

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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*“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 the state departments, and gives 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 constitutional officers; however, the Illinois Constitution empowers 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 develops policy, collects information, offers legal advice, provides direction to state agencies and serves as liaisons to the General Assembly, the federal government and the news media.



**In December 2009, Governor Pat Quinn signed Illinois’ first-ever campaign finance bill that imposes contribution limits on candidates, political parties and political action committees.**



**Governor Quinn signed legislation in July 2009 creating the \$31 billion Illinois Jobs Now! plan, the state's first capital construction program in more than a decade, which will create and retain more than 439,000 jobs over the next six years.**

The Governor's Office of Citizens Action directs individuals to the government services they need. The Office of Management and Budget provides 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 Pat Quinn has focused on reforming Illinois government, creating jobs and reviving the economy, honoring military servicemembers and protecting the environment. Governor Quinn's leadership led to passage of numerous major initiatives in these areas, including landmark ethics reform, a major jobs plan that will put thousands of Illinois residents back to work, significant investment in clean-energy initiatives, and programs for military servicemembers and veterans that serve as a model for the nation.

### **Restoring Integrity to State Government**

In his first official act, Governor Quinn signed an executive order to establish the Illinois Reform Commission. The independent advisory board closely examined the state's ethics rules and practices.

Governor Quinn led passage of historic recall legislation that allows Illinois voters to pass a constitutional amendment to empower citizens to remove a Governor from office. He also signed into law the first-ever limits on campaign contributions in Illinois.

Governor Quinn also overhauled the state's major pension boards, and created several Web sites to make Illinois government more transparent and accountable to the citizens of Illinois. [Appointments.illinois.gov](http://Appointments.illinois.gov) provides information about members and vacancies on the state's 300 boards and commissions, ensuring that appointments are open, fair and transparent. [Accountability.illinois.gov](http://Accountability.illinois.gov) shows where tax dollars are being spent to support state government programs.

## **Jobs Program**

Governor Quinn signed into law the \$31 billion Illinois Jobs Now! plan, which aims to revive the state's economy by creating and retaining more than 439,000 jobs over the next six years. Illinois Jobs Now! is the first statewide capital construction program to become law in more than a decade, and provides many long-awaited improvements to Illinois' bridges and roads, transportation networks, schools and communities.

Illinois Jobs Now! will create many new "green" weatherization jobs, protect and improve the state's fresh water supplies, and advance high-speed rail from Chicago to St. Louis to reduce auto traffic and emissions.

## **Supporting Veterans and Servicemembers**

Governor Quinn has rallied citizens throughout the state to honor and remember our brave men and women in the Armed Forces by donating to the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund. IMFRF legislation, drafted by then-Lieutenant Governor Quinn and signed into law in 2003, established a check-off box on the Illinois income tax return that allows residents to make tax-deductible donations directly to the fund. Thanks to many generous donations by Illinois residents, businesses and organizations, the IMFRF has distributed more than \$10.5 million to more than 19,000 military servicemembers and their families. Donations to the fund may be made at [OperationHomefront.org](http://OperationHomefront.org). More than 35 states have passed legislation modeled after the Illinois fund.

Governor Quinn also signed legislation that allows Illinois military servicemembers injured due to hostile action to receive \$5,000 from the IMFRF. To qualify, an active-duty servicemember must have been deployed in support of operations following the September 11 terrorist attacks and sustained an injury after the date the legislation was signed.

Governor Quinn introduced the Illinois Veterans' Home at Chicago, a 200-bed facility that will begin construction this year. The facility is expected to create 200 jobs and is the first Illinois veterans' home to be built in Chicago and with all-new construction. The facility will include a wing specifically for Alzheimer's and dementia patients, and be built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver standards.

## **Protecting the Environment**

As a longtime environmentalist, protecting our natural resources has been a top priority for Governor Quinn. Shortly after taking office, Quinn signed an executive order to reduce the environmental impact of state government operations and an agreement to purchase 100 percent wind-generated electricity for all Springfield state buildings managed by the Department of Central Management Services.

Governor Quinn has visited the innovative GobNob Wind Turbine in Farmersville and saluted the Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative for its efforts in creating the 230-foot, energy-producing wind turbine. He also kicked off a major riverfront restoration project that will relocate sediment built up in Peoria Lake to construct an island for use as a wildlife habitat.

Governor Quinn also signed legislation to create a state-backed guarantee supporting construction of renewable-energy, clean-coal and energy-efficiency projects that will protect our environment and create jobs across Illinois.



Specialist Nathan Hastings, a resident of Glen Carbon and a public affairs broadcast specialist with the 33rd Brigade Combat Team, received a commendation from Governor Quinn in Afghanistan.

### Governor’s Staff Members

Jerry Stermer.....	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Jack Lavin .....	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>
Theodore Chung.....	<i>General Counsel</i>
Sean Vinck .....	<i>Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs</i>
David Vaught .....	<i>Director, Office of Management &amp; Budget</i>
Robert Reed.....	<i>Director, Communications</i>
Simone McNeil .....	<i>Director, Operations</i>
Kate Tomford .....	<i>Director, Sustainability</i>
Israel Salazar .....	<i>Director, Executive Appointments; Acting Manager, Operations</i>
Jen Hoelzle .....	<i>Director, Protocol &amp; Planning</i>
Darryl Harris .....	<i>Director, Diversity Enhancement &amp; Enrichment</i>
Deb Shipley.....	<i>Director, Legislative Operations</i>
Lindsay Anderson .....	<i>Director, Legislative Affairs</i>
Mireya Hurtado .....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Kristi Lafleur .....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Julie Smith.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Andy Ross.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Toni Irving .....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Ryan Croke .....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Jay Stewart.....	<i>Senior Counsel</i>
Billy Ocasio.....	<i>Senior Advisor</i>