

# Illinois Latino Agenda

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## 2014 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire

Latinos now account for the largest minority group in Illinois at 16 percent of the total population. After 33 percent growth since 2000, more than 2 million Latinos live, work, and raise families in the prairie state. While their contributions reverberate throughout Illinois in the form of tax contributions and consumer spending, home-ownership, and small business development, the increasing presence of Latinos has also been felt at the ballot box with their share of election-day voters rising in Illinois from 6 percent in 2008 to 12 percent in 2012.

The Illinois Latino Agenda, the largest coalition of Latino-led nonprofits in the state, has created a candidate questionnaire to elicit information from candidates that will help inform voters as they cast their ballots for the next Governor of Illinois. With more than 40 member organizations across the Chicago metropolitan region, the Illinois Latino Agenda reaches more than 250,000 people each year in a wide range of areas including health care, family services, education, and small business development.

By arming the Latino electorate with salient information, the coalition aims to foster greater civic participation in the upcoming gubernatorial election.

This questionnaire was sent twice to each candidate for governor, Bruce Rauner and Governor Pat Quinn.

### State Budget & Operations

#### QUESTION:

1. **How do your state budget priorities align with the concerns of Latino residents?**

#### **PAT QUINN**

My budget priorities from day one have been about investing in programs that improve the quality of life for all Illinois working families. This means focusing on programs that create jobs and grow the economy, make quality healthcare accessible to everyone, and increase public safety. I took office during an unprecedented time for our state. We were experiencing the effects of a national recession compounded with decades of fiscal mismanagement within Illinois. While I was unwavering in my commitment to invest in vital areas such as schools and scholarships, we were forced to make some unpopular cuts. However, even in this time of financial instability with many pressures on the budget, where I was challenged to make cuts and find efficiencies, I protected from draconian cuts the programs that serve the most vulnerable, protected vital investments such as bilingual education, and vetoed a budget that included 50% cuts to community programs.

Over the past five years, we have protected a number of programs that benefit working families throughout Illinois. This includes early childhood education and MAP scholarships, investments in the state's child care program that allows parents to continue working without having to worry about what to do with their children while they are on the job, while also putting thousands of people to work. And, importantly, we ensured that undocumented children would continue to receive coverage under the All Kids program.

While fighting for a budget that invested in working families, I found a way to invest in our schools and other statewide infrastructure when I created *Illinois Jobs Now!*, the first capital construction effort to become law in over a decade. My capital plan is a crucial economic recovery initiative that has generated more than 400,000 jobs, and has provided many long-awaited improvements to our bridges and roads, transportation

#### **BRUCE RAUNER**

No response.

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networks, schools and communities. *Illinois Jobs Now!* has funded many critical programs in the Latino community.

Early childhood education is critical to a student's success. That's why I created Early Childhood Construction Grants (ECCG) to invest \$45 million to make vital improvements to early childhood education facilities in high-need communities across Illinois. Funded through *Illinois Jobs Now!*, the ECCG program is the first of its kind in the nation.

The \$45 million dollars in capital funds will expand slots to serve about 1,700 more children. Three of the largest capital grants were awarded to communities that serve large populations of Latino children. Chicago Public Schools also received \$9 million dollars in funds to improve and expand early childhood facilities.

The capital funds for higher education included over \$1.2 billion dollars for academic buildings in public and private colleges across the state. As more Latino students pursue college degrees, it is critical that we have state of the art facilities and classrooms to assure that our students are ready to compete in the global economy.

Through *Illinois Jobs Now!* I also have been able to provide funding for repairs to hospitals that serve large Latino populations, such as St. Anthony's on the southwest side and Norwegian American on the northwest side. We've also expanded access to community health centers.

In addition to my budget priorities, my overall policies have been shaped to address the needs of the Latino community. For example, I fought for and signed a historic law that allows undocumented individuals to obtain a driver's license. Even after it went into effect, I made sure my staff worked closely with the Secretary of State's Office on the implementation process. I created the DREAM Fund Commission, which raises private funds for scholarships for immigrant students who do not have the option of obtaining traditional student loans and grants. In its first year, the commission awarded \$100,000 in scholarships. I was the first governor in the nation to oppose the federal government's Secure Communities Initiative in order to protect families from deportation. I am proud that I have made Illinois the most immigrant-friendly state in the nation. I will continue to fight for immigrant rights and social justice.

**QUESTION:**

**2. Within the executive branch, only 3 Latinos have been selected to lead a major state department or agency. How would your administration provide for the inclusion of Latinos in leadership and decision-making positions within the executive office, state agencies, and boards & commissions?**

**QUINN**

I am proud of my record in creating a diverse administration but we are not yet done. I will continue to appoint outstanding Latino individuals to executive leadership positions within my office and across state agencies. I believe state government should reflect the population it serves in order to better meet

**RAUNER**

No response.

