LA SHAWN K.
FORD
MEMBER-ELECT | IL07
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Member-Elect La Shawn K. Ford Pledges to Work with Governor Pritzker and Illinois Lawmakers to Protect Taxpayers

Drawing on 20 years in the Illinois House, Ford supports Governor Pritzker's "Fighting for Illinois: The Day One Agenda" and calls for stronger coordination between Washington and Springfield.

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CHICAGO — Member-Elect La Shawn K. Ford (IL-07) said today that his 20 years of experience in the Illinois House of Representatives have reinforced the importance of coordination between federal and state government to protect taxpayers and deliver resources to Illinois communities.

Ford pledged to work directly with Governor JB Pritzker, state agencies, and members of the Illinois General Assembly as he prepares to serve in the 120th U.S. Congress. He also expressed strong support for the Governor's *Fighting for Illinois: The Day One Agenda*, released November 4, 2026.

"For 20 years in the Illinois House, including my work as Chair of Higher Education Appropriations, I have been part of the process of developing and balancing Illinois' state budget," Ford said. "I have seen what happens when Washington cuts programs or shifts costs to the states. The bill lands on Illinois taxpayers, our cities, and our state agencies. I have also seen the difference it makes when a member of Congress fights for Illinois and works to bring federal resources home."

Why a Direct Working Relationship Matters

Federal funding decisions directly affect Illinois' state budget and the services residents depend on. State agencies administer federally supported programs involving healthcare, food assistance, childcare, education, and infrastructure.

Ford emphasized that regular communication between Congress, the Governor's Office, and the General Assembly can help Illinois identify funding threats, respond to federal policy changes, and pursue resources for communities across the state.

"A member of Congress should not wait for problems to reach Springfield," Ford said. "I intend to work directly with Governor Pritzker, his administration, and my colleagues in the General Assembly to make sure Washington understands what Illinois needs. We must work together to protect taxpayers, support essential services, and bring federal resources back to our communities."

Supporting the Governor's Day One Agenda

Governor Pritzker's *Fighting for Illinois: The Day One Agenda* outlines approximately 200 policy proposals for the incoming Congress, developed following a review by state agencies of federal funding reductions, policy changes, and costs affecting Illinois.

Among its priorities are repealing Medicaid and SNAP cuts enacted under H.R. 1, restoring enhanced Affordable Care Act premium tax credits, protecting Pell Grants and childcare funding, addressing unfunded federal cost shifts to states, and supporting lead service line replacement.

Ford said the agenda provides a foundation for cooperation between Illinois' congressional delegation and state government.

"Governor Pritzker and his administration have identified the federal decisions affecting Illinois families, taxpayers, and essential services," Ford said. "The Day One Agenda gives us a clear set of priorities to bring to Washington. I look forward to working with the Governor, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Senator-elect Juliana Stratton, and our congressional delegation to advance policies that protect Illinois residents and strengthen our communities."

Read the Governor's full agenda: *Fighting for Illinois: The Day One Agenda*.

About La Shawn K. Ford

La Shawn K. Ford is the Member-Elect for Illinois' 7th Congressional District, succeeding Congressman Danny K. Davis. A former teacher and small business owner, Ford has served 20 years in the Illinois House of Representatives, where he chairs the Appropriations–Higher Education Committee. His legislative work includes HIV testing, criminal record sealing, consumer protections against predatory lending, and investments in Illinois infrastructure.

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