



Gregory W. Baise

President & CEO

Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA)

**Gregory W. Baise** is the president and CEO of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA), a statewide advocacy organization representing more than 4,000 member manufacturing companies and supportive industries. Since assuming leadership in 1991 and is responsible for management of the Association including coordinating statewide lobbying activities as determined by the IMA Board of Directors.

In 2004, as a result of concern over the continued loss of manufacturing jobs in the state, Baise and the IMA and other groups founded the Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity. The Jobs Coalition's continues to educate Illinois taxpayers about the benefits of a pro-jobs, pro- employer statewide-economic agenda. Through numerous activities, it supports progressive initiatives aimed at making Illinois a destination economy for business and industry.

That continuing concern over Illinois economic problems spurred the Manufacturers Political Action Committee to be one of the largest contributors to Gov. Bruce Rauner's campaign as well as providing assistance to a bipartisan group of pro-business lawmakers. The

association continues to be the lead champion in Springfield for Workers' Compensation, unemployment insurance and tort reform measures, as well as other pro-business reforms.

Over the last five years, the IMA, through its Education Foundation, has partnered with the German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest to develop and expand multiple pathways for young people to pursue careers in manufacturing. This partnership has resulted in the receipt of a \$3.995 million federal grant to expand the use of dual-system apprenticeships throughout Illinois.

Late in 2008, Baise helped found a political organization designed to fight the passage of the so-called Employee Free Choice Act (better know as Card Check). Baise coordinated a grass-roots led public information campaign throughout the Midwest the included television and radio ads, billboards, web sites, social media and earned media in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. The EFA earned kudos from employers and pro-business organizations throughout the nation for its cutting-edge approach to modern political discourse as Card Check remains dormant in the halls of Congress. EFA remains active and watchful of initiatives that would harm job growth in this nation.

Prior to the IMA, Baise served in various capacities for Gov. Jim Thompson, including Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation. In addition, Baise has served in a number of high-level political campaign roles, including being the Illinois campaign manager for Presidents Reagan and Bush (41), and headed Thompson's re-election effort in 1986. In 1990 he was the Republican candidate for Illinois State Treasurer.

Baise is a 1974 graduate of Illinois College and has served on the Board of the National Association of Manufacturers.