

**Don Tracy**  
 Republican for Lieutenant Governor

*3Rs-Revitalize Illinois Job Creation, Reform Government Spending & Ethics, and Respect Traditional Values*

Fax Transmittal

DATE: December 16, 2009

TO: Champaign County Chamber of Commerce  
 Attn: Andrew Proctor

FAX NUMBER: 359-1809

FROM: Don Tracy

If you have any problems with this fax transmittal, please contact: C. Miller

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Tracy".

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## Champaign County's Business Empowered PAC Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: Don Tracy

Office Sought (district): Lieutenant Governor

Campaign Committee Name: Tracy For Illinois

Champaign Committee Address: P.O. Box 256

City: Springfield, IL Zip Code: 62705-0256

Telephone: (217) 741-8612 Fax: N/A

E-mail/Website: TracyforIllinois.com

Are you seeking an endorsement from the Business Empowered PAC? Yes:  No:

Are you the owner of a business? Yes:  No:

If yes, type of business and total number of employees: I am a shareholder of Dot Foods, Inc.

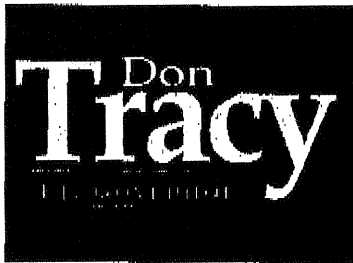
which has approximately 3,300 employees, about 50% of whom reside in Illinois. I am a partner of Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, which has about 50 employees (including partners) all of whom reside in Illinois.

**Please include a Brief Biography or Resume Along With Your Survey Responses. You May Also Include a Piece of Campaign Literature if You Like.**

*Don Tracy 12/16/09*

**Return by December 18, 2009**

Andrew Proctor, Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, 1817 S. Neil Street, Suite 201, Champaign, IL 61820  
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# Don Tracy

## Republican for Lieutenant Governor

*3 Rs - Revitalize Illinois Economy, Reform Government Spending & Ethics, and Respect Traditional Values*

### RESUME

#### Education:

Bachelor of Science - General Business Administration  
Arizona State University-1972  
Juris Doctorate  
University of Memphis-1976

#### Professional Experience:

Don began practicing law in 1976 at Baker & Donelson, the largest law firm in Tennessee. In 1980, he returned to Illinois to become in-house counsel for the Illinois National Bank of Springfield. From 1982 until 1990, Don owned his own law firm in Springfield, Illinois, with an office in Mt. Sterling, Illinois. In 1990, Don joined Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen as a Partner. Since 1995, he has been a Partner at Brown, Hay & Stephens, Abraham Lincoln's first law firm. He is also general outside counsel to Dot Foods, Inc., a national re-distributor of food and related products, which he and his 11 siblings own.

Don was President of the Sangamon County Bar Association. Don chaired the statewide Secretary of State's Corporation Acts Advisory Committee, the statewide ISBA Corporation and Securities Law Section Council, and the statewide ISBA Judicial Advisory Polls Committee. He is a member of the IICLE Business Advice and Planning Advisory Committee, and the Institute of Illinois Business Law. Don taught secured transactions at the University of Memphis School of Law, and served on the ISBA General Assembly and ISBA Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, among other professional activities. Don has published several articles on business law, and primarily represents family businesses.

Don resides in Springfield with his wife, Wanda. They have 4 voting age children.

#### Civic & Charitable Experience:

Don was President of the Abraham Lincoln Association, President of the Oak Ridge Cemetery Board, and President of the Dana Thomas House Foundation. Don now serves on the Boards of the Springfield YMCA, the Tracy Family Foundation, the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois National Guard & Militia Historical Society, the Frontiers International Club and the Lincoln Academy. He is a member of the American Business Club, and the Sangamon County Community Foundation Advisory Council. He has served on the Boards of the American Lung Association of Tennessee, the Old State Capitol Art Fair, Clark-Griffith Little League, and the Springfield 1908 Race Riot Commission, among other civic and charitable activities. Don is a lector, counter and fundraiser at Blessed Sacrament Church, and coached little league baseball for 8 years. Don ran for Illinois State Senate in 2002.

**BUSINESS EMPOWERED PAC SURVEY**

1. If you are an incumbent, what are your top three accomplishments during your tenure in this office?

**ANSWER:** I have never held elective political office and have not been an employee of any branch of government service. I was, however, appointed to the Board of Trustees of Oak Ridge Cemetery, a Division of the City of Springfield and served as President of such Board for part of my tenure as trustee. I have also represented the Department of Business Services of the Illinois Secretary of State in franchise tax litigation as a contractual attorney, and served on the statewide Corporate Acts Advisory Committee to the Illinois Secretary of State including a term as Chairman.

