

Questionnaire for Candidates for Illinois Governor From WBEZ, Chicago Public Media

Please answer these yes/no questions, and at the bottom of the questionnaire, list the name and title of person who filled out the questionnaire. Have candidate sign for verification.

*Please return this page with answers to Dave McKinney, dmckinney@wbez.org by no later than **Monday, September 24, 2018***

Do you favor maintaining Illinois' flat 4.95% income tax rate?

YES

NO

I do not favor an unfair, regressive flat tax, period. I favor a fair tax where those with higher incomes pay a higher rate, and those in the middle class get a tax break.

Do you favor lowering Illinois' income tax rate to 3%?

YES

NO

I do not favor an unfair, regressive flat tax, period. I favor a fair tax where those with higher incomes pay a higher rate, and those in the middle class get a tax break.

Do you favor increasing the flat tax rate to a level higher than 4.95%?

YES

NO

I do not favor an unfair, regressive flat tax, period. I favor a fair tax where those with higher incomes pay a higher rate, and those in the middle class get a tax break.

Do you favor a graduated state income tax?

YES X, I favor a fair income tax

NO

_____ If yes, identify the highest tax rate

_____ If yes, identify the lowest tax rate.

_____ Identify what is appropriate tax rate for an individual earning \$50,000 annually.

Illinois needs to replace its regressive flat income tax with a fair tax, the same type of fair tax that the vast majority of states and the U.S. government have. It will help us balance the budget and improve funding for our education system. I believe that people like me and Bruce Rauner should pay a higher rate than teachers, firefighters, nurses and childcare workers. I will negotiate rates in a bipartisan fashion with the legislature, where we prioritize that those with higher incomes pay a higher rate than those in the middle class. We will also work to lower income taxes on the middle class and those striving to get there, and raise the state's share of education funding. A fair income tax

will help us to lower local property taxes by alleviating the dependency on the regressive property tax system as the predominant source of school funding.

Do you favor an expansion of the sales tax to include services?

YES _____

NO X

I oppose a sales tax on services. The best way to enhance state revenue is to grow jobs and economic activity, which is an important focus of my campaign and something I have done in my own business and in my active leadership building up the technology startup ecosystem in Illinois over the last two decades.

Do you favor legalizing marijuana for recreational purposes?

YES X

NO _____

_____ If so, identify the specific tax rate the state should apply to marijuana purchases.

I will work with community stakeholders and policy makers to legalize and decriminalize marijuana, reduce mass incarceration, and reinvest in Illinois communities. I will put in place a framework to license businesses to sell marijuana to consumers for recreational use, placing an emphasis on intentionally including black and brown entrepreneurs in the planning and licensing of new marijuana businesses. New jobs and businesses must be created in the communities that have experienced the most disinvestment under Bruce Rauner. It is also important to learn lessons from other states that have already legalized marijuana.

Do you favor freezing property taxes for all local taxing units?

YES _____

NO _____

I favor lowering property taxes. Bruce Rauner's property tax freeze idea would hurt public schools at a time when they need help. We need to fund schools by passing a fair income tax so we can pay for public schools and reduce our dependency on local property taxes.

Do you favor expanding casino gambling in Illinois?

YES _____

NO _____

_____ If so, where?

I am open to new revenue sources like expanding gambling in Illinois. This could attract players from surrounding states in some border locations. I believe that local communities should have input during these discussions and that the state should be mindful of market saturation.

Do you favor a casino managed by the City of Chicago?

YES _____

NO _____

I am open to new revenue sources like expanding gambling in Illinois. This could attract players from surrounding states in some border locations. I believe that local communities should have input during these discussions and that the state should be mindful of market saturation.

Do you favor slot machines at O'Hare and Midway Airports?

YES _____

NO _____

I am open to new revenue sources like expanding gambling in Illinois. This could attract players from surrounding states in some border locations. I believe that local communities should have input during these discussions and that the state should be mindful of market saturation.

Do you support requiring health insurance companies to not charge people higher rates if they have a pre-existing condition?

