



IDCCA
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Newsletter

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE



President's Message

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

With our country on the verge of making history by electing Hillary Clinton as our first female President, we are reminded of the unique challenges women face as they run for elected office.

It is a challenge that is absolutely necessary to overcome, and something Illinois Democrats have been tackling for years.

This election alone, Illinois will have the opportunity to vote for Tammy Duckworth and Susana Mendoza statewide, as well as countless others running as incumbents and challengers in State and Municipal level races.

It is no longer a secret how women improve government when they are able to bring their attention to issues like education, healthcare, safety, security, and the environment.

Women's issues have taken on a whole new meaning.

However, there are still unique challenges and road blocks for women trying to run for office. It is why we in Illinois are so lucky to have an organization like Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership to offer their guidance and support

for young women looking to run for office in the future.

Last month, the twelve women chosen for IWIL's 2016 class celebrated their graduation. The application to be considered for the class of 2017 is currently open. You can apply at www.iwilinfo.org/application

We are proud of this fellow Democratic organization in Illinois, and hope you will stand with us as we push for progress across the state.

Doug House
President

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Precinct Committeeman Recruiting

We are recruiting Democratic Precinct Committeeman statewide to assist with the grassroots effort to build the Democratic Party in Illinois. If you are interested in being a part of this grassroots effort, please email dan@ildcca.org with your name, address, phone, email, county and precinct. Your County Democratic Party Chairman will contact you immediately!

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

September Training Report

By IDCCA Executive Director Dan Kovats

September wrapped up the Precinct Committeemen Training for the IDCCA. The IDCCA conducted three well attended Precinct Committeemen Training sessions throughout the state. The training sessions were hosted by the Peoria County, Williamson County and Winnebago County Democratic Parties.

The training sessions had a good mix of seasoned veterans and new Committeemen. Combined we had well over 100 Precinct Committeemen at the trainings. Thank you to Peoria County Chairman Billy Halstead, Williamson County Chairman Jim Kirkpatrick, and Winnebago County Chairman Charlie Laskonis for their hospitality.

A special thank you to Boone County Chairman John Gedney for helping facilitate our training in Rockford and to the UAW Local 592. Also a special thanks to the Laborers Local 773 in Marion and to the Laborers 165 in Peoria for allowing us to use their halls for our training.

Our trainings this month were expanded with more information on Precinct Committeemen duties, how to talk to and influence voters, Votebuilder, and Get Out the Vote. Thank you to Steve Drucker of DEMOCRACY NOW: Talk it or Lose it, Bill Houlihan, State Central Committeemen (IL 18th), and Ken Kimber, Voter File Administrator for the Democratic Party of Illinois for presenting at our trainings.

We were also very fortunate to be joined by three great Guest Speakers at our trainings. These individuals did an outstanding job of firing us up as we make the push towards the November election. Thank you to State

Senator Gary Forby, Citizen Action Illinois Co-Director William McNary and former Congressman Glenn Poshard for being our Guest Speakers.

With the end of September comes the end of the Precinct Committeemen training for 2016. We conducted, or assisted at, nine Precinct Committeemen trainings statewide. The trainings were conducted in (in order they were held):

- Springfield
- Joliet
- Aurora
- Kankakee
- Charleston
- Bloomington
- Rockford
- Marion
- Peoria

We have already started planning more trainings for 2017. These trainings will build on the basic training sessions we conducted this year. They will include advanced Votebuilder training, Votebuilder County Party Administrator training, messaging training and candidate training. We will also continue to conduct the basic Precinct Committeemen training sessions.

Our goal with training is to make sure every Precinct Committeemen has everything they need to help turn out Democratic voters. If your County Party is interested in hosting a training in 2017 please email me at dankovats@gmail.com to let me know.



