



Dennis Wagner
January 28, 2018

2016 Illinois Republican Party Platform

Exploring the Principles of the Illinois Republican Party as outlined in the [2016 Illinois Party Platform](#). This paper will explore in some detail the 2016, Republican Party Platform, not to expose the weaknesses or strengths of any one candidate, but to find the common ground on issues we all share.

Introduction

In 1968, Ronald Reagan and Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller struck a deal to become allies in the 1968 Republican primary convention. Reagan and Rockefeller could not be more ideologically opposed on many issues including the environment, education, unions and infrastructure. Yet, if either of them were to defeat Nixon, they would have to strike a deal and work together to pull as many electorate votes from Nixon as possible. If both of them stayed in the race, they could with luck peel enough votes away from Nixon causing him to fall short on the first ballot and bring about a prolonged convention battle. Ronald Reagan was a conservative, and Nelson Rockefeller was a moderate Republican with New York liberal views, yet they became allies. Rockefeller was the governor of New York, and worked in the administrations of Democrats Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman. Rockefeller had been a dedicated civil-rights advocate and supported social welfare programs. His liberal views were welcome in New York politics, but often put him at odds with party leaders in the Midwest. From this we learn an important lesson, that despite our differences on some issues, we are not ideological enemies, but allies on the beliefs we share.

As members of the Illinois Republican party, we come from many different backgrounds, cultures and have different philosophies. We are young and old, poor and rich, gay and straight, but we all believe in the principles of freedom, opportunity and limited government. The 2016 Illinois Republican Platform committee understood this when they drafted the platform, and concluded the platform with a quote from Reagan, "The person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally, not a 20 percent traitor."

"This Platform represents the majority opinion of the members of the Illinois Republican Party's 2016 Platform Committee. The Committee acknowledges and respects reasonable differences in opinion among Illinois Republicans on the issues contained herein. As Ronald Reagan said, "The person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally, not a 20 percent traitor.

Therefore, we accept that good Republicans do not have to agree on all the issues contained in this Platform and that this Platform shall not be used as an instrument of division or attack on others within the party who hold opposing views. We must unite as a party behind those items on which we agree."

Restoring the Illinois Economy

American Exceptionalism and Pro-growth Policies

The Republican Party understands that it is not government that produces value, but individuals when given the freedoms to partake of the opportunities that American Exceptionalism brings. Unfortunately, after many years of Democratic majorities bringing higher taxes, the opportunities are being choked out and only a pro-growth agenda with lower taxes can bring them back. In addition, corruption and anti-business legislation have taken Illinois into a downward spiral, turning away potential investors.

In 2015, a business-backed group released a study called Litigation Imbalance III which showed that litigation in Illinois was hurting the state's economic growth. They reported that the problem of lawsuit filings in Cook, Madison and St. Clair county was deepening. The study found that over the last 21 years, the plaintiff verdicts in Cook County was four times higher (almost \$1 million on average) than neighboring counties of Dupage, Kane, Lake and Will. According to Illinois Civil Justice League's president, John Pastuovic, "the data detailed in this report as well as the findings in other national studies have made small, medium and large companies justifiably gunshy about our state. Businesses cannot and will not reinvest in Illinois until these established, deep-rooted and documented problems are addressed once and for all." The Illinois Republican party recognizes that issues like this hurt our business economy, and calls for reforms and policies with lead to more business investments in Illinois.

"We believe in American exceptionalism. We are the party of optimism and opportunity. We believe individual freedom and opportunity are maximized when the size and intervention of government is limited. We know Americans accomplish great things when government does not interfere with their creativity and work ethic.

We believe the best way to help the majority of the people is by having a robust, growing economy that provides jobs and the opportunity. It is best for individuals' self-respect and for society's costs to keep the number of people on public assistance as low as practical. People truly in need of assistance should get it, but public assistance should not be viewed as an alternative way of earning a living.

We support strong economic policy for Illinois businesses and workers. We believe tort liability and workers compensation reforms will make Illinois more competitive and dramatically reduce business costs.

We advocate a pro-growth orientation for our state's economic policies, subjecting proposed legislation or regulation to analysis as to its impact on economic growth for Illinois and rejecting any proposals which would impose a negative impact.

We understand taxing businesses translates into fewer jobs, less investment and higher consumer prices. Therefore, we oppose increases in taxes, fees and mandates at all levels."

Eliminating the Capital Gains Tax and the federal estate tax

In 2015 Gov. Rauner paid \$6.9 million in Illinois taxes alone on \$188.1 million income, of which 90% or \$169.5 from capital gains. In other words, the majority of Rauner's taxes paid were taken out of capital gains. Unlike the federal government, Illinois taxes capital gains at the same rate as personal income. Which as of July 1, 2017 is 4.95%. At first glance, it doesn't seem all that unfair for the rich to give back to the state 5% of their income, especially when 90% of their income comes from capital gains. But let's look at how this impacts the average Joe who works hard to build up a portfolio of

investments. Joe works hard every day and invests his after-tax dollars into a business or investment property, and then must pay state income tax on any earnings he receives via capital gains. On top of that, the capital gains are not adjusted for inflation, so Joe needs to pay taxes, not only on the actual income earned, but on the increase due to inflation as well. It doesn't end there. Assuming Joe continues working hard throughout his life and dies with a portfolio of \$5 million. Since that is over the \$4 million Illinois Estate exemption, Joe's estate will have to pay \$285,000 to the state or 28.5% of the amount over \$4 million. So, while the left likes to complain about the wealthy not paying their fair share, hard working Illinoisans get taxed three times on their income. First when they earn regular income, second when they realize gains, and then once more when they die. When you consider that aside from high income taxes, Illinoisans are also subject to high property taxes, high sales taxes, and a plethora of taxes on everything from fuel to alcohol, it's easy to understand why so many are leaving this state each day.

So while the Democrats want to raise our taxes, especially on those who reap the rewards of hard work, Republicans are calling for the end of the capital gains tax and the end of both the federal estate tax and the state death tax.

"We believe that taxes on families make Illinois and the United States less competitive. We therefore support the elimination of the capital gains tax. We further recognize the unique burden the death tax imposes on Illinoisans, from family farms to small businesses. We call for the repeal of the state death tax and urge the repeal of the federal estate tax."

