

CBS RADIO GROUP

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

STATION WBBM-AM and HD

THIRD QUARTER, 2017

JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

Prepared by:

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**ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CHICAGO
ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE
THIRD QUARTER 2017**

1. Business and Job Development: Creating an economic climate that supports small business and entrepreneurs. Provide assistance to develop new businesses and jobs in distressed economic areas.
2. Crime and Violence: Support of community policing efforts in Chicago, efforts to reduce gang activity and the spread of gangs into the suburbs, ensuring that the police department operates legally and with respect the communities it serves.
3. Civil Rights: Enforcing legal rights and developing respect for different races and ethnic groups as well as religious differences; gay and lesbian issues; immigration issues.
4. Family Issues: Helping to maintain stable families; parental education; finding permanent homes for children in state care.
5. Voter Information: Helping voters make personal election decisions by giving insights into those that are running for offices in upcoming elections.
6. Environment: Issues impacting healthful living of Chicagoans, including vegetation, waterways and other related infrastructure.
7. School Reform and Education: Efforts to improve student performance and achievement, making sure teachers are performing well in the classroom and general educational issues in Chicago and suburbs.

WBBM NEWSRADIO 780
PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

1. At Issue: (Sundays, 9:30am and 9:30pm Duration: 30:00)
Locally produced interview show featuring top newsmakers discussing state and community issues.
2. Made in Chicago: (Mondays, 6:51am, 10:52am, 4:51pm, Saturday, 2:55am, 6:55am, 3:55pm, 7:55pm, Duration 1:00) In-house produced feature spotlighting manufacturing and service companies in Chicago and its suburbs. Topics are chosen based on the worldwide reputation of the goods made or the unique stories of the entrepreneurs that founded the companies.
3. Bloomberg Small Business Report: (Tuesday & Thursday, 10:52am, 1:52pm, 4:51pm; Saturday, 7:55am, and 10:55am; and Sunday, 8:25am, 2:25pm, 4:25pm and 7:25pm. Duration 1:00) Produced by Bloomberg, this feature focuses on issues affecting small business and entrepreneurs.
4. Raising Kids Today: (Saturday, 10:20a, 4:20p, Sunday, 4:20pm, 8:21pm. Duration 1:30) CBS Radio Network feature produced in cooperation with *Parents Magazine* offering advice on raising children and information about child development.
5. Report on Religion: (Sunday, 12:41p, 5:20p, 7:41p. Duration 2:00)
CBS Radio Network feature focusing on news from various religious faiths and denominations and discussing faith-inspired viewpoints on current issues.
6. Face the Nation (Sundays, 11:30am and 11:30pm. Duration 30:00) Weekly interview program produced by CBS News that discusses top issues of the day from a national perspective with people who are making news on those issues.

I. BUSINESS AND JOB DEVELOPMENT

At Issue

July 23, 2017

Guest: J.B. Pritzker, Billionaire Democratic candidate for Illinois Governor

7 minutes out of 30 minute program

The Chicago Sun-Times reports Pritzker is spending \$100,000 per day on his campaign while Bruce Rauner is spending \$21,000 per day, mainly on TV commercials, more than a year before the election. Pritzker said he is stunned that Rauner has put \$50 million into his own campaign, and businessman Ken Griffin has put \$20 million into Rauner's fund. Pritzker said he is running commercials to introduce himself to people around the state. He then talked about running a positive campaign against other Democrats, but then said Rauner has failed as governor. He said Rauner wants to tear apart unions and lower wages. He said Rauner lied to voters in the last election. He said Rauner has driven the state off the cliff by holding the budget hostage. He also said he helped create more than 6,000 jobs and small businesses get started by supporting the 1871 incubator. Pritzker said he's in favor of a progressive income tax, along with a \$15 minimum wage. He said Governor Rauner is standing up for spread sheets and not people. He also talked about the need to help create small businesses specifically in lower income areas. He said those owners would keep the profits and equities in those area, and that builds prosperity. He wants to create microloans guaranteed partially through the state, and provide folks technical assistance and mentorship, as he's done through 1871. He said this can be done all over the state, and two-thirds of jobs in Illinois come from small and startup businesses. He mentioned jobs can help quell violence. He said the lack of budget and spending in Illinois can lead to people becoming desperate, and thus violence.

