

Windy City Times, IL, USA

Gov candidate Ives releases anti-trans ad

by Matt Simonette

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[[Photo](#): "Thank you for signing legislation that let's me use the girls bathroom."]



Anti-LGBT gubernatorial candidate state Rep. Jeanne Ives (R-Wheaton) is running an ad mocking, among other groups, transgender Illinoisans.

The ad features what's intended as a comic depiction of a masculine man wearing a dress, "thanking" Gov. Bruce Rauner for "legislation that lets me use the girls' bathroom."

As the supposedly transgender person speaks, a subtitle references the HB 1785 legislation, which Rauner signed in Aug. 2017. That bill, sponsored by state Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago) and Sen. Toi Hutchison (D-Olympia Fields), allows transgender Illinoisans to

change their birth certificates without having to undergo surgery, and only circuitously affected trans persons and public accommodations.

Ives, who is challenging incumbent Rauner in the March 20 primary, has had a long history of opposing LGBT rights and other progressive causes. Among those also targeted in the ad are the Chicago Teachers Union, the immigrant community and women who've had abortions. During the campaign, Ives has steadfastly reiterated a message that the governor has betrayed his conservative supporters.

The governor's campaign responded to the ad, but did not comment on its substance, in a Feb. 2 statement: "Governor Rauner is the only candidate in either party who will take on Mike Madigan, cut taxes, and reform our state. Representative Ives has already admitted that she's not willing to take on Mike Madigan and will keep his 32% tax hike—not surprising given her history of opposing property tax reductions. Looks like J.B. Pritzker has some competition as Mike Madigan's favorite candidate."

Colleen K Connell, executive director of ACLU of Illinois, said in a statement that, "It is sad that a candidate for the office of Governor of Illinois would seek to divide voters by attacking our neighbors, friends and colleagues who are newcomers and refugees, those of a different race, those who are transgender and poor women in need of health care."

[[Video](#): Thank you, Bruce Rauner]

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/ives-releases-anti-trans-ad/61799.html>

Chicago Sun-Times , IL, USA

Ives ad targets transgender community, immigrants and women who get abortions

Chicago | 02/02/2018, 09:04pm

Tina Sfondeles

[[Photo](#): Screen-grab from campaign ad for Republican gubernatorial candidate Jeanne Ives]



A controversial new ad by Republican gubernatorial candidate Jeanne Ives targets the transgender community, illegal immigrants and women who get abortions — in a statewide television ad that some are calling “repulsive” and “appalling.”

The Ives campaign said the ad “represents Governor [Bruce] Rauner’s chosen constituents based on the policy choices he made.” Spokeswoman Kathleen Murphy said the ad will begin airing this weekend throughout the state.

Ives, a social and fiscal conservative, entered the race last fall while attacking Rauner’s signing of a bill that expanded taxpayer funding of abortions, and for another that limits local cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The ad marks a sharp public shift to the right in Ives’ campaign. Ives had been gaining

attention following [a debate with Rauner](#) at the Chicago Tribune last week. And her sharp critiques of the governor were used in a digital ad by Democratic gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker.

Among several speakers in the ad are people who appear to be a transgender person, a Chicago Teachers Union member and a Women's March participant. The campaign did not respond when asked if those in the ad are actors.

"Thank you for legislation that lets me use the girls' bathroom," says one person dressed in a red dress; the campaign did not say if it is a man or a transgender woman. That targeted a House bill Rauner signed into law which allows transgender citizens to change their gender designation without going through gender reassignment or gender confirmation surgery.

"Thank you for making all Illinois families pay for my abortions," says a woman wearing a pink hat like those worn by women attending the women's march last year.

[[Video](#): Thank you, Bruce Rauner]

"Thank you Bruce Rauner for opposing law enforcement and making Illinois a sanctuary state for illegal Illinois immigrant criminals," says a hoodie-clad white man with a red handkerchief over his mouth.

"Thank you for making the rest of Illinois bail out Chicago teacher pensions and for giving [Mayor] Rahm [Emanuel] everything he wanted," says an African-American woman wearing a Chicago Teachers Union T-shirt.

Critics of the ad came out in droves, even among some Republicans. Former Illinois Republican party chairman Pat Brady said in a tweet this is the Ives "we have known for years. There is no room in the Republican Party for racist, bigoted, homophobic candidates like her."

Equality Illinois said Ives is "launching a campaign of division and rancor."

"We need a governor who will stand up for all Illinoisans, not someone who will target transgender Illinoisans for their personal political benefit," spokesman Brian Johnson said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois called it a "sad" effort.

