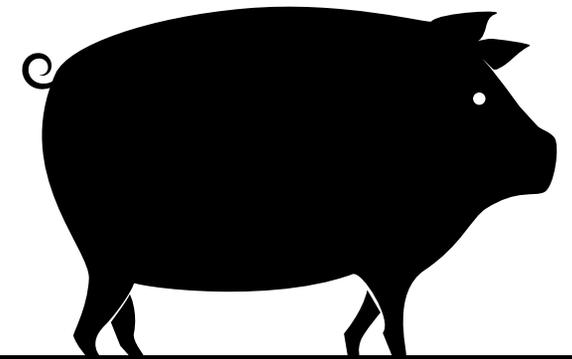


2012

Illinois Policy Institute | illinoispolicy.org
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ILLINOIS PIGLET BOOK
Illinois Policy Institute | Citizens Against Government Waste



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Produced by the Illinois Policy Institute in conjunction with Citizens Against Government Waste | illinoispolicy.org | cagw.org

Vision

The Illinois Policy Institute's vision is to make Illinois first in economic outlook and job creation and to become a free enterprise leader for the rest of America.

Mission

The Illinois Policy Institute inspires changes in hearts, minds and laws through its mission to promote personal freedom and prosperity in Illinois and America. As a leading independent research and education organization, the Institute generates positive and sustainable policy solutions for citizens and lawmakers that help unleash talent and entrepreneurial ability.

Approach

The Illinois Policy Institute's approach is to transform liberty principles into marketable policies that become law. The ultimate sign of success is when free market ideas are turned into law and change lives for the better. What does this look like? Individuals and businesses become more prosperous without the fear of government favoritism or interference, families can choose a high quality education for their kids, and citizens respect their government because it is open and transparent to all.

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the American public about waste, mismanagement and inefficiency in government.

CAGW was founded in 1984 by the late industrialist J. Peter Grace and nationally-syndicated columnist Jack Anderson to build support for implementation of the Grace Commission recommendations and other waste-cutting proposals. Since its inception, CAGW has been at the forefront of the fight for efficiency, economy and accountability in government.

CAGW has more than one million members and supporters nationwide. In a little over two decades, has helped save taxpayers \$1.08 trillion through the implementation of Grace Commission findings and other recommendations.

CAGW's official newsletter is Government WasteWatch, and the group produces special reports and monographs examining government waste and what citizens can do to stop it. CAGW is classified as a Section 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and is recognized as a publicly-supported organization described in Section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(A)(vi) of the code. Individuals, corporations, companies, associations and foundations are eligible to support the work of CAGW through tax-deductible gifts.

What's new in the 2012 Illinois Piglet Book?

The Illinois Policy Institute's previous Illinois Piglet reports highlighted wasteful spending at the state level. The 2012 Illinois Piglet Book continues that focus but also places an emphasis on spending occurring at the local level in Illinois. This allows Illinoisans to see the waste that's happening in their own communities

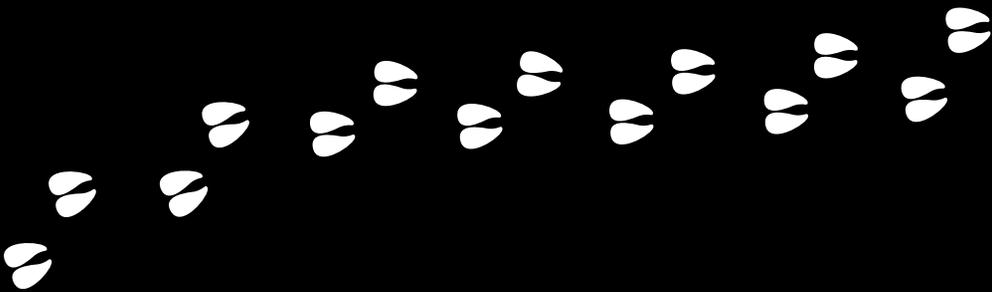
The spending highlighted in the 2012 Illinois Piglet Book includes spending from local, state and federal sources that occurred in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

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“It is unjust that the whole society should contribute towards an expense, of which the benefit is confined to a part of the society.”

Adam Smith¹



Introduction

Illinois' nightmare

In 2011, Illinois increased its state income tax rate by 67 percent. This tax increase, the largest in state history, cost the average family about \$1,500 in additional taxes. Across school districts, municipalities and other local levels of government, taxpayers have faced myriad other tax increases – from gas and sales taxes to congestion fees and excise taxes. Governments keep crying poor and going to taxpayers for more and more, but they should instead look within their own budgets and cut out wasteful spending.

Illinois' fiscal nightmare is here. Overspending and a penchant for borrowing have led to an unsustainable pension liability and an \$8 billion stack of unpaid bills. The state's credit rating, already the worst in the nation, faces further downgrades. Many local government entities are also in the red.

But instead of spurring elected officials to initiate reforms, cut spending and eliminate waste, officials are doing more of the same – squandering taxpayers' hard-earned money on frivolous and wasteful expenditures.

From \$9,941 for “Speedy-the-Turtle” bobbleheads to \$200,000 customized eco-friendly zip lines, much of the waste is just downright silly. But there's no laugh track playing as taxpayers foot a \$2,261,009 cable TV bill for prison inmates to get their weekly fill of Seacrest and Snooki.

Other examples of waste come in the form of grants, subsidies and special tax treatment for businesses, along with handouts for nonprofits and associations. Even local governments get on board the gravy train.

Officials handing out this money justify the subsidies by claiming to “nurture innovation” and “create jobs.”

When the government gives millions of taxpayer dollars to MillerCoors and Boeing Co. for relocation, and thousands of taxpayer dollars to AT&T Inc. and Navistar International Corp. to train employees, the logic offered up is that this transfer of resources promotes a skilled labor force and greater business activity.

But the story that's often not told is that to fund this corporate favoritism,² the state must take money from families, corporations, small businesses and struggling entrepreneurs. That weighs down investment and growth, resulting in fewer startups, lost economic output and reduced job creation.³ That's real waste.

The 2012 Illinois Piglet Book highlights nearly 200 examples of wasteful government spending in Illinois. Each item highlights the decisions of politicians who have lost sight of the core governmental services they were put in place to provide.

Illinoisans will be better off when leaders finally end the undermining and corroding culture of out-of-control spending. It's time to wake up from this fiscal nightmare.

Government spending: a shell game

In Illinois, some politicians would have taxpayers believe that every check cut from government coffers is essential spending. So essential, in fact, that it's necessary to run up 122,144 unpaid vouchers totaling just under \$5 billion.⁴ And the inevitable result is politicians making promises they can't keep.

