

# NEWS

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*...from the Illinois House of Representatives*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Steve Brown

Pager: (800) 345-7256

Phone: (217) 782-0109

## **Speaker Madigan Announces Regional Budget Hearings to Begin Next Week**

*Nineteen Forums Planned as Lawmakers Seek Citizen Participation in State Budget Process*

**SPRINGFIELD, IL ---** Speaker Michael J. Madigan announced Monday that the Illinois House of Representatives would begin a series of regional hearings on the state budget starting next Monday, March 10 in Decatur and Marion.

The hearings are designed to give community leaders, business owners, labor officials, service providers, advocacy organizations, health care facilities, school districts, colleges and local residents an opportunity to share their views about state budget funding priorities, ways to reduce costs and means to improve government efficiency.

“Lawmakers are very interested in learning from the past and taking a new approach to crafting the state budget,” Madigan said. “They have found similar hearings held in recent years to be helpful when tackling challenging issues of statewide significance. Our hope is that these forums will increase the transparency of the budget-making process, complement the work of standing House appropriations committees and perhaps provide a new model for us to follow in the future.”

A total of 19 hearings are planned in cities throughout the state in the coming weeks (please see accompanying schedule for more details on dates, times and locations).

## House of Representatives Regional Budget Hearing Schedule

REGION	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Decatur	3/10/2008 6:00 p.m.	Lincoln Square Theatre 141 North Main St., Decatur
Marion	3/10/2008 6:00 p.m.	Williamson County Pavilion (behind Illinois Centre Mall) 1602 Sioux Drive, Marion
Northwest Suburbs	3/17/2008 6:30 p.m.	Prairie Center for the Arts - Theatre 201 Schaumburg Ct., Schaumburg
Tazewell County	3/17/2008 6:00 p.m.	The Festival Building 2200 E. Washington, East Peoria
Champaign	3/18/2008 6:00 p.m.	Parkland College 2400 West Bradley Avenue, Room D244, Champaign
Aurora	3/18/2008 6:00 p.m.	Copley Theater 8 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora
McHenry County	3/19/2008 6:30 p.m.	McHenry College Conference Center 8900 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake
Cicero	3/19/2008 6:00 p.m.	Morton College, Building A Jedlicka Performing Arts Center 3801 South Central Ave., Cicero
Joliet	3/20/2008 6:00 p.m.	Joliet Township High School, West Campus 401 North Larkin, Joliet
Rock Island	3/24/2008 6:00 p.m.	County Building Board Room, 3rd Floor 1504 3rd Avenue, Rock Island
North Suburbs	3/24/2008 3:00 p.m.	Northbrook Village Hall, City Council Chambers 1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook
Kankakee	3/24/2008 6:00 p.m.	Kankakee Community College Auditorium 100 College Dr., Kankakee
South Suburbs	3/25/2008 6:00 p.m.	S. Suburban College, Kindig Performing Arts Auditorium 15800 State St., South Holland
Chicago: South Side	3/25/2008 5:30 p.m.	Kennedy-King College Theatre 6301 S. Halsted St., Chicago
Rockford	3/25/2008 6:00 p.m.	Zeke Giorgi Building Auditorium 200 S. Wyman, Rockford
Chicago: West Side	3/26/2008 6:00 p.m.	Bethel New Life Auditorium 1150 N. Lamon St., Chicago
Metro East	3/26/2008 6:00 p.m.	Belleville West High School, Commons Area 4063 Frank Scott Parkway, Belleville
Chicago: North Side	3/27/2008 6:00 p.m.	Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center Olson Auditorium, 836 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago
Chicago: Southwest	3/27/2008 6:00 p.m.	Oak View Community Center 4625 W. 110th St., Oak Lawn