



# Important Numbers

Amtrak .....	800/872-7245
Citizens Utility Board .....	800/669-5556
'Do Not Call' Registry .....	800/382-1222
Energy Assistance & Weatherization Hotline .....	800/252-8643
Food Stamps, Human Services .....	800/843-6154
Illinois Entrepreneurship Business Information Center .....	800/252-2923
Literacy/GED Hotline .....	800/321-9511
Lottery Information.....	800/252-1775
Rehabilitation Information Center, National Office .....	800/346-2742
Secretary of State.....	800/252-8980
Taxpayer Assistance - State(IL Dept. of Revenue).....	800/732-8866
Taxpayer Assistance - U.S. (IRS) .....	800/829-1040
Veterans' Benefits.....	800/827-1000

All Kids Program is a complete health care program for every uninsured child in Illinois, regardless of medical conditions or income. 1-866-ALL-KIDS.

The Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (ICHIP) is a state program for all Illinois residents who are unable to obtain private health insurance coverage. You must pay premiums to participate in the plan. 1-866-851-2751.

Developmental Disabilities helpline at 1-888-DD-PLANS or 1-866-376-8446 (TTY).

## Upcoming Events

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford's Second Annual Health Challenge Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Monday, January 19, 2009, Morton West High School, Berwyn

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford's African Heritage Month Health Fair, February 2009

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford's Youth Summit 2009, February 2009

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford's Second Annual Valentine's Blood Drive, St. Martin de Porres, Chicago, February 15, 2009

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford's Second Annual Job Fair, in conjunction with CMS and private corporations, March 2009

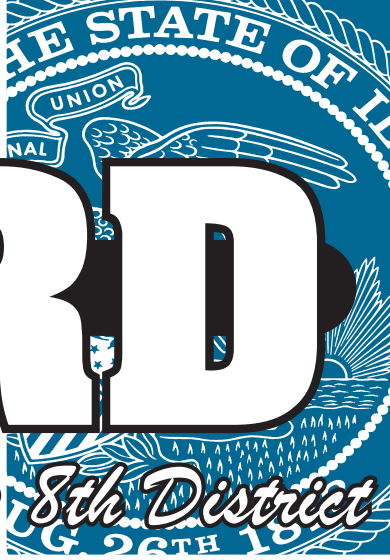
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*La Shawn K.*

# FORD

*State Representative • 8th District*



## 2009 Outlook & Survey

### In This Issue:

- Good Jobs for Illinois
- Reduce Crime Recidivism by Providing Ex-Offender Supports
- Foreclosure Crisis and Community Stabilization
- Education
- Health Care
- Veterans Support

### 1. To improve local schools, the State and City of Chicago should (mark as many as you agree with):

- Direct more tax dollars into the classroom
- Fund schools primarily with income tax revenue, which would include increasing income taxes while reducing property taxes
- Enact an infrastructure improvement plan to build and repair schools
- Explore new ways to attract and retain quality teachers
- Allow tax vouchers to help pay for private school tuition

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. To help more residents access quality, affordable health care, the State should (choose one):

- Enact a universal, government-paid healthcare system
- Require residents to purchase health insurance and let the private market determine costs
- Provide tax credits for uninsured families that buy private-market insurance
- Leave the system the way it is
- Increase support for clinics that see patients regardless of ability to pay

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Should the State provide opportunities for reformed ex-offenders by promoting education and job creation? Yes or No (Circle One)

### 4. What should the State do to help those in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5. To improve local schools, the State and City of Chicago should (mark as many as you agree with):

- Provide taxpayers with a one-time financial assistance check to help stimulate the state economy
- Enact a statewide capital plan to fix our infrastructure and create thousands of jobs for our region
- Lobby the federal government for a share of the nearly \$1 trillion in federal funds used to bail out the banking industry
- Cut spending on non-essential budget items

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. What more should the State do to bring in more revenue? (Mark as many as you agree with.)

