

**Item #4:**

**Ord. To Continue And Permit Video Gaming On Temporary Basis**

**VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-O-\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY AMENDING SECTIONS 10-1-8 AND 3-2-5 OF THE  
LONG GROVE VILLAGE CODE REGARDING VIDEO GAMING**

Adopted by the President and Board of  
Trustees of the Village of Long Grove on  
this 11th day of August, 2015

Published in pamphlet form by direction and  
authority of the Village of Long Grove,  
County of Lake, State of Illinois, on this  
12th day of August, 2015

**VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-O-\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY AMENDING SECTIONS 10-1-8 AND 3-2-5 OF THE LONG GROVE VILLAGE CODE REGARDING VIDEO GAMING**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 27 of the Video Gaming Act, 230 ILCS 40/1, *et seq.* (the "**Video Gaming Act**"), a municipality may pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the corporate limits of the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Long Grove passed an ordinance expressly prohibiting video gaming terminals as defined in the Video Gaming Act, and otherwise prohibiting gambling within the Village except with respect to such activities allowed under the Charitable Games Act, PA 84-1303; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, the President and Board of Trustees determined that it was in the best interests of the Village and its residents to authorize video gaming in accordance with the Video Gaming Act on a six-month trial basis to better understand the effects of such activities on the Village and its businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2014-O-09, the President and Board of Trustees temporarily amended Chapter 1 of Title 10 and Sections 3-2-5 and 3-2-14 of the Long Grove Village Code to permit video gaming devices for a trial period beginning on July 1, 2014 and ending on December 31, 2014 on premises holding a Class V liquor license; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the time required for the Illinois Gaming Board to approve and deliver video gaming machines, Class V license holders in the Village did not begin operation of video gaming machines until early October 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, to allow sufficient time for the trial program and the assessment of the effects of video gaming on the Village and its businesses, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2014-O-22, the President and Board of Trustees amended Sections 10-1-8 and 3-2-5 of the Village Code to extend the trial period to April 14, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2015 the President and Board of Trustees determined that it is in the best interests of the Village and its residents to further extend such trial period and permit video gaming devices on premises holding a Class V liquor license until August 12, 2015, as set forth in Ordinance 2015-O-04;

**WHEREAS**, the President and Board of Trustees have determined that to allow sufficient time for the input from all village residents through the village-wide survey for which the results are expected in September 2015, it is in the best interests of the Village and its residents to further extend such trial period and permit video gaming devices on premises holding a Class V liquor license until October 15, 2015, as set forth in this Ordinance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF ILLINOIS**, as follows:

**SECTION ONE: Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are by this reference incorporated into and made a part of this Ordinance as if fully set forth.

**SECTION TWO: Amendment of Section 10-1-8 of the Village Code.** Section 10-1-8, entitled "Gambling Prohibited," of Chapter 1, entitled "General Offenses," of Title 10, entitled "Police Regulations," of the Long Grove Village Code is hereby amended in part, as follows:

**10-1-8 GAMBLING PROHIBITED.**

(a) Except as expressly permitted pursuant to Chapter 9 of this Title 10, there shall be no gambling of any kind allowed within the Village of Long Grove, including use of any gambling device. A "gambling device" is any clock, tape machine, slot machine or other machines or device for the reception of money or other thing of value on chance or skill or upon the action or which money or other thing of value is staked, hazarded, bet, won or lost, including but not limited to, any video gaming terminal, as defined in the Video Gaming Act, 230 ILCS 40/5; or any mechanism, furniture, fixture, equipment or other device designed primarily for use in a gambling place. A "gambling device" does not include:

(1) A coin-in-the-slot operated mechanical device played for amusement which rewards the player with the right to replay such mechanical device, which device is so constructed or devised as to make such result of the operation thereof depend in part upon the skill of the player and which returns to the player thereof no money, property or right to receive money or property.

(2) Vending machines by which full and adequate return is made for the money invested and in which there is no element of chance or hazard.

(b) Notwithstanding the prohibitions in Section 10-1-8(a), for the period beginning July 1, 2014 through ~~August 12, 2015~~ **October 15, 2015**, video gaming terminals shall be permitted to persons holding a Class V liquor license, subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into such Class V liquor license for the particular business.

**SECTION THREE: Amendment of Section 3-2-5 of the Village Code.** Section 3-2-5, entitled "License Classifications; Numbers; Fees," of Chapter 2, entitled "Liquor Control," of Title 3, entitled "Business Regulations," of the Long Grove Village Code is hereby amended in part, as follows:

**3-2-5: LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS; NUMBER; FEES:**

The classification of licenses shall be as follows with the fees in subsection 12-1-2(G) of this code:

\* \* \*

(N) Class V Limited License:

1. Classification: Class V licenses shall authorize the sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages on the premises in conjunction with video gaming devices, which license shall only be available to persons currently holding another liquor license issued by the Village on the licensed premises, which other license permits on-premises consumption of alcohol. Any person applying for a Class V license shall be required to present plans for the licensed premises that depict where the video gaming devices will be located. There shall be no flashing lights and no sound within five feet of the machine, and devices must be located so as not to distract diners. Such location shall be segregated from areas of the licensed premises where access to persons under 21 years of age is prohibited, and shall otherwise be situated so as to ensure adequate supervision of the area in which the video gaming devices are located. No person shall be entitled to a Class V

license unless the Local Liquor Control Commissioner grants such license, which license (a) may be subject to conditions relating to the operations within the licensed premises, and (b) notwithstanding Section 3-2-6, shall expire on ~~August 12, 2015~~ **October 15, 2015**. The term of any Class V license issued between July 1, 2014 and March 24, 2015 shall be extended to ~~August 12, 2015~~ **October 15, 2015**, and no additional license fee shall be required for such extension. The fee for a Class V license shall be \$250 for the license term beginning on July 1, 2014 and ending on ~~August 12, 2015~~ **October 15, 2015**.

2. Number: Unlimited.

**SECTION FOUR: Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect following its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law.

Passed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Underwood, Village President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Locker-Scheer, Village Clerk

**ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD  
VIDEO GAMING REPORT  
Long Grove**

7/31/2015  
10:12 am

June 2014 - July 2015

Municipality	Establishment	License Number	VGT Count	VGT Wagering Activity			VGT Income			VGT Tax Distribution		
				Amount Played	Amount Won	Net Wagering Activity	Funds In	Funds Out	NTI	NTI Tax Rate (30%)	State Share	Municipality Share
Long Grove	Broken Earth Winery, LLC	140702229	3	\$218,519.33	\$202,692.73	\$15,826.60	\$73,349.00	\$57,522.40	\$15,826.60	\$4,748.13	\$3,956.77	\$791.36
Long Grove	LGC 2014, Inc.	140702228	5	\$428,895.86	\$389,614.17	\$39,381.69	\$172,680.00	\$133,288.28	\$39,381.72	\$11,815.05	\$9,845.89	\$1,969.16
Long Grove	SBS Building Enterprises, LTD.	140702887	3	\$388,658.98	\$354,376.75	\$34,282.23	\$134,817.00	\$100,634.77	\$34,282.23	\$10,284.98	\$8,570.84	\$1,714.14
Long Grove	The Village Tavern Of Long Grove, Inc.	140702231	5	\$1,309,089.29	\$1,186,151.27	\$122,938.02	\$458,419.00	\$335,470.98	\$122,948.02	\$36,884.69	\$30,737.26	\$6,147.43
<b>REPORT TOTAL:</b>		<b>4 Establishments</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$2,345,263.46</b>	<b>\$2,132,834.92</b>	<b>\$212,428.54</b>	<b>\$839,365.00</b>	<b>\$626,926.43</b>	<b>\$212,438.57</b>	<b>\$63,732.85</b>	<b>\$53,110.76</b>	<b>\$10,622.09</b>

# Restaurant owners see positives in video gambling

By **Ronnie Wachter**  
Pioneer Press

MARCH 2, 2015, 1:37 PM

**I**t's free money for everyone involved. Except the gamblers losing the money.

Eight months into a year-long experiment, video gaming is bringing revenue and customers into Long Grove, without costing restaurant owners or Village Hall anything. Mary Ann Ullrich, owner of the Village Tavern, said her business's experience had been positive enough that she hoped to keep her machines permanently.