Meeting Energy Needs

Under "Restoring the American Dream", the Republican party platform includes a section on "Meeting Energy Needs". In 2016, Democratic Sen. Barbra Keans introduced legislation that would impose a 30 cent per gallon increase in the motor fuel tax, making Illinois the #1 highest state in the nation in gas taxes. But, even with such an increase, experts have predicted doom for the gas tax. With the advent of newer technology like the Electric car, the revenue from any gas tax over the next 10 years is predicted to fall drastically. To combat this fall in revenue, some states are looking to issue a "tax per mile" on motor vehicles, which is just one more way for states to raise revenue. The Illinois Republican party opposes raising the tax on gas, and any attempts to introduce a "tax per mile" on the basis that it would infringe on the privacy of our citizens. In addition, the party platform also embraces investments in both new and traditional energy resources like clean coal, natural gas and nuclear without over burdening restrictions from the EPA.

"We believe in an all of the above energy policy that invests in new technology, while encouraging our traditional energy resources. We believe clean coal, natural gas and bio fuels will strengthen the Illinois economy while securing an energy independent America.

We reject any tax increase on gasoline, and further reject any plan to tax drivers by the mile, as it would infringe on the privacy of our citizens. We appeal to the federal Environmental Protection Agency for sensible changes in the EPA's gasoline formulary rules and further support the expansion of our U.S. refinery capacity.

We call on the Governor and General Assembly to take all steps necessary to add to Illinois' nuclear power capacity"

Protecting our Transportation Advantage

Back in 2006, foreign investors from Spain and Australia paid \$1.83 billion to lease the Chicago Skyway for 99 years. In 2017, the lease was acquired by a consortium of three major Canadian pension plans. Under the new deal, the tolls were allowed to rise as high as \$5 in 2017. With President Trump's \$1 trillion infrastructure plan floating around, we may soon see a boom in the privatization of toll roads. The president's plan would offer \$137 billion in federal tax credits to private investors who back transportation projects, and unleash up to \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment over the next 10 years. But who is buying? No doubt, cash-strapped Illinois is in need of investments, but should we welcome foreign investments? Should Illinois put our toll roads, airports, and rail lines up for sale to foreign interests. Here, the platform of the Republican party is clear, "We oppose the sale of transportation infrastructure to foreign interests". So, when our state proposes plans such as privatizing I-55, our Republican law makers should be saying "No" to foreign investors.

"We recognize one of the critical advantages Illinois enjoys is our heart land location, making our transportation facilities especially vital to our economy as well as to the daily lives of our citizens. We therefore support full utilization of our air, water, rail and road infrastructure for the benefit of our state citizens and to promote commerce and recreation.

We oppose the sale of transportation infrastructure to foreign interests.

We oppose the actions of any government body which chooses to divert designated road-fund dollars to purposes other than the construction and maintenance of our critical network of roads and bridges."

PROMOTING ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE

We all know that Democrats want to increase taxes and use the money to provide free health care, free tuition, and maybe even pay some of our bills, but they don't all agree on which tax to promote. While Pritzker is pushing a progressive income tax, Daniel Biss is pushing a financial transaction tax, also known as the La Salle Street Tax. This tax is even more insidious than the progressive tax, because to many it sounds harmless and promising. It is being sold as a very small tax on wealthy investors who buy and sell in the stock exchanges on La Salle Street. They claim it would actually only really impact the frequent traders who use the stock exchange as a gambling board, and even go as far as calling it a "sin tax", but in reality it would hurt many others like farmers who rely on the exchanges to maintain the prices of their crops. A tax on these transactions would endanger the agricultural backbone of Illinois and raise prices of bread and milk on the struggling Illinois families. While Biss calls this a fair tax, republicans know it is a recipe for disaster for both our farmers and our middle class. Biss along with several other Democrats are sponsoring SB1970 to impose "a tax on the privilege of engaging in a financial transaction that occurs". The transaction would impose a \$1 per contract for all agricultural products, and a \$2 per contract on others. If this bill hits the floor, passes and signed by the next governor, the tax would take effect immediately.

The Republican party recognizes that "our state is a global leader in finance, futures and derivatives, and therefore, oppose any financial transaction tax". To promote Illinois Agriculture, the Republican Party opposes this bill, and wishes to promote Illinois Agriculture, not destroy it like Democrats Daniel Biss and his co-sponsors of SB 1970 would do.

"We recognize Agriculture remains Illinois' core industry. Agriculture built the state, and the state's growth and success continue to depend upon farm families. We know

that Illinois farmers feed the nation, create thousands of jobs, provide vital raw materials and drive hundreds of local economies.

We believe in free-and-fair trade. We support efforts to expand foreign markets for the goods produced by Illinois farmers as well as other Illinois businesses.

We understand our state is a global leader in finance, futures and derivatives, and therefore, oppose any financial transaction tax."

Reforming Our Government

Healthcare

In 2011, Democratic Rep. Mary E. Flowers introduce the Illinois Universal Health Care Act (HB 942) to establish a statewide single-payer health insurance plan to provide comprehensive health benefits to all Illinoisans equally. It never made it to the floor and died in 2013, but just last February, Flowers submitted HB 2436, the Illinois Medicare for All Health Care Act which is currently sitting in the rules committee. This act would provide universal access to health care for all individuals in the State through the Medicare system. While the sponsors of the the act promise that it would bring substantial savings by combining current sources of government health spending, they admit that it would require "modest new taxes" (we've heard that line before). Under a Republican governor and without a super majority the bill will surely go nowhere. But, now that the leading Democratic candidate J.B. Pritzker is campaigning on his proposal to allow any individual to buy into Medicaid at cost and his support for a single payer system, it should make us all a bit nervous. While the Republicans fight at the national level to repeal Obamacare, we need to make sure we elect local candidates who will join the fight in Illinois to oppose a single payer system and support healthcare "reforms built on the principles of maintaining patient and provider control of healthcare decisions, creating incentives for competition".

In addition to healthcare reform, the Republican Party platform also calls for reforms at the national level to simplify the federal tax code, strengthen the Social Security System, and ratify treaties that put America First.

"We declare that it is the highest obligation of all elected and/or appointed officials to discharge the powers and duties their offices and to conduct their personal affairs honestly, ethically, and with integrity. This fosters good government and enhances public trust.

We believe that the current federal income tax regime should be replaced with a simpler, fairer, and more affordable alternative.

We believe that reforms are required to the Social Security system in order to ensure that Social Security funds are available to all who have paid into that system and for generations to come.

We support replacing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare," with alternative reforms built on the principles of maintaining patient and provider control of healthcare decisions, creating incentives for competition—including the ability to purchase insurance across state lines—innovation, portability, and adaptability, equalizing the tax treatment of individuals and organizations, restoring states' abilities to control health insurance regulations within their own

jurisdictions, promoting health savings accounts, and reforming state medical malpractice laws.

We oppose the ratification of treaties that cede the powers and rights of the American people to the United Nations or other international or multi-national organizations."