The Most Important Job You've Never Heard Of

By Susana Mendoza, Candidate for Illinois Comptroller
@susanamendoza10

Hi, my name is Susana Mendoza and I'm running for the most important job most people have never heard of: Illinois Comptroller. The Comptroller is responsible for controlling the State's checkbook; in other words, your tax dollars. Tax dollars that help fund vital and critical services for the most vulnerable, like children with autism, disabled and sick senior citizens, domestic violence or homeless shelters, just to name a few. I'm running for Comptroller because the people of Illinois deserve an independent, truth-telling fiscal watchdog that will prioritize both the fiscal and moral health of this state. My opponent is the hand-picked appointee and self-proclaimed "wingman" of Governor Rauner. Under the Munger/Rauner team, the State of Illinois has for the first time in our State's history, shamefully gone into its second consecutive year without passing a budget. Governor Rauner, championed by his Comptroller wingman, has refused to introduce or work on balancing a budget unless the legislature gives in to his extreme agenda first. We have witnessed what the devastation of the past two years has done to our social services network, schools and working families. Comptroller Munger has been key to Governor Rauner's ability to hold the budget hostage. This must stop.

I am the daughter of Mexican immigrants who taught me about work ethic. My parents worked multiple jobs to make ends meet and sacrificed day in and day out to provide for their three children. My father

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was a union pipefitter and my father-in-law raised nine kids as a union electrician. I come from a hard working lower middle class that had to budget accordingly to make ends meet and my parents had many sleepless nights wondering how they could stretch their dollar in order to provide for their family. I can relate to the common man, woman, and child because they are representative of my family and my family's challenges. Comptroller Munger and her billionaire buddies cannot possibly understand the devastation they have inflicted and continue to inflict on families across this State because they've never lost a single wink of sleep wondering how they would pay for their kids' colleges or worried about choosing between rent payments or food. There is a big difference between asking people to tighten their budgets and tightening to the point of strangling them to death. The Munger/Rauner team has truly lost its moral compass and has by design, created a completely avoidable crisis in order to try and force an extreme agenda that will only hurt the lower and middle class for the benefit of the over-privileged 1%. It's absolutely shameful and we must stop them from inflicting further devastation.

I was the youngest member of the 92nd Illinois General Assembly, having been elected to the Illinois House of Representatives at the age of 28. I was elected by running AGAINST the "machine". I voted against legislative pay raises, worked in a strong bipartisan fashion and passed balanced budgets that invested in children, education, job creation initiatives, and critical social services for vulnerable populations year after year. In 2011, I successfully ran for Chicago City Clerk, becoming the first woman in history elected to run the second largest office in the City.

When I ran for Chicago City Clerk in 2011, the Civic Federation called for merging the Clerk and Mayor's Offices. They said the City Clerk did nothing the Mayor's Office wasn't already capable of doing. I argued Chicagoans could benefit from a truly independent advocate that wasn't beholden to the Mayor, and that in the hands of the right leader, the Clerk's Office could truly produce for the people of Chicago. Five years later they are no longer calling for the merger, and in fact asked me to speak at their Annual Luncheon in 2015. Chicagoans have seen how I modernized and successfully overhauled the Clerk's Office to

better serve them. Our 21st Century reboot of a City Sticker Program dating back to 1908, was lauded by both customers and national experts on innovation in government, and earned us the "Bright Idea Award" from Harvard University. Unlike most government offices, I've led the charge of doing more with less. That means, streamlining systems, cutting overtime, reducing headcount, rooting out and eliminating waste and fraud, and voluntarily coming in under budget every year. I've been a strong taxpayer watchdog. As such, I've saved Chicagoans millions of dollars, while improving customer service. My successful implementation of the Year Round Sales Program has not only dramatically improved the experience for Chicago motorists by replacing hours long lines with what are now 5-10 minute waits, but has generated nearly \$50 million dollars in new, sustainable revenue for the City without asking taxpayers to pay more. We are now seen as a model in government efficiency. That is the type of leadership that I will bring to the Comptroller's Office.

