



# Schaumburg Township Republican Organization

GOP: Issues

## **PROTECTING THE ECONOMY**

Illinois businesses are reeling from the effects of millions of dollars in tax increases imposed last year. Business and units of local government are suffering as a result of unfair water taxes. Unemployment in Illinois remains higher than surrounding states and Illinois has not fully shared in the benefits of the recovery that other states are experiencing. The trucking industry is being driven out of state by new and higher taxes and fees. The printing industry has been discouraged from making new investment because of higher taxes on equipment purchases and many are considering leaving Illinois or canceling expansion projects.

The Quinn administration wants to further isolate Illinois by avoiding new depreciation rules that would encourage small business to invest in new equipment and help keep Illinois workers employed. Industry after industry is being hit with targeted tax increases that stifle job growth and drive resources out of state.

Illinois Republicans understand that taxing businesses translates into fewer jobs, less investment and higher consumer prices. Therefore Republicans not only oppose higher general taxes, but will consistently fight the multitude of targeted tax increases which are bleeding Illinois employers and destroying jobs.

## **PROVIDE TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING AMERICANS**

America is an over-taxed nation. In fact, most people spend more money on taxes than they spend on food, clothing and shelter combined. Worse yet, in too many working families, one parent works to put food on the table and shelter overhead, while the other has a job simply to pay for the government bureaucracy. This has to stop.

Now is not the time to add more taxing burdens on America's job creators. The bottom line is that tax relief works for America and working families.

We support a taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Republicans want to give back to working Americans what is rightfully theirs in the first place – their own hard-earned money through tax relief. The government shouldn't seize your money before you even touch it. Working Americans earned it, not the government's bloated bureaucracy. Working Americans deserve it, not government bureaucrats. Republicans believe government should learn to live with less, so the rest of America can have more. The surest way to keep government from becoming permanently much larger – with more taxes, more regulations, more spending, and greater interference in citizens' daily lives – is to hold down taxes now. By controlling the government budget, working Americans can grow their family budget.

## **EDUCATION**

Illinois must continuously strive to do better in educating our children.

Children of all socio-economic circumstances should have access to a quality education that puts the interests of the children first. No child should be forced to attend schools that do not educate. No child should be left behind in our education system.

No adult should be allowed to make excuses for schools that chronically fail to teach the children in their care. Failed Administrators should be removed from failing schools. Our children deserve no less.

Our laws should empower parents to make choices for their children's education. Parents should be empowered to remove their children from substandard schools and enroll them in good schools. This right and power is most acutely needed by lower income families and families living within poorly run school districts where the stakes are highest and presently options are most limited.

Unfortunately, instead of a fair and impartial review, the Quinn administration has proposed a centralized education bureaucracy that consolidates critical decisions within a politicized agency accountable only to a single individual. The Republican Party opposes this ill-advised scheme that has only resulted in politicization of education, corruption and abysmal service to our children everywhere it has been tried.

A basic foundation of our education system for more than a century has been that local officials are in the best position to make decisions regarding local school districts. The Quinn administration proposals threaten that basic tenet by stripping locally-elected school boards of important decision-making powers.

By creating a politicized state Education Department, Illinois risks calling into question the objectivity and honesty of state achievement tests by creating a powerful incentive for the Governor's bureaucracy to manipulate or distort results for political gain. The fair distribution of grants is threatened by introducing partisan politics into the process.

As Republicans, we strongly support the rights of parents to do what is in the best interests of their children.

We should protect our parents and children from being coerced to place their child on medication in order to receive educational services. We should protect that fundamental right of the parent to have the final say in what is best for their child's well-being. We believe parents should receive advanced notice of any medicine or medical procedure or treatment their child may be offered or may seek.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The first responsibility of our government is to defend American citizens. Nothing is more important than the defense of our borders, our cities and our rural areas. The world remains a dangerous place, and our government's top priority must be national security. Every action taken by the U.S. Government overseas, whether diplomatic, economic, or militarily, should be judged in part by whether it improves the safety, security and well-being of Americans at home and abroad.

Republicans believe the War on Terror is a new kind of battle our country has not faced before. In centuries past, America's isolation – thanks to two broad oceans – helped protect us from territorial wars and foreign invasion. But as September 11th, 2001, made us too painfully aware, the United States will be increasingly susceptible to new threats: biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, electronic warfare, and sabotage.

We are still in the early stages of what is likely to be a long War against Terrorism, we must invest in and strengthen our national security infrastructure.

