



FROM THE CAPITOL  
FAX BLOG.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SPRINGFIELD 62706

**Rod Blagojevich**  
**GOVERNOR**

June 11, 2008

Dear State Leader,

On May 31st, the General Assembly passed a budget for Fiscal Year 2009 that, by their own admission, is more than \$2 billion out of balance. As the Illinois Constitution explicitly requires a balanced budget, it is my expectation that in days ahead the leadership of the General Assembly will work with my administration to address this unprecedented and unconstitutional deficit.

I have convened the legislative leaders to address these issues and have provided alternatives, including the passage of the capital proposal provided by Speaker Dennis Hastert and President Glenn Poshard that would provide substantial revenues to support the General Assembly's proposed appropriations.

Unless the General Assembly acts swiftly to pass revenues necessary to support their proposed budget, I will be compelled to use my constitutional authority to address the deficit. Given the magnitude of the challenge that we face, I write to ask you to take appropriate action now to limit the impact of any necessary reductions or eliminations. Action necessary to face our budget challenges may include, but should not be limited to:

- Instituting a hiring freeze on all non-critical positions,
- Freezing all non-essential operating spending,
- Unilaterally reducing or imposing reserves to all operating programs that do not address issues of life, safety or health of Illinoisans, and
- Eliminating programs or functions that do not address key priorities of the State.

Instituting these policies will undoubtedly impose significant difficulties on you and the people of Illinois. These consequences can be avoided if the House passes the capital plan supported by three of the four legislative caucuses and that moved out of the Senate in bi-partisan fashion and if the House approves other pending revenue proposals.

Sincerely,

Rod Blagojevich