II. CRIME AND VIOLENCE

At Issue

July 2, 2017

Guest: Lisa Daniels, Darren B. Easterling Center for Restorative Practices

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Daniels is a woman who lost a child from gun violence during a drug deal. She is the founder and the executive director of the center named for her late son. She said when her son died, the Daily Southtown reported the facts, with a headline that read “man shot to death in Park Forest had drug and felony convictions.” She said that was true, but her thought was “that’s my child,” and he’s not the sum total of that experience. She said she refused to allow that to be his legacy. She said he was a father, a brother, a son, and a friend to many. She said none of us are the worst thing we’ve ever done, or the worst thing that’s ever happened to us. As she said, this is about what he did, but also what happened to her. Daniels said at the trial of the man who was convicted of murdering her son, she asked to read a victim impact statement. She wanted this to be a component of a plea agreement. Daniels said she pleaded for the young man’s life, saying Darren did not deserve to die because of the biggest day of his life, and the shooter, Michael Reed, did not deserve to serve another day in jail because of the worst day of his life. So she asked for leniency. As she said, if her son had not died, he would have been jailed for a long time in part because he was on parole. Reed did not have a criminal record other than a misdemeanor. She believed her own son could become a reformed person, so she had to believe it for somebody else. Daniels said the community has a role to make the offender accountable for what they’ve done, but then they’re still human and needed for whatever talents and abilities someone has to contribute. She said you can’t do that behind bars, so offenders need to be accountable, but to learn from that and return to society. The Easterling Center is a non-profit organization intended to help crime victims and perpetrators. She said there are thousands of children whose parents have died or been imprisoned. Her group helps deal with the emotional issues and unresolved trauma those children face. She said the center also helps mothers of criminals. She said people ask her what she could have done differently to keep her son from this fate, putting blame on her. She said there’s no room for blame. Daniels said she did everything she could and he made his choice. Daniels said they also work with men like her son, ages 16 to 25, dealing with their own levels of trauma and are formally incarcerated. Her group, she said, is available to help with the reentry process. When asked if there’s enough trust in police to be confident enough to say something if they see something, she said probably not, but it is necessary.

At Issue

July 9, 2017

Guest: Kimberly Foxx, Cook County State's Attorney

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Kimberly Foxx took over as Cook County State's Attorney in December. She's the first African American to hold the position. And she's involved with how crimes and cases of police misconduct are investigated, along with what kinds of crimes are, and are not, prosecuted. This program came after the state legislature finally approved a new state budget for the first time in more than two years. Foxx said the budget has hurt after school programs and community based programs that have a real impact on violence and quelling violence. She said there are also grants from the state to her department that had been caught up in the budgetary problems. Foxx also said her agency and all county agencies received a warning that if the county's planned sweetened beverage tax doesn't go through, they'll have to cut 10 percent of costs. She said that translates to some 170 employees include more than 100 assistant prosecutors. The state legislature also passed a bail reform act, signed by Governor Rauner. Foxx said after a deep dive into the jail population, they found the overwhelming majority were there for non-violent crimes, and most were there because they couldn't afford bail. She said people in jail await trial, and are innocent until proven guilty, as opposed to those convicted and sent to prison. She cited one case of a person in jail for stealing \$300 worth of shoes, sitting in jail for three months, at a cost to the county of \$160 per day. She said decisions in bond court lead to some people losing jobs, and mothers being separated from their children. Foxx said they must take into account the long term impact of bond court decisions. She recently announced her department would not take certain types of crime to court, because of limited resources. She said her office of just under 800 attorneys takes care of a county of 5.4 million people, the second largest in the country. She said she wants to allocate resources to areas needed most, such as violent crime. Some municipalities, she said, need to take on some of the cases, so all of her hands are on deck to deal with attacking the violence. She said both Indiana and Wisconsin have a higher retail theft threshold for prosecution than Cook County. She also talked about the way police misconduct is investigated and prosecuted.

At Issue

July 23, 2017

Guest: J.B. Pritzker, Billionaire Democratic candidate for Illinois Governor

5 minutes out of 30 minute program

Pritzker said he's in favor of a progressive income tax, along with a \$15 minimum wage. He said Governor Rauner is standing up for spread sheets and not people. He also talked about the need to help create small businesses specifically in lower income areas. He said those owners would keep the profits and equities in those area, and that builds prosperity. He wants to create microloans guaranteed partially through the state, and provide folks technical assistance and mentorship, as he's done through 1871. He said this can be done all over the state, and two-thirds of jobs in Illinois come from small and startup businesses. He mentioned jobs can help quell violence. He said the lack of budget and spending in Illinois can lead to people becoming desperate, and thus violence. He also talked about a flood of guns coming into Illinois from states around us, states that have lesser gun regulations than Illinois. He said they must slow that down, keep guns off the street, and prosecute those caught with these guns.

At Issue

July 30, 2017

Guest: Tom Weitzel, Police Chief for City of Riverside

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Riverside is in west suburban Cook County. Weitzel has been Riverside's Police Chief for decades. Weitzel sent an open letter to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle after hearing from the State's Attorney about what types of cases her department would no longer prosecute, such as suspended license cases, due to financial considerations. Weitzel said he thought suburban agencies were being shortchanged, and he let them know there is no such thing as criminal justice reform without criminal justice funding. Weitzel said he's all for reform related to juvenile justice, but he's concerned about adult prosecution changes, such as felony retail theft, driving with a revoked license and allowing signature bonds. He said there's no reform, they're just dropping cases and avoiding prosecution by raising the threshold. He referred to a recent article saying there were 101 people being held on \$100 bond because they couldn't pay. But he said that didn't take into account whether some had skipped bond previously, or had other outstanding warrants. He said many times those committing retail theft fight with police. He said some should be released, but some should not. Weitzel said criminals know in Cook County there's a higher threshold for retail theft and can drive without a valid license. He said starting August 1st Cook County will be doing one thing while the state law says something else. Weitzel said it is apparent the Chicago Police Department is doing a great job. He said that is clear because Chicago criminals are moving farther west to commit crimes, and he said Riverside is just two miles from the Chicago border. He said the type of crimes in his area are getting worse, as criminals are starting open drug markets and drumming up gang activity. He wants to be sure the State's Attorney continues to prosecute cases in the suburbs per the current state statutes. When it comes to retail theft, the County now has raised the threshold for prosecution to a minimum \$1,000 value and 10 prior convictions. It had been \$300 and no previous convictions. He said for the suburbs to deal with the offenders on their own, similar to a traffic ticket, will just move the financial burden to the suburbs. He also said it is rare to find someone with 10 convictions. He said 30 arrests maybe, but that is rare. Weitzel said retail associations support his position.

At Issue

September 24 , 2017

Guest: Kevin Graham, President Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Graham is with the union that represents rank and file police officers in the Chicago Police Department. He has been an officer for more than two decades, and worked as an officer in the suburbs before that. This program aired shortly after the Chicago Police Department outlined plans to give sworn officers more training every year. Graham said the changes needed to be negotiated in a contract, and involve important issues that should be resolved together. He said there are differences with management, but they have similar views over public safety, officer safety, and that there is adequate training, and adequate supervision so the public feels they're well represented. He said there is no profession where there aren't some employees don't belong. But Graham said the vast majority of officers are heroes every day, and they don't get the proper credit. Graham said officers need better training, but police management failed to negotiate with the union and there's concern about the type of facilities and how this new training will be implemented. He believes five pages in the new use-of-force-policy has language putting officers at a disadvantage. He believes the city is trying to absolve itself of any responsibility with these orders. The FOP has filed an unfair labor practices charge about this. He also talked about videos, which he called on dimensional. He said often you need much more information about what was happening, what led to something, beside the video, which is just the end result. He said when people put videos out, people are making judgements, putting officers at a disadvantage, forced to defend themselves. Graham talked about contact cards, where an officer writes down about conversation with someone who may have been suspicious but everything was fine. He said officers now have to go to the police station and submit the information. If they make a mistake, they can be suspended, which encourages officers not to make contact and do their jobs. He also said officers repeatedly are denied requests for time off. He said officers like to work overtime, but time with their families is important. Graham said not having enough police officers is part of the problem. He also talked about the need for any public complaints about officers being signed, sworn complaints. Graham said this is in place to be sure if someone is lying about police, action needs to be taken. He said drug dealers or criminals could make continual complaints about the same officer because they're doing their job getting the criminal off the street. He also said it is important officers are on the street, and not always in vehicles, because people are more willing to talk to someone walking with them. This was in relation to relationship with African Americans and Latinos who have complained about police relations. He said they need to build up trust.