State Income Taxes

All the Democratic candidates are touting a "progressive income tax", but only Bob Daibe spelled out what his marginal tax rates would be:

\$2,500 to \$24,999 income — 1 percent
\$25,000 to \$44,999 income — 2.25 percent
\$45,000 to \$149,999 income — 3.75 percent
\$150,000 to \$999,999 income — 4.95 percent
\$1 million or greater income — 6 percent

Changing to a graduated tax rate would be an uphill battle and would require amending the constitution, but with a Democratic governor and majorities in both houses of the Assembly, this nightmare could be possible. As with any nightmare, the initial opening seems sweet (tax cuts for the middle class), but ends in horror when the upward mobile Illinoisans continue to flee the state in record numbers, taking their businesses with them. That's why it's imperative that we elect Republicans this year who oppose a progressive state income tax in Illinois.

"We oppose a progressive state income tax in Illinois. We recognize that a flat state income tax is protected by the Illinois Constitution and that a progressive state income tax would hurt middle class families, small businesses, and the state economy generally"

Term Limits and Redistricting reforms

On January 11, 2017 the Illinois Senate amended the Senate rules to put term limits of no more than 5 General Assemblies for the leadership positions of the Senate. The vote was 58-0. But of course, the resolution does not apply to the house where Rep. Michael Madigan was elected to his 17th term and has been house speaker for 32 out of his 34 years in office. One way, Madigan has been able to keep this power is by maintaining a district that offers little competition. In 2016, as part of Gov. Rauner's "turnaround agenda", he backed a move by an Independent Maps coalition to propose an amendment on the 2016 ballot to remove the influence of partisan politics from how the district boundaries are drawn. An attorney an close ally of Michael Madigan filed a law suit to block the proposed amendment. As Republicans, we need to continue the fight to impose term limits and reform the redistricting laws. Voter ID laws are also needed to eliminate the fraud in Cook county.

"We support term limit reforms that limit the terms of office of statewide officers, state legislators, and state legislative caucus leaders.

We support legislative redistricting reforms that remove from politicians the ability to select their own constituents.

We support common sense ballot integrity efforts, including photoidentification requirements."

Role of judges

In 2016, Gov. Bruce Rauner said that the Illinois Supreme Court is a "corrupt system". Here are some of the governor's words.

"look at who gives them their cash when they run for re-election, you tell me, if when you look at who gives them the money and you decide whether there is a conflict of interest going on in the courts, you tell me. You think there is not? I think the way we do our judges ... they can be elected and reelected and take campaign cash from folks who have direct involvement with the courts that's not right. ... We have a system where we elect our judges and the trial lawyers who argue cases in front of those judges give campaign cash to those judges. It's a corrupt system."

So as we review our candidates and go to the polls, we need to elect not only honest judges, but politicians who wont suck them into their game.

"We support the election or appointment of judges who understand that the role of judges is to apply faithfully the law as written and not to impose their political opinions through judicial fiat."

Eminent Domain

In a rare bipartisan effort, Illinois assemblymen, community activists and attorneys pulled together to oppose the the Great Lakes Basin Transportation (GLBT) land grab to build a rail line from Wisconsin to Indiana through Illinois. GLBT tried to use eminent domain to condemn and purchase land along it's proposed path in Illinois. According to the Illinois Constitution, the State Government maintains a list of groups who can use eminent domain. This group always includes the Department of Transportation, but entities like GLBT are not on the list. Normally, entities need to petition for the privilege on a case-by-case basis, by making a proposal to the General Assembly, but there is an exception in the law for railroads like Great Lakes Basin Railroad (GLBR). Instead of going to the Assembly, the projects are approved by the Surface Transportation Board under the federal Department of Transportation. In other words, a federal agency, not the State of Illinois has the power over the Illinois government to offer up eminent domain.

The Illinois House passed resolution HR0437 to oppose the Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. rail line that would run through Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. It passed in the House with 103 yeas and 0 Nays. Yet, the real victory would have to wait until August 31st when the U.S. Surface Transportation rejected the proposal to build a 361 mile railroad because they failed to provide accurate financial information. On November 7th GLBT failed to appeal the decision, and the fight was over. In the end, private property was protected and no eminent domain was granted. The Republican party platform, is clear in it's opposition to the use of eminent domain unless there is a clear public purpose.

"We oppose the abuse of eminent domain and support public policies that protect private property rights and ensure that eminent domain is exercised only where there is just compensation and a clear public—not private— purpose."

Remaining Steadfast in Our National Security

In 2015, Governor Rauner joined a wave of mostly Republican governors when he announced that Illinois would temporarily stop accepting Syrian Refugees. This was right after the Paris terrorist attacks, and after then President Obama doubled down on his commitment to take in at least 10,000

Syrian refugees. According to Gov. Rauner, a pause was needed until we "find a way to balance our tradition as a state welcoming of refugees while ensuring the safety and security of our citizens." Just two years later, in 2017, Rauner seemed to step back and avoid taking a stand when President Donald Trump ordered a halt to immigration and refugees. When asked, Rauner's administration responded that he was supportive of a "tightening of the vetting process for Syrian refugees because of ISIS attempts to infiltrate refugee flows -- but he's opposed to immigration bans that target any specific religion". This softening of Rauner's stance on refugees, raised some concern by conservatives that the Republican Party may no longer be standing firm on their platform "to pause their efforts or incentives to settle foreign refugees in Illinois unless there are adequate assurances they pose no threats upon our citizens."

As a Republican party, we understand that the threats to our nation are real, and along with a pause on accepting refugees, the Republican party also calls for military superiority and strong border security at our ports and borders.

“We believe our government’s paramount responsibility is to protect American citizens.

We believe it is critical to retain our military superiority in order to deter potential adversaries.

We believe elected officials should support and adequately fund agencies that protect Americans and insure strong security at our ports of entry and borders.

We call upon elected officials to adequately secure our country’s borders.

We call upon elected officials to pause their efforts or incentives to settle foreign refugees in Illinois unless there are adequate assurances they pose no threats upon our citizens.”

Enhancing Public Safety for our Citizens

The right to Bear Arms

Illinois residents are required to have a Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card to purchase or possess a firearm or ammunition. The cards are issued by the Illinois State Police and require a Federal NICS background check. Both Republicans and Democrats support criminal background checks, but unlike the Democrats, the Republican party opposes any effort to release personal information from the FOID cards to the public. In March of 2011, Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office issued a ruling that the state must cooperate with a FOIA request made by the associate press, and ordered that the names of gun permit holders be made public. The list contained more than 1.3 million Illinois cardholders at the time. When the FOIA request was sent to the Illinois State Police, they argued that the request posed an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and sued. On December 8, 2011 the Peoria County Circuit Court entered a permanent injunction making the information exempt from disclosure. As of 2011, the Illinois State Police are not required to release the names and addresses of individuals who possess Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) cards, and Republicans aim to keep it that way.

