



GOVERNOR'S GAZETTE

A Newsletter of the State of Illinois | Edition 1 | Wednesday, November 12, 2008

GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA AND STARTS SELECTION PROCESS FOR REPLACEMENT

After congratulating President-elect Barack Obama on his Nov. 4 victory, Governor Rod Blagojevich now begins the difficult task of finding a replacement for Illinois' Senate seat. The Governor said he would be deliberate in his decision process and plans on using a diverse senior staff to assist him in selecting a suitable replacement for Obama.

"Last night's victory was bittersweet for Illinois - as we gain a great President, we lose a great Senator. And it goes without saying that our next Senator has big shoes to fill. Because it's important that the best person for Illinois is selected, I want to be clear that the calendar won't dictate our search. Instead, I want to ensure that Obama's successor will understand and fight for the needs of average Illinoisans," Governor Blagojevich said.



Governor Blagojevich confers with now President-Elect Barack Obama



Governor Blagojevich discusses the selection process

Governor Blagojevich will be looking for candidates that will support the President-Elect's agenda for the people; effectively represent the interests of the state of Illinois in the U.S. Congress; work with the governor's administration to achieve their shared goals of ensuring access to affordable healthcare, rebuilding Illinois' infrastructure, improving the economic security and livelihoods of Illinois workers, and caring for our most vulnerable; and prioritize the average Illinoisan who is too burdened by taxes and economic hardship.

Featured Program: All Kids – Healthcare for All Children



In 2005, Governor Blagojevich signed the landmark All Kids plan into law, making Illinois the first state to provide affordable, comprehensive health insurance for every child, regardless of family income.

For more information to sign your child up:

Call 1-866-ALL-KIDS or visit www.allkidscovered.com



IN THE AGENCIES

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GREEN LANES COMING SOON

Plan will ease congestion starting in 2010

In an effort to reduce congestion, cut down on emissions and invest in Illinois jobs, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich unveiled a new Illinois Tollway Improvement Plan which will include the introduction of Green Lanes and interchange construction.

“These Green Lanes and new interchanges will not only help commuters, but will also pay real dividends to Illinois’ communities and businesses through massive new business development,” said Governor Blagojevich.

Projects in the Governor’s new Illinois Tollway Congestion Relief Program include eighty miles of dedicated Green Lanes offering access to ride-sharing commuters at regular I-PASS rates and critical Interstate-to-Interstate interchanges to the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway, the Tri-State Tollway/I-57 Interchange along with system-wide local interchange projects.

“Through projects like Open Road Tolling, our Illinois Tollway has consistently delivered on our promise of real congestion relief,” the governor said.



Governor Blagojevich Announces Green Lanes



Governor talks with people waiting for emergency food stamps

GOV OFFERS \$500,000 GRANT FOR ILLINOIS FOOD BANKS

Money will help feed struggling families

As families across the state struggle to feed their families during the national economic crisis, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich renewed Illinois’ commitment to the Food for Families program by pledging one million additional pounds of food.

After speaking with people seeking Disaster Food Stamps at the Community Resource Center in Blue Island, the Governor announced that the State would provide an additional \$500,000 in funding to help food banks across Illinois meet the needs of thousands of struggling families.

“Mothers and fathers shouldn’t have to choose if they will pay for their mortgage, heat their homes, cover their children’s expenses or buy food. Too many people are already faced with difficult decisions during these tough economic times, and people shouldn’t have to choose if they will eat or not,” the Governor said.

Upcoming Events Calendar

NOV 18-19 - GOVERNOR’S GLOBAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and IEPA Director Douglass Scott will attend the National Governor’s Global Climate Conference in California.

NOV 21 – VETERAN OF THE MONTH – IDVA Director Tammy Duckworth will announce the newest Veteran of the Month .

DEC 7 – PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE – A ceremony in Springfield will honor Pearl Harbor survivors and pay tribute to the brave men and women who lost their lives.

