

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

“The Governor shall have the supreme executive power, and shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws.”

— *Constitution of the State of Illinois*

The Governor of Illinois is the chief executive of the state and is responsible for the administration of most areas of the Executive Branch of Illinois Government.

The Governor appoints hundreds of key administrators, including department directors, subject to approval by the Illinois Senate. The Civil Administrative Code establishes clear lines of authority between the Governor and his code departments, giving him general administrative responsibility over a large number of semi-independent boards, commissions and agencies.

Each year the Governor appears before the General Assembly to propose a budget for Illinois Government and to report on the condition of the state, set priorities and provide direction. The high public visibility of the office allows the Governor to call attention to problems or issues he believes require action.

The Governor's powers include granting pardons and reprieves, calling special legislative sessions, approving or vetoing thousands of bills, and approving state construction contracts. The Governor also serves as commander-in-chief of the state's military forces.

The Governor fills vacancies in the Offices of Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General and Comptroller. Vacancies in the U.S. Senate are filled by the Governor until the next congressional election. The Governor does not exercise direct administrative control over other elected state officers, but the constitution does empower him to require information on any subject relating to the condition, management or expenses of these offices.

To carry out his duties, the Governor is assisted by a staff that helps him develop policy, collect necessary information, offer legal advice, give direction to agencies and serve as liaisons to the General Assembly, the federal government and the news media.

The Governor's Office of Citizen's Assistance directs individuals to the government services they need. The Bureau of the Budget offers the Governor the professional budgeting and fiscal analysis tools needed to manage state government. The bureau reviews agency requests for funds and develops the comprehensive annual budget for submission to the General Assembly.

Governor's Staff Members

Lon Monk	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Bradley Tusk	<i>Deputy Governor</i>
John Harris	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>
Mary Stewart	<i>Executive Assistant to the Governor</i>
Annette Roti	<i>Assistant to Chief of Staff</i>
Megan Glenn	<i>Assistant to Deputy Governor</i>
Jeanne Arens	<i>Director, Scheduling and Advance</i>
William Quinlan.....	<i>General Counsel</i>
Matt Ryan	<i>Senior Counsel</i>
John Filan	<i>Director, Bureau of Budget</i>
Joe Handley	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Legislative Affairs</i>
Anthony Rossi	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Economy & Environment</i>
Joe Cini	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Governmental Affairs</i>
Jill Hayden	<i>Director of Boards & Commissions</i>
Louanner Peters	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Social Services</i>
Carl Hawkinson.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Public Safety</i>
Esther Lopez	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Labor</i>
Sheila Nix	<i>Senior Policy Advisor</i>
Heidi Glunz.....	<i>Director, Policy Development</i>
Cheryle Jackson	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Communications</i>
Abby Ottenhoff	<i>Deputy Director, Communications</i>
Gerardo Cardenas	<i>Press Secretary</i>
Rebecca Rausch	<i>Press Secretary</i>
Lee Salzman	<i>Director, Office of the First Lady</i>
Cory Verblen	<i>Director, Office of Citizens Assistance</i>
DeShana Forney	<i>House Liaison and Director of Public Safety</i>
Larry O'Brien	<i>Senate Liaison</i>
David Bourland	<i>Curator of the Executive Mansion</i>