- Raise income taxes on all residents
- Raise income taxes on those earning more than \$250,000 per year
- Raise the sales tax
- Cut corporate tax loopholes to force businesses to pay more

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. If you could propose a new State law, what would it be?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Dear Fellow Citizen,**

Happy New Year! I would like to thank voters for re-electing me as the State Representative of the Eighth District to serve at this historic time, for like millions of Americans, I am thrilled beyond measure by the election of Illinois' very own Barack Obama to the Presidency of the United States of America.

November 4, 2008 is a date for history. On that date, Americans of every color and age, from coast to coast, came forward and chose a president based on the content of his character and not on the color of his skin, fulfilling part of Dr. Martin Luther King's dream. Barack Obama now leads us as President of this country; let's be prepared to work with President Obama, building alliances to create jobs, improve education, prevent foreclosures, and improve health care right here in Illinois. As your State Representative, I could not be more proud of our nation's audacious move toward change.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Springfield as we start the 96th General Assembly so we can live up to our oath of office, improving the quality of life of all of the citizens of Illinois. I will always work tirelessly to meet the needs of our communities.

I have provided phone numbers that may be useful in these tough economic times. I hope you will also take the time to fill out and return the attached survey. If I can ever be of service to you or your family, or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 773-378-5902.

Sincerely,

**Good Jobs for Illinois**

Rep. Ford will work for a Capital Construction Program that provides immediate investments to rebuild Illinois' roads and bridges and repair our schools, ensuring that schools meet their energy costs. The construction of a high school in the Austin community remains one of Rep. Ford's top priorities. Rep. Ford believes that capital improvement projects that help low-income Illinoisans have transportation access to jobs should be prioritized. Rep. Ford will work to create new job training programs for clean technologies such as advanced manufacturing and weatherization training.

Rep. Ford will also work to make credit available to small businesses. He will supports Illinois employers by providing a tax credit to companies that maintain or increase the number of full-time workers in Illinois; maintain their corporate headquarters in Illinois; pay decent wages; prepare workers for retirement; provide health insurance; and support employees who serve in the military.

**Reduce Crime Recidivism by Providing Ex-Offender Supports**

Rep. Ford will work to improve access to job training, substance abuse/ mental health counseling, and employment opportunities for ex-offenders, and will work with federal officials so that the funding from the federal Second Chance Act reduces barriers to employment. Rep. Ford has introduced legislation that will establish a fund from parolees for low interest loans that will assist ex-offenders to develop a business plan and start and operate their own businesses.

**Health Care**

Rep. Ford promotes affordable and accessible quality health care for all, and is especially interested in the prevention of childhood obesity. He is working for improved care and housing for persons with mental illness.

**Fact corner**

LIHEAP (assistance with utilities): heating assistance from November 1-April 30 (starts September 1 for seniors, disabled and families with young children): 877-411-9276.

**Foreclosure Crisis and Community Stabilization**

Hearing from people every day who are having problems paying their mortgages, Rep. Ford will work to enact a 90-day foreclosure moratorium for homeowners who are acting in good faith. Illinois communities will get a combined \$172 million in federal funds for the purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed properties to eliminate blight and Rep. Ford will work with local agencies to direct these federal Community Stabilization funds to improve our communities.

Rep. Ford was the author and chief sponsor of HR1276, which was adopted by the House, which urges Congress to enact a 2-year moratorium on interest rate reset increases under sub-prime adjustable rate mortgage home loans.

**Education**

Rep. Ford and other members from the House and Senate led the Illinois House of Representatives' Elementary and Secondary Education Committee Hearing at Oak Park Village Hall on September 18, 2008. This hearing examined how to provide equitable resources for local schools and received testimony from Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan and other prominent officials.

Adequate education funding that does not rely on property taxes is a top priority for Rep. Ford. Struggling students often have struggling parents, and Rep. Ford is working to provide in-school parent resource centers. Rep. Ford understands the needs of working families and he will work to expand high-quality after-school opportunities.