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the needs of all communities.

I will ensure that Latinos are in leadership and decision-making positions throughout my administration. It has been important to me to have Latino decision-makers in all areas of state government, from the financial and regulatory agencies to the human services and healthcare areas. Similarly, I have appointed Latino candidates to key boards and commissions in different areas from education to racing regulation to executive ethics. I will also continue to partner with community organizations in increasing the diversity of boards and commissions and I look forward to working with the Illinois Latino Agenda on this important endeavor.

My senior level staff members have met with representatives of the Latino Agenda and will continue to work with them in meeting my diversity goals.

For your reference, attached please find a list of Latinos I have appointed to positions of leadership within my office, in state agencies, and on boards and commissions.

**QUESTION:**

**3. Latinos account for 16 percent of Illinois population after experiencing a 33 percent growth since 2000. However, only 5 percent of state grants to nonprofit agencies are directed to Latino-led nonprofit organizations for the provision of critical programs and services. What steps would your administration take to assess barriers to access, improve outreach, and foster greater inclusion?**

**QUINN**

We are constantly examining and re-examining our procurement policies and grant-making processes to strive for a diverse group of grantees and vendors. For example, at the Department of Human Services (DHS) - one of our largest state agencies - grants are not specifically tailored to a specific race or ethnicity, DHS works to rebid programs on a regular basis to ensure that communities in need have sufficient opportunities to apply for funding. While DHS does not target any one specific race or ethnicity in its RFP processes, they do target risk factors that unfortunately, have a high percentage of Hispanic/Latino youth. DHS ensures through both RFPs as well as all of its contracts that the providers demonstrate the cultural competency necessary to serve their population.

DHS senior staff have had conversations with the Latino Policy Forum regarding the fact that Latino-led agencies are not getting a fair share. They recommended that DHS reach out to the community and provide training on the grant procurement process. As a result, DHS set up several grant courses throughout the city. These courses were very successful and DHS will continue incorporating the Grant Administration office, the OHLA office and programs as part of this initiative.

DHS's Division of Rehabilitation Services has developed programs with the following Latino organizations: El Valor Transition/ Job placement and supported employment, Universidad Popular bilingual training programs to assist Latinos with disabilities in improving their employability,

**RAUNER**

No response.

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VRMR, specialized services to migrant and seasonal farm workers with disabilities, Calor, employment training and placement services, Equip for Equality transition and advocacy services for Latino youth with disabilities. Pilsen Mental Health Wellness centers, IPS services this IPS program is the only one in the nation to serve Latinos with disabilities under the IPS model format. The Federal business development initiative has created contacts with over 150 small Latino businesses that are working with our counselors to pace bilingual bicultural Latinos with disabilities in jobs. Also this initiative has created the Latino Business forum for disability issues that meets quarterly, informing Latino businesses of opportunities with DRS. As a result, DRS has seen an increase of 33% in regards to Latinos participating in its programs.

As a FY15 initiative, DHS is partnering with the Federation of Jalisco, and is in the planning stages of developing a business incubator in the Latino community to promote self-employment opportunities for Latinos with disabilities.

I will continue to encourage DHS to focus on this goal, and use their initial efforts as a model as I work with the rest of my cabinet on similar initiatives to increase the potential opportunity for Latino-led organizations and grants.

My administration also saw the Affordable Care Act as a real opportunity to provide meaningful grants for Latino-led organizations. Latinos currently have the highest rate of uninsurance in Illinois, and the state made it a priority to reach the community through the In-Person Counselor grant program. 94% of program funds were awarded to organizations targeting Latinos for education and enrollment.

## **Education**

### **QUESTION:**

- 4. Latino children account for 1-in-4 children under age 5 in Illinois, but many Latino children and families have limited access to early childhood education, including home-visiting and preschool programs. How would your administration expand access to early learning programs?**

#### **QUINN**

Early childhood education lays the foundation for a child's success in the classroom and beyond, which is why I am a strong leader and advocate for early childhood programs. Quality early childhood programs for Latino children will assure that more children begin kindergarten ready to learn and on-track for success. I made Illinois the first state to require bilingual education programs be made available for non-English speaking students beginning in preschool. I also signed legislation to strengthen Illinois' bilingual education programs, including efforts to increase the participation of parents whose first language is not English.

It is essential that we direct state resources to serve the most high need children and we must push to improve the quality of our early childhood programs. The number of Latino children in low income families continues to grow and so the availability of

#### **RAUNER**

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quality childcare and education programs is essential for these families.

In my 2014 State of the State address I announced my Birth to Five Initiative, which will expand prenatal services to expectant mothers, provide greater access to preschool programs and increase parent support. These measures improve education for all students – but they all have elements that particularly impact education opportunities and outcomes for Latino children.

