

# 2017

## Illinois Policy and Advocacy Priorities

### Approve a responsible budget:

- Ensure budget and obligations are fully funded
- Pass a capital bill and continued funding for priority projects:

#### **New Funding**

- Western Illinois University Phase 3
- I-74, John Deere Rd. Intersection
- I-80, Colona Exit
- Rock Island County Courthouse Renovation

#### **Ensure Continue Funding**

- I-74 Bridge
- Quad Cities-Chicago Passenger Rail
- I-80 Bridge

### Improve Illinois business climate and foster economic growth, including:

- Renewal of Enterprise Zones in the Quad Cities
- Create Quad Cities River Edge Redevelopment Zone for eligibility of state Historic Tax Credit and other economic development tools
- Reauthorize EDGE tax credit for new, expansion, and retention economic development projects, regardless of employees' state residency

### Support workforce development by increasing and reforming school funding:

- Adequately fund schools
- Change the funding model to ensure equal funding per student statewide
- Fully fund higher education and tuition aid

### Pass strong pension reforms to ensure Illinois is able to fund its budget and obligations:

- Reduce required funding from the current 90% to federally mandated 70%
- Consider reforming the automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA)
- Examine retirement age requirements and tiers for positions across the state

### Continue workers' compensation reform by identifying and addressing high cost causes.