



REFORM. RESPONSIBILITY. RECOVERY.

NEWS

Office of Governor Pat Quinn

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**ILLINOIS BUDGET ADDRESS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR**

GOOD AFTERNOON.

NEARLY SEVEN WEEKS AGO I HAD THE HONOR OF BEING SWORN IN AS THE FORTY-FIRST GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS.

AS YOU KNOW, THIS EVENT CAME AFTER A LONG POLITICAL ORDEAL THAT HARMED AND EMBARRASSED THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE...

FOR TOO LONG, OUR STATE HAS SUFFERED FROM CORRUPTION THAT HAS DAMAGED ILLINOIS' REPUTATION AND DEEPLY HURT OUR CITIZENS.

ILLINOIS IS STILL RECOVERING FROM THE CONVICTION OF FORMER GOVERNOR GEORGE RYAN.

AND OUR STATE IS REELING FROM THE ARREST OF FORMER GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH AND HIS SUBSEQUENT REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS HAVE RESULTED FROM THIS BI-PARTISAN BETRAYAL OF THE PUBLIC TRUST.

OUR GOVERNMENT HAS AN INTEGRITY CRISIS AND ILLINOIS MUST EMBRACE FAR REACHING ETHICS REFORM.

ILLINOIS ALSO HAS A FISCAL CRISIS.

OUR STATE IS STAGGERING TO PAY AN ELEVEN-AND-A-HALF BILLION-DOLLAR DEFICIT AND HAS A MOUNTAIN OF UNPAID BILLS.

THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY IS ALSO IN CRISIS.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS RISING. OUR PEOPLE ARE HURTING.



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TO BE DIRECT AND HONEST: OUR STATE IS FACING ITS GREATEST CRISIS OF MODERN TIMES.

BUT I AM NOT HERE TO DWELL ON THE PAST.

NOR PREACH GLOOM AND DOOM.

ON THE CONTRARY...I AM AN OPTIMIST.

AND I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS.

THEY HAVE THE STRENGTH OF CHARACTER TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE.

TO SAVE OUR STATE, WE HAVE TO MAKE TOUGH CHOICES.

TODAY, I PRESENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR TWO-THOUSAND-AND-TEN.

THIS BUDGET IS BALANCED.

IT ALSO SPEAKS HONESTLY AND DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS ABOUT OUR TOUGH CHOICES.

WHEN IT IS APPROVED, THIS BUDGET WILL ACHIEVE THREE CRUCIAL OUTCOMES. IT WILL CUT COSTS WHILE DRAMATICALLY RAISING THE ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR DOING THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS.

IT WILL PROVIDE NEEDED TAX RELIEF TO MILLIONS OF OUR PEOPLE WHILE RESCUING STATE FINANCES.

IT WILL CREATE THOUSANDS OF ILLINOIS JOBS WITH THE FIRST MAJOR PLAN TO REBUILD OUR ROADS...BRIDGES.. SCHOOLS AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKS IN THE PAST DECADE.

THIS BUDGET CENTERS ON "THREE-Rs": *REFORM.. RESPONSIBILITY.. AND RECOVERY.*

LET'S TALK HONESTLY ABOUT OUR NEED FOR REFORM.

IN TOUGH TIMES, EVERYONE MUST LIVE WITHIN THEIR MEANS. AND THAT GOES FOR GOVERNMENT, TOO.

RIGHT NOW, STATE REVENUES ARE DROPPING PRECIPITOUSLY.



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WE HAVE A FAILURE OF REVENUE.
AND IN THIS CALAMITY, THE STATE IS SPENDING MORE THAN IT SHOULD.

THAT'S A BAD SITUATION.

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A GENERATION...WE ARE CHALLENGING THE WAY STATE
GOVERNMENT DOES ITS BUSINESS.

WE CAN NO LONGER SUSTAIN THE OUT-OF-CONTROL SPENDING WE'VE SEEN IN THE
PAST...UNDER BOTH PARTIES.

