



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

BRUCE RAUNER
GOVERNOR

March 3, 2016

Dear City Mayor or Village President:

Last month, I proposed two paths for dealing with the fiscal crisis facing our state: working together or executive management. The first is my preferred path: a bipartisan balanced budget alongside structural reforms that make our state more competitive, drive down costs for local governments and lower the total tax burden on all Illinois families.

Under that scenario, we would fully fund the Local Government Distributive Fund, lower workers' compensation costs, provide relief from unfunded mandates, enact pension reform, provide local control of collective bargaining and prevailing wage and invest in our infrastructure. Mayors across the state have advocated for all of these reforms for years.

But this future cannot be achieved if the leaders of the General Assembly refuse to compromise and reject this preferred budget path. If Speaker Madigan, President Cullerton and the members of their caucuses refuse to work together, we must still take action to balance the state budget. That would mean deep cuts. It's not my preferred path, but we cannot keep digging ourselves into a financial hole.

I encourage you to contact your elected officials and urge them to choose the preferred budget path of working together so that we strongly support local governments with reforms and revenue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rauner".

Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois