County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Hopewell Town Hall.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 6:10 P.M. on April 14, 2026, at Hopewell Town Hall and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing.

Dated this 19th day of March, 2026.

Kent Flanigan, Supervisor
 Adelaide Flanigan, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
 Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Township of LaPrairie in the County of Marshall and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place at the LaPrairie Township Hall on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM for the discussion and transaction of miscellaneous business of said Township; and after a Moderator is elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on any business that may, in pursuance of the law, come before the meeting; especially the following: annual financial statement, meeting dates for the fiscal year (April 2026 – March 2027), approval of the transfer of funds as needed throughout the year.

Sue Elsasser, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 RICHLAND TOWNSHIP,
 ROAD AND BRIDGE BUDGET**
 Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Road and Bridge Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Richland Township, Marshall County, Illinois, for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 223 Windhaven Rd., Washburn, IL From and after 6P.M. on March 17, 2026.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Road and Bridge Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be At 7:15 P.M. on April 21, 2026 at Richland Township Building and that final action will be taken at a meeting to be held at Richland Township Building at 7:15P.M., April 21, 2026

Dated this 17th day of March, 2026

Holly Rediger, Supervisor
 Andrea Storm, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Annual Town Meeting
 Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Hopewell in the County of Marshall and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on:

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
 being the second Tuesday of said month At the hour of 6:01 pm at Hopewell Town Hall

for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:
 Set date and time for 2027 Annual Town Meeting

Transfer money from Town Fund to Capital Fund

Any other business that may come before the board.

Dated March 19, 2026

Adelaide Flanigan, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
 To the legal voters, residents of the Township of RICHLAND in the County of MARSHALL and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of Said Township will take place on

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026
 being the second Tuesday of said month
 at the hour of 7:00 o'clock P.M.

for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

Call meeting to order
 Election of moderator
 Oath of office to moderator
 Conduct of Business:

• Read Minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting and approval

• Supervisor's Annual Financial Statements

• Set time of 2027 Annual Meeting (Second Tuesday of April-not before 6pm)

• Authorize town board of trustees to dispose of unneeded, unused equipment

• Conduct any other business as may be legally presented to this meeting

• Hear concerns and/or comments of electors present

Dated this 17th day of March, 2026

Andrea Storm
 Richland Township Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 TOWNSHIP BUDGET**

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Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 6 P.M. on April 13, 2026, at Hopewell Town Hall and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting to be held at Hopewell Town Hall at 6:10 P.M., April 13, 2026..

Dated this 19th day of March, 2026

E. K. Flanigan, Supervisor
 Adelaide Flanigan, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 RICHLAND TOWNSHIP,
 TOWN BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Town Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Richland Township, Marshall County, Illinois, for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 223 Windhaven Rd., Washburn, IL From and after 6P.M. on March 17th, 2026.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Town Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be At 7:00 P.M. on April 21, 2026 at Richland Township Building and that final action will be taken at a meeting to be held at Richland Township Building at 7:00P.M., April 21, 2026

Dated this 17th day of March, 2026

Holly Rediger, Supervisor
 Andrea Storm, Clerk

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Community Invited To The Good Friday Service At The First Congregational Church

First Congregational Church of Lacon invites the community to Good Friday Service on April 3 at 3:00 p.m. The service will include choir music and a pastoral message for the spiritual occasion.

Still Time For Participants To Join The GriefShare Program Offered Tuesdays In Henry



Even though GriefShare started March 3, you can still join the group. We were unable to meet the last two weeks on account of the weather, so we are still early in the study.

Each week discussions are different so you can come at any time. Some subjects include confusion, sorrow, fear, loneliness, hope and basically, the complex nature of the grief journey.

Join us Tuesday, March 24 to see if this free program is for you. You can come at 1:30 or 6:30 at the Henry Presbyterian Church.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Marshall County Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing
 Thursday, April 16, 2026,
 at 7:00 p.m.
 Marshall County Highway Department
 552 State Route 26,
 Lacon, IL 61540

This hearing is to consider the following:

ZBA #26-284, Application for Text Amendment requested by Marshall County Zoning to amend the ordinance regarding Wind Energy Conversion Systems, Solar Energy Systems, and Stand-alone Battery Energy Storage Systems including requirements for setbacks, decommissioning and fees.

At this hearing, the Zoning Board of Appeals will review the Application for Text Amendment ZBA #26-284 and make a recommendation to the Marshall County Board to grant or deny the Application. The Marshall County Board will vote to grant or deny the Application at the following County Board Meeting to be held at the Marshall County Courthouse, Lacon, Illinois. The following regularly scheduled County Board Meeting is Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

The Application is on file and available for review at the Marshall County Highway/Zoning Office, 552 State Route 26, Lacon, Illinois

Fun Fact

The painting "Salvator Mundi," done by Leonardo da Vinci, fetched

\$450 million, the highest ever paid for art, at a Christie's auction in 2017. It was acquired by an anonymous buyer on behalf of the Saudi Prince Al Saud. The painting now falls under the stewardship of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Culture.

Source: iyc.com