



the

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Blagojevich Leads Democrats Into Power

Governor Rod Blagojevich's first day on the job confirmed his desire to be viewed in the role of a reformer. He issued three executive orders and eliminated 35 positions – some last minute appointments made by George Ryan during his final months in office. Blagojevich's first official act was firing Scott Fawell, former chief of staff and campaign manager to Ryan, from his \$195,000 a year job as CEO of Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority. Blagojevich's view on his sweeping changes is "We cannot afford to waste a single dollar. The days of taking care of insiders first and taxpayers last are over." Blagojevich also appointed Mary Lee Leahy as a special investigator for employment and personnel. Leahy is the attorney who participated in the famous Rutan case, which dealt with state patronage. She will be in charge of reviewing state hiring rules.

In other action, Blagojevich placed a hiring freeze on new personnel for state agencies and a freeze on the use and purchase of state-owned cars. He wants it determined how many vehicles of the 13,000 state

car fleet are necessary. Similarly, he has ordered state agencies to freeze member-initiative funding, which is the money lawmakers can spend in their districts as they choose.



A Brief Blagojevich Biography

1956 – Born December 10, in Chicago

1979 – Received bachelor's degree from Northwestern University

1983 – Received a law degree from Pepperdine University

1986 – Served as Cook County Assistant State's Attorney

1992 – Elected to Illinois House of Representatives (Served 2 terms)

1996 – Elected to United States House of Representatives in the 5th District (Re-elected in 1998 and 2000)

Governor Blagojevich married Patricia Mell in 1980. They have a six year

old daughter and are expecting a second child in April.



The Inaugural Events

The weekend leading up to Governor Rod Blagojevich's swearing in was packed with inaugural festivities. Blagojevich kicked events off at Chicago's Union Station on Saturday January 11 with a whistle stop train tour of the upper part of Illinois with stops at Joliet, Dwight, and Bloomington, ending in Springfield in the early evening. On Sunday afternoon, January 12, a free family barbecue was held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The constitutional officers and the governor were sworn in during a ceremony that began at 11 AM at the Prairie Capital Convention Center on Monday, January 13. At that time, Rod Blagojevich was sworn in as the 40th Governor of the state of Illinois.

In his inaugural address, Governor Blagojevich made reform a major theme of his administration. Some of his proposed reform measures include consolidating state agencies and potentially eliminating unnecessary boards and commissions. Similarly, he discussed the need to completely overhaul the Toll Highway Authority. He stressed a desire to help senior citizens in light of skyrocketing prices on prescription drugs. A week earlier, Senate President Emil Jones and House Speaker Michael Madigan had taken on this same issue in their speeches as part of their respective legislative agenda.

Blagojevich also called for the promotion of small businesses and reiterated that cuts in education and health care are not options for alleviating the budget crunch. He introduced the notion of the budget problem being worse than previously suspected. He warned the combined deficits for FY 2003 and 2004 could approach \$5 billion. Blagojevich also reaffirmed the idea of avoiding increased taxes to solve the budget crisis, although a few days later he suggested that broadening the tax base to include taxes on certain services might be a possibility. Because of the gravity of the budget problem and uncertainty of revenue projections, he will be able to delay the delivery of his budget address until April 9th. The General Assembly's passage of House Bill 175 delays the budget address for this year.

Following the ceremony, Blagojevich and Lieutenant Governor Patrick Quinn held an open house at the Executive Mansion. The other constitutional officers also held open houses at their respective offices during the afternoon. Capping the round of celebratory activities were two inaugural balls held that evening at the Orr Building and the Exposition Building at the State Fairgrounds. The original ball had a capacity of 4,000 people, but tremendous demand called for a second ball. The new governor made it clear that the over \$1.5 million bill for the festivities would not be at taxpayer expense.



The 93rd General Assembly Is Sworn In

Legislators were sworn in to the new 93rd General Assembly on January 8, at which time Democrats officially took control of both chambers. Former Governor George Ryan presided over the swearing in of members of the Senate, while Secretary of State Jesse White presided over the ceremonies in the House. After the legislators were sworn in, they undertook the task of electing the leadership. Michael Madigan was elected Speaker again, a position he has held almost consistently for the last two decades, except for a couple of years in the mid-90s. Madigan, in fact, maintains the record for having served the longest of any speaker. Emil Jones took the reins of the Senate Presidency, becoming the second black Senate President in Illinois' history. During the 1970s, Cecil Partee became the first black Senate President. Tom Cross was named House Minority Leader; in the Senate, Frank Watson was named the Minority Leader. A list of legislators being appointed to other leadership positions is included in this newsletter.



*Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. being sworn in.
Photo courtesy of the Senate President's Office.*



Representative Tom Cross being sworn in. Photo courtesy of the House Republican Press Office.

Leaders of the 93rd General Assembly

House Democrats:

Michael Madigan (D-Chicago)	Speaker of the House
Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago)	Majority Leader
Ralph Capparelli (D-Chicago)	Deputy Majority Leader
Arthur Turner (D-Chicago)	Deputy Majority Leader
Kurt Granberg (D-Carlyle)	Assistant Majority Leader
Gary Hannig (D-Litchfield)	Assistant Majority Leader
Lovana Jones (D-Chicago)	Assistant Majority Leader
Edward Acevedo (D-Chicago)	Assistant Majority Leader
Louis Lang (D-Skokie)	Assistant Majority Leader
J. Philip Novak (D-Bradley)	Assistant Majority Leader
Wyvetter Younge (D-East St. Louis)	Majority Caucus Chair

House Republicans:

Tom Cross (R-Oswego)	Minority Leader
Bill Black (R-Danville)	Deputy Minority Leader
Brent Hassert (R-Romeoville)	Deputy Minority Leader
Patricia Lindner (R-Aurora)	Assistant Minority Leader
Mike Bost (R-Murphysboro)	Assistant Minority Leader
Mark Beaubien (R-Barrington Hills)	Assistant Minority Leader
Tim Schmitz (R-Batavia)	Assistant Minority Leader
Eileen Lyons (R-Western Springs)	Assistant Minority Leader
Dave Winters (R-Shirland)	Assistant Minority Leader
Dan Brady (R-Bloomington)	Minority Caucus Chair

Senate Democrats:

Emil Jones (D-Chicago)	President
Vince Demuzio (D-Carlinville)	Majority Leader
Patrick Welch (D-Peru)	Assistant Majority Leader
Rickey Hendon (D-Chicago)	Assistant Majority Leader
Miguel Del Valle (D-Chicago)	Assistant Majority Leader
James DeLeo (D-Chicago)	Assistant Majority Leader
Louis Viverito (D-Burbank)	Assistant Majority Leader
Terry Link (D-Vernon Hills)	Majority Whip
Debbie Halvorson (D-Crete)	Majority Caucus Chair
George Shadid (D-Edwards)	Deputy Caucus Whip

Senate Republicans:

Frank Watson (R-Greenville)	Minority Leader
Edward Petka (R-Plainfield)	Deputy Minority Leader
Todd Sieben (R-Geneseo)	Assistant Minority Leader
Bill Peterson (R-Long Grove)	Assistant Minority Leader
Steve Rauschenberger (R-Elgin)	Assistant Minority Leader
Dave Luechtefeld (R-Okawville)	Assistant Minority Leader
Bradley Burzynski (R-Sycamore)	Caucus Chair
Peter Roskam (R-Glen Ellyn)	Caucus Whip



Governor George Ryan's Final Days

In a provocative and unprecedented move that made national and international news, former Governor Ryan commuted the sentences of 156 death row inmates and 11 sentenced but awaiting hearings. Most had their sentences reduced to life imprisonment with no chance for parole. Three received reduced sentences making them eligible for release some day. With three days left in office, Ryan made his case for the blanket commutation in a speech given at the Northwestern University law school on Saturday, January 11. The previous day, he pardoned four men who claimed police had used torture to get their confessions.

According to Ryan, this step was the culmination of a three-year study stemming from the moratorium on executions after it was discovered that 13 death row inmates had been wrongly convicted. Some of the wrongly convicted former inmates were in the audience during Ryan's speech at Northwestern University.

Ryan argued in his speech that he ultimately decided to proceed with blanket commutation based on a number of factors, including the General Assembly's failure to pass any reforms recommended by Ryan's Capital Punishment

Continued Next Page →

Commission. Similarly, Ryan argues the Illinois General Assembly failed to define what constitutes mental retardation after the United States Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional to execute people with mental retardation.

In general, the former Governor maintains that the death penalty lacks fairness and uniformity because there are no uniform standards among the 102 counties. Ryan started off his four year term as a death penalty supporter, but has become a staunch advocate for reform of the system, particularly after so many innocent men were found to have been wrongly convicted. In the end of his speech, Ryan expressed hope that the new governor and legislature will work together to reform the system because he finds the "Illinois capital punishment system is broken." Blagojevich disagreed with Ryan's use of the blanket commutation stating that "a blanket anything is usually wrong."

The former governor's legacy, shaped by his final hour commutations, has stirred passionate debate on both sides of the issue. However, this is not the first time a governor has stirred up controversy by using his com-

mutation powers. In the late 1880's, Governor Richard Oglesby commuted the sentences of two anarchists involved in the Haymarket Square bombing, who were set to be executed the next day. Again, in 1893 Governor John Altgeld pardoned the last three prisoners associated with the Haymarket bombing case. According to *The Illinois Governors: Mostly Good and Competent Men*, "His courageous but belligerent 18,000-word justification of the decision made him the most hated man in Illinois." Altgeld's unpopular decision to pardon the men effectively ruined his chance of being re-elected. In those terms, it would seem Ryan had nothing to lose in making his sweeping decision within days of the end of his term.

Source: Howard, Robert P. The Illinois Governors: Mostly Good and Competent Men. Second Edition. Springfield: University of Illinois at Springfield, 1999.



People In Transition

Senator Doris Karpel (R-Carol Stream) has resigned and has been appointed to the Illinois Pollution Control Board. **Representative Kay Wojcik** has been chosen as Senator Karpel's replacement.

JoAnn Osmond (R-Antioch) will be taking her late husband **Tim Osmond's** place in the House of Representatives.

Elgin city council member **Ruth Munson** has been named to replace the late **Representative Doug Hoeft**.

Mattie Hunter, a Chicago Housing Authority employee, will replace Senator Margaret Smith, who resigned in December because of health problems.

Representative Julie Curry (D-Mount Zion) has resigned to take a position with the Blagojevich administration and will be replaced by Bob Flider, mayor of Mount Zion.

Senator Dick Klemm (R-Crystal Lake) resigned from the Senate in February. **Pamela Althoff**, the mayor of McHenry, has been named to replace him.

Governor Blagojevich announced the creation of a Council of Economic Advisors to advise him on all aspects of economic growth. Co-chairs of this panel, who will service on a part-time and volunteer basis are **Jim Annable**, president of a financial consulting firm, and **Paula Wolff**, a senior executive at Chicago Metropolis 2020. **David Chicoine**, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Relations at the University of Illinois, **Ralph Muller**, former CEO of the University of Chicago Hospitals and Health System, and **John Rogers, Jr.**, CEO of Ariel Capital Management, Inc. complete the list of Council members.