Last week, Comptroller Munger broke the caps with a \$260,000 loan from her husband and days later accepted \$5 MILLION contributions from TWO of the Governor's billionaire buddies. She is receiving unlimited contributions from people like Governor Rauner. Worse yet, the Republican Party is now using her campaign account as a blatant money laundering operation to circumvent the financial limits law in other races. She has gone from being the State's Chief Fiscal Officer to the State's Chief Fiscal Launderer.

We're a little over a month until Election Day and early voting is now! Our Democratic ticket rocks! You have Secretary Clinton running for President, Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth running for US Senate, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. Serious girl power making history. But don't forget about C.J. Baricevic for Congress. He's not a woman but he's totally awesome too! Vote Blue No Matter Who!

On November 8th, I need your vote. It's time for an independent truth-telling fiscal watchdog to run the office of the Comptroller. That's me, Susana Mendoza.

I humbly ask for your vote.



Donald Trump "The daily Disgrace"

By Doug House, President of the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association

Over a year ago Donald Trump started his Presidential campaign by calling Mexicans rapists and murders. This started our country on a daily flow of insults and attacks on people from the Muslim, Jewish, African American, LGBT, Disabled and Veteran communities. This has now brought us to today where our country is faced with more than a political decision, but a moral one as well.

Our current political climate reminds me of a poem that was written by Pastor Martin Niemoller:

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for"

When do we say enough is enough? I am a proud Democrat but more than that I am the son of a strong mother, I am the husband of hard working and loving wife, I am the brother to sister that I care deeply about, I am a father – in – law to my son's wife, and I am a proud father to a smart and beautiful daughter.

When I hear any man speak as Donald Trump has about people I am incensed and disgusted. It should make each of us all sick at our stomachs. I understand people make mistakes but most people are not running for President of the United States. Donald Trump is running to be the Leader of the Free World. What you say and have said has consequences.

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Want to stay up to date on Democratic fund-raisers, events and meetings throughout the state? Check out www.ildcca.org/events

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On Friday, October 7th, the country watched in horror the video and the comments made by Donald Trump. This was the last straw in his long line of comments degrading women. No man should boastfully recount his sexual advances of groping a married woman. His vulgar language is not acceptable in the locker room, the Board Room and most certain not in the Oval Office.

During his brief go second non apology apology, Donald Trump attempted to bring up the sins and sexual exploits of President Bill Clinton. Let me remind you that President Clinton paid a price for his failings. His legacy was forever tarnished because of this. But President Clinton's transgressions are not a defense for Donald Trump's transgressions.

This latest comments made by Donald Trump should be the last straw. Not necessarily that his comments were worse than his previous comments about women. These comments are a culmination of collective attacks against each of our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. All of these comments are sickening and Donald Trump should be held accountable for them.

The time has come to say enough is enough. We must stop this "Daily Disgrace" of our country. We must separate ourselves from all of the insulting comments from Donald Trump that says it is okay to be a racist, that says it is okay to make fun of people with disabilities, that it is okay to make fun of veterans who were Prisoners of War, that it is okay to demean people from other religions, and that it is okay to sexually assault women.

I am asking everyone, Democrats and Republican, to call out these types of actions and these types of comments where ever they see them. Furthermore, every elected Congressional, State and Local Republican should explain how they can still support Donald Trump. Their support has elevated Donald Trump and given him a national platform to promote division and hate.

Election Day Get Out The Vote

By [Dan Kovats, Executive Director IDCCA](#)
[@dankovats @LDCCA](#)

As we get closer and closer to Election Day you will start to hear campaigns talking about their Get Out the Vote (or GOTV) efforts. Normally GOTV is the weekend before the Election and on Election Day. How we approach GOTV has changed over the past couple of years. It is now

easier for citizens to Early Vote and to Vote By Mail. These programs are vitally important to the overall success of all the Democrats on the ballot. Each County Party should be actively encouraging voters to either Vote Early or to Vote By Mail.

