



# Illinois Reform Commission

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## For Immediate Release

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### FINAL REFORM COMMISSION MEETING TO FOCUS ON CHANGING THE CULTURE OF CORRUPTION IN ILLINOIS

**CHICAGO (April 23, 2009)** – In advance of their final report, which is to be released on April 28, the Illinois Reform Commission (IRC) will hold its last public hearing in Carbondale, Illinois on Friday, April 24, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Commission will hear from several witnesses regarding abusive state employment practices, the effect of public corruption on state employees, and opportunities for reforming the pervasive culture of public corruption. The hearing will take place at Southern Illinois University's Morris Library Auditorium, 605 Agriculture Drive, Carbondale.

The hearing will be moderated by IRC Commissioners Pat Fitzgerald, Head Football Coach, Northwestern University; Kate Maehr, Executive Director, Greater Chicago Food Depository; and Scott Willis, former Pastor, Parkwood Baptist Church.

"While much of the Illinois Reform Commission's time has been spent considering and putting forth strong recommendations that directly affect individuals who are elected, we recognize that our state government is only as good as the men and women who serve the public as non-elected employees," said Commissioner Maher. "We are committed to strengthening our current system to ensure the best candidates are being selected for service, that our public servants have the training and tools they need to do their work, and that honesty and integrity are embraced by all."

IRC Chairman Patrick Collins said, "As we enter the homestretch of our 100-day mission, we are privileged to hear from the citizens of Carbondale, so we may add their voice to the call for change.

The following individuals are among those expected to address the Commission:

- Noelle Brennan, Patronage Monitor, City of Chicago
- Ed Hammer, Owner and Director, Edward D. Hammer Identity Theft Training and Consulting; retired Captain of Police for the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State
- Mike Lawrence, retired Director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Andra Medea, President, Medea & Associates, Inc.; Ethics & Professionalism Contributor, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education

Members of the public and media are invited to attend. For more information about the Commission and the topic of inspiring better government, please visit <http://www.reformillinoisnow.org/meetings.php>

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