TODAY, I AM PROPOSING MAJOR CUTS AND COST-REDUCTIONS THAT WILL SAVE AT
LEAST \$1.3 BILLION-DOLLARS.

THESE CUTBACKS INCLUDE:

ORDERING STATE EMPLOYEES TO TAKE FURLOUGHS OF FOUR DAYS...

REQUIRING ACROSS-THE-BOARD REDUCTIONS IN GRANT PROGRAMS...

MAKING TARGETED COST-REDUCTIONS AT EVERY STATE AGENCY...

I PLEDGE THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE BELT-TIGHTENING.

I AM ALSO APPOINTING A NEW TAXPAYER ACTION BOARD TO EVALUATE ALL STATE
PROGRAMS AND SPENDING.

THIS BOARD WILL EXAMINE EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF STATE GOVERNMENT
FINANCE.

THOMAS JOHNSON -PRESIDENT OF THE TAXPAYER FEDERATION OF ILLINOIS...WILL
HEAD THE TAXPAYER ACTION BOARD.

I THANK TOM FOR HIS HELP AND SUPPORT.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TAXPAYER ACTION BOARD, IS TO PUT ILLINOIS TAXPAYERS FIRST.

WHILE WE ROOT OUT WASTE AND INEFFICIENCY, WE MUST FIX ANOTHER ENORMOUS
PROBLEM.

THAT'S OUR GIANT UNDER-FUNDED PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS.



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FOR THIRTY YEARS, THESE SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO SPIN OUT OF CONTROL.

THE RESULT IS WE HAVE AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE BILLION DOLLARS IN UN-FUNDED PENSION OBLIGATIONS.

WITHOUT BOLD REFORM, THESE PENSION SYSTEMS WILL GO BUST.

IF THAT HAPPENS, THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF STATE RETIREES AND WORKERS WILL BE TERRIBLY DISRUPTED.

FAILURE TO FIX OUR PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS WILL ALSO HURT OUR ENTIRE STATE.

IT WILL ADD TO OUR GROWING DEFICIT AND PILE MORE PUBLIC DEBT ONTO TAXPAYERS.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN.

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS, I AM PROPOSING GROUND-BREAKING PUBLIC PENSION REFORMS AND MODERNIZATION.

UNDER MY PLAN, EXISTING EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES WILL KEEP THEIR CURRENT PENSION BENEFITS FROM YEARS OF SERVICE.

THEY ARE SAFE.

MEANWHILE, NEWLY-HIRED--MOSTLY-YOUNGER--EMPLOYEES WILL BE PART OF A MODERNIZED SYSTEM.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE RETIREMENT AGE FOR NEW WORKERS WILL BE HIGHER.

IT WILL CLOSELY MATCH SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS.

AND COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES WILL BE CAPPED AT A RATE THAT'S IN LINE WITH OTHER PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS.

THE PENSION SYSTEM FOR NEW EMPLOYEES WILL STILL PROVIDE A GENEROUS RETIREMENT INCOME.

IF WE ACT NOW...THIS PLAN WILL REDUCE THE TAXPAYERS' PENSION LIABILITIES BY ONE-HUNDRED-AND-SIXTY-TWO BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT THIRTY-SIX YEARS.

BY ENACTING GROUND-BREAKING PUBLIC PENSION REFORMS, WE CAN... AND WILL...REDUCE FUTURE PAYMENTS.



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AS PART OF THIS PLAN, WE WILL STILL MAKE A PENSION PAYMENT OF ONE-POINT-FIVE-BILLION DOLLARS TO FUND THIS YEAR'S BENEFITS.

TO SUM IT UP, UNDER OUR PUBLIC PENSION REFORM PLAN:
CURRENT RETIREES AND EMPLOYEES ARE PROTECTED.

FUTURE EMPLOYEES STILL ENJOY A VERY GOOD BENEFIT PACKAGE.

THE TAXPAYERS OF ILLINOIS WILL SAVE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FUTURE OBLIGATIONS.

THAT'S A GOOD DEAL FOR EVERYONE.

