

## Madigan's Decision Changes 2010 Playing Field

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(Springfield, IL) -- Political observers say Lisa Madigan's decision stay put as the attorney general should lead to more wide-open races next year for Illinois Governor and the U.S. Senate. Madigan's choice may well open the door for a Republican to win one or both of those seats long-held by Democrats and should spur an interesting summer of politics in Illinois. Lisa Madigan's announcement is already leading other contenders to say which office they will seek next year. Voters will decide who gets all six statewide offices and the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Roland Burris. The Senate and Governor's jobs are the top two up for grabs. But University of Illinois at Springfield professor Chris Mooney says they are very different jobs. The Governor is the head of state in Illinois but the Senator will be one of a hundred in Washington, D.C. Mooney says he thinks the Senate seat is more "winnable" because current Governor Pat Quinn is a stronger candidate than Roland Burris. Jim Nowlan with the University of Illinois Institute for Government and Public Affairs says Republicans will need to appeal to moderates if they want to win statewide next November. Nowlan says candidates will be active this summer getting their names out and taking in financial contributions.

Chris Mooney says Lisa Madigan's decision is the big one. He says other factors like the stalled state budget and sluggish economy will weigh heavily on voters and candidates. Statewide races are up in the air, but Mooney says we should know almost all the names on next February's primary ballot by Labor Day.