For the purposes of this article, and for the training of Precinct Committeemen, I want to focus what each Precinct Committeemen should be doing to prepare for Election Day. These are recommendations for each Precinct Committeemen. If your County Party already has established GOTV Operations, then you should contact your County Chairman to see where you can help within those operations.

One thing that everyone should remember is GOTV is about mobilizing Democrats to get out and vote. Campaigns should not be spending time on trying to persuade voters at this point. We know that, in Illinois, the only way Republicans win is when Democrats don't show up.

An important duty that most Precinct Committeemen fail to fulfill is that each of you is responsible for the yard signs being put up at Polling Locations. I understand that yard signs don't vote but it is important to give a reminder to our voters before they walk into the polls.

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This means that every yard sign, for every candidate running in your Precinct, needs to be up by 6am on Election Day. As a Precinct Committeemen, you are the representative of the Democratic Party in your Precinct. In the General Election you do not have the luxury of picking and choosing what candidates you will put up signs for. That means you'll MUST put up signs for every candidate from President all the way down the ballot to Judge.

Republicans also have a very bad habit of forgetting to pick up their yard signs from polling locations. I've seen Republican yard signs at Polling Locations for weeks after an election. Let's make sure that at 7pm on Election Day that we pull all the Democrat yard signs. The Polling Location will appreciate your efforts with this.

On Election Day there are several different tasks that Precinct Committeemen will be responsible for. That is why it is important to recruit 2 – 5 volunteers for every Precinct. These individuals should be separate from volunteers for any campaign or labor union. That way we are not double counting volunteers. Everyone has at least 2 friends that are interested in Democrat politics but don't want to be involved at a Precinct Committeemen level. You should be asking those individuals now so give them enough time to take off from work. College aged children are also another good source of volunteer help on Election Day. I have a three-year-old son and he doesn't know it yet, but he'll be out knocking on doors once he's old enough. The point is that every Precinct Committeemen should be looking to add in more volunteers to the GOTV efforts. It makes the overall effort easier and allows the operations to cover more area.

On Election day your volunteers (or you as a Precinct Committeeman) should be focusing on these duties:

- Poll Watcher
- Precinct Runner
- Phone Banker

I believe the most important role on Election Day is Poll Watcher. This volunteer will be checking off a master list of expected Democratic voters. You will be get this from your County Chairman or from the campaign running GOTV in your County. The Poll

Watcher must report to the Polling Location by 6am and MUST turn in a Poll Watcher Credential. I would recommend having several copies of this Poll Watcher Credential in case they are needed.

Poll Watchers are the Democratic Party's first line of defense against Voter Suppression. There are various different things that Poll Watchers should look out for and that was covered in previous newsletters. The one thing that Poll Watchers should remember that if they think that there is voter suppression taking place in their Polling Location, call your County Chairman immediately.

The next important role is Precinct Runners. These are the individuals who will be knocking on doors, and leaving candidate literature, to remind voters that Polls are open till 7pm. These volunteers should report to the GOTV Staging Location by 8:45am. They should have walk lists from the County Chairman or from the campaign running GOTV operations.

Throughout the day the Precinct Committeeman should "pull the list" of voters from the Poll Watcher. They will go through their own master walk list and strike the voters

who have already voted. The Precinct Committeeman will then meet with the Runners to strike off their lists anyone who has already voted. The Precinct Committeeman should "pull the list" of voters by 10am, 1:30pm and 4pm.

The last important role is Phone Bankers. Several volunteers want to help with turning out Democrats but are unable to help with going door to door. These volunteers should be utilized for phone banking. These volunteers should report to the GOTV Staging Location by 10am. Phone lists can be attained from the County Chairman or the campaign running GOTV operations.

If every Precinct Committeeman were to have volunteers for these roles, I am positive that we would see an increase in Democratic turnout statewide. At the absolute minimum, Precinct Committeeman should be working in their Precinct on Election Day.



Why I'm With Her

By Jack McNeil

After losing the Democratic nomination in 1980, Ted Kennedy said, "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die." He was right then, and, is right now.