I also established the Office of Early Childhood Development during my first year in office and strongly support the guiding principles that were developed and adopted by the Early Learning Council in 2013 for cultural and linguistic diversity in all early childhood experiences. These principles call for teachers and professionals who are committed to providing a classroom environment that supports a rich learning experience and respects and builds upon the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the children and families in their program.

As mentioned earlier, I also appointed key Latino leaders to serve on critical Education boards and commissions. The following positions are filled by Latino leaders:

Gery Chico, Chair, Illinois State Board of Education

Miguel del Valle, Chair, P-20 Council and Vice-Chair, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Sylvia Puente, Chair, Education Funding Advisory Board

I have also appointed six new members on higher education and university boards including the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board.

## QUESTION:

**5. School districts are now serving English language learners in 88 out of Illinois' 102 counties. However, many struggle to hire a sufficient number of bilingual certified teachers. How would your administration support efforts to increase language diversity in Illinois' educator pipeline?**

### QUINN

I strongly support the work of the P-20 Council to find new ways to increase the diversity of the teacher population across the state. It is important that the teachers in our classrooms reflect the same diversity as our students. This endeavor requires the support and effort of higher education to assure that more students of color will successfully complete their education and degrees.

I also believe we need to explore working proactively with community colleges and universities in identifying bilingual teachers.

In August 2012, I signed new legislation designed to strengthen the state's bilingual education programs into law. HB-3819 requires the state's Advisory Council to evaluate the success of

### RAUNER

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bilingual programs and explore the benefits and possibilities of “parent academies,” an initiative to increase the participation of parents whose first language is not English in the lives of their students.

## QUESTION:

**6. A majority of Latino students enter higher education through community colleges in Illinois. Unfortunately, many lack the financial assistance, institutional support, and proper guidance to eventually earn a bachelor’s degree. How would your administration ensure Latino students successfully transition from community colleges to four-year universities or careers in high-growth industries?**

### QUINN

Before getting to higher education, we pave the way in college prep in high school. I initiated the current pathways and college readiness programs that are designed to engage Latino students and other high school students in career opportunities and dual credit programs that will put more students on the path to college and successful careers.

I have supported efforts by ISBE and school districts across the state to increase the number of Latino and African American students who enroll in and successfully complete AP courses. The percentage of Latino students who enroll in rigorous AP courses now surpasses their percentage of the graduating high school class – and more students are scoring 3 or higher on their AP exams.

I remain committed to increasing the percentage of Latino students who go on to two year and four year schools in our state. Hispanic students are underrepresented in higher education when compared to their overall representation in the school population – but there have been small increases in recent years. Latinos comprise about 11% of the students in Illinois colleges across all levels – including about 10% of the students in medical schools in the state.

The ISAC College Advising Corps has been instrumental in providing guidance and support to high school students and their families. Every year 200 members (some of whom are bilingual) work with high school students and their families understand the college application process and meet the deadlines for financial aid applications. The Corps members, many of whom are recent college graduates and the first in their families to attend college, provide critical support to increase the number of students of color attending college.

I dedicated \$8.4 million in state funding to support affordable housing for Latino students. La Casa student housing is an innovative model in student housing that surrounds students with all the benefits and resources of on-campus living and with the unique opportunity to remain in their neighborhood near their families—this sets the stage for Latino students to successfully complete college.

Illinois expects that the federal government will designate two Illinois public universities as Hispanic serving institutions in 2014. As a result, they will be eligible for additional federal

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funding. Northeastern Illinois University has held this designation for several years – and this year UIC will also gain this designation as their Latino population will surpass 25% of the overall undergraduate student population. Illinois State University was also listed by the Education Trust in 2012 as one of the top 25 universities nationwide in improving Hispanic graduation rates and in narrowing the gap between Latino students and white students who finish college.

I set an example for the nation, when the Illinois Finance Authority partnered with Loyola Medical School to allow undocumented students to apply to the medical school and access loans for tuition assistance. My goal is to expand this program to include other graduate school programs as well as undergraduate programs.

On IllinoisJobLink.com – our employment opportunity website -- there are more than 130,000 jobs available right now, but many of these jobs require very specific skills. That’s why we have preparing our workers for high-skill, in-demand jobs is a top priority. To help us fill those jobs, we’ve mobilized our education system behind our “60 by 2025” goal: 60% of our adult workforce with a degree or career certificate by the year 2025.

We’ve been exceeding our targets every year. Since 2008, our community colleges have grown the number of people graduating with degrees and career certificates by more than 30 percent. We’ve also expanded dual enrollment and early college opportunities for qualified students.

But we can’t finish the job if deserving students aren’t able to afford a college education. That’s why I have been a strong advocate for MAP Grants and proposed to double the number of MAP Grants during my 2014 State of the State address. This is in addition to the establishment of the DREAM Fund overseen by the DREAM Commission I appointed.

