



IDCCA December 2015 Newsletter

Issue # 1

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION



President's Message

By Doug House, President IDCCA
Chairman, Rock Island County Democratic Party

Dear Fellow Democratic Chairman,

It is an honor to have been selected to serve as the President of the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association. At our November General Membership meeting, I was elected to complete the term of Mike Mathis, who stepped down to focus on his race for State Representative. The Presidency of our organization is a responsibility that I do not take lightly and I pledge to each of you that I will work hard every day to make our organization stronger. I would also like to thank Mike for his service to our organization and I look forward to helping him to get elected along with the other Democrats on the 2016 ballot.

I have been an active Democrat and Trade Unionist my entire adult life. But it was while serving as political director for the late Congressman Lane Evans that learned about public service, integrity and building an unbreakable bond with the voters. I was elected Precinct Committeeman more

than 30 years ago serving under the late Rock Island County Chairman John Gianulis (former IDCCA President). John Gianulis was organized and knew how to treat people fairly and with respect. These two leaders shaped my political and my personal life before I was elected Chairman of the Rock Island County Democratic Party in April of 2012. In my earlier years, I learned the humility of hard work knocking on doors for candidates and walking a picket line with other union members, as a result, I am not afraid of the hard work we face ahead. I will use everything that I have learned from these experiences to make this organization stronger and more respected.

As we enter the 2016 Election cycle, I am excited about our candidates and the future of our organization. I want IDCCA to be a valued partner with Labor, our Democratic Officials and Candidates, and of course the Democratic Party of Illinois.

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The Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association is a state wide, grassroots Democratic political organization. It is made up of the elected Democratic County Chairman in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in each county while continuing to grow the Democratic Party in the State of Illinois. Rock Island County Chairman Doug House is the President of the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association. A copy of our report is (or will be) available for purchase from the Illinois State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL. Labor Donated

President's Message

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This means that we will be having a renewed focus on training for Precinct Committeeman and assisting with resources for all of the County Chairman to become better organized. We will work together making it a priority to recruit and fill open Precinct Committeeman positions statewide so that we can be the strongest grass roots organization that we can be.

Since our last meeting in November we have opened a new office at 316 East Monroe and hired a new Executive Director, Dan Kovats – dankovats@gmail.com, amplified our social media presence and had an executive committee meeting to begin to map out our plan for next year.

We have many challenges on our hands in 2016 but none greater than the threat posed by Governor Rauner. He has dedicated himself to destroying Organized Labor and hurting the working class in our state by driving wages down. Our Democratic Legislators have done an outstanding job of keeping Rauner's misguided Turnaround Agenda in check. Now is the time that we need to take the fight to him. The IDCCA will be a leader in this fight; I know that you are just as committed to stopping Governor Rauner as I am. The 2016 election will be critical in stopping the Governor's assault, requiring all of us to be engaged and united.

I intend to lead our organization much like I have led the Rock Island County Democrats. My door is always open to each of you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at douglasehouse@gmail.com.

In the coming weeks you will learn more about our exciting plans to provide you the tools and training to be successful for all of our Democrats candidates across the state, I look forward to working with you, Dan Kovats and our partners to make this a very successful effort.

With Deep Appreciation for all that you do,

Doug House
President

Executive Director's Message

By Dan Kovats, Executive Director IDCCA

Dear County Chairmen, Precinct Committeemen and Elected Officials,

My name is Dan Kovats, and I would like to introduce myself as your new Executive Director of the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association. I wanted to this opportunity to tell you a bit about myself and talk about some of the exciting changes that are coming for IDCCA.

I have been involved in campaigns for the last 10 years starting out in organizing and grassroots efforts, which are the lifeblood of the Democratic Party. My last campaign I served as Campaign Manager to Rianne Hawkins for Springfield City Clerk and before that, I was the Downstate Regional Field Director for US Senator Dick Durbin's reelection campaign. I have also worked numerous county wide and smaller races within Sangamon County. I also served for 11 months as an Outreach Assistant to State Treasurer Michael Frerichs before accepting this opportunity with IDCCA.

