

STATE OF ILLINOIS

SPECIAL EDITION 2009

GREATER
O'HARE
ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR 5TH CONGRESSIONAL SEAT

Election Calendar

February 24, 2009

Cook County Consolidated
Primary

*DuPage County
will NOT have a
Consolidated Primary

March 3, 2009

Special Election Primary
5th Congressional District

April 7, 2009

General Election
5th Congressional District

Statewide Consolidated
General Election

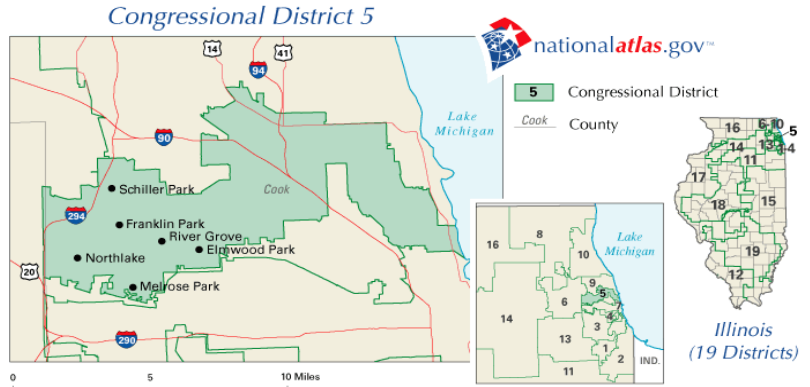
\$250K savings by combining with April 7 Consolidated Election

Dates have been set for the 5th Congressional District special election: a March 3 primary and a general election on April 7.

Cook County Clerk David Orr and Chicago Board of Elections Executive Director Lance Gough recommended the dates to Governor Rod Blagojevich, who today issues a Writ of Election.

"Holding the general election for the 5th Congressional District on April 7 — the same date as the Consolidated Election — will result in a \$250,000 savings for Cook County taxpayers," Orr said.

The seat was vacated by Rahm Emanuel, now President-elect Barack Obama's chief of staff. The 5th Congressional District is comprised of 92 precincts in suburban Cook County — in Leyden and Pro-



viso townships — and 486 precincts in the City of Chicago.

The special election dates will result in a compressed election schedule, pending final approval from a Cook County judge later this week. Namely, candidates will have less time to gather petition signatures. The Illinois State Board of Elections will determine whether candidates will need fewer signa-

tures due to the condensed calendar.

The standard one-week filing and objection periods will remain unchanged. All petitions and objections are filed with the State Board of Elections.

(from Cook County Election Department, Press Release 1/5/09)

ISSUES FOR 2009

- ELECTIONS
- TAXES
- EDUCATION / WORKFORCE
- HEALTH CARE
- TRANSPORTATION
- TELECOM / TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM:

Greater O'Hare Association Government Affairs Team is focused on educating and activating the business community.

Through our dual mission of educating and activating we can unify our voice to be heard by legislators and community leaders.

650 East Devon, Suite 155
Itasca, IL 60143
Phone: 630-773-2944
Fax: 630-773-2945
GAT@greater-ohare.com
www.greaterohare.com

NEW YEAR, NEW GOVERNOR



... I will, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof, and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of this State and of the United States. So help me God."

SPRINGFIELD, IL — Pat Quinn has been sworn in as Illinois' new governor.

State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias told reporters outside Quinn's office Thursday that Quinn took the oath of office from Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke.

He became the 41st governor

immediately after the Senate voted to remove Rod Blagojevich. Senators ousted Blagojevich on charges of abuse of power.

Quinn had served for two terms under Blagojevich, but they had little in common. In fact, Quinn has said the two have not spoken in more than a year and Blagojevich said last year that Quinn wasn't even part of his administration.

So just who is Pat Quinn?

Born in Hinsdale, Illinois in 1948, Quinn graduated from Fenwick High School, a Catholic school in Oak Park, Illinois. A cross country runner and editor of the school's paper, Quinn went on to study at Georgetown University and eventually attended Northwestern University's School of Law, obtaining his J.D. in 1980.

While he worked in-and-out of state politics with several groups in the late-70's and early-80's, Quinn

was elected commissioner of the Cook County Board of Tax Appeals in 1982. Following an unsuccessful run for State Treasurer four years later, Quinn briefly served in Chicago Mayor Harold Washington's administration, before successfully running again for the post in 1990.

Quinn lost a 1994 race to Republican George Ryan to become Secretary of State and lost a U.S. Senate bid two years later to current U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (IL, D).

In 2002, however, Quinn successfully won his bid to become Illinois Lieutenant Governor, where he's served since.

Once divorced and a father of two, Quinn currently lives in Chicago.