AS WE PREPARE FOR A BETTER FUTURE, WE MUST ALSO MAKE TOUGH CHOICES ABOUT
CLEANING UP GOVERNMENT RIGHT NOW.

ETHICS REFORM IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO ME AND THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS.

IN THE WAKE OF PAST POLITICAL SCANDALS, THE PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING HONEST
AND OPEN GOVERNMENT.

THEY ARE GOING TO GET IT.

MY FIRST ACT AS GOVERNOR WAS SIGNING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE
ILLINOIS REFORM COMMISSION.

THIS INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD IS INVESTIGATING GOVERNMENT PRACTICES
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

THE REFORM COMMISSION IS LED BY FORMER ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
PATRICK COLLINS.

IN APRIL, THE ILLINOIS REFORM COMMISSION WILL ISSUE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
CLEANING UP STATE GOVERNMENT.

I WANT TO THANK PAT COLLINS AND HIS FOURTEEN FELLOW COMMISSIONERS FOR
THEIR HARD WORK. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR REPORT.

ALREADY, MY ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE
PEOPLE.



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LAST MONTH, I DIRECTED ALL STATE AGENCIES TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

AND I IMPLEMENTED THE ILLINOIS SUNSHINE PROJECT.

AS A RESULT, THE PUBLIC CAN NOW GO ONLINE AND VIEW AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.

I BELIEVE SUNSHINE IS THE BEST DISINFECTANT.

THESE MEASURES ARE A GREAT START TO CHANGING THE OLD WAY OF DOING BUSINESS.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT A MODEL OF SERVICE AND OPENNESS.

IT'S ALSO TIME TO STRENGTHEN OUR VOTERS...WHO ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF ILLINOIS.

STATE GOVERNMENT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE, NOT TO THE OFFICE HOLDERS.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO GIVE THE VOTERS OF ILLINOIS THE POWER TO RECALL STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS IF THEY BETRAY THE PUBLIC TRUST.

ALONG WITH REFORM COMES RESPONSIBILITY.

ALL OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING *TOUGH CHOICES* DURING THESE DIFFICULT DAYS.

AND THERE'S NO MORE IMMEDIATE CRISIS THAN ILLINOIS' ELEVEN-AND-A-HALF BILLION-DOLLAR DEFICIT.

THE STATE'S GENERAL REVENUE PROJECTIONS ARE BLEAK BECAUSE OF THE DEEP RECESSION WE'RE IN.

NEXT YEAR, ANNUAL REVENUES COULD DROP TO THEIR LOWEST LEVEL IN MANY YEARS.

BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON FOR OUR DEFICIT DILEMMA.

FOR NEARLY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, ILLINOIS HAS LIVED OFF THE CREDIT CARD -- RACKING UP DEFICITS UNDER DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS.

AS A RESULT, THE STATE IS STAGGERING UNDER A SHAMEFUL MOUNTAIN OF UNPAID BILLS.



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WHEN WE DON'T PAY OUR OBLIGATIONS *ON TIME* EVERY BUSINESS THAT DEALS WITH THE STATE IS DAMAGED.

THIS INCLUDES:

HOSPITALS...

NURSING HOMES...

PHARMACIES...

SCHOOLS...

AND THOUSANDS OF SMALL BUSINESSES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

FAILURE TO PAY IS FORCING THESE GOOD BUSINESSES TO CUT THEIR OPERATIONS.

THEY HAVE TO

LAY OFF THEIR WORKERS...WHICH ADDS TO UNEMPLOYMENT...

THEY HOLD BACK ON PAYING THEIR BILLS...WHICH INJURES OTHER COMPANIES...

OR THEY JUST GO OUT OF BUSINESS...WHICH DEEPLY HURTS OUR ECONOMY.

THIS IS WRONG.

AND WE KNOW IT'S WRONG.

AND IT IS *NOT A BLUEPRINT FOR SOUND FISCAL OR PUBLIC POLICY.*

ILLINOIS HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO RID ITSELF OF THIS DESTRUCTIVE DEFICIT...