YES X

NO _____

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege, which is why I favor universal health coverage. The state should do as much as it can to move in that direction as soon as possible, and I've put forward a plan that would expand coverage right away at no cost to taxpayers. My plan for a public health insurance option, IllinoisCares, would allow even more Illinoisans to be covered and would give middle class families and small businesses a break on the high cost of health insurance.

Bruce Rauner was silent when Donald Trump attempted to take away a million people's healthcare in our state. And again last month, he vetoed a bill to protect Illinoisans from junk healthcare plans that would allow insurance companies to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions. As governor, I will protect Illinoisans from junk healthcare plans that would allow insurance companies to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions like mental illness and addiction.

Do you favor the state licensing gun shops?

YES X

NO _____

As governor, I would support and sign a gun dealer licensing bill to ensure firearms are sold in a safe and responsible manner. Bruce Rauner put politics over people by promising yet another callous veto of commonsense, bipartisan gun safety legislation. It's shameful our failed governor would choose political opportunism over protecting our communities as gun violence continues to devastate communities across Illinois.

Do you favor banning the sale of bump stocks?

YES

NO

I support banning the sale of bump stocks in Illinois to help prevent mass shootings.

Do you favor banning the sale of high-capacity ammunition?

YES

NO

I support banning the sale of high capacity magazines in Illinois to help prevent mass shootings.

If the federal government strips organizations that receive federal money for abortions, would you support state funding of organizations that provide abortions?

YES

NO

All women, regardless of income, deserve equitable access to healthcare. That's why I organized the effort to pressure the governor to sign HB40. As governor, I will always defend against efforts to limit women's healthcare and reproductive rights. The rights of women to make decisions about their own bodies are not decisions that politicians should make. They're decisions that should be left to individuals – and if they choose, in consultation with their doctors and their families.

Should the state admit negligence in its handling of Legionnaires' disease outbreaks at the Quincy veterans' home so that the 12 pending Court of Claims lawsuits can be settled?

YES

NO

Bruce Rauner's mismanagement of Legionnaires' in Quincy has had serious and sometimes fatal consequences — 14 Veterans died, over 60 people got sick, and the state is now facing a dozen lawsuits in the wake of this epidemic. Meanwhile, Bruce Rauner still refuses to accept any responsibility for his failure to protect Veterans, and families continue to suffer from the consequences of his negligence. Then, Bruce Rauner had the indecency to amendatorily veto a bill that would have raised the maximum amount families of Veterans who died at the Quincy Veterans' Home can seek in lawsuits against the state. These families lost loved ones because of Rauner's fatal mismanagement of the Veterans' home in Quincy. It is unconscionable and a disgrace to our fallen heroes. I hope the legislature overrides this bipartisan bill that this failed governor refused to sign into law.

Do you favor changing the state constitution, removing the language that state pension benefits cannot be diminished?

YES

NO X

Pensions are a promise to teachers, firefighters, nurses and other hard-working men and women, and the Illinois Supreme Court has ruled that the state must fund these pensions. Bruce Rauner has spent the last four years trying to break that promise. He has sought to cut pensions and destroy unions instead of bringing people together to grow our economy, pass a balanced budget, and work to solve this problem. Bruce Rauner has also proposed letting Illinois declare bankruptcy, which would destroy the state's credit rating, cost taxpayers billions in higher interest payments, and undermine the very foundation of our economy. Throughout his term in office, he has been fighting against working families. He vetoed a minimum wage increase, closed small business development centers, and halted state infrastructure projects, putting thousands of people out of work.

Do you favor additional borrowing to help pay down Illinois' \$129 billion unfunded pension liability?

YES

NO

There are a number of plans that have been discussed and debated about the future of our pension system. One proposed plan would step up our pension payments now, allowing the state to level out its future obligations. We also must never again skip pension payments. Unlike Bruce Rauner, I will honor the promises that have been made to the working men and women in Illinois and work with the legislature to address the pension issue, neither of which the current governor has done.

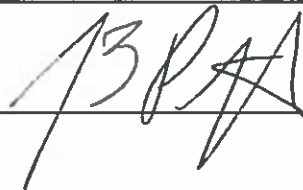


questionnaire

Name, title of person filling out

9/24/18

Date



Signature of Candidate