The causes young people have brought to the table during the Democratic primary will endure, and it's important to note that they have been adopted in the Democratic Party's platform, making it the most progressive platform of all time.

We now have a chance to elect the most qualified candidate in history. We will be electing someone who has fought for women's rights, even when it wasn't the politically expedient thing to do, prioritized child care, led the way on universal health care in the 90s and is still standing after 20 years of right wing attacks. Oh, and she will break the next biggest glass ceiling.

President Obama said it best when speaking to the Congressional Black Caucus.

"My name may not be on the ballot, but our progress is on the ballot," he said. "Tolerance is on the ballot. Democracy is on the ballot. Justice is on the ballot. Good schools are on the ballot. Ending mass incarceration, that's on the ballot right now."

He not only mentioned his legacy being on the line this November, but he also noted America's record low voter turnout. If we want progress after November, we have to show up, and keep showing up.

According to the Pew Research Center voters under 35 outnumbered baby boomers (aged 52 to 70 years old) for the first time as a share of the electorate. But will we turn out? Well, we know what happens if we get representation that doesn't represent us.

We end up with a chair of the Environment and Public works committee in the Senate throwing a snowball on the floor to prove the Earth isn't warming. So, how do we change that? We mobilize and vote, and then we mobilize again to push for the progressive policies adopted by the Democratic Party. There's only one candidate who can enact that policy: someone who has been in the trenches fighting for us her whole life, whether or not it was to Sean Hannity's liking.

We care about mitigating the effects of climate change, and understand that, as Bloomberg stated, clean-energy jobs have surpassed oil-drilling jobs, and there are twice as many jobs in solar than there are in coal, as Fortune reported. Clean energy is the future, and Hillary Clinton has a plan for generating 50 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade.

We are saddled with college debt, which Marketwatch reported has just surpassed \$1 trillion in total. Along with new investments in K-12 education, Clinton is pledging to make college debt-free to every American and provide relief to those with college debt.

We care about ending mass incarceration across this country. Clinton began her campaign talking about criminal justice reform, ending the school to prison pipeline and investing in community policing.

She's also been a strong advocate for common sense gun safety measures, as well as reforming our broken immigration system, something that is long overdue.

I understand some voters want more than the platform adopted by the Democratic Party this year. They see the economic inequality that still exists, despite the progress made under President Obama, and want to see an economy that works for everyone. They want to believe people when they tell them if they work hard and go to college, or go into a trade field, that they will not only survive, but also live comfortably.

Clinton has a plan to make the economy work for everyone. Whether it's prioritizing a fair tax system, supporting unions, fair housing, investments in infrastructure and advanced manufacturing or her pledge to propose a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United in the first 30 days of her presidency, she is ready to reinvent the American dream. It's time we all join her.

Now look at Donald Trump, seriously. Look at him, and then imagine him sitting in the Oval Office. Imagine what that says about our country, that we allowed a reckless, racist scam artist and liar to be president. His most recent lie being that

Hillary Clinton is at fault for the five years he spent leading the birtherism movement, a shamefully dark moment in American history. Simply put, "the Donald" needs to be defeated.

That being said, I'm voting for her because I believe in the policy she and our newly energized party believe in. Are you skeptical of her? Good. That means when she's in office, you can work even harder to help her enact the policies she is stumping for now. We won't have that opportunity if we elect a lying authoritarian who is friendly with Putin, deepens racial divides, can be baited with a tweet and doesn't have a clue about even some of the most basic policy questions.

I'm voting for the kids in Indiana being heckled with "build a wall" during a high school basketball game. I'm voting for the generation of fathers who couldn't see their child's first dance recital or basketball game due to an unjust criminal justice system. I'm voting to continue the progress made by President Obama. Right now we need to elect the most qualified candidate of all time, and after we win, we must continue the fight. And we must continue to vote because "the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

Jack McNeil is the president of the DePaul College Democrats and president of the College Democrats of Illinois.

