



## STATE OF ILLINOIS Governor's Office



## Intergovernmental Affairs Update

AUGUST 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

# Governor Pat Quinn Helps Combat Flooding in Illinois

## Quinn expands the Clean Water Initiative by \$1 billion

OAK LAWN – On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation to help combat flooding across the state and protect Illinois' drinking water. The legislation makes stormwater management and treatment projects available for state financial assistance following last year's record rainfall and severe flooding that affected communities across Illinois. Today's action is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to drive the economy forward and protect the environment by modernizing Illinois' water infrastructure.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Director Lisa Bonnett said that "Governor Quinn's expanded \$2 billion financing program is making significant improvements in water quality in our state, and has the added benefit of saving money for local residents and creating an additional 28,000 jobs for Illinois citizens."

Senate Bill 2780, sponsored by State Senator Dan Kotowski (D-Park Ridge) and State Representative Elaine Nekritz (D-Northbrook), expands the Governor's Clean Water Initiative to include stormwater and green infrastructure projects. Expanding the projects eligible for financial assistance

through the Clean Water Initiative will allow the IEPA to provide financial assistance to Illinois communities for storm sewers and stormwater-related activities, including green infrastructure. Governor Quinn first proposed the measure in his 2014 State of the State address. The new law takes effect immediately.

In 2013, Governor Quinn signed Senate Bill 1869 which gives Illinois municipalities greater ability to build and invest in innovative stormwater management infrastructure to help mitigate damaging floods such as green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales, tree boxes, porous pavement, native plantings, constructed wetlands and more. The law expanded an existing law to include these items among the measures a municipality can employ to help prevent flooding. Governor Quinn first launched the \$1 billion Illinois Clean Water Initiative in his 2012 State of the State address.

For more information regarding the program, please visit [CleanWater.Illinois.gov](http://CleanWater.Illinois.gov) or contact Crystal Saint, Director of Downstate Intergovernmental Affairs for the Governor's Office at 217-524-1386 ◊



### Program of the Month: Illinois Correctional Industries

Learn how your purchases can support inmate rehabilitation by offering valuable vocational training and experience.



### Unemployment Rate Falls to Its Lowest Rate Since October 2008

Governor Quinn's construction projects will put hundreds to work as Illinois' unemployment rate plummets.



### You're Invited: Illinois State Fair Local Elected Officials Day

Come join other local elected officials from around the state at the Springfield and DuQuoin State Fairs.

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### Featured Newsroom Clips

Giving you information on emerging issues affecting the State of Illinois.

YOU ARE INVITED

## ICI Open House

**WHEN:** September 10 & 11 from 10am-2pm

**WHERE:** IDOC Campus, Cushman Building, N. 15<sup>th</sup> & Moffat, Springfield, IL 62794

**WHAT:** Product displays, prizes, and food samples



## Program of the Month: Illinois Correctional Industries Your Purchases Can Support Inmate Rehabilitation

A division of the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC), Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) helps rehabilitate offenders by providing them with training and experience that they can use upon release, all at no cost to taxpayers—they are budget-neutral and self-sustaining. By buying ICI products, organizations support the goal of positively impacting offenders' lives, reducing recidivism, and building a safer Illinois.

In order to produce the 1,000+ items currently in their catalog, ICI employs over 900 offenders at 22 locations. They offer goods and services like food processing, clothing and embroidery, office furniture and filing cabinets, outdoor furniture, bedding, eyeglasses, pet grooming, cleaning products, printing, and engraving, just to name a few. All offenders' clothing is manufactured by ICI and more than half the food consumed by offenders and DOC staff is processed, packaged, and shipped by ICI. While DOC remains their biggest customer, ICI also serves municipalities, park districts, public universities, and other state entities.

ICI develops partnerships with private businesses that need workers trained in the skills they teach (recycling, manufacturing, computer programming, technical drawing, etc.). They invite potential employers to tour ICI production shops, meet the offenders, and hold mock job interviews to help prepare offenders for successful reentry to society.

