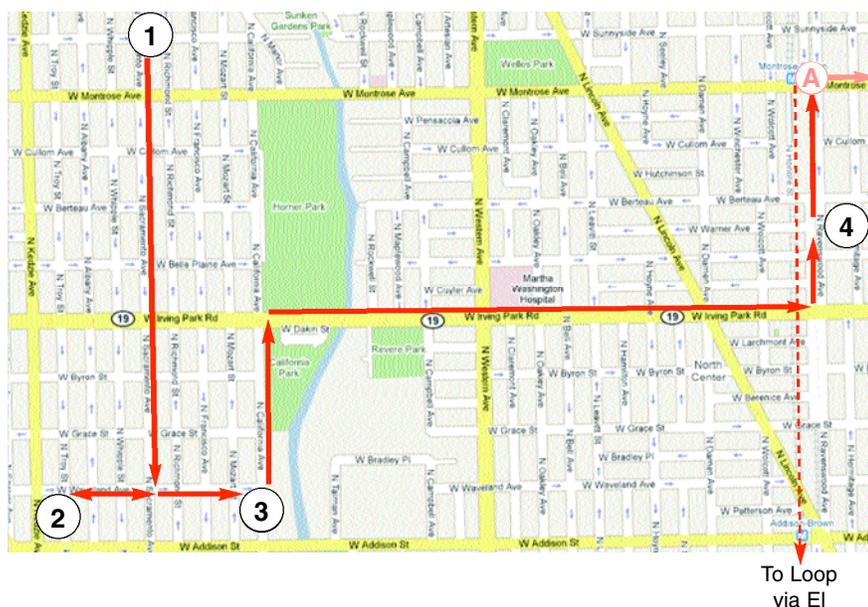


Walking Chicago's Blago Perp Walk

Key locations in the life of Gov. Rod Blagojevich. This walk – including an El ride – should take about three hours. Although for some, depending on good behavior, it could take 10-20 years.



Start

Take the CTA Brown Line to the Francisco stop. Walk two blocks south to Sunnyside Ave, turn west one block.

1 Blago Home

2934 W Sunnyside Ave

Look for the bland-bricked McMansion with the black SUVs out front. The Feds hauled Blago out of here at 6am Dec 9, 2008. Maybe you can hear the echoes of Blago's wife Patti screeching: "hold up that f- - - - - Cubs s- - - . . . f- - - them."

Head eight blocks south on Sacramento and four blocks west on W Waveland.

2 Mell Office

3649 N Kedzie Ave

This bland brick building houses the ward offices of Blago father-in-law Dick Mell, who got Rod his start in 1992. Estrangement struck in 2005 when Blago shut down a landfill run by a Mell relative.

Walk seven blocks east on W Waveland.

3 Mell Home

3649 N Mozart St

This comfy but undistinguished Chicago bungalow is the Mell family home. It's here that Patti learned her first cuss words.

Walk north to Irving Park Rd. Head east. As you cross the North Branch of the Chicago River, look north to Lisa Madigan's Ravenswood neighborhood. Ponder her choices: "Governor? Senator? What's a girl to do?"

4 Blago Office

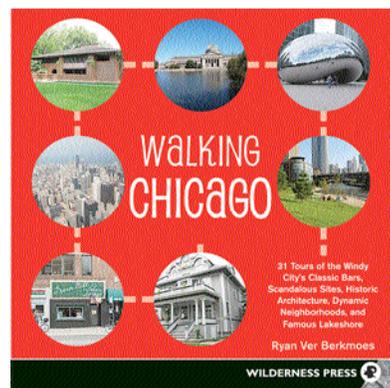
4147 N Ravenswood Ave

In yet another bland brick building, Blago has his political office. Many thought it odd that he did more business here than in his official governor's office. But now we know the reason for that!

Walk north two blocks to W Montrose where you can join Walk 27 (A) from Walking Chicago and see Carl Sandburg's home. His 1926 biography of Abraham Lincoln is a classic. [And recall that US Attorney Pat Fitzgerald said Blago's conduct "would make Lincoln roll over in his grave."] Otherwise, get on the CTA Brown Line at the Montrose stop and head south towards the Loop.