America must have the most effective and well-trained fighting force in the world. Our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines are only as strong as our weakest soldier, sailor, or airman. All the technological advances won't save us if we fail to ensure that our armed forces are the most highly skilled, best-trained force in the world. We need to treat our troops with respect and pay them what they deserve. With a renewed emphasis on innovative technologies being used in Afghanistan and Iraq, we will be more prepared for tomorrow's battles thanks to superior equipment and superior troops trained to use it. And so far, our investment in the global War on Terror is yielding significant results. The Taliban has driven from power; two-thirds of Al Qaeda's Leadership has been captured or killed; and, Iraq's evil dictator Saddam Hussein is out of power and behind bars.

The Bush Doctrine emphasizes we must root out terrorists where they plan, train and hide. No longer can we sit idly by before taking action to protect American security in all places – from local airports and shopping malls to nuclear power plants and military installations. The War on Terror is not a simple police action. Republicans believe our government must use its full force at home and abroad to stop terrorists in Baghdad and Kabul, so that they cannot wreak havoc and catastrophe in Springfield and Chicago.

Now is a time for vigilance as we fight the War on Terrorism. Illinois Military facilities are important assets in our battle against terrorists. Therefore, we strongly support keeping open and fully operational:

**Scott Air Force Base  
Rock Island Arsenal  
Great Lakes Naval Base  
Springfield Air National Guard  
Peoria Air National Guard**

While the threat of terrorism is certainly a significant aspect of safety for Illinois citizens, day-to-day safety and security of our local communities is also critical. A majority of the crime committed in Illinois is by repeat offenders. We need to ensure that crime is aggressively prosecuted and prison sentences are carried out.

We will work to make sure that every community in Illinois, regardless of size, has proper police protection and that these brave men and women have the full support of our government. The Republican Party will diligently work to make sure that our neighborhoods, communities, and state are safe.

The Republican Party recognizes the right of self-defense and the need of citizens to be able to defend themselves and their family within their homes. No law should infringe upon that important right nor compromise a person's ability to defend self and loved ones within the home.

## **PROMOTE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND HELPING THOSE IN NEED**

Helping those who have fallen on hard times through no fault of their own is the right thing to do. Yet when we help people who are able, and yet make no effort to help themselves, we destroy the individual and undermine society. Restoring welfare to its original intent of giving needy Americans a helping hand must be our ultimate goal, but the road will not be without sacrifice. We believe that temporary hardship of getting able-bodied men and women off welfare is a better alternative than trapping them in a lifelong cycle of poverty. This is the essence of compassionate conservatism.

We must allow people the opportunity to lead more productive, happier lives. With the nation's public assistance caseloads down 30%, Welfare Reform, passed by a Republican Congress, has proven to be the greatest social change in modern American history. It literally has moved people from government aid rolls into the American workforce. Work among former welfare recipients has tripled and employment of single mothers is over 70% -- an all-time high.

Republicans have made good on their promise in the mid-1990's to move people from welfare to work. Nothing is more impressive to those formerly on welfare or for all other American taxpayers than putting people to work, and Republicans made it happen. But welfare Reform isn't just about helping able-bodied citizens get a job, it's about fundamentally changing people's lives for the better. Since 1996:

- Over 3.6-million fewer Americans live in poverty today, including 2.7-million fewer children;

- Funding for child care has more than tripled – from \$3 billion to \$9.7 billion in 2001; and lastly,

- Welfare caseloads have fallen by 60%, leaving less than 2% of the entire U.S. population on such public assistance programs.

Republicans realized that dollars alone wouldn't break the cycle of dependency. We needed people to be involved in meeting the challenge of moving the hopeless to a position of hope. We needed to move the dependent into a position of work and productivity. We needed to create incentives for individuals to get involved on a personal level, to make the kinds of changes that will lift up people, not hold them down.

Republicans are proud that no longer do people get up in the morning and head down to the local post office for a welfare check. Instead, they go to work and earn a paycheck. This is truly a success story that shows what a difference we can make, and that it's possible to improve the lives of citizens who were once abused by a welfare state that had grown out of control. We've changed the welfare state into an opportunity society that makes America stronger and Americans freer.

## **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

Illinois citizens adopted motor-fuel taxes with the understanding that those funds would be used to maintain and improve our roads and highways. These user fees were implemented because those who benefit from the transportation network were willing to pay their fair share.

Unfortunately, this system of user fees has now been rejected by the Quinn administration, which has elected to divert hundreds of millions of dollars in road funds away from their intended purpose. Such policies will threaten to destroy Illinois' transportation network because funds sorely needed for construction, maintenance and improvements are not being used for their promised purposes. We strongly oppose these diversions.

