

# ADVOCACY REPORT



# ILLINOIS CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS  
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

**IL Chamber Advocacy | Summer 2023**

## Todd Maisch Remembered by Many





*“Throughout his career, he worked to advance proposals to grow the state’s business community, big and small. He was passionate about making Illinois a better place to live, work, and do business and he leaves behind a storied legacy of service.”*

– **Governor J.B. Pritzker**

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*“I am so heartbroken to hear the news about Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch passing away at 57. His departure leaves such a void in Illinois. He worked so hard to find bipartisan approaches to grow Illinois businesses. He understood we are all in this together. I treasure the time I spent with him, listening to him, speaking to his board. Democrats and Republicans around the state should all take a moment to honor Todd Maisch today for his advocacy for Illinois businesses. Our condolences go out to his wife and sons. May he rest in God’s peace and eternal glory.”*

– **Susana Mendoza, Illinois Comptroller**

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*“Todd Maisch spent decades working tirelessly to bring business opportunities to every region of Illinois. I had the opportunity to work with Todd on various issues as a state legislator and as Attorney General. We may not have always agreed on policy perspectives, but Todd was*

*always a gentleman and maintained an appropriate tenor during often-tense negotiations. His legacy will be one of service to the state of Illinois, and he will be missed.*

*"My heart goes out to Todd's colleagues at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, and my prayers are with his wife Kim and their two sons."*

**– Kwame Raoul, Illinois Attorney General**

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*"Todd Maisch was a statehouse fixture and synonymous with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. A fierce defender of and astute negotiator for the business community, Todd was also a genuinely likable person who could find the path forward among adversaries. He departs this world far too soon. My sympathies and thoughts go out to his family and friends."*

**– Don Harmon, Senate President**

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*"I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Illinois Chamber of Commerce President, Todd Maisch.*

*"Todd was a fierce champion for the business community and an integral part of major policy wins for our economy, namely the Blue Collar Jobs Act and the historic Rebuild Illinois capital bill. Though Todd and I often found ourselves at opposite ends of policy debates, I knew he was driven by an adoration for our state and a sincere commitment to doing what he believed was right.*

*"I send my condolences and prayers to his family, friends, and the Illinois Chamber community. May your memories bring you comfort during this time of mourning."*

**– Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House**

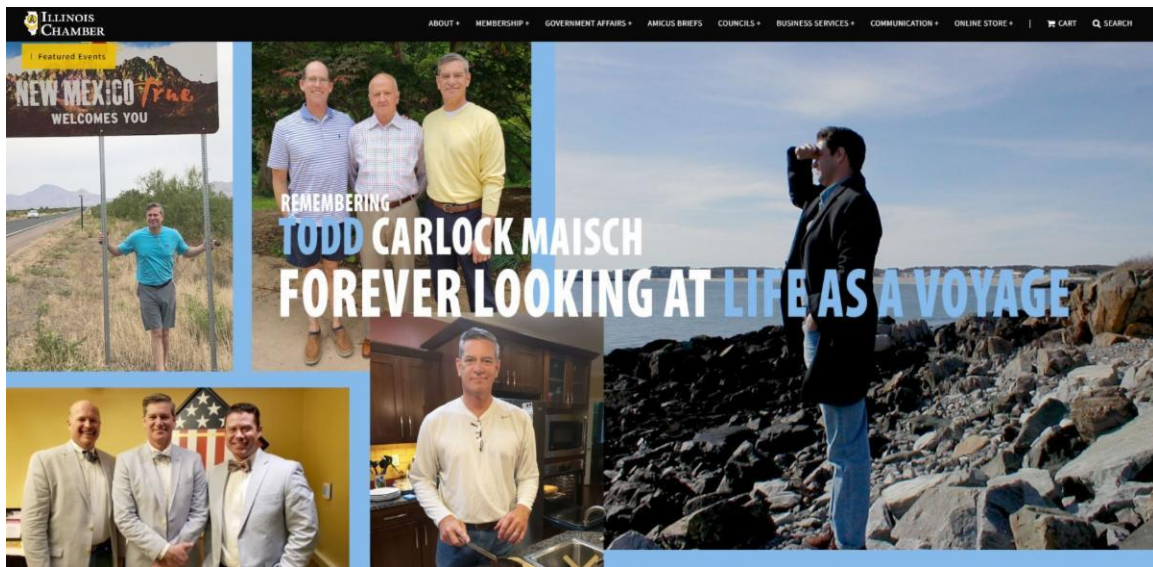
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*"Todd Maisch was a fierce advocate for Chambers and job creators around Illinois, as well as a devoted friend to me and our caucus. On behalf of the Illinois House Republicans, we extend our deepest condolences to Kim, their two boys and the many he has touched over his many years of service and friendship. He will be missed!"*

