



Executive Order

Number 8 (2000)

Executive Order Creating Balanced Growth Cabinet

WHEREAS, every Illinois resident has the right to a safe and healthy environment, and to protection of the tremendous natural and economic resources with which our state is blessed; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is faced with vanishing open spaces, loss of agricultural land, decaying urban infrastructure, increased traffic congestion, and a reduction in the quality of life in many existing communities; and

WHEREAS, if allowed to persist and worsen, these problems will damage our state's economic competitiveness, result in the loss of irreplaceable natural resources, and erode the quality of life we enjoy in the Land of Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, achieving balance between the oftentimes competing interests of economic development and environmental preservation requires careful planning, consensus-building, and effective stewardship by state and local governments and others; and

WHEREAS, the enhancement of the quality of life for future generations in Illinois will depend largely on the success of cooperative efforts among and between state government, local officials, environmentalists, developers, farmers, homebuilders, naturalists, business people, commuters – in short, every group and individual with an interest in how growth occurs in Illinois; and

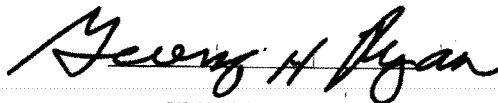
WHEREAS, because of the varied missions and responsibilities of the several state agencies with programs and policies that affect growth and the environment in Illinois, state government must do its part by developing a renewed commitment to a fully coordinated and integrated decision-making process that will lead to better informed decisions, and to the establishment of long-range goals, strategies and programs which will balance the vitally important needs of the state's environment and natural resources, and the Illinois economy, while protecting and preserving local decision-making and authority;

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, Governor of Illinois, hereby order the following:

1. There is created a Balanced Growth Cabinet, headed by the Senior Advisor to the Governor on Environment and Natural Resources.
2. Balanced Growth Cabinet Members shall include as permanent members: the Directors of the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Development Finance Authority and the Housing Development Authority; and the

Secretary of the Department of Transportation. The Cabinet may seek the *ad hoc* participation of other state departments, agencies, boards and commissions, public interest groups and private organizations, as necessary or appropriate.

3. The objectives of the Cabinet shall include, but not be limited to, coordination of key decisions impacting growth and development in Illinois; evaluation of existing state programs to ensure those programs are aiding in the accomplishment of the Governor's goals for balanced growth; recommendation of additions or changes to state programs to make those programs more effective in achieving balanced growth; identification and maximization of state, federal and private sources of assistance and support; and delivery of quality services and the enhancement of the quality of life available to the people of Illinois.
4. The Cabinet's work shall be guided by these five core principles:
 - a) Reducing Traffic Congestion – We must invest in and promote transit and road and highway improvements that reduce traffic congestion, as well as increase access to jobs in existing communities.
 - b) Preservation of Open Space – We must invest in and promote the protection and preservation of natural areas and open space, before they are forever lost to development.
 - c) Reinvestment and Redevelopment – We must invest in programs that encourage the revitalization of existing communities, and that bring jobs back to already developed but decaying urban and industrial sites.
 - d) Quality of Life – We must invest in programs that increase the quality of life in our communities, which means better schools, safer streets, more affordable housing, clean environment, recreational opportunities, and more.
 - e) Local Government Partnership – We must proceed as partners with local government. Incentives for growth must be utilized, rather than penalties. The state will not dictate to local governments; rather, local officials are critical to this effort, and their authority must be preserved.
5. The Cabinet is encouraged to seek public input, pursue public-private partnerships and promote community-based planning on key issues affecting growth and development in Illinois.
6. The Balanced Growth Cabinet shall meet at least every two months.
7. This Executive Order shall be effective immediately.



GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor

April 28, 2000

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INDEX DEPARTMENT

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IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE