

FY 2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL:

On Wednesday, a joint session of the Illinois General Assembly convened to hear Governor JB Pritzker present his eighth Budget and State of the State Address. Characterizing his fiscal proposal as a “maintenance budget”-- it accounts for only a 0.5% increase in discretionary spending over FY26-- Pritzker emphasized that the uncertainty in the state’s fiscal picture made the FY27 approach a well-reasoned one.

The Governor acknowledged the difficulties in crafting this particular budget and encouraged legislators to exercise restraint in the budget process. The state’s chief executive told legislators that the budget levels off and, in some cases, reduces programs important to him, signaling legislators should be willing to sacrifice projects important to them as well.

Now seeking his third term as Governor, Pritzker has an increasing national profile and is not bashful about his dislike for President Trump. Pritzker directly blamed the President for the loss of \$8.4 billion in funding to Illinois, exhorting Republican legislators to “demand the return of the money and resources this President has taken from the people of Illinois.”

Saying everything is “too expensive”, the Governor cited a number of new proposals aimed at addressing affordability for families, like banning junk fees, urging House members to pass HB 3799 (although we know this won’t make homeowner’s insurance more affordable), addressing rising energy costs, building more affordable housing, and easing the path toward and cost of college degrees.

Pritzker cautioned that Illinois’ budget position would be worse if not for his administration’s prudent fiscal management. Since Pritzker took office, Illinois’ bill backlog (which stood at \$8 billion when Pritzker took office) is now current, the Rainy Day Fund has grown to \$2.4 billion, Illinois has received 10 credit upgrades, the Pension Fund ratio has grown to 47.9%, and Illinois’ Gross Domestic Product stands at \$1.216 trillion.

Homeowners Insurance: Arguing that homeowners’ insurance rates could increase by over \$750 per household this year, the Governor urged the Illinois House to pass [HB 3799](#) (Gabel/Hastings), which would move Illinois to a rate regulated state for this type of insurance. The measure passed the Senate 41-15-1 during Veto Session, but the vote to concur in the House failed 56-37-6. The House could reconsider the measure this spring.

Gubernatorial Appointments: Governor Pritzker appointed the following:

- Anusha Thotakura will continue to serve as a Member of the Illinois Health Benefits Exchange Advisory Committee
- Lila Valinoti will continue to serve as a Member of the Illinois Health Benefits Exchange Advisory Committee

