



**May 15, 2008**

Welcome to the first edition of the “Capitol Insider”. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of the 45<sup>th</sup> district as your State Representative in Springfield. As your local legislator, I feel it is my responsibility to communicate directly with you about the issues that are affecting this State and more importantly could affect you and your families’ lives. My hope is that this will be an open and ongoing dialogue with you. If you ever have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to email or call me. In addition, please know that one of my most important duties as a legislator is to provide quality constituent service. I take this role very seriously, and I have a full time staff in Bloomingdale and Springfield who are ready to serve you. As always, I value your opinion and I will keep in mind what is best for the residents of the 45<sup>th</sup> district.

### **State Budget**

The State has some major problems that it is facing this year including: an unemployment rate which is considered the 13<sup>th</sup> worst in the nation; a ballooning pension debt; \$1.7 billion in unpaid bills, and a stagnant economy.

These are major concerns that need to be addressed immediately. Even in this recession, I know that no problem is too large for the legislature to solve. We **can** find reasonable solutions to these problems that don’t raise taxes on our families or pass the financial burden to the employers of this State. However, I’m looking for the same type of “can do” attitude from the Democratic leadership in this State, and I’m not finding it. The only type of solution that the Democratic leaders have placed on the table is the same old routine of raising taxes. In fact, the Senate and House Democrats have both passed bills out of committee to raise your income tax. If we are to solve these problems, we need to come together as a bipartisan legislature to pass a budget that does not increase taxes, does not sell State assets such as the lottery and more importantly does not spend money that we don’t have. We need to live within our means,

something that families across the State have to deal with on a daily basis. **We can do it.** Area Representatives in DuPage recently held a public hearing to get input from our residents on finding reasonable solutions to these problems.

## House Republican's Priority

Even with the lack of leadership by the Democratic leaders, House Republicans are working on putting together policies that will solve some of our State's biggest problems. One issue that is extremely important to us is the loss of jobs. We recognize the importance of having a strong economy and making sure that residents have access to good paying jobs.

To help stimulate job creation, the House Republicans last May proposed a multi-billion dollar capital plan, which would not only maintain and repair our damaged roadways, but according to AFL-CIO estimates, would have created over 700,000 new jobs. This plan had bipartisan support from the rank and file members of the legislature. However, the residents of Illinois were once again placed on the back burner because the Democratic leadership in this State could not come together to agree on a capital program. Once again, the residents of this State are looking for the Democratic leadership to have the "can do" attitude to come and work together on important issues facing this State.

## Other Matters

I would like to thank all of the parents, staff and school children that participated in my spring food drive. We had great participation from all schools, and I am happy to report that all food was donated to the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry, which services Bloomingdale, Medinah, Roselle, Carol Stream and Glendale Heights. On top of that, I would also like to congratulate DuJardin Elementary from Bloomingdale School District 13 for collecting the most amount of food.

As always, I will continue to keep you up to date with the current actions of your legislature. If you have any concerns or questions, please know that my door is always open. In addition, I hope that if you and your family ever come down to Springfield or driving by my district office - you'll stop by to say "hi".

## Take Care

Franco Coladipietro  
State Representative

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