There are many new changes on the horizon for IDCCA. Since you are reading our first newsletter, you can see one of the bigger changes that we are implementing. The IDCCA newsletter will be a monthly update on our organization and will provide valuable information for each of the County Parties. The Training Section will be one section that you won't want to miss each month. My goal is that each month we will provide valuable information on modern campaigning and issues facing the Democratic Party. Both parts of this section will be done by subject matter experts that have years of experience in their fields. I hope that you will find this information useful as we head towards November 2016.

There are several other changes that will be coming up over the next couple of months. We will be completely revamping our website to provide more information and resources to County Parties. We are also looking into live streaming our General Membership meetings so that more County Chairman can participate. There are also several in person trainings and fundraisers in the works. As new information becomes available, I will be utilizing these new and updated resources to keep you informed of the latest.

I am very excited about the future of our organization and I'm looking forward to working together to elect Democrats from the US Capitol, to the Statehouse to the County Courthouse. I'm looking forward to working with President Doug House and the entire Executive Board to build a stronger IDCCA.

If you haven't had a chance, please Like the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association on Facebook. If there is anything that you need from myself or IDCCA please email me directly at dankovats@gmail.com.

I would also like to extend to each of you and to each of your families a Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas. I hope this holiday season is a joyful one for all of us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Kovats
Executive Director



Campaign Training

By Anna Valencia

Tips for a successful campaign:

- 1.) Take the time to plan it all out...BEFORE you hire your team.
- 2.) Can you raise the money needed?
- 3.) Do you have endorsements, volunteers, and grassroots support?
- 4.) What resources will you need to win?
- 5.) What is the landscape? Is it a good year for Democrats? Is it the right district that fits your views?
- 6.) DON'T spend any money until you have a campaign manager, plan and budget in place!!

Once you have answered some key questions, you are ready to build your team. Remember that you are putting your political career in the hands of others, so make sure you trust them and you can work with them 24/7. Whether you are running for County Board or United States Senator, it is important to have a good team of advisors that can offer different viewpoints. At the end of the day you must trust your advisors to help you make crucial decisions.

Make sure your team is organized and there is one person making the final decisions, either the candidate and campaign manager. The candidate will hear multiple voices throughout a race, but it is very important for a winning campaign that there be one clear voice that the candidate listens to and has the authority to make executive decisions.
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Campaign Training

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At the end of the day, you must be able to make multiple decisions at the same time and move forward quickly executing.

When choosing a campaign manager make sure to look for someone who is:

- 1.) Trustworthy
- 2.) Personable and can manage a team of various personalities
- 3.) Organized
- 4.) Depending on what office you are running for, has previous leadership experience and has managed other people.
- 5.) Can successfully execute plans.

Anna Valencia is Founder and principle, AVK Advisors LLC. Former Senior Advisor –Rahm Emanuel for Mayor, 2015 and Former Campaign Manager – Dick Durbin US Senate, 2015



Issues Training By Sean Stott

Rauner's Ransom

The Illinois House has voted on Governor Rauner's anti-worker, anti-middle class agenda 11 times now; and 11 times the House has overwhelmingly rejected it. No Democrat has ever supported the Rauner amendment. House Republicans have typically either voted "present" (a non-committal vote) or refused to vote.

Rauner is holding the final pieces of the state budget hostage until legislators give in to his demands to hurt the middle class by:

- Cutting construction worker pay through elimination of Prevailing Wage Act coverage on local government construction projects;
- Allowing local governments to prohibit their employees from bargaining over pay, health insurance, privatization of their jobs and other, basic items; and
- Preventing injured workers, especially older workers and those with pre-existing conditions, from collecting workers compensation benefits

Prevailing Wage

What it Does

The Prevailing Wage Act applies to construction projects that are funded with tax dollars. The law requires the most common wage in an area to be paid to the workers who build the project. Wages differ by type of worker and typically from county to county. Support for elimination of Prevailing Wage is support for pay cut for Illinois construction workers.

