

Bret Whitfield-Tate
Individual Processing Division Manager

Bret Whitfield-Tate is a Senior Public Service Administrator with the Illinois Department of Revenue, where he currently serves as the manager of the Individual Processing Division (IPD). During his 13 years with the Department, Bret has served in several different roles within IPD, beginning his career as a Revenue Tax Specialist Trainee and advancing to a Revenue Tax Specialist II title. After promoting to a Public Service Administrator position where he served first as a section manager and then the Division's technical advisor, Bret started in his current role as IPD's Division Manager.

As Division Manager, Bret manages a professional staff of approximately 100 employees who are responsible for the processing of more than 6.2 million original and 70,00 amended Illinois Individual Income Tax Returns annually. IPD is also responsible for processing all individual income tax correspondence received by the Department in response to notices issued by the Department during the processing of returns.

Robert Farthing
Business Processing Division Manager

Robert Farthing is the Business Processing Division Manager with the Illinois Department of Revenue. After 15 years serving as a pastor in Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois, Robert started a new career with the Business Processing Division as a Revenue Tax Specialist in 2009. Robert has also served as a Technical Advisor and Supervisor within the Division in the years leading up to his appointment as Division Manager in 2022.

Robert graduated with an undergraduate degree in Christian ministry from Lincoln Christian University and loves to inspire and motivate people to become the best version of themselves they can be. Robert enjoys reading about leadership, continuous improvement, fantasy, and science fiction. At the end of the day, you are likely to find him with some freshly smoked meat and watching the St. Louis Cardinals.

Karen Kelleher
Withholding Section Supervisor

Karen Kelleher, Withholding Section Supervisor, has been with IDOR for nine years. She holds a Master's in Business Administration, and an undergraduate degree in accounting. She began her career with the Illinois Department of Revenue in the Taxpayer Assistance Division, taking inbound calls on Individual Income Tax, Sales Tax, Withholding Tax, and Business Income Tax. Her prior private sector work experience includes restaurant management, tax preparation, and bookkeeping. Her hobbies include following current events, reading, traveling, watching the Yellowstone tv series, and following St. Louis Cardinals baseball.

Rosalind Harmon**Sales Tax Processing Division Manager**

Rosalind Harmon began employment with the Illinois Department of Revenue in April 2017 as a Revenue Tax Specialist Trainee in the Taxpayer Services Division and then transferred to the Collections Bureau later that year. Rosalind worked in the Collections Bureau for four years, during which time they won the Rookie of the Year award in 2018 and served in leadership roles, beginning in 2019. These roles included the Quality Assurance Manager and the Calling Unit Supervisor. Rosalind became Manager of the Sales Tax Processing Division in April 2022 and has continued in this position to present.

Prior to the Illinois Department of Revenue, Rosalind worked in the financial services industry for 17 years. Rosalind's experience in financial services included managing institutional, philanthropic, and retirement accounts as well as facilitating referrals between commercial bankers and financial advisers.

Kathleen Blessing**Alcohol, Tobacco, and Fuel Processing Division Manager**

Kathleen Blessing began her career with the Illinois Department of Revenue in 1998. She started as a Tax Specialist in the Motor Fuel Tax Section processing oil companies' monthly tax returns. In 2001, she transferred to the Motor Fuel Use Tax Section where she processed applications, quarterly returns, annual renewals, bond packages, and license revocations to uphold the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) for Illinois. Throughout her career, Kathy has served as a lead trainer, procedure writer, technical expert on publications development, and customer outreach specialist. In 2015, Kathy was promoted to manage the Motor Fuel Use Tax/IFTA Section. In 2020, Kathy became the Division Manager for the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Fuel Division and the Illinois IFTA Commissioner.

Jeremy Alexander**Electronic Commerce Division Manager**

Jeremy Alexander has been with the Illinois Department of Revenue for over 20 years. He began his career at IDOR as a Revenue Tax Specialist in the Individual Processing Division. Since becoming a Public Service Administrator in 2009, Jeremy has served as the Amended Section Supervisor in the Individual Processing Division, as both the Withholding Section Supervisor and the Technical Supervisor in the Business Processing Division, and as the Individual Income Tax Efile Supervisor in the Electronic Commerce Division. Jeremy currently manages the Electronic Commerce Division which is responsible for all electronic payment processes and electronic direct file programs.

**Whitney Elders,
Secure Choice Project Manager**

Whitney Elders has been with the Illinois Department of Revenue for close to 12 years. She started as a Revenue Tax Specialist in 2012 where she helped taxpayers fix returns that had suspended with errors. In 2016, she accepted a position as a Staff Assistant to the Chief of Staff. During this time, she managed various projects such as IDOR's implementation of Secure Choice. In 2022, she took a position as a Technical Support Supervisor in Account Processing, overseeing testing and training for the area. She also co-chairs IDOR's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee.

She graduated with a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Illinois and has an undergraduate degree in Public Relations from Eastern Illinois University. In 2022, she obtained her Project Management Certification. She is a mother of one and enjoys coaching her daughter's volleyball team and cheerleading squad in her spare time.