

Quinn is trailing in 2010 cash race

He has \$83,000 to campaign for governor while would-be competitor has \$3.5 million

By Rick Pearson | Tribune reporter
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[Pat Quinn](#) could soon become Illinois' next governor as [Rod Blagojevich](#) faces a Senate impeachment trial next week, but the lieutenant governor ranks near the bottom in the money race among those eyeing the 2010 election for the state's chief executive.

Disclosure reports filed with the State Board of Elections show Quinn, the two-term Democratic running mate of Blagojevich, began the year with little more than \$83,000 in campaign cash—a far cry from the \$3.5 million Atty. Gen. [Lisa Madigan](#) reported.

The financial filings mark the unofficial starting point for the state's political money race heading into 2010. Statewide candidates will have to file petitions for office in November for next year's Feb. 2 primary.

"Anybody who's looking to run for statewide office, it's helpful to have a lot in the bank right now," said Charles Wheeler, a political journalism professor at the [University of Illinois](#) at Springfield.

With Blagojevich facing removal from office by the Illinois Senate, a move spurred by his Dec. 9 arrest on federal corruption charges, Quinn would move into the state's top job and be in position to vastly increase his fundraising to seek election as governor.

But another statewide contest next year—the U.S. Senate seat that Blagojevich appointed [Roland Burris](#) to fill—may siphon away some potential contenders for governor. Candidates cannot transfer money from their state political funds to a federal contest, however.

Madigan, the two-term Democratic attorney general who has long been considering a run for governor, reported raising \$1 million during the final six months of the year, adding to the solid \$2.6 million she had in the bank. Madigan's father, House Speaker [Michael Madigan](#), reported an additional \$850,000 in cash to start the year.

Three-term Comptroller [Dan Hynes](#) also added more than \$600,000 to his campaign account and has \$2.85 million available. First-term Treasurer [Alexi Giannoulas](#) raised more than \$400,000 to put his campaign fund at \$1.6 million. He also listed nearly \$2.3 million in campaign debts owed to relatives. Giannoulas and Hynes are Democrats.

On the Republican side, state Sen. Bill Brady of Bloomington, who wants to run for governor, reported more than \$331,000 in cash on hand but had personal debts of nearly twice that amount from his unsuccessful 2006 run for governor.

Doug Whitley, who took a leave from heading the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce to explore a run for governor, reported raising \$85,000 after forming a political fund in September. He had \$81,588 in cash on hand to start the year.

Joseph Birkett, the DuPage County state's attorney who has unsuccessfully sought statewide office, reported \$44,676 in campaign money.

House Republican leader [Tom Cross](#) of Oswego had nearly \$224,000 in cash on hand after doling out nearly \$2 million to Republican legislative candidates.