

**Summary of Key Initiatives Identified by Governor Rauner in 2015 State of the State Address**

- 1) Top priority — making Illinois competitive again, and growing jobs (requires addressing structural impediments to economic growth).
- 2) Reform Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance laws.
- 3) Apprenticeship programs of unions that contract w/State should reflect demographics of Illinois communities, and their workers on public construction projects should reflect diversity of the surrounding area.
- 4) Create a Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Program (encourage entrepreneurship).
- 5) Raise Minimum Wage to \$10/hour over the next 7 years — "in conjunction with improving overall business climate."
- 6) Achieve Property Tax Relief by empowering taxpayers to control local government spending.
  - a) Allow local voters more say in local gov't collective bargaining issues.
  - b) Allow local gov't employees to decide whether they want to join a union.
  - c) Reform project labor agreements and prevailing wage requirements to enable "true competitive bidding".
  - d) Allow for local gov't consolidation — DuPage County model — today IL has 7,000 units of local gov't.
  - e) Reduce/eliminate unfunded mandates imposed by the State on local governments.
- 7) Restructure bidding for construction projects at every level of government.
- 8) Right to Work Zones — Allow voters at local level to decide whether to become an "employee empowerment zone" so that all employees can decide whether to join a union.
- 9) Reform Illinois tax code (no more specifics here).
- 10) Pass constitutional amendment allowing for term limits (2016 ballot question).
- 11) Address "Conflicts of Interest" in political giving (note reference to state contractor model which bans only contributions to the official with jurisdiction over the contract).
  - a) Ban political contributions by public sector unions with state collective bargaining agreements.
  - b) Ban political contributions by organizations that receive Medicaid funds (e.g. hospitals).
  - c) Ban political contributions by trial lawyers to judges.
- 12) Move toward merit-based judicial reform as supported by American Bar Association.
- 13) Reorganize leadership of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, working with Speaker Madigan.
- 14) Merge Comptroller's and Treasurer's offices (2016 ballot question).
- 15) Reform approach to compensation for state employees.
  - a) Emphasize quality of work rather than simply longevity.
  - b) Award bonuses to employees who find innovative ways to save taxpayers money.
- 16) Address criminal justice system and safety in prisons.
  - a) Hire more correctional officers.
  - b) Reform parole system / continue to invest in Adult Redeploy.
- 17) Increase K-12 Education Funding particularly to help "most disadvantaged school districts."
- 18) Increase Early Childhood Education Funding.
- 19) Invest in technical and vocational training in high schools and community colleges.
- 20) Enact "Student and Career Success Package."
  - a) Give parents more choices/options in their children's education.
  - b) Lift cap on public charter schools.
  - c) Put more money directly into the classroom.
  - d) Reform education bureaucracy.

- e) Roll back costly mandates.
- f) Reduce testing mandates that get in the way of high-quality instruction.

*Summary courtesy of Jeff Arseneau, State Farm insurance, Chamber Government Affairs Committee Leader – February 4, 2015*