



**“We need economic reform to spur job growth, education reform to ensure that every child has access to a quality education, political reform to return power back to the people, property tax relief, pension reform to get our state’s financial footing back on the right track, and workers’ compensation reform to attract job creators and make us more competitive.”**

— Gov. Bruce Rauner, on November 22nd at a town hall meeting in Chicago

**Gov. Bruce Rauner (R)**

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& Economic Opportunity**

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# Illinois

**Pop. (2016):** 13,022,485

**Median household income:** \$57,337

**Credit Rating:** BBB/Negative

**Pop. growth 2016–2021:** 0.22%

**Median age:** 37.5

**Right-to-work state:** No

## Legislative Update

- Senate Bill 2814, the Future Energy Jobs, ensures the Quad Cities and Clinton power facilities remain open for another 10 years. It contains a guaranteed cap that energy prices cannot increase more than 25 cents on the average residential home, and cannot increase more than 1.3 percent on commercial and industrial users over the next ten years. Rates are projected to decrease for the first several years due to the utilities being able to amortize energy efficiency. It also promotes unprecedented wind and solar expansion and preserves zero-emission generation, maintaining Illinois’ status in leading the nation in zero-carbon generation.
- In February, Gov. Rauner signed an executive order directing the Illinois Department of Commerce to work in collaboration with the newly formed Illinois Business and Economic Development Corporation (ILBEDC) to attract businesses and investment and encourage job growth and economic development throughout Illinois. It also will lead the research and development of best practices for economic development, and make recommendations to the Department of Commerce.



**23**

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2016-2017: **0**



**8**

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure: **\$2,391,472**



**22**

Number of NCRCs: **151,319** | Percent Improvement 2016-2017: **1%**



**14**

College Attainment Percent: **49.6%**



**16**

Lowest Electric Power Cost (cents/kWh): **6.50**



**47**

**GDP**  
**5th**



**2015 GDP**  
(in millions of current US\$)  
**\$776,882**