III. CIVIL RIGHTS

September 3, 2017

Guest: Jim Durkin, Illinois House Republican Leader

5 minutes out of 30 minute program

Republican State Representative Jim Durkin talked about Governor Rauner signing a bill calling for automatic voter registration. He said Republicans and Democrats negotiated for that over a two and a half years, and a bill that shows the Governor is not so far to the right that it hurts access for people throughout the state. He also signed the "Trust Act" that limits Illinois cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Durkin said he did not support that bill, but that it was watered down and does not declare Illinois a sanctuary state. He said if someone is detained for any offense and there is a valid federal immigration warrant, those officials under this law still must act on the warrant. He said the federal government needs to do a better job dealing with the issue of immigration.

IV. FAMILY ISSUES

At Issue

September 10, 2017

Guests: Yvette Alexander-Maxie, Red Cross Regional Mgr. External Relations
John Nebl, DuPage County Homeland Security and Emergency Mgt.

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program aired in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Harvey is estimated to be the second most costly natural disaster in U-S history. Nebl said it is fortunate major disasters don't happen often, but that also can be a problem because complacency can set in. He said that can leave people to fail to prepare for the worst. He said DuPage County works to pay close attention, with regular discussion about what they'd do in the event of a problem. Alexander-Maxie said for Harvey, people could help with financial donations to the Red Cross, along with volunteering to help get supplies to those in need. She said the Red Cross won't just send people down to help, instead they work to train volunteers first. She said people need to know how stressful it can be, and understand the environment they'd be entering. She said the Red Cross also plans in advance locally, knowing where they would shelter people, who they have available to staff up. She said they also plan for what's after, when people find temporary housing, what they'd need. Nebl said on the county level, they're in a support function. He set the first level is municipal, but the county team becomes the second step in helping coordinate both as first responders and then recovery. Afterward, there's an assessment on what went well and how can they be better. Alexander-Maxie said the Red Cross has a big presence on social media which helps with the immediacy of getting the word out. She also said it can be a challenge for volunteers when you're working 12-16 hour days. There can be so much work, wanting to provide care for others. She said the Red Cross has trained mental health workers to help not only those impacted by a disaster, but also encourage volunteers and workers to take regular breaks and help them emotionally. Nebl suggested everyone play the "what if" game, in other words make a plan if you had to leave your house. There could be a hazmat situation if you're near railroad tracks, or any number of things. He said people should have a backpack ready with medications and needs for a baby, etc. Maybe have toilet paper and a couple cases of water available. He said it's important for people to know where to get information, such as the radio, social media sources, etc. And he said people and their families would benefit from getting involved, joining an emergency management agency or any number of groups. He said that would help families be prepared if a call comes in the middle of the night saying you have to evacuate. Nebl pointed to an incident in Plainfield, Illinois a few months ago where there was an oil leak from a train derailment. He said you hope something won't happen, but you need to be ready just in case.

