

"I hope you will travel along with me in this little book, all the way to the last chapter. It should not take you very long. You will find out many things not reported in the news media, which I hope will help you make an informed decision for your future—for you, your family, your neighbors, and your fellow citizens of Illinois." —Dennis Byrne

THE GOVERNOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT EVERY ILLINOISAN SHOULD KNOW

Dennis Byrne, former long-time moderate Democrat columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times* here shares his concerns with you. He explains our governor's shift away from the traditional Democratic Party's role of representing working-class and middle-income Americans.

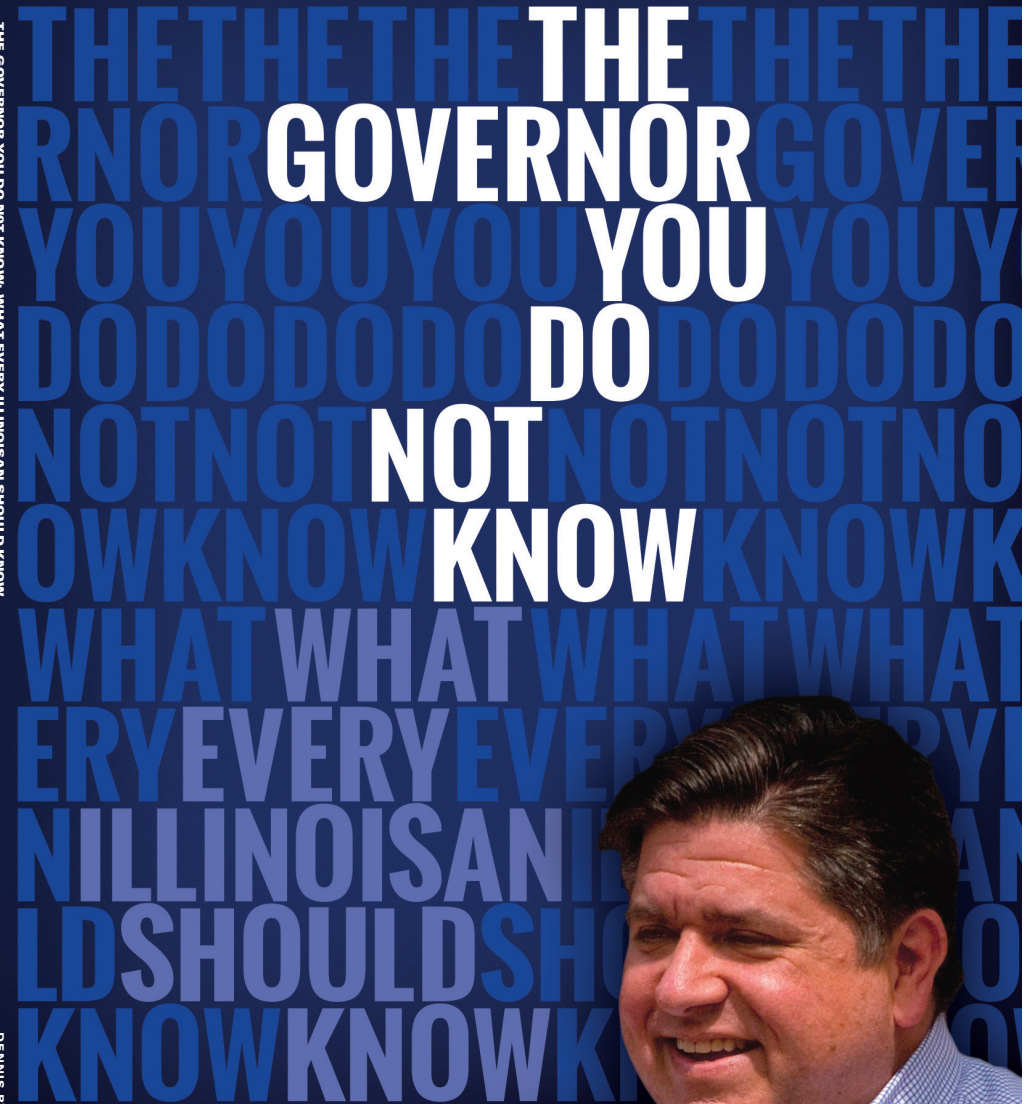
He explains what the major changes in Illinois's laws brought about by Pritzker and his "new" Democrats will mean to moderate Democrat and Independent voters who may have voted for the governor four years ago . . . and what lies ahead for us who live in Illinois if he wins again.

Byrne's little book is a compelling report you will want to read and share with family members, friends, and neighbors before casting your vote in our upcoming statewide election.

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THE GOVERNOR YOU DO NOT KNOW: WHAT EVERY ILLINOISAN SHOULD KNOW

DENNIS BYRNE



by DENNIS BYRNE
Former Opinion Columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*



The Governor You Do Not Know

What Every Illinoisan Should Know

By Dennis Byrne

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Liberals and Moderates No Longer Welcome?

I can't remember exactly when I was no longer a committed and loyal Democrat. It started to happen, gradually, back when I wrote for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. As a member of the paper's editorial board, I had to argue and defend opinions and values that were basic to most Americans way back then. But the cracks had started to form.

I voted for every Democratic presidential candidate from Lyndon B. Johnson to Michael Dukakis. I didn't vote for former Democrat-turned-Republican Ronald Reagan. I wrote columns attacking Reagan for his budget-busting borrowing that helped finance his military build-up – a policy, along with a few others, that I only realized later would end the former “Cold War” with the old Soviet Union without a shot fired, nor any Americans getting killed in yet-another war.

I reread John F. Kennedy's eloquent speeches. Took them all to heart.

Equality. Compassion. Respect. Tolerance. Camelot. All were defining legs of the Democratic

Party. As a graduate student, I watched Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream Speech" live on television and was transported by his "Free at last . . ." finale.

But change was coming. King's views are now forbidden among today's New Democrat political candidates and their media publicists. For example, his pleading that we judge people by the quality of their character and not the color of their skin is not allowed.

President John Kennedy's 1960s realistic approach to domestic policy — recall that *he cut taxes* to spur the economy, *the exact reverse* of what the Biden Democrats in Washington (including all Democrats from Illinois) did just this past August; *they voted for increases in income taxes* for everyone who makes more than about \$25,000 a year — has now been rejected by the Democratic Party. Why?

Because the ideology of "democratic socialism" has become the Democratic Party's line. Woe to any Democrat who does not follow this line, as those who live in the Chicago suburbs have seen with their members of Congress. Witness the recent primary defeat of long-time moderate liberal Democrat Dan Lipinski. Real liberals and moderates don't exist in Illinois Democrat politics any more.

Former pro-life Democrat U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, like so many politicians who went to Washington to "drain the swamp" of corruption there,

found out instead that our national government in Washington is a hot tub.

Our other Illinois U.S. Senator, Tammy Duckworth – who is up for re-election this November – is a military veteran who deserves our thanks for her service and the sacrifice she made. But she actually voted for the Biden Democrat legislation 95 percent of the time – the spending and tax increases, all the extremist social policies, and all the green energy legislation that primarily benefits the Democratic Party’s largest donors, not us.

Never in my former Democrat lifetime could I have imagined national and Illinois politics being so corrupted by this failed far-left ideology. But now it’s all here.

Both sides of the political aisle are always guilty of political sins, but not equally now, I’m afraid. From the far left has blossomed contempt of freedom of discussion and beliefs. Democrats now use *force* instead of persuasion to achieve their big government agenda.

Parents are directed to bow to expert educational dictates, even when those dictates are hurting their children. Pluralism, once a liberal cornerstone, has become a dirty word. America no longer is a melting pot; it’s a geopolitical aggregation of dueling clans.

This calls to mind a classic funny line from comedian Mel Brooks. In a comedy sketch, Carl Reiner asks Brooks, playing a two-thousand-year-old man,

if his clan had a national anthem. “Certainly,” Brooks replied. “You don’t forget a national anthem: It is ‘Let ’em all go to hell except for Cave 76!’”