"It is sad that a candidate for the office of governor of Illinois would seek to divide voters by attacking our neighbor, friends and colleagues who are newcomers and refugees, those of a different race, those who are transgender and poor women in need of health care," said Colleen Connell, ACLU of Illinois' executive director.

Democratic gubernatorial candidates were quick to react as well. Businessman Chris Kennedy's campaign called it "appalling and disrespectful to everyone who makes Illinois what it is today."

“It’s a slap in the face to everyone who’s brought progress and inclusivity to Illinois,” spokeswoman Rebecca Evans said. “We already have enough hate and bigotry in the White House. We don’t need a governor who stands silent against Donald Trump, and we certainly don’t need a governor who echoes Donald Trump.”

Pritzker spokeswoman Galia Slayen said Pritzker “vehemently disagrees with the poison the Ives campaign is spreading on the issues that matter.”

“While Bruce Rauner needs to be defeated in this election, this type of hate has no place in our politics,” she said in a statement.

And state Sen. Daniel Biss’ campaign called it “repulsive.”

“It’s absolutely antithetical of Illinois values and the type of politics we should be holding ourselves to,” spokesman Tom Elliott said. “Any elected official or candidate who does not disavow this horribly offensive ad outright should be ashamed. We must resist this type of racist, xenophobic and transphobic rhetoric at all levels.”

Rauner’s campaign didn’t comment on the social issue Ives tried to highlight, instead saying “Gov. Rauner is the only candidate in either party who will take on Mike Madigan, cut taxes and reform our state.”

“Rep. Ives has already admitted that she’s not willing to take on Mike Madigan’s and will keep his 32 percent tax hike — not surprising given her history of opposing property tax reductions. Looks like J.B. Pritzker has some competition as Mike Madigan’s favorite candidate,” spokesman Will Allison said.

Ives’ campaign earlier on Friday [released another TV ad](#), which will also run statewide for a week. The campaign called it a chance for voters to see her as the “conservative reform candidate.”

That ad features shots of Ives with her family and speaking to the camera: “I was raised to speak plainly, work hard for what you want and respect others who do the same.”

Ives, a Republican state representative from Wheaton, got a \$500,000 boost to her campaign fund last week from Lake Forest businessman Richard Uihlein. The donation [marked a shift for Uihlein](#), who over the years has contributed more than \$2.6 million to Rauner. But he has given the governor nothing since late 2014.

Still, Ives — who has about \$1 million in her campaign fund — will have to go up against Rauner’s staggering \$55.6 million campaign cash on hand.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/chicago-politics/ives-ad-targets-transgender-community-immigrants-and-women-who-get-abortions/>

Chicago Tribune, IL, USA

Ives' anti-Rauner ad ripped as 'racist, sexist, homophobic'

Rick Pearson and Kim Geiger
Chicago Tribune

February 2, 2018, 7:05 PM

[\[Video\]](#)

Republican primary challenger Jeanne Ives is mounting a full-bore attack on Gov. Bruce Rauner's conservative credentials, [launching a TV ad](#) featuring an actor portraying a transgender woman thanking the governor for signing a law expanding trans rights.

The "Thank you, Bruce Rauner" ad, scheduled to start airing Saturday, also depicts a young woman wearing a pink protest hat thanking the governor for making Illinois families "pay for my abortions." And it has a hoodie-wearing man with his face partially hidden by a bandana thanking Rauner for making Illinois "a sanctuary state for illegal immigrant criminals."

The ad was quickly deemed offensive by groups supporting transgender, abortion and immigration rights in Illinois. The spot also illustrated the hard-edged social ideology that Ives frequently has displayed in representing her Wheaton district in the General Assembly. The three-term lawmaker is now attempting to bring that approach statewide in a traditionally Democratic-leaning state.

"It is sad that a candidate for the office of governor of Illinois would seek to divide voters by attacking our neighbors, friends and colleagues who are newcomers and refugees, those of a different race, those who are transgender and poor women in need of health care," ACLU Executive Director Colleen Connell said in a statement.

Anticipating questions and criticism, the Ives campaign put out a statement when it sent out the commercial.

"The ad represents Gov. Rauner's chosen constituents based on the policy choices he made," Ives' campaign said.

"Those Republican primary voters who don't know of Rauner's betrayals of conservatives need to know. Now they will," the campaign said.

Ives' camp also contended the ad represents a "fair and accurate representation of the implications" of Rauner's policy choices. But the ad exaggerates the effects — and misstates the facts — about laws Rauner signed.

Take the ad's most highly charged accusation. A deep-voiced actor wearing a dress says,

“Thank you for signing legislation that lets me use the girls bathroom.”