V. VOTER INFORMATION

At Issue

July 23, 2017

Guest: J.B. Pritzker, Billionaire Democratic candidate for Illinois Governor

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

The Chicago Sun-Times reports Pritzker is spending \$100,000 per day on his campaign while Bruce Rauner is spending \$21,000 per day, mainly on TV commercials, more than a year before the election. Pritzker said he is stunned that Rauner has put \$50 million into his own campaign, and businessman Ken Griffin has put \$20 million into Rauner's fund. Pritzker said he is running commercials to introduce himself to people around the state. He then talked about running a positive campaign against other Democrats, but then said Rauner has failed as governor. He said Rauner wants to tear apart unions and lower wages. He said Rauner lied to voters in the last election. He said Rauner has driven the state off the cliff by holding the budget hostage. Pritzker talked about school funding issues. He said Illinois has the most antiquated funding formula in the country, an issue that existed before Rauner took office. But Pritzker said Rauner promised to do something about it, but he has not. Now a bill has been passed in the legislature to help solve the issue, but Rauner has vowed to veto it because he doesn't want a Chicago Public Schools bailout. He said only 26 percent of funding for schools comes from the state. The average for state funding around the country is 46 percent. He also talked about House Bill 40, an abortion related bill that Rauner has called divisive. Pritzker said the bill would remove offensive language and ensure Illinois remains a pro-choice state. The bill also would guarantee women who can't afford it, can still get help. He said today Medicaid and state health insurance doesn't cover abortion. Pritzker said Rauner ran commercials promising to be pro-choice, but he's not living up to his work. Pritzker said he has stood up for social and economic justice, and has demonstrated he can get things done. He said he helped build the Illinois Holocaust Museum, which hosts thousands of kids who learn to fight bigotry. He said more than 55,000 children receive school breakfasts every day because he brought President Obama's no-kid-hungry program to low income districts and spread it throughout the state. He said only half the state was covered before he got started, and he helped convince legislators to extend it to another 100,000. He also said he helped create more than 6,000 jobs and small businesses get started by supporting the 1871 incubator. Pritzker said he's in favor of a progressive income tax, along with a \$15 minimum wage. He said Governor Rauner is standing up for spread sheets and not people. He also talked about the need to help create small businesses specifically in lower income areas. He said those owners would keep the profits and equities in those area, and that builds prosperity. He wants to create microloans guaranteed partially through the state, and provide folks technical assistance and mentorship. He said this can be done all over the state, and two-thirds of jobs in Illinois come from small and startup businesses. He mentioned jobs can help quell violence. He said the lack of budget and spending in Illinois can lead to people becoming desperate, and thus violence. He also talked about a flood of guns coming into Illinois from nearby states.. He said they must slow that down, keep guns off the street, and prosecute those caught with these guns.

At Issue

August 20, 2017

Guest: Bob Daiber, Democratic Candidate for Illinois Governor

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Daiber is the only current gubernatorial candidate not from the Chicago area. At a time when school funding is making headlines statewide, Daiber enters the race with an education background, as the Regional Superintendent of Schools in downstate Madison County. Daiber said while not endorsed by the Democratic slating committee and not a millionaire or billionaire, he'll be counting on neighborhood groups to get the word out about him. He said he entered the race because downstate Illinois is becoming more "red," and generating Democratic votes is becoming more difficult. He said he would try to bring back to the middle class Democratic values downstate. He said a middle class person and not a rich person would better represent the people of the state. He said a working class person would better understand issues such as the soda tax issue in Cook County, which he is against. He said long term planning on budgets is critical when facing a possible financial crisis. He said emergency reaction to financial hardships often come with immediate tax increases. He suggested collecting revenues on sources other than individual products as more reasonable. He also talked about education funding. He said it doesn't matter whether a student lives in Chicago or downstate. He said every student in Illinois has the same value and all should receive a quality education. He mentioned some city schools have had to fundraise to keep from cutting staff. So he doesn't feel, like Governor Rauner, that Chicago Public School are overfunded or downstate schools are getting the short end of the stick. He said the current Senate Bill one being argued in Springfield should be a starting point and not a final means of funding schools. He said public education needs to be equitably and equally funded throughout the state. Daiber also said he doesn't believe teachers are paid enough. He said as a former teacher, he understands the need for union representation. He said the current governor came from the private sector, and doesn't understand the needs of teachers and other educators. Daiber said he believes in term limits, or at least self imposed term limits. He said leadership should serve finite terms. Daiber said would serve two terms as Governor, get the job done, and move on. On another topic, Daiber said we've become a more violent culture over the last five years. He said the key is establishing a dialogue with young people, to help curtail gun violence. He talked about an 11 year old in Alton who was shot a year ago. Daiber said he began a program called "Give 30," asking individuals from corporate America to help mentor young people in schools. He said the program is to give at-risk youths hope and encouragement and help them toward a positive outlook on a career they might pursue. He said otherwise violence leads to two outcomes, incarceration or death.

