



# Political Papers

NOVEMBER 2010

## CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

Leadership election—  
week of November 15

2011 schedule-TBD

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

2011 schedule—TBD

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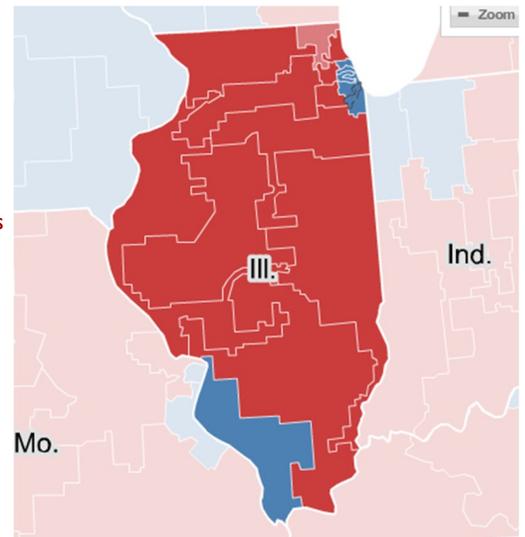
## Federal Changes Abound for 2011

Election day has come and gone; so has Democratic control of the US House of Representatives. In fact, looking back in America's history, we haven't experienced such a monumental flip in elected parties (Republicans gained 61 seats!) since 1938 and haven't had a similar situation (one party controls House, the other narrowly controls Senate and Presidency) since the civil war. The American people have definitely spoken.

While speculation abounds, the only thing we can focus on for sure is that incoming Republi-

cans have promised to provide more oversight on the US Environmental Protection Agency. It's hard to imagine that this is anything but positive.

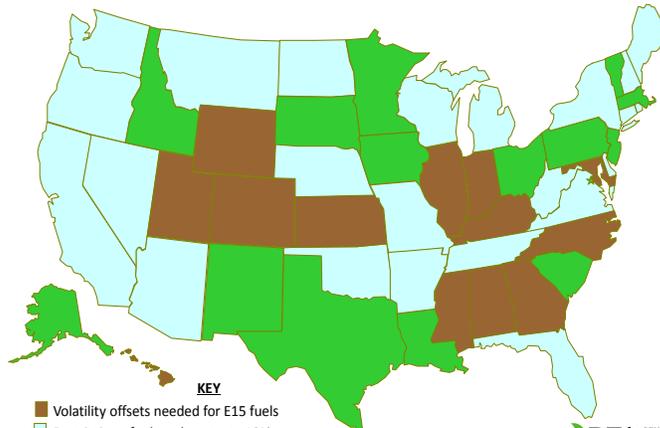
Included in the switch of the US House from Democratic to Republican, is a change in committee leadership, providing agriculture an opportunity to work with



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## EPA Announces E15; Good or Bad?

### State Impediments to E10+ Fuels



Source: RFA



There have been quite a few reports on the Environmental Protection Agency's announcement that they will allow E15 for cars model years 2007 and newer. Some reports praise the US EPA for doing something. IL Corn asks what the announcement really accomplished.

The first concern with the announcement is that the 2007 model years and newer line is arbitrary. Without the benefit of any scientific data to back the 2007 line, the US EPA has

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# Political Action Committee 101



Why does Illinois Corn Growers Association have a Political Action Committee?

How does the ICGA PAC decide who to fund?

When is the ICGA PAC fundraising event?

Learn the answers to these questions and

more on Illinois Corn's new Political Action Committee section of the redesigned website!

Visit [www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org), click on the "ICGA" tab at the top of the screen, select PAC and then PAC FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions).

On this new and improved PAC section of the website, we are trying to answer all the

questions our members have about why we have a state and federal PAC, what we do within our PAC and how we do it. Look around the new site a bit and if you have a question we aren't answering, please, let us know!

Again, thank you for supporting the ICGA PAC and for enabling us to pursue legislative change on your behalf.

On November 2, Illinois went from a primarily blue state, to a primary red state. Illinois Corn looks forward to working with Joe Walsh (R-IL-8), Robert Dold (R-IL-10), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL-11), Randy Hultgren (R-IL-14), and Bobby Schilling (R-IL-17) in the coming year.

## Federal Changes (cont.)

new elected officials to get our issues out of committee and onto the House floor. Former chair Collin Peterson of Minnesota will step down and political insiders predict that the new chair of the House Agriculture Committee will be Frank Lucas of Oklahoma with Peterson of Minnesota as Ranking Member. After a great working relationship with Peterson and no prior relationship with Cong Lucas, this could be one of the unknowns for Illinois agriculture.

Another change, Adam Kinzinger's defeat of Debbie Halvorson (11th district), means that Illinois potentially has one fewer member on the House Ag Committee. Kinzinger has publicly announced his interest in the Ag Committee, but appointments to committees remain to be seen.

