

CLEAN UP ILLINOIS:

OUR ANTI-CORRUPTION ROADMAP TO SAVE ILLINOIS

We have long known that corruption runs deep in Illinois politics. And that corruption transcends party lines. For decades, Democrats and Republicans have used their positions to curry favor and enrich themselves, and everyday Illinoisans suffer.

We cannot trust political insiders to rid our state of patronage hiring and pay-to-play politics. Only a team of political outsiders – who don't view politics as a career path, but as a genuine form of service, can deliver the type of governance, oversight, and accountability that our state so desperately needs.

Our 10-point anti-corruption agenda is the strongest ethics plan released by any gubernatorial candidate. It is a roadmap to saving our state and restoring it to the Land of Lincoln once more.

- 1. Implement strict term limits for elected officials.** Public service is an act of love for our neighbor, but it is also an act of trust. We cannot allow politicians to use their positions to enrich themselves and their friends. There is no better safeguard than a limit on how long they can hold power.
- 2. Support fair maps.** Fight for a constitutional amendment for a fair legislative redistricting process, which would put redistricting in the hands of an independent commission rather than partisan lawmakers.
- 3. Pass the harshest public corruption penalties in the country.** Support penalty enhancements laid out in 2018's House Bill 5878, including increasing the fine for bribery from \$25,000 to \$1 million; doubling the fine for receiving contributions on state property from \$5,000 to \$10,000; and increasing the maximum fines for engaging in prohibited political activities and improperly serving on state boards and commissions to \$10,000 and \$35,000 respectively.
- 4. Make the legislative inspector general a watchdog, not a lapdog.** Illinoisans deserve the strongest legislative watchdog in the nation. The LIG should have publishing power, subpoena power, the power to proactively pursue a case rather than simply respond to filed complaints, and the jurisdiction to hold legislators accountable for any egregious actions inside or outside of their official capacity. At minimum, the LIG should have as much power as Chicago's Office of the Inspector General.
- 5. End the "honor system" for conflicts of interest in Springfield.** Illinois law requires lawmakers to file financial disclosure statements, but not to declare when they face a conflict of interest before taking a vote. Most states require all members of the legislature to disclose conflicts of interest for each measure, and ban lawmakers from voting at all in the case of a conflict. Illinois should require the same.
- 6. Reform the Legislative Ethics Commission.** Add a seat to the Legislative Ethics Commission for a non-legislator citizen, so that the commission cannot kill investigations into their political allies with 4-4 split votes along party lines.
- 7. Drop J.B. Pritzker's fight to fire the federally appointed hiring monitor.** The people of Illinois should be able to trust that we have their best interests at heart, not the interests of a special few. Our administration will end Pritzker's fight to fire the patronage hiring monitor and ban paying any gubernatorial staff members with private money, as Pritzker does.
- 8. Ban sitting lawmakers from coming before the Property Tax Appeals Board as property tax attorneys.** Lawmakers should not be able to enrich themselves through an insider appeals process that only exists because of their political malfeasance.
- 9. Amend conflict of interest laws.** We must ensure no lawmaker's firm can represent client interests before any government agency or legislative body. This ban on self-dealing would function similar to Chicago's "cross-lobbying ban," which bars state lawmakers from lobbying City Council.
- 10. Put an end to the revolving door between legislators and lobbyists.** The last "ethics reform" legislation was insufficient. Currently, a loophole allows a legislator to retire a day before the end of their term and begin lobbying their colleagues the next day. Florida has a six-year ban on legislators moving into lobbying positions. We propose a seven-year ban for Illinois, which would be the strongest in the nation. Becoming a legislator should be a form of temporary public service, not a pathway to a lucrative lobbying career.