## Economic Development

### QUESTION:

**7. How would your administration encourage job creation in low-income, Latino communities? Please describe the tools and/or incentives you would utilize to bolster economic development?**

#### QUINN

I am very focused on what the Latino community has been telling me, directly, and they are looking to encourage job creation and economic opportunity. There has been very strong growth in the number of Latino owned businesses and economic activity in Illinois with approximately 70,000 Latino-owned businesses. Still, Latino owned companies are less likely to have the capital they need to expand and less likely to earn as much revenue as counterparts. To address these issues, I believe in expanding capital access programs from micro-loans to small business loans, to working directly with the banking community to address inconsistencies across community lending patterns, to investing in workforce training programs

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through Latino community organizations, to employing staff from these communities that can do outreach across all agency programs.

I'm fighting for low-income families by pushing to raise the state's minimum wage to at least \$10 an hour because no one should work full-time and live in poverty. Overall, people of color are disproportionately represented among minimum wage workers.

I'm also working to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In 2012, I fought for and signed legislation to double EITC to provide the largest amount of tax relief to working families in Illinois history. The EITC has a significant effect on reducing poverty among Latino families. Last year the tax credit helped more than 900,000 working families receive \$160 million in tax relief. I just called to double it again in my 2014 State of the State address.

At my direction, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity launched the Community Business Fund as part of the Neighborhood Recovery Effort – a micro-loan program to support disadvantaged communities and their businesses. There was \$3 million awarded; 256 loans totaling \$1.9 million disbursed to date; 79 jobs created in disadvantaged communities so far.

I was the first Governor in 13 years to visit Mexico and the first ever to travel on an official trip to Brazil. We view Latin America as a key partner for economic growth and we are investing our resources in creating platforms for economic, cultural, tourist, and educational exchange with all countries in the region and especially with Mexico. Illinois has long had a special relationship with Mexico - dating back to the relationship between Benito Juarez and Abraham Lincoln. The mission to Mexico also signified my commitment to helping Latino businesses in our state build upon their strong international ties to enable them to start or expand their exports to the region. In addition, I believe very strongly in establishing educational platforms for exchange - we want to be the most immigrant friendly state in the nation and welcome foreign students to our schools. My mission to Mexico was an important opportunity to inform Mexican businesses looking to invest in the U.S. about the Illinois and to ensure that these businesses invest in our communities.

**QUESTION:**

**8. Latinos represent the fastest growing segment of the state's workforce. However, many adult workers lack the skills to compete for jobs in high-growth sectors of the economy. How would your administration foster job-training opportunities for Latino workers?**

**QUINN**

Under my leadership, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has two programs specifically targeting disadvantaged communities to address historical inequities in workforce skills training. The Employment Opportunities Grant Program (EOGP) and the Job Training and Economic Development Program (JTED) have provided significant

**RAUNER**

No response.



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support for workforce training to these communities. Please see below details:

The EOGP's success has been essential in providing a pathway to careers paying family-sustaining wages, upwards of \$65,000 per year. The program has had an impact across the state: 61% of EOGP participants are completing their training programs; 25% of participants were accepted into apprenticeship programs; 17% of participants entered into non-union/non-building trades employment; 10% of participants are now self-employed entrepreneurs; and 12% are continuing their education.

JTED trains low-wage employed workers that cannot advance in their profession due to the lack of skills necessary to increase their productivity and the productivity of the company they work for. It also trains the unemployed and disadvantaged populations with multiple barriers to job placement, providing an opportunity to break the cycle of dependence and transform participants into productive citizens. A third beneficiary is the community-based organization that provides structure and stability within the communities they serve. JTED is a two-year training program. In FY12, \$1.2 million in funding was disbursed, which funded 18 organizations.

I believe in preparing Illinois to secure the jobs of the 21st century. Working with employers to identify the skills required for advanced manufacturing, life science, information technology, and other 21st century jobs and ensuring those skills are part of curricula in schools across the state is a key strategy to achieving this objective. I have invested in STEM programs in Aurora, Chicago, Decatur, and Rockford. In addition, through the Pathways Initiative the Governor has enlisted the private sector to help directly shape the education and training offered within Illinois schools. This commitment will be essential investment for Latino youth as they seek the skills they need to find good paying jobs.

**QUESTION:**

**9. Latino-owned businesses are underrepresented in the distribution of state contracts. What steps would your administration take to ensure greater parity in the selection of state vendors?**

**QUINN**

In the past five years, we've also worked to level the playing field for minority- and women-owned businesses. We established a new revolving loan program at IDOT. And we expanded contracting goals for these small businesses.

As a result, we've increased state contracts to minority and women-owned firms by nearly 60 percent since I took office – an increase of 1,921 contracts worth more than \$120 million.

Under my leadership, I spearheaded the largest capital construction program in state history (*Illinois Jobs Now!*), and I've ensured that minority-owned businesses have the ability to compete for and take part in this \$31 billion dollar program.

