



JB PRITZKER

Governor

JB Pritzker (Democrat) was sworn in as the 43rd Governor of Illinois on Jan. 14, 2019. Raised by parents who taught him to fight for progressive values from a young age, Pritzker has spent his life standing up for social and economic justice and expanding opportunity in communities across the State of Illinois.

Those values led him to become a national leader in early childhood education, working for decades to create and expand early learning programs for low-income children. After years of dedication, Pritzker was asked by President Obama in 2014 to help organize the White House Summit on Early Childhood Education. In Illinois, Pritzker recognized that thousands of children across the state go to school hungry every day, and kids cannot effectively learn on an empty stomach. He partnered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Share our Strength to expand federal school breakfast grants in Illinois, making it possible for 230,000 more low-income children to get a free breakfast and start their day off right.

As a businessman and entrepreneur, Pritzker has helped create thousands of jobs in Illinois. In 2012, he founded 1871 — a nonprofit small-business incubator that brought together the educational and civic resources to support startup businesses — which has since helped entrepreneurs create thousands of good-paying jobs and more than 1,000 new companies in our state. Since the creation of 1871, Chicago has been named one of the top 10 technology startup hubs in the world, and 1871 was named the best incubator in the world. Governor Pritzker remains committed to helping entrepreneurs and small businesses get started and grow across our state.

A staunch advocate for righting historic wrongs and fighting discrimination, Pritzker has stood against hatred and bigotry throughout his life. He was a key supporter of establishing the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. The center has become a national leader in the fight to reform our criminal justice system, helping free innocent people doing someone else's time. He also served as chair of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. As chair, Pritzker stood up for the rights of the disadvantaged, not only fighting for victims of gender, racial, religious and sexual orientation discrimination, but also working to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to jobs and housing.

The descendant of Jewish immigrants, Pritzker recognizes that we must teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust and honor the memories of those who were lost. He led the creation of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, a nationally recognized institution where more than 120,000 students, teachers, police officers and others learn to fight bigotry, hatred and intolerance every year.

Governor Pritzker and his wife, MK, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 2018, and they are the proud parents of daughter, Teddi, and son, Donny.

207 State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62706; 217-782-0244; 888-261-3336 (TTY); www.illinois.gov
100 W. Randolph St., Ste. 16-100, Chicago, IL 60601; 312-814-2121