Other notable victories were Mark Kirk's win over Alexi Giannoulias, which might have been especially painful for

**Political insiders predict that the new chair of the House Agriculture Committee will be Frank Lucas of Oklahoma. This is one of agriculture's wildcards..**

President Obama who used to hold this seat and the return of former Speaker Hastert's seat to Republican Randy Hultgren. Senator Kirk was one of four US Senators to be seated immediately, changing the Republican numbers in the

Senate to 42 and giving them an opportunity to block any incoming legislation with which they do not agree.

Kirk was actually elected twice on November 2, as he will continue to serve Illinois for a six year term starting in January.



Senator Mark Kirk visited the ICGA Board of Directors during his campaign. He is pictured here with ICGA President Tim Lenz and Vice President Jim Reed discussing ICGA positions on ethanol and US EPA regulations.

# E15 Announcement (cont.)

effectively made a statement that does absolutely nothing to benefit the ethanol industry. What sort of precedence is set by rulings not based in science?

The other major problem with the ruling is that offering an E15 blend for such a small share of the market is problematic for marketers. Not only does it require an investment in tank space or blender pumps, but the decision also leaves marketers with the job of making sure consumers only put the appropriate fuel in the tank based on their car model year. Many consumers don't know their car model year so this is problematic.

IL Corn feels that the US EPA was

trying to both get the industry off their back and also ensure that corn-based ethanol would not have a guaranteed future at the same time. And if we ever questioned that motive, we were even more sure after we saw the proposed label.

Among the problems with this label are the negative tone the label takes with the large "CAUTION" at the top, the fact that it appears that only 2007 Flex Fuel Vehicles and newer can use this fuel, and the emphasis on how negative the fuel could be in your vehicle—again, despite the fact that there is no scientific basis for the ruling.

IL Corn would like to see a label that explained what the fuel was and



what vehicles it was approved for without all the negative tone and information.

The US EPA is accepting public comments on the proposed label (right) and if you are interested in submitting comments, please contact IL Corn or visit our website at [www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org) and click on the "Priority Issues" tab and select Ethanol.

## Redistricting: Illinois' Next Priority

The changes in the Illinois House, Senate and Office of the Governor set the state of Illinois up for a first in many decades of our history: one party controls all three legs of the redistricting process.

The key to the next decade of the political makeup of the Illinois US House of Representative delegation and the Illinois General Assembly rode on who controlled the Governor's office and the majorities in the Illinois House and Senate. In the upcoming session of the Illinois General Assembly the redistricting of the congressional and state legislative maps will be determined.

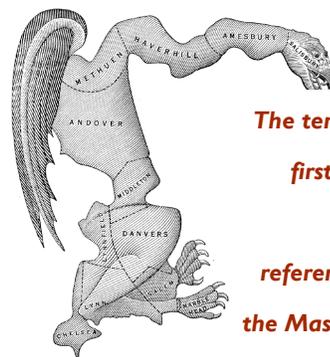
The Illinois Constitution process lays out clearly that the new districts are to be drawn by the passage of legislation. That requires a simple majority approval in the

House and Senate and then approval by the Governor. If this is not done the process then goes to the drawing of a name out of a hat to break the equally partisan election commission process. This has been the norm for drawing districts in Illinois for the past 3 decades.

With the Democrats controlling the Governor and both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly they will almost be guaranteed that their map will not have to go to a tie breaker.

Undoubtedly there will be legal challenges to the map that will be approved. The challenges will be based upon the requirements of the Illinois Constitution and federal Voting Rights Act of 1964. This potential court challenge was one of the reasons that the Democrats

fought vigorously to see that the Illinois Supreme Court Justice Tom Kilbride was retained. The Illinois Supreme Court will be the court that decides the outcome of the legislative map and many other issues. The retention of Justice Kilbride keeps the current political makeup of 4 Democrats and 3 Republicans sitting on the Illinois Supreme Court.



**The term gerrymander was first used by the Boston Gazette in 1812. It referenced Elbridge Gerry, the Massachusetts governor who signed into law a redistricting plan that benefited his party. One of the districts had the shape of a salamander, hence, "Gerry-mander."**

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## Rodney's Take on the New Political Climate

The mantra of anyone elected last night is going to be "reduce the federal budget." All Americans want to see federal deficit reduction, not only because of business interest rates and such, but also for the future of our country and our kids and grandkids. Agriculture has to understand that we will be a part of the solution.

We will endure cuts. There is no doubt about it.

This requires strategic thinking on our parts about the farm bill—what do we need and what don't we need—ethanol tax cuts, and anything else that costs money. The time to start thinking about our priorities is now.



*Rodney M. Weinzierl,  
ICGA Executive Director*

We now have a similar story within the state. Present leadership will have an emphasis on revenue generation and agriculture will want to be involved to be sure that the revenue generation doesn't destroy our profitability or the profitability of other business within the state.

We will also have to sacrifice. What does Illinois agriculture need and what do we want. We will be forced to

make a distinction.

Staying at the forefront of these issues and remaining a part of the discussion is key. Illinois Corn looks forward to serving its membership in this way.

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