



SUSANA A. MENDOZA

Comptroller

Susana A. Mendoza (Democrat) was sworn in as Illinois Comptroller on Dec. 5, 2016, after running for office on a platform of prioritizing the most vulnerable residents at a time when the state had gone without a budget for two years. She immediately launched a Transparency Revolution, publishing information online about state contracts and the Illinois budget. This information was more than had ever previously been made available to the public.

In her first year in office, Mendoza brought together members of both parties to pass the Debt Transparency Act, which, for the first time, provides residents and legislators with a monthly accounting of the debts owed by every state agency. Then-Gov. Rauner vetoed the legislation, but Mendoza brought Republican and Democratic members of the House of Representatives together to unanimously override the veto — a historic first for Illinois. A second bipartisan vote in the Illinois Senate was nearly unanimous.

During a time of historic fiscal crisis, Mendoza has been an advocate for stability, comprehensive budget solutions, and open and transparent financial reporting. She has received accolades for this advocacy from agencies that rate the state's bonds.

Mendoza is a trailblazer. She was the first Hispanic independently elected to statewide office in Illinois and also the first woman elected City Clerk in Chicago in 2011. Mendoza was elected Comptroller during a special election in 2016 to fill the remaining two years of the term won by her friend, the late Judy Baar Topinka. Following Topinka's example of offering candid assessments of state finances regardless of whether they might ruffle feathers in either party, Mendoza quickly began delivering on a promise to be a truth-telling fiscal watchdog.

Born in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood to Mexican immigrants Joaquin and Susana Mendoza, Mendoza moved to the southwest suburbs as a child, driven from her neighborhood by gang violence. Mendoza grew up at times as the only girl playing on all-boys traveling soccer teams — often the team's best player. She earned All-State and All-Midwest Honors and became the first woman to make the Bolingbrook High School Wall of Fame.

Mendoza was awarded a soccer and academic scholarship to Truman State University in Missouri, earning All-Midwest honors in soccer and graduating in 1994 with a B.A. in business administration. Following graduation, she moved back to Little Village and worked in advertising/public relations, the hospitality industry and the city of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development.

Mendoza was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 2000, as the youngest member of the Illinois General Assembly, and served six terms. In the General Assembly, Mendoza was recognized for her leadership and legislation on social services, education, law enforcement, job creation and animal welfare. She was a leading sponsor of HR 1650, which created the panel to impeach former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, and she served as an active alternate member of the impeachment committee.

In 2011, Mendoza was elected Chicago City Clerk. She transitioned 1.3 million Chicagoans away from an archaic seasonal Chicago city vehicle sticker sales program to a streamlined year-round sales program. Her massive technology overhaul and forward-thinking policies led to reduced fraud, increased efficiency and new revenues for the city of Chicago at a lower cost to taxpayers. She continues to advocate for a technology overhaul in the Comptroller's office.

Comptroller Mendoza lives in Chicago's Portage Park neighborhood with her husband, David Szostak, their 6-year-old son, David Quinten Szostak, and her 83-year-old mother.

201 State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62706; 217-782-6000; www.illinoiscomptroller.com
100 W. Randolph St., Ste. 15-500, Chicago, IL 60601; 312-814-2451