

FILED

APR 02 2024

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**JUSTIN MAZE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

Administrative Order Number 2024-4-2

WHEREAS, On April 8, 2024, all nine counties of the Illinois First Judicial Circuit lie within the path of totality of the national eclipse;

WHEREAS, Numerous County Boards within the First Judicial Circuit have already closed non-court related county courthouse offices to allow Sheriff's Departments and other law enforcement offices to devote already limited and/or understaffed workforces to provision of heightened security, traffic control, and other public safety services associated with the issues that arise with the influx of tourists and those viewing the eclipse; No fewer than 5069 Sheriffs have approached Presiding County Judges asking for such ability;

WHEREAS, Collective Bargaining Agreements with numerous county courthouse labor groups provide for overtime, double-time, or greater hourly wages paid to clerks, security, and other court personnel when a County Board closes non-court related courthouse offices;

WHEREAS, Increased traffic will impact both small and large towns and will pose traveling hazards on interstates, state route highways, country roads and city streets; this is especially true along the I-57 corridor between I-64 and I-24; This equally impacts tourists, and the majority of courthouse employees who commute by automobile;

WHEREAS, Dockets were cleared weeks in advance because attorneys, staff, and litigants are unavailable, as they have reserved April 8, 2024, to view the eclipse;

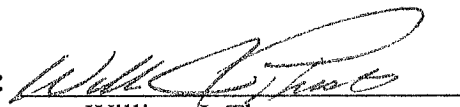
WHEREAS, One-third of the First Judicial Circuit judges will be participants at the 2024 Education Conference on April 8, 2024, and several additional judges serve as Faculty at the Education Conference;

WHEREAS, where possible, skeleton crews, appropriate accommodations to ensure access to justice, court contact numbers, and remote hearings (for emergency or other matters) are available in each courthouse in the First Judicial Circuit;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED: That the presiding judges of the First Judicial Circuit may exercise their discretion to close courthouses for any portion of the business day on April 8, 2024, as a safety measure to all employees and the public.

DATED this 2nd day of April, 2024.

ENTER:



William J. Thurston
Chief Judge of the Circuit Court
First Judicial Circuit of Illinois