At Issue

August 27, 2017

Guest: Alex Paterakis, Democratic Candidate for Illinois Governor

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Paterakis is the youngest of those running for governor. He is 29, an engineer and an entrepreneur from suburban Skokie. Paterakis said he is running because he loves a challenge, loves Illinois and doesn't want to see the state "burn to the ground." He talked about the struggling middle class, facing some of the highest property and sales taxes in the nation. He said he is in the business of hiring employees, while Governor Rauner is a venture capitalist who invests but doesn't hire. He said he's proud that half of his employees are veterans. For new business starting up, he wants to give them a tax break for the early years when most businesses fail, in return for a promise they'll stick around for a couple additional years. He said he has a couple retail stores for outdoor gear. He said he's the only progressive Democrat to hold a federal firearms license. He said that's so he can be sure those buying guns get proper training, learn how to properly store them and be responsible for them. He said most illegal guns are entering Illinois from Indiana, and those holding illegal guns need to be punished to the greatest extent. Paterakis also talked about his lack of funds versus other candidates. He said the grassroots structure he's put together through social media and volunteer structure is worth more than money. He said he'd rather people spend their money on charity. He talked about current Governor Bruce Rauner, who he said ran as an expert negotiator who could get things done. But Paterakis said all he's done is put wedges between groups and individuals. Paterakis then complained about funding for education. He said the lottery profits were 100 percent supposed to go to education, but instead that figure is 24 percent. He said new revenue streams would help, such as legalization of cannabis and select gambling. He said gaming machines should be at O'Hare and taking advantage of those with long layovers. He also is for partial lock-boxing of taxes, so we know where the money goes. He said legalizing cannabis could raise \$200-\$300 million per year. He said a progressive income tax on millionaires could raise another \$1-\$2 billion per year. He did say he starts his employees at \$15 per hour because he's been successful and can afford it, but he said many businesses can't. So he reiterated the idea of tax credits for small businesses. He talked about the proposal before the legislature about school funding that calls for tax credits for funding private school education. Paterakis said he's all for people choosing to send kids to private school, but that decision should not be funded by the state.

At Issue

September 17, 2017

Guest: Scott Drury, Democratic Candidate for Illinois Governor

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Drury is an Illinois State Representative from Chicago's North Shore. He is a former federal prosecutor, has sponsored bills creating penalties for so-called revenge porn, and he became the first Democrat in three decades not to vote for Michael Madigan as Speaker of the House. Drury said when he was in the US Attorney's office he saw the worst of Illinois government crossing his desk. He decided to enter public office to get better results. He said people feel the state is not working for them, that it belongs not to them but to politicians. He said the state needs a change in culture, so government is trusted and promotes good ideas. Drury said people are not just frustrated with Republican Governor Bruce Rauner, they're also frustrated with the Democratic Party. He said voters quite on the Democratic party in 2014, and that's why Rauner won. Drury said that since 2014 he has not taken any money from the Democratic Party, thus he is not beholden to Michael Madigan. He said that put him in a position to be an independent Democrat. With word of several planned retirements among Democratic politicians, he said perhaps the Democratic machine is starting to crumble. Drury also talked about gerrymandering and getting away from partisan mapping of districts. He also said when you show independence and show backbone, the public likes it. Drury talked about the weakness of Governor Rauner. He said Rauner made his push for reform very personal. Drury said you need experience navigating how a bill becomes law. He said Rauner did not have that experience and made missteps. Drury says he has that experience, and realizes as governor that Mike Madigan will be Speaker of the House. Drury said Illinois needs solution to its money issues today. He said the call by others for a progressive income tax won't solve the issue, because it requires a constitutional amendment to change the tax system, so the earliest any money would be generated from a switch is 2021. He said the state doesn't have that long to wait. Drury said he voted to raise taxes recently, but he said the state needs to look at its debt. He said a quarter of the budget goes toward paying pension debt. He said since 2013 there has been no real effort to address that issue. His plan is to deal with the pension issue. When asked about previous attempts running into a brick wall with the Supreme Court, he said the court's opinion helped give information as to what could be done. He said you can't force anyone to take a reduced benefit, but you can offer a lump sum cash buyout. Drury said he thinks 25-30 percent of those eligible would take that offer. He said if you can show the public you're serious about reforming pensions, then you can go back and talk about re-amortizing or refinancing the remainder of the debt. He said that money then would be put into public schools, communities and health care system. He said people will then feel better about the state, better for both citizens, and for perception around the country among those looking to move here or establish businesses here.