Over →

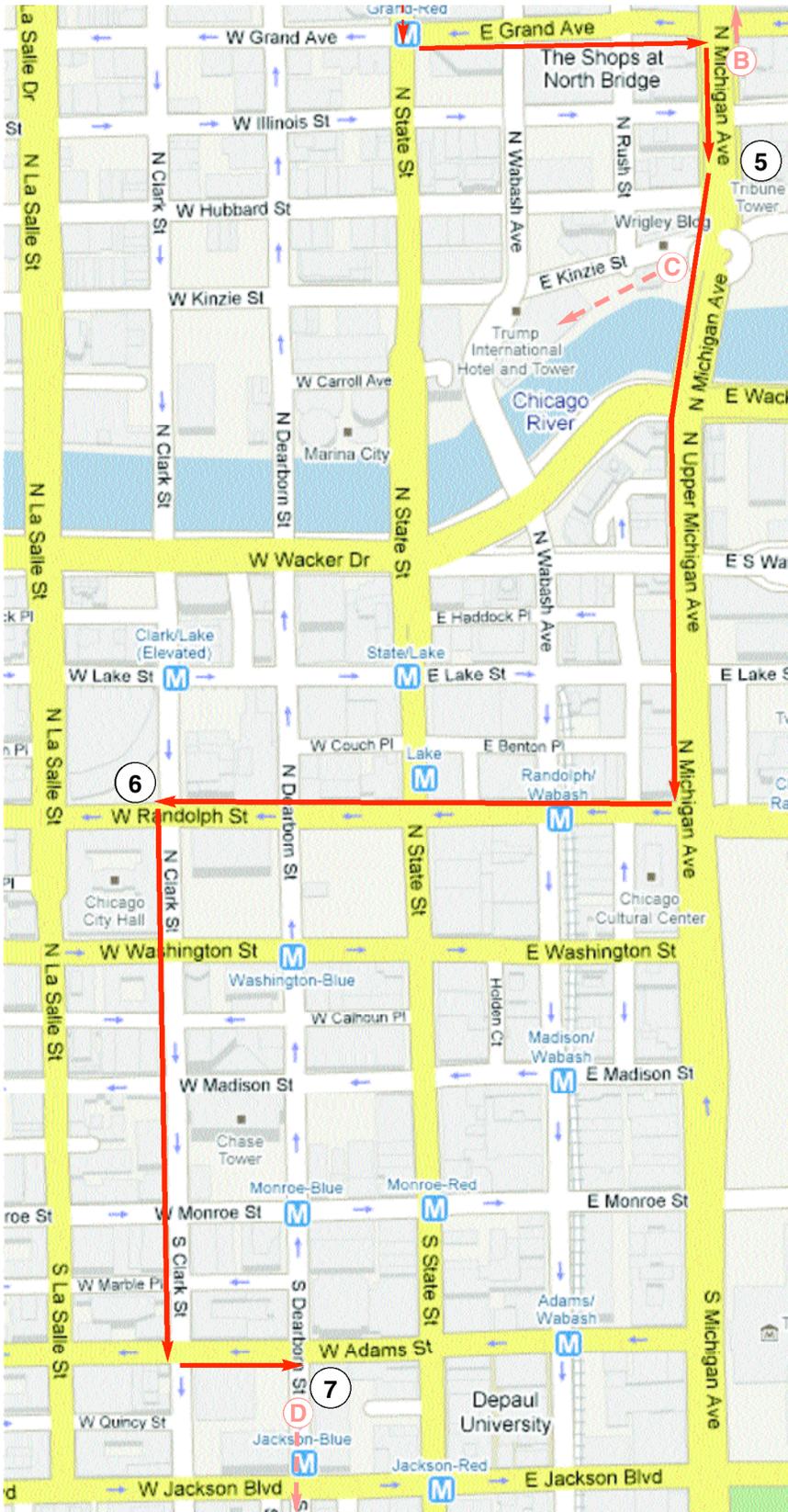
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Learn more about *Walking Chicago* and download a sample walk at ryanverberkmoes.com. Order from Amazon.



Continued from other side

After the Southport stop on the CTA Brown Line El, look north for glimpses of Wrigley Field. See below for more squalid details.

At the Belmont El stop, transfer to the Red Line and get off at Grand. Walk three blocks east to N Michigan Ave where you can turn north and join Walk 20 (B) and tour the Magnificent Mile. Look for a salon selling black Paul Mitchell hair brushes, Blago's favorite (he calls his "the football" after the bag that carries the president's nuke codes). Otherwise, head south two blocks.

5 Tribune Tower

435 N Michigan Ave

Bankrupt and willing to take any reasonable offer for the Cubs, the Chicago Tribune supposedly came under pressure from Blago to sack some of its editorial writers who had been critical of the governor. In return the taxpayers of Illinois would help finance a Cubs deal (evidently decades of fan support for the losers isn't enough).

From here you can join Walk 19 (C) and see the sight of Chicago's old traffic court where Blago cut his first deals as a young attorney. Otherwise, head south on N Michigan Ave to Randolph St and go west five blocks.

6 James R Thompson Center

100 W Randolph St

Named for an Illinois governor who hasn't played in the pokey, the bulbous state building has an over-wrought curved facade that could have been the model for Blago's hair. He's an infrequent visitor to his official office on the 16th floor.

Walk four blocks south on Clark St and then one block east on W Adams St.

7 Dirksen Federal Building

219 S Dearborn St

Home to Chicago's federal courts, this minimalist highrise is as unadorned as a holding cell. It's where Blago's arrest was announced and where previous governor George Ryan was convicted of corruption — bush-league compared to selling a senate seat.

Finish your walk here, or head south on Dearborn and see the office once used by Eliot Ness — who would find plenty to keep him busy in Illinois today — as part of Walk 17 (D).