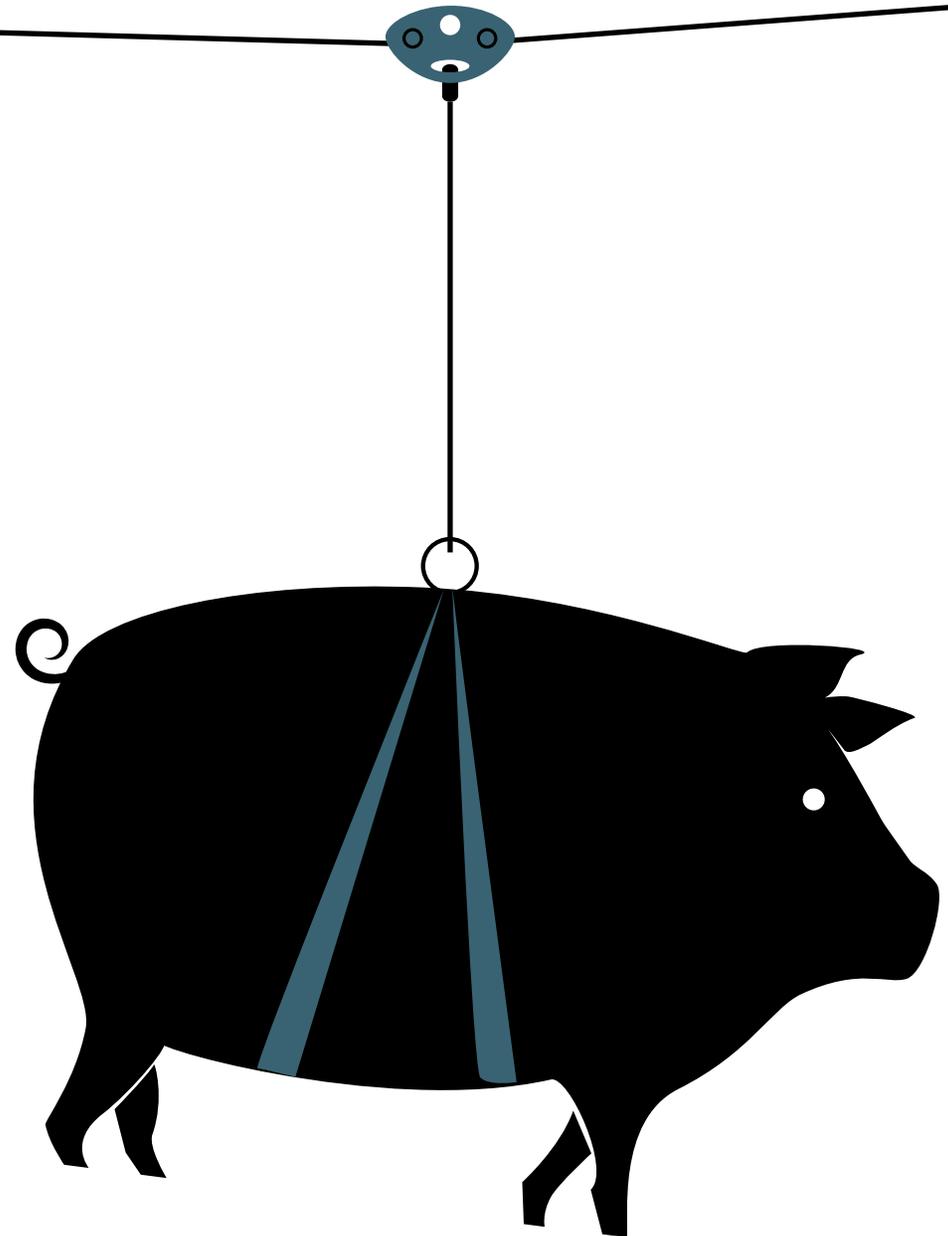
The state has lost its way.

The Illinois Policy Institute believes that the ideal role of government is to promote economic freedom and individual liberty. Freedom and liberty are unduly infringed upon when the state taxes families and businesses to send the spoils to frivolous programs, special interest groups and businesses with lobbyists.

The process of wasteful spending in Illinois is often described as a "shell game." It's nearly impossible to follow the money as it flows from consumers, entrepreneurs and businesses to government to politically favored recipients. The shell game allows the state to pick winners and losers, which leaves those without access to power on the outside looking in.

Targeted spending of this sort distorts behavior, creates disincentives for entrepreneurship and fosters incentives for the special interest class – buoyed by lobbyists – to seek government handouts.

The inevitable result is waste in the form of reduced output, wasted time and lost opportunities.⁵



The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity gave a \$200,000 grant to Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour Inc. to build eco-friendly customized zip lines (Page 35).

Illinois waste at its worst

\$2.26 million on cable TV... for inmates

When families in Illinois need to tighten their belts, cable TV is often one of the first expenses to go. A state nearing bankruptcy should do the same.

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) racked up a cable bill of \$2,261,009 between July 2010 and June 2012.⁶ Popular channels included in this bill were MTV, CMT, Fox Sports, ESPN, BET, the Home Shopping Network, Speed and Spike TV.

Spending more than \$2 million on cable TV for inmates is something Illinois can't afford, especially considering the state's already costly prison system. The taxpayer cost of prisons per inmate in Illinois (\$38,268) is high relative to other states in the Midwest: Indiana (\$14,823), Missouri (\$22,350), Iowa (\$32,925) and Wisconsin (\$37, 994).⁷

In fact, Illinois spends more per inmate (\$38,268) than it does per student in K-12 education (\$11,663).⁸

The IDOC's budget had a \$1.2 billion price tag in 2010. However, when including employee benefits, pensions, health care, capital costs and administrative costs, the total state cost of prisons soars by \$566 million, to \$1.7 billion. And taxpayers are on the hook for every dime.

Cable TV might be a small part of that total, but it's indicative of how government can't seem to stop spending money, even in the midst of a budget crisis. Prison costs are skyrocketing and the state is shutting down facilities to save money.^{9, 10}

It should be worrisome that the state is wasting taxpayer dollars to fund multimillion dollar cable bills for inmates.

Instead of watching Snooki on MTV, maybe inmates' attention would be better focused on learning a trade skill or studying for a degree.¹¹

Keeping state employees in style

Apparently, Illinoisans not only have a responsibility to provide state employees with generous salaries, health insurance and retirement plans. They must also keep them in style.

The State Employees' Group Insurance Program pays up to \$175 of the retail cost of prescription eyeglass frames.¹² With a \$10 copayment, government employees can walk out of a store with frames sporting the Ray Ban or Oakley logo. This puts state workers in glasses that many Illinoisans couldn't even begin to hope to afford.

And this is on top of the fact that state employees on average make 16.3 percent more than their private sector counterparts. With other benefits and little fashion perks like designer eyeglass frames, state employees make 23 percent more than those in the private sector.¹³

It's not just the state employees that are rocking designer glasses; family members covered under the state insurance plan are eligible for the same benefits. State employees and their families purchasing \$175 frames on the taxpayers' dime is a hefty price considering eyeglass frames with lenses can be purchased for as little as \$8.¹⁴

Further stretching the definition of insurance, state employees can keep up with the latest fashion trends by purchasing a new pair of frames every two years. A pretty sweet deal, except for those who are footing the bill. The resulting savings from rightsizing vision coverage could help state leaders see the way to a balanced budget.

State spending on advertising: a Cardinal sin?

Private companies are raking in millions of taxpayer dollars from state-paid advertising. These companies capitalize on the fact that government agencies across Illinois have generous advertising budgets, compliments of taxpayers. Between 2011 and 2012, state-funded advertising cost Illinoisans more than \$16 million, and it was spent on public announcements, billboards and magazine ads, among others.¹⁵

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), for example, used taxpayer money to pay the Chicago Yachting Association \$3,200 for a full-page advertisement to promote the North Point Marina. The ad was displayed in Yachting in Chicago magazine.

North Point Marina, owned by IDNR, is the largest marina in the Great Lakes. It provides a floating dock system with 1,500 slips ranging from 20 to 60 feet in length that cost up to \$5,000 a year to rent.¹⁶ And the beautiful recreational destination attracts nearly one million visitors during its peak season each year.¹⁷ Surely a place this magnificent shouldn't have to ask taxpayers to front its advertising bill.

Another example of state advertising waste comes from the Department of Agriculture (DOA), which paid Radio Disney Group \$18,000 to promote select performances, including a Selena Gomez show, at the state fair.

Spending taxpayer money to advertise for Selena Gomez is just wrong. And the fact that the funds are being pumped into an event at the state fair, a net loss for taxpayers each year, makes this spending even worse. Just between fiscal years 2001 and 2009, the Illinois State Fair lost nearly \$34 million.¹⁸ A DOA representative said, "Certainly we would like it to (pay for itself), but we don't believe that the purpose of the fair is to make a profit."¹⁹ Privately run fairs in other states, such as Texas, rake in multi-million dollar profits each year. And other states with cash-strapped fairs have hopped on the trend to privatize by turning these massive festivals over to for-profit organizations, such as Universal Fairs.²⁰ While other states innovate and turn a profit, Illinois still spends more than it takes in from its state fair - taxpayers shouldn't be on the hook for the difference.

The following advertisements include a few more examples of how the state racked up a \$16 million advertising bill. That's how much 10,667 families, collectively, had to cough up in additional taxes due to Illinois' 2011 income tax increase. Now that's a number the state won't advertise.

Wasteful ads include:

- Despite the long-standing rivalry between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs, Illinois paid the Cardinals \$50,000 to advertise an Illinois Department of Transportation service announcement. The 2011 World Series champions were recently ranked the 11th most valuable team in baseball, worth \$518 million in 2011.²¹
- \$39,700 to Chicago Boating Publications Inc. for an advertisement promoting North Point Marina (Department of Natural Resources). Chicago Boating Publications Inc. is a company "For all who cruise freshwater seas and inland waterways."²² Unfortunately, the many pay for the few that cruise.