VI. ENVIRONMENT

At Issue

August 13, 2017

Guest: Dave Benjamin, Executive Director of Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Benjamin and his group are working to lower the death toll in Lake Michigan. Benjamin said he has been an avid swimmer for years, and felt he knew everything about swimming and never had to worry about drowning. He said he was winter surfing on Lake Michigan in 2010 and was surprised by a large wave. He said he had the wind knocked out of him, and 32 degree water flushed through his wet suit, pushing him down. He said he had instant panic, and all his training went out the window, and the leash to his surfboard no longer was tugging on his ankle. He said his friends also couldn't see him, and half choking on water he couldn't be heard. Eventually he worked to get his breathing under control, knowing he was wearing a buoyant wetsuit. But he also was close to a rock wall. He said for 40 minutes he tried to backstroke away from the wall. He said he remember an article of what to do and that saved his life. He decided to do something to help others save their lives. He organized a class intended for surfers in 2011, but after 15 RSVP's 30 people showed up, including paramedics, firefighters, police officers and water rescue personnel. He said this year they're looking at 500 different presentations among the Great Lakes states. He said his group tracks drownings in the Great Lakes, teach water safety, work with family and friends of drowning victims and provide open water surf lifeguard training and other safety training. He said since they've begun tracking drownings in 2010 there have been 510 drownings, with about half in Lake Michigan. He said in early August the prevailing winds begin to shift from the north, and those winds travel the length of Lake Michigan. He said that leads to what can be dangerous wave impact on the south end of the lake. He said there are different types of currents depending on where the wind emanates. Benjamin also said there's a lack of public education about water safety. He said their biggest outreach is in schools, where they can educate the largest audience in the shortest period of time. He said schools do tornado and earthquake drills, but they need to take care of water safety as well. He called drowning a neglected public health issue, and the CDC calls drowning one of the leading causes of accidental death. He said when one person died from Zika, the President put a billion dollars toward research. But he said on average 10 people drown each day, but there's no program. He said for people caught in a rip tide, you should flip, float and follow. That means flip on your back, float to conserve energy, then follow the safest path out of the water. He said it is similar to stop, drop and roll if there's a fire. It doesn't mean you won't get burned, but it increases the chance of survival.

VII. SCHOOL REFORM AND EDUCATION

At Issue

July 16, 2017

Guests: Juan Salgado, Chancellor City Colleges of Chicago

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Salgado was named Chancellor by Mayor Rahm Emanuel this past March, taking over for someone who had been in the position more than seven years. Salgado said the Illinois legislature decision to finally pass a budget has a “profoundly positive” impact on the schools’ financial position. But he said the impasse over several years has led to an 18 percent reduction in enrollment because students weren’t certain they’d receive their grants. He said they already had announced layoffs of 120 employees and lowered senior salaries by 10 percent. Those moves will remain, he said, to be on great financial footing to make needed investments. He said it is easy to take down a building in a day, but harder to build. He did say City Colleges were on better financial footing than many other institutions. He talked about a partnership with Chicago Public Schools, including dual credit. They teach CPS teachers to teach college level courses in high school, and they offer opportunities for high school students to take courses at City College campuses. He said 4,000 CPS student are currently involved, saving themselves college money and time. There is no cost for the students. High school graduates with B averages also can attend City Colleges for their first two years at no cost. He said Northwestern University admitted four of their students last year with full scholarships, so they receive all four years at no cost. Salgado said City Colleges of Chicago now is working on intensifying its work partnering with CPS on technical education. He also thinks they can help in exposing high school students toward a career path in the College to Career program. He said they operationalize savings to transform the money to higher value-added use of their resources. He said there is no better place to begin a medical career than at Malcolm X College. He said the medical campus is providing curriculum and internships. He said those getting associate degrees are getting jobs and those students are in demand by universities. Because of that program and aligning with private industry, Malcolm X is one of the few campuses with rising enrollment.

At Issue

July 23, 2017

Guest: J.B. Pritzker, Billionaire Democratic candidate for Illinois Governor

5 minutes out of 30 minute program

Pritzker talked about school funding issues. He said Illinois has the most antiquated funding formula in the country, an issue that existed before Rauner took office. Pritzker said Rauner promised to do something about it, but he has not. Now a bill has been passed in the legislature to help solve the issue, but Rauner has vowed to veto it because he doesn’t want a Chicago Public Schools bailout. He said only 26 percent of funding for schools comes from the state. The average for state funding around the country is 46 percent.