"It's not the boogeyman that everyone..." and she paused for a moment. "We haven't found any deserted children in the parking lots."

She said the beliefs of the restaurant owners who supported the experiment are being proven.

"It is exactly what we thought it would be," Ullrich said. "We want Long Grove to be the example of how you do it right. You can do it tastefully."

Four restaurants — mainstays like the Long Grove Cafe and the Tavern, and newcomers Chatter Box and Broken Earth Winery — are taking part in a test that began on July 1. So far, both business owners and Village Hall are reporting new income streams, without new expenses, and there are no reports of crime connected to the machines.

The early result, as Ullrich sees it, is that gaming makes Long Grove attractive to a younger audience, and to people looking for something less expensive than dinner and movie. Well, with games as little as a penny, it is something that starts out less expensive.

"I think it's going to be mainstream in no time," she said. "It's a great asset for restaurants."

"We've had no problems," added Steve Besbeas, owner of Chatter Box, who added gaming in November.

Long Grove is guarded by the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and a deputy gives a report at each Village Board meeting. Complaints about nuisances connected to video gambling have yet to come up.

Long Grove has 18 machines: three at Chatter Box, while the other restaurants requested the maximum of five. Supplied by a company called Universal Gaming, they cost the businesses nothing.

The businesses also get a tiny portion of the revenues, as does Village Hall. Records from the Illinois Gaming Board show that about close to \$1 million in total bets have been placed in Long Grove. Springfield has taken in about \$22,000 of that, while Village Hall records show an intake of only \$1,500 by the end of 2014 for the municipal government. Ullrich did not have figures for her cut on hand, but said she had been pleased.

"There's no overhead for us," she said. "You're not going to get rich off of it, but if you can pay a couple of bills with the revenue you get from it, it helps."

Besbeas keeps his machines on the second floor. Ullrich keeps hers near the front door, in a small alcove that previously held a few tables behind their stage.

The initial experiment will end on April 14 — one week after a contentious election, in which six men are running for three seats. Three of those candidates have spoken in favor of making video gambling a permanent part of Long Grove, three worry that the machines are taking away from the atmosphere that visitors come downtown to enjoy.

Besbeas and Ullrich both asked to keep their revenue streams.

"There's nothing this contested, in a long time, in Long Grove," Besbeas said.

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# Long Grove not concerned about gaming revenue loss

By **Ronnie Wachter**  
Pioneer Press

AUGUST 6, 2015

**I**n Long Grove, the state-ordered loss of revenue from its new video-gambling machines should have no impact, because Village Hall has not earmarked the funds they generate for any specific purpose.

But the village's leaders are irked about being dragged into a politics game they have no connection to.

"When revenues are down, it's always of concern —especially when it's money that is owed to us, being taken away from us," Village President Angie Underwood said Thursday. "What's concerning to me is the fact that the state is withholding money that they should not be."

Earlier this week, the Lake County Municipal League sent an email to its members, alerting them that Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner was planning to withhold municipal shares of video gambling revenue until he and the General Assembly find a compromise for the weeks-overdue state budget.

The state still plans to hand over the portion owed to the businesses that house video machines, but the municipalities will receive only an IOU for the month of July and beyond, until Springfield has a new spending plan.

"Assumedly, each municipality will receive a reimbursement for past unpaid funds," the league's memo reads.

Video gambling machines use a screen and computer programs instead of a lever and wheels, and thus a player can take part in a dozen different kinds of games while sitting at one bar stool. Most machines take wagers of only cents or a few dollars. Illinois permitted the new gaming style in 2012, and Long Grove joined the growing group of municipalities that permit it last fall.

Four restaurants in Long Grove house a total of 16 machines. Illinois Gaming Board records show that from January through June, gamblers wagered \$1.66 million at those stations, winning back \$1.52 million. Of the \$146,000 they lost, state law breaks 5 percent of that off for Long Grove Village Hall — which amount to an average of about \$1,200 a month. Those checks will not come from Springfield until Rauner signs a new budget.

Underwood said Long Grove has not designated the video-gambling stream for any purpose, so it drops into Village Hall's general operations fund.

Long Grove's video gambling presence is, at the moment, only a temporary experiment. The Village Board approved it for a short-term examination last fall, and that term was set to expire in April. The trustees extended it to Aug. 12, but Underwood said she expected that they would extend it again until the middle of October. Long Grove is currently circulating a survey to its residents, inquiring their thoughts on a variety of issues, including video gambling, but Underwood said the results will not be finalized until early

September.

"It just didn't make any sense to make that kind of decision without the survey," Underwood said.

Five of Long Grove's 16 machines are at the Village Tavern, where owner Mary Ann Ullrich said the experiment has been a success so far. She said that when she first heard about Rauner's plan to withhold revenue, though, she at first became distressed.

"I was paying very close attention to that situation," she said.

Once informed that the state would send the Village Tavern its portion of the winnings as usual, though, Ullrich said she was relieved.

Rauner has found multiple ways to reduce the state's funding output since taking office in January. This spring, he announced the stoppage of payments of several grants to park districts. The Buffalo Grove Park District's board then voted to finish its renovations to Willow Stream Park with its own money.

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# Gambling winnings for suburbs sidetracked in budget squabble

By **Mike Nolan**  
Daily Southtown

JULY 31, 2015, 7:37 PM

**M**unicipal leaders throughout Chicago's suburbs are largely shrugging off news that Springfield's faceoff over reaching a budget agreement has put a hold on their share of revenue from video gambling.

While the monthly checks can amount to tens of thousands of dollars for some cities and villages, officials are confident their communities are fiscally sound enough to ride out what they see as being a temporary situation.

Gov. Bruce Rauner said that, lacking agreement on a balanced budget, the state doesn't have the authority to issue the checks. Businesses such as bars and restaurants that have relied on video gambling as a new revenue stream aren't affected and will continue to be paid, according to the governor's office.

Gambling revenue goes for things such as summer jobs programs for teens, making municipal employee pension contributions, and funding park improvements and street repairs.

Cities and villages calculated their annual budgets assuming they would get a certain amount of gambling money this year, and officials said they'll adjust until the checks start coming again. They won't lose any money, but it will be held up until Rauner and legislators come to terms on a new state spending plan.

"We're OK for a while," Waukegan Mayor Wayne Motley said.

The city typically sees about \$40,000 a month from gambling, but that jumped to nearly \$60,000 in June. The money is earmarked for municipal pensions, and the expected half-million dollars in annual revenue "does help us a lot," he said.

An Aurora official said that, on a short-term basis, the city can deal with any delay in payments. The city uses gambling revenue for debt service payments, job creation programs and educational and social service programs.

"If there is a delay in payments, the city can weather the storm," Carrie Anne Ergo, Aurora's chief of staff, said. "If a reduction is permanent, it would have an immediate impact, because we would have to start figuring out what we're going to do."

Long Grove Village President Angie Underwood said the delay in payment shouldn't be an issue, and that the village hasn't earmarked the money for a specific purpose.

"What's concerning to me is the fact that the state is withholding money that they should not be," she said.

Long Grove officials last fall approved a trial run for video gambling, and that term was set to expire in April but trustees have since extended it to Aug. 12. Underwood said she expected that they would extend it again, to mid-October. Long Grove is currently circulating a survey to residents, getting their input on a variety of issues,

including video gambling, but Underwood said the results will not be finalized until early September.

"It just didn't make any sense to make that kind of decision (about the future of video gambling in the village) without the survey," Underwood said.

Five of Long Grove's 16 gambling terminals are at the Village Tavern, where owner Mary Ann Ullrich said the experiment has been a success so far. She said that when she first heard about Rauner's plan to withhold revenue she was worried it would impact her, but was relieved when she learned Village Tavern would continue to receive its share of revenue.

"I was paying very close attention to that situation," she said.

Crestwood has earmarked gambling money to shore up police pension contributions and pay for park improvements.

"We're trying to pay the pension down with the gaming money," Mayor Lou Presta said.

