

## "Save Illinois History" group working to keep historic sites open

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As the general assembly meets in Springfield for their veto session, a newly formed group is trying to get lawmakers attention about the state's historical sites.

Thirteen of the state's historical sites are scheduled to be shut down at the end of the month as the governor tries to fill a nearly \$2-billion budget deficit. A group called "save Illinois history" is hoping lawmakers will keep the closings from happening.

"We are trying to figure out other ways to fund these sites other than to just shutting them down," said Sarah Schatte, CEO of save Illinois history. "At Fort Deshard alone, there's the oldest building in Illinois there, and for us that should be worth something even if they can't find the money to necessarily fund them let us fund these sites."

But lawmakers have found a way to fund historic sites and state parks in the form of a supplemental appropriations bill.

Supporters of Illinois historic sites say they're not giving up easily on keeping the sites open and promise lawmakers haven't heard the last of them. But, they are worried that once the sites close, it may be difficult to have them reopened.



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