– Tony McCombie, House Republican Leader

*"The business community is losing a champion for working people throughout our state with the passing of Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch," ... "Todd dedicated his career to building a stronger business climate and a stronger Illinois and he and his work will be greatly missed. My prayers are with his family."*

– John Curran, Senate Republican Leader



**Energy Council Responds on CO2 Projects and More**



**Apr. 14, 2023** | Alec Messina, executive director of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's Energy Council responds to Jeffrey Tomich with E&E

News on the CO2 projects in the Midwest.

[Read Entire Article](#)

**May 24, 2023** | Alec Messina, director of the Illinois Chamber's Energy Council, hosted his spring quarterly meeting. Doug Scott, who took over as ICC Chairman in June, joins Messina to discuss all things energy. Sr. Vice President of Government Affairs, Clark Kaericher also provided a legislative update to attendees.



## Chamber Day 2023 Kickoff and Big Thank You

**Apr. 17, 2023** | Thank you to everyone who came out to Saputo's to kickoff our Chamber Day event! A special thank you to Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs for speaking to everyone.

**Apr. 20, 2023** | Wow!! We want to express our gratitude to everyone who attended Chamber Day; without you, this event would not have been possible. We would especially like to thank our sponsors for their unwavering support!





## Women in Business 2023



**June 21, 2023** | It gives us great pleasure to announce Karen Murphy, SVP of Business Strategy and CFO of the **Chicago Bears** will provide the keynote address at the Illinois Chamber's Annual Women in Business event. Keep an eye out for what Karen will discuss!

What a great turnout for our 6th Annual Women in Business Conference at the NIU Center in Naperville! A HUGE thank you to our attendees, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff on another successful conference. We hope to see you next year! **#wib2024**

**Sponsors and Exhibitors:** Chicago Bears, Hanson Professional Services, Inc., Nicor Gas, Amundsen Davis, Knight Hawk Coal, LLC., Nationwide, Northern Illinois University MBA, Illinois Department of Human Rights



## Staats Makes the Rounds for the Chamber



**Apr. 7, 2023 |** Keith Staats, Executive Director of the Illinois Chamber's Tax Institute, met with Don Bast of Tax Institute accounting firm member Baker

Tilley.

**Apr. 25, 2023 |** Check out Keith Staats' most recent column in the Illinois CPA Society's Insight magazine!

[Read Column Here](#)

**May 1, 2023 |** IL Chamber's Executive Director of the Tax Institute, Keith Staats, attends the Civic Federation's Board of Directors meeting – presentation by the City of Chicago Budget team.

**May 10, 2023 |** Keith met with IDOR Director Harris with staff and Chamber Board member Mike Gold to discuss cigar tax cap legislation.

**May 31, 2023 |** Keith held a meeting with Chamber members, Helen Fitzpatrick and Grant Cale of Bristol Myers Squibb to discuss Illinois tax credits and incentives.

**June 1, 2023 |** The second quarter Tax Institute meeting was held.

**June 7, 2023 |** Keith presented an Illinois legislative update at the Chicago Bar Association's Annual State and Local Tax Seminar.