(WQAD, Channel 8 Quad CitiesThe Associated Press, The Chicago Tribune and Ill. Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn's (D) state website contributed to this report.)



STATE OF ILLINOIS

NUMBER ONE PRIORITY: BUDGET OF ILLINOIS

CHICAGO - The removal from office of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich does not change the fact the state faces serious fiscal challenges, but may allow the state to begin dealing with its problems, ratings agency analysts said.

Those challenges include a big unfunded pension liability, a large employee benefit burden, cash-flow troubles and an ailing economy, he said.



"Without a dramatic change in the economy or spending, it appears that the state will end the fiscal year in dire circumstances," - Hynes

Governor Pat Quinn, who was sworn into office on January 29th as governor, said he

will need time to assess the size of the budget deficit and will seek to delay presenting a budget plan to the General Assembly until March instead of February.

"Whoever is governor needs to get together with the legislature to fix the budget," said John Kenward, an analyst at Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, which has the state's "AA" rating under review for a possible downgrade.

He said that swift action and cooperation, which have both been lacking in Illinois in the wake of Blagojevich's December 9 arrest on federal corruption charges, were needed to cure the budget imbalance.

On Monday, a spokeswoman for the governor's management and budget office estimated the fiscal 2009 budget deficit at \$2.5 billion, adding that the situation was being monitored.

But the situation is likely worse because the state's backlog of unpaid bills stands at \$2.13 billion with payments lagging by as much as 46 working days, according to the comptroller's office.

The state must also pay back by the end of June \$1.4 billion it borrowed last month in the short-term municipal market.

In his latest quarterly report, Illinois State Comptroller Dan Hynes warned the state will end the 2009 fiscal year on June 30 in "dire circumstances" unless there is a dramatic change in the economy or in spending.

The report also said the Midwestern state could be forced to push more than \$3 billion of fiscal 2009 bills and other liabilities into fiscal 2010. That combined with declining revenue creates a financial situation that may be unmanageable for the upcoming budget, the report added.

Fitch Ratings downgraded the state's "AA-minus" rating to "AA." Moody's gave Illinois' \$1.4 billion cash-flow borrowing a lower "MIG 2" rating rather than the highest "MIG 1" rating the state won for a similar debt issue in April.

(Reporting by Karen Pierog, editing by Gary Crosse and Andre Grenon)

THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM WANTS TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!

As a business leader, you are faced with balancing budgets to maintain a business. How should the State of Illinois start to fix the budget? Is an increase property tax necessary or increased gas tax necessary?

PRESIDENT OBAMA RETURNS TO ILLINOIS IN HONOR OF LINCOLN

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — President Barack Obama will return to the town that started it all next week to attend the 200th anniversary celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birth, officials announced Monday.

Obama will attend the Abraham Lincoln Association's annual banquet, held on Feb. 12 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, according to a statement by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

Springfield played host to key moments in Obama's presidential campaign. The onetime Illinois state senator announced his candidacy for president from the Old State Capitol in February 2007 and chose the same location to announce Sen. Joe Biden as his running mate in August.

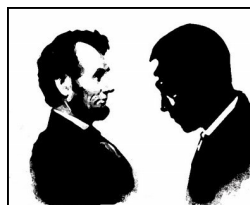
Durbin has been working with Obama's transition team virtually since Obama was elected in November to get the former Illinois state senator to return for the bicentennial event. But the White House had been coy about Obama's plans during the

controversy over criminally charged former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who until late last week was fighting to remain governor.

The state Senate formally removed Blagojevich from office on Thursday, and former Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn was sworn in as governor the same day.

Obama lived part-time in Springfield when he was a state legislator, before his 2004 election to the U.S. Senate. He frequently invoked Lincoln during his presidential campaign and has used Lincoln's "team of rivals" approach to governing in the creation of his Cabinet.

"Abraham Lincoln's legacy is deeply rooted in his home state of Illinois," Durbin said. "As our country's economic challenges grow, President Barack Obama will be called on to



show leadership and courage similar to that shown by Lincoln during one of the most difficult periods in our history."

David Blanchette, spokesman for the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which partnered with the association for this year's event, said the organizations are pleased Obama will attend.

"We know how much Abraham Lincoln means to President Obama because of his two major campaign events here in Springfield and his repeated references to Lincoln, both on the campaign trail and during his inauguration," Blanchette said. "We're pleased to see that he is returning the favor by visiting Lincoln's hometown on Lincoln's 200th birthday."

The banquet is sold out, but overflow seating is still available for \$45 a ticket. The seats will not be in the same room as the president. For tickets, call 866-865-8500.