- \$30,000 to Rosemont Hockey Partners L.P. to promote Chicago on behalf of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
- \$7,709 to Blood Horse Publications for advertisements in the Blood Horse Source Annual Book (Department of Agriculture).
- \$6,404 to Thoroughbred Times for magazine advertisements (Department of Agriculture).
- \$5,999 to Key Outdoor Inc. for a billboard advertising the Illinois State Museum (Department of Natural Resources). Key Outdoor Inc. has been the “leader in the Illinois billboard industry for almost 30 years.”²³
- \$2,800 to Korea Times Inc. for advertising Medicare open enrollment (Department of Insurance).
- \$2,800 to the Illinois Pork Producers Association for an advertisement sponsorship in the Illinois Pork Expo brochure (Department of Agriculture). Pork production is about as “Piglet” as it gets.
- \$2,390 to National Skeet Shooting Association for an advertisement in the Skeet Shooting Review for Sparta’s World Shooting Complex (Department of Natural Resources).
- \$1,900 to Thoroughbred Information Media for magazine advertisements (Department of Agriculture).
- \$1,444 to the National Horsemen’s Administration Corp. for magazine advertisements (Department of Agriculture).

Upward mobility

Families in Illinois are struggling to afford higher education for their children. Incoming undergraduate students have seen tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois’ public universities increase by more than 60 percent since 2004.²⁴ But that’s not the only problem. The government expects families to pick up the education bill for state employees, too.

The Upward Mobility Program, available only to American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) members, pays 100 percent of tuition costs at public institutions and a portion of tuition costs at select private universities.²⁵ Employees must fulfill a work commitment of two years in state service to receive this perk.

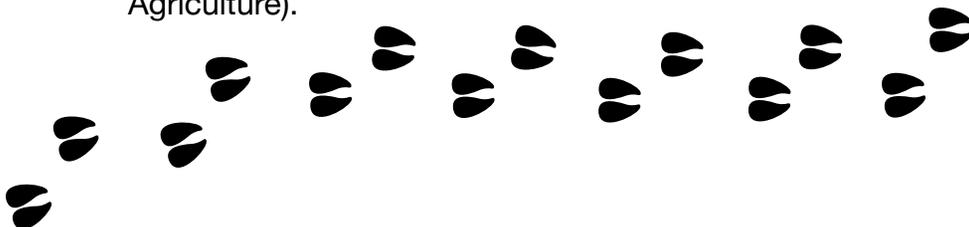
In 2011 alone, \$4.75 million was allocated to the program, equal to more than \$4,000 for each of the 1,144 employees that participated.²⁶

Illinois needs to stop choosing union perks over core government services. If it doesn’t, the state’s deteriorating fiscal position will prevent the upward mobility of all Illinoisans.

Food stamp follies – as American as whoopie pies

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, is designed to provide nutritional foods – fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs, cheeses and similar products – for the one in seven Americans who can’t afford to buy them on their own.²⁷

Retailers that accept SNAP cards use an electronic system, similar to debit and credit card systems, which immediately debit the customer’s account and credit the retailer for the total amount. Retailers that have less than \$100 each month in SNAP sales use a paper voucher process and are the



reimbursed for the sales. Either way, SNAP benefits are only meant to purchase healthy foods.²⁸

So when individuals wanted to use SNAP cards to purchase her whoopie pies at the local farmers market, Anrea Taber, owner of the Ever So Humble Pie Co. in Walpole, Mass., balked.

“What we make are a luxury or a gourmet dessert, which does not fit that criteria,” she said. “I just don’t believe that taxpayers’ money should be spent on buying luxury or gourmet desserts for people who are having trouble putting nutritional food on their table in the first place.”²⁹

Taber hit the nail on the head. Unfortunately, Illinois still has it wrong. Despite rules that prohibit the purchase of hot ready-to-eat-foods, foods intended to be heated or eaten in the store, vitamins, medicines, pet food, alcohol or tobacco, Illinoisans can use their SNAP cards for snacking on fudge brownie bars from Eve’s Treats in Carbondale, Take ‘N’ Bake pizzas from Papa Murphy’s in Springfield and “Kake that tastes as good as it looks” from the Krazy Kake House in Chicago.³⁰

Some of Illinois’ 9,212 SNAP-authorized stores include:

- Papa Murphy’s (Springfield): Take ‘N’ Bake pizzas are eligible for SNAP purchase, as is the Take ‘N’ Bake cookie dough.
- A Piece of Cake Inc. (Chicago)
- Annie’s Sweets and Treats (Rockford)
- Frances Ice Cream and Sweet Shop (Chicago)
- Happy Cake Bakery (Chicago)
- Leavitt Candy Store (Chicago)
- Lovin Oven Cakery (Round Lake Beach)
- Phatz Candy & More (East St. Louis)

Is tobacco considered a fruit or a vegetable? Let’s hope these SNAP-approved tobacco stores are selling something other than cigarettes:

- Cigarette People (Elmwood Park)
- Cigarettes Etc. (Berwyn)
- City Tobacco & More (Rockford)
- Mercy’s Tobacco (Chicago)
- Tobacco City (Chicago)
- Tobacco Shack (Decatur)

Liquor stores don’t have fruit and veggie aisles, so one sure hopes these stores have more than a few limes next to the Corona:

- Amber Liquors (Lake Villa)
- Champions Liquor (East Saint Louis)
- C&K Liquors (Chicago)
- Dolton Cardinal Liquors (Dolton)
- Dwight Cigarettes and Liquor (Dwight)
- Madison Park Liquor (Peoria)
- Main Street Liquors (Peoria)
- Milan Liquor (Milan)
- Prestige Liquor (Chicago)
- Ratajacks Liquor (North Chicago)
- Route 3 Fuel and Liquor (East Saint Louis)
- S & L Liquor (Chicago)
- S & M Liquors (Chicago)
- Stop N Go Liquor (South Chicago Heights)
- Sunny Liquor (Ford Heights)
- Tool Shed Liquor (Round Lake Beach)

Why do we find it important to list these stores? When we did a phone survey of some of these SNAP-approved stores, many of them reported selling only liquor and tobacco.³¹ When asked if SNAP cards could be used to purchase these items, store owners said no. But one wonders why they are in the SNAP program if their product cannot be purchased with SNAP cards.

A healthy \$15.9 million stimulus

The bloated federal government thinks that spending stimulus dollars will make people healthier.

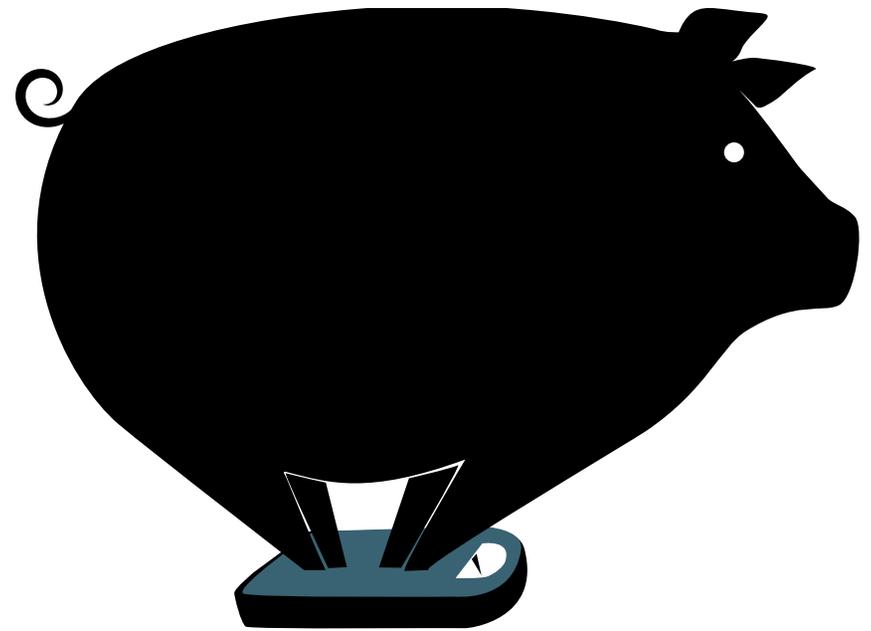
A Communities Putting Prevention to Work stimulus grant, meant to promote healthy living, reduce consumption of unhealthy foods and lower obesity rates, was awarded to Cook County following the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, or stimulus) in 2009. The Cook County Department of Public Health contracted with the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC) to disburse the \$15.9 million in funds.³²

Plans included a countywide menu labeling program, an increase in city bike path signage, a sugary drink tax (taxpayer funds being used to lobby for higher taxes), healthier options in vending machines at schools and the promotion of breast-feeding-friendly environments. To carry out these goals, the PHIMC contracted with Porter Novelli, a consulting firm. The firm's employees were paid \$130 to \$290 an hour for their work; the \$130 per hour rate was paid to a 23-year-old staff assistant.

