

THE RISE & FALL OF ROD BLAGOJEVICH



Dec. 10, 1956: Blagojevich is born in Chicago.

1992: Blagojevich is elected to the Illinois House from Chicago.



1996: Blagojevich wins a term in Congress, representing Illinois' 5th district.

2000

March 2002: Blagojevich wins a three-way Democratic primary for governor, taking 36 percent of the vote and edging Paul Vallas and Roland Burris.

November 2002: Blagojevich wins his campaign for governor after running against then-Attorney General Jim Ryan. He took 52 percent of the vote.



2005

January 2005: Blagojevich's father-in-law, Chicago alderman Dick Mell, said the governor traded campaign contributions for spots on boards and commissions. Mell would later recant those comments, but they sparked the interest of investigators into the governor's administration.



October 2006: Major Blagojevich fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezko is arrested. He would later be found guilty.



November 2006: Blagojevich wins a second term, defeating former state Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka.



Jan. 29, 2009: Blagojevich is ousted from office, convicted in his impeachment trial in the Illinois Senate. The vote is unanimous. Pat Quinn becomes governor.



Dec. 15, 2008: A Illinois House committee begins its work weighing whether Blagojevich should be impeached.

April 15, 2009: Blagojevich pleads not guilty to the charges.

Dec. 9, 2008: Blagojevich is arrested in Chicago by federal agents on corruption charges. He's accused, among other things, of trying to "sell" the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

March 2, 2009: Blagojevich is formally indicted on federal corruption charges.



June 2009: Patti Blagojevich eats a tarantula on the show "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here" in a money-making effort for the family.

2010



March: Blagojevich appears on NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice." He makes it through several eliminations, but doesn't win.

July 28: The jury begins deliberations.



June 8: Opening statements begin in Blagojevich's federal corruption trial. His attorneys promise he'll testify. But the former governor will eventually decide not to take the stand.

Aug. 17: Jury finds Blagojevich guilty of lying to federal agents, but deadlocked on remaining 23 counts. Prosecutors announce plans to retry the case.