Furthermore, the Republican Party platform calls for the repeal of the FOID Act. The FOID Act (430 ILCS 65/) contains a plethora of regulations and requirements that stand between Illinois citizens and their lawful means of self-defense. According to www.ilgunrights.com, "The law is so poorly written that you can ask 12 different people for their interpretation and get 12 different answers". In general, the Republicans calls for sensible gun control laws that respect Section 22, Article I of the Illinois Bill of Rights,

“Subject only to the police power, the right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

These rights include both the right to privacy of gun owner's information and the right to carry a concealed weapon. In 2013, Illinois became the last state in the nation to allow concealed carry, and Republicans aim to keep it.

"We believe that day-to-day safety and security in our local communities is critical. Therefore, we strongly endorse and support the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states, in part, “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” As a result, we oppose any efforts by the state or municipalities to impede the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

We believe in the use of criminal background checks by licensed firearms dealers.

We oppose any effort to make public any personal information from FOID cards.

We support the statutory repeal of the FOID Act.

We support continued enactment of “Concealed Carry” legislation."

Repeat Gun Offenders

In June of this 2017, members from both parties of Illinois broke from partisan lines and supported Senate Bill 1722, the Safe Neighborhoods Act. The legislation provided new tools for law enforcement and the courts to battle violent crime by raising the sentencing of some repeat gun offenders from the current 3-7 years to 7-14 years. The law also included several sentencing reforms, such as providing second chance probation eligibility for first time offenders. Gov. Rauner described it as a landmark effort. Critics question whether the new laws have any real impact on gun violence in Illinois. It is still too early to tell, Chicago did see a drop in homicides in 2017 by 100 under previous year, but the number of slain still at a horrific toll of 664 people slain. Nevertheless, something was needed to be done, as Chicago Police Department Superintendent Eddie Johnson stated in August of 2016, "It's time to stop talking and to get serious and take action when it comes to how we sentence our repeat gun offenders, I'm frustrated, you should be frustrated, all Chicagoans should be frustrated."

While some argue over the tactics of the law, it did support the spirit of the Republican Party Platform to "aggressively prosecute [repeat] criminal offenders", and ensure that "Illinois citizens can feel safe in their neighborhoods, homes and businesses." But, when Chicago alone has 600+ killings per year, there is still so much more to do. To start with, our Republican platform also calls for supporting the rights of crime victims to be heard at sentencing and "sentence reduction" proceedings. Additional reforms for a comprehensive plan of prison closures, construction and usage is also included. in the platform.

"Because of the rise in crime by repeat offenders, we support efforts to aggressively prosecute criminal offenders.

We call on elected officials to remain steadfast in ensuring Illinois citizens can feel safe in their neighborhoods, homes and businesses.

We believe the rights of crime victims are essential and there is a just criminal process. As a result, we support the rights of crime victims to give statements, to be heard by the court and other agencies at sentencing and in “sentence-reduction” proceedings and to be given notification upon the release of prisoners.

We call upon the legislature to develop a comprehensive and strategic economic impact plan (e.g., 5, 10 and 20 year) for Illinois' prison closure, construction and usage policy."

ADVOCATING A 'FRONT DOOR' POLICY ON IMMIGRATION

With the support of 5 Republican Senators (shown from left to right) Chris Nybo (24th district Lombard), Karen McConnaughay (33rd district West Dundee), Pamela J. Althoff (32nd district McHenry), Dan McConchie (51st district - Barrington), and Christine Radogno (resigned 41st district Downers Grove), Senate Bill 31 was sent to Governor's Rauner's desk. On August 28, the governor signed the bill known as the Illinois TRUST Act into law as he sat in front of a crowd at the Mi Tierra restaurant in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. In doing so, these senators and Governor Rauner defied the platform of the Illinois Party which calls on Illinois to assist the federal government in protecting our homeland and urging the reversal of "sanctuary city" policies. Many Republicans in Illinois viewed it as open resistance to the will of the people, and a betrayal of what Republicans fight for. Others saw it as protection for our police officers from the overreaching federal government. According to resigned Senate Republican leader Christine Radogno, the "measure will help foster cooperation between certain communities and law enforcement"

The act redefines current law in Illinois to make it clear that State law does not grant local law enforcement the authority to enforce federal civil immigration laws, essentially prohibiting local or state police from cooperating with federal authorities who are investigating immigrants without a criminal warrant. It also forbids local and state police from stopping, searching or arresting anyone based solely on their immigration status. The bill establishes state funded-schools, health care facilities, hospitals nursing homes as well as facilities operated by the Secretary of State, circuit courts, appellate courts and the Supreme Court all as "safe zones". Illegal immigrants can not be apprehended in these "safe zones" without a judicial warrant or probable cause of criminal activity.

Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno and four other Republican state senators voted for the bill. Radogno reasoned that this act would help foster cooperation between the Latino communities in Chicago and Illinois and law enforcement making our streets safer. On the day, the bill passed in the house, June 29th, Senator Radogno resigned. The bill specifically excluded the words "sanctuary state", but make no mistake this bill made Illinois a sanctuary state. Almost immediately after the bill was signed by Republicans John Cabbello of Rockford and David McSweeney of Barrington filed a bill to repeal and reverse the Illinois Trust Act.

"We call on the Illinois government to assist our federal government in the mission of protecting our homeland. We therefore urge reversal of "sanctuary city" policies, which bar our law enforcement officers from aiding Immigration & Customs Enforcement agents. Border control is a national security and public safety issue. We further call on the federal government to secure and protect our borders and vigorously enforce the law of the land.

We further call on the federal and Illinois government to abandon all incentives that encourage illegal immigrants to settle in Illinois, as these incentives put a strain on our already struggling economy and are insulting to those who immigrated here legally."

H-1B Visa Program Abuse

When people think of immigration policies, what comes to mind first is often border security, the wall, DACA and Sanctuary city policies, but often overlooked are the abuses of the H-1B visa lottery that

allow non-immigrant workers to be in the U.S. temporarily for "special occupations" that require "highly specialized knowledge". Yet this is the first abuse outlined in the 2016 Illinois Republican Party Platform.