The village of Schaumburg used its portion of the stimulus grant to pay an architect \$100 an hour to build an intergenerational garden. It paid a horticulturist \$36 an hour to maintain the garden and educate seniors and students.

Schaumburg was certainly not the end of the road for this waste. The stimulus money managed to trickle its way down to 41 agencies throughout the state.

Agencies that received ARRA funds were supposed to use the money to create jobs through shovel-ready projects and get America back on track. But if people and corporations knew their tax dollars were supporting advocacy for higher taxes and newfangled gardens, they'd push for a better idea – the purchase of a scale for an oversized federal government.



Observe your preserve

If DuPagers want to read about the wildlife that lives in their community or learn about the plants that grow in their parks, it'll come at a hefty price.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, in conjunction with the DuPage Regional Office of Education, will spend nearly \$175,000 to expand its new website, www.observeyourpreserve.org, with the goal of providing an education and exploration network for the natural areas in DuPage.³³

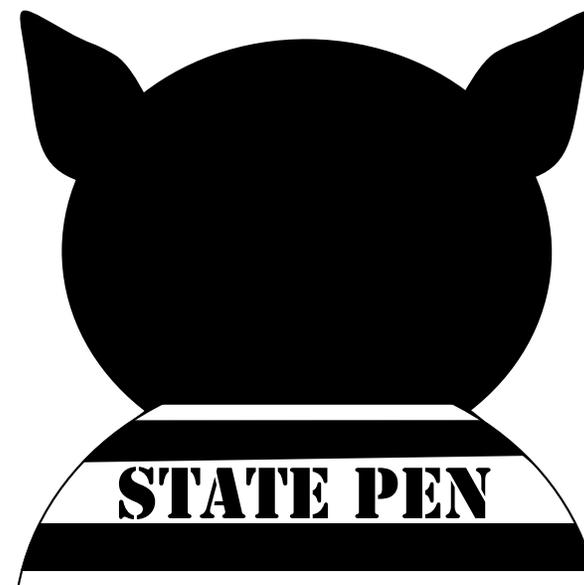
Most folks would think that \$175,000 is a lot of money for a website.

Web design companies have built websites ranging in price from \$1,000 to \$50,000 for hundreds of small businesses.³⁴ Websites for Fortune 500 companies have even been built for less than the price tag on www.observeyourpreserve.org.³⁵

It's not yet clear how much it will cost DuPage to maintain the pricey new website. But the village of Skokie budgets \$7,500 per year to host and maintain its website.³⁶ Even that sounds pricey when considering that website URLs can cost as little as \$10 a year and webhosting is free through certain services.^{37, 38}

And there's just something suspicious about doling out \$175,000 on a website for a forest preserve. At least the FBI thinks so. The Feds recently joined an investigation into a few of the DuPage County Forest Preserve's technology-related contracts.³⁹

The Illinois Department of Corrections racked up a cable bill of \$2,261,009 between July 2010 and June 2012 (Page 10).



Local government waste

Property taxes are rising, state income taxes are higher, unemployment is nearly 9 percent and local governments are supposedly cash-strapped. Schools are cutting programs and police and fire pensions are crowding out spending on core local services. Yet local governments find money to spend resources on low-priority items like Swine Time Pig Racing and bobbleheads.

Where are the priorities?

Each year local governments in Illinois make payments for a wide range of services, which may be necessary and justifiable, or frivolous and wasteful.

These payments may be small in the eyes of government, but they are considerable amounts to the average Illinois family, which saw its state income tax bill climb by \$1,500 in 2011.⁴⁰

Illinois state government has 230 programs that provide state funds to nearly 7,000 units of local government in Illinois.⁴¹ The largest 11 programs alone provide more than \$13 billion to local governments. The distribution of that money, across the entire state, makes it difficult to hold state and local governments accountable for their spending decisions.

Did someone's \$1,500 go to pay for carousel rides in Rock Island County? Or 1,000 chip clips that the Chicago Ridge Park District gave away? Or maybe it was for 350 two-tone zipper tote bags purchased in Dundee?

Regardless of the fact that these local governments seem to have enough money to throw around on frivolous giveaways, they continue to push for more state money.

In fact, more than 110 local governments and public agencies in Illinois spent \$6 million on lobbying state government in 2009 alone.⁴²

This kind of waste is particularly rampant during the aptly named "Springfield Lobbying Day." During this day, organizations of all types, including local governments, head down to Springfield with their hands out and ask officials for some extra taxpayer cash. In fact, the Illinois Association of Park Districts even provides a "how to succeed in lobbying" guide to increase successful lobbying for these types of events.⁴³ Heaven forbid the bobblehead budget runs dry.

Examples of local government waste include:

- Springfield Park District spent \$9,941 for bobbleheads. Many of these bobbling toys were modeled after Speedy the Turtle, the Springfield Sliders mascot. Some businesses are struggling to make payroll. Some families are working multiple jobs just to put food on the table. But in Springfield, the park district is spending thousands on bobbleheads.
- Rock County paid \$20,489 to Swine-time Pig Racing and, in an admittedly unrelated expense, spent \$1,101 on lipstick tubes. In addition to the \$6,250 spent on elephant "consulting," a service related to the care and management of elephants, waste in Rock County has clearly run amok.
- The Park District of Oak Park⁴⁴ spent \$1,761 between 2010 and 2011 on rings, tattoos, magnets, bubbles and parade supplies. The park district also spent \$173,700

on brochures and \$9,163 on website updates. This may seem like a small amount, but tell that to the beneficiaries of Oak Park's special education program, who are potentially on the chopping block.⁴⁵

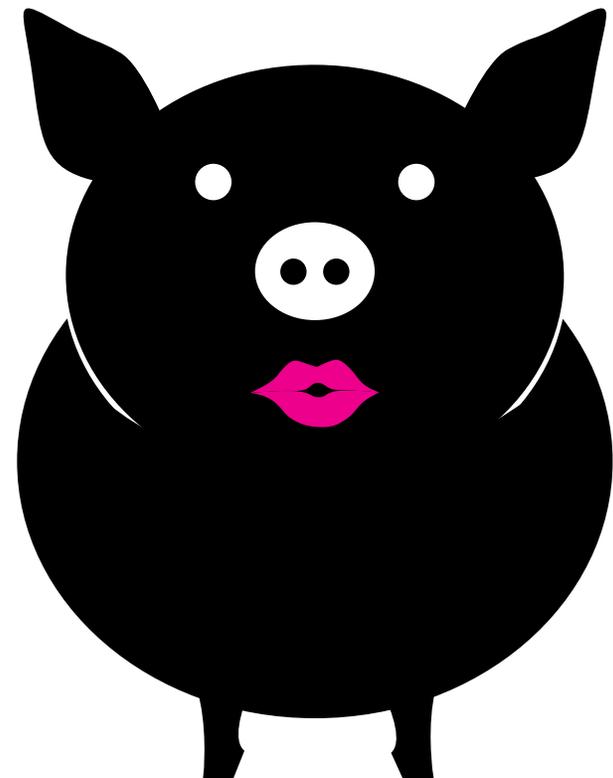
- Rock Island County spent \$19,678 on the Niabi Zoological Society for carousel ride reimbursements.⁴⁶
- The Chicago Ridge Park District⁴⁷ gave away \$18,444 in the following items:
 - 1,500 pens
 - 1,000 beach balls
 - 1,000 stadium cups
 - 1,000 chip clips
 - 1,000 water bottles
 - 500 pinwheels
 - 500 flyers
 - 500 draw string backpacks
 - 500 tote bags
 - 500 key chains
 - 500 can holders
 - 500 fly swatters
 - 500 coloring kits
 - 250 journals
- Dundee Town Park District⁴⁸ spent \$15,500 on the following giveaways:
 - Assorted T-shirts
 - 1,425 water bottles
 - 633 laminated folders
 - 500 notebooks

