



LISA MADIGAN

Attorney General

Lisa Madigan (Democrat) was elected the 41st Illinois Attorney General on Nov. 5, 2002, becoming the first woman to hold this constitutional office. She was re-elected on Nov. 7, 2006, earning the largest vote total of any statewide candidate.

Attorney General Madigan has dedicated the energy and resources of her office to protecting communities from sexual predators, educating children and parents on the dangers of the Internet, safeguarding consumers against fraud and unsafe products, leading the public's fight for open government and restoring integrity to Illinois' gambling industry.

Madigan has implemented numerous, proactive law enforcement strategies to protect communities from sex offenders. Her office leads a statewide law enforcement task force to investigate and prosecute online child exploitation. In 2003, she created a statewide law enforcement team to improve the state's sex offender registry and enforce compliance with registry laws.

To protect Illinois communities and stop the spread of methamphetamine, Madigan won passage of legislation to curb access to the ingredients needed to make this dangerous drug, and developed training programs for prosecutors and law enforcement officers to successfully prosecute meth criminals. Madigan also successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the ability of police officers to use specially trained dogs to detect illegal drugs during traffic stops and in turn fight the spread of drugs in Illinois.

Madigan's efforts to protect Illinois consumers include filing lawsuits to stop fraudulent practices and recover losses on behalf of consumers, mediating complaints, and educating the public on emerging scams and product recalls. She also initiated an identity theft hot line to help consumers protect and repair their credit, and has worked aggressively to protect homebuyers from the devastating impacts of mortgage fraud.

Attorney General Madigan champions stronger consumer product safety, calling on the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission to increase efforts to protect the public from dangerous products and testifying at a congressional hearing on the recall of dangerous toys. She also testified before Congress to urge the federal government to protect consumer privacy by prohibiting the sale of cell phone records.

Because of Madigan's interest in making government more open and accessible, her office provides many office documents in multiple languages and also offers a Spanish-language telephone hot line. Madigan created a team of public access counselors to ensure that public bodies conduct business openly and provide the public with access to information.

In 2005, Madigan received the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, an honor presented annually to an elected official whose contributions in office demonstrate the impact of public service in the spirit of John F. Kennedy. Caroline Kennedy Shlossberg, in presenting the award, recognized Madigan as "an inspiration to all young Americans who share my father's belief that one person can make a difference and everyone should try."

Before her election as Attorney General, Madigan served in the Illinois Senate and worked as a litigator for a Chicago law firm. Prior to becoming an attorney, she worked as a teacher and community advocate, developing after-school programs to help kids stay away from drugs and gangs. Madigan also volunteered as a high school teacher in South Africa during apartheid. Madigan received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and her J.D. degree from Loyola University Law School. She and her husband, Pat Byrnes, have one daughter.

Web site: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov