

# GOVERNOR

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ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH  
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**Rod R. Blagojevich** (Democrat) was elected Illinois' 40th Governor in November 2002 and re-elected on Nov. 7, 2006. He is the first Democrat to hold the state's highest office since Daniel Walker assumed the office in 1973.

As Governor, Blagojevich has expanded access to health care, improved education, bolstered public safety and spurred growth in Illinois' economy. Illinois became the first state in the nation to make affordable health insurance available to all children under Blagojevich's All Kids program. The Governor also increased eligibility for Family Care to provide low-income working parents with adequate health care, and launched Illinois Cares Rx, which protects Illinois seniors from the shortfalls in the federal Medicare Part D program.

Blagojevich has made education a top priority, investing \$3.8 billion in new funding for Illinois schools, more than any other administration in Illinois history. His ambitious Preschool for All program promises free, high-quality preschool for all 3- and 4-year olds.

Since 2004, when the Governor raised the minimum wage to \$6.50 an hour, Illinois has added more than 150,000 new jobs. In late 2006, he won legislative approval for a second increase that will boost Illinois' minimum wage to \$7.50 an hour beginning July 2007, and to \$8.25 an hour by July 2010.

Blagojevich's public safety initiatives are far-reaching, taking extra steps to protect Illinoisans from homeland security threats, identity theft and hate crimes.

Before becoming Governor, Blagojevich served as Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, as a member of the Illinois General Assembly and as Congressman for Illinois' 5th District. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1979 and earned his law degree from Pepperdine University in 1983. Rod and his wife, Patricia, live in Chicago with their two young daughters, Amy and Annie.

## Office of the Governor

The Governor of Illinois is the chief executive of the state and responsible for the administration of all areas of the Executive Branch not under the authority of other constitutionally elected officials. The Governor:

- Appoints administrators and department directors, subject to approval by the Illinois Senate, and holds general administrative responsibility over several semi-independent boards and commissions.
- Appears before the General Assembly annually to propose a budget for State Government operations and report on the condition of the state, setting priorities and direction.
- Grants pardons and reprieves, calls special legislative sessions, approves or vetoes legislation and approves state construction contracts. The Governor also is commander-in-chief of the state's military forces.