

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
316 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-0494
(217) 782-7012 FAX



DISTRICT OFFICE:
16W281 83RD ST.
SUITE C
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60527
(630) 325-2028
(630) 325-2291 FAX

JIM DURKIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 82ND DISTRICT
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Honorable Governor J.B. Pritzker
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Governor Pritzker,

As you are well aware, our state finances have been in crisis due to years of fiscal mismanagement by the majority Democratic party and now are exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. This year's wildly unbalanced budget that depended on a misguided and thoroughly rejected tax increase, \$5 billion in additional borrowing and a prayer for a federal bailout continue the tradition of Democrats looking to find an easy way out of Springfield each May.

Across Illinois, the repeated government mandated shutdowns of businesses with a dysfunctional unemployment system have forever damaged local economies and tax revenues across Illinois, while at the same time the Democrat-led General Assembly and Governor's Office have failed to act for months.

The House Republican Caucus saw this coming back in the early days of the pandemic, but instead of heeding any warning, the majority Democratic party decided to go it alone and depend on higher taxes and more reckless spending. Passing a budget based on hypothetical revenue and false promises from a now-failed tax increase was unconstitutional and totally disingenuous to the citizens of our state who depend on government services.

Now we see the effects of Democrat failure to live in reality: a \$9 billion bill backlog, a budget that promises much and delivers nothing. We also see no reforms on issues like ethics and property taxes to restore trust in government caused by corruption in your Democratic Party of Illinois.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of reforms and continued obstruction from House Democrats on the Special Investigation Committee, any budget that is passed by the House will be viewed with a jaundiced eye. Please note as Governor you have the ability to make unilateral cuts where you see fit as you manage the unbalanced budget you signed into law earlier this year. I suggest you begin with the 6.5% cuts your office directed agencies to identify in 2019.

Thank you for scheduling a meeting. I will be in attendance to address my concerns in person.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Durkin".

Illinois House Republican Leader