

Illinois Dynasties May Challenge Governor On Gambling

12 Jun, 2013

[Tony Batt. GamblingCompliance](#) [1]

The announcement on Tuesday by former White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley that he intends to challenge Illinois Governor Pat Quinn in the 2014 Democratic primary could have a ripple effect on efforts to open a new casino in Chicago.

Quinn, who has [vetoed two gambling expansion bills](#) [2], is considered vulnerable as he prepares to seek re-election next year.

Daley, who served as President Obama's chief of staff for one year before announcing his resignation in January 2012, is the brother of former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, the longest serving mayor in the city's history from 1989 to 2011.

But a member of another Illinois political dynasty may pose an even more formidable threat to Quinn's re-election hopes.

Following Daley's announcement on Tuesday, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan echoed her earlier statements that she is "very seriously considering running for governor."

Artemus Ward, an assistant professor of political science at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, said gambling could become a wedge issue that separates Quinn from his opponents in the March 8, 2014 Democratic primary.

"I suspect that the expansion of gambling in Illinois is inevitable given its potential to raise significant revenue for the state," Ward told GamblingCompliance in an email.

"Quinn has already hedged that he is willing to consider it despite the fact the he has vetoed gambling expansion in the past," Ward said. "The key to any gambling expansion in the state will be the specifics."

A key player in a three-way Daley-Madigan-Quinn contest is Rahm Emanuel, the hard charging Chicago mayor who has been known to [twist arms in the Illinois legislature](#) [3] to pass gambling legislation before it was vetoed by Quinn.

It is unclear if Emanuel will support Daley, his successor as White House chief of staff, or Madigan, whom he has described as "the most popular political figure in Illinois."

But it seems almost certain Emanuel will not support Quinn, who has frustrated his goal of opening a casino in Chicago, unless the governor emerges as the Democratic nominee after the March 8 primary.

Neither Daley nor Madigan has taken a position on a gambling expansion bill that would allow [five new casinos](#) [4] in Illinois, including the one in Chicago, and permit racetracks in the state to install slot machines.

The Illinois legislature concluded its spring session on May 31 without passing a gambling expansion bill.

A special session of the legislature will begin on June 19. Quinn ordered the special session to consider only pension reform.

Gambling legislation is not expected to be considered again until the legislature reconvenes in a veto session scheduled from October 22 to October 24 and from November 5 to November 7.

"If pension reform is passed, I think the governor will be prepared to sign a gambling expansion bill," said Cory Aronovitz, a Chicago gaming attorney.

"I don't think gambling expansion will be an issue in the governor's race," Aronovitz said.

The nomination battle is set to pitch Quinn against illustrious Illinois family members. Daley, 64, is the son of Richard J. Daley, a legendary Chicago mayor who provided crucial support to President Kennedy in the 1960 presidential campaign, and was later criticized for a violent crackdown by Chicago police on political demonstrators during the historic Democratic National Convention of 1968.

Madigan is the daughter of [Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan](#) [5].

"I can't understand why, in a state with 13m people, we can't find a couple of people that aren't related to hold some of the highest positions in state government," [Illinois Republican State Senator Matt Murphy](#) [6]told the Associated Press.

At the beginning of this year, Madigan's war chest reached \$3.6m, which dwarfs Quinn's total of just over \$1m raised by the end of March.

A poll in February by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University showed Madigan receiving 31.9 percent of the votes by Democrats who were surveyed. Quinn received 22.9 percent and Daley received 11.9 percent.



© Gambling Compliance Ltd · [Privacy Statement](#) · [Terms and Conditions](#) · [Disclaimer](#) · [Contact Us](#) ·
Drupal Development, Hosting and Support by [Code Enigma](#)
WLA associate member

Source URL: <http://www.gamblingcompliance.com/node/51716>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.gamblingcompliance.com/author/17356>
- [2] <http://www.gamblingcompliance.com/node/49872>
- [3] <http://www.gamblingcompliance.com/node/46734>
- [4] <http://www.gamblingcompliance.com/node/51619>
- [5] <http://www.gamblingcompliance.com/node/50468>
- [6] <http://www.gamblingcompliance.com/node/51129>