ILLINOIS IS NOT A DEADBEAT STATE THAT REFUSES TO PAY ITS BILLS...

THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS WILL NOT TAKE FROM OUR CHILDREN BY FORCING THEM TO PAY OUR DEBTS...

I STRONGLY BELIEVE THERE IS A *FAIR AND HONEST WAY* TO PAY OUR BILLS AND MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT BY APPROVING THE *ILLINOIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND TAX REFORM ACT OF 2009.*

LET'S TALK ABOUT TAX REFORM. AND I MEAN REFORM THAT PRODUCES TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE-CLASS AND WORKING FAMILIES.

UNDER THE PLAN THAT I PRESENT TODAY:

FIVE MILLION PEOPLE WILL GET MAJOR *TAX RELIEF*...

THERE WILL BE NO GAS TAX INCREASE...



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AND MOMS AND DADS WILL ENJOY A *SALES TAX HOLIDAY* FOR TEN DAYS IN AUGUST ON THE PURCHASE OF THEIR KIDS SCHOOL CLOTHES AND SUPPLIES...

THE BASIS OF MY TAX RELIEF PLAN IS THIS:
THE STATE SHOULD *NOT* TAX STRUGGLING FAMILIES INTO POVERTY.

WORKING FAMILIES... LIVING FROM PAYCHECK-TO-PAYCHECK...MUST HAVE TAX RELIEF.

IT'S A PRINCIPLE AS OLD AS THE BIBLE.

TAXES SHOULD BE BASED ON THE ABILITY TO PAY.

THE MOST COMPELLING CASE FOR TAX REFORM IS FOUND IN OUR OWN ILLINOIS TAX CODE.

FOR TWENTY YEARS ILLINOIS HAS HAD ONE OF THE MOST UNFAIR TAX SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTRY.

A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE ILLINOIS PERSONAL TAX EXEMPTION IS ONLY TWO-THOUSAND DOLLARS PER PERSON.

THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION IS MEANT TO SHIELD INCOME FROM TAXATION, SO FAMILIES HAVE MORE MONEY TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN.

BUT THE CURRENT ILLINOIS PERSONAL EXEMPTION AMOUNT OF \$2000 DOLLARS.. DOESN'T COME CLOSE TO PROVIDING ENOUGH TAX RELIEF.

THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES...MODEST INCOME FAMILIES...AND WORKING POOR FAMILIES IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN ILLINOIS GIVES MORE TAX BREAKS TO THOSE WHO RAISE THOROUGHBRED HORSES THAN TO FAMILIES RAISING CHILDREN!

RIGHT NOW, THE TWO-THOUSAND-DOLLAR EXEMPTION GIVES A FAMILY-OF-FOUR AN EIGHT-THOUSAND-DOLLAR BREAK.

I PROPOSE WE IMPROVE THE VALUE OF THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION TO *SIX-THOUSAND DOLLARS PER PERSON*.

THIS TAX RELIEF WILL GIVE A FAMILY-OF-FOUR A *TWENTY-FOUR-THOUSAND DOLLAR TAX BREAK*.



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BY IMPROVING THE VALUE OF THE PERSONAL TAX EXEMPTION TO SIX-THOUSAND DOLLARS PER PERSON...

FIVE MILLION PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS WILL RECEIVE TAX RELIEF THIS YEAR AND WILL PAY NO TAX INCREASE.

THIS IS A CRUCIAL POINT AND BEARS REPEATING:

FIVE MILLION PEOPLE IN OUR STATE WILL GET TAX CUTS DURING THIS TOUGH ECONOMIC TIME.

EVEN IF THE INCOME TAX RATE IS CHANGED FROM 3% TO 4.5%.

A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH INCOME OF THIRTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS...WILL GET A SEVENTY-TWO PERCENT TAX REDUCTION.

A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH INCOME OF FORTY-FIVE-THOUSAND DOLLARS GETS A TWENTY-TWO-PERCENT TAX REDUCTION.