The American Civil Liberties Union, formerly America’s premier champion of free speech, once even bravely fought in the courts to protect the free speech and assembly rights of Nazis to march in Skokie, Illinois (the home of many Holocaust survivors). No more. The ACLU now is a handmaid of the extremists, fighting, for example, against the free exercise of religion by making the Catholic nuns of the Little Sisters of the Poor violate their religious beliefs when it came to abortion.

Once liberals fought for free expression; now they support the blacklisting of opposing views on social media. Liberals once understood the important role that traditional culture played in strengthening society. Now anyone who worries about the decline of the family as the foundation of a just and civil society is ridiculed or condemned as homophobic. Conformity to radical dogma – whether it is exposing kindergarten kids to controversial doctrines about gender and sex, or teaching that a white child is inherently racist – is prescribed as absolutely necessary, no discussion allowed.

Leftist attacks on some of our historic liberal and moderate American values are breaking out all over America. One hotspot in particular is the one-party Democratic state of Illinois.

Democratic Governor J. B. Pritzker has exercised a level of authoritarian control that has damaged, as never before, the lives of parents and their children by closing classrooms throughout the state, unlike in other states, depriving Illinois schoolchildren of more than a year of classroom learning that will cripple many of them for life.

Thanks to Pritzker's far-reaching pandemic lockdown orders, small businesses across the state also were shut down, and more than a hundred thousand workers lost their jobs. This from a political party that has long insisted that it was the voice of middle-class working Americans.

Democrats regularly claim they're the only political party fighting well-funded special interests from taking over elections and dictating policy that defies the public interest. No longer. Government worker unions are huge campaign donors to Pritzker and Illinois Democrats. Consequently, the government unions practically run the state, standing in the way of badly needed public school and pension reform – never mind the crushing, almost \$300 billion in pension debt that is hurling Illinois towards an economic disaster.

In Republican-controlled states, reform-minded Democrats fought to end gerrymandered redistricting that handed the incumbent candidates unfair election advantages. Not in Illinois. Pritzker promised to end super-partisan redistricting that favored Democrats.

He didn't. Instead, he signed a same-old, same-old political map that continued the abuses that have been the hallmark of Democratic Illinois politicians for decades.

To pay for the Pritzker Democrats' reckless spending binge, proposals for more tax increases are on the agenda for *next* year, just like the 30 cents a gallon gasoline and diesel fuel tax increases, which (after the 2019 tax increase) are now scheduled to automatically increase every year by an additional 3 cents a gallon. Pritzker announced that he stopped that increase this year, but he only delayed it until next year – after, he assumes, he will have been re-elected.

Before Governor Pritzker's gasoline/diesel tax increase in 2019, Illinois drivers paid the twenty-first-highest fuel taxes. Illinois residents now pay the second-highest fuel tax in the USA, at 78 cents a gallon. Only California pays more.

There's more. Much more. More reasons for political moderates and independent-minded Democrats to rise up and say, "Enough." Yes, I know that it's difficult to cut the cord to the political party you grew up with, even just one time for an opposing candidate you may not entirely agree with on every issue. But, what have you got to lose, when – as you will learn in the next pages – you see what's coming from four more years of Pritzker rule of Illinois?

I took a lot of thumping from my readers when the betrayal of my old Democrat Party values finally prompted me to vote for “the other guy.”

In this book I write about Pritzker and Illinois because it is my home state, a place that I care about. I was born, raised, educated, and employed there for almost my entire life, except for college and a stint in the U.S. Navy. Yes, I’ve moved to Florida where my wife’s family lives and where freedom and commonsense are the rule *and* the law. That still doesn’t diminish my caring for, or interest in, my old home state.

So, where did Pritzker and Illinois Democrats go wrong? In these pages, you will see my effort, perhaps not always persuasive to you, to explain why I didn’t leave the Democratic Party, but rather, why the Democratic Party left me. I hope you will travel along with me in this little book, all the way to the last chapter. It should not take you very long.

You will find out many things not reported in the news media, which I hope will help you make an informed decision for your future—for you, your family, your neighbors, and your fellow citizens of Illinois.

Thank you for taking a look at what one former liberal Democrat has to say.