

## OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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The Lieutenant Governor is the second-highest executive office in Illinois and first in line for succession to the governorship. Under the Illinois Constitution, the Lieutenant Governor becomes the Acting Governor if the Governor is unable to discharge the duties of the office. In addition to being prepared to lead the state, the Lieutenant Governor exercises the powers delegated to him or her by the Governor and those prescribed by law, including serving as the state's top advocate for rural communities, military families and river conservation.

The Lieutenant Governor performs statutory duties by serving as chair, member, ambassador or administrator of the following: the Restore, Reinvest and Renew (R3) Board; the Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform; the Governor's Opioid Overdose Prevention & Recovery Steering Committee; the Military Economic Development Committee; the Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council; the Governor's Rural Affairs Council; the Illinois Main Street Program; the Illinois Council on Women and Girls; the Coordinating Committee of State Agencies Involving Tourism; the Service Evaluation Committee; the Commission to End Hunger; the Commission to End Poverty; and the Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities.

As designated by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor also manages the following portfolio: the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative; the Department of Juvenile Justice; the Criminal Justice Information Authority; the Prisoner Review Board; the Concealed Carry Licensing Review Board; the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board; and the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council.

### **Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative**

On Feb. 11, 2019, Governor JB Pritzker signed Executive Order 2019-03 to establish the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity (JEO) Initiative to be led by the Lieutenant Governor. The JEO Initiative helps to fulfill the administration's vision to shift our justice system from unsuccessful or punitive approaches toward just and equitable, with more restorative, inclusive, and cutting-edge practices and programs. This initiative centralizes the state's justice reform efforts and promotes economic opportunities for marginalized communities.

The JEO Initiative serves as a model for the nation by convening stakeholders and state agencies in a collaborative environment to coordinate a holistic and restorative effort to transform the criminal justice system. The following is a sampling of the innovative programs, pilots and partnerships that are helping the JEO Initiative achieve this work.

**Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program:** The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA) legalized adult-use cannabis in Illinois on Jan. 1, 2020. The act also established the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program. The R3 Program invests 25% of tax revenue from adult-use cannabis sales to fund grants that support communities that are most impacted by economic disinvestment, violence, and the severe and multi-layered harm caused by the war on drugs. The R3 Program's board is chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and includes stakeholders from communities the program seeks to serve, including activists and those with lived experiences in the justice system. The goal is to tap into the wisdom that is found in these communities so that equity is built into the fabric of the work.

On Jan. 21, 2021, in partnership with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), the Pritzker/Stratton Administration announced the first round of R3 grants. Eighty grants totaling \$31.5 million will be used by 200 organizations to help the communities hardest hit by the failed war on drugs. The work of the organizations will center on economic development, youth development, violence prevention, civil legal aid and reentry services.

**The McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows on Childhood Trauma with Lieutenant Governor Stratton and the Erikson Institute:** This is a partnership with the Erikson Institute, one of the country's foremost child development research institutions, to research and understand how childhood trauma influences justice involvement and life outcomes. In January 2020, the first cohort of 23 cross-sector leaders formed and began their work to advance equity-focused programs and policies that use trauma and racial equity-informed lenses. Their projects range from trauma training for Chicago Police Department detectives, to a peace academy aimed at breaking the cycle of street violence, eviction and more.

Other initiatives advanced by the JEO Initiative include the **College Savings Program for Children of Formerly Incarcerated Parents**, in collaboration with the Office of Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs; the **Housing Pilot**, in partnership with the Illinois Housing Development Authority and the Illinois Department of Corrections; the **21st Century Illinois Transformation Model**, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the Office of Governor JB Pritzker; and **Walk. Listen. Learn. Our Journey to Justice Podcast**, a podcast where the Lieutenant Governor has one-on-one conversations with subject-matter experts so every Illinoisan has information that will better equip them to understand and advocate for equity, inclusion and opportunity. The podcast series can be found at: <https://anchor.fm/ltagovstratton>.