In 2016, President Trump promised during his campaign to "end forever the use of the H-1B as a cheap labor program, and institute an absolute requirement to hire American workers first for every visa and immigration program". This campaign promise made immediate enemies with Silicon valley, including CEOs like Mark Zuckerberg who wanted to expand the program. On April 3rd, of 2017 President Trump began to deliver on his promise when Department of Homeland Security announced it would be applying greater scrutiny of the H1B Visa program, by heightening sight visits to find companies which were evading their obligation to make a good faith effort to hire U.S. workers.

Believe it or not, President Trump had a Democrat from Illinois as his ally in his efforts to crack-down on the H-1B Visa program. In fact, Illinois Senator Dick Durbin called out President Trump one month earlier for failing to follow through on his promise to put American workers first. Durbin sent a letter to Trump stating that the "The American people deserve an explanation for your decision not to pursue H-1B reforms on your first day in office". Durbin explained, "You must act immediately to prevent further harm to American workers. In early April, the government will conduct its annual lottery to decide which employers will receive Fiscal Year 2018 H-1B visas. So if you do not take action in the next few weeks, outsourcers will secure the right to import tens of thousands of low-wage foreign guest workers to replace American workers. This is in addition to hundreds of thousands of H-1B workers who are already employed by outsourcing companies in the United States."

It was a rare occasion when a Democratic Senator held our President's feet to the fire to support the Illinois Republican Platform. This abuse of the H-1b Visa program is not just an issue in Silicon Valley; it is a big problem here in our own state. The biggest user of the H-1b Visa program is Accenture. The consulting firm uses worker visas for more employees than any other company in our state, and realizes savings up to 40%. Again it was Dick Durbin who testified at a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee hearing that the abuse is "worse to day than ever" and displaces qualified American workers.

It's time we demand our elected Republican officials, and those running for office about their support to end the abuses of the H-1B Visa program. It's time Republicans in Illinois stop running away from our president, and start stepping up and proudly join President Donald Trump in demanding our companies "Hire American".

“We support American workers and believe government should ensure businesses only hire legal workers. We oppose the abuse of the worker visa program that puts Americans out of work.

We are a nation of immigrants, and the Republican Party welcomes those who respect our laws and seek freedom and opportunity in our great country. We believe it is only right to expect that our new residents come in through the front door and join us in society as fellow Americans.

We call on the Federal Government to streamline the task of citizenship for legal immigrants to assimilate and complete the process of becoming Americans.

We support American workers and believe government should ensure businesses only hire legal workers. We oppose the abuse of the worker visa program that puts Americans out of work.”

Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI)

In the days following the 9/11 attacks, President George W. Bush authorized an expedited citizenship for military recruits via executive order, because the military would need to grow rapidly as we pledged to attack terrorist cells around the globe. Recruits with potential to become translators or cultural experts were prioritized; however, anyone who met the requirements was permitted to go through the process. Under the Obama administration, the program known as Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) was expanded, with recruits getting the opportunity to naturalize at the end of basic training. Since 2009, more than 10,400 individuals have enlisted or served in the U.S. military through MAVNI. Approximately 10,000 of those enlistees are still in the service or waiting to serve. Upon completing the enlistment process, MAVNI enlistees may apply for U.S. citizenship through an expedited naturalization process that does not require the individual to be a permanent resident (green-card holder).

In August of this year under the Trump Administration, the Pentagon's inspector general released a classified report that identified serious problems with the program. Fox news reported that the Pentagon was expressing alarm over "foreign infiltration" among the current enrollees. Pentagon officials considered halting MAVNI, but instead instituted a more thorough background investigation and required applicants to "receive a favorable military security suitability determination (MSSD) prior to entry in the active, reserve, or guard service." In addition, recruits would no longer receive expedited citizenship until after completing 180 consecutive days of active service or a full year of satisfactory service in the reserves.

The MAVNI program has been caught up in the latest discussions on immigration among law makers, as over 800 DACA recipients have joined the military through MAVNI. While this is not a state specific issue, it is a key issue in our Illinois Republican Party Platform, and one that should be reviewed by our party. As we consider the critical need for more service men and women with specialized skills, we need to also need to consider the risks of providing an expedited path to citizenship through this program.

"We call for the consideration of full citizenship rights to be granted to any legal immigrant who has shown their willingness to embrace and defend American values upon the honorable completion of service in the armed forces of the United States."

Kate's Law

On June 29, Kate's Law (HR 3004) passed in the House proposing to increase penalties for deported aliens who try to return to the United States and are caught passed in the House 257 to 157. The law is named for Kate Steinle, a young woman in San Francisco who was killed by an illegal immigrant who was able to return and remain in the U.S. despite multiple deportations. The bill provided a 2 year prison sentence for any illegal alien previously convicted of a crime who was caught trying to cross the border into the United States. It also increased the prison sentence for these illegal aliens up to 10 years for 3 or more misdemeanors or one felony, and 15 years for any previous 30 month sentence. Murder, rape, kidnapping or terrorism, would earn a 25 years.

This bill had very strong support from House Republicans, and even enjoyed the support of a few democrats. Only one Republican Congressman voted against it, Justin Amash of Michigan. Amash argued that Kate's Law contained a provision that would deny Fifth amendment due process to some criminal defendants, relying on the argument that illegal aliens have have rights guaranteed them by the constitution. Unfortunately, the bill has a much tougher fight in the Senate where 60 votes will be needed to send it to Trump's desk. It's a sure bet that unlike our own Peter Roskam in the house who voted for Kate's law, Democrats Durbin and Duckworth will vote against it. We need to keep

fighting to one day put a Republican back in the United States Senate to fight for Illinois Republican values.

"We strongly believe that those who have been deported for violating our laws by their conduct as residents of the United States should not be granted a second opportunity to take their place among us; this is a matter of both self-protection and of upholding public trust."

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Electing pro-life Judges

In 2009, the Chicago City Council passed a law that created a "bubble-zone" around abortion clinics. The law as enforced creates an 8-foot zones around people, and 50 feet around a medical facility. Anyone who enters that space without consent could face a \$500 fine. The law essentially forbids "sidewalk counselors" from approaching women going to the clinics to try and talk them out of having an abortion. Supporters of the ordinance, such as Planned Parenthood of Illinois were "thrilled" with the ruling, stating that it "strikes a delicate balance between the right to free speech with the need to protect people from harassment and intimidation." Opponents argued that it not only denied them their freedom of speech, but also discriminated against young women who were often young, afraid and unaware that they had other options available to them such as adoption.

In response, the Thomas More Society challenged the city's Bubble Zone Ordinance in federal court, asserting that the First Amendment rights of citizens and organizations were being denied, and that the law unconstitutionally restrains the peaceful work of the sidewalk counselors because it was applied against pro-lifers, but not clinic escorts. The City of Chicago filed a motion to block the suit, but on January 4, 2017 US District Judge Amy J. St. Eve ruled to dismiss the City of Chicago's motion and allow Pro-lifers to sue Chicago over the "bubble-zone" law.