Now the Governor proposes to divert even more transportation dollars and would further mortgage the future of our road system by borrowing for new projects, without identifying any means to repay the borrowing. The net result would be a highway system that is not only in worse shape than when he took office, but which is deeply in debt, with millions of dollars in much-needed transit funds squandered on feeding the day-to-day operations of government.

Illinois Republicans believe the state must restore the trust of its citizens by using motor fuel taxes for their intended purpose: to maintain and improve the state's highway network. We believe promises made to taxpayers should be promises kept.

## **MASS TRANSIT – NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS**

The Republican Party supports a comprehensive approach to regional transportation planning in Northeastern Illinois. We believe public transportation is an important component of regional planning that helps reduce gridlock and boosts our economy and protects our environment.

We commend the Republican Senators and Representatives of the State Legislature for defending the interests of suburban commuters. We also commend the efforts of Republican County Board Chairmen in fighting to maintain fair and balanced representation for suburban citizens. We note that while traditional suburb-to-city commuting is up nine percent over the last ten years, suburb-to-suburb commuting is up 56%. Most of the new, high-paying jobs of the 21st century will be created in Chicagoland's suburbs. Our transportation infrastructure should support this trend to ensure Illinois retains its central role in the nation's economy.

Recent proposals by Chicago Democrats would end the current partnership between city and suburbs. These proposals threaten the bipartisan leadership of Speaker Dennis Hastert just as he is completing work on a new federal transportation bill for Illinois. We believe that all of the nine million citizens that live in Chicagoland, including the six million people of the suburbs deserve full representation and accountability for their transportation needs.

We believe Illinois transit agencies can be improved through increased interagency cooperation, elimination of duplicative efforts and a universal fare card. Priorities must include financial savings efforts between agencies, improving availability of capital resources from all sources without increasing the burden on taxpayers, and the development of specific, long-range plans to address reverse and suburb-to-suburb commuting needs.

None of these goals are met by the current proposals designed to disenfranchise suburban voters and their transportation needs. As proposed, a central, top-down planning agency will override the wishes of suburban voters under a partisan leadership dominated by Chicago Democrats. We strongly oppose the elimination of or Amendment to the Regional Transit Authority Act that would lead to a Chicago controlled transit agency.

We believe the current state law preserves the right of local governments to make their own decisions regarding planning and land use. It ensures a bipartisan team work to build transit agencies with a good credit rating and unbroken record of service.

## **PROTECTING FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Republicans are fighting to protect future generations from being crushed under a burden of debt created by the Quinn Administration and his allies in the Democrat-controlled General Assembly. Abandoning decades of policies designed to assure that the state can meet its debt obligations now and into the future, the current administration has embarked on risky strategies that will force future generations to pay the bulk of today's debt, while the current Governor escapes responsibility for repaying the debt he has incurred.

In a single year, the Quinn Administration more than doubled state debt. The Administration prefers to borrow beyond the life of the assets it purchases, extend payments to record-breaking lengths, give itself repayment "holidays" and borrow to pay interest on interest. Government debt should always be incurred cautiously. Our children and grandchildren should not be crushed under a burden of debt because leaders today are unwilling to make difficult and responsible choices. Yet, that is exactly what the Quinn administration seeks to do to future generations.

While claiming to oppose higher taxes, the Governor's out-of-control spending habits are guaranteeing that Illinoisans will pay

higher taxes in the future, just to meet the obligations of the current administration. The answer to Illinois' fiscal crisis is not arbitrary fee increases, hidden taxes on business and entrepreneurs, or smoke and mirrors accounting.

Illinois Republicans support responsible debt legislation that will restore the traditional borrowing practices to protect future generations from being forced to carry the burden of today's excessive spending.

## **PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

As the party of Theodore Roosevelt, the Republican Party has a long tradition of respecting the environment, allowing for the responsible use of natural resources to benefit the present generation, while preserving our natural resources and heritage for future generations.

Today, Illinois is faced with a serious threat from the Quinn Administration. Despite campaign promises to the contrary, Pat Quinn now plans to divert millions of dollars in dedicated funds away from their intended environmental purpose. Among nearly 40 environmental programs under attack by the Quinn Administration are the Open Space Lands Acquisition Program, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program and the Natural Areas Acquisition program. Although these programs are funded by user fees specifically designated for the programs, the Administration is stealing those funds for other purposes.

The wholesale diversion of special fees violates a public trust. When citizens agree to pay higher fees to fund special programs, they have a right to assume that the funds will actually be used for the promised purposes.

