Dear Friends,

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute asked a number of prominent Illinoisans to respond to the question: *If you were teaching an “Illinois 101” course to highly motivated undergraduates, what five books you would assign them to read? They can be histories, biographies, novels, or essays. In sum, they would provide a wide-ranging and nuanced understanding of Illinois.*

The Institute passes on these recommendations to those who are looking for a good read and a better understanding of Illinois.

Sincerely,

John T. Shaw  
Institute Director  
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHRISTOPHER BELT ____________________________ 4
ROGER BILES ________________________________ 5
TERRI BRYANT ________________________________ 6
FRANK CICERO, JR. ___________________________ 7
RICHARD DURBIN ____________________________ 8
JIM EDGAR __________________________________ 10
LaTOYA GREENWOOD _________________________ 11
PATRICK HANLEY _____________________________ 12
ERIKA HAROLD ______________________________ 13
DAVID JOENS __________________________________ 14
RAY LaHOOD __________________________________ 16
MIKE LAWRENCE ______________________________ 17
CHUCK LEVESQUE ____________________________ 19
JIM NOWLAN __________________________________ 20
GLENN POSHARD ______________________________ 21
BERNARD SCHOENBURG _________________________ 23
GREG SHAW __________________________________ 25
JOHN SHAW __________________________________ 26
SHEILA SIMON __________________________________ 28
EMANUEL “CHRIS” WELCH ______________________ 29
SAMUEL WHEELER _____________________________ 30
PAULA WOLFF __________________________________ 32
A. Lincoln by Ronald White Jr., 2009.


Twenty Years at Hull-House by Jane Addams, 1910.


The Social Order of a Frontier Community by Don Harrison Doyle, 1983.


Down Don’t Bother Me: A Novel by Jason Miller, 2015.

Sins of the South: Big Secrets in a Small Town by Maureen Hughes, 2012.


When Lincoln Came to Egypt by George Smith, 2016.


City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America by Donald Miller, 1996.

Bloody Williamson by Paul Angle, 1969.

Henry Horner and his Burden of Tragedy by Thomas Littlewood, 2007.
ADDITIONAL READING


*The Cubs Way: The Zen of Building the Best Team in Baseball and Beating the Curse* by Tom Verducci, 2017.
Horner of Illinois by Thomas Littlewood, 1969.

Bipartisan Coalition in Illinois by Thomas Littlewood, 1960.

Clout: Mayor Daley and His City by Len O’Connor, 1975.

Bloody Williamson by Paul Angle, 1969.

Illinois History: A Reader by Mark Hubbard, 2018.
LaTOYA GREENWOOD
ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 114TH DISTRICT


There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America by Alex Kotlowitz, 1991.


A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, 1959.
Midwest Futures by Phil Christman, 2020.

City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America by Donald Miller, 1996.

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros, 1984.


ERIKA HAROLD
ATTORNEY, MEYER CAPEL
REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America by Alex Kotlowitz, 1991.


The Jungle by Upton Sinclair, 1906.


Creating the Land of Lincoln: The History and Constitutions of Illinois, 1778-1870 by Frank Cicero, Jr., 2018.


The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson, 2003.

Bloody Williamson by Paul Angle, 1969.


The Jungle by Upton Sinclair, 1906.

RAY LaHOOD
FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
FORMER ILLINOIS CONGRESSMAN


Robert Michel: Leading the Republican House Minority edited by Frank Mackaman and Sean Kelly, 2019.

The Education of a Senator by Everett McKinley Dirksen, 1998.


Governor Richard Ogilvie: In the Interest of the State by Taylor Pensoneau, 1997.


Bloody Williamson by Paul Angle, 1969.

The Defender: How the Legendary Black Newspaper Changed America by Ethan Michaeli, 2016.


Chicago: A Novel by Brian Doyle, 2016.

Rootabaga Stories by Carl Sandburg, 1922.


City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America by Donald Miller, 1996.


Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years by Carl Sandburg, 1939.
Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years by Carl Sandburg, 1939.

Cornhuskers by Carl Sandburg, 1918.


Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters, 1915.


Governor Richard Ogilvie: In the Interest of the State by Taylor Pensoneau, 1997.


ADDITONAL READING


Division Street: America by Studs Terkel, 1967.

There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America by Alex Kotlowitz, 1991.


**ADDITIONAL READING**


Played in Peoria by Jerry Klein Sr., 1980.

Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years by Carl Sandburg, 1939.


Song of My Life by Harry Mark Petrakis, 2014.

Bloody Williamson by Paul Angle, 1969.

Gwendolyn Brooks.


City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America by Donald Miller, 1996.


ADDITIONAL READING

*Kaskaskia: The Lost Capital of Illinois* by David MacDonald and Raine Waters, 2019.


PAULA WOLFF
POLICY ADVISOR, ILLINOIS JUSTICE PROJECT

*Jane Addams, Spirit in Action* by Louise Knight, 2010.


*The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation* by Natalie Moore, 2016.