- 350 two-tone zipper tote bags
- 288 tumbler mugs
- 250 grocery tote bags
- 250 think pink sticky notes
- 49 sport duffle bags
- Glencoe Park District⁴⁹ gave away \$1,663 in Frisbees and pens in 2012. In addition, the district spent \$10,000 to replace skate park equipment, \$3,000 on synthetic turf for the Frisbee golf course and \$8,000 for a jet ski for the loaner program.
- DuPage County spent \$5,420 for swan storage and goose control from Knox Swan and Dog LLC. Current regulations in Illinois protect Canada geese, something that has led to what many would consider a severe overpopulation, and now local governments have to front the bill for this problem.
- DuPage County spent \$5,004 on plaques, awards and gold foil stickers from National Engravers,⁵⁰ Nameplate and Panel Technology,⁵¹ Award Company America,⁵² Ipromoteu⁵³ and Awarding You.⁵⁴
- Madison County spent \$4,711 at Motherboard Gifts and More.⁵⁵
- The Park District of La Grange⁵⁶ spent \$4,465 in 2010 and 2011 on tattoos, stickers, pet parade giveaways and other giveaways.
- Rock Island County spent \$3,905 on iPads and accessories for the circuit clerk.⁵⁷

- St. Claire County spent \$3,600 on Logan Hollow Fish Farm.⁵⁸
- Rock Island County spent \$2,737 on golf carts and golf cart repairs.⁵⁹
- Bartlett Park District⁶⁰ gave away \$2,723 during 2010 and 2011 in the form of a massager, lip balm, mini baskets, give-a-way shirts and parade t-shirts.
- Kewanee Park District⁶¹ spent \$1,100 on awards and trophies and another \$1,500 on fishing derbies between 2010 and 2011.
- Springfield Park District paid
 - \$759 for stadium cups
 - \$650 for Frisbees
 - \$167 for a disc catcher traveler from Innvoe Disc Golf
- Madison County spent \$1,157 at Nuby's Steakhouse Inc.⁶²
- St. Claire County spent \$1,047 on The National Shrine of our Lady of the Snows.⁶³
- Metro East Park District⁶⁴ gave away \$732 between 2010 and 2011 in Frisbees, key chains and holiday cards.
- Bourbonnais Township Park District⁶⁵ gave away \$541 in the form of 250 plastic cups and 250 stress baseballs in 2010.

- DuPage County spent \$296 on poinsettias on the Winfield Flower Shoppe from the General Fund Special Account.⁶⁶
- Rock Island County spent \$335 at Scenic Signs and Screen Printing for 50 "Private Property" signs.⁶⁷
- Rock Island County spent \$314 on Croegart's Great Outdoors for fishing derby prizes, an ice shelter, food and raffle tickets.⁶⁸
- Lemont Park District spent \$252 on candy and beads.⁶⁹

Rock County spent \$1,101 on lipstick tubes (Page 23).



Economic development waste

Illinois' Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) doles out hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in grants each year, all in the name of economic development. But who knew that Lego festivals, eco-friendly zip lines and getting more Canadians to visit the Quad Cities were some of the state's top priorities?

The DCEO's business model is to channel taxpayer dollars to the businesses and industries it believes deserve financial support, with the hope of fostering business activity and job creation.

However, the money for grants doesn't grow on trees. It's taken, through higher taxes, from companies already operating in Illinois' tough economy; not just from successful companies, but also from the entrepreneurs who are struggling to make their dreams come true.

Ironically, as the DCEO attempts to "create" jobs, it hurts and destroys thousands of businesses in the process. The waste from these grants shows up in fewer business startups, lost economic output and lower job creation. That's real waste.

The DCEO assures Illinoisans that it works hard to make sure "innovation is nurtured" and that the "best business ideas make it to market."⁷⁰ But this is best left to the markets, not government. That's because in the private market, companies are forced to compete and win over customers or shut their doors. Why would government do any better "playing" the role of venture capitalists?

Mining for taxpayer money

America's energy resources are key to promoting economic

prosperity, and they should be unyoked from government regulations and taxes that stifle safe extraction and effective use. Therefore, using taxpayer dollars to prop up any energy industry is not the way to go.

Coal is just one politically favored target in Illinois. It's become profitable for the companies to mine government handouts as they mine for coal.

The DCEO has an entire office dedicated to doling out money to coal companies – the Office of Coal Development. Coal is a nearly \$1 billion industry and is mined in 12 counties throughout Illinois.⁷¹ Hundreds of millions of these dollars have come from taxpayers and gone to coal companies over the years.⁷²

The coal industry will tout the benefits of these grants by boasting high levels of job creation and economic development. But the reality is the favor factory handing out this money destroyed jobs and economic development in the process of collecting its revenues. The DCEO bankrolled these coal favors by taking the money from the pockets of consumers, entrepreneurs and businesses across the state.

An example of these unfair handouts is the Prairie State Energy Campus. Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who approved a grant for more than \$400,000 to help with start-up costs in 2006, originally backed the "low cost" coal energy plant.⁷³ By 2010 the cost of the plant more than doubled in predicted estimates. The "low cost" coal energy turned out to be very expensive.⁷⁴

A better approach to promoting all industries in Illinois would be to let the market decide which ones thrive.

Eagle River Coal LLC received \$2.5 million for four 777 Caterpillar trucks and one Caterpillar DI CD Dozer.⁷⁵ Would the company have picked up its operations and moved to a different state without this handout? That's doubtful. The coal is here. If it's profitable for the private sector to extract the coal, then companies will purchase the equipment necessary to do so. If it's not profitable, they won't. It's simply not the DCEO's decision to make. And certainly not at the expense of Illinois' small businesses.

Other coal-related DCEO grants include:

- \$6.5 million to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Coal Competitiveness Program to encourage communities and businesses to improve the coal extraction, transportation and utilization systems within Illinois (Springfield).⁷⁶
- \$5 million to the city of Springfield to increase sulfur dioxide removal at the Dallman Power Station (Springfield).⁷⁷
- \$3.2 million to ICG Inc. for the construction and expansion of coal mining facilities (Williamsville).⁷⁸
- \$1.5 million to the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative for the Coal Demonstration Program in order to continue efforts to maintain or create markets for Illinois coal (Marion).⁷⁹
- \$1 million to American Mining Terminal LLC to construct a new coal terminal (Cahokia).⁸⁰
- \$1 million to the American Coal Company for equipment upgrades and creating 15 new high-paying jobs (Harrisburg).⁸¹
- \$1 million to the Foresight Reserves LP to upgrade a coal preparation mine (Marion).⁸²

- \$981,024 to Sterling Energy LLC for the Coal Demonstration Program in order to continue efforts to maintain or create markets for Illinois coal (Springfield).⁸³
- \$482,324 to the Southern Illinois Mine Equipment LLC to purchase and retrofit equipment (West Frankfort).⁸⁴
- \$391,800 to Peabody Investment Corp. to purchase equipment and implement compliance measures (Equality).⁸⁵
- \$294,000 to Peabody Investment Corp. to purchase and rebuild equipment and to perform exploration drilling (Eldorado).⁸⁶
- \$245,000 to Peabody Investment Corp. for a Hitachi EX300 shovel (Equality).⁸⁷
- \$80,000 to the Springfield Coal Company to upgrade equipment (Springfield).⁸⁸

Green cars and free electricity

Government interference in the energy markets isn't limited to coal.

The DCEO doled out \$1,043,000 to the city of Chicago for electric vehicle charging infrastructure,⁸⁹ \$211,110 to Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville for ethanol research⁹⁰ and \$64,105 for workshops and outreach seminars to promote electric vehicle programs in Illinois.⁹¹ The state will even go so far as to foot the bill for fuel, with the Illinois EPA spending more than \$6 million on rebates for alternative fuels and vehicles since 1998.⁹²

The DCEO says these alternatives will create a "greater demand" for green, domestic and renewable energy sources.⁹³ Sure, a lower cost increases the demand, but taxpayers shouldn't have to provide a subsidy.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office doesn't think this type of vehicle is cost-efficient, saying, "Electric vehicles cost thousands of dollars more to purchase than conventional vehicles of comparable size and performance."⁹⁴

Nevertheless, the state is determined to beef up this green program. Illinois and the city of Chicago got together and invested nearly \$2 million in a public-private partnership with 350Green LLC. The venture was supposed to build 280 charging stations by the end of 2011, but it didn't make the deadline. Now 350Green is in trouble and could face an investigation over financial irregularities.⁹⁵ And some of the stations they did manage to build will provide "free electricity."⁹⁶ Using taxpayer money to pay for projects does not make them free.

Let the best tourist spot win

Another favorite focus of the DCEO is taxpayer-promoted tourism.

