

**NOW THAT ELECTIONS ARE OVER, IT IS TIME TO CLEAN UP
ILLINOIS' POLITICAL SYSTEM, STARTING WITH
GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH'S FUNDRAISING**

Now that elections are over, Governor Blagojevich needs to get serious about cleaning up Illinois' political system that has made our state a poster child for reform. During the Governor's first campaign, he ran on a reform agenda stating he would end business as usual. During his second campaign, Governor Blagojevich defiantly stated his 'campaign practices are by the book.' Unfortunately, playing by the book offers little reassurance of fairness and honesty when the system itself is broken. More than a year ago, the Governor vowed to 'rock the system' of Illinois' political system with campaign finance reform. While the Governor introduced a reform bill, 18 months have passed and he has put absolutely no effort into passing any of the reforms.

It is time for Governor Blagojevich to lead by example. Governor Blagojevich should show he is committed to bringing honesty and fairness to the political system by immediately dissolving his lucrative campaign committee and imposing a political fundraising moratorium on himself until he passes his proposed campaign finance reforms.

Key elements of Governor Blagojevich's proposal to focus on include:

- Prohibiting campaign contributions by corporations and labor unions
- Imposing contributions limits
- Increasing personal financial information disclosure of state officials
- Increasing public information about lobbyists' contracts and activities.

Governor Blagojevich has demonstrated that he can get important legislation passed. In a political system marred by corruption, isn't nothing less than restoring some semblance of integrity, honesty, and fairness in the political system worth the effort?

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