The law Rauner signed did not address the use of bathrooms. Rauner signed legislation in August allowing transgender people to change the gender on their birth certificates with authorization from a medical professional confirming treatment. Previously, the law required proof of a surgical operation.

Brian C. Johnson, the CEO of Equality Illinois, the state's LGBTQ civil rights organization, said the group had hoped for “a higher level of discourse” from someone running for governor.

“At a time when our leaders should be bringing Illinoisans together, Jeanne Ives is launching a campaign of division and rancor. We need a governor who will stand up for all Illinoisans, not someone who will target transgender Illinoisans for her personal political benefit,” Johnson said in a statement.

On Saturday night, Rauner and his wife, Diana, are scheduled to make their first-ever appearance at the organization’s gala fundraising event and paid \$25,000 as “platinum sponsors,” the group said. Democratic governor candidate J.B. Pritzker and his wife, Mary Kay, gave \$15,000 as “gold sponsors” of the event. Pritzker chaired the group’s fundraiser in 2016.

Ives’ ad also features an actor wearing a hoodie and a handkerchief around his mouth saying, “Thank you Bruce Rauner for opposing law enforcement and making Illinois a sanctuary state for illegal immigrant criminals.”

A law Rauner signed in August ultimately was backed by major law enforcement groups. It prevents law enforcement from detaining someone solely on the basis of their legal status. It also prevents law enforcement turning over someone to immigration authorities without a judicial warrant.

The Illinois Business Immigration Coalition, which advocated for the law, issued a statement saying Ives’ ad “is full of misinformation, hate and bigotry.”

The ad’s depiction of a women’s rights protester talking about getting “abortions” was a reference to Rauner’s signature on legislation that expanded taxpayer-subsidized abortions for women covered by Medicaid and state employee health insurance.

Ives has maintained Rauner’s approval of the law motivated her candidacy after he had earlier told conservatives that he would veto the measure. Rauner has said his support for abortion rights was evident from his first bid for governor four years ago.

Terry Cosgrove, president and CEO of Personal PAC, an abortion rights political advocacy group, said Ives was appealing to “the craziest of the crazy” and displaying the “lowest form of politics.”

“She wants to make all abortions and the most commonly used form of birth control illegal in Illinois,” said Cosgrove, whose group has endorsed Pritzker in the Democratic primary. “This is an extreme right-wing position that totally ignores the reality of most people’s lives.”

Another part of the ad features an African-American woman wearing a red Chicago Teachers Union T-shirt thanking Rauner “for making the rest of Illinois bail out Chicago teacher pensions and giving (Mayor) Rahm (Emanuel) everything he wanted and more.”

In late August, Rauner signed a historic rewrite of the state’s school funding formula after vetoing an earlier version that he contended was a “bailout” for the Chicago Public Schools.

The version the governor signed has the state picking up a larger share of city teacher pension costs, in line with all the other school districts in the state, while also allowing higher city property taxes to help fund pensions. Emanuel said the bill gave CPS all the money it was slated to get “and more.”

Asked for a reaction to the ad, Chicago Teachers Union spokeswoman Chris Geovanis emailed, “we’re not going to dignify this racist, sexist, homophobic piece of crap with a response.”

The Ives campaign previewed [a one-minute version](#) of the ad, although a political advertising strategist not affiliated with the campaign said a review of TV station records showed the Ives camp had purchased half-minute commercial spots.

Asked for a response, Rauner’s campaign did not address the Ives ad directly, instead issuing a statement about a tax hike and Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Ives’ release of the controversial ad, as well as a half-minute biographical spot, came a day after she dumped the scheduled keynote speaker for her McHenry County fundraiser amid a furor over his beliefs that African-Americans were intellectually inferior to whites.

Ives also made racially charged remarks last month when she told the audience at a candidate forum in the West Loop that the way to end Chicago’s gun violence was “fathers in the home.” Democratic candidate Chris Kennedy, the son of assassinated former U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy, walked out of the forum after telling Ives that “I didn’t have a father in my life. Somebody shot him.”

Kennedy used that incident and Ives’ new ad in an emailed fundraising pitch, calling it “appalling and disrespectful to everyone who makes Illinois what it is today” and a “slap in the face to everyone who’s brought progress and inclusivity to Illinois.”

“We already have enough hate and bigotry in the White House. We don’t need a governor who stands silent against Donald Trump, and we certainly don’t need a governor who echoes Donald Trump,” Kennedy said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-met-jeanne-ives-bruce-rauner-transgender-ad-cps-20180202-story.html>