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So, What Does J. B. Pritzker Have in Mind, for You and Your Family, If He Is Re-elected?

He's been described as a "down-to-earth billionaire," "charismatic," "affable," a "dedicated family man" and "a nice guy."

No argument from me on any of these points.

In this book I have tried to focus on his policies and how they affect you – the people and the small-business owners of Illinois. My conclusion is: what his re-election means is not good at all.

He has pursued the same policies that drove old liberal Democrat me out of the Democratic Party – policies that on both the state and national levels have not just failed to solve our problems but have made them even worse: more spending, more tax increases, more actions to cement his political party's power in Illinois politics – forever.

Those policies have been exclusionary, divisive, arrogant, ineffective, and even pointless. They have been destructive of democracy's highest principles, such as respect for contrary views.

Another four years of Pritzker as governor, abetted by a compliant, one-party legislature should be—even to most old-style liberals and moderates—terrifying.

- Can we expect, for example, more pandemic dictates that aren't supported by science, dictates that seems like they are merely an exercise of power for power's sake?
- Will Pritzker continue to deny the consequences of his classroom lockdowns and other punishing steps against the welfare of our children? Will he show the same disregard for your economic welfare? Can we really take that risk in a state that already is hemorrhaging people and jobs?
- Will he keep trying to increase gasoline taxes, as he did with his 30-cents increase a few years ago, also allowing his 3-cents-a-year increase to continue? That means 30 cents more per gallon ten years from now, unless you can afford to buy a \$60,000 electric car or truck, a vehicle whose distance-driven-per-charge can drop by half during Illinois's really cold winter months. That is the true science of electricity efficiency they don't tell you about. Cold weather makes the wiring unable to move the power as fast as it does in hot weather.

- Will he try again, even after its rejection by the voters, to repeal the state's flat income tax and tier it to increase income taxes on the middle-income families who rejected his proposal? Will he move to tax retirement income?
- Will he continue to be the handmaid of the powerful government unions, doing their bidding on such matters as school choice for people far, far less wealthy than he is?
- Will he stand bravely to lead to real, substantial change in the state's culture of corruption? Will he lead on ethics reform?
- Will he continue to take credit for a budget that he falsely claimed is balanced? Does he have the guts to honestly explain how government worker pensions are dragging down the state into a financial and economic pit?
- Can he craft a truly effective program to fight the state's now-dreadful crime problem? Will he forcefully try to reverse no-cash bail and other extreme policies that favor the criminals over the victims?
- Will he disavow the radical abortion policies, like forcing you to pay for out-of-staters to come to Illinois for subsidized abortions, a policy the national Democrats insist on?

Pritzker has given no sign that he will alter course on any of these issues.

So, my question is: Will you, my readers, pull away from your own traditional voting history and move into the unfamiliar territory of independent judgment? Even if it means voting for “the other guy,” even a guy who has a few political views you don’t like? Maybe asking yourself, “Who could possibly be worse than Pritzker has been – and promises to be – if re-elected?” will help you decide.

A recent non-partisan survey revealed that more Illinoisans want to leave their home state, *more than half of you than the residents of any other state*. And over the last decade they’ve done so, with Illinoisans routinely leading the nation in out-migration, said the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU.

With the highest combined state and local tax burden in the country, the lawlessness in the state’s crown jewel (Chicago), and the corruption everywhere, everyone understands why.

So the question becomes, how much worse does it have to get before we make a change in leadership to offer at least the possibility of a change in our state’s future?

To make a change means taking a risk. It means many of you will have to temporarily step outside of your old political comfort zone.

To *not* make a change also entails risk.

In fact, hoping things get better with the same people pursuing the same destructive policies outlined in this book is actually the most hopeless choice of all.

So, this November, what's it going to be, Illinois? I am both hopeful and anxious about your answer.