Illinois Republicans believe that special purpose funds which are collected on the promise of providing stable and predictable resources for conservation and anti-pollution programs should not be diverted.

Too often we engage in a simplistic debate over who cares more about the environment. We are also drawn into a false choice between economic development and a clean environment. The fact is that we can have both. Too often the facts about the environment get lost in the emotional aspects of the debate. The fact is that our system of democracy has always been, by its very nature, the best steward of the environment. When people own the land, they have a great stake in keeping it clean to pass on to their descendants.

The best way to ensure a clean environment is to emphasize responsible property ownership and to use sound scientific evidence when making environmental policy.

We further believe that the best answer for our current and future energy needs is to continue our investment in the technology necessary to discover new sources as well as ways to better utilize the energy sources we now have. There are millions of tons of coal in our state that could go a long way to making Illinois and the United States less dependent on foreign energy sources. Clean coal technology would have the effect of revitalizing an industry so important to Illinois. In an age when dependence on foreign energy is not only foolish, but dangerous, we must find ways to reinvigorate our coal industry and make Illinois the energy capital of America.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Illinois residents enjoy some of the best health care in the country. However, an increasing number of our best and brightest physicians are leaving the state due to mounting insurance costs. This rapid rise in costs for insurance is largely due to an unbalanced and unfair legal system. Illinois residents now feel the effect of a decline in health care services. Steps have to be taken immediately to stop the health care exodus and restore fairness and balance to our legal system.

For example, Illinois is one of nine states where obstetricians/gynecologists spend more than \$100,000 per year in medical liability insurance. With Illinois OBGYNs paying nearly \$150,000 per year in insurance premiums, it is not surprising that many are leaving the state or simply abandoning their practices. Overworked OBGYNs will become even more overworked, leading to a decline in the quality of women's health.

Other medical specialists are facing the same difficulty of increasing insurance premiums. The result is not only the exodus of physicians from the state, but it also results in a substantial rise in health care costs. These costs are then passed to the patient.

We also recognize that thousands of Illinoisans lack medical insurance and that prescription drug costs are skyrocketing. These are problems that can no longer be ignored. Individuals must be given greater incentives to seek out catastrophic care insurance. Prescription drug costs can be controlled by reducing regulation in distribution of the drugs and lobbying at the federal level to make new drug approval more streamlined as well as limiting the ability of foreign governments to enact price controls. Positive change can take place in Illinois health care. The Republican Party stands for positive change in Illinois health care.

## **ETHICS – GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE**

Trust, pride and respect: we pledge to restore these qualities to the way Illinoisans view their government and their leaders.

The Republican Party recognizes that without integrity, promises and solutions have no value. Therefore, our Party will not stand for the slightest compromise in the ethics of our political leaders, regardless of party affiliation. We recognize that a compromise in the ethics of our Party officials or politicians can and will cause damage to the overall Party. Ours will be a Party of ethics and integrity regardless of the cost. In order to avoid any hint of ethical compromise, we shall adhere to the following principles, without exception:

- Party officials and politicians must act in such a way as to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.
- Party officials and politicians shall place public service ahead of personal gain.
- Government contracts and licenses shall be awarded based entirely upon merit pursuant to an open process.
- Government employees shall not engage in political work on government time nor use government resources for campaign purposes.
- No campaign contribution shall be solicited from government employees.
- Former government officials shall not engage in lobbying for two years after leaving employment of the government agency they plan to lobby.

We salute President Bush and United States Department of Justice in their efforts to aggressively combat political corruption in Illinois. No previous Administration on the Federal, State or County level has done more to confront political corruption and prosecute it in Illinois than the Bush Administration.

## **COMMUNITY – FROM MANY - ONE**

Each of us have certain rights that are inalienable and certain duties that are sacrosanct. Each of us owe a duty to family and to community. America's strength is its diversity. The full richness of diversity can only be appreciated when each is free and equal regardless of his or her racial, ethnic, or religious background. Our laws must strike that delicate balance between diversity and

unity. It is for that reason, that we Republicans champion policies designed to unite and not divide. We champion a Rule of Law that treats everyone equally while respecting diverse interests, talents and backgrounds.

As we respect our fellow citizens, we choose to settle our differences at the ballot box. No community thrives nor respects Democracy that does not also respect the importance of each vote cast by our citizens by failing to vigorously combat fraudulent voting activity or criminal conduct aimed at subverting the vote of the people.

We also need to have laws that allow for all of us to live in a safe, healthy and peaceful environment. Our communities must allow for a vibrant economic environment where individuals and groups acting together may use their knowledge, talents and industry to work and prosper.