On May 9th, 2018 a handful of CCIA members participated in an Advocacy Day for Landlords in Springfield.

The event was set up by the [Chicagoland Apartment Association](http://www.caapts.org/) and held jointly with the [Illinois Rental Property Owners Association](http://www.irpoa.org/) and the [Illinois Manufactured Housing Association](https://www.imha.org/). These organizations have come together this year to work on some issues of common interest.  **The four main topics addressed were**:

* **Rent Control** - efforts by low income housing advocacy groups continue to try lift the statewide ban on rent control. We expect these efforts to continue, despite it being a bad idea for economic reasons of supply and demand, and listed as #2 on the list of dumbest ideas of the 20th Century by Forbes!
* **Sealing Eviction Records** - Proposals have been made in Springfield that eviction records be sealed so that tenants facing eviction can more easily find housing. The efforts are based on a flawed study of evictions in Cook County that claims 29% of evictions are filed without cause because they do not end up with a judgment against the tenant. Landlords in Cook County can tell you that filing an eviction is a last resort. There are many other reasons that evictions are dropped before the court issues a judgment. A few of them include, the tenant moves, the tenant pays, the landlord pays the tenant to move, and in some instances, the eviction paperwork was flawed so the process has to start over. Watch for more of this, we need you to let your legislators know that this is a really bad idea. It is making landlords take on unnecessary risk.
* **Immigration Status** - Proposals had been made in Springfield which would have allowed 3rd parties to sue landlords over the perception of discrimination based on immigration status. The legislation has been redesigned to allow a tenant to sue if they are being discriminated against during their tenancy because of immigration status.
* **Emotional Support Animals** - This topic has come up this year in Springfield and efforts are being made to figure out how to help people with legitimate needs get the support they need while not undermining the rights of property owners and other tenants.

After meeting as a group and learning more about the above issues, we broke up and went to the Capital building to meet with our Representatives & Senators. Our lobbyist - John Millner - was able to get us time with [Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Antonio Munoz](http://www.senatortonymunoz.com/).  We were thrilled. This face to face time is vital to letting our legislators know what issues are important to us and how critical it is that the legislative climate supports rental property owners in Illinois effectively  
  
As a group we were able to meet with [Illinois State Treasurer Mike Frerichs](https://frerichsforillinois.com/). Having a little fun at the end, Mr. Frerichs suggested that we all look up our names, those of our family and friends at [icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/](https://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/) and see if we can share the good news of "found" money with someone. There is over $2.9 billion in unclaimed funds that the Treasurer's office is caring for.

Discussions on all of these topics will continue. "Lobby Day" allowed us to get together to discuss these topics, but also to forge a closer relationship with each other as well as our lobbyists and elected officials.