The Illinois Tollway has paid nearly \$279 million to Hispanic-

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owned businesses between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2013 - \$226.9 million in construction contracts and \$51.9 million in professional services contracts. That amounts to nearly 37 percent of the \$757 million the Tollway has paid to disadvantaged, minority and women-owned businesses for those services during that time.

Last year, we launched a partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to develop a Coaching for Growth Program for small business owners specializing in heavy highway construction. The first group of business owners are expected to graduate from the program this month.

Source: OBWD's Federal/State DBE Summary Report  
Information below was collected on a Federal Fiscal Year format:

Total DBE firms certified in FFY 2010: 1,732

Total DBE firms certified Today: 1,994

Increase of 23%

Total Hispanic DBE firms certified in FFY 2010: 368

Total Hispanic DBE firms certified today: 457

Increase of 24%

## Health Care

### **QUESTION:**

**10. If elected, how will your administration address health care issues for undocumented Latino residents who are not covered by the Affordable Care Act?**

### **QUINN**

My administration will find ways to ensure access to care for all Illinois residents. Healthcare is a most basic human right. Throughout my career, I have actively supported national health insurance to cover every American. I am disappointed the federal Affordable Care Act stopped short of the inclusiveness our undocumented Latinos deserve. I have instructed my health policy staff to identify ways for Illinois to make sure everyone is in and no one is left out.

Specifically, we are pursuing several approaches:  
The Alliance for Health is considering a fund to cover the health care costs for the remaining uninsured population when they seek medical care. With this fund as their insurer, undocumented Latinos would have access to the same providers and health plans as the rest of the insured population. We believe this would enable everyone to have the same piece of mind regardless of whether they're covered by Medicaid, the new federal marketplace, employers, or the new fund. A very small transaction fee would be necessary on health services that would go into the fund to assure access to care for this small remaining population.

I have instructed my health team and the Department of Insurance to communicate with our healthcare insurers in Illinois that they should accept insurance applications and premiums for everyone applying for private health insurance, regardless of their citizenship status. There is no state or

### **RAUNER**

No response.

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federal law that prohibits undocumented Latinos from purchasing insurance. And I want Illinois' insurers to actively encourage those who can afford insurance to purchase it in the private market.

I would like to explore creating a separate healthcare exchange that will be offered to all individuals who are not eligible to participate in the federal exchange. My goal is to make sure that everyone is given the opportunity to obtain healthcare coverage, regardless of their immigration status.

While we remain concerned that undocumented individuals will not be covered by the ACA program, I would like to note that many eligible Latinos are benefiting from the implementation of the ACA, tens of thousands of Latinos in Illinois will be gaining coverage, reducing the level of uninsurance and removing financial barriers to accessing healthcare.

In addition to the grants mentioned earlier, Get Covered Illinois has launched a robust Spanish advertising campaign to help build awareness around the law's benefits and how to take advantage of them. While we are excited about the potential for coverage for so many uninsured Latinos in Illinois, we are still left with a very important issue to address with undocumented Latino residents who are not covered.

The ACA made money available to support operation, construction, and renovation of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), which are required to provide care to anyone regardless of immigration status. Illinois has already made its first awards, but will continue to work with federal government on these funds.

Also, Illinois is one of the only states that makes Medicaid benefits available to some groups of undocumented immigrants: All Kids is available to children whose families qualify based on income regardless of immigration status, and undocumented pregnant women can receive prenatal and outpatient benefits, as well as outpatient and hospital services for 60 days post-delivery through the Moms and Babies program.

Until we can change the federal law to be as inclusive as it should be, I welcome your ideas and recommendations to help make sure we bridge the current gap in federal law. My staff and I are ready to talk and meet with you to discuss ways to implement these suggestions, as well as others you might have.

## QUESTION:

**11. Latino-led nonprofit organizations currently play a significant role in the provision of a wide range of health care services in Latino communities. What steps will your administration take to ensure that the new networks set up by Managed Care Entities include Latino-led providers and how will you hold other entities accountable for providing culturally and linguistically responsive services across the state?**

### QUINN

My Department of Healthcare and Family Services contracts with MCEs to provide care for Medicaid beneficiaries. MCEs must implement a Cultural Competence Plan, and Covered

### RAUNER

No response.

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Services shall be provided in a culturally competent manner by ensuring the cultural competence of all Contractor staff, from clerical to executive management, and the Provider network.

The MCEs must actively hire staff at all levels of the organization who reflect the racial and cultural diversity of their service areas.

In addition, all MCEs must meet these goals:

- (i) 10% for minority-owned businesses;
- (ii) 7% for female-owned businesses;
- (iii) 3% for businesses owned by individuals with disabilities.