When the DCEO uses state tax dollars to promote tourism in Alton, it does so at the expense of Bartlett and every other area in the state competing for tourists. The state has no business attempting to pick tourism winners and losers. In fact, governments don't need to be in the tourism business at all.

The private sector has strong incentives to promote tourism where and when it will be most beneficial. When the private sector gets it right, the state also benefits through more visits and increased tax revenues – private sector and public sector goals are aligned. But when the private sector gets it wrong, it doesn't come at taxpayer expense.

On the flip side, when the government promotes tourism, it must do so by spending the tax dollars that it collects from

individuals, businesses and tourists. The DCEO creates incentives for communities to stand in line for more taxpayer-funded tourism handouts, which in turn drives the push for higher taxes on tourists.

Government involvement in tourism also comes at the expense of tourists. Chicago imposes the highest total tax on travelers in the United States.⁹⁷ Ironically, high tax rates make the state less competitive, which hurts tourism.

Leave it to Illinois to come up with the brilliant idea of promoting tourism – by making it more expensive.

- The DCEO thought the following tourism projects deserved taxpayer money:
- \$633,600 to the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote countywide tourism (Oak Brook).⁹⁸
- \$550,760 to the Local Tourism and Convention Bureau to promote multi-county tourism (Fairview Heights).⁹⁹
- \$260,040 to the Central Illinois Tourism Development Office to coordinate promotional marketing material for the region (Springfield).¹⁰⁰
- \$183,641 to the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau for an integrated marketing campaign that promotes seasonal travel (Alton).¹⁰¹
- \$153,337 to the Williamson County Tourism Board to promote the county-wide service area as a travel destination (Williamson).¹⁰²
- \$140,630 to the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote multi-county tourism (Marion).¹⁰³
- \$136,807 to the Greater St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote multi-county tourism (St. Charles).¹⁰⁴

- \$115,650 to the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau to promote the county-wide service area as a travel destination (Carbondale).¹⁰⁵
- \$99,998 to the city of Springfield to boost the city’s 2012 spring and summer visitor attendance (Springfield).¹⁰⁶
- \$51,875 to the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau for international tourism marketing efforts to the Canadian market (Moline).¹⁰⁷
- \$13,528 to Art on the Square for billboards meant to draw visitors and overnight stays (Metropolis).¹⁰⁸
- \$25,000 to Ohio River Scenic Byway Inc. for advertising (Belleville).¹⁰⁹

The waste race: grants for entertainment

Ready for a weekend of entertainment? Start by cruising around a shopping festival on Chicago’s Magnificent Mile.¹¹⁰ Then get some exercise on the eco-friendly, customized zip-lines in Williamson County.¹¹¹ If that’s not enough, hit the wrestling matches at the Dual Meet Nationals in Springfield.¹¹² Won’t be able to make it? That’s too bad, because the DCEO already paid the taxpayer’s share.

Providing entertainment may seem like a far cry from an essential government service, but not in Illinois.

Here’s the problem: when the DCEO provides this luxury to one town, other towns also want government-funded entertainment. The whole process creates a race to grab taxpayer dollars.

Some big-ticket items include a \$5 million film studio¹¹³ and a \$400,000 multipurpose-trail in the city of O’Fallon.¹¹⁴

Let the waste race begin:

- \$4 million to the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority to cover a portion of the costs associated with the renovation and expansion of the Prairie Capital Convention Center (Springfield).¹¹⁵
- \$900,000 to the city of East Moline for capital improvements to the Jacobs Northeast Park Sports Complex (East Moline).¹¹⁶
- \$200,000 to the Art Institute of Chicago for the “Matisse and the Methods of Modern Construction” exhibit (Chicago).¹¹⁷
- \$200,000 to the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture to host and promote the 2010 Great Performers of Illinois event in Millennium Park (Chicago).¹¹⁸
- \$200,000 to Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour Inc. for the development of “ecofriendly customized zip lines” (village of Energy).¹¹⁹
- \$175,000 to the Wheaton Park District to purchase and construct two restrooms on Arrowhead Golf Club’s golf course (Wheaton).¹²⁰
- \$150,000 to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to construct a scenic overlook (Wheaton).¹²¹
- \$142,221 to the Kankakee County Convention Center and Visitors Bureau to promote the county-wide service area as a travel destination (Kankakee).¹²²
- \$132,000 to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for promotional marketing material for agritourism, bike trails, antique art and golf trails (Carbondale).¹²³
- \$124,720 to the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority of Navy Pier to host the Lego Kid Fest Chicago at McCormick Place (Chicago).¹²⁴

- \$75,000 to Chicago Football Classic Inc. for a three-day event that included the Chicago Football Classic game at Soldier Field (Chicago).¹²⁵

When government takes on the role of the private sector... everyone loses

Imagine an Illinois economy so vibrant that companies felt they had to be in Illinois to reach their fullest potential. Imagine a tax environment so competitive that companies across the country battled to get a piece of Illinois real estate. Keep imagining, because this isn't a reality.

The fact is Illinois ranks 48th in economic outlook and performance.¹²⁶

The DCEO tries to make up for Illinois' shortfalls by steering resources to businesses it thinks will provide the greatest benefit to the state. Simply put, the DCEO pretends it can create a vibrant private sector in Illinois. It does so by taking money from thousands of entrepreneurs and businesses, cooking up generous tax incentive packages and then giving them to businesses of its choosing.

More incentives for a few companies, though, mean higher taxes for all the rest. And higher taxes mean fewer businesses wanting to operate in Illinois. The DCEO handles this by providing, ironically, even higher incentives.

Instead, the best incentive Illinois could offer all companies is a dynamic state with low regulation and low or no income taxes.

That would be a lot better than throwing money at business considering a move to Illinois.

The DCEO gave Boeing \$3.25 million in 2010¹²⁷ to relocate its corporate headquarters in downtown Chicago. Boeing also received another \$2,235,727 in 2011¹²⁸ to reimburse the costs associated with its relocation.

This is only a small portion of the total amount used to lure Boeing into downtown Chicago. The original incentive package in 2001 was full of millions of dollars in income tax credits, sales tax exemptions, property tax abatements and job training grants.¹²⁹

But smokestack chasing is fundamentally flawed. State governments simply don't know how willing a company is to move, how large the incentive would need to be or how much tax revenue it would create.^{130, 131} The end result is a state that overbids for the new smokestack, wasting taxpayer dollars and sapping entrepreneurial activity across the state. Smokestack chasing is a loss for Illinois and a loss for its taxpayers.

In another example, the DCEO gave \$1 million to the city of Belleville to establish Wagner Motor Car Co. as "a viable automobile dealer."¹³²

Wagner Motor Car Co. shouldn't receive taxpayer money while businesses across Illinois are struggling. The DCEO is taking money from companies across the state, including small car dealerships, and giving it to their competitors and other businesses, including the following:

- \$249,000 to Rolling Frito-Lay for the costs associated with training 920 existing employees (Oakbrook Terrace).¹³³
- \$200,000 to AT&T Inc. for the costs associated with training 280 new and 2,450 existing employees (Chicago).¹³⁴

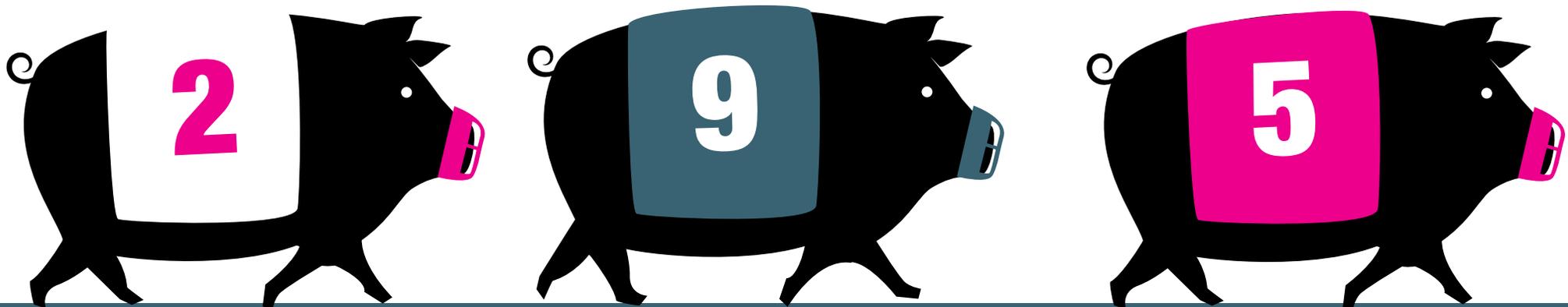
- \$194,716 to Navistar for the costs associated with training 150 new and 300 existing employees (Warrenville).¹³⁵
- \$18,295 to Pepsi MidAmerica for training 60 new and 340 existing employees in the Marion facility (Marion).¹³⁶
- \$29,737 to Armstrong World Industries Inc. to train existing employees (Kankakee).¹³⁷

The DCEO waste goes on and on ...

