

Blind Trust

Statement (Jordan Abudayyeh)

“Governor-Elect Pritzker believes that public service is a public trust, and he has taken steps to ensure that the Illinois Governor’s Office operates free of any financial conflict of interest and upholds the highest ethical standards during his term of office.

“Governor-Elect Pritzker has created a blind trust to manage his personal assets, and has removed himself from decision-making authority and knowledge of decisions of family trusts that he is a part of. Extensive work has taken place to eliminate potential conflicts of interest while also ensuring the Governor-Elect can meet Illinois’ reporting requirements.”

Background

- When he took office, Gov. Rauner designated an Investment Adviser with power of attorney and established “blind trust procedures.” The adviser was Roundtable Investment Partners, a firm where Rauner had previously invested.
 - A 2018 lawsuit revealed that Governor Rauner’s commitment was just a charade and that he had been conducting private investment business on the back porch of the Governor’s Mansion.
- The enclosed memo and attachment provide significant detail on the steps the Governor-Elect is taking.

Personal Trust

- The JB Pritzker Blind Trust goes further than the previous governor.
 - The Northern Trust Company will serve as an independent trustee, and the Governor-Elect will not be able to provide input on investments or investment decisions.
 - The Governor-Elect is divesting his personally-held direct interests in companies that have contracts that are wholly or partially funded with state dollars.
 - In accordance with Illinois law which requires that elected officials file annual Statements of Economic Interests that include extensive information on investments they hold, the Governor-elect will receive enough information to enable him to provide the requisite information as well as to allow him to continue to disclose tax information.

Family Trusts

- The pre-existing terms of the family trusts, which are irrevocable, do not give the Governor-Elect the authority to alter or terminate the trusts or their investments, which means the family trusts’ assets cannot be transferred to another entity such as a blind trust. The Governor-Elect has given up as much control and knowledge of these trusts as is possible under the law.
 - Governor-Elect Pritzker will not make asset allocation or risk decisions regarding assets held in these trusts. Instead, the respective trustees will control all aspects of managing the trust investments.
 - Governor-Elect Pritzker will not receive regular reporting regarding the performance of assets held in these trusts. The Governor-Elect has instructed the trustees to provide him only with the minimum amount of information necessary to prepare and verify his Statement of Economic Interests, his personal income tax returns, and other financial filings required by law.

- Governor-Elect Pritzker will not take any action in his official role or communicate with any office of Illinois government regarding assets held in trust, nor will any such assets receive any favor or advantage in any Illinois government proceeding.
- In the event Governor-Elect Pritzker becomes aware that he is entitled to receive a return from an investment held in trust in which the underlying company enters into or acquires a state contract during his term, the Governor-Elect will make an annual charitable contribution in the amount of the return.