## Immigrant Integration

### QUESTION:

**12. Americans across the nation are advocating for a federal response to immigration that would provide a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented individuals living in the U.S. What is your position on the federal government providing a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants living in Illinois and beyond?**

#### QUINN

I strongly believe that Congress should pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizens for the undocumented individuals in the United States. Since its founding, America has drawn strength from immigrants who have come in search of a better life. Immigration reform is not only the right thing to do. It will also stimulate Illinois' economy over the next 10 years by creating an estimated 4,400 new jobs annually and generating \$1.6 billion in additional taxes from immigrants to state coffers. It will send a signal that the people of the United States embrace the freedom-seekers and entrepreneurs who wish only for a shot at the American Dream and a chance to contribute.

#### RAUNER

No response.

### QUESTION:

**13. The Office of New Americas provides a wide range of important services to the state's diverse immigrant community. What is your vision for immigrant integration in Illinois and how would your administration further the efforts currently underway?**

#### QUINN

The Governor's Office of New Americas ("GONA") coordinates the state's immigrant integration efforts by working collaboratively with State Agencies, Legislators, Federal and Municipal Governments, and Community Partners. GONA has focused, and will continue to focus heavily on expanding policy priorities in areas of economic and workforce development, education, health and human services, and public safety. Another area of focus is on the practices of state government agencies to better serve Immigrant and LEP (Limited English Proficiency) communities. Currently, GONA receives over \$6M for its programs and I will protect this level of funding from budget cuts. Moreover, I have added additional funding to the Latino Family Commission, through GONA. My hope is that we will expand the Welcoming Centers (currently 8) to additional locations throughout Illinois. They serve a critical role in meeting the needs of immigrant families in an efficient comprehensive way.

#### RAUNER

No response.

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## QUESTION:

14. **Illinois is under various federal Consent Decrees requiring state agencies to provide meaningful access to Latinos who have limited English proficiency. What specific steps will you take to ensure that the state is in compliance with those requirements and that language is not a barrier to accessing government services?**

QUINN	RAUNER
<p>Currently, the state is in compliance with the Consent Decrees described above. However, I will take additional steps to ensure that the state is providing meaningful access to Latinos who face language barriers. For example, I will direct the DCFS Director to improve bilingual staffing and examine how current translation programs can be improved to ensure the most effective and appropriate services are made available to Spanish-speaking families.</p>	<p>No response.</p>

## Public Safety

### QUESTION:

15. **Efforts are taking place throughout the country to engage 'disconnected youth,' people aged 16 to 24 years old who are out of work and out of school. There is a strong correlation between being disconnected and perpetrating violence, future victimization, and formal involvement with the criminal justice system. In Illinois, Latinos account for the greatest proportion of disconnected youth in the state. How will your administration address the issue of disconnected youth from a fiscal, legislative, or administrative perspective?**

QUINN	RAUNER
<p>My Administration had made significant investments in Aftercare and successfully reintegrating high needs youth back into their communities. By making investments in a community-based continuum of services, we increase the likelihood that communities can respond to the needs of disconnected youth locally offering them job training and education programs and services, mental health and substance abuse to get them back on track.</p> <p>At DHS, there are currently preventive programs to address many of the barriers faced by Latino communities. The agency's philosophy with the administering of these programs is that providers that are in the communities and are representative of the population have an inherent ability to better serve that population.</p> <p>DHS also requires all of our providers to collect data by race and ethnicity. This will afford us the ability in the future to look at outcomes by race and ethnicity and make more effective decisions regarding programming and services.</p> <p>DHS works with providers to help build their capacity to provide quality services to at risk youth through a number of methods, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One-on-one assistance,</li><li>• Funding a training, technical assistance and support provider that offers free trainings to youth service providers to help them build their agency's internal structural capacities as well as teaching them staff</li></ul>	<p>No response.</p>

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management skills, program and agency budgeting etc.

- Free grant writing trainings for providers and tools to help them apply for funding from any number of sources.

**QUESTION:**

**16. Local education agencies can contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline by utilizing punitive approaches to discipline, including suspension, expulsion, or arrest, rather than a restorative approaches to conflict resolution. As governor, how will you promote restorative justice practices that focus on resolving youth issues and restoring justice to the offended, while not criminalizing youth?**

**QUINN**

There are several good restorative policies and practices that I have my cabinet and policy team looking into that focus on restorative youth practices.

The Illinois Department of Human Services and the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board are committed to reducing the racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. It is expected that the Redeploy Illinois program will further this goal.

Peer juries that allow youth to review activities and behavior by other youth that would otherwise land them in criminal court are great tools. These peer juries empower youth to make decisions about the sanctions that are appropriate and proportional to the behavior that another youth has been accused of. Another tool is community courts. These courts allow community members to review the crime of other community members and determine the appropriate sanctions. These low-cost interventions engage community members and ensure that sanctions are appropriate and proportional to the crime.