While Judge Amy J. St. Eve is not an elected judge, and was nominated by President George W. Bush, it is still a reminder about the role of judges in our constitutional system. Judges wield a tremendous amount of power to help or stop political forces from enforcing their will on us. So often, we focus on the governor's race, or a senator's race in Illinois but we forget that all politics begin local. Take Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court Thomas R. Fitzgerald who began his career in 1976 as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge. Fitzgerald became the first Illinois chief justice to preside over the impeachment trial of a sitting governor when he presided over the impeachment trial of Governor Rod Blagojevich. The importance of electing Judges who will fight to protect the "right to life" for all including the unborn can not be over-stated. A more recent example, is the Judge Jennifer Ascher's ruling to dismiss a law suit from state Rep. Peter Breen and special counsel to the Thomas More Society to stop HB 40. HB 40 was recently signed by Gov. Rauner and allows taxpayer dollars to be used for public funding of abortions.

So as we go to the polls this year, please educate yourself on all of our candidates, including which judges share the belief in the "fundamental right to life of unborn children" as defined in our Illinois Republican Party platform.

"We believe that our natural rights, as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, begin at conception and continue until natural death. We believe that these rights include the fundamental right to life of unborn children, and we support the appointment or election of judges who share that belief."

HB-40

When Gov. Rauner ran in 2014, he was not afraid to share his personal views on abortion. While taking questions from a group of conservative Republicans, he answered a question about being pro-choice. Rauner urged Republicans to come together and "Unite to Win" : "The reality is that the right for a woman to choose is a national law. That's not going to change in Illinois. I think we can agree on some common sense ways for abortion to be more rare and safe. I support parental notification, I support late term restrictions. I strongly encourage adoption as a far better alternative to abortion. There are things we can agree on and try to get it done. But I am one who believes — I just think it's better that a woman, her physician, her family and her minister and priest make the decision better than the government. That's my view. You may not agree with me, I respect that."

Pro-life groups such as IllinoisFamilyAction.org actively campaigned against Rauner, calling him "no friend of the unborn". They pointed out that he attended a gala fundraiser for the ACLU where his wife was a member and life-long Democrat. The Rauner campaign fought back promising that he would have no social agenda. They put out an ad featuring his wife talking from her own kitchen: "Bruce doesn't have a social agenda, he has an economic and education agenda, he'll be a warrior for our children and tax payers". The Rauner campaign was trying to maintain a delicate balancing act, placating social conservatives, with their "no social agenda" promise without losing moderate Democrats who might vote for a pro-choice Republican. In October, Diana Rauner sent an email to supporters to make it clear that her husband Bruce is pro-choice, "Bruce has been unequivocal in his support for reproductive rights throughout a contentious Republican primary and publicly stated his support for reproductive rights in primary debates. He won the primary despite his pro-choice stance, in part by convincing pro-lifers to put aside their views on this issue in favor of economic ones."

So, when Rauner signed HB-40, social conservatives went into a tail spin. By signing a bill that supported tax-payer funding of abortions, they felt betrayed. HB-40 was a democratic sponsored bill that was in direct contradiction to the 2016 Illinois Republican party platform that opposed the "the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions or to support organizations that perform abortions". HB-40 repealed the ban on taxpayer funding of abortions under Medicaid and the ban on state employee's group insurance policies covering abortions. HB40 will cover abortions for any reason throughout the full nine months of pregnancy using state tax dollars. And if that was not insult enough, the bill removed language in the Preamble of the Illinois Abortion stating that Illinois recognized the unborn child as a person. Finally, the bill removed what has been referred to as the "Trigger" statement that would keep abortions legal in Illinois if the U.S. Supreme court were to ever reverse *Roe v. Wade*.

For republicans, whether you view it as a betrayal or not, one thing is clear. Governor Rauner is pro-choice. For some social conservatives this is a "show-stopper", for others there are bigger fish to fry. As a party, we need to have an open an honest discussion of what is right for Illinois. Whatever happens this election, the fight is not over. If we are ever to make Illinois a pro-life state, it is going to require a grass-roots effort to change the hearts and minds of the voters.

Nevertheless, the Republican Party is clear over it's stance on abortion as stated in the 2016 platform:

"We support a human life amendment to the federal and Illinois constitutions affirming the right to life of unborn children, and we support making clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children.

We advocate the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

We oppose the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions or to support organizations that perform abortions, that participate in the purchase or sale of fetal tissue or organs, or that create and destroy human embryos for the harvesting of stem cells for research or treatment purposes."

Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

When Gov. Rauner signed the controversial HB-40 into law, it repealed the ban in Illinois against using tax-payer money to fund abortions. In response, Congressman Peter Roskam (IL-14) and a pro-life delegation of Illinois Congressmen released a public statement condemning Rauner's action calling it a "reversal of long-standing Illinois policy". Joining Roskam in the statement were John Shimkus (IL-15), Randy Hultgren (IL-14), Rodney Davis (IL-13), Adam Kinzinger (IL-16), Darin LaHood (IL-18) and Mike Bost (IL-12). In 2007, Peter Roskam succeeded the late Henry Hyde, champion of the pro-life movement and sponsor of the Hyde amendment which barred the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of incest or rape. The Hyde amendment was originally passed in the House on September 30, 1976. Congressman Henry Hyde continued to speak out against abortion throughout his career in congress, and demonstrated his passion in 1996 when he spoke out urging his colleagues to overturn President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion ban. Henry Hyde will always be remembered for his passionate defense of life, and it is fitting that Congressman Peter Roskam spoke out against HB-40.

On October 3, 2017 Rep. Roskam and the pro-life delegation released this statement:

"Henry Hyde championed the rights of the unborn through the Hyde Amendment, which expressly prohibits federal funding for abortions. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from 2005 to 2014, the infant mortality rate in the United States dropped 15 percent. Much of this progress can be attributed to technological advancements in medicine that gives children born prematurely and with various medical issues a fighting chance. H.R. 36 protects children like Micah Pickering who was born at 22 weeks and is a thriving toddler today. (see link below) In a reversal of long-standing Illinois policy, Governor Rauner has let down Illinois taxpayers and the unborn by signing H.B. 40. Today, the Illinois delegation stands together in our support of H.R. 36 to protect human life."