(Article from: STLtoday.com by Kari Andren, Post-Dispatch Springfield Bureau)


STATE OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS PENSION FUND, WORST IN NATION

State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias is tackling the problem of an under funded pension system. The Illinois pension system is currently the worst funded system in the nation. Two years ago, the Chicago Tribune labeled the pension situation a "nightmare" that is over "30 years in the making." The problem, however, has only continued to escalate. The Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) released a report in December 2008 showing that the state's unfunded liability has now topped \$54 billion, \$12 billion more than the previous year. This means that Illinois' pension assets now only represent slightly more than half of its liabilities and Illinois is facing a pension contribution payment of approximately \$5.3 billion in Fiscal Year 2010.

The pension problem has been compounded not only by recent recession woes and market volatility, but also by deferring pension payments, most recently in Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2007, as well as allegations of fraud and abuse that have

surfaced in the fallout of the Rezko scandal. It is these concerns over corruption in a system that is already facing tremendous challenges gaining control of its assets to liabilities ratio that have prompted Illinois Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias to push a proposal calling for the consolidation of the five state-funded pension systems into a single investment entity.



Illinois Public Employees' Retirement System (ILPERS)

The Treasurer's proposal consolidates the investment functions of the five state-funded pension boards, which include the General Assembly, Judges, Teachers, State Universities, and the State Employees Retirement Systems, under a new Illinois Public Employees' Retirement System (ILPERS). Under the proposal, each pension system would still retain a board to administer benefits and address issues confronting beneficiaries of each respective system. Other retirement systems (such as the Illi-

nois Municipal Retirement System, or IMRF) will have the ability to opt into the ILPERS investment function to realize economies of scale.

Other major components of the plan include, the creation of a 13-member ILPERS board consisting of representatives from each pension board; appointees of the Executive Ethics Commission; the Comptroller; the Treasurer; and two members of a new and separately created ILPERS Oversight Board.

Cost Savings Projections

The Treasurers' Office projects that the consolidation proposal will result in savings up to \$12 million annually for administrative costs and up to \$70 million annually in fees paid out to private firms hired to manage and invest assets in each system. The Treasurers' Office anticipates a one-time cost of \$24 million to transition the three investment portfolios into a single portfolio. For more information on the proposal, please visit <http://www.ilpers.org/>

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT (CARD CHECK)

EVERYTOWN, USA — With the new administration in Washington D.C. and the increase seats represented by the Democrat party, the Employee Free Choice Act (*Card Check*) is more of a threat than ever before. The Democrats have a enough votes in the House and Senate to pass the bill without a single Republican and President Obama voted for it while he was a sitting senator; therefore, we can safely assume, he will sign the bill into law if given the chance by the Congress.

What is the THREAT of Card Check?

* Unions have lost their prevalence in the workforce over the past five decades, making up 30% of the private workplace in the 1950s and less than 8% today. "Card Check" would reverse this trend and open up wide swaths of the economy to union organizing, especially small business.

* The existing law honors a worker's right to a private ballot. Currently workers sign cards indicating interest in an election. The union and the employer then have a chance to make their case before workers vote in a federally-supervised private-ballot election. If the union wins more than 50% of the votes, they are certified and collective bargaining begins.

* Card Check would effectively eliminate private elections. Under Card Check, if

more than 50% of workers at a facility sign a card, the NLRB would have to certify the union, and a private ballot election would be prohibited, even if workers want one.

71% of voters agree that a private election is better than card check.

* Card Check would give union organizers free rein to pressure workers into joining unions, potentially subjecting them to intimidation and abuse from union bosses.

* Under a Card Check organizing campaign, a union has no obligation to tell an employer it is launching an organizing drive. An employer may not find out an organizing campaign is underway until ordered by the federal government to start collective bargaining.

* Card Check could force companies to let government arbitrators decide how their business operates. Card Check would send companies into binding arbitration if they cannot reach agreement with the union on an initial contract after 120 days. This means a panel of government arbitrators with no understanding of the business would impose a two year contract which would decide all workplace terms without any review by the company or its employees. Because this package will always be more than the employer is prepared to offer, the company will always lose.

75% of voters believe government arbitrators shouldn't decide the conditions of a union contract.

**Standing Up to Organized Labor -**

We cannot let a labor movement desperately searching for new members, or politicians hungry for union donations, turn back the clock fifty years in America.

Card Check is not about lifting up workers. It's about union executives enhancing their power by avoiding the time, expense, and potential risk of giving workers the chance to express their views in private at the ballot box.

Myth of the Month about Card Check

Myth: The Employee Free Choice Act gives workers the ability to negotiate for better terms from their employers. It takes an important step towards strengthening America's middle class.

Fact: States with the heaviest union presence are worse off than states with the least across a number of economic indicators — meaning that the people living in those states have fewer opportunities to succeed and move into the middle class.

Look for more myths in up coming edition of the GAT newsletter.