### Need Street Signs? Order Now

In January 2014, ICI established a sign shop at Lincoln Correctional Center—the culmination

of six years of planning and development. ICI now offers the widest range of high-visibility reflective signage in the state of Illinois. They offer a variety of products including traffic, street, concealed carry, wayfinding, conservation and specialty signs, vehicle decals and markings, banners, bumper stickers, sign kiosks and decals.

All signs are made by a trained and capable staff of inmate workers who are learning skills such as silk screening, machining, welding, graphic arts, technical drawing, computer programming, inventory control, shipping and receiving, quality control, and customer service.

The new shop's first shipment of signs was recently delivered to the Illinois Department of Transportation for hiking and sightseeing paths in Rock River Trail Scenic and Historic Route, a 155-mile nature walk that spans six northern Illinois counties and five in Wisconsin.

New orders are now being taken and can be tailored to the needs of towns, villages, state agencies, park districts, and schools across Illinois.

To learn more about the ICI line of sign products, call Scott Stahlman in their Marketing Department at (217) 558-2200 x7028 or Lincoln Sign Shop foreman Brian Camp at (217) 735- 5411 x6155.

Be sure to visit the ICI website <http://www.ici.illinois.gov> to check out the full line. ♦



# Unemployment Rate Plummets

## Governor Quinn Announces *Employ Illinois*



CHICAGO – In July, as Illinois' unemployment rate fell to its lowest point since October 2008, Governor Pat Quinn announced *Employ Illinois*, an expansion of his efforts to provide diverse residents with training for jobs in the construction industry. Offered through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois Tollway, *Employ Illinois* links job seekers with training and also increases the incentive paid to contractors from \$10 to \$15 an hour for each program graduate they put to work. Today's announcement is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to create jobs and help drive Illinois' economy forward.

"Putting people back to work is my number one priority," Governor Quinn said. "There are more people working now than when I took office and today's good news shows we are headed in the right direction. While we have more work to do, *Employ Illinois* will help

*Illinois' rate has dropped to 7.1 percent, the lowest since October 2008 – months before Governor Quinn took office. The drop in the unemployment rate from March to June is the sharpest three-month decline ever recorded in Illinois.*

give more of our hardworking residents the opportunity for hands-on training and job experience at a decent wage. Illinois is making a comeback and this program will help ensure our workers have what it takes to get the job done."

Preliminary data, released today by the

Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Illinois Department of Employment Security, shows Illinois' rate has dropped to 7.1 percent, the lowest since October 2008 – months before Governor Quinn took office. The drop in the unemployment rate from March to June is the sharpest three-month decline ever recorded in Illinois.

Governor Quinn has directed IDOT and the Tollway to apply the *Employ Illinois* incentive on as many eligible projects as possible. *Employ Illinois* workers will take part in many of the projects funded by a new \$1 billion road construction initiative that begins in August.

Under *Employ Illinois*, participants will develop the pre-apprenticeship skills they need to work on construction sites and begin the process of becoming journeymen and journeymen in the construction trades. Since the \$10 per hour hiring incentive took effect, trainees have participated in 269 contracts statewide, resulting in 9,172 hours in on-the-job training that was reimbursed by the state.

"The Tollway's *Move Illinois* Program is the largest in our agency's history and the largest of any toll road agency in the nation," Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur said. "*Employ Illinois* will bridge the gap between these established training programs and the job opportunities that exist on a variety of roadway construction projects throughout Illinois."

"*Employ Illinois* is about investing in people as we invest in our roads and bridges," Acting IDOT Secretary Erica Borggren said. "Through this program, we will provide aspiring workers the help they need to develop marketable skills in the transportation trades."

The \$15 per hour incentive will be paid by the state to contractors that hire *Employ Illinois* graduates. On IDOT projects, the agency funds the incentive paid to contractors. The Illinois Tollway will fund the incentives paid to contractors that hire *Employ Illinois* graduates on Tollway projects.

