

Illinois Report 2010

Video Introducing the Illinois Report 2010 [Transcript]

by Robert Rich

We have an economic crisis in Illinois and that economic crisis has to be addressed. On the one hand, we have the ongoing structural deficit, meaning we have more recurring expenditures than we have recurring revenue. Our fiscal and budget chapter points out very well that we need to both address the expenditure side of the equation and the revenue side of the equation. Unless we do that, we're not going to begin to address the economic problems facing Illinois. **(0:36)**

We also have hit upon *the* issue for 2010, both in Illinois and nationally, that is the issue of jobs. Our chapter points out very well that we need to get at the root causes of why we are losing jobs in Illinois and how jobs need to be created. **(0:57)**

I also want to highlight that we, for the first time, have now published a set of regional indices of how the regional economies, the major MSAs, in Illinois are doing, as well as our usual summary of the Flash Index over the course of the year. **(1:18)**

We have new dimensions to the report which we are proud of: Cedric Herring has done a wonderful chapter on the impact of the recession on race. He points out that racial minorities are impacted by the recession more negatively than others. We have looked at the potential impact of national health care reform on the state of Illinois. **(1:46)**

And we have some [more] new dimension to the report: we have a chapter focusing on agricultural policy and in particular the impact of climate change, and we have a chapter on waste and recycling issues, to describe the state of the art and the issues facing Illinois. And finally, as we started with last year, we have an essay at the end that looks at reform of Illinois and the issues that we face in reforming Illinois government. **(2:21)**