Another tool is the restorative justice circle. These services are the most common restorative justice interventions. The circles bring together victims, offenders and community members to talk about the harm to determine the appropriate resolution. All of these interventions are relatively low-cost, engaging community members and offering an alternative way to respond to community-based crimes.

All of the agencies under my purview that service families and children, such as the Department of Aging and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), were directed to utilize community service providers that have staff and caseworkers that reflect the demographics of the communities they serve. DCFS for example is required to provide information and have services in the Spanish language for the Latino community.

DCFS also makes cultural considerations and accommodations when determining the placement of the child. Children who are removed from a family can be placed with his or her relative even if that relative is an undocumented person. Additionally, the department has entered into a memorandum of

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understanding between the state of Illinois, DCFS and the Consulate Gen. of Mexico in Chicago regarding consular notification and access in cases involving minors.

Further, the Department of Human Rights travels throughout the state of Illinois to provide cultural awareness training to private and public sector entities.

**QUESTION:**

**17. Nonprofit organizations provide a wide array of important services in communities of color, including the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, and after school programs. What is your commitment to state-funded prevention oriented programming?**

**QUINN**

Here are a few examples of some of the key programs we are working with now: 1) Teen Reach, 2) Homeless Youth, 3) Redeploy Illinois, 4) Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services, 5) Substance Abuse Prevention Program, 6) Partnerships for success, 7) Community Youth Services, and 8) Personal Responsibility Education Program, and 9) AmeriCorps.

Attached is more information about these programs.

Going forward, it is our goal to expand coverage of alcohol and substance abuse programs to more individuals through the Department of Human Services. We have protected domestic violence shelters from draconian cuts. Increasing our focus on early childhood education is the most affordable prevention program that we have. We need to do more to increase access to other behavioral health services that ensure people get the care they need that allows them stay in their communities.

**RAUNER**

No response.

**Housing**

**QUESTION:**

**18. If elected, how would you address homelessness in Illinois? What role, if any, would your administration play in supporting or coordinating municipal efforts?**

**QUINN**

The issue of homelessness is often closely associated with other compounding issues, such as mental illness or addiction. My administration has been very focused on both addressing homelessness and providing more permanent supportive housing (PSH) for Illinois residents who are in need. Since I took office, we have financed the creation and preservation of more than 2,500 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless families and persons with disabilities, with more than \$350 million. The number of supportive housing units produced annually under my administration is more than double that of any other administration. To support this increase, I have allocated capital funds—\$130 million of *Illinois Jobs Now!* funds—for the creation and preservation of affordable housing, with more than 60% going specifically to serve the homeless and persons with disabilities. This is the first time in the history of Illinois that any Governor has allocated capital funds for housing, let alone housing for homeless and PSH. As Governor, I will continue to pursue the appropriation of capital funds to

**RAUNER**

No response.

# Illinois Latino Agenda

address homelessness in Illinois.

In addition, my administration created a new referral network to ensure that persons with disabilities in Illinois that need housing are matched with appropriate, available, affordable housing in communities across the state. My administration launched this network—called the State Referral Network—two years ago to respond to three PSH Consent Decrees, but as Governor, I will expand the role and duties of the Referral Network to include homelessness, and make sure that homeless families are able to access appropriate housing through the State Referral Network.

Municipalities are vitally important partners in addressing homelessness in Illinois. My administration has empowered and supported local housing efforts in many municipalities, and will continue to do so. Programs such as Building Blocks, where we allocated \$10 million to help municipalities address blight and vacant properties, or the new Abandoned Properties Program which is an ongoing resource for similar needs, show that my administration will give municipalities the resources they need to address their problems. We will continue to work with municipalities and their partners in expanding services and housing options for the homeless within their communities.

Division of Mental Health (DMH)/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA): DASA has a project funded by the federal government working with housing advocates to develop services and infrastructure to address homelessness. The council that drives planning has Latino representation.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD): Homelessness is the number one criteria for declaring a crisis for someone on the Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) list. When we declare a crisis, we are committed to bring the person into services within 48 to 72 hours.

**DFCS:** Recent outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community: In FY2013 we added 2 new Pilot programs at \$50,000 each – both serve predominantly Hispanic/Latino youth.

§ **La Casa Norte and**

§ **The Puerto Rican Cultural Center**

This pilot was continued in FY2014. We continued to work with these providers to build capacity. We added approximately \$150,000 to the PRCC project in FY2014 to expand services. Both of these providers will now have the capacity and experience necessary to effectively compete for funding under the FY2015 competitive RFP.

The homeless youth population in Illinois is significant. ISBE alone identified more than 58,000 homeless youth in our schools. We have a significant unmet need. The Homeless Youth program GR appropriation is approximately \$4.5 million and allows us to reach less than 2,000 of these youth. The administration could help by supporting the rebid of the Homeless Youth program by promoting the RFP as well as supporting an increased appropriation that would allow us to increase the number of service providers and communities



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served. Currently we are able to fund 22 programs and 2 pilot sites, a majority of which are in Cook and the surrounding areas.