Ongoing projects already utilizing the new \$15 per hour incentive include the Circle Interchange in Chicago, Roosevelt Road in Broadview, West Lake Avenue in Glenview, the Grand Avenue bridge in Gurnee, the U.S. 34 and Canadian National Railway separation project in Aurora and the Richton Road and I-57/Stuenkel Road projects in Will County.

*Employ Illinois* workers will participate in many of the major northeastern Illinois construction projects this season, part of the \$1.1 billion capital bill passed by the Illinois General Assembly this spring, including: \$48 million reconstruction of the I-55 bridges approaching Lake Shore Drive in Chicago; \$86 million project to rebuild and repair the bridges at I-55 and Illinois 171 in the southwest suburbs; \$44.5 million project to add lanes to U.S. 14 in Crystal Lake; \$32.7 million reconstruction of the I-55 and Weber Road interchange in Romeoville; \$16.1 million reconstruction of the U.S. 41 and Illinois 132 interchange in Gurnee.

Other projects statewide that could include *Employ Illinois* workers are: \$22.4 million resurfacing and bridge repairs to I-64 in Washington County; \$21 million resurfacing of I-57 in Williamson County; \$13.6 million resurfacing and bridge replacement on I-57 in Iroquois County; \$8.6 million resurfacing and safety improvements on I-74 in Champaign County; \$30 million resurfacing on I-70 in Fayette and Effingham counties; \$26 million resurfacing of 31 miles of I-39/U.S. 51 in Winnebago and Ogle counties.

At Governor Quinn's direction, construction projects have exceeded goals for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation. Over the past five years, the Tollway has spent nearly \$586 million, or 25 percent of its \$2.4 billion contracts awarded, with firms owned by minorities or women. Minority workers on Tollway projects have seen their hours quadruple between 2011 and 2013.

During the past five years, the state's road-building agencies under Governor Quinn have spent more than \$4.2 billion with DBE firms, of which nearly \$280 million went to African-American owned firms. This is the largest five-year total in the state's history. IDOT has seen DBE participation jump from \$186 million, or 11.8 percent of all IDOT project spending in 2008, to \$353 million and 16 percent in 2013. Offerings through *Employ Illinois* include IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training program (HCCTP), Tollway's Transportation Construction Apprenticeship Readiness Training program (TCART) and the Earned Credit Program (ECP), also through the Tollway. For more information about *Employ Illinois*, visit [www.Illinois.gov/employ](http://www.Illinois.gov/employ)

# You're Invited:

## Illinois State Fair Local Elected Officials Day

Come join other local elected officials from around the state



Each year we bring together local officials from across Illinois to recognize and honor their public service at the Springfield and Du Quoin State Fairs. Come join the festivities!

At each event we provide food, entertainment, and prizes. Your families are also welcome to attend. Please register online at [www.ildceo.net/localofficials](http://www.ildceo.net/localofficials) ASAP. You can also contact the event organizers at [ceo.events@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.events@illinois.gov) or (217) 558-1630.

### Springfield State Fair

When: Saturday, August 9th from 12pm – 3pm

Where: [Illinois State Fairgrounds, Director's Lawn](#)  
801 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, IL 62706

Details: We provide attendees with gate admission passes to enter the fairgrounds and lawn tickets for our event. Parking is not included. BBQ pork sandwiches and hot dogs will be served.

### Du Quoin State Fair

When: Saturday, August 23rd from 11am-2pm

Where: [Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, Governor's Mansion Lawn](#)  
655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832

Details: We provide attendees with lawn tickets to enter our event. Du Quoin fair does not charge for admission, only for parking. Parking is not included. 17th Street will be serving BBQ pork sandwiches and hot dogs.

