



Andrew  
Andrzejewski

## Daily Chronicle questionnaire: Andrew Andrzejewski

**Election primary:** Illinois governor (Republican)

**Hometown:** Hinsdale

**Bio:** Founded and funded For the Good of Illinois ([www.forthegoodofillinois.org](http://www.forthegoodofillinois.org)) in 2007, which spearheaded transparency in government. From November 2007 to February 2009, identified and worked with volunteers to ask their local units of government to post their checkbooks, resulting in the posting of over \$1 billion in checks detailing the spending of taxpayer money; as a child, assisted in father's 1976 and 1978 campaigns against then State Representative George Ryan; B.A. from Northern Illinois University.

**Gov. Rod Blagojevich vowed to clean up corruption in a state famous for it, but instead became the fifth governor to be indicted in recent history, and the first ever to be impeached. What do you plan to do to clean up Illinois government?**

There are two major planks in my platform that I am leading with. The first is 100 percent financial and process transparency, and the other is the most robust ethics policy in the nation. My first two executive orders will be a) to put "every dime, on line, in real time," and b) to audit every agency, contract and grant going out of the operating budget. I have led by putting my tax returns on my Web site ([www.adamforillinois.com](http://www.adamforillinois.com)). I plan to continue this policy as governor by instituting an aggressive ethics policy modeled after Gov. Jindal's in Louisiana.

**Is an increase in the state income tax necessary to help balance the budget? Any other tax increases? Why or why not?**

I would keep rates the same. Illinois' only remaining tether to any slight competitive advantage is its "low" income tax rate (relative only to states with an income tax). Any increase in that rate will only accelerate the exodus of businesses and jobs from Illinois. My position applies to all taxes. As the budget came into balance, I would begin to remove and reduce the numerous hidden taxes and fees that are draining businesses of the necessary capital they need for investment and hiring.

**What specific spending cuts do you propose to help balance the state's budget?**

- Review and audit every grant. Any grant, contract, or program that can't show definite metrics of success on its stated goal would be zeroed out;
- I would zero out the DCEO;
- Possible reduction in municipal revenue sharing until budget improves;
- Any gift to nonprofit that isn't providing a state service would be cut;
- Illinois Health Facility Planning Board;
- I also believe there is better system than the CMS for procurement.

**Any attempt to balance the state budget will be difficult without addressing reform of the state pension system. How do you plan to do so?**

- Pension payments should be the obligation of the employing agency directly out of their own budgets;

- The employing agency's contribution to worker pensions shall be paid at the same time employee contribution is taken out of the checks;
- All pension benefits will be negotiated directly with the employing agency with no ability of the state to "add" benefits across the board;
- Create a "cause of action" so any employee, union, or pension system could sue the employing agency for non-payment of contributions;
- Pension benefits and calculations can be modified for future employees as economic circumstances dictate.

**The state Legislature recently passed a campaign finance reform bill that for the first time in Illinois caps the amount of money that individuals and businesses can donate to candidates for state office, with some exceptions. What do you think of the legislation?**

Virtually all campaign finance reform is "incumbent protection." This bill is no different.

**What will you do to promote job creation in Illinois?**

Balance the budget and then cut taxes. The greatest obstacle to job creation is the cost of doing business in Illinois. This high cost retards job creation and repels businesses from moving (or forming) here. Any business or entrepreneur can read the headlines and see that hiring here or moving here will put them on the hook for over \$100 billion in debts and unpaid bills. Couple that with the high cost of owning property (business and residential), and you have the perfect incentive structure to bleed jobs and investment while keeping new jobs out.

**Why are you the best candidate to lead this state for the next four years?**

I am running on clear, bold, and workable reforms. I have led on transparency, calling for opening and auditing the books for Illinois taxpayers. I can achieve many of my goals without having to ask the Legislature for permission because I can use the power of the governor's office to challenge the foundations of the existing Illinois power structure while showing the citizens the workings of their government. I have led on giving Illinois citizens a real property tax cap by calling for the repeal of the numerous exceptions that allow for continuous increases.

**Distinguish yourself from the other candidates in this race?**

I am the only person in this race whose past can't be attacked by the Democratic nominee. I am a successful businessman running on clear, bold, and proven policies. Unlike all my competitors, I have no Illinois political baggage to be used against me by the well-funded Democrat. They will be forced to debate my policies and defend their record. This election is about leadership, not political experience or the length of one's resume. My opponents in this race have had years to lead Illinois, and they have not done so effectively. They are too beholden to the existing system.

**Why should voters trust you to fix this state's many problems?**

I am from outside the Illinois political class. I'm the only real outsider in either of the two main parties. If people want to change the system, they are going to have to elect someone from outside that system.