FAMILIES EARNING ABOUT SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS WILL BREAK EVEN. AND THOSE MAKING MORE THAN THAT WILL HAVE A MODEST INCREASE.

FOR EXAMPLE:

A FAMILY OF FOUR MAKING SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND-DOLLARS ANNUALLY WILL PAY ONE-HUNDRED-AND-FORTY-SIX DOLLARS MORE IN TAXES ... AN ELEVEN PERCENT INCREASE...

NOW THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF LOOSE AND SIMPLISTIC TALK ABOUT INCOME TAXES GOING UP FIFTY-PERCENT.

BUT WHEN YOU EXAMINE OUR PLAN YOU'LL SEE THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WORKING FAMILIES CANNOT—AND SHOULD NOT—SHOULDER THE ENTIRE TAX BURDEN ALONE.

THIS IS A TIME FOR SHARED SACRIFICE.

BIG CORPORATIONS MUST ALSO DO THEIR PART.

I WILL CLOSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF UNFAIR CORPORATE TAX LOOPHOLES.

WE ARE GOING TO BALANCE THE BUDGET THROUGH A COMBINATION OF: TOUGH CUTS...

FEDERAL STIMULUS DOLLARS....



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GROUND-BREAKING PUBLIC PENSION REFORMS...

CLOSING CORPORATE LOOPHOLES.

AND A MODEST TAX INCREASE ON THOSE WITH THE ABILITY TO PAY...

TOGETHER, WE WILL PLUG A GAPING BUDGET DEFICIT OF ELEVEN-AND-A-HALF BILLION DOLLARS.

JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, WE WILL HAVE ENACTED PERMANENT TAX RELIEF....FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP THE MOST.

WE WILL RESTORE ILLINOIS' FINANCIAL INTEGRITY...

AND SAVED OUR CHILDREN FROM A TERRIBLE ECONOMIC FATE THAT THREATENS TO ROB THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS...

THE GREAT THING ABOUT AMERICA...

THE GREAT THING ABOUT ILLINOIS...

IS THAT PARENTS ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE SOME OF THEIR PRESENT TO HELP THEIR KIDS FUTURE.

WE ARE CUSTODIANS OF OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

AND WE WANT OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN TO BE PROUD OF WHAT WE ARE DOING TODAY.

NOW, THERE WILL BE SOME WHO OPPOSE OUR PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET AND BRING TAX REFORM AND TAX RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT.
THIS IS A DEMOCRACY.

AND NO PLAN IS PERFECT.

BUT IF YOU REJECT NEEDED REVENUE INCREASES TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, THEN YOU MUST TELL THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS WHAT YOU WILL DO INSTEAD.

ILLINOIS' ELEVEN-AND-A-HALF BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT WON'T GO AWAY ON ITS OWN. SOME WILL CONTEND WE MUST RAISE REVENUES IN MORE CREATIVE WAYS.



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YOU MIGHT RECALL THAT LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO...
MY PREDECESSOR TRIED TO IMPOSE A GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ON THE PEOPLE...WHICH
WOULD HAVE BEEN THE LARGEST SINGLE TAX INCREASE EVER IN THE HISTORY OF
ILLINOIS.

I OPPOSED IT.

AND THIS BODY UNANIMOUSLY STRUCK IT DOWN.

THE TIME FOR SUCH GIMMICKS IS OVER.

OTHERS SAY MORE AND MORE GAMBLING IS THE BIG ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS.

BUT DO WE REALLY WANT TO SOLVE OUR BUDGETARY PROBLEMS BY EXPANDING
GAMBLING EVERYWHERE THE EYE CAN SEE?

I THINK THAT'S A BAD BET.

SOME WILL ARGUE FOR A DOOMSDAY BUDGET THAT SIMPLY CUTS STATE SPENDING...IN
A MEAN-SPIRITED WAY..WITHOUT ANY REFORMS.

