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VIDEO: *Government Must Govern*

Have you seen the signs in front of our elementary and junior high schools? One sign says that the state owes District 300 \$5.8 million. Another sign in School District U-46 says that the state owes that district over \$12 million. The schools have a right to be frustrated. The bottom line, however, is that Illinois has more bills than it has money to pay for. It is important to note that this did not happen overnight. It's the result of bad fiscal policy over several decades.

But over the past three years, as your State Senator, I've worked hard for common sense, fiscally responsible solutions to our state's financial problems. I've also voted to fully fund education. Last year I voted to cut more than \$2 billion from our state budget while still providing the funding our schools are now calling for.

When I return to the General Assembly this coming spring session, I will propose the following common sense solutions to our current budget crisis:

First: We must focus on creating jobs through workforce development and do everything we can to improve our competitive edge here in the state of Illinois.

Second: When it comes to spending cuts, we must get everyone together and put everything on the table. While there is a necessary and proper role of state government, government must live within its means.

And third: If spending cuts alone are not enough to resolve our nearly \$12 billion budget deficit, then and only then, should we increase revenue. Any increase, however, must be temporary and end as soon as our economy improves.

I believe, as Thomas Jefferson once said, "Government that governs least governs best." I say, however, government must govern.

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