### **Governor's Rural Affairs Council**

Originally created by Executive Order Number 7 on Oct. 15, 1986, the Governor's Rural Affairs Council was relaunched by Executive Order 4 on May 18, 2011. The council serves as a link between state and local agencies to help improve the delivery of state services to rural Illinois. This year, some of the council's projects included conducting a webinar series with the Hunt Institute on rural secondary education, funding research reports focused on economic development in rural towns, supporting census outreach in rural areas, and hosting virtual town halls to provide information about the pandemic.

### **Illinois Council on Women and Girls**

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls was established pursuant to 20 ILCS 5130. The council advises the Governor and General Assembly on policy issues and initiatives impacting the lives of women and girls in Illinois. The council's goals are to advocate for programs and policies that work to end the gender pay gap and discrimination in professional and academic opportunities; to promote resources and opportunities for academic and professional growth; to improve legal protections and recourse regarding sexual harassment in the workplace; and to improve rights and protections for women, including transgender individuals.

### **Military Economic Development Committee**

The Military Economic Development Committee works to preserve, protect, expand and attract new military missions, assets and installations to the State of Illinois, while also supporting military communities and families, as is outlined by the Illinois General Assembly (20 ILCS 605/605-215). For the first time in history, Illinois held a State of the Bases event that brought together military leadership from across the state to share ideas and discuss achievements and goals. The committee was founded to coordinate the state's military activities and to act as a communication center for issues relating to current and former military bases in the state.

### **Governor's Opioid Overdose Prevention & Recovery Steering Committee**

Governor Pritzker signed Executive Order 2020-02 on Jan. 27, 2020, establishing the Governor's Opioid Overdose Prevention and Recovery Steering Committee (Steering

Committee) to better address racial disparities in responding to the opioid crisis. It is co-chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, the secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services and the director of the Department of Public Health. The Steering Committee guides the work of the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council, serves as a liaison between the council and the Governor’s office, and oversees implementation of the State Opioid Action Plan.

**Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council**

The Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council was originally created by 20 ILCS 3967 in 1997 and revamped by Executive Order 4 on March 8, 2013, to consolidate a list of boards and commissions into a single State of Illinois Rivers Council. It is the council’s duty to periodically review state and federal activities and programs administered for Illinois rivers; collaborate with local communities and organizations to address watershed and water resource concerns; and weigh in on strategies that protect, restore and expand critical habitats, soil conservation and water quality practices.

**Innovative Partnerships**

**Through Our Eyes** is a campaign in partnership with the Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association inspired by the Lieutenant Governor’s experience as a caregiver for her mother, Velma Wiggins. Through Our Eyes was a six-month statewide listening tour focused on learning and hearing from caregivers, doctors, family, researchers and others. The tour led to the development of recommendations that are being implemented. **Cultivating Our Communities** is a campaign created through a partnership with the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers, and Buy Fresh, Buy Local Illinois. This campaign promotes and uplifts small farms and businesses. To date, more than 40 farms from 30 counties have been featured, including a collaboration with celebrity chef Rick Bayless, increasing exposure and sales for vital Illinois businesses.

**Lieutenant Governor’s Staff Members**

Charles Watkins.....	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Valarie Rand.....	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>
Doresah Ford-Bey.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Communications &amp; External Affairs</i>
Dartesia Pitts.....	<i>General Counsel; Deputy Chief of Staff, Policy and Legislation</i>
Teresa Reyes.....	<i>Deputy Chief of Staff, Administration</i>
Kevin Beck.....	<i>Director, Scheduling</i>
Yaacov Delaney.....	<i>Acting Director, Justice, Equity, &amp; Opportunity Initiative</i>
Yolanda Joe.....	<i>Director, Communications</i>
Robert Mannis.....	<i>Director, Policy</i>
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Victoria Villalpando-Sanchez.....	<i>Digital Communications Coordinator</i>
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