

“DO BETTER” – FACT CHECK

AD TEXT	BACKUP
<p><i>It's an outrage. Pat Quinn caught secretly releasing 1,700 dangerous criminals to try and save money.</i></p>	<p>Dangerous Inmates Were Released Under Secret Policy. According to the <u>AP</u>, “Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn reversed a secret policy Wednesday that allowed more than 1,700 inmates to be released from state prison early, some of whom have already been sent back for new offenses, including aggravated battery, weapons charges and assault.” [<u>AP</u>, 12/31/09]</p> <p>Quinn’s “Ill-Conceived” Policy Released 1,700 Inmates Early. According to the <u>Chicago Tribune</u>, “More than 1,700 Illinois inmates got to go home early this fall, the beneficiaries of a short-lived and ill-conceived policy that rewarded them for good behavior before they even got to prison. Some of them quickly proved they didn't deserve the break: 56 are already back in custody.... The governor, who is releasing 1,000 other inmates under a separate cost-cutting measure, called MGT Push ‘a big mistake.’” [<u>Chicago Tribune</u>, 1/1/10]</p> <p>Senator claims IDOC chief Randle told General Assembly oversight committee that Quinn approved secret early release program. According to the <u>Chicago Tribune</u>, “[State Senator Bill] Brady maintained prisons chief Michael Randle told the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability that Quinn was responsible for the cost-savings program.... Brady, a member of the accountability commission, said he asked Randle during a recent commission hearing who made the choice to release inmates early. According to a transcript provided by Brady, Randle said it ‘was a program that was recommended and approved by the governor’s office.’ ‘The governor?’ Brady asked, according to the transcript. Randle responded, ‘Yes.’” [<u>Chicago Tribune</u>, “Clout St.” blog, 1/4/10]</p>
<p><i>But his bad judgment shouldn't surprise us. Quinn's driven our deficit to \$13 billion.</i></p>	<p>Illinois' Deficit Reached \$13 Billion. According to the <u>Pantagraph</u>, “In a study based on California's epic budget problems, Illinois is listed among the nine other states suffering similar severe money troubles. The report by the Pew Center for the States noted Illinois' huge gap between how much money it takes in and how much it spends. ... Illinois' more than \$13 billion budget deficit puts it in the top three nationwide, according to report.” [<u>Pantagraph</u>, 11/12/09]</p> <p>“Illinois budget among worst in U.S., think tank concludes” – <u>Quad-City Times</u> headline, 11/12/09</p>
<p><i>And he wants to borrow even more.</i></p>	<p>“Ill. Gov wants to borrow \$1 billion to pay bills” – <u>AP</u> headline, 10/28/09</p> <p>“Quinn: State needs to borrow another \$1 billion” – <u>Du Quoin Evening Call</u>, 10/2709</p>

<p><i>And to pay for his borrowing, Quinn wants a 50 percent tax hike on the middle class.</i></p>	<p>“Quinn calls for 50 percent income tax hike” – AP headline [3/18/09]</p> <p>Quinn fought for a plan that raised income taxes by 50 percent and left personal exemptions unchanged from current law. According to the <u>Rockford Register-Star</u>, “The House voted 42-74 today for Senate Bill 2252, Quinn’s plan calling for a temporary 50 percent increase in the individual and business income tax rates to help fill a huge budget hole next year,” [<u>Rockford Register-Star</u>, 5/31/09]. According to the <u>St. Louis Post Dispatch</u> “Political Fix,” “the Illinois House is debating Gov. Pat Quinn’s proposed income tax hike right now. His plan would raise the state’s current 3 percent flat-rate income tax to 4.5 percent,” [<u>St. Louis Post Dispatch</u>, 5/31/09]. And according to the <u>Peoria Journal-Star</u>, “The Illinois House on Sunday rejected Gov. Pat Quinn’s proposal for a temporary 50 percent increase in the individual and business income tax rates. It failed, 42-74,” [<u>Peoria Journal-Star</u>, 6/1/09]</p> <p>The sponsor of the bill that raised taxes by 50 percent with no increase to the personal exemptions said it would be “fair to refer to it as Quinn’s proposal.” According to Eric Zorn in the <u>Chicago Tribune</u>, House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, sponsor in the General Assembly of SB 2252, said “Quinn’s original proposal, outlined in March, ‘was never in bill form.’ She said she wasn’t sure about all the discussions and negotiations that went on, but that it was her impression that Quinn ‘unilaterally backed down’ on the portion of his plan that would have tripled the personal exemption.” [<u>Chicago Tribune</u>, “Change of Subject” blog, 10/14/09]</p>
<p><i>We have to do better.</i></p> <p><i>Democrat Dan Hynes: a record of fiscal responsibility, and he’ll keep Illinois safe.</i></p>	<p><u>Pantagraph</u>: “Hynes Has Been Voice of Fiscal Responsibility.” According to an editorial in the <u>Pantagraph</u>, “Hynes has been a voice for fiscal responsibility since being elected comptroller in 1998. He has repeatedly sounded the alarm about excessive borrowing, overspending and delayed payments.” [<u>Pantagraph</u> editorial, 9/7/09]</p> <p>Hynes Has Reputation as Financial Watchdog. According to the <u>Telegraph</u>, “Hynes, who long has had a reputation as a financial watchdog who often criticized former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, his fellow Chicago Democrat, for his fiscal policies, said the state’s ‘structural’ deficit of roughly \$10 billion remains unaddressed after this year’s legislative session. ...Hynes said he is proposing immediate action to address the situation in fiscal year 2010. [<u>Telegraph</u>, 10/3/09]</p>