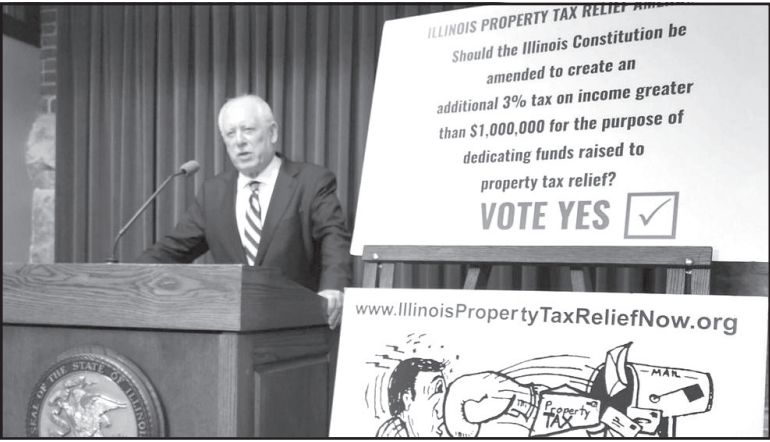


Millionaire Tax Push Resumes In Illinois



Pat Quinn speaks at a news conference in Springfield with a property tax relief sign

By Jim Talamonti | The Center Square
Former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and state Rep. LaShawn Ford, D-Chicago, have taken the next step in their campaign to raise taxes on people who earn more than \$1 million, and the speaker of the Illinois House is on board. Quinn and Ford filed ordinances on Thursday for a non-binding referendum to be placed on Chicago ballots in the general election this November or in the citywide election next February. Statehouse members did not vote on Ford's proposed constitutional amendment in time for a binding measure to appear on the November ballot statewide. HJRC 21 would impose a 3% tax on net income more than \$1 million, with 50% of revenues to be used for property tax relief and 50% for public school districts. A reporter from The Center Square asked Quinn why Illinois

does not provide more immediate property tax relief by placing a cap on property tax increases like Indiana does. Quinn said he supported a cap on levies in 1991 or 1992. "That has not worked well in Illinois. There are too many exceptions. Now, I think we ought to take a look at those exceptions," Quinn said. The former governor said the millionaire amendment would be better because it would provide rebates for taxpayers. On Wednesday, Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch told The Center Square reporter Sean Reed he fought for Ford's constitutional amendment proposal this year. "I certainly would ask people to join me in the fight to tax the rich, to pass the surcharge tax on millionaires," Welch said. Welch said lawmakers should consider the tax if a special session is called for any reason. Quinn listed other states that

have passed legislation to enact taxes on millionaires, including Hawaii, Massachusetts and Washington. The former governor said Massachusetts has more millionaires now than it did when the tax was approved. Washington state officials approved a 9.9% tax on household income above \$1 million in March. A survey conducted in late April by the Association of Washington Business found about 24% of employers considering moving their business out of the state, and even more considering moving their personal residence out of Washington. The Center Square recently reported that Starbucks plans to relocate more than 300 from Seattle to Nashville, according to regulatory filings and interviews with officials in both cities. When asked by The Center Square if Illinois school districts might simply waste the extra money, Quinn said the amendment allows the legislature to place guardrails in school district budgets. "We want to make sure that the money the school districts get is used to abate and reduce property tax levies, and the legislature under this amendment would have that power," Quinn said. After Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson provided his city's public schools with a \$1 billion tax-increment financing sweep last December, the board of education raised its property tax levy by the maximum amount allowed just days later. CPS has since proposed a \$10 billion budget for next school year, with a projected deficit of \$732.5 million.

2026's Best & Worst States For Children's Health Care

Keeping children healthy is both essential and costly. Fortunately, about 94% of children ages 0 to 18 have health insurance coverage to protect them when they become ill. However, high coverage rates have not necessarily reduced health care expenses for families. On average, workers contribute \$6,850 per year toward employer-sponsored family health coverage. While some families receive assistance through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), many who do not qualify for government support continue to face financial strain especially amid significant inflation. Cost, however, is not the only factor influencing children's health care. The quality of the health care system and environmental conditions such as access to nutritious food and fluoridated water also play significant roles. Because conditions vary widely by location, WalletHub analyzed the 50 states and the District of Columbia using 33 key indicators related to the cost, quality, and access to children's health care. The data set includes measures ranging from the percentage of children ages 0 to 17 in excellent or very good health to the number of pe-

diatricians and family doctors per capita.

chip lupu

"The quality of children's health care should be one of the most important considerations for parents when deciding where to live. Having access to quality pediatric and dental care, nutritious food and good spaces for recreation from a young age can give children a much better chance of growing up healthy and forming good habits that will last into their adult life."

Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst

Best States For Children's Health Care		
State	Score	
1. Massachusetts.....	67.34	
2. Rhode Island	61.77	
3. Connecticut	60.91	
4. Vermont	60.90	
5. Hawaii.....	60.74	
6. New Jersey.....	60.32	
7. Pennsylvania.....	58.17	
8. New York.....	57.41	
9. Iowa.....	57.01	
10. California	56.25	
11. New Hampshire.....	55.89	
12. Minnesota	55.57	
13. District of Columbia.....	55.48	
14. Oregon.....	55.02	
15. Delaware.....	55.00	
23. Illinois.....	51.85	

Worst States For Children's Health Care		
37. Nevada	46.51	
38. Alabama	45.26	
39. South Carolina	45.13	
40. Louisiana.....	45.11	
41. Missouri.....	45.07	
42. Arkansas	45.02	
43. Oklahoma	44.72	
44. Texas	44.63	
45. Georgia.....	44.59	
46. Wyoming	44.09	
47. Kentucky.....	43.98	
48. Montana.....	42.91	
49. Alaska.....	42.20	
50. Arizona.....	41.36	
51. Mississippi.....	37.69	

Best vs. Worst

- ♦ Massachusetts has the lowest share of uninsured children aged 0 to 18, which is 7.5 times lower than in Texas, the highest.
- ♦ Hawaii has the lowest share of children aged 0 to 17 with unaffordable medical bills, which is 2.6 times lower than in Wyoming, the highest.
- ♦ The District of Columbia has the most pediatricians per 100,000 residents, which is 29 times more than in Louisiana, the fewest.
- ♦ Colorado have the lowest share of obese children aged 10 to 17, which is 2.4 times lower than in Mississippi, the highest.

King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 23 mins.

D	A	L	E		M	O	B	S		G	P	A
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