SO IF YOU PROPOSE A DOOMSDAY BUDGET, THEN TELL US WHAT PROGRAMS YOU
WOULD ELIMINATE TO SAVE 11 AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS AND BALANCE THIS
BUDGET.

PUT IT OUT THERE FOR ALL TO SEE AND HEAR.

SAYING 'NO' IS NOT ENOUGH...UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO SPEAK THE TRUTH AND
OFFER REAL ALTERNATIVES.

SINCE ENTERING OFFICE, I HAVE SPENT DAY-AND-NIGHT POURING OVER THE FINE PRINT
OF OUR STATE'S FINANCES.

AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I CAN HONESTLY SAY A BUDGET THAT OFFERS ONLY MEAN-
SPIRITED TACTICS WILL HURT ALL OUR CITIZENS.

AND FURTHER DAMAGE OUR ECONOMY.

LET'S FACE THE FACTS:

IF WE USE MEAN-SPIRITED TACTICS...



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EIGHT-HUNDRED THOUSAND CHILDREN, SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WILL LOSE HEALTH CARE...

IF WE USE MEAN-SPIRITED TACTICS...
MORE THAN 34-THOUSAND TEACHERS WILL BE LAID OFF.

CLASS SIZES WILL INCREASE BY 25-PERCENT...

IF WE USE MEAN-SPIRITED TACTICS...
MORE THAN TEN-THOUSAND SENIORS WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE CRITICAL STATE SERVICES...

IF WE USE MEAN-SPIRITED TACTICS...
WE WILL HAVE TO LAY OFF HUNDREDS OF STATE POLICE OFFICERS AND ENDANGER PUBLIC SAFETY.

AND THAT'S ONLY A FEW EXAMPLES OF A MEAN-SPIRITED DOOMSDAY BUDGET.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS SUPPORT A HARSH AND MEAN SPIRITED DOOMSDAY BUDGET.

THAT IS NOT WHAT THE LAND OF LINCOLN IS ALL ABOUT.

ILLINOIS IS A COMMUNITY OF SHARED VALUES...
NOT A COLLECTION OF 13 MILLION INDIVIDUALS WHO DON'T CARE ABOUT THEIR NEIGHBOR.

CONSIDER LAST MONTH, WHEN NINE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS COUNTIES WERE CRIPPLED BY ONE OF THE WORSE ICE STORMS IN HISTORY.

FAST ACTION WAS NEEDED TO SAVE PEOPLE...RESTORE POWER TO HOMES AND BUSINESSES....AND REPAIR THE REGION.

THE ILLINOIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY...WORKING WITH COUNTY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES...SAVED THE DAY.

AMONG THOSE LEADING THE CHARGE WAS CITY-OF-METROPOLIS MAYOR BILLY MCDANIEL.

BILLY ON BEHALF OF THE GRATEFUL PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS..
STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW FOR TAKING CARE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS.



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THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PROVED ONCE AGAIN THAT SERVICE TO OTHERS IS THE RENT WE PAY FOR OUR PLACE ON GOD'S EARTH.

THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS ARE ALL ABOUT.

IT'S ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS AND BUILD OUR COMMUNITIES.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY..
WE WILL PASS A BUDGET THAT WILL PUT US ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT PROVIDES USEFUL, IMPORTANT JOBS FOR EVERYONE IS MY TOP PRIORITY.

IF YOU'RE ABLE BODIED AND BREATHING...

WE WANT YOU WORKING IN ILLINOIS.

IN ILLINOIS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS SEVEN-POINT-NINE PERCENT.

OVER FIVE-HUNDRED-THOUSAND PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR JOBS.

WE MUST GET BACK TO WORK AND FAST!
THAT'S WHY I URGE QUICK PASSAGE OF THE "ILLINOIS JOBS NOW" PLAN.

THIS INITIATIVE WILL SUPPORT NEARLY THREE-HUNDRED-AND-FORTY THOUSAND JOBS ACROSS OUR STATE.

