



This is our moment. This is our time.

Politicians have used those words as a rallying cry during their campaigns for various offices. And the BGA is using them now to describe the urgency of our mission.

The BGA represents one of the best hopes for cleaning up Illinois government in a significant and meaningful way through civic engagement. We say this because we're developing a comprehensive and realistic plan to engage the firepower of millions of citizens. Our mission is two-fold: In the near-term, to eliminate the "corruption tax" we pay here in Illinois when government is run for the benefit of the politicians and the insiders---not the people---through waste, fraud, inefficiency, nepotism, cronyism and patronage. That unacceptable situation has reached epidemic proportions at all levels of government, and it can't be tolerated.

Our long-term goal is to restore FAITH in government, which means Fairness, Accountability, Integrity, Transparency and Honesty. We believe this can actually become a reality and not just idle rhetoric if we combine the old BGA tools of investigative reporting, litigation and public policy advocacy with the new tools of a BGA 2.0 – an interactive web site, monthly forums around the city, a good government "report card" and TV and radio shows focusing on good government issues. The glue that holds the new and old together is "civic engagement"---our ambitious plan to harness and redirect the energy of regular citizens in a relentless pressure campaign that demands of public officials a government we can be proud of.