## Featured Newsroom Clips

### [Governor Quinn Announces Record-Breaking Visitors to Illinois in 2013](#)

Press Release  
July 10, 2014

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today announced that Illinois had its third consecutive record-breaking year for tourism by welcoming nearly 105.7 million visitors in 2013. The Governor made the announcement during a visit with Chloe Stirling at the Kendall College Culinary Camp in Chicago where the 12-year-old entrepreneur is perfecting her baking skills along with other young culinary students. Today's event is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to increase tourism, create jobs and drive economic development throughout Illinois.

"It is inspiring to see so many culinary students like Chloe sharpening their talents in the kitchen," Governor Quinn said. "Many of our state's young students are taking their energy and creativity to grow vibrant culinary businesses, which has helped established Illinois as a food destination. We continue to see record numbers of visitors in the state thanks in large part to our excellent restaurant industry. From our state's natural treasures to our museums and one-of-a-kind dining experiences, tourism is thriving in the Land of Lincoln."

In addition to the record setting number of U.S. visitors to Illinois, the state welcomed nearly 2.2 million international visitors in 2013, up 3 percent from the previous year. One of the strongest growth sectors in 2013 was leisure travel, up 5.7 percent from 2012. Visitors spent \$34.5 billion in Illinois in 2013, generating nearly \$2.6 billion in state and local tax revenues.

In addition, the Illinois tourism industry workforce also grew to 301,100 in 2013, adding 2,400 new jobs to the state. These impressive numbers, provided by D.K. Shifflet & Associates Ltd., highlight the tourism industry's vital contributions to Illinois' economic growth, job creation and tax revenue.

"The positive growth numbers showcase the key role the tourism industry plays in Illinois' economy," Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Director Adam Pollet said. "Attracting more visitors to Illinois has resulted in an increase in tax revenue coming into the state and added new high-quality jobs for Illinoisans."

The Governor today also announced that Kendall College will, for the first time ever, partner with the Illinois Office of Tourism, a division of DCEO, to help plan the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism. Planning and promotion for the conference, which will run from Feb.

2-4, 2015, will be built into the curriculum for Kendall hospitality management students who will work alongside state tourism industry leaders to gain hands-on experience.

"The continued increase in U.S. and international visitors to Illinois year-over-year proves that both leisure and business travelers are increasingly considering Illinois as a premier travel destination," Illinois Office of Tourism Deputy Director Jen Hoelzle said. "Our strong international marketing partnership with Brand USA and new initiatives to reach domestic travelers, like the MiniAbe campaign, are inspiring travelers from around the world to discover all that Illinois has to offer."

Many travelers come to Illinois or extend their stays because of the state's thriving restaurant and culinary scene. The Chicago area, for example, hosts 25 Michelin-starred restaurants and 10 that have won a James Beard Award, the industry's highest accolade.

Overall, restaurants account for 515,600 jobs in Illinois, about 9 percent of the state's employment.

The Governor visited Chloe and her parents at their Troy home last month to sign legislation, known as the "Cupcake Bill," to support home kitchen businesses in Illinois. The new law will help young entrepreneurs looking to get into the culinary field by making business opportunities more available and help drive the state's economy forward. Chloe, her mother, Heather, her sister, Sophie and her grandparents all visited the Kendall College camp today.

Kendall College in Chicago hosts a series of hands-on summer culinary camps designed for young students and taught by qualified Kendall instructors at the school's state-of-the-art campus. For more information, visit: [kendall.edu](http://kendall.edu).

## Governor Quinn Announces Illinois Economy's Growth Highest in the Midwest

Press Release  
July 29, 2014

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today announced that Illinois economy's growth is the highest in the Midwest, according to the Philadelphia Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve, which has historically provided an accurate barometer of state growth, announced that Illinois will have the largest economic growth in the Midwest over the next six months. According to the projections, the Illinois economy will increase by 2.49 percent during the second half of 2014 (Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, "State Leading Indexes").

