Executive and Legislative Achievements

2022

Fiscal responsibility and building a sound economy for all Illinoisans

- Passed four balanced budgets that lead to three credit upgrades in the past year. This budget prioritized investments in key priorities like education, healthcare, public safety, human services, and criminal justice reform while fully funding the state’s pension contributions.
- Eased inflationary pain by cutting taxes on everyday needs like gas, groceries, and school supplies; while also providing property tax relief, tax rebates and an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Oversaw a fifty percent increase in total tax reported from adult-use cannabis sales. Under Illinois’ adult-use cannabis law, 25 percent of tax revenue generated from cannabis sales supported communities that are economically distressed, experience high rates of violence, and have been disproportionately impacted by drug criminalization.
- Deposited more than $850 million in the “Rainy Day” Fund to weather potential economic turbulence.

Economic growth — creating jobs and investing in business

- Distributed $250 Million In Back to Business Grants to small businesses in over 300 cities across the state. Almost eighty percent of the awards were delivered to businesses in disproportionately impacted communities and hard-hit industries.
- Announced a new expansion of Ferrero’s Bloomington facility which will be the first North American location to produce Kinder Bueno products.
- Invested In HIRE360’s new training and development center in Chicago’s South Loop neighborhood.
- Issued 185 total licenses to 100% social equity applicants in historic expansion of Illinois’ cannabis program.

Education — high quality learning from cradle to career

Early childhood

- Strengthened Illinois’ early childhood education and care field with investments that enable providers to continue serving their local communities and decrease financial burden for working families.
- Launched, "I Got Love/ ¡Siento Amor!” the statewide enrollment campaign for childcare and early education services.
- Extended and expanded the Strengthen and Grow Child Care (SGCC) grant program through July 2023, providing funding for eligible childcare centers and homes.
- Enabled more families to access Child Care Assistance Program Benefits and make Illinois a leader in this area, by reclassified eligibility from earned income to unearned Income.

K-12

- Codified protections for Illinoisans discriminated against due to hairstyles historically associated with specific racial groups.
- Increased access to healthy food options in schools across the state, providing Illinois children with the well-rounded, nutritious meals necessary to maintaining a healthy learning environment.
- Implemented the TEAACH Act ensuring that every public elementary and high school student in Illinois learns about the contributions of Asian Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States.
College

- Increased the Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding to a historic level allowing for awards to go to all eligible applicants.
- Enacted legislation to help students at state universities and community colleges access benefits through "benefits navigators." Students can utilize this program for help seeking and applying for federal, state, and local programs that provide assistance or benefits.
- Required State public universities and community colleges to develop and implement equity plans and practices to increase the access, retention, completion, and student loan repayment plans for minority students, rural students, adult students, women, and people with disabilities who are traditionally underrepresented in education programs and activities.

Health care — improving quality and affordability

- Enacted the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative to evaluate and redesign the delivery of behavioral health services for children and adolescents in the State of Illinois
- Expanded access to health insurance benefits with no premium costs for the families of state employees who lost their life during employment.
- Improved and expanded access to children's mental health services, particularly for children in foster care by and implementing strategies to provide comprehensive and coordinated services for children from birth to age 25 and their families to better address children's mental health needs
- Increased protections and access for Illinois health insurance consumers by implementing fair and transparent billing practices and providing better access to information about enrollment options.
- Required health insurance and managed care plans to provide prostate cancer screenings without imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirement.
- Established the Healthy Foods Access Program expanding access to healthy foods in undeserved areas.
- Removed barriers to access for HIV and AIDS care prevention and allowed for pharmacists to dispense both pre- and post- exposure prophylaxis drugs without prior referral from a doctor.
- Ensured funding from the African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund will support research centers and resources hubs led by representative members of the community.

Serving and protecting Illinoisans

- Addressed the root causes of firearm violence in Illinois through targeted integrated behavioral health services, access to economic opportunities, and violence interruption and prevention programs.
- Authorized the creation and funding of the Co-Responders Pilot Program. The pilot will support police in areas across the state in teaming up with social service agencies to address the root causes of disturbances or crime.
- Banned the sale and possession of “ghost guns” – unserialized, privately made firearms – statewide.
- Extended the authority of military protection orders beyond military locations providing survivors with full protection, regardless of where they are located and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. Survivors would also be provided with added employment protections as they recover.
- Required public rescue equipment on all piers or drop-off points on Lake Michigan to address the recent drownings.
Empowering law enforcement agencies to investigate criminal activities along expressways and State highways with the expanded use of expressway cameras.

Implemented broader use of clear and present danger reports that can bar applicants from receiving a Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card or revoke a current FOID card.

Clean Energy and Sustainability

- Boosted the state’s decarbonization efforts by joining the Midwest Hydrogen Coalition alongside six other Midwestern States.
- Put Illinois on a path toward 100 percent clean energy by 2050 with the Coal-to-Solar Energy Storage Grant Program. The program provides incentives for companies to install energy storage facilities at the sites of former coal plants, providing benefits to the electric grid and the ability for more renewables resources to be built and used.
- Prohibited the disposal by incineration of any perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), due to the possible adverse health effects including low infant birth weights, harmful effects on the immune system, cancer, thyroid hormone disruption, liver and kidney toxicity, decreased immune function, developmental disorders, and reproductive harm.
- Attained approval of the Illinois Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan, which will build a reliable electric vehicle charging network throughout the state.

Infrastructure and Technology

- Announced nearly $1 billion in investments are planned or underway for state facilities throughout Illinois that provide round-the-clock care to some of the state’s most vulnerable residents.
- Creating economic opportunity by moving freight and people more safely and efficiently while improving all modes of Illinois Transportation by awarding $111.4 million to transit providers downstate and $108.3 million for public ports in Illinois as part of Rebuild Illinois capital program.
- Spearheaded effort to develop community broadband plans through the Accelerate Illinois Broadband Infrastructure program, selecting six communities to participate in the Initial cohort to collaborate to effectively leverage state and federal broadband Infrastructure funding.
- Awarded funds that will preserve the safety and long-term stability of affordable rental housing for the benefit of very low-income or low-income households across the state.