Roskam also joined other pro-life Congressman to advance bipartisan legislation of House Resolution 36, the Unborn Pain-Capable Child Protection Act. On October 3, 2017 the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR-36, banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy when a child can feel pain, except for instances where the mother's life is at risk, or cases involving rape or incest. During his campaign, President Trump sent a letter to his pro-life supporters that he would sign the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act if it comes to his desk. For many, Illinois pro-life voter's, the signing into law of HB-40 was heartbreaking, but we ought not lose all hope and continue to encourage our state and federal representatives to continue the fight to protect all life, especially in those cases where the unborn child can feel pain and is capable of surviving outside the womb.

We need to point no further than the 2016 Illinois Republican Party Platform which outlines our party's opposition to partial birth and late term abortions. In addition, Republicans of Illinois support notification of a child's parents or guardians prior to an abortion, and the Illinois Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, which guarantees appropriate medical care for babies whose birth is incidental to abortion."

"We believe that the practices of partial birth and late-term abortion are so morally repugnant that we specifically, and strongly, affirm our opposition to those practices. We believe that physicians should be required to notify a minor child's parents or guardians prior to the performance of an abortion.

We applaud the work of pregnancy care centers in reducing abortions. We support public policies that encourage adoption—by reducing costs and streamlining processes—as an alternative to abortion.

In order to protect women’s health, we believe facilities in which abortions are performed should be required to meet the same medical operating standards as other outpatient surgery centers, including undergoing periodic health and safety inspections.

We support enactment of the Illinois Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, which guarantees appropriate medical care for babies whose birth is incidental to abortion."

EMBRACING THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY

When the Supreme struck down the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional in 2013, some in Illinois rejoiced while other recoiled. The Archdiocese of Chicago released a public statement from Cardinal Francis George on the ruling, calling the action "illogical and pretentious.

"Today's decisions also bring us one step closer to the day when those who continue to distinguish between genuine marital unions and same-sex arrangements will be regarded as "bigots." We have already seen the negative result of gender-free unions on Catholic social services here in Illinois and other states."

While the Democrats seemed united and called it a win for "equal rights", Republicans in Illinois were more divided. By 2016, several members led by former Illinois GOP State chairman Pat Brady, along with vocal supporters including Schaumburg GOP

Committeeman Ryan Higgins proposed removing the "one-man, one-woman marriage plank" from the 2016 platform. Proponents of the change like Higgins, thought that if the party platform included an acknowledgement of same-sex marriages, it might open up the party to younger or more moderate members. But many Republicans from around the state fought back. When the proposal was introduced at the 2016 Party convention in Peoria, some of the opponents of the change booed and shouted it down. In the end, 80% of the members in the room voted to leave the official Illinois Republican party platform as defining the "ideal" environment for children to be one that includes marriage between one man and one woman.

Today, the "one-man, one-woman marriage plank" remains the most controversial plank of the Illinois Republican party. For some, it is based on religious and cultural beliefs, for others the argument is purely political. Some see it as a stumbling block to attracting more moderate and cross-over voters, while others see it as a differentiator between the two parties. Nevertheless, in 2016 the Illinois Republican convention goes chose to stay with the original wording in the platform in support of the traditional family.

"The family is society's central building block. Thus, efforts to strengthen family life are efforts to improve life for everyone. Our children need secure and nurturing environments, which are best found within the traditional family. No law should be enacted nor policy implemented without fully contemplating the effect it would have on children and their families.

While not universally achievable, the ideal environment for children is within a two-parent family based on the principle of marriage between one man and one woman. The Republican Party endorses a constitutional amendment protecting our Defense of Marriage Act and enshrining in constitutional law marriage as it is defined in our "DOMA."

Our laws should strongly support and celebrate the loving commitment a man and a woman make to each other in marriage. Our laws should strongly support and celebrate a loving, married couple bringing new life into the world and rearing their children in a secure and nurturing environment from conception to adulthood. No law should undermine the importance of that union, divide that union nor unduly burden the efforts of parents to rear a family in a safe and nurturing environment.

Those persons in our society best equipped and motivated to protect and nurture children are their parents, not government bureaucrats, teachers, counselors or social workers. The Republican Party endorses legislation to re-establish the right of parents to consent to health care involving their minor children, regard less of whether such care entails diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted disease, alcoholism, drug abuse or mental illness, and particularly in the consequential arena of abortion and contraception."

PROVIDING A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

When Common Core standards were introduced into our schools, it left many parents bewildered and concerned over what the schools were teaching their kids. But putting aside the content, Common Core represented a bigger issue, that long standing federal statutes prohibited the federal government and the U.S. Department in general from directing controlling the curriculum of local schools. Put, simply Common Core represented a "nationalization" of our schools. In 2015, Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana tried to sue the

U.S. Department of Education to stop what he called "unlawful and coercive conditions" and "quid pro quo" policies to force states into adopting a common set of K-12 standards. Jindal argued that the Department of Education left no room for states to exercise their sovereign authority over education as defined by the Tenth Amendment. Ultimately, U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick ruled that Common Core was not a curriculum and as such, the federal government was not in her opinion infringing on state sovereignty over education.

The fight quickly moved from the courts to the political arena as 2016 Republican Presidential hopefuls claimed their mark on education. Some candidates like Rand Paul and Ted Cruz called for abolishing the Department of Education while others like Governor Kasich called for slimming it down. Eventually, Donald Trump joined the chorus of calling to abolish the department. Finally, on February 7, 2017 Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky introduced House Resolution 899, a bill to abolish the federal department of Education. The bill would terminate the department on December 31, 2018. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education, with no further action. In 2016, Illinois Republicans voiced their opinion on the subject, and called for the elimination of the Federal Department of Education in our Party's Platform. Besides the elimination of the department, the platform also included language immersion programs to teach English, and the rights of parents to choose to consent or not consent to IEPs in part or in whole.

"We call our state to deliver results for the vast sums of tax payer dollars annually invested in the schools from the federal, state and local levels. All children in our educational system should have access to a quality education which puts them first and no child should be forced to attend schools that are failing.

Children should follow a system of gradual language immersion from the earliest days of their formal schooling. This is not only a cultural issue but an economic one as English is the business language of the world. We want all of our children to have the opportunity to succeed in the economy.

A basic foundation of our education system for more than a century has been that communities are in the best position to make decisions regarding their school districts. We embrace local control of public schools. We believe states should be empowered through the Tenth Amendment to control education. Therefore, we call for the elimination of the Federal Department of Education.

We strongly support the rights of parents to direct the education of their children which they believe will best further their children's future prospects. Non-public schools should be unregulated by the state. In regards to special education in public school, we affirm parents' rights in their child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and they should have the right in Illinois to not consent to parts of the IEP while accepting the rest. We note with concern the increasing tendency of school officials to advocate for placing children on medication to control their behavior. It remains the responsibility of the schools to abide by the parental wishes for the administration of medication in the school setting."

