FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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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).

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