



DANIEL W. HYNES

Comptroller

Dan Hynes (Democrat) was re-elected to a third term as Comptroller in November 2006. As the state's chief fiscal officer, Hynes has made government more accountable to the people of Illinois and has been outspoken in pursuit of wasteful spending. On matters of ethical leadership and governance, he has led both by legislative action and personal example.

Comptroller Hynes has focused his administration on consumer and taxpayer advocacy, government accountability and long-term budget reform. He has operated his office with fewer dollars and employees than when he was first elected, and strengthened the state's debt collection efforts, more than doubling monies collected through the Comptroller's offset system. The Rainy Day Fund implemented by Hynes helps the state meet its financial obligations during economic hard times and revenue declines.

Hynes sponsored successful legislation that prohibits tax scofflaws and corporations involved in financial crimes from getting state contracts. His bill protecting 375,000 Illinois workers from punitive new federal overtime rules also became law, and he blocked a foreign firm from receiving payment for flu vaccines it did not deliver. Hynes' efforts to secure state funding for stem cell research culminated in creation of the Illinois Regenerative Medicine Institute, making Illinois the first Midwestern state to commit public funds for this lifesaving effort.

Hynes successfully fought for reforms that restrict the ability of campaign contributors to obtain state contracts, and made his office comply immediately. He launched the first Web site in the nation (www.openbook.illinoiscomptroller.com) that allows the public to track political contributions made by state contractors. For his leadership on ethics reform, he received the Paul Simon Service Award from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform in 2007, as well as the Abraham Lincoln Ethics Award from the Executive Ethics Commission.

Hynes spearheaded passage of the most sweeping consumer protection reforms of the cemetery and funeral industries in 25 years. He toughened oversight of crematories and initiated legal actions resulting in restitution for hundreds of defrauded funeral home customers. He also sponsored the cleanup of dozens of neglected cemeteries across the state.

Comptroller Hynes' commitment to openness and accountability has led to extensive information sharing on his office's Web site, in both English and Spanish, about the workings of state government. His Public Accountability Project offers a comprehensive view of what each government program is intended to accomplish and whether it has met its goals.

Before taking office, Hynes was a health-care attorney. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in economics and computer applications, and earned his J.D. degree from Loyola University School of Law.

A native of Chicago, Comptroller Dan Hynes and his wife, Christina Kerger, M.D., have three sons.

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