References

- Act?, H. (2018). How well do you know the FOID Act? - Illinois Gun Owners Rights. [online] Illinois Gun Owners Rights. Available at: <http://www.ilgunrights.com/how-well-do-you-know-the-foid-act/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- bnd. (2018). Group says lawsuits continue to bring down Illinois' economy. [online] Available at: <http://www.bnd.com/news/local/article19487232.html> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Charvat, M. (2018). Illinois Set Increase Gasoline Taxes by 30 Cents a Gallon. [online] Q985 Online. Available at: <http://q985online.com/illinois-lawmakers-looking-to-perman.../> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Chicago Sun-Times. (2018). Canadian consortium buys Chicago Skyway lease rights for \$2.8 billion. [online] Available at: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/canadian-consortium-buyschicago-skyway-lease-rights-for-2-8-billion/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Crain's Chicago Business. (2018). Why the gas tax is running out of road. [online] Available at: <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20171115/NEWS02/171119938/why-the-gas-tax-is-running-out-of-road> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Daily Kos. (2018). IL-Gov: JB Pritzker (D) Calls For Expanding The ACA In Illinois By Introducing A Public Option Plan. [online] Available at: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2017/8/1/1686116/-IL-Gov-JBPritzker-D-Calls-For-Expanding-The-ACA-In-Illinois-By-IntroducingA-Public-Option-Plan> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Eger, C. (2018). Illinois governor signs bill to crack down on criminals who are repeat gun offenders. [online] Guns.com. Available at: <http://www.guns.com/2017/06/26/gov-rauner-signs-bill-to-crackdown-on-criminals-who-are-repeat-gun-offenders/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Hayden, M. (2018). Chicago Top Cop Says Put Criminals in Jail and Keep Them There. [online] ABC News. Available at: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/chicago-police-superintendent-putcriminals-jail/story?id=41703684> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].

- Hoover Institution. (2018). The War Over A Word. [online] Available at: <https://www.hoover.org/research/war-over-word> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Ilga.gov. (2018). Illinois General Assembly - Bill Status for HB4150. [online] Available at: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=4150&GAID=14&DocTypeID=HB&SessionID=91&GA=100> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Illinoisattorneygeneral.gov. (2018). IRS Fact sheet. [online] Available at: http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/publications/pdf/Instruction_FactSheet2017.pdf [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Isp.state.il.us. (2018). Illinois State Police Press Release. [online] Available at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/media/pressdetails.cfm?ID=609> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Judicialhellholes.org. (2018). 'Litigation Imbalance' Study Is More Bad News from Illinois, Lincoln Spinning in Grave « Judicial Hellholes. [online] Available at: <http://www.judicialhellholes.org/2015/04/14/litigation-imbalancestudy-is-more-bad-news-from-illinois/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Monique Garcia, R. (2018). Rauner halts Syrian refugees in Illinois, joins wave of governors. [online] [chicagotribune.com](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/chapman/ct-brucerauner-illinois-syrian-refugees-suspended-met-1117-20151116story.html). Available at: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/chapman/ct-brucerauner-illinois-syrian-refugees-suspended-met-1117-20151116story.html> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Press, T. (2018). Great Lakes Basin fails to appeal freight rail decision. [online] [Rockford Register Star](http://www.rrstar.com/news/20171107/great-lakes-basin-fails-toappeal-freight-rail-decision). Available at: <http://www.rrstar.com/news/20171107/great-lakes-basin-fails-toappeal-freight-rail-decision> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Riopell, M. (2018). Rauner: Illinois Supreme Court part of a 'corrupt system'. [online] [Daily Herald](http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20150407/news/150409036/). Available at: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20150407/news/150409036/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- SHELLY D. DICK, D. (2018). JINDAL v. U.S. DEPARTMENT | Civil Action No. 14... | 20150227b22 | [Leagle.com](https://www.leagle.com/decision/infdc020150227b22). [online] [Leagle](https://www.leagle.com/decision/infdc020150227b22). Available at: <https://www.leagle.com/decision/infdc020150227b22> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].

- U.S. (2018). Illinois governor reports \$188.1 million in 2015 personal income. [online] Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/usillinois-governor/illinois-governor-reports-188-1-million-in-2015personal-income-idUSKBN1362BL> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Congress.gov. (2018). H.R.3004 - 115th Congress (2017-2018): Kate's Law. [online] Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115thcongress/house-bill/3004> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Congressman Peter Roskam. (2018). In Response to the Signing of Illinois H.B. 40, Illinois Republican Congressional Delegation Releases Statement on H.R. 36. [online] Available at: <https://roskam.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/responsesigning-illinois-hb-40-illinois-republican-congressional> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Fox News. (2018). Pentagon investigators find 'security risks' in government's immigrant recruitment program, 'infiltration' feared. [online] Available at: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/08/01/pentagon-investigatorsfind-security-risks-in-governments-immigrant-recruitment-programinfiltration-feared.html> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Illinois Family Institute. (2018). The Illinois GOP Congressional Caucus Responds to HB 40. [online] Available at: <https://illinoisfamily.org/life/illinois-gop-congressional-caucusresponds-hb-40/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Illinois Review. (2018). Rauner's own words on the issue of abortion [video]. [online] Available at: <http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2014/03/rauners-ownwords-on-the-topic-of-abortion.html> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- Illinoisrighttolife.org. (2018). Anti-Life Legislation – Illinois Right to Life. [online] Available at: <http://illinoisrighttolife.org/legislation/bills/antilife-legislation/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- LifeNews.com. (2018). Born at 22 Weeks Baby Micah Could Easily Have Been Aborted, But Babies Like Him are Surviving | LifeNews.com. [online] Available at: <http://www.lifenews.com/2015/05/07/born-at-22-weeks-baby-micahcould-easily-have-been-aborted-but-babies-like-her-are-surviving/> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].
- MLive.com. (2018). Why U.S. Rep. Justin Amash voted against Kate's Law and sanctuary city penalties. [online] Available at:

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/07/why_us_rep_justin_a_mash_voted.html [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].

The Balance. (2018). The Military Accessions Vital to MAVNI program. [online] Available at: <https://www.thebalance.com/militaryaccessions-mavni-program-3354096> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].

TheHill. (2018). Pentagon makes major changes to immigrant recruitment program. [online] Available at: <http://thehill.com/policy/defense/355400-pentagon-makes-majorchanges-to-program-to-recruit-immigrants> [Accessed 28 Jan. 2018].