

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’s powers include approving or vetoing bills, granting clemency, calling special legislative sessions and approving state construction contracts. The Governor also serves as commander-in-chief of the state’s Armed Forces.

Each year, the Governor appears before the General Assembly to propose a budget for Illinois government, report on the condition of the state, set priorities and provide direction. The Office of Management and Budget develops the comprehensive annual budget for submission to the General Assembly and provides the Governor with the professional budgeting and fiscal analysis tools needed to manage state government.

The Civil Administrative Code establishes clear lines of authority between the Governor and state departments, giving the Governor general administrative responsibility over numerous agencies, boards and commissions.

The Governor appoints hundreds of key administrators and department directors and fills vacancies in the offices of the Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Comptroller and the U.S. Senate. Though the Governor does not exercise direct control over other elected state constitutional officers, the Illinois Constitution empowers the Governor to require information on any subject relating to their management or expenses.

Overview

Governor Pritzker’s vision for Illinois is rooted in the state’s possibility and promise, and he is determined to continue the development of boundless opportunities for Illinoisans. While Illinois faces significant challenges, Governor Pritzker is committed to working with Democrats and Republicans to address challenges honestly and directly, while meeting the state’s basic responsibilities and building a better future for our children.



On March 7, 2019, Governor Pritzker introduced his Fair Tax Plan that would stabilize Illinois’ finances and protect 97 percent of taxpayers, while ensuring the wealthy pay their fair share.



On March 22, 2019, Governor Pritzker greeted pre-school students ahead of a pre-K expansion announcement at John T. Pirie Fine Arts and Academic Center.

Fair Tax System

Illinois' regressive tax system, including property and sales taxes, causes the middle class to pay more than double the rate than the wealthy. Not only is that inherently unfair, it also contributes to Illinois' multi-billion annual budget deficit. Governor Pritzker advocates a fair tax system — one in which those with the highest incomes pay higher marginal income tax rates. Ultimately, changing the state's tax system will be a decision that will be voted on by the residents of the state.

Balancing Illinois' Budget

Today, Illinois' financial obligations outmatch its resources, including its multi-billion dollar annual budget deficit, billions in unpaid bills and court-mandated spending. Governor Pritzker has proposed a balanced budget that represents a bridge to adopting the fair income tax. His budget proposes new revenue from new sources, including the legalization of adult-use cannabis, sports betting and generating additional federal dollars for health care. Governor Pritzker is committed investing in the needs of public safety, early childhood education, K-12 education, higher education and human services. Governor Pritzker is committed to operating government efficiently and ensuring tax dollars are used wisely.

Investing in Education

Governor Pritzker believes that the state's economy grows when there is a clear commitment to strong schools, quality vocational training, community colleges and higher education. Even in challenging financial times, it is critical for the state to maintain its investment in schools to sustain long-term growth. Governor Pritzker's plan includes record funding for both early childhood education and K-12 students and rebuilding universities and community colleges that were decimated during the budget impasse. The Governor is

also focused on restoring scholarship dollars for low-income students, extending scholarships to high-achieving students to encourage them to stay in Illinois, and expanding career and technical education investments for the first time in a decade.

Rebuilding Illinois' Infrastructure for Capital and Human Services

Illinois is the nation's supply chain hub, and the state's infrastructure must be maintained to serve this vital role. After years of neglect, it is time to update and repair our state's aging infrastructure. Railways, roads, bridges and fresh water arteries are on the verge of collapse. Crumbling bridges mean people's lives are in danger. Deteriorating rail systems mean goods and services take longer to deliver and cost more. The state's vertical infrastructure must also see additional investments.

During the budget impasse, funding was cut or greatly restricted for those who require assistance from the state's human services programs. In an uncertain time, those who relied on programs the most were those chosen to bear the burden of financial cuts. Governor Pritzker will not balance the budget on the backs of the starving, the sick and the suffering. He will not hollow out the functions of government to achieve an ideological agenda, and he proposes reinvesting in the organizations that serve those in need.

Standing Up for Working Families

One of Governor Pritzker's first acts in office was to sign a law increasing Illinois' minimum wage for the first time in nearly a decade. This law affected 1.4 million Illinoisans and lifted a million people out of poverty. Working men and women deserve to have a Governor and a Department of Labor that will enforce laws protecting workers' wages rights, and Governor Pritzker made early commitments to advance those values.

Criminal Justice Reform

One of Governor Pritzker's first executive orders was to create the Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative, spearheaded by Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton. This initiative



On Feb. 19, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed legislation that raised the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Hundreds of workers attended the historic signing.

was created with the intention to reform the criminal justice system across the state’s agencies and focus on communities that have been disproportionately impacted.

Governor’s Staff Members

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