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Topinka

COMPTROLLER

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It's Official: Topinka in for Comptroller

Former State Treasurer energized by strong grassroots support

CHICAGO – Former State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka announced her candidacy for Illinois Comptroller today at a downtown rally at Ina's Restaurant. Highlighting her track record of proven leadership and strong grassroots support from concerned citizens across Illinois, Topinka renewed her pledge to serve as a tireless fiscal watchdog and unveiled her platform to restore balance and accountability to the management of state finances.

"Leadership is not a spectator sport," Topinka said. "It is time to put our fiscal house back in order to bring real accountability and reform to the management of your tax dollars. I am running for Comptroller to bring my experience, leadership, and vision to restore common sense to the budget."

"Four years ago, I warned that if we continued along the path we were on, Illinois would be \$12 Billion in debt," Topinka added. "Tragically, that bleak scenario has come to pass. Years of mismanagement and an over-reliance on borrowing have saddled our state with record-high debt. It is time to shake-up Springfield and I am the one who can do that."

As State Treasurer from 1995-2007, Topinka was credited with transforming a lackluster office into a profit engine for the State of Illinois through shrewd investment decisions, sound management of state finances, and a renowned reputation for frugality.

A resident of suburban Riverside, Topinka is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and enjoyed a distinguished career as a reporter and editor for several award-winning community newspapers before embarking on a 14-year career in the Illinois General Assembly. First elected State Treasurer in 1994, Topinka was the first woman in Illinois history to be elected Treasurer and the first Republican to hold the post in 32 years. Topinka later became the first woman re-elected to statewide office in Illinois and the first State Treasurer to win three consecutive terms.

After leaving office in 2007, Topinka established a not-for-profit financial counseling agency that helps families facing foreclosure save their homes. Located on the West Side of Chicago, the **Smart Women, Smart Money Educational Foundation** has provided financial literacy and housing counseling to more than 1,000 Illinois families in need. Topinka has also served locally as Riverside Township GOP Committeeman since 1994.