The projected rate for other Midwestern states are as follows:

Ohio 2.30  
Nebraska 1.94  
North Dakota 1.68  
Iowa 1.46  
Indiana 1.51  
Wisconsin 1.36  
Kentucky 1.20  
Minnesota 1.05  
Missouri .98  
Michigan .93  
South Dakota .50  
Kansas .60

Illinois has added more than 242,000 private-sector jobs since the recovery began in 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports. The BLS also reports there are more people working in Illinois today than at any time since February 2009 —the first month of Governor Quinn's administration. Illinois ranks 3rd in the country for corporate expansions and locations according to Site Selection Magazine.

For more information visit: <http://www.philadelphiafed.org/research-and-data/regional-economy/indexes/leading/> (click on "revised data").

## Governor Quinn Signs \$1.1 Billion Capital Construction Bill: Shovel Ready Projects Will Create Thousands of Jobs and Drive Economic Growth

Press Release  
July 22, 2014

CHICAGO - Governor Pat Quinn today signed a new state capital construction bill that invests \$1.1 billion in road and bridge projects to improve transportation and create jobs and boost economic development across Illinois. The bill, which follows Governor Quinn's successful six-year, \$31 billion Illinois Jobs Now! capital construction program, will deliver more than 210 projects and create an estimated 14,300 jobs. The legislation is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to create jobs and drive Illinois' economy forward.

"With this investment in our state's infrastructure, we are immediately putting people to work, making our world-class transportation system even stronger and generating economic development far into the future," Governor Quinn said. "I applaud the General Assembly for passing the legislation, which allows us to begin making these much-needed improvements now."

"After the historic winter we experienced, many of our roads and bridges are in desperate need of attention," Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Erica Borggren said. "This construction program is the shot in the arm that our transportation system and our economy needs."

The Governor today signed House Bill 3794, the capital construction bill, at the Circle Interchange in Chicago. The Governor also signed Senate Bill 3224, that provides the General Obligation bond authorization needed to fund the \$1.1 billion worth of transportation infrastructure improvements.

In addition to funding \$1 billion in projects in the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) FY2015-2020 Multi-Year Program, the new capital construction program includes \$100 million for municipal and township governments to improve infrastructure at the local level. The funding, distributed and overseen by IDOT, will help communities throughout Illinois combat potholes and make other critical infrastructure repairs.

Governor Quinn's Employ Illinois, an expansion of his efforts to train diverse workers for jobs in the construction industry and provide enhanced financial incentives to businesses that hire them, will be used in many of the projects funded by the \$1.1 billion construction bill. Employ Illinois links job seekers with training and hiring initiatives offered by IDOT and the Illinois Tollway, and increases the incentive paid to contractors from \$10 to \$15 an hour for each program graduate they put to work.

For a complete list of projects in the capital program, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/planning.html>.

In 2009, Governor Quinn spearheaded Illinois Jobs Now!, the state's first capital construction program in a decade. The \$31 billion capital construction program has been the largest in Illinois history, supporting an estimated 439,000 construction jobs. The program included \$14.5 billion for highway transportation through 2015. To date, through the program dedicated for transportation needs, IDOT has awarded more than 6,500 projects worth \$15.92 billion, creating and supporting nearly 200,000 jobs. These have included improvements to 8,188 miles of roadway and 1,402 bridges across the state.

Today's bill signing, combined with Illinois Jobs Now! and the Illinois Tollway's \$12 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future, means the state of Illinois is carrying out one of the largest capital construction efforts in the nation.

Construction on many of the "shovel ready" projects has already begun this summer.

### [Governor Quinn Announces State's Backlog of Bills Falls to \\$3.9 Billion: Lowest Point Since Governor Quinn Took Office; Strict Spending Brings Backlog Down from High of \\$9.9 Billion in 2010](#)

Press Release  
July 14, 2014

CHICAGO – Governor Quinn today announced that the state's backlog of bills has fallen from a high of \$9.9 billion in 2010 down to \$3.9 billion as of June 30, the lowest point since the Governor took office. Five years ago, Illinois was home to the worst pension crisis in America and the state's backlog of bills was on its way to more than \$9 billion. Since taking office, Governor Quinn has made tough decisions, enacted major structural reforms and cut state spending by more than \$5.7 billion.