THIS TWENTY-SIX BILLION DOLLAR JOBS PLAN WILL PROVIDE:
FOURTEEN-BILLION DOLLARS TO BUILD AND UPGRADE ROADS AND BRIDGES....

FIVE-BILLION DOLLARS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSIT...

FOUR-BILLION DOLLARS TO REPAIR SCHOOLS...
TWO-BILLION DOLLARS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL...ENERGY...AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS...
AND ONE-BILLION DOLLARS FOR MUCH-NEEDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS...

AND WE WILL BUILD A THIRD AIRPORT IN THE SOUTH SUBURBS OF CHICAGO...
AND WE WILL BUILD IT AS FAST AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.



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FUNDING FOR THE ILLINOIS JOBS NOW PLAN WILL COME FROM A COMBINATION OF STATE...FEDERAL AND LOCAL SOURCES.

ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE FUNDED BY MODEST INCREASES IN SOME MOTOR-VEHICLE USAGE FEES.

IT WILL ALSO DRAW SOME MONEY FROM THE ROAD FUND.
PASSING THIS PLAN MEANS CREATING JOBS IN THE HARD-HIT CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING INDUSTRY.

BUT THAT'S ONLY ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ILLINOIS JOBS NOW.

THIS PLAN WILL FOCUS ON BUILDING HIGHWAYS AND MAJOR PROJECTS DESIGNED FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

WE WON'T JUST BUILD A ROAD.

WE'LL ALSO BUILD A TRENCH ALONG SIDE THE ROAD TO INSTALL FIBER OPTIC CABLE...SO EVERYONE CAN GET ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET.

EVERYBODY IN--
NOBODY LEFT OUT.

THAT MEANS MORE INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY JOBS.

WE WON'T JUST POUR CONCRETE AND ASPHALT.

WE'LL MAKE SURE MAJOR PROJECTS ARE ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE.

WE NEED A GREEN WAY OF THINKING..
AND A GREEN WAY OF ACTING.

THAT MEANS LOTS OF "GREEN" COLLAR JOBS..ACROSS THE LAND OF LINCOLN.

WE'LL ALSO MAKE SURE THAT THE CONTRACT PROCESS IS OPEN AND GUARANTEES THAT TAXPAYERS' GET THEIR MONEY'S WORTH.

AND EVERYONE WHO WANTS A JOB WILL GET A FAIR AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO FIND WORK.

THERE'S MUCH TO BE DONE AND LITTLE TIME TO DO IT.



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I URGE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SPEED OUR STATE'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY QUICKLY PASSING THE "ILLINOIS JOBS NOW" PLAN.

OUR RECOVERY ALSO DEPENDS ON PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS.

ILLINOIS POET LAUREATE, CARL SANDBURG ONCE SAID..
"THE BIRTH OF A BABY IS GOD'S OPINION THAT THE WORLD SHOULD GO ON."

THEREFORE, OUR BUDGET *WILL NOT CUT HEALTHCARE FUNDING FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS...*
INCLUDING CHILDREN AND SENIORS.

IT WILL ALSO SEEK TO EASE THE BURDEN OF MEDICAID PROVIDERS BY REDUCING THE PAYMENT CYCLE TO 30 DAYS.

ANOTHER TOP-PRIORITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS IS EDUCATION.

THERE ARE TWO FORCES IN LIFE:
ON ONE SIDE THERE ARE THE MOVERS AND THE SHAKERS.
AND ON THE OTHER SIDE THERE ARE THOSE THAT ARE MOVED AND SHAKEN.
--THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM, IS EDUCATION.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

JOBS FOLLOW BRAIN POWER.

AND ILLINOIS NEEDS ALL THE BRAIN POWER IT CAN MUSTER IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

EVEN IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES WE MUST ALWAYS INVEST IN QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION.

THEREFORE, I PLAN TO INCREASE EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FUNDING BY ONE-HUNDRED-AND-SEVENTY-MILLION DOLLARS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THIS PLAN WILL COMMIT FORTY-MILLION-DOLLARS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE BEST WAY TO ATTRACT AND KEEP BUSINESS IN ILLINOIS IS TO OFFER EMPLOYERS A SMART WELL-TRAINED WORK FORCE.