- \$16 million to the River Edge Redevelopment Zone Program to build a music garden (Aurora) and pedestrian promenade (Elgin).^{138 139, 140}
- \$460,000 to World Business Chicago to construct a welcome center within the media center located at McCormick Place during the NATO summit.¹⁴¹
- \$222,000 to the village of Lyons for a multi-use gazebo, decorative landscaping, seeding, paving and parking facilities.¹⁴²

- \$200,000 for the village of Flossmoor to replace decorative streetlights.¹⁴³
- \$304,851 to the village of Carol Stream to acquire a repeatedly flood-damaged single-family home, demolish it and return the vacant land to open space.¹⁴⁴
- \$42,500 to the village of Pontoon Beach to construct a memorial park.¹⁴⁵
- \$250,000 to Pembroke Hopkins Park Construction Outreach Program for urban weatherization to promote energy and to be cost effective for urban and rural housing.¹⁴⁶
- \$25,000 to the city of Springfield for a capital project involving improvements to a historic cemetery.¹⁴⁷

Rock County paid \$20,489 to Swine-time Pig Racing (Page 23).



Incentivized waste: tax programs

In Illinois, special tax jurisdictions steal from everyone and give to the privileged few.

Tax Increment Financing districts (TIFs) in cities and villages are economic development areas dedicated to reducing “blight.” TIFs are complex, but essentially they allow local government leaders to siphon taxpayer dollars away from schools, libraries and park districts, and invest them in development projects in the “blighted” areas.

Put simply, TIFs and the funds they control have become another vehicle for picking winners and losers. They are in essence a corporate welfare slush fund controlled by city officials.

This is where power and waste are born. Government officials create an environment where favors and handouts are valued more than the economic development TIFs were intended to create.

Chicago is the poster child for TIFs and controversy, as 160 of these special tax districts operate in the city.¹⁴⁸ TIFs control more than \$500 million in annual tax revenues. These special tax districts give the mayor unlimited power to fund development projects using taxpayer money, and line the pockets of corporations.

The end result is waste, in the form of fewer business startups, lost economic output and lower job creation.

\$250,000 in Belvidere TIF waste

While some cities are pulling the plug on their TIFs,¹⁴⁹ others are finding themselves with loads of leftover TIF cash. Officials in Belvidere didn’t know what to do when they found \$250,000 left over in the city’s TIF fund.¹⁵⁰

The mayor, in his attempt to spend this money, assured taxpayers that “each project will be judged on its own merits, and certainly those that can justify the greatest economic return for the city would be looked at most favorably.”¹⁵¹ That all sounds great, but the mayor was also concerned that if he didn’t find an outlet for the extra taxpayer cash then the city may “risk returning the money to businesses.”¹⁵²

What is so wrong with returning unspent tax dollars to the taxpayers?

Greater Chicago area waste

Schaumburg used TIF funds to foster economic development in a strip mall ... by paying businesses to leave.

The village of Schaumburg used eminent domain to condemn a strip mall in 2008.¹⁵³ The village paid the businesses located in the mall to leave and then demolished it for redevelopment. Some businesses chose to relocate across the street while others left the village altogether.¹⁵⁴ Two million dollars in TIF funds were allocated to this redevelopment location in 2010.¹⁵⁵ The property remains empty. Spending \$2 million to create a vacant lot doesn’t foster economic activity; it subsidizes inactivity.

MillerCoors received \$21.5 million in TIF funds for relocation costs in 2010.¹⁵⁶ Amazingly, in the same year that MillerCoors received the TIF money, the company's net income totaled \$1.09 billion. This has nothing to do with liking or disliking the beverage industry. Instead, it has everything to do with subsidizing certain companies at the taxpayers' expense.

Other examples of special tax treatment in the Chicago area include:

- \$1.25 million to Quaker Oats Company for development.¹⁵⁷ This is just part of the \$13,120,000 that Quaker Oats has received in TIF funds since 2000 (Chicago).¹⁵⁸
- \$131,662 to Fountain Technologies for streetscape improvements (Elmhurst).¹⁵⁹
- \$102,351 to Tivoli Enterprises for streetscape improvements (Elmhurst).¹⁶⁰
- \$59,168 to Kane, McKenna and Associates for TIF consulting (Glendale Heights).¹⁶¹ These consulting services represent 55 percent of the district's total TIF fund expenditures in 2010.
- \$47,268 to Dr. Richard Altieri, a chiropractor in Schaumburg, for relocation costs.¹⁶²
- \$40,000 to Jewelry and Coin Mart for relocation costs (Schaumburg).¹⁶³
- \$35,000 to Bill Kay Nissan for property tax reimbursement (Downers Grove).¹⁶⁴
- \$20,000 to Accurate Personnel for relocation costs.¹⁶⁵ The company ranked as one of the fastest growing staffing firms in 2010 (Schaumburg).¹⁶⁶
- \$20,000 to Hair Clip Inc., a beauty salon, for retail improvements (Schaumburg).¹⁶⁷

- \$10,000 to Peterson's Ice Cream for retail improvements (Elmhurst).¹⁶⁸
- 10,000 to Edible Arrangements for retail improvements (Elmhurst).¹⁶⁹ The company ranked first in its category in Entrepreneur Magazine's Franchise 500 in 2007, 2008 and 2009.¹⁷⁰

Metro East: waste in 3D

The waste in Granite City can be seen in 3D.

Trivers Associates Inc., ICS Construction Services and several other companies received \$2,374,868 in TIF funds for the construction of a downtown cinema.¹⁷¹

St. Louis Cinemas manages this 3D-capable city-owned theater, which has a capacity of 500 people.¹⁷² During the cinema's ribbon cutting ceremony, Mayor Ed Hagnauer said, "This theater belongs to the people of Granite City ... This is where memories will be made for this generation and generations to come."¹⁷³ Others were less optimistic. One city official who voted against the theater said that he can "just see the movie theater being a big loser for us down the road."¹⁷⁴

Regardless of this cinema's fate, few would consider 3D entertainment an essential government service.

Other TIF waste in Metro East includes:

- \$7.2 million to THF properties¹⁷⁵ to build a Walmart Supercenter (Granite City).¹⁷⁶ Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s profit exceeded \$14 billion in 2010.¹⁷⁷
- \$952,514 to United States Steel Corp. (Granite City).¹⁷⁸
- \$500,000 to Giant City Properties for private development (Alton-Hunterstown).¹⁷⁹

Quad Cities: taking a gamble on development

Sluggers makes some great pizza and Jumer's is a beautiful casino, but neither business should be subsidized at the taxpayers' expense.

TIF money funded the following:

\$247,722 to United Township High School for lights at the Soule Bowl sports field (East Moline).

