



# Juliana's Blueprint

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Creating Opportunities for the Middle Class

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# *The American Dream is out of reach for too many*

Hard work should be a pathway to the middle class, but for too long, the American Dream has been out of reach for so many. That's why in Illinois, Juliana has worked alongside Governor Pritzker to expand opportunities: creating new jobs, investing in 21st century industries, and lowering the cost of job training so workers can get higher-paying jobs

Juliana isn't only focused on expanding economic opportunities, but educational ones too. By investing in early childhood programs like Head Start and Smart Start, increasing funding for public schools, and addressing teacher shortages, Juliana has helped support Illinois families while securing our state's future.

Juliana believes that when every American has a fair shot – when education is lifelong and affordable, jobs in growing industries are available to all Illinoisans, and entrepreneurship is open to everyone – our nation is stronger, fairer, and more prosperous.

In the Senate, she'll fight for policies that restore that promise, expand opportunity, and rebuild the American middle class, focusing on three pillars of opportunity:

- **Education from Childhood to Adulthood**
- **Economic and Workforce Development**
- **Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth**

***Creating a  
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# Education

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Donald Trump is waging a war on public education and stripping away opportunities for continued learning – slashing funding for public schools, rolling back protections for student borrowers, and attacking diversity and inclusion programs. His administration pushed privatization over public investment and left millions of students deeper in debt, with fewer options for relief.

In Illinois, Juliana helped lead efforts to invest in early learning programs, increase funding for public schools, and address teacher shortages in high-need districts. The Pritzker-Stratton Administration has expanded access to dual-credit programs, technical education, and college affordability initiatives, creating a model for equitable education reform. As a result, Illinois has seen increased test scores, high school graduation rates, and enrollment across universities and community colleges.

These priorities aren't just about access, they're about ensuring education builds real, lasting opportunity for working families. As Senator, Juliana will champion a federal education agenda rooted in opportunity and fairness, from childhood to adulthood:

- Restore and rebuild the Department of Education as a guardian of public education and civil rights.
- Protect funding for Head Start and early childhood learning programs from Trump's cuts.
- Make college affordable again by capping student loan interest rates.
- Expand federal support for trades learning and technical schools.
- Support tuition-free community college and expand early college and dual-credit programs nationwide.
- Create incentives for states to guarantee universal access to community college and technical programs.
- Fund student support programs, from emergency aid and mental health services to broadband access and housing assistance, so students can focus on learning, not surviving.
- Expand eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for students pursuing higher learning.

# Economic and Workforce Development

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Under Trump, working Americans are paying the price for policies that favor billionaires and corporations. His tax cuts reward the wealthy while hollowing out investments in infrastructure, clean energy, and workforce development. He ignored the transition to a green economy, costing the U.S. thousands of good-paying jobs, and he has taken a sledgehammer to protections for unions and collective bargaining.

Illinois has been a national leader in modernizing its workforce and creating climate-smart jobs. The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act positioned Illinois at the forefront of the clean energy revolution, while the state's investment in quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, and the innovation economy has drawn federal dollars and private investment to communities that need them most. And Illinois enshrined collective bargaining rights into the state constitution.

Following years of credit downgrades and a growing bill backlog under the previous governor, the Pritzker-Stratton administration put Illinois' business climate back on track, moving from 30th to 13th on CNBC's Top States for Business list. Illinois now ranks 2nd in the nation for corporate expansions and relocations. Juliana's economic agenda will ensure America's growth is broad-based, so workers share in the wealth they help create. Juliana will fight to:

- Pass the PRO Act to strengthen unions and empower workers.
- Reauthorize and expand the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) with funding for proven career pathways and apprenticeship programs, particularly in Black, Latino, and rural communities.
- Invest in green jobs, ensuring Illinois continues to lead in the clean energy economy while investing in communities that have been disproportionately harmed by climate change.
- Modernize workforce training for industries like quantum computing, AI, and advanced manufacturing.
- Support Skilled Through Alternative Routes (STARs) initiatives, including in federal hiring, to recognize experience over credentials.

# Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth

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Trump claimed to be a champion for small businesses, but his policies have overwhelmingly favored big corporations. His administration cut resources for minority-owned businesses, weakened the SBA, and stripped away initiatives that support Black and Brown entrepreneurs without accountability. At every turn, Trump has prioritized Wall Street over Main Street.

In Illinois, Juliana helped expand access to capital through small business grant programs, micro-loans, and technical assistance for entrepreneurs in underserved communities – including supporting tens of thousands of small business owners through Small Business Development Centers. The Pritzker-Stratton administration cut taxes for 400,000 small businesses and streamlined permitting for faster and more efficient business creation.

Juliana's entrepreneurship agenda focuses on building generational wealth, ensuring that every family can turn hard work, creativity, and ambition into lasting economic security. As Senator, Juliana will work to make entrepreneurship a real pathway to the middle class:

- Expand SBA grant programs to uplift women- and minority-owned businesses.
- Create federal grant programs – not just loans – for small business start-ups, especially in historically disinvested areas.
- Hold big banks accountable for discriminatory lending practices and strengthen support for Black and minority-owned banks and credit unions.
- Raise SBA loan caps and expand microloan programs to help small businesses scale and hire locally.
- Streamline occupational licensing across states, reducing barriers for entrepreneurs.
- Provide federal funding for technical assistance and mentorship programs that help new business owners navigate the startup process and access federal contracts.

**Learn more about Juliana's campaign at  
[julianastratton.com](http://julianastratton.com)**

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**PAID FOR BY JULIANA FOR ILLINOIS**