

TO: RICH MILLER
FROM: ROSEN

FYI:
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Hynes opposes tax on the rich

Comptroller in Kane to tout Senate bid

By ADAM KOVAC
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes op-

poses a proposed state constitutional amendment that would double the state income tax paid by the rich.



Hynes

While routing his U.S. Senate bid on Wednesday, Hynes touched on the proposal that Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn endorsed earlier this week, but kept a visit to Kane County focused on grabbing Illinois' share of federal dollars to boost the state's ailing economy.

"I wouldn't advocate a tax increase at the state level," Hynes said.

Instead, Hynes, 35, backed securing additional federal funds for state infrastructure improvements such as better roads, bridges and airports, a plan to create jobs and lure corporations to the far west Chicago suburbs.

"Businesses don't want to come here if they can't get from A to B," he said.

Quinn's plan calls for an initiative on the November 2004 ballot for a 3 percent income-tax surcharge on people who earn more than \$250,000 annually to pump more money into school funding. Gov. Rod Blagojevich also distanced himself from the proposal.

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Hynes, the state's chief fiscal officer, said his agenda in Washington, should he win the general election to succeed U.S. Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, R-Illiness, includes other options, such as revitalizing Illinois' coal industry and manufacturing base.

"We basically have to decide, as a nation, are we going to have a healthy manufacturing sector or are we just going to let it wither away?" Hynes said.

But the Chicago Democrat must first win a crowded, March 16, 2004, primary, even though he commands about a 24 percent lead over other candidates, according to a mid-August poll conducted by his campaign.

Coupled with his name recognition, Hynes has been the front-runner for the Democratic nomination since former U.S. Sen. Carol Braun said she would not seek Fitzgerald's post. Other Democrats include state Sen. Barsek, Obama of Chicago, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, former Chicago Board of Education President Gery Chico, Chicago millionaire Blair Hull, Joyce Washington and radio personality Jerry Seinfeld.

The winner would face the champion of an equally competitive GOP primary that includes state Sen. Steve Rauschenberger of Elgin, Aurora dairy magnate James Oberweis, investment banker Jack Ryan of Wilmette, Andy McKenna of Glenview and Chirijeev Kathuria of Oak Brook.

"Perhaps, everyone else is running against me," Hynes said of the primary. "I think we're in a good position to win this race."

If elected to Congress, Hynes, who has a reputation for fiscal responsibility, also said he wants to examine the cost of the war with Iraq to see if some of the money could be better spent without compromising the military and humanitarian mission.

"We need to finish the job; we need to make that investment," Hynes said. "What I'm saying is, if we're going to spend \$87 billion, how can they turn around and tell us we don't have enough money for X, Y and Z?"

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