## Kaericher Speaks Out on BIPA Proposal

**June 14, 2023** | Senior Vice President of the Illinois Chamber, Clark Kaericher, discussed the Sangamo Club's upcoming closing with Carson Gourdie of WICS ABC Newschannel 20. We have belonged to the club for decades and are saddened by the closure of such a historic institution.



**May 19, 2023** | Alongside other statewide business groups, Senior VP of the Illinois Chamber, Clark Kaericher, participated in a press conference to urge

legislators to reject the latest BIPA proposal on the amendments to HB3811. "There will be some who will try to claim this legislation is reform. Don't be fooled, there's a reason why every sector of the business community is opposed to this legislation, including technology, retail, manufacturing, healthcare, transportation and hospitality," said Kaericher.

Watch Here

## Infrastructure, Legislative Updates and Other News

**May 16, 2023** | The Illinois Chamber joins business groups in releasing the following statement:

*"Two years ago, in the waning hours of the lame duck session, Democrats in the General Assembly imposed pre-judgement interest on lawsuits adding immense pressure to defendants to settle cases regardless of the merits of the case. And now, with only days remaining in the spring legislative session, it's déjà vu with a last-minute amendment adding punitive damages to certain, select court cases. Lawmakers should not upend decades of legal precedent in order to tilt the playing field even more in favor of wealthy trial attorneys. This will further solidify Illinois' reputation as a poor place to do business and make job creators take a second look at expanding or investing in Illinois."*

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**May 29, 2023 |** Illinois Chamber's Executive Director of the Infrastructure Council, Andrew Cunningham

spoke to DePaulia's newspaper on HJR 23, I-55 managed lanes project.

**Apr. 18, 2023 |** Illinois Chamber's Executive Directors held a Multi-Council Meeting including our own Energy, Infrastructure, and Technology Councils. The meeting featured a discussion on the future of electric vehicles in Illinois. The featured speakers included, State EV Officer, Megha Lakchaura and Electric Mobility and Innovation Director, Lisa Clemons Stott. Presenters included Chamber members Ameren and EVBox.

[Read Full Article Here](#)



**June 8, 2023 |** Andrew Cunningham, Chamber's Executive Director provided a legislative update to the public policy committee of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce.

Pictured Above: Clark Kaericher, Technology Council; Alec Messina, Energy Council; Andrew Cunningham, Infrastructure Council

**June 22, 2023 |** Illinois Chamber's Executive Director, Infrastructure, Andrew Cunningham provided a business education presentation to the McLean County Chamber of Commerce on the Spring legislative session.



**June 27, 2023 |**

**CSX** hosted the Railroad Incident Response Training Demonstration in Riverdale. Illinois Chamber Executive Director of Infrastructure Council, **Andrew Cunningham** was pleased to learn more about how CSX works with first responders in the most critical moments. Thank you for your commitment to safety and the state of Illinois.



**May 11, 2023** | The Illinois Chamber's Communications Director Darbi Durham, and Lauryn Thornton, had the opportunity to attend the Daily Herald's Best Places to Work in Illinois 2023 Award Ceremony. We were happy to represent the Illinois Chamber as the marketing partners

for the event! We would like to extend our congratulations to this year's awarded companies.

**June 15, 2023** | Illinois Chamber's Business Services Coordinator, Kirsten McDevitt and General Chamber Assistant, Kia Mallow had the chance to attend Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (IACCE)'s seminar

on membership model trends for chambers. Thank you, Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce and IACCE for this great networking opportunity!



## Members in the News



**Apr. 6, 2023** | As of April 2023, Chamber Member Inman & Fitzgibbons, Ltd. and OKGC Law, LLC merged forming **Inman Fitzgibbons Murdock & Kosoff Law, Ltd.** Through this, an effective team of seasoned lawyers with decades of experience in civil liability defense, workers' compensation defense, insurance and employment law, governmental entity defense, and commercial litigation has emerged.

**Apr. 10, 2023** | Suzanne Clark, President and CEO of the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**, provided important takeaways from an "Agenda for American Strength" in our recent Illinois Business Leader magazine. You won't want to miss this! [Read More](#)

**Apr. 25, 2023** | **Epstein Becker Green**, a member of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, is thrilled to announce the release of their 50-State Noncompete Survey, which is intended to provide employers with a desktop reference to the wide range of noncompete statutes across the country. [Read More](#)



**Apr. 27, 2023** | Big congratulations to Jennifer Waryjas, who was recently elected President of the Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization (UPPO) for the 2023–2024 year. From everyone at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, we wish you the best of luck.

**May 3, 2023** | Congratulations to Chamber Member **Bristol Myers Squibb** for successfully completing research to assist patients dealing with mantle cell lymphoma or follicular lymphoma. Click here to read their press release! [Read More](#)



**May 5, 2023** | Thank you, **Chicago Bears** for your support of our 6th Annual Women in Business Conference! Sponsorships at all levels are available, reach out to Laurie Silvey for more information.

**May 10, 2023** | Thank you, Chamber member Jeff Risch from **Amundsen Davis** for educating our attendees on Unemployment Insurance for 2023: What Every Illinois Employer Needs to Know in Naperville yesterday!



**May 11, 2023** | Illinois Chamber member **Tyson Foods** is partnering with the Montgomery Area Food Bank to give away 80,000 pounds of chicken. Thank you, Tyson for your commitment to giving back to local communities and those in need! [Read More](#)



**May 16, 2023** | We want to congratulate our Illinois Chamber of Commerce members who were included on the list of the Best Places to Work in Illinois!

**Hanson Professional Services Inc.** ranks fourth among medium employers, and **National Futures Association Careers** ranked third among large companies! Congratulations to both companies!! [#bestplacetowork2023](#)

**May 18, 2023** | Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the Illinois Chamber! We are excited to collaborate with each of you! **Maurer Towing and Road Service, Inc.** | **Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home** | **Woods Basement Systems** | **EVBox North America, Inc.** | **ITC Midwest** | **The Prinz Law Firm, P.C.** | **Executive Mailing Service** | **International Monetary Systems, Ltd.**



**Jun. 13, 2023** | For more than 10 years, Chamber member **Wintrust** has offered an unmatched level of security. Customers may receive FDIC protection up to \$3.75 million per accountholder with a MaxSafe account, which is 15 times greater than the basic protection! Protect your funds now. [Read More](#)

**Jun. 19, 2023** | Empowering local communities is a core value for Illinois Chamber member, **DoorDash**. [#DoorDash](#) announced the launch of DashRoots, an advocacy network built to elevate the voices of Dashers, merchants, and consumers on important issues impacting communities! Learn more here: [www.dashroots.com](http://www.dashroots.com)

## Chamber Driving the Discussion Second Quarter 2023

In the second quarter of 2023, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois.

### APRIL 2023

- [Midwest CO2 pipelines push ahead as bills fizzle](#)
- [Lawmakers tell business owners that they will address Illinois' biometric privacy law](#)

### MAY 2023

- [The Illinois Chamber Joins Business Groups in Releasing the Following Statement](#)

### JUNE 2023

- [Illinois legislators push for I-55 expansion, Chicagoans concerned about environmental impacts](#)
- [Remote workers contribute to Sangamo Club closing doors](#)
- [Todd Maisch, advocate for Illinois' business community, dies at 57](#)
- [Todd Maisch, state Chamber of Commerce president, dies at 57](#)
- [Todd Maisch dies at 57: Illinois Chamber of Commerce leader and business 'champion'](#)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch passes at 57](#)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce President dead at 57](#)
- [State chamber chief Todd Maisch has died](#)
- [Todd Maisch, Illinois Chamber of Commerce President, dies at 57](#)
- [Todd Maisch, longtime CEO of Illinois Chamber of Commerce, passes away](#)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch passed away](#)
- [Former Illinois Chamber of Commerce President Todd Maisch passes](#)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce President Todd Maisch dies at age 57](#)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce president dies](#)
- [President of Illinois Chamber of Commerce dies at 57](#)
- [ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT, CEO DIES AT 57](#)



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