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AND FINALLY, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE HONORABLE AND COURAGEOUS MEN AND WOMEN WHO WEAR THE UNIFORM OF OUR COUNTRY.

THEY ARE THE BEST-OF-THE-BEST.

TODAY IN THIS CHAMBER, I WANT TO HONOR THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

WITH US IS THE FAMILY OF MARINE CAPTAIN RYAN ANTHONY BEAUPRE.
(RECOGNIZE BEAUPRE FAMILY. LOOK UP AND TO YOUR RIGHT)

WE THANK THEM FOR JOINING US AS WE REMEMBER THEIR LOVING SON.

MARINE CAPTAIN BEAUPRE WAS A STATE CHAMPION RUNNER...AND A GRADUATE OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

HE LEFT HIS ACCOUNTING JOB IN BLOOMINGTON TO JOIN THE MARINES.

MARINE CAPTAIN

BEAUPRE WAS KILLED ON MARCH 21, 2003... WHEN A HELICOPTER HE WAS PILOTING CRASHED ALONG THE KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER.

HE WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO DIE IN THE WAR IN IRAQ.

RYAN BEAUPRE GAVE HIS LAST MEASURE OF DEVOTION TO OUR DEMOCRACY.

AND WE THANK HIM...AND ALL SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES...FOR DOING THEIR DUTY SO WELL AND UNSELFISHLY.

TO MAKE SURE OUR VETERANS GET PROPER CARE.

OUR BUDGET CALLS FOR FULLY-OPENING THE 80-BED EXPANSION IN THE LASALLE VETERAN'S HOME.

IT ALSO ALLOCATES SEVENTEEN-MILLION-DOLLARS TO A 200-BED CHICAGO VETERANS HOME AND EXPANDS OUR VETERANS CARE HEALTH PROGRAM.

THE FAMILY OF ILLINOIS BELIEVES IN THE WORDS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL OF US IN THE HOMEFRONT, TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THOSE WHO BEAR THE BATTLE ON THE FRONTLINE.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE, I HAVE TRAVELED OUR ENTIRE STATE.



REFORM. RESPONSIBILITY. RECOVERY.

NEWS

Office of Governor Pat Quinn

FROM CHICAGO TO METROPOLIS...
FROM QUINCY TO CHAMPAIGN
AND ALL PARTS IN BETWEEN.

THROUGHOUT MY TRAVEL, PEOPLE HAVE WISHED ME WELL.

AND THEY TAKE ME INTO THEIR CONFIDENCE.

OUR CITIZENS WANT AN END TO PAST BITTERNESS.

THEY LONG FOR BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD.

THEY ARE COUNTING ON US TO MAKE THEIR LIVES BETTER.

WE MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN.

FELLOW CITIZENS, INACTION IS NOT AN OPTION...

GUTTING OUR STATE'S SERVICES IS NOT A SOLUTION...

PLAYING POLITICS IS A LOSER'S GAME...

THIS IS THE LAND OF LINCOLN.

WE CELEBRATE HIS TWO-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR.

IN MANY WAYS THE HARDSHIPS OF LINCOLN'S TIME MATCH OUR OWN.

ECONOMIC DISTRESS...WAR...
AND DEEP POLITICAL DIVISION.

LINCOLN CONFRONTED THESE PROBLEMS WITH HUMOR, GRACE AND WISDOM.

TODAY, I URGE
EVERYONE TO SUMMON THE COURAGE AND SPIRIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WE HAVE THE METTLE TO MAKE TOUGH CHOICES.

PASS THIS BUDGET...

AND LET'S BEGIN AN NEW ERA OF REFORM...
RESPONSIBILITY



REFORM. RESPONSIBILITY. RECOVERY.

NEWS

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...AND RECOVERY.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE...
THE LAW OF THE LAND.

SO HELP US GOD.

THANK YOU.

END