

# Tips for the Capitol Visit

## Getting into the Capitol

The Illinois State Capitol building is only a few blocks west of the Wyndham hotel. Feel free to walk or catch a ride on one of the busses provided. When you arrive at the Capitol you will enter at either the east or west entrances. Other entrances require a special state issued ID. Be prepared to go through metal detectors as you enter.

When you arrive take a look around. Our capitol is a beautiful building we can all be proud of. You can either take an elevator or stairs to the third floor. There you will see a large brass rail with the House and Senate chambers on both sides. On the north side, at the top of the grand staircase, you will see a large mural, this general area will be our rallying point. This is where groups will form before heading off to meetings with the Treasurer and legislative leaders. CBAI staff will also be around this area to answer questions and give you directions as you head off to find your local legislators.

## Visiting Your Local Legislators

When you head out to find your local lawmakers, we would encourage you to find fellow community bankers from the same area and go visit them as a team. When you find them, please be patient, they are very busy this time of year. Be polite, you may not necessarily agree with all their policies, but most legislators truly are dedicated public servants. Finally, be respectful of their time. Legislators have many demands on their time during session and a little brevity can go a long way.

## What to Talk About

First, introduce yourself and your bank. Let them know who you are and what communities you serve. You should quickly find common ground. After all, your customers are their constituents and you both share a common goal of serving your communities.

Give the legislators (or their assistants) the provided fact sheets and let them know that these are CBAI priorities and you would appreciate their support. Please focus on SB 3329 and our proposed changes to the Unclaimed Property Act. Let them know that this is about consumer protection and without these changes your customers and their constituents will be harmed unnecessarily.

Remind them that CBAI is the only trade association advocating exclusively for community banks in Springfield. Let them know that Jerry and Megan represent **you**. The job of the CBAI governmental relations team is to serve as a conduit between your bank and government officials. Finally, invite them to the reception. Let them know that their time and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

## Meetings with the Treasurer and Legislative Leaders

If you'd like to join in the scheduled meetings with the Treasurer and Legislative Leaders please assemble at our designated meeting point at the top of the staircase along the third-floor rail 10 minutes prior to scheduled meeting times. Jerry and Megan will be leading the groups and will show you where to go from there.

## When You're Finished at the Capitol

Busses will be **leaving** the Capitol and heading back to the Wyndham at 4:00 sharp. If you wrap up your visits early feel free to walk back. Lobbying can be thirsty work and there are many fine places to find refreshments in downtown Springfield. D.H. Brown's at Third (railroad tracks) and Monroe and J.P. Kelly's at Third and Adams both happen to be on your way back to the hotel and are good places to rest along the way.