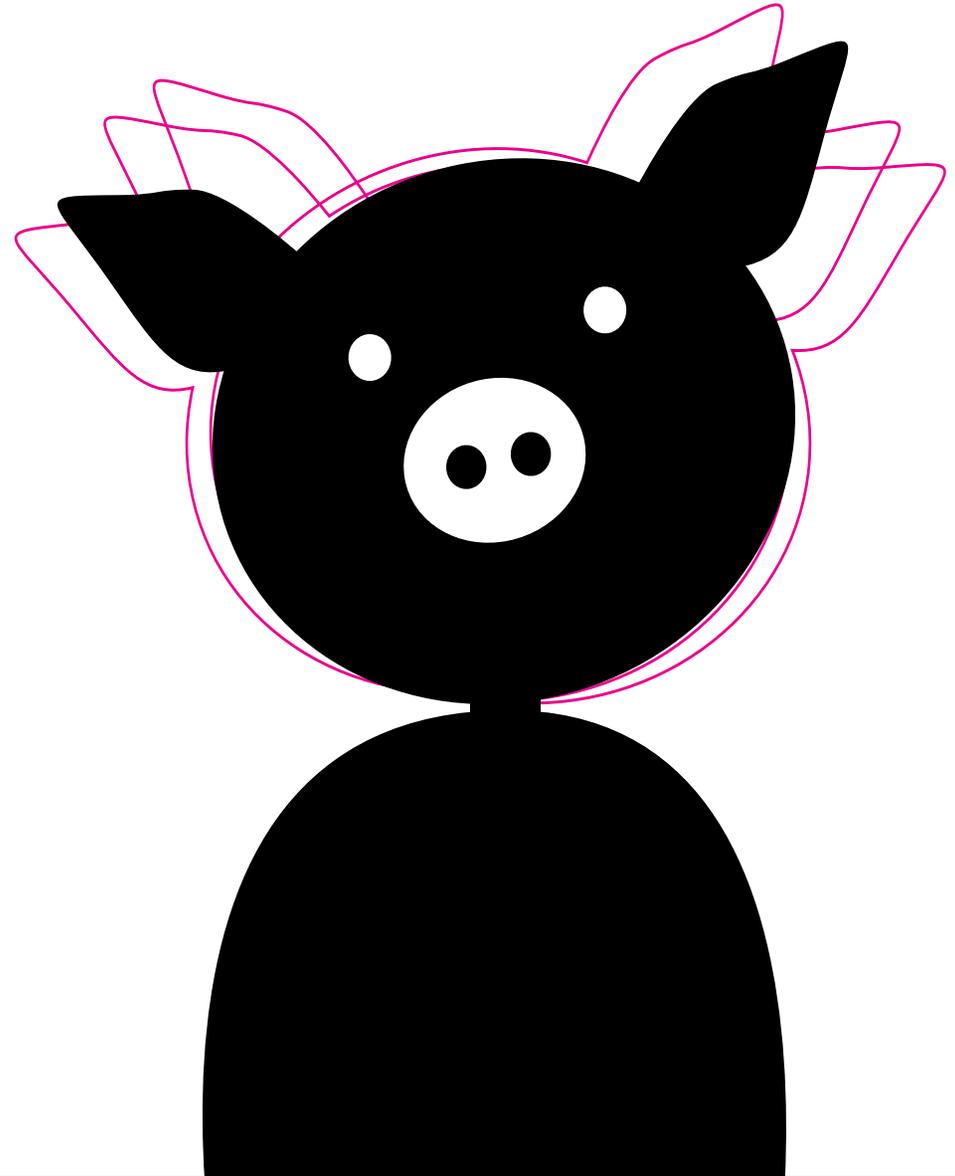
\$241,283 to Jumer's Casino and Hotel for reimbursement-eligible TIF expenses (Rock Island).^{180,181}

\$27,145 to Gold Key Auto Sales, a used car dealership, for redevelopment (Silvis).¹⁸²

\$15,000 to Town and Country Bowl for reimbursement eligible TIF expenses (Rock Island).¹⁸³

\$14,132 to Sluggers Pizza for redevelopment (Silvis).¹⁸⁴

Springfield Park District spent \$9,941 for bobble heads (Page 23).



Repeat offenders

The 2010 Illinois Piglet Book concluded with the following statement: “the programs mentioned in the Piglet Book should be eliminated because they do not fall within the purview of the state government, and are wasteful and duplicative.”¹⁸⁵

Did elected officials see the light in the interim? A review of the wasteful spending uncovered in the 2010 Illinois Piglet Book yielded disappointing results.

Not only do many featured programs still receive funding, but some also have experienced substantial increases – all at a time when Illinois’ fiscal health is worsening. Notably, though, some organizations have experienced decreases in funding since the 2010 Illinois Piglet Book, certainly a step in the right direction.

Here are just a few of the repeat offenders from the 2010 Illinois Piglet Book:

\$188,161 in new spending on nature: Illinoisans are concerned about the environment and interested in nature conservancy. Organizations that promote these issues should be funded by members, donations and user fees – not by taxpayers.

The Nature Conservancy received

- \$127,910 in 2010¹⁸⁶
- \$123,750 in 2011¹⁸⁷
- \$62,661 in 2012¹⁸⁸

The Friends of Ryerson Woods in Lake County received

- \$2,890 in 2010¹⁸⁹
- \$1,750 in 2011¹⁹⁰

\$34,400 in new spending on specialty farms and teas: There is no reason to use taxpayer dollars to pay for fish farms or specialty herbal teas.

Keo Fish Farm received

- \$16,510 in 2010¹⁹¹
- \$16,510 in 2011¹⁹²
- \$14,242 in 2012¹⁹³

Earth’s Natural Herbal Teas received

- \$2,860 in 2010¹⁹⁴
- \$2,147 in 2011¹⁹⁵

Ineeka Teas received

- \$1,331 in 2010¹⁹⁶
- \$750 in 2011¹⁹⁷
- \$750 in 2012¹⁹⁸

\$341,863 in new spending on racing:

Raceway Associates received

- \$200,000 in 2010¹⁹⁹
- \$200,000 2012²⁰⁰

Atkinson Motorsports received

- \$196,359 in 2010²⁰¹
- \$97,137 2011²⁰²
- \$44,727 in 2012²⁰³

\$167,385 in new spending on a county fair:

Effingham County Fair Association received

- \$111,002 in 2010²⁰⁴
- \$80,799 in 2012²⁰⁵

\$225,656,395 in new spending on arts and entertainment:

National Museum of Mexican Art received

- \$427,136 in 2010²⁰⁶
- \$408,286 in 2011²⁰⁷
- \$525,982 in 2012²⁰⁸

DuSable Museum of African-American History received

- \$17,700 in 2010²⁰⁹
- \$72,777 in 2011²¹⁰

American Indian Center received

- \$6,560 in 2010²¹¹
- \$11,000 in 2011²¹²

Art Institute of Chicago received

- \$60,000 in 2010²¹³
- \$175,000 in 2011²¹⁴

Chicago International Film Festival

- \$28,500 in 2010²¹⁵
- \$5,000 in 2012²¹⁶

Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Company received

- \$166,205,460 in 2010²¹⁷
- \$92,668,996 in 2011²¹⁸
- \$131,789,353 in 2012²¹⁹

\$1,140,920 in new spending on public broadcasting:

WTTW Public Broadcasting Service received

- \$169,775 in 2010²²⁰
- \$455,660 in 2011²²¹
- \$685,260 in 2012²²²



\$1,745,436 in new spending on other miscellaneous items:

Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project received

- \$377,510 in 2010²²³
- \$267,163 in 2011²²⁴
- \$410,762 in 2012²²⁵

Rebhan R&W Meat Company received

- \$886,411 in 2010²²⁶
- \$281,387 in 2011²²⁷

Looking for Lincoln Heritage Association received

- \$477,000 in 2010²²⁸
- \$200,000 in 2011²²⁹
- \$261,000 in 2012²³⁰

Illinois Lincoln Highway received

- \$190,796 in 2010²³¹
- \$129,099 in 2011²³²
- \$86,025 in 2012²³³

Illinois AFL-CIO Outreach received

- \$1,369,200 in 2010²³⁴
- \$100,000 in 2011²³⁵
- \$10,000 in 2012²³⁶

Conclusion: why it matters

The 2012 Illinois Piglet Book highlights nearly 200 examples of wasteful spending, which robs taxpayers of about \$350 million in hard-earned income. This is a real problem that hurts real people.

When government officials waste the money they collect from hardworking Illinoisans, they are directly disrespecting the value of the taxpayers and their money. Granted, the dollar amount highlighted here is small relative to Illinois' pension liabilities and unpaid bills. But the way to save billions is to end the culture of wasteful spending in Illinois.

Each dollar of waste highlighted in the 2012 Illinois Piglet Book feeds the growing culture of corporate welfare, cronyism and satisfaction with failed governance in Illinois. The state's current culture replaces essential government services with efforts to bring home special handouts and to build success from favors and backdoor deals.

Unfortunately, politicians in Illinois don't know how to set priorities. The money they are wasting is real, the lost economic activity is real and the families in Illinois struggling to keep up with the state's ever-increasing taxes are real. The waste means lost opportunities, wasted energy and foregone prosperity. The results sap liberty from the residents, entrepreneurs and communities that want to move this great state forward.

This is why the 2012 Illinois Piglet Book matters.

The solutions to a turnaround are practical: balance the budget, limit spending to core services, improve transparency and accountability for how taxpayer money is spent, and provide better results.

Illinois' crisis presents lawmakers with an opportunity for change. This state can once again become a leader of economic activity and prosperity. The goal is clear and achievable and the opportunity must not be wasted.



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