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Senator Sam McCann

LEGISLATIVE SURVEY



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Dear Friends,

As of this writing, and as you are likely well aware, the Governor and the General Assembly have failed to reach an agreement on a balanced budget, leaving the state without a complete budget in place for the current fiscal year. Due to legislation, court orders, consent decrees, and other legal agreements, the state is still funding the vast majority of what would be found in a typical budget. The big problem is that we are on track to spend approximately \$38 billion, while only taking in between \$32 billion and \$34 billion.

Part of the problem is the fact that these costs have grown from previous fiscal years – because there is no budget, there have been no reforms or cost-saving measures put into place. In addition, the temporary tax hike expired, meaning revenue dropped. These factors have combined to leave an approximately \$6 billion budget deficit.

This has left Illinois in an extremely precarious spot. At some point, the state will simply not be able to pay its bills, in addition to all the parts of a normal budget that aren't being funded right now. As weeks go by and bills pile up, the problem keeps getting worse. This is what's making it harder for any ground to be made up in crafting a solution. There is no easy answer and no minor fix that will solve everything. Righting the ship now leaves us with few options: major, drastic cuts, the likes of which we have never seen in our lifetime; or revenue could be increased via tax hikes or new taxes; and of course the third option is some combination of the previous two, but it would likely still necessitate serious cuts and substantial new tax burdens.

This whole mess is like a ticking time-bomb hanging over our heads. The longer it takes to reach a compromise, the more drastic the solution will have to be. For example, new or increased taxes become more difficult every day, because they would have to be retroactive to collect enough money, leaving residents with a large tax bill at the end of the year, instead of small amounts deducted from checks and bills throughout the year.

At some point, we will find a solution. But the decisions we will have to make, and the actions we must take, will not be easy. In addition, we still continue to tackle the myriad issues facing our state.

Your feedback is vital in this process. My job is to speak and vote for you, and I can't properly do that without your input. Please take a moment and fill out the attached survey to ensure your voice is heard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam McCann".
Senator Sam McCann

Please return completed survey
in a stamped envelope to:

Senator Sam McCann
108E Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator Sam McCann

LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

I need your feedback as we tackle major issues in Springfield. Please help me by filling out this short survey. I will review and consider every one of your answers.

Thank you for your time.

Please return completed survey in a stamped envelope to:

Senator Sam McCann
108E Capitol Springfield, IL 62706

Or fill out online at:

www.senatormccann.com



1. Some argue that local school districts should be responsible for paying the employers' share of their teachers' retirements. Which of these statements best reflects your opinion?

- It is only fair that school districts help pay the cost of teacher retirement benefits. The state should shift these costs to local schools, even if it means higher property taxes or cuts in school programs.
- Shifting costs to local schools isn't the same as cutting costs. This would result in taxpayers paying higher property taxes instead of higher income taxes. Legislators should concentrate on cutting costs, not shifting them.

2. Currently, Illinois has a flat tax rate which means that taxes are based on a percentage of income. This means that higher incomes pay larger dollar amounts, while lower incomes pay less. Some have proposed a graduated, or progressive, tax structure that would increase the percentage of taxes paid as income rises. This means that higher earners would pay even larger dollar amounts. Do you support or oppose switching to a graduated tax system?

- Support switching to a graduated tax system.
- Oppose switching to a graduated tax system.

3. Some groups are pushing for a higher gas tax to pay for road and bridge repairs. Do you support or oppose a higher gas tax?

- Support increasing gas tax.
- Oppose increasing gas tax.

4. Recent proposals would increase sales tax as another method of paying for road and bridge repairs. Do you support or oppose increasing the sales tax?

- Support increasing sales tax.
- Oppose increasing sales tax.

5. Governor Bruce Rauner has proposed widening and expanding the tax base by taxing certain services that currently aren't taxed, such as attorney fees and advertising. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

- Support taxing services.
- Oppose taxing services.

6. Several recent proposals would raise the Illinois minimum wage to over \$10 per hour. What do you think about this proposal?

- Support raising the minimum wage.
- Oppose raising the minimum wage.
- Support lowering minimum wage.

7. There have been several recent proposals to restrict Second Amendment rights, including "assault weapon" bans, bans on magazines holding more than 10 rounds, and limiting purchases to one firearm per month. Do you support or oppose these restrictions?

- Support new gun restrictions.
- Oppose new gun restrictions.

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Yes No If yes, what is your email address?
