

STATE OF ILLINOIS COMPTROLLER DANIEL W. HYNES



B I O G R A P H Y

Daniel W. Hynes (Democrat) is serving his third term as State Comptroller. As the state's chief fiscal officer, Hynes, 39, has made government more accountable to the citizens of Illinois and been outspoken in pursuit of wasteful spending. As a public servant, he has forcefully advocated for the public good. And on matters of ethical leadership and governance, he has led both by legislative action and personal example.

MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE ACCOUNTABLE

- His six-year crusade to institute long-term budget reform resulted in legislation that spurned quick fixes, and the creation of both a Rainy Day Fund and a permanent funding source for it. He has repeatedly warned against growing structural deficits, and again in 2007 drafted legislation to address structural budget issues that jeopardize health care access to the poor and elderly.
- Expanded the Public Accountability Project, viewable on the Comptroller's website, which gives the public and the General Assembly a comprehensive view of each agency's performance.
- Refused to pay a foreign firm nearly \$2.6 million for flu vaccines the state never received.
- Saved taxpayers \$9.6 million by forcing the shut-down of a taxpayer-funded trade group that an IOC audit showed was wasting money on lavish expenditures.
- In the midst of budgetary crises, suspended pay raises for state judges pending Supreme Court action, and froze payments for member initiative pork projects.

ADVOCATING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

- Made state funding of life-saving medical research a top priority, resulting in the creation and funding in 2006 of the Illinois Regenerative Medicine Institute for the development of stem cell-based treatments and cures for diseases that affect nearly every family in Illinois. In 2007, he helped lead the successful effort to make public funding of all ethical forms of stem cell research permanently legal in Illinois.
- Championed legislation that stopped the implementation of new federal rules that would have resulted in the elimination of overtime pay for as many as 350,000 Illinois workers.
- Signed an Executive Order seeking to assure that all recipients of state construction contracts and grants comply with the state's Prevailing Wage Act.

LEADING THE FIGHT FOR HIGHER ETHICAL STANDARDS

- His proposed 2007 ethics reform initiative bans campaign contributions from companies awarded state contracts, toughens lobbyist disclosure requirements and creates voluntary public campaign financing for state Supreme Court and Appellate Court races as a first step toward establishing a sustainable funding system for statewide offices in Illinois. In 2005 he issued an Executive Order banning campaign contributions from persons with more than \$10,000 in contracts with the Comptroller's Office.
- Sponsored successful legislation barring corporations from getting state contracts for five years if they are convicted of accounting fraud. Also, fought to prohibit the state from doing business with corporations that incorporate in foreign tax havens to escape paying their fair share of Illinois taxes.
- Passed legislation that bars tax scofflaws and child support deadbeats from getting state contracts.
- Tightened state contracting requirements to provide greater public scrutiny of the contracting process.

GOVERNING WITH COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY

- Has operated his office with fewer dollars and fewer employees than when he was first elected Comptroller nine years ago.
- Initiated cash management practices that have provided payment relief to thousands of state vendors and generated hundreds of millions in accelerated revenues for the State of Illinois.
- Made the state a better business partner by strengthening the Prompt Payment Act so that vendors receive interest when payments are severely delayed.
- Spearheaded bi-partisan passage of sweeping consumer protection reforms in the cemetery and funeral home industries, toughened oversight of crematories and initiated legal actions that resulted in monetary restitution to hundreds of defrauded funeral home customers.

Before taking office, Hynes was a health care attorney. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Notre Dame in 1990, and earned a J.D. with Honors in 1993 from the Loyola University School of Law. Hynes married Christina Kerger, M.D., in 1999. They have three sons: Charlie, Liam and Finn.