



Illinois Reform Commission

Initial Recommendations

March 31, 2009

Commission's Mid-Term Report

- Progress to date: 6 Commission meetings, 5 town hall meetings, over 1000 website proposals
- Initial focus on "Pay to Play" reforms: Campaign Finance, Procurement and Enforcement
- Commission's work will continue through 100-day deadline of April 27
- Comprehensive not piecemeal change is necessary
- Why now? Commission seeks to add its voice to legislative process on these urgent matters

Campaign Finance: Key Proposals

- **New Disclosure Requirements**
 - Year-Round "Real Time" Reporting
 - Bundling Disclosures
- **Contribution Limits**
 - \$2,400 for individuals
 - \$5,000 for political committees
 - Ban contributions from lobbyists and trusts
- **Extend "Pay to Play" Ban to Legislature**

Campaign Finance: Key Proposals

- Move primary election closer to general election (no earlier than June)
- Pilot project for public financing of judicial elections in 2010 - legislative, constitutional races possibly thereafter
- Enhance ISBE enforcement and ensure greater transparency

Procurement Process: Comprehensive and Separate from Political Officials

- Insulate state procurement officials from political pressure and make them independent
- Cut back loopholes and exemptions in Procurement Code
 - Apply Code to legislative, judicial branches and quasi-governmental agencies
 - No-bid and "emergency" contracts subject to much tighter scrutiny and limitations

Procurement: Independent Monitoring and Transparency

- Independent Contract Monitor to oversee and review contracts
- Greater transparency in procurement process
 - Disclosure of subcontractors
 - Disclosure of all lobbyists and agents representing vendors
 - Any contact between vendors/agents and procurement staff to be documented
 - All procurement information to be available publicly on one website

Enforcement

- Enhance state law enforcement ability to investigate and prosecute corruption by -
 - authorizing one-party consent to recordings in criminal investigations with approval of the prosecutor
 - amending Illinois law to include corruption-related offenses as predicates for wiretaps
- Additional proposals to be made following April 9th Commission meeting

Transparency

- Apply Open Meetings Act to General Assembly
- Adopt presumption in favor of disclosure in FOIA requests
- Improve FOIA and Open Meetings Act training for state employees and strictly enforce deadlines for compliance with FOIA requests
- Conduct comprehensive review and utilize enhanced technology to "shine the light" on all government agencies and processes
- Additional proposals to be made in Final Report

Government Structure

- Hearing held on Monday, March 30 in Peoria
- Topics presented and under consideration:
 - Redistricting
 - Term limits
 - Recall and voter initiatives
 - Legislative Reforms

Inspiring Better Government

- Hearing set for April 24 in Carbondale
- Proposals being considered:
 - Public official code of conduct
 - Enhanced ethics act training for state employees
 - Reduction in number of "Rutan exempt" positions in state government
 - Creation of executive orders (campaign contributions)