At Issue

August 6, 2017

Guest: Bruce Rauner, Governor, State of Illinois

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Governor Rauner just days before his appearance vetoed a school funding bill he said included an unfair bailout for Chicago Public Schools. Rauner said the state is on the verge of excellent school funding reform, but he said what was a good bill had some last minute language added by House Speaker Mike Madigan. He said that language was never agreed to by the bipartisan committee, so Madigan basically hijacked the bill. Rauner called the current funding system broken. He said Illinois has the largest gap for what low-income children get for their schools versus high-income children. He said under Democratic leadership for 10 years the legislature cut funding for schools four times. Rauner said he wants to put teachers and students first, and he got more money in both his first and second years. But he said the way the money has been allocated has been wrong for years. He said Chicago is the only district in the state that pays its own teacher pensions. Rauner said that's not fair. He said in 1995 the general assembly tried to fix the issue but didn't agree to combine the pensions in with all state pensions. But they did grant Chicago a special \$250 million pool of money as a quid pro quo for paying their own teacher pensions. However starting in 2001 Chicago skipped paying into the pensions despite receiving those funds. Now, Rauner said, Madigan said he wants the state to pay future for teacher pensions, but also continue the \$250 million payment annually, plus bailout the unfunded portion of the Chicago pensions. Rauner said that's why he did an amendatory veto to the bill. He also complained that after a simple majority of legislators voted for the bill, Madigan held the bill for two months before passing it to the Governor. He said Madigan wanted to create a crisis of schools not opening on time to force the issue. He said Madigan also didn't "want the truth out," because the state Board of Education couldn't run the numbers until the bill went through. Rauner did say he's open to compromise, including more money for Chicago. He said legislators have been meeting, but Democrats aren't making any recommendations or proposals, and said they seem to be delaying. Rauner said originally he did not want a school bill without pension reform, but he has given in on that as a compromise. He said principals and school districts and Democrats side with Madigan because they live in fear of him and what he can do.

At Issue

August 20, 2017

Guest: Bob Daiber, Democratic Candidate for Illinois Governor

18 minutes out of 30 minute program

Daiber is the only current gubernatorial candidate not from the Chicago area. At a time when school funding is making headlines statewide, Daiber enters the race with an education background, as the Regional Superintendent of Schools in downstate Madison County. Daiber said while not endorsed by the Democratic slating committee and not a millionaire or billionaire, he'll be counting on neighborhood groups to get the word out about him. On the topic of education funding, Daiber said it doesn't matter whether a student lives in Chicago or downstate. He said every student in Illinois has the same value and all should receive a quality education. He mentioned some city schools have had to fundraise to keep from cutting staff. So he doesn't feel, like Governor Rauner, that Chicago Public School are overfunded or downstate schools are getting the short end of the stick. He said the current Senate Bill one being argued in Springfield should be a starting point and not a final means of funding schools. He said public education needs to be equitably and equally funded throughout the state. Daiber also said he doesn't believe teachers are paid enough. He said as a former teacher, he understands the need for union representation. He said the current governor came from the private sector, and doesn't understand the needs of teachers and other educators. Daiber said we've become a more violent culture over the last five years. He said the key is establishing a dialogue with young people, to help curtail gun violence. He talked about an 11 year old in Alton who was shot a year ago. Daiber said he began a program called "Give 30," asking individuals from corporate America to help mentor young people in schools. He said the program is to give at-risk youths hope and encouragement and help them toward a positive outlook on a career they might pursue. He said otherwise violence leads to two outcomes, incarceration or death.

At Issue

September 3, 2017

Guest: Jim Durkin, Illinois House Republican Leader

25 minutes out of 30 minute program

Republican State Representative Jim Durkin talked about the brand new school funding package signed by Governor Rauner just days before his appearance. The new law changes the way schools in Illinois are funded. Durkin said that within the last eight months the legislature finally agreed it was time to get something done after many years of wrangling. He said it reached a conclusion because the state and schools would have become damaged had the issue continued to linger. He said the money was missing to give every child a shot, that in many districts the number of kids per classroom was double or triple what it should have been. He said the consequence of no deal might have been schools closing, and all legislators, no matter the political party, and the governor would have been blamed. He said neither side got all they wanted, but it was a better deal than would have happened if Republicans had held out longer. Part of the bill included a controversial tax credit for paying for private schools. Durkin said it is not a voucher for private schools, as decided years ago by the courts. He said the money given does not come from the state, but from private funding. He said the bill allows parents to make school choices they deserve. He said this is a five-year pilot program, calling for \$75 million in credits out of an education budget of close to \$8 billion, with the teachers unions getting everything they were looking for. He said the Chicago Teachers Union objection was philosophical. But when asked if this could drain students from public schools, he said any impact would not be dramatic.