

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 Civil Administrative Code establishes clear lines of authority between the Governor and state departments and gives him general administrative responsibility over numerous agencies, semi-independent boards and commissions. Though the Governor does not exercise direct control over other elected state constitutional officers, the Illinois Constitution empowers him to require information on any subject relating to their management or expenses.

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. The Governor’s powers include granting clemency, calling special legislative sessions, approving or vetoing bills 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 and 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.



With the bill sponsors as witnesses, Governor Pat Quinn signs a law abolishing Illinois’ death penalty in March 2011, which had been in place since 1976.



Governor Quinn signed the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act into law at a ceremony at the University of Illinois Chicago Forum in November 2013.

Restoring Integrity to State Government

In his first official act, Governor Quinn signed an executive order establishing the Illinois Reform Commission to closely examine the state's ethics rules and practices. He led passage of historic recall legislation that empowers Illinois voters to approve a constitutional amendment to remove a Governor from office, signed the first-ever limits on campaign contributions in Illinois and initiated online voter registration for Illinois residents.

Governor Quinn has launched several websites to make Illinois government more transparent and accountable. appointments.illinois.gov provides information about members and vacancies on the state's boards and commissions, ensuring that appointments are fair, and accountability.illinois.gov shows where tax dollars are being spent.

Creating Jobs & Enhancing the Business Climate

Governor Quinn signed into law the \$31 billion Illinois Jobs Now! plan in 2009, which aims to revive the state's economy by creating and retaining more than 439,000 jobs. The program is the first statewide capital construction initiative in more than a decade and provides long-awaited improvements to bridges, transportation networks, schools and communities. He also doubled the Illinois Earned Income Tax and is a driving force behind the push to raise Illinois' minimum wage.

Governor Quinn is committed to keeping Illinois' business climate the strongest in the Midwest and created the Illinois Innovation Council to help ensure that the state remains on the cutting-edge of the global economy. He has pledged to double Illinois exports and led delegations abroad, where Illinois companies have signed trade agreements worth hundreds of millions of dollars. He also launched a working group to propose improvements in workers' compensation laws, and worked with the legislature to enact historic reforms that allow businesses to save hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Supporting Veterans & Service Members

Governor Quinn has made Illinois veterans, service members and their families one of his top priorities. The Illinois Warrior Assistance Program and Veterans Cash lottery ticket programs have awarded more than \$11 million to not-for-profit organizations that provide health care, housing assistance, disability benefits and other services to veterans. In 2011, Quinn launched the Welcome Home Heroes program to support Illinois service members seeking homeownership. He has called on Illinois companies to hire 100,000 veterans by 2020 and proposed a Hiring Veterans Tax Credit incentive for businesses that hire unemployed veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

As Lieutenant Governor, Quinn created the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund at OperationHomefront.org, which has distributed more than \$15 million to more than 28,700 service members and their families. More than 35 states have passed legislation modeled after Illinois' program. Quinn also signed legislation that allows Illinois service members injured due to hostile action in operations following the September 11 terrorist attacks to receive \$5,000 from the fund.

Expanding Access to Education & Health Care

Governor Quinn has initiated a strong agenda to build a brighter future for all students and has set a goal to see 60 percent of Illinois adults holding a degree or certificate by 2025. In 2011, he signed landmark education reform laws that empower parents with more information about their children's schools and set clear benchmarks for teacher evaluation, putting performance above tenure. To ensure that all children have a solid foundation for academic achievement, Quinn signed the Illinois DREAM Act, which established a privately funded college scholarship program for children of immigrants, and legislation lowering the mandatory beginning school age from age seven to age six.

As part of his agenda to ensure that everyone has access to health-care coverage and the reforms of the Affordable Care Act, Governor Quinn enacted the largest increase in health-care coverage in state history, which is expected to enroll nearly 350,000 people in Medicaid. He also launched "Get Covered Illinois," which serves as the official online marketplace for Illinois residents to compare various insurance company plans and apply for financial support to help bring down the cost of insurance.

Advancing Social Justice

Governor Quinn has taken historic steps to support civil rights and social justice. In 2011, he signed legislation allowing all couples united under a civil union to have access to the full legal rights enjoyed by married couples. In November 2013, Quinn signed the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, which gives same-sex couples the right to marry in Illinois. Quinn also signed legislation in 2011 that abolished the death penalty in Illinois, which had been in place since 1976.

Governor Quinn introduced his Rebalancing Initiative in 2011 to improve the state's system of caring for those with disabilities and mental-health challenges and to ensure that all can reach their true potential. The initiative has successfully moved hundreds of people with disabilities out of institutions and into community-based care.



Governor Quinn signed the Illinois DREAM Act at Benito Juarez Community Academy in August 2011. The act created an account to accept private donations for college scholarships for children of immigrants.

Protecting the Environment

Governor Quinn launched a \$1 billion Illinois Clean Water Initiative to help local governments overhaul critically aging water treatment plants. The initiative is projected to create 28,500 jobs, protect public health and drive business growth. He required that all new state-supported building projects achieve environmental certifications and is the leading voice in Illinois for renewable fuels. Under his leadership, Illinois enacted the strongest regulations on hydraulic fracturing in the country. He also signed legislation to create a state-backed guarantee supporting construction of renewable-energy, clean-coal and energy-efficient projects.

Governor’s Staff Members

Ryan Croke	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Cristal Thomas	<i>Deputy Governor</i>
John Schomberg.....	<i>General Counsel</i>
Jerry Stermer.....	<i>Director, Office of Management & Budget</i>
Gary Hannig.....	<i>Director, Legislative Affairs</i>
Brooke Anderson.....	<i>Director, Communications</i>
Leslie Fields.....	<i>Director, Policy</i>
Margaret Ross.....	<i>Director, Protocol & Planning</i>
Sean Vinck.....	<i>Chief Information Officer</i>
John D’Alessandro.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Sean O’Shea.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Julie Smith.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Ted Gibbs.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Amalia Rioja.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Vivian Anderson.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Samantha Fields.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Justin Cajindos.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>
Cory Foster.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff</i>