Historical Editorial Support for Recall in Illinois

10/28/07 *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* Removing a governor

"That is, should Illinois join the 18 states that give voters -- as opposed to lawmakers -- the ballot power to remove state officials from office?

The Blagojevich experience suggests that the answer is yes, Illinois should write a recall mechanism into its constitution. Having endured the Blagojevich era, we believe voters never should have to endure another one like it. They instead should have the power to recall an inept governor."

11/07/07 *DECATUR HERALD & REVIEW* Recall option needed, despite its timing

"Still, voters deserve a recall option. Legislators should keep the pressure on Madigan and Jones to allow votes on it."

11/08/07 *ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR* Frustrated voters deserve the option to recall politicians

"That's why any talk of adding recall to the Illinois Constitution must be about more than one man's performance. Recall should be available to use against any elected official whose work has been offensive, careless and just short of illegal."

12/03/07 *KANKAKEE DAILY JOURNAL* Editorial: Settling the issue

"That's precisely why, too, the right to recall should be guaranteed to all voters for all elected positions. It puts the power in the hands of the voters."

03/07/08 *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* Busy days on the Blago beat

"So a note to House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President Emil Jones: Let the recall legislation come to a vote. Give the people of Illinois a chance to decide if this is what they want."

04/01/08 *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* Give the governor his recall

"But the need for a recall provision goes beyond any one officeholder. Blagojevich's reign follows the certifiably corrupt term of George Ryan. Whenever such failed leaders don't have the personal dignity to stop pocketing a paycheck from citizens, those citizens shouldn't have to wait for the next election to declare, 'You are serving your interests, not ours. You are dismissed."

04/04/08 *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* Emil Jones and a recall vote

"That's right. Eighty House members signaled that they'd give citizens the right to recall state officials and legislators who can't or won't do their jobs."

04/04/08 *CHAMPAIGN NEWS-GAZETTE* Give citizens a vote on recall

"Illinois' Constitution doesn't give voters the chance to recall an elected official who is corrupt or incompetent. It should."

04/04/08 *BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT* Trying to cow fans of recall

"At a minimum, the recall threat might keep our state leaders a little closer to the straight and narrow."

04/04/08 *ALTON TELEGRAPH* Recall amendment might help

"Perhaps a constitutional amendment that would give voters the power to recall our statewide officials and legislators when they fail to perform is just the incentive they need to get off their collective duffs… and get the job done."

04/04/08 *DAILY HERALD* State rife with corruption needs recall law

"For too long, the people of Illinois have been forced to witness an embarrassing procession of corrupt public officials into federal court, and incompetence in government, both of which have abused their hard-earned tax dollars and shaken their faith in some of those they've elected to serve them. They might not feel as powerless if they had the chance to recall them from office, to correct their mistakes."

04/04/08 *ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR* Illinois voters deserve right to fire inept lawmakers

"In private industry, if job performance was inadequate, you'd get fired. However, if you're an elected public official, you can't get fired until the next election. When you have the power of incumbency with you, it makes job loss unlikely.

That's why we think it makes sense to give voters a chance to correct themselves and recall an elected official who is not doing what needs to be done."

04/06/08 *BLOOMINGTON PANTAGRAPH* Give voters the power to 'fire' elected officials

"The proposed amendment the Illinois House is expected to act on this week could not only change the state Constitution, it could change the face of Illinois politics."

"Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn and others have been advocating a recall provision for years. State Sen. Dan Rutherford, R-Chenoa, is also among the supporters. The time is ripe and the opportunity shouldn't be missed."

04/09/08 *DECATUR HERALD &REVIEW* State recall effort is too late for target

"Given the state's track record with elected officials, recall is a power that the voters should have."

06/15/08 *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* Impeach Blagojevich?

"There are many reasons to give people the power to fire the public officials they employ. The most urgent reason, of course, is that voters shouldn't have to wait until 2011 to be rid of an inept governor."