

IGFOA Professional Education Committee presents the
2018 ILLINOIS PUBLIC PENSION INSTITUTE II

Thursday, November 8, 2018

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

NIU Naperville, 1120 E. Diehl, Naperville, IL 60563

7:40 – 8:25 AM REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:25 – 8:30 AM WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

8:30 – 9:20 AM ECONOMIC UPDATE FOR U.S AND ILLINOIS

Economic growth appears to have accelerated following strong second-quarter growth. Driving the growth appears to be last year's tax package, a stronger world economy and improving labor conditions. The question is "Can this faster pace of growth be sustained?" In Illinois, the state has lagged national growth patterns but appeared to gaining steam headed into 2018. However, Illinois continues to face a fiscal overhang that is likely hindering growth. Can the state improve its fiscal stability while improving economic prospects?

Speaker: **Rick Mattoon**, Senior Economist and Economic Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

1. Gain an understanding of the underlying drivers of US economic performance;
2. Explore the sustainability of policy actions to spur growth in the context of long-term structural changes to the US economy; and,
3. Learn about Illinois recent economic condition and the role that fiscal imbalance may be having on the state's growth prospects.

9:20 – 10:35 AM THE CASE FOR NEW PENSION ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

This session will present a detailed critique of the accounting rules and intellectual framework used to analyze public pension systems in the US. Some alternatives will be presented, and hopefully, someday they will be adopted by GASB. In the meantime, understanding why these rules exist and where the irrationalities are will help policymakers understand when the rules push in the wrong direction.

Speaker: **Tom Sgouros**, Senior Researcher, Just Public Finance Program, Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, UC Berkeley, Associate Research Faculty, Computer Science Department, Brown University

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

1. Articulate an effective critique of the accounting rules;
2. Tell the difference between actual trouble in a system and exaggerated trouble;
3. Better defend against the pension scolds;
4. Better understand the performance of the system they are responsible for; and,
5. Identify possible steps to prevent actual trouble.

10:35 – 10:50 AM MORNING BREAK

10:50 – 12:05 PM THE ROLE ETHICS PLAY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

Ethics are by and large a misunderstood concept in life and even more so in local government leadership. This interactive session will explore the lens by which our ethics are informed and unlock key next steps we need to discuss our personal and organizational ethics. We will dive into the definition of ethics both personally and organizationally and how ethics inform our decision making. Participants will leave with key next steps for leading their organizational ethics discussion and actions to build an ethical framework worthy of the responsibility they are stewards of in their communities.

Speaker: **Denise Barreto**, The Carroll-Keller Group, LTD

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

1. Define the difference between ethics and morals and understand why it matters in government;
2. Gain a better understanding of how their own ethics impact their organizational ethics; and,
3. Identify steps to ensure their local government entities have the ethical standards to serve all their residents best.

12:05 – 1:00 PM NETWORKING LUNCHEON

1:00 – 1:50 PM LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This session will provide insight into current legislative issues and concerns related to pension reform, efforts to consolidate funds, and the status of the property tax freeze as it relates to pension levies.

Speaker: William McCarty, Director – Office of Budget & Management, City of Springfield, IL

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

1. Understand the views held by state legislators on pension reform and how an eventual agreement may affect local governments and pension boards;
2. Explore recent developments in proposed pension reform legislation; and,
3. Understand the key provisions of proposed property tax freeze legislation and how those provisions could impact pension levies.

1:50 – 2:10 PM AFTERNOON BREAK

2:10 – 3:40 PM OMA & FOIA UPDATE

This session will review OMA and FOIA basics, with an emphasis on binding PAC opinions, significant court decisions, and recently passed legislation for both OMA and FOIA and how these decisions may affect local communities.

Speakers: Steven B. Adams, Partner, Robbins Schwartz
Nicole Karas, Senior Counsel, Robbins Schwartz

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

1. Develop a better understanding of essential OMA and FOIA components that affect local communities;
2. Understand the application of binding PAC and court decisions to local government operations; and,
3. Learn practical tips for complying with OMA and FOIA.

3:40 – 4:30 PM IDOI: CHANGE IN THE PUBLIC PENSIONS DIVISIONS

This session will provide an overview of the IDOI Public Pension Division, its staff and the resources available to you and the public. The session will include what to expect from an IDOI audit of your police and firefighter pension funds and what the annual requirements are of the police and firefighter pension fund trustees.

Speaker: Scott J. Brandt, Assistant Deputy Director, Illinois Dept of Insurance Public Pension Divisions

Learning Objectives - *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

1. Understand the role of the Public Pension Division and its staff;
2. Find out the resources and information available to you and the public from the IDOI;
3. Learn the responsibilities of the police and firefighter pension funds and how you may be involved; and,
4. Find out what to expect from an IDOI audit of the police and firefighter pension funds and how you can assist with the process.

4:30 PM CLOSING REMARKS

Many thanks to Mary L Tomanek, Institutional Consultant, Graystone Consulting and Public Pension Team Leader and Jon Beckmann, Superintendent of Finance, Waukegan Park District and the IGFOA Professional Education Committee for planning and coordinating the 2018 Illinois Public Pension & OPEB Institute II!