



State Budget

Carrie Thomas, Chicago Jobs Council

FY 19 State Budget



- First time in four years that the FY starts with budget passed.
- \$38.5 billion with bi-partisan, bi-cameral agreement
- No new taxes, but last year's tax increase made it possible
- Some restoration of previous human services cuts

Job Training Funding “restoration”



- DCEO administration
- Illinois Manufacturers' Association
- Chicago Federation of Labor
- Chicagoland Regional College Program
- HACIA
- New Start, Inc.
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Richland Community College
- Joliet Arsenal Development Authority
- Black chambers of commerce

Fair Tax Campaign



- Proposed amendment to the Illinois state constitution that would change the state income tax system from a flat tax to a graduated income tax
- First step is to pass legislation to put issue on the ballot: No success yet
- Madigan's HR 1025: non-binding resolution, stating that lawmakers "stand united in support of fair and progressive income tax that must reduce taxes on low and middle-income families while raising taxes on the wealthiest Illinoisans."

Action Steps



- Educate and Ask!
 - “Let me tell you the impact that the state budget crisis had on my organization and the services we provide....”
 - “Will you support the fair tax amendment?”
- Stay informed: Follow the campaign
 - <https://fairtaxnowil.com/>
 - @RespBudget IL



License to Work Act

Eric Halvorson, Chicago Jobs Council

License Suspension Challenge



- Thousands of non-driving suspensions yearly
- Half of respondents in our survey lost job/opportunity
- Half learned of suspension when pulled over
- Two thirds owe over \$500 to get their license back, one third owe over \$3,000

License to Work Act



- Second year of legislation
- SB2411
- Sponsors: Rep. Ammons, Champaign & Senator Aquino, Chicago

License to Work Act



Here's how SB2411 helps:

- Eliminates driver's license suspension as a penalty for non-driving violations, including:
 - Falling behind on payment of tickets, fines, fees, or tollway violations
 - Being judged to be a "truant minor"
 - Criminal trespass to a vehicle, and a handful of other non-driving violations
- Allows an individual whose license was suspended under any of these provisions to have their license reinstated.]

Support SB2411

**Good drivers should keep driving
and keep working.**

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Who Supports The License to Work Act?



ACLU Illinois
Breakthrough Urban Ministries
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Cabrini Green Legal Aid
Cara Chicago
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice
Chicago Center for Arts and Technology
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Council of Lawyers
Chicago CRED
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for
Civil Rights
Community Renewal Society
Comprehensive Community Solutions
Cook County Sheriff's Office
Employment & Employer Services
Growing Home
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs &
Human Rights
Howard Area Community Center
Illinois Asset Building Group
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois YouthBuild Coalition, Inc.
Jane Addams Resource Corporation
John Howard Association of Illinois
Juvenile Justice Initiative
Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender
Navicore Solutions
New Moms
North Lawndale Employment Network
Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity
POWER-PAC, a project of COFI
Safer Foundation
Sargent Shriver National Center on
Poverty Law
SEIU Healthcare
Social Change
St. Leonard's Ministries
Women Employed
Woodstock Institute

Support and Opposition



- Secretary of State: still neutral
- Law Enforcement: neutral
- City of Chicago: neutral in public but working behind the scenes to kill the bill
- House Committee: city controlled
- Senate President: show me a compromise

Counter Offer



- Counties and municipalities would retain the ability to suspend driver's licenses for failure to pay parking and compliance tickets with a condition: individuals would have a right to an ability-to-pay hearing.

Counter Offer



Counties and municipalities would have to notify individuals of their right to request a hearing before seeking suspension.

Possible Outcomes:

- Tier 1: 200% of federal poverty line, or below
 - No suspension
 - Payment plan: \$1 or 0.5% of monthly income, whichever is greater
- Tier 2: 200-400% federal poverty line
 - Payment plan: 5% of monthly income
- Tier 3: over 400% of federal poverty line
 - Status quo remains

Individuals could request a hearing after a suspension as well. Anyone determined to fall into Tier 1 would have their license reinstated, and placed on an appropriate payment plan.

Counter Offer



- Senate Amendment 3 (Ability to Pay Hearing process)
 - Chicago remained opposed
 - License to Work Act, with new Ability to Pay Hearing process, passed IL Senate 35 to 17 with bi-partisan, statewide support.

Building Pressure on City



- Sun-Times, ["City urged to go easy on scofflaws after study shows minorities bear the brunt"](#)
- ProPublica Illinois & WBEZ, ["Three City Sticker Tickets on the Same Car in 90 Minutes?"](#)
- WBEZ Morning Shift, ["Duplicate Ticketing Sends Drivers Into Bankruptcy, Costs City"](#)
- The Root, ["If You Live in One of Chicago's Black Neighborhoods, Stop Reading This and Go Check on Your Car"](#)
- Tribune, ["Lawsuit: Chicago's 'minor' traffic tickets shouldn't carry big fines"](#)
- Chicago Reporter, ["Chicago's predatory tickets and fines exploit low-income drivers for revenue"](#)

Action Steps



- Raise issue, spread the word, share the stories:
 - #DrivenIntoDebt
 - #StopSuspendingLives
- Resources for people impacted:
 - Secretary of State: schedule an [informal hearings](#) to understand what's on a driving record
 - [Cabrini Green Legal Aid](#) 312-738-2452
 - [LAF](#) 312-341-1070
 - Last resort: Chapter 13 bankruptcy (legal support highly encouraged)
- Impacted individuals with stories: Contact Eric eric@cjc.net 312-252-0436