2. What are your top three priorities for improving the business climate in the State of Illinois?

**ANSWER:** My first business climate priority is to reform the workers' compensation to reduce abuse and lower insurance rates so as to be more competitive with surrounding states. My second business climate priority is tort reform such as non-economic loss caps and venue reform. My third business climate priority is to improve K-12 education by enhancing school choice.

3. In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing Illinois businesses?

**ANSWER:** The most important issues facing Illinois businesses are high workers' compensation rates, high unemployment taxes and an attitude or approach that views employers as deep pockets to be picked instead of as job creators to be nourished and cultivated.

4. Briefly explain your perception of how the position you are seeking currently affects Illinois businesses?

**ANSWER:** The Lt. Governor has very few constitutional duties. The office is what the office holder makes of it. I plan to fight for tort and workers' compensation reform and be an advocate for making Illinois less anti-business.

5. Would you support a tax and/or fee increase to solve Illinois' budget deficit? If not, how do you propose addressing the projected \$11 to \$15 billion deficit for FY 2011?

**ANSWER:** The state budget crisis must first be addressed by putting everything on the table, especially runaway spending programs like Medicaid, and second by instituting zero based budgeting. I reject increasing the state income tax except temporarily as a last resort to avoid state bankruptcy and/or large scale closings of

prisons, nursing homes, hospitals and schools. I reject a tax increase just to balance the budget. A recession is the worst time for a tax increase. Furthermore, if a temporary state income tax increase is eventually required to avoid financial bankruptcy, it must be part of a global solution involving major spending reforms and cuts, bi-partisan support, and agreement by taxpayer groups like the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. And, any such increase should include a sunset provision to ensure it does not become permanent.

6. Illinois is currently behind approximately \$3 billion in its Medicaid payments. Would you support some type of managed care program to reign in costs and increase efficiencies in providing health care?

**ANSWER:** Yes, I would support a managed care program in Illinois. Managed care could save Illinois up to \$1 billion annually.

7. Illinois recently submitted a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration to capture a portion of the \$8 billion federal stimulus money dedicated for high speed rail. Do you support or oppose high speed rail and would you, if elected, advocate for the allocation of state dollars for high speed rail projects in Illinois?

**ANSWER:** Although I have serious reservations about the State's ability to pay its share and the return on investment, because it is important to invest in infrastructure to foster economic development, I would not rule this project out without further study.

8. Illinois passed a \$31 billion capital program last spring to improve Illinois' infrastructure, schools, universities, and communities, however many of the bonds to fund the capital program have not been sold mostly due to Illinois' structural deficit problem. What would be your plan for selling the bonds, and/or finding alternative revenue to finance the much needed capital program?

**ANSWER:** Unfortunately, the state has badly neglected roads, bridges and other projects for many years. Worst of all, Gov. Blagojevich raided more than \$500 million annually from the state road fund. The capital plan approved last spring by Gov. Quinn and the legislature is largely funded through an expansion of gambling, to which I am opposed. If the necessary funds to pay for the bonds are not available, we need to scale back the capital plan so that we only pay for what we can afford. Our infrastructure problems were not created over one or two years, and cannot be resolved in one or two years.

9. Would you support measures that would give businesses relief such as property tax credits and tax increment financing (TIF) assistance when municipal mandated costs are imposed? If yes, why?

**ANSWER:** Illinois has lagged behind neighboring states in economic development, thus losing hundreds of thousands of potential jobs. The state and local

governments need to do whatever necessary to assist the business community in retaining and attracting jobs. I support reasonable property tax credits and TIF assistance that do not depend on political clout, especially to help lower the cost of municipal mandates.

10. Do you believe government should continue to legislate restrictions and unfunded mandates on businesses or let the marketplace determine the activity? Why?

**ANSWER:** I am a proponent of limited government and an opponent of unfunded mandates. Therefore, I believe the marketplace should determine the activity.

11. In this current economic situation, sales tax revenues are declining. How would you propose to address declining municipal revenues?

**ANSWER:** Reduce and/or reverse unfunded state mandates.

12. Is there any other information you would like to provide?

**ANSWER:** I grew up in a family business, Dot Foods, Inc., which my Dad started in Mt. Sterling, Illinois in 1960, and my 11 siblings and I now own and manage. We now employ over 3,000 people, about half of whom reside in Illinois.

I have worked in the business as a warehouseman (high school), truck driver (college), traveling salesman (law school) and as outside general counsel the past 33 years. Although my work for Dot Foods has always been my focal point, I have also represented other family businesses usually in crisis situations.

I am a partner in Brown, Hay & Stephens, the oldest law firm in Illinois. Abraham Lincoln was a partner from 1837-1841.

Although I am not a career politician, I have served on numerous civic, charitable, community and professional boards, commissions and committees. (See attached bio for detail).

If elected Lieutenant Governor, I will offer to help the Governor manage state government more professionally and competently, and work hard on increasing private sector jobs in Illinois through initiatives such as reducing workers compensation abuse.