



Reasons for Kirk Dillard to run for Illinois Governor

- **No political party should have complete control over state government.** The Illinois Democrats have had that control for the last 6+ years...how is that working out for everyone? And without a strong GOP candidate, Illinois could be facing four years of one family controlling all important government functions.
- Illinois needs a leader who **can and will work in a bipartisan fashion**. Party loyalties are important, but true leadership seeks common ground.
- Few can match Sen. Dillard's ability to **work with all factions** of his own party. He has positive attributes that make him appealing to all.
- Kirk Dillard's broad range of governmental experience makes him **uniquely qualified for the job**. He's been part of two truly successful administrations (Thompson & Edgar), served as a judge on the Court of Claims, and been an accomplished lawmaker both in and out of the majority for years.
- While accomplished, his **education and personal background suggest more of an everyman role**: grew up in the suburbs during the most dynamic growth period this nation has ever experienced; went to college at a State university in the heartland of Illinois; went to law school at a Catholic institution, etc.

- **Dillard doesn't dodge the hard questions.** Polling and focus groups show that the electorate is clamoring for a candidate who won't duck the hard questions...who will—from Day One of his candidacy—give honest answers about his platform, including:
 - Fixing the state budget
 - Taxes
 - Health care
 - Boosting our economy
 - Education
 - Long-term budget woes (pensions)
- **The Governor of Illinois is not an entry-level position.** It would be a huge mistake for our party to attempt to promote a candidate who has had little or no experience in government.
- Despite the overstated forecasts concerning the demise of the GOP in DuPage County, it remains an **extraordinarily strong base for Republicans and a leader among the collar counties**...thereby providing a perfect geographic and ideological base of operations for his campaign.
- Kirk Dillard's broad experience in the public and private sectors provides numerous **contacts and relationships necessary to produce a dynamic coalition** to promote his candidacy and encourage support in all areas necessary for success.
- Kirk Dillard is **camera-ready and has enough charisma to make people want to listen to him.** He has continually had good relationships with key members of the press and knows how to deliver a stump speech.

- Dillard's wife, Stephanie, has an unmatched GOP pedigree.
- His legislative accomplishments shows the **correct interests to span a generation of concerns**, from get-tough-on-crime issues to the first true ethics & campaign finance reform package in a quarter century. And unlike others who talk about ethics reform, Dillard has walked-the-walk: he has never held a Springfield fundraiser.

Among his legislative accomplishments:

- Chief sponsor of Illinois' **first major campaign finance and ethics reform package in a quarter century**.
 - Chief sponsor of Illinois' **Truth-in-Sentencing** law to make sure criminals serve full sentences.
 - Chief sponsor of the nation's **most effect gun-control law**: 15-20-Life, which automatically increases jail time for a criminal using a gun.
 - Chief sponsor of mandatory **DNA testing** for all Illinois felons.
 - Chief sponsor of the **Safe-to-Learn** legislation to ensure our children's safety when they are at school.
- Kirk Dillard was **Chief of Staff** in the last administration that lived within the State's means (Edgar). His management of government operations ultimately led to Illinois' best balance sheet in the state's history.
 - Dillard's **advocacy for higher education** will reverse the politicization of recent administrations while it fosters new growth and acknowledgement for the system's accomplishments.

Press quotes about Kirk Dillard:

"Mr. Dillard's strength: a moderate, nuanced approach ... he could have wider reach in a general election. Mr. Dillard's previous job as Mr. Edgar's chief of staff could be an enormous plus - particularly if Mr. Edgar endorses him."—Crain's

"Dillard has had a statewide resume for years."—Daily Herald

"An enthusiastic endorsement goes to State Senator Kirk Dillard...He's keenly aware of public concerns in DuPage County and is respected not only in the Governor's office, but throughout state government."—Chicago Tribune

"Dillard has a reputation for being able to get along with all types and factions."—Chicago Sun-Times

"Kirk Dillard, a Hinsdale Republican, is one of the most qualified individuals for the job of lawmaker. Dillard is thoughtful and reasonable."—Daily Herald

"Kirk Dillard, the Republican chairman in DuPage County and a state senator...is regarded as a serious lawmaker...Run, Kirk, run. Illinois needs you..."—New York Times (editorial)

"Dillard is a wise pick. Dillard knows our area and he knows Springfield."—Suburban Life

"The former Chief of Staff for Governor Jim Edgar has an excellent handle on issues facing the district – issues like balancing the budget and education funding."—Reporter-Progress

"Dillard earns high marks for his responsiveness and effectiveness."—The Doings

"Dillard generally is considered to be one of the more honorable, affable and respected people in state government."—Springfield State-Journal Register

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