"Making the tough decisions has moved Illinois forward," Governor Quinn said. "Today Illinois is in a stronger financial position than we were five years ago and we have more work to do to continue moving our finances in the right direction."

The backlog of bills is now closer to the typical private industry 30-day billing standard – about \$2.2 billion in Illinois' case – and is a direct result of the Governor's willingness to make the tough decisions including overhauling the Medicaid program, reforming worker's compensation and unemployment insurance systems and implementing major efficiencies such as closing and consolidating more than 50 state facilities.

In March, the Governor submitted a balanced budget plan that continued paying down the state's bills, protected education and public safety and secured Illinois' long-term financial future, but legislators instead postponed the tough budget decisions.

Governor Quinn recently cut Illinois' Fiscal Year 2015 state budget, zeroing out \$250 million for renovations of the state Capitol. In addition, as part of his ongoing budget review, the Governor directed state agencies to identify additional efficiencies, including selling nearly half of the state's aircraft.

The Governor also directed state agencies to cut 80 paid parking spaces for state employees in downtown garages – more than 30 percent of the total spots reserved. The move will save taxpayers more than \$100,000 annually. He also again reduced lease costs for government buildings that will save taxpayers an additional \$55 million this year.

Governor Quinn's budget cuts over the past five years include shrinking the state payroll from 54,000 to 50,000 – the third-lowest number of state government employees per capita in the entire country according to Governing Magazine.

For more information, please visit:  
[http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/budget/Documents/Bill\\_Backlog\\_Presentation\\_7.14.14.pdf](http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/budget/Documents/Bill_Backlog_Presentation_7.14.14.pdf).

### [Governor Quinn Announces Additional \\$4 Million Federal Grant for Illinois' AmeriCorps Programs](#)

Press Release  
July 13, 2014

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today announced that the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has awarded an additional \$4 million to Illinois to enable more than 1,700 volunteers in 26 AmeriCorps programs to better serve Illinois communities. Today's announcement is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to promote volunteer service in Illinois.

"Our communities thrive when people take charge of helping their neighbors, making their home towns safe, welcoming and vibrant," Governor Quinn said. "For the past 20 years, more than 30,000 people across Illinois have helped their neighbor through the AmeriCorps programs and helped 'get things done' for their communities."

This award is in addition to the \$4.4 million grant Illinois received earlier this year for seven programs that were funded competitively at the national level by CNCS. The grants will help fund such services as tutoring and mentoring at-risk youth, preparing communities to respond effectively to emergencies and building connections between immigrants and their non-immigrant neighbors.

These grants will support AmeriCorps programs in Champaign, Chicago, Dixon, East St. Louis, Evanston, Ina, Lake Forest, Macomb, Marion, Moline, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield. CNCS is the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, and its goal with the grant is to develop and expand volunteer organizations across the country. The Governor's Serve Illinois Commission, now a part of the Illinois Department of Public Health as of July 1, administers the AmeriCorps programs in Illinois.

"Just like our military men and women, AmeriCorps volunteers in Illinois are on the front lines of service," Executive Director of Serve Illinois Brandon Bodor said. "These nearly 2,000 members are a catalyst to recruit thousands more volunteers across the Land of Lincoln."

