



April 16, 2013

Dear Friends,

We are halfway through this legislative session, and I wanted to let you know about legislation I am working on. Over the next two months, the Senate will confront many important issues and I will continue to keep you informed.

As always, please contact my Elgin or Springfield offices if you have any questions or concerns. Also, please visit my [website](http://www.SENATORNOLAND.COM).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Noland".

Senator Michael Noland
22nd District – Illinois

Legislation

Uniform Collaborative Law Act

I am the sponsor of [Senate Bill 31](#), which creates the [Uniform Collaborative Law Act](#). The collaborative law process allows disputes to be resolved without involving the court. This would reduce the need for lawsuits and conserve judicial resources. This optional process would be available for divorce and custody proceedings where both parties are willing to work collaboratively.

Forest preserve mining ban

In an effort to protect local control over forest preserve land, I introduced [Senate Bill 1344](#). This legislation ensures that land the people set aside as permanent forest preserves, by referendum, will be protected and will not be used for any sand, gravel or other mining operation.



Homeless Bill of Rights

I am also the chief co-sponsor of the [Bill of Rights for the Homeless Act](#). This legislation aims to ensure no one will be discriminated against because he or she is homeless. This legislation will help those most in need find employment and protect their dignity.

District events

ECC Job Fair

There will be a [veteran's job fair](#) from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 19 at the Spartan Events Center at Elgin Community College. Later that same day, there will be a [community job fair](#) from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Spartan Events Center. These events are presented by ECC, the Illinois Department of Employment Security and the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Housing Fair

There will be a housing fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the Gail Borden Library. Neighborhood Housing Services - Fox Valley, the city of Elgin, the Elgin Community Network, BMO Harris Bank and the Gail Borden Library have partnered to present housing information for residents. Presentations will be made to help prepare buyers for home ownership, build and repair credit, apply for down payment assistance programs, apply for city grants for housing and learn about NHS homes for sale. For more information click [here](#).

Around Illinois

Autism Awareness Month

To draw attention to the ever increasing number of people diagnosed with autism, April is [National Autism Awareness Month](#). This is an opportunity for people to learn about issues related to autism. Autism spectrum disorders are complex and may reveal themselves in different ways. Those diagnosed with ASDs often communicate, interact, behave and learn in unusual ways compared to their peers. They often have difficulties with social, emotional, communication, fine motor and learning skills. Greater awareness of their needs will help these individuals lead complete and fulfilling lives.



New Illinois driving laws for 2013

A number of new driving regulations are in effect this year. New laws include limitations on cell phone use as well as harsher penalties for drivers speeding 31 miles per hour or more over the speed limit. Review the new laws [here](#) before the summer driving season.

District Office

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