



March 24, 2009

Last Wednesday, Governor Quinn gave his formal budget address to the legislature. Some of his proposals included a 50% increase on income taxes, a \$20 increase on driver's license fees and imposing a higher sales tax on tea and coffee.

I have to admit I was extremely disappointed in his address and the reaction from the Democrat legislative leaders. I felt that they took the easy way out by increasing taxes on the working middle class families instead of first doing some much needed belt tightening of the state's finances.

I don't envy Governor Quinn's predicament and in some ways I feel sorry that he had to inherit this mess from the previous Democrat legislature and Governor. For the last six years, Illinois Democrats increased spending by \$6 billion, raided our pension funds and shockingly enough added new state programs without showing how the state could afford them.

I know that we can do better. By putting a moratorium on new spending, utilizing our federal stimulus dollars wisely, adopting pension and other needed reforms and most importantly utilizing the talents of local business leaders by allowing them to go line by line through the budget to make necessary cuts and eliminate wasteful spending, the state can produce a budget that doesn't resort to increasing taxes. Our families are facing economic hardships and it's extremely unwise and not fair to expect them to bail the state out for years of irresponsible and reckless spending.

As always, I hope that you will contact my office with any opinions or suggestions you have regarding legislation.

Sincerely,
Franco Coladipietro

email franco@il45.com

phone: 630-582-0045

Website: <http://www.coladipietro.ilhousegop.org/>