AmeriCorps programs receiving CNCS support from the \$4 million grant include: Champaign--University of Illinois Extension (AJMPU); Chicago—Academy for Urban School Leadership, Asian Human Services, Chicago Bar Foundation's Illinois Justice Corps Greater Chicago Food Depository, Northwestern Illinois University Settlement's Project YES, Up2Us; Dixon—Sauk Valley Community College, ABC AmeriCorps – Dixon; East St. Louis—Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House's AmeriCorps East St. Louis; Evanston—Youth Organization Umbrella – Evanston; Ina—Rend Lake College's Land of

Lincoln AmeriCorps; Lake Forest—Schuler Family Foundation; Macomb—Western Illinois University's Peace Corps Fellows Program; Marion—Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' Prisoner and Family Ministries; Moline—Western Illinois University, Quad Cities; Peoria—Children's Home Association of Illinois' Fostering Transitions AmeriCorps ; Rockford—YMCA of Rock River Valley; Springfield—Illinois Public Health Association – Springfield, Springfield Urban League's AmeriCorps/ Youth Corps – Springfield

The Serve Illinois Commission is a 40 member, bi-partisan board appointed by the Governor. Its mission is to improve Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the state. The Commission supports local community-based efforts to enhance volunteer opportunities. For more information on Serve Illinois, or to find one of more than 100,000 volunteer opportunities in the state, visit [Serve.Illinois.gov](http://Serve.Illinois.gov).

## Governor Quinn Announces Investments for Park Projects in Aurora, Naperville and West Chicago

Press Release  
July 7, 2014

AURORA – Governor Pat Quinn today announced capital investments of \$7 million for park development and improvement projects in Aurora, Naperville and West Chicago. Funded by his Illinois Jobs Now! construction program, these projects are part of Governor Quinn's agenda to increase recreational opportunities, create jobs and drive Illinois' economy forward.

"It's important that everyone in Illinois has a place to be active and take on a healthy lifestyle," Governor Quinn said. "These investments will give the Aurora, Naperville and West Chicago communities new facilities to be enjoyed for years to come. These projects will help improve the health of the people of Illinois and create new jobs for hardworking local residents."

The investments are as follows: Fox Valley Park District, Kane County, \$1,999,800 to renovate and expand the Prisco Community Center, located at the corner of IL Route 31 and Illinois Avenue on the Fox River. The project includes installation of an elevator, ADA enhancements, fitness center expansion and new program rooms. Total estimated project cost is \$2,666,500. Naperville Park District, DuPage County, \$2,500,000 to construct the District's first and only large-scale indoor activity center at Fort Hill Drive and Quincy Avenue. The project includes an indoor running/walking track, gymnasiums, a fitness center, an indoor playground and multipurpose rooms for recreation programs. Total estimated project cost is \$18,500,000. West Chicago Park District, DuPage County, \$2,499,100 to construct a new Indoor Sports Performance Training Facility in Reed-Kepler Community Park. The facility will provide opportunities for softball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, softball and golf. Total estimated project cost is \$3,332,200.

"Investment in local park districts is an investment in the future of Illinois communities," Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Marc Miller said. "These new facilities will help maintain a high quality of life that is vital for attracting and keeping young families in Illinois."

The investments announced today are part of \$50 million available through the Parks and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC), which is funded by Governor Quinn's Illinois Jobs Now! construction program. PARC provides grants to eligible local governments for park

and recreation construction projects. Eligible projects include land acquisition, development, architectural planning, construction, rehabilitation and improvements for new or existing buildings and structures. The PARC program may provide up to 75 percent of approved project costs, with the exception of local governments defined as "disadvantaged," which will be eligible for up to 90 percent funding.

The park projects are part of Governor Quinn's \$31 billion Illinois Jobs Now! program, which will support more than 439,000 jobs over six years. Illinois Jobs Now! is the largest construction program in Illinois history, and is one of the largest construction programs in the nation.

## Governor Quinn Orders EPA to Stop PCB Waste Disposal at Clinton Landfill

Press Release  
July 28, 2014

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today directed the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to take immediate action to keep polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste out of the Clinton Landfill and protect the drinking water of 800,000 residents. The Governor's order is based on a response from the DeWitt County Board received by IEPA on Friday, July 25. Today's action is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to protect our natural resources and ensure a clean and healthy environment for future generations.

"Hundreds of thousands of Illinois residents can look back on this as the day we protected their clean drinking water source," Governor Quinn said. "PCBs have no place in or near the drinking water of any community in our state. That is why I directed the EPA to take immediate action and protect the water supply for families throughout central Illinois."

Illinois law allows the IEPA to modify a landfill permit upon the discovery that a decision was made using false or misleading information. The IEPA will issue a modified permit for the Landfill this week.

In a letter received July 25 by the IEPA, the DeWitt County Board stated that it "did not authorize the disposal of TSCA-regulated PCBs in its Sept. 12, 2002 siting approval." This confirms that federally regulated concentrations of PCB waste at the Clinton Landfill were never authorized locally.

In both the location application to the County Board and in testimony at a public hearing on the request for local approval from 2002, representatives of the Peoria Disposal Company clearly represented to the County Board that the Clinton Landfill would not accept PCBs at federally regulated concentrations.

In May, Governor Quinn sent a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency urging the administration to deny Peoria Disposal Company's request for federal authorization to dispose of toxic waste in the Clinton Landfill.

The Mahomet Aquifer is a system of river basins and surface waters that supplies water to portions of Cass, Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Iroquois, Logan, Macon, Mason, McLean, Menard, Peoria, Piatt, Tazewell, Vermilion and Woodford Counties.

## Governor Quinn Signs Legislation to Strengthen Ethics Provisions in County Government

Press Release

July 21, 2014

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today signed legislation to strengthen ethics provisions in certain Illinois county governments. The new law helps these counties establish ethical guidelines and simplifies the removal process for individuals who violate those guidelines. Today's action is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to making Illinois government more accountable, transparent and effective.

"Public officials should always be accountable to the public, regardless of how they attain their positions," Governor Quinn said. "This new law is part of our ongoing effort to make sure that all officials at any level of government maintain the public trust."

Senate Bill 3552, sponsored by State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Deerfield) and State Representative Sam Yingling (D-Grayslake), allows county boards to adopt a code of conduct regarding the accountability, fiscal responsibility, procurement authority, transparency and ethical conduct of county appointees. It also sets forth a mechanism to remove county appointees who violate that code of conduct. The law applies to counties with a population greater than 300,000 but less than 2,000,000, which currently includes DuPage, Lake, Will, Kane and McHenry counties. The legislation was drafted because county boards do not always have the authority to remove appointees due to misconduct. The new law is effective Jan. 1, 2015.

"Everyone who serves the public should be held to the highest ethical standards," Senator Morrison said. "It shouldn't matter if you are elected, appointed or hired. If you violate the public trust, there should be a way to remove you from your position."

"I'm proud of this bi-partisan effort to improve accountability for local government," Representative Yingling said. "It shows that by working together, we can improve ethical standards and transparency for taxpayers."

Since taking office, Governor Quinn has made ethics reform a top priority. In his first official act, Governor Quinn signed an Executive Order establishing the Illinois Reform Commission. Later that year he signed ground-breaking campaign finance reform legislation into law that imposed Illinois' first-ever contribution limits on candidates, political parties and political action committees.

In August of 2009, the Governor launched the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal to provide people in Illinois access to state government spending information. The website makes the state's expenditures and employee pay data available through a single, searchable portal: [Accountability.Illinois.gov](http://Accountability.Illinois.gov).

Governor Quinn also launched a searchable clearinghouse of information from state agencies that helps inform residents about the operation of state government and encourage the creative use of state information, including the development of applications for mobile devices that can be built around the data.

An Executive Order signed by the Governor in 2010 encourages state agencies and local governments across Illinois to increase the amount of raw data they share with each other, businesses, academic institutions and the general public. The order makes data available to

the public and further empowers the people of Illinois to make a difference.

Governor Quinn has also signed legislation to strengthen the Illinois Open Meetings Act by ensuring that a copy of the meeting notice and agenda is available to the public for the entire 48 hours preceding the meeting.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

This newsletter is brought to you by the Governor's Office of Public Engagement, which coordinates intergovernmental affairs. We welcome your thoughts and feedback.

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