Hynes winning money race over Quinn; McKenna leads GOP

By JOHN O'CONNOR
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Incumbent Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn had less than half as much money as his Democratic opponent heading into the final weeks before the primary election, according to campaign finance records.

Dan Hynes ended the six-month reporting period Dec. 31 with $3.1 million, compared with Quinn's $1.5 million, the records show, largely the result of the three-term state comptroller's huge head start over Quinn, who stepped into the governor's office after the impeachment of his predecessor last year.

Quinn closed the gap a bit by raising at least $650,000 in January.

Among seven candidates seeking the Republican nomination for governor Feb. 2., businessman Andy McKenna has far outpaced his rivals, raising $2.2 million. Records show he collected an additional $1.7 million in January, although three-quarters of that was in loans from his family.

Candidates for statewide office were required to file with the State Board of Elections this week details on the financing of their campaigns for the last half of 2009.

$100,000 from mom

Quinn, the former lieutenant governor who has held the top spot less than a year, showed an incumbent's fundraising power, collecting $3.1 million during the period to Hynes' $2.3 million, but Quinn started the six-month stretch with just $702,000 on hand.

"Quinn historically has been someone who has had a lot of trouble raising money and not a big interest in raising money," political science professor Kent Redfield said. "The difference is largely the head start that Hynes had."

In January, Quinn has collected $650,000 in big contributions that require immediate reporting, although a third of that is in loans, including $100,000 from Quinn's mother.

Eileen Quinn dipped into her savings to help her son because she was so angry at Hynes' attacks, which called her son a liar over an early prison release plan, Quinn campaign spokeswoman Elizabeth Austin said.

Hynes picked up $228,000 in January. He has used his largesse on repeated television ads ripping the incumbent for the early release program. Quinn halted the program, which released 1,700 inmates — some of them violent — weeks early after an Associated Press report revealed its existence in December.

Quinn responded with just one ad until this week, when he aired another questioning Hynes' role as state comptroller to regulate cemeteries in the Burr Oak Cemetery desecration scandal.

"We are very happy with where we are," Hynes campaign spokesman Matt McGrath said. "We've raised more than we budgeted for, and we expect that to help us effectively communicate these final weeks, as well as get our vote out."

McKenna in lead

Republicans trying to regain the Executive Mansion after eight years have been led by McKenna, the former state party chairman.

He spent all but $63,500 of the $2.2 million he raised in the last half of 2009. He has taken in at least $1.7 more in January, although $1.3 million of that has been loaned by his wife, Mary.

"We expect that he will continue to gain momentum through Election Day," McKenna spokesman Lance Trover said.

State Sen. Kirk Dillard is closest to McKenna, raising $1.4 million and spending $1 million, leaving him with $368,700. He has raised an additional $139,700 in January.

Former Attorney General Jim Ryan, the 2002 gubernatorial nominee, starting late, collected $313,400 and spent $123,200, leaving him with $190,200. His January intake has been $229,300.

Redfield said Republican contributions look smaller only because they're spread out over seven candidates.

Businessman Adam Andrzejewski raised $752,400 and had $334,400 at the end of December; state Sen. Bill Brady raised $443,100 and had $192,000 left; DuPage County Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom took in $661,100 and had $119,900 left; and conservative commentator Dan Proft collected $169,200 and had $51,300 on hand.
Not sure of the value of this column but then I'm no 'newspaper Editor'!

The Trib has a column today that is pretty interesting in terms of Illinois politics. Maybe the SJ-R Editor/Investigative Reporter staff could use their beloved FOIA law powers to find out more about Mike Madigan who is so powerful in Illinois politics, that according to Country Club Hills Mayor Dwight Welch, 'Nothing gets done until Madigan's people say it's done.' My apologies.......

chicagotribune/email (chicagotribune.com - Most E-mailed Stories)

Daily Fatwa
4 days ago
Report Abuse
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Sorry about the typo error. Should read, 'Nothing gets done until Madigan's people say it's done.' My apologies.......

bill1953
4 days ago
Report Abuse
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Hynes better use your money before you lose to Quinn

Captain Righteous
4 days ago
Report Abuse
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Not sure of the value of Fatwa's post. The grooves on the record have been worn out by that discussion..

dallasfan
4 days ago
Report Abuse
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Just think of all that money being used for a much better purpose than this.

illinirog70
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Democrat if Quinn wins on Feb 2nd this Independent is voting Republican.
dallasfan
4 days ago
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Another thought........no matter who is chosen from the Republican field of 7........they will have won with less than 50% of the vote. In all likelihood the winner will be in the 30 - 40%. Should not the top two candidates have a run-off if nobody gets 50%+1 of the vote? We are watering down our democracy more and more.

You must be logged in to report abuse.

This money thing, it should be never printed, we vote for the person, NOT THEIR MONEY !!!!!!!!!!
tmorgan
4 days ago
You must be logged in to report abuse.

It will be a very cold February day when I ever vote for Andy KCKenna for any office above Mens' room attendant. He is the quintessential definition of a insider and is directly responsible for his party's loss of every statewide office. BAR NONE!

How any self respecting Republican could actually vote for that man is beyond me....then again, what do I know, I am a Humphrey Democrat who has a choice between two bigger idiots.
tmorgan
4 days ago
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Dallasfan:
This is not a democracy. Never was, it is a representative Republic and I suggest that you take the time to read about the differences.

http://www.sj-r.com/state/x1090813570/Campaign-cash-reports-show-Hynes-with-twice-a...
Captain: You could be right, but there are some interesting comments still forthcoming from the people's comments section.

jj

It is time to make all officials use public money to run so that each candidate gets the exact same amount of money and TV time. It is ludicrous that the candidate with the most cash gets elected.

Gramsci

This is an important story for anyone who would like major donors to pick our Governor. Blagojevich always had the most campaign money too.

4 days ago

jjtd, I agree. Politicians should not have sponsors.

BAJD

tmorgan, you continuously repeat the same worn out assertion that 'McKenna is responsible for Republicans losing all the offices'...which is just nowhere near the truth. By the time McKenna took over at the State GOP in late 2005, the Dems controlled everything except the Treasurer's office (and she was running for Governor in 06), the Republican reputation in Illinois was in the tank, and the cupboard was bare in terms of new candidates. Rebuilding the party was not an overnight fix, nor is it complete, but the party is in better shape than it was when he took over. So find a new argument, because that one doesn't hold water.

KorkeyBuchek
Hynes will beat Quinn and then spank the republican in the fall.
You heard it here first.
randy
3 days ago
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Money, money, money; it's always about money not what they have done that has been good for the state of Illinois. Got more money then you so I can buy those votes.
Casuarah
3 days ago
You must be logged in to report abuse.

Quinn received a $100,000 loan from his mother and McKenna received a $1.3 million loan from his wife. How impressive is that? It's just another way to manipulate in a political campaign and shouldn't be allowed.
Wise Elder
3 days ago
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Hynes didn't take care of the funeral business. How is he going to take care of the state? He is just another dyed-in-the-wool POLITICIAN. Advice - vot them ALL out.
freddie q
3 days ago
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