Although a new 1 percent sales tax in the village took effect July 1, the village won't begin seeing that revenue until October, he said.

The village is owed \$19,200 for its share of June gambling revenue, and Presta said the village in many months sees \$25,000.

Oak Lawn has realized \$350,000 in gambling revenue so far this year, with a high of \$38,000 in March, Mayor Sandra Bury, who has expressed concern about the spread of video gambling in her community, said. The money goes into the village's general fund and pays for things such as a summer jobs program, she said.

Still, the delay in getting money from the state won't be a burden, she said.

"We're strong, we're OK," Bury said. "The village can shoulder this."

Still, Bury couldn't mask her disdain for state leaders who've cut funding or delayed payments to health care providers or nonprofits such as Oak Lawn-based Park Lawn, which provides services for people with developmental disabilities.

"We don't want to be added to the long list of people the state feels it can pay whenever it feels like it," she said. "Springfield needs to get its house in order. They need to work together."

Although the village is owed \$35,000 for its share of gambling revenue in June, that payment appears to have been held up. Bury said the last check the village received was in mid-June, covering its share of May revenue, and that a check for June should have arrived by mid-July.

Elmwood Park Village Manager Paul Volpe said the village expects to receive \$120,000 this year from its portion of video gambling. He said the money's delay could have an impact on the village.

"We've dedicated the money to capital investments," he said. "It goes to supporting the investment we've made in streets and other things. It would certainly slow down our investments in that area."

But Elmwood Park Village President Angelo "Skip" Saviano, a former state representative who supported video gambling while in the Legislature, isn't too worried about the delay. He considers it political wrangling and said that, by holding back payments, the governor "wants to accelerate the crisis level."

Saviano said he expects Elmwood Park will eventually get the money, but not having it won't hurt the village in the short term.

"I'm not really concerned about it," he said. "We don't depend on it to run the village — we use it for our road programs. I'm willing to be patient. ... At some point, they'll have to pay."

*Contributing: Steve Lord, Aurora Beacon-News; Dan Moran, Lake County News-Sun; David Pollard, Pioneer Press; Ronnie Wachter, Pioneer Press*

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# Using video gambling in state's political war



PHIL KADNER

DAILY SOUTH TOWN 7/30/15

The budget battle between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the legislature ratcheted up another notch this week with the state threatening to withhold video gambling revenue from towns.

Last month, I revealed that the state was planning to hold onto the local share of motor fuel tax money that's normally distributed to municipalities beginning Aug. 1.

"The state does not have appropriation authority to distribute to local municipalities their shares from video gambling because (Illinois House) Speaker Madigan and the legislators he controls failed to pass a balanced budget," according to a statement I received from the governor's office.

In June, towns throughout Illinois that offer video gambling collected a total of about \$3 million. Oak Lawn received \$35,364 in June alone, Oak Forest's share amounted to \$17,939 and Matteson, a community in dire financial straits, collected just more than \$10,000.

The state distributed \$534 million in motor fuel tax revenue to local governments last year. The use of those funds is restricted to road and bridge maintenance.

Video gambling receipts are placed in a town's general revenue fund, which means they help pay the salaries of employees, including police and fire personnel, and can be used for all manner of regular expenses.

Officials at the Illinois Municipal League said they are seeking a legislative solution, meaning they are working with legislators to come up with an appropriations bill freeing the video gambling and motor fuel tax money.

Whether the governor would sign such legislation is questionable, although Democrats control enough votes in both the House and Senate to override his veto.

Municipal League Executive Director Brad Cole said the state will continue to distribute the local share of sales tax revenue to municipalities along with the millions of dollars in income tax revenue that Illinois shares with towns.

"And the video gambling revenues and motor fuel taxes will be released once there is a budget agreement in Springfield," Cole said, echoing comments the Rauner administration has made since June.

Sources within the Rauner administration maintain that the governor is not withholding this revenue, but that the Illinois Department of Revenue lacks the authority to release the money because Rauner has refused to sign an out-of-balance budget passed by Democrats.

Legal battles have been waged over whether the state can pay the salaries of employees, which the governor has authorized, but the Municipal League said it has no

plans to seek a remedy in the court system.

Larry Deetjen, Oak Lawn's village manager, said his suburb has been anticipating such financial dilemmas and has not filled vacancies in the public works department as one cost-saving measure.

"We can get away with that in the summer months, but in the winter, when you need people for snow removal, that becomes a more serious concern," Deetjen said. "But I remain optimistic that our political leaders can reach an agreement."

Deetjen said the potential loss of video gambling and motor fuel tax revenue illustrates the need for the governor and legislative leaders to agree on a budget sooner rather than later.

Ed Paesel, executive director of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, representing 42 south suburbs, expressed a similar belief that the impasse in Springfield would soon end.

But I don't see much cause for optimism myself. The crisis serves a political purpose for both Rauner and Madigan.

Rauner has insisted repeatedly

***The antics of Rauner and Madigan likely reinforce the perception among most people ... that politicians really don't care about them.***

that parts of his Turnaround Agenda be passed before there can be a budget agreement. That agenda includes a constitutional amendment referendum on term limits, changes in collective bargaining for government employees, tort reform and workers' compensation reform, just to name a few.

Cont →

A property tax freeze is also on his agenda, and Democrats in recent weeks have seemed more willing to do something along those lines than in previous months. State Rep. Jack Franks, D-Marengo, announced Wednesday that he's sponsoring a bill that would place a two-year freeze on the property tax that would also create a path for discussing school funding reform in Illinois.

Franks, like many Democrats in the past year, acknowledges that the property tax system is out of control because the state relies too heavily on the tax to finance public education.

Madigan, who refused years ago to pass legislation that would've raised the state income tax to fund education, argues that none of the governor's proposals would help balance the state budget, which is about \$4 billion short of the money needed due to the expiration of the temporary income tax increase.

Of course, it was Madigan and the legislature controlled by Democrats that refused to extend that tax hike, hoping to place the new governor in the position he presently confronts — either raise taxes or cut programs so drastically that even his Repub-

lican allies would protest.

Democrats are demanding new tax hikes, and Rauner has indicated that he may go along with something to raise revenue but not until his Turnaround Agenda is passed.

In the meantime, Rauner continues to attack Madigan in TV commercials and public statements, while Madigan responds repeatedly that the governor's ideas are "extreme."

The governor has created a campaign fund worth approximately \$20 million to finance the campaigns of Republicans who would run against incumbent Democrats in next year's legislative races. Rauner is also making the argument that under Madigan's leadership, Democrats are unwilling to pass basic measures that would lead to reform and economic growth in Illinois.

This spring, Rauner tried to use the power of his office to convince mayors throughout the state of the need to pass local resolutions backing his Turnaround Agenda, threatening to withhold their towns' share of state income tax money if they did not.

That effort dramatically failed when most municipalities refused to vote on the resolution, with some Republican mayors claiming that Rauner's agenda was too extreme. Rauner has apparently backed away from the threat to keep local income tax funds to balance the state budget because that hasn't been mentioned in months.

I'm not sure most residents of Illinois view this bitter political battle as important to their daily lives. Schools are going to open on time in most communities. State employees will remain on the job. The antics of Rauner and Madigan likely reinforce the perception among most people, who don't even bother to vote, that politicians really don't care about them.

I say that's a perception, but it's closer to the truth than any of our political leaders will ever admit.

That's why I believe this budget impasse will continue longer than anyone believes. Madigan is hoping the public will turn against Rauner. Rauner hopes the people turn against the Democrats, who control the House and the Senate.

Those Democrats oppose term limits and a property tax freeze, Rauner wants to say, and both of those issues make sense to voters.

In fact, if the governor confined his Turnaround Agenda to those two issues, he could likely create enough pressure on the legislature to get them approved in exchange for some sort of tax hike.

But he wants to shove dramatic changes to collective bargaining down the throats of Democrats and those unions that provide both campaign contributions and votes to the party. That isn't going to happen, and Rauner has to know that.

Maybe our political leaders will surprise me and work out a compromise that everyone can live with. But I wouldn't bet on it. This is all about two men trying to convince voters that the other guy is evil.