Everyone Benefits from Prevailing Wage

Taxpayers, local businesses and local workers benefit from the Prevailing Wage Act:

- Taxpayers get a project that is done right by skilled workers instead of fly-by-night contractors who cut corners;
- It prohibits local contractors from being undercut by low wage, out-of-state contractors because the Act forces contractors to bid on work based on how efficient and well-trained their workforce is rather than how far they can drive down wages;
- Illinois workers (both union and non-union) benefit from better wages and benefits and more job opportunities; and
- Local businesses benefit from the additional money earned by local families who spend it in the community rather than sending it out-of-state.

Why Rauner is Wrong

Gov. Rauner and opponents of the Prevailing Wage Act make outrageous claims that the law drives up construction costs. But their "studies" don't take into account the efficiency that an experienced, well-trained workforce gets the same job done right the first time and in a fraction of the time.

Collective Bargaining Rights

What Rauner Wants to Do

State law has given workers employed by state and local government the ability to form a union and negotiate contract for more than 30 years. Gov. Rauner wants to allow local governments to eliminate their employee's ability to collectively bargain. This is another of Rauner's attacks on middle class families

Why Rauner is Wrong

- Local government employees should have the same rights as state workers and workers in the private sector;
- Public employees primarily join unions to get protection from being fired for political reasons, not simply to increase their pay;
- Decent wages and benefits for public employees make it more attractive to work in critical, but difficult and oftentimes dangerous jobs.

Workers Compensation

What it Does

Injured workers gave up the right to sue their employers in court for damages and pain and suffering for injuries that occur on the job in exchange for payment of accident-related medical bills and a partial replacement of lost wages while unable to work.

What Rauner Wants to Do

Gov. Rauner has proposed preventing thousands of injured workers from getting workers comp by instituting a so-called "causation" standard.

Why Rauner is Wrong

- Causation supporters claim they are not cutting benefits, but they are really prohibiting legitimately injured workers from even *qualifying* for benefits;
- This will mean that workers with any pre-existing condition made worse on the job will rarely, if ever, get workers comp;
- Rauner's proposal will hit older workers especially hard because employers will easily defend claims by saying, 'you're getting old' even though the worker's job sped up or caused the worker's body to wear down;
- Workers will still get hurt on the job, but preventing them from collecting workers comp will transfer the cost of the injury from the employer to the taxpayers through increased Medicaid and welfare benefits.

Sean Stott is Director of Governmental Affairs for Laborers International Union – Midwest Region and 1st Vice Chairman for the Sangamon County Democratic Party.

Endorsements

Springfield, IL – On November 7, 2015 the General Membership of the Illinois Democratic County Chairman's Association met in Springfield to discuss endorsements for the upcoming 2016 Primary Election. "It's important that Democrats know who our organization is supporting and why we are going to work hard to get these individuals elected," said IDCCA President Doug House. House added, "All of the candidates were qualified but former Secretary of State Clinton, Congresswoman Duckworth, and City Clerk of Chicago Mendoza stood above the others as the right candidates to lead the Democratic ticket in 2016."



Hillary Clinton is a native of Park Ridge, IL and has been a well-respected public servant her entire career. She served as Secretary of State under Illinois' favorite son, President Barack Obama. Clinton was elected twice to the United States Senate to represent the State of New York. IDCCA President House said, "Secretary Clinton has been a tireless advocate for the middle class and has fought for the ideals of the Democratic Party. Clinton has a strong message that will unite the Democratic Party and will be able to bridge the gaps of the deep political divide in our country. The IDCCA is looking forward to helping Secretary Clinton carry Illinois and to help her become the first woman President of the United States."



Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (Illinois 8th) has been a fighter for Illinois long before she was elected to Congress in 2012. Duckworth served admirably as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army. In November 2004 her helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. She lost both of her legs during the attack. After Duckworth recovered from her injuries, she became a tireless advocate for Illinois veterans. She served as the Illinois Director of Veterans Affairs and the Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She has also been an active voice for middle class issues facing our country. Drawing from her own middle class upbringing, she has fought for to make the lives of all Illinois residents better. IDCCA President House said, "Congresswoman Duckworth is an American hero and will be a great advocate for the State of Illinois. Her experience growing up in a middle class family and her military experience show that she is the fighter that we need in the U.S. Senate."



City Clerk of Chicago Susana Mendoza has built her career on being a watchdog for the residents of Illinois. She is the

first woman City Clerk of Chicago when she was elected in 2011. Since then her office has been modernized to save taxpayers money and streamlined to reduce inefficiency. Mendoza's office led the way on revamping the Chicago City Vehicle Sticker program to make it easier for residents. Prior to serving as City Clerk of Chicago, Mendoza served six terms in the Illinois House of Representatives where she was a champion for social services, education and law enforcement. IDCCA President House said, "Clerk Mendoza has a proven track record that will bring much needed changes to the Office of Illinois State Comptroller. In her time as City Clerk of Chicago, she has implemented monumental changes that have directly benefited the residents of Chicago. She also has a strong record with Organized Labor with a 92% voting record for the working men and women of Illinois. She is the right person to fight back against Governor Rauner and his misguided Turn Around agenda."

ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC
COUNTY CHAIRMEN
ASSOCIATION



www.facebook.com/ILDCCA

Or Online at

www.ildcca.org

STAND UP! FOR FAIRNESS!

RALLY TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GOV. RAUNER

Governor Rauner is holding the state budget hostage to his "turnaround" agenda, harming Illinois citizens and jeopardizing vital services.

He's pushing legislators to strip collective bargaining rights from teachers, police officers, firefighters and other public employees—and to wipe out prevailing wage and project labor agreements for workers in the construction trades. **His agenda would drive down the income of working families and weaken all of organized labor in our state.**

The governor is also holding hostage tens of thousands of state employees, trying to force a strike by insisting on extreme demands in union contract negotiations.

It's time to come together to tell Governor Rauner: Illinois residents need the vital public services that state and local governments provide. And all workers deserve a voice on the job, family-supporting wages, affordable health care and dignity in retirement.



CHICAGO

DEC. 5 AT 1:30 PM
PLUMBERS HALL
1340 W WASHINGTON

JOLIET

DEC. 8 AT 5:30 PM
IBEW HALL LOCAL 176
1100 NE FRONTAGE RD.

ROCK ISLAND

DEC. 8 AT 5:30 PM
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS
HALL LOCAL 25
4600 46TH AVE.

ROCKFORD

DEC. 9 AT 5:30 PM
IBEW HALL LOCAL 364
6820 MILL ROAD

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

DEC. 9 AT 5:30 PM
IJOE HALL LOCAL 318
3310 WATER TOWER RD.
MARION

SPRINGFIELD

DEC. 10 AT 5:30 PM
PRAIRIE CAPITAL
CONVENTION CENTER

METRO EAST

DEC. 10 AT 5:30 PM
IBEW LOCAL 309 HALL
2000 MALL STREET
COLLINSVILLE

RALLY FOR FAIRNESS! DEC. 5-10

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO • CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • AFSCME COUNCIL 31 • ASSOCIATED FIRE FIGHTERS OF ILLINOIS • ILLINOIS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION • ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS • ILLINOIS FOP LABOR COUNCIL • ILLINOIS FOP STATE LODGE • TROOPERS LODGE #41 FOP • ILLINOIS NURSES ASSOCIATION • LABORERS' LOCAL 2002 • PB&PA OF ILLINOIS • SEIU HEALTHCARE

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