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Contact:
Kent McMillen
312/909-5861
PR@LPillinois.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

NO INCOME TAX INCREASE MR. GOVERNOR

A wage and hiring freeze, streamlining Springfield, paring down pensions.

Those are just a few of the 12 suggestions offered by the *Chicago Tribune* editorial board before Illinois Governor Pat Quinn institutes an income tax increase.

It seems disingenuous that Quinn, governor for only a few months, would call for an increase in the state income tax before he has looked at other options, as called for in the *Tribune* editorial.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois (“LP Illinois”) feels that, in these uncertain economic times when families and businesses are forced to cut back spending to balance their budgets without outside help, the State of Illinois is in no position to expect higher taxes from anyone, regardless of their income. We humbly suggest that Governor Quinn and the Illinois General Assembly take this route as well, instead of squeezing more dollars out of the Illinois taxpayers.

As indicated in a recent letter from National Taxpayers United of Illinois, there are 3,195 retired state and local government employees in Illinois who receive over \$100,000 a year in pension benefits, and an increase in the state income tax would most assuredly go toward fulfilling the largely unfunded state pension program. It is time for state employees to fund their own retirements like those of us in the private sector, and not to expect the taxpayers to be responsible for this.

The governor needs to focus more on how he can make state government more lean and efficient, not how he can increase revenue through an unnecessary tax increase.

Illinois has a history of corrupt, irresponsible government, and an increase in the income tax will only add to that perception. LP Illinois feels that Governor Quinn needs to grab this moment, differentiate himself from the tax and spend, redistribution of wealth philosophy and return Illinois to fairness and fiscal responsibility. We also urge all citizens of Illinois to write their legislators and oppose any increase in the income tax.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois is a political home for those who value honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility and compassion.