



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, our State's long-running financial and economic challenges have turned into an unprecedented crisis that we must address; and,

**WHEREAS**, for two years, the majority in the General Assembly has ignored our recommendations for a long-term balanced budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, for the last two weeks, the majority in the General Assembly has ignored our request to stay in Springfield and get the job done; and,

**WHEREAS**, Republicans in the General Assembly have laid out a compromise budget plan that is real and balanced; provides a true path to property tax reduction; reforms the way our state operates to reduce wasteful spending; funds our schools and human services; and spurs economic growth and job creation; and,

**WHEREAS**, this new compromise balanced budget plan is one I would sign into law and one which I hope the majority in the General Assembly will accept; and,

**WHEREAS**, Illinois needs economic reforms to create jobs; and,

**WHEREAS**, Illinois would have 650,000 more jobs if it had simply grown at the national average rates since 2000, but has foregone those opportunities due to economic stagnation and decline; and,

**WHEREAS**, both individuals and businesses across the state are suffering under the immense weight of the highest average property taxes of any state, and the fourth-highest overall tax burden of any state; and,

**WHEREAS** Illinois has the most units of local government of any state, which contribute to driving up taxes without being accountable to taxpayers for adding value; and,

**WHEREAS**; many Illinoisans are being forced from their homes and communities by an inability to afford the State's ever-increasing demands, leading to the most significant out-migration of any state; and,

**WHEREAS**, the businesses that could be fueling healthy economic growth and opportunity are instead faced with unsustainable costs and red tape; and,

**WHEREAS** a lack of term limits has allowed for an accumulation of power that undermines Illinoisans' trust in their government; and,

**WHEREAS**, reforming these irresponsible practices across state government is critical to protecting taxpayers and preventing our current fiscal emergencies from resurfacing in the future; and,

**WHEREAS**, the difficult decisions required to reform state government must be made with urgency before a lack of action causes further harm; and,

**WHEREAS**, failure to enact the compromise balanced budget plan by June 30, 2017 will have devastating and long-lasting ramifications for our state; and,

**WHEREAS**, we must ease the minds of parents with school-age children, reassure people in need, help our colleges and universities, grow jobs and bring relief to hard-working taxpayers; and,



**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution empowers the Governor to convene a special session of the General Assembly;

**THEREFORE**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution, I, Governor Bruce Rauner, hereby call and convene the 100th General Assembly in a special session to commence at 12:00 p.m. on June 21, 2017, for the purpose of considering legislation, new or pending, which addresses a balanced budget and structural reforms including but not limited to property tax relief, job creation, worker's compensation reform, government consolidation, education, term limits, pension reform and spending limitations.

The Secretary of State shall take whatever reasonable steps are necessary to notify the members of the General Assembly of the purpose, date, and time set for convening this Special Session pursuant to 25 ICLS 15/3.

ISSUED: June 15, 2017

Bruce Rauner  
Governor, State of Illinois