

# MIXED MESSAGES

Two reports on public corruption in Illinois and other states are at odds

WHEN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO released a study a few months back crowning Chicago the most corrupt metro area in the nation (and Illinois the third most corrupt state), it wasn't exactly a surprise.

Yet with the ink barely dry on the UIC report, a collaboration led by the Center for Public Integrity, a Washington-based watchdog group, released its own report card on political corruption nationwide. While no parent would be proud of its grades (eight Cs, two Ds, and an F), Illinois ranked as the tenth *least* corrupt state (tied with Hawaii and Massachusetts) in the country.

Who's right? You be the judge.



## MILK DUD NO MORE?

Little noticed among the higher-profile races in the March primary election was a rare victory for the Aurora dairy-magnate-turned-perennial-candidate **JIM OBERWEIS**. Nicknamed the Milk Dud for his failed bids for U.S. Senate, governor, and Congress, Oberweis won the Republican nomination for the state senate seat from the 25th District in the western suburbs. And unlike in his previous races, he hasn't even spent a cent.

—BEN GOLDBERGER

### 2002 U.S. SENATE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

PERSONAL SPENDING: \$1.01 million  
COST PER VOTE: \$3.87

### 2004 U.S. SENATE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

PERSONAL SPENDING: \$3.01 million  
COST PER VOTE: \$19.31

### 2006 GUBERNATORIAL REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

PERSONAL SPENDING: \$2.49 million  
COST PER VOTE: \$10.64

### 2008 14th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CAMPAIGN\*

PERSONAL SPENDING: \$4.62 million  
COST PER VOTE: \$17.17

### 2012 25th DISTRICT STATE SENATE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

PERSONAL SPENDING: \$0  
COST PER VOTE: \$0

SOURCES: Illinois Board of Elections; Federal Election Commission

\*Totals combined from four races: a special election primary to fill a congressional term and the regular GOP primary, both won by Oberweis, and the special and general elections, which Oberweis lost.

