



News From State Representative Sandy Pathos

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Pihos applauds Senate vote to remove Governor

Glen Ellyn, IL...Rep. Sandy Pihos lauds the historic vote in the Illinois State Senate to convict and remove from office embattled Governor Rod Blagojevich. Pihos voted along with an overwhelming majority of the Illinois House to impeach the Governor, beginning a process that ended today with the Governor's conviction.

"This is an end to a very sad chapter in the history of our state," remarked Rep. Pihos. "I am glad at the very least we are now finally going to be able to move forward and address the many challenges that we face here in Illinois."

The Governor's impeachment and conviction came following his December 9 arrest on charges of corruption by the FBI. The Governor faces criminal accusations that include his attempt to sell President Barack Obama's former US Senate seat.

Though he did present closing arguments on his behalf, Governor Blagojevich refused to participate in the Senate's impeachment trial, calling it unfair and biased. However, the Senate took great pains to ensure fairness towards Governor Blagojevich, and he had ample opportunity to present evidence and testimony in his defense.

"The Governor's pattern of corruption and abuse of power had to be put to an end," said Rep. Pihos. "I applaud the State Senate for carrying out its constitutional duty in a professional and ethical matter. I can only hope that this occasion will serve to remind all of us that we are in Springfield to serve the people, and not to serve ourselves."

According to the Illinois Constitution, Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn (D-Chicago) will rise to the Governor's office upon Gov. Blagojevich's removal.

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