**Veterans Support**

With the prospect of many veterans returning from conflicts abroad, Rep. Ford will work with other elected officials to strengthen state veterans facilities, combat homelessness among our nations' veterans, and to provide a seamless transition from active duty to civilian life.

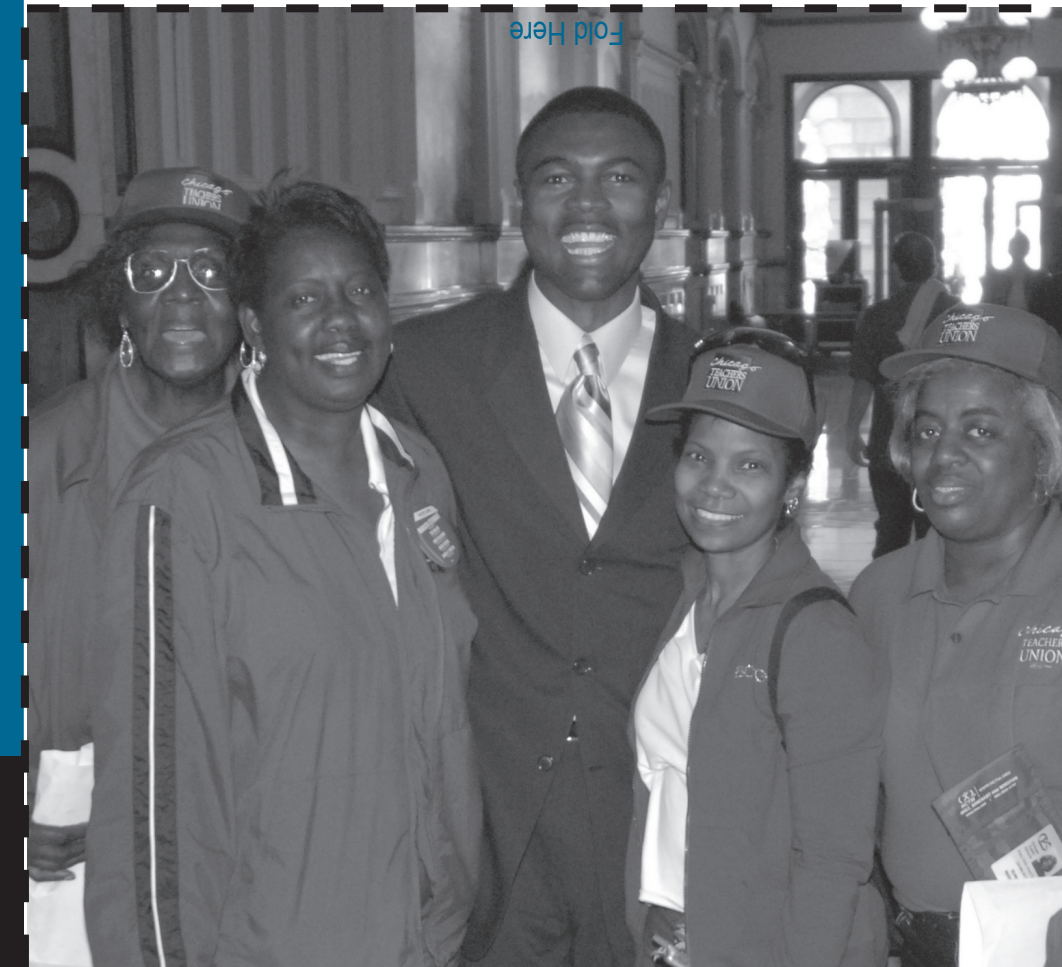
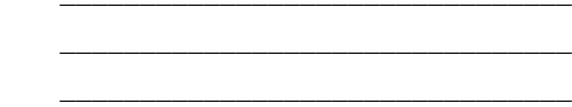
**Fact corner**

People filing for unemployment previously could receive only 13 weeks, but now can receive up to seven more weeks' worth, for weeks beginning on or after November 23, 2008.



**State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford**  
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