Moving forward in FY14 and FY15, there is a lot of work to do in homelessness due to the significant increases across the state.

One idea is to have our grant administration division to review and look for grants available that the agency can bid on it. In addition, working in an interoperability concept with the City of Chicago, Cook County and other entities, can be beneficial in providing the services to this community.

**QUESTION:**

**19. Foreclosures continue to plague communities of color in Illinois. As governor, how would your administration address the challenges associated with this issue?**

**QUINN**

To address this statewide crisis, my administration launched the Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network, or IFPN. We recognized that many minority communities were especially hard hit by the crisis, so our outreach and events were heavily focused on these minority areas. Language barriers, especially within the Hispanic community, presented specific obstacles. Recognizing this, we hired a statewide marketing partner with strong ties to the Latino community, the Spanish Coalition for Housing, and we held events in many Hispanic communities. Nearly 30% of all advertising dollars were spent in Spanish language ads, and from the very first day of its launch, the IFPN's robust website has been completely available in Spanish at [www.espanol.keepyourhomeillinois.org](http://www.espanol.keepyourhomeillinois.org). The IFPN toll free line was launched with assistance in Spanish always available, as well.

IFPN is supported in part by the Illinois Hardest Hit Program, with \$445 million in federal assistance for unemployed homeowners to get their mortgage current and help with mortgage payments, up to \$35,000. By the end of this year, the program will have supported more than 12,000 Illinois families who were able to keep their home and avoid foreclosure. My administration has also allocated nearly \$30 million to housing counseling agencies under multiple state and federal programs. These funds help counseling agencies provide a broad range of homeowner support services to prevent and assist with foreclosure. More than 80% of these funds—fully \$23.4 million of \$30 million statewide—were allocated to organizations that specifically serve Spanish speaking clients.

My administration will continue to build upon this record of accomplishment and success and ensure that every effort to avoid foreclosure is available for Illinois families, especially Latino communities that were hardest hit by the crisis.

**RAUNER**

No response.

**QUESTION:**

**20. One state strategy to promote affordable housing is the creative use of tax credits, i.e. the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit. If elected, how would your administration approach the issue of affordable housing?**

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## QUINN

Affordable housing is a vital asset for Illinois families, communities and businesses. My administration is committed to preserving the existing stock of affordable housing and creating new units of affordable housing by maximizing the use of private activity bond volume cap, low income tax credits and other resources. In the past year alone, my administration allocated over \$470 million to create or preserve 5,000 units of affordable housing, generating over 3200 jobs in the process. We accomplished this by making affordable housing a priority and leveraging scarce resources for the construction of new affordable housing developments. As Governor, I will continue to fight for capital funds to be spent on affordable housing programs, as we succeeded with \$130 million in *Illinois Jobs Now!* funds being allocated to the construction of new units, renovation of existing affordable housing stock and other programs that support homeownership and return vacant, foreclosed homes to productive use.

To ensure that Illinois' existing stock of affordable housing is maintained for the long term, my administration launched the Preservation Now Program, allocating more than \$100 million in bond volume cap and \$20 million in soft funding to preserve projects providing rental assistance to some of Illinois' most needy residents. The program provides financing to owners who agree to extend existing rent subsidy contracts (with HUD), typically an additional term of 20 years. This program preserves this precious resource for our state while at the same time updating and improving the existing housing for the residents. In just six months, this new program has preserved 1,300 units of affordable housing for Illinois' lowest income, most needy families.

We plan to continue this program in 2014 and will allocate as much private activity bond volume cap as necessary to maximize the use of 4% federal tax credits, thereby preserving the state's allocation of 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits which is limited. By leveraging 4% LIHTC to accomplish the state's preservation needs, we can focus the 9% LIHTC program on the new production of affordable units which typically requires a greater infusion of equity to succeed. By allocating resources efficiently and maximizing resources from the federal government (i.e. 4% LIHTC), I will continue to increase the number of affordable housing units produced to expand upon the record results we achieved in 2013.

## RAUNER

No response.

### Optional

#### QUESTION:

**21. What do you want Latino voters to remember about you when they enter the voting booth?**

## QUINN

I want Latino voters to remember that when it comes to issues that affect the Latino community, I have been, and will continue to be a champion for the needs of the community, whether its early childhood education, driver's licenses for the

## RAUNER

No response.

# Illinois Latino Agenda

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undocumented, access to healthcare, increasing MAP grants, establishing the DREAM Fund, and appointing outstanding Latino and Latina leaders to key positions in my administration. My values and the values of the Latino community are sincerely shared values that will not change from one election cycle to another merely to try to win votes—these values are the core of my being and have been the hallmark of my career in public service.

