

The People's Pledge:

Demanding Accountability in Illinois State Government

As candidates for the Illinois General Assembly and proud Illinoisans in pursuit of a stronger, more prosperous future for our great state, we resolve to demonstrate our commitment to the people we serve by demanding real change in state government.

Elected officials have the solemn responsibility to serve the interests of the people they represent. But for decades in Illinois, the Chicago political machine has run roughshod over the people, cutting sweetheart deals for entrenched special interests and abusing the power of the incumbency to keep career politicians in office. The results have been disastrous for hardworking Illinois taxpayers: out of control government spending, skyrocketing debt, and higher taxes that ask families to do more with less.

Illinois is at a crossroads. This election is an opportunity to cleanly break with our flawed past of one-party control in Springfield and bring reform-minded legislators to the General Assembly who have the courage to act to make state government more effective, efficient, and accountable.

To end the cycle of corruption and empower the people of Illinois to choose a better future for our state, we commit to put people over politics. We will restore democracy in the Land of Lincoln.

On the first day of the 101st General Assembly, I hereby pledge to vote in the affirmative to immediately take the following actions to restore accountability in Illinois state government:

FIRST, enact legislation that will put eight-year term limits for all elected officials in state government on the ballot, allowing the people of Illinois to vote up or down on limiting the amount of time individuals can hold one elected office;

SECOND, vote for someone – anyone – other than Speaker Michael Madigan for Speaker of the House, ending his reign in power which is the longest in United States history for a state Speaker of the House.

These commonsense actions will take power away from the Chicago political machine and put it squarely back in the hands of the people of Illinois – where it belongs. They will represent a critical step in ending the corruption and cronyism that has plagued Illinois for decades and will once again make service to the people the top priority of state government.

