



IDCCA
September
2016
Newsletter

Issue #9

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE



President's Message

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

Wow! Only 57 Days to go until Election Day. The IDCCA has been running full speed since last November when our IDCCA Executive Director Dan Kovats and I first outlined our three-year plan. The end of the first year effort is rapidly coming up and we are proud to report that we are on track to achieve all of our first year goals. Our three-year plan includes several ongoing and ambitious goals as we work towards 2018. Some of these goals include being an active partner in the Coordinated Campaign for the General Election, increasing valuable regional training throughout the state of Chairmen and Precinct Committeemen, and be more of a partisan voice against Governor Rauner.

We have also ramped up our fundraising efforts statewide. Our Chairmen's Brunch well exceeded our expectations in attendance and money raised. We also held our first Chicago fundraiser and had a successful Legislative fundraiser. I am also proud to report that a

southern Illinois fundraiser is in the works and we will have more to report next month. The money raised from these events will continue to go right back into County Parties and campaigns.

Yes, the end of the first year effort has poised us to do all that we can as a premiere grass roots effort that is canvassing our state for candidates and turning out the Democratic vote. Now we must execute our plan!

The number one goal of our organization has always been to elect Democrats up and down the ballot. The only way we can only do this is if we are ready to take the fight to the Republicans. That means we must work to exceed Democratic turnout expectations in every precinct statewide. We are facing a determined enemy with unlimited financial resources.

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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 Chairman'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 Chairman's Association.

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

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While the Republicans have the money, they do not have our passion and commitment to help the middle class and working families of Illinois.

We will use our resources wisely over the next two months. If it will help increase Democratic turnout, then we should do it. If it doesn't help get Democrats out, then we shouldn't worry about it. There is too much at stake in this Election and in the 2018 Election. With our combined efforts we will ensure that the Democrats maintain control of the Whitehouse, we will regain control of the US Senate and potentially the US House, we will defeat Rauner's "wingman" Comptroller Munger, and we will BUILD on our majorities in the State House and State Senate.

Now is our time! Stay focused and vigilant to our cause because the General Election is almost here. How we execute our plan over the next two months will determine the future of our state!

Doug House
President

August Training Report

By IDCCA Executive Director Dan Kovats

August was a very busy month for the IDCCA. Along with the annual IDCCA Chairmen's Brunch and the Southern 20 Chairmen's Breakfast, the IDCCA conducted two Precinct Committeemen Training sessions. The training sessions were hosted by the Coles County and McLean County Democratic Parties.

Both training sessions were well attended by over 50 Precinct Committeemen each. There was a good mixture of brand new Precinct Committeemen and seasoned veterans. Both training sessions also included Precinct Committeemen from surrounding counties. Also both training sessions had large contingents of College Democrats from Eastern Illinois University and Illinois State University.

Thank you to Coles County Chairman Paul Wieck, McLean County Chairman John Penn, Mike Matejka and Jim Rogal for facilitating the training sessions. A special thanks to Laborers' Local 362 and the Charleston Carnegie Public Library for allowing us to conduct the trainings there.

This month we also had a great group of presenters at both training sessions. Thank you to Bill Houlihan, State Central Committeemen (IL 18th), Ken Kimber, Voter File Administrator for the Democratic Party of Illinois and Glenn Poshard, former Congressman, for presenting.

September will be our final month of training for 2016. The October Precinct Committeemen Training Report will recap our September training and it will give a full recap of training in 2016. We will restart the Precinct Committeemen training in 2017.

If your County Party is interested in hosting a Precinct Committeemen training, please contact me so that we can begin planning for next year.



Illinois Victory 2016— Coordinated Campaign

By David Applegate

If you are reading this newsletter, then you do not need to be lectured about the importance of this election. Whether it is the terrifying idea of a Trump Presidency or another four years of GOP intransigence, the stakes could not be higher. We must elect Hillary Clinton as the next President of the United States. We cannot allow Donald Trump anywhere near the Oval Office.

However, it is not enough for Illinois to remain blue at the national level. It is equally important that we work to elect Democrats down ballot.

We must elect Tammy Duckworth as the next United States Senator from Illinois so a President Clinton can effectively govern and has legislation she can sign.

We must elect Susana Mendoza as Illinois Comptroller so that the State of Illinois pays its bills and does not allow Governor Rauner to cut off funding for vital human services.

We must pick-up seats in the United States House of Representatives – starting with the 10th Congressional District in northern Illinois continuing down to the 12th Congressional District in Metro East and Southern Illinois.

We must defend and build-on our majority in both the Illinois State Senate and Illinois General Assembly to make sure that in 2018 Bruce Rauner becomes a one-term governor.

Finally, we must not forget about the importance of electing Democrats to our county boards and other municipal offices.

For this reason, Illinois Victory 2016 was formed as the Democratic coordinated campaign in Illinois to guarantee that voters come out in support of all Democrats this fall. Like any campaign, the core of what Illinois Victory will be doing is engaging voters on the phone and at the door. We will be running a true statewide field program. We've already opened more than a dozen field offices and plan to eventually have more than 20 full-time locations and even more part-time staging locations. We are continuing to hire field organizers and by the time our program reaches its peak heading into October, we hope to have over 40 staff on the ground dedicated to getting getting out the vote for Tammy Duckworth and Democrats up and down the ballot.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Democratic Party of Illinois, the Democratic leadership of the Illinois General Assembly and State Senate, the DCCC, DSCC, and the nation's top analytics firms, we are undertaking a coordinated mail program that will reach millions of Illinois voters. Voters in every county in Illinois will receive mail pieces not only encouraging them to vote Democrat, but helping them vote early by mail. We anticipate this program alone to allow us to bank hundreds of thousands of votes before Election Day.

Where does the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association fit into all of this?

Quite frankly, we can't succeed in November without the support of the IDCCA. We need your help and we want to help you. No one knows your counties better than you. As said previously, we want to make sure that Democrats win office at the top and the bottom of the ticket – and this includes local offices in your county. The grassroots organization of the IDCCA is going to be crucial to the success of this effort.

What are we asking of you and how can you get involved?

Volunteer at a local field office

We have over a dozen full-time field offices currently active and operational and we are continuing to open more. Our full-time offices are open seven days a week and are ready for volunteers from 9:30am to 8:00pm. To find locations and contact information send an email to david@illinoisvictory.org.

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Organize and host phone banks and canvasses from staging locations in your county

Illinois is a big state. Even if we were to open fifty field offices, there would still be counties and parts of the state that we wouldn't be able to reach. That is why we need your help. Our field organizers can help set up local phone banks and canvasses from temporary staging locations so you can talk to voters in your area about why they need to vote for Hillary Clinton, Tammy Duckworth, Susana Mendoza, and the entire Democratic ticket this fall.

How do I get more detailed information?

To find out (a) where the local field offices are located and/or (b) who the local field contact is for your county, you can either send an email to david@illinoisvictory.org or call (773) 609-475

David Applegate is the Illinois Victory 2016 Political Director for @TammyforIL

2016 IDCCA Chariman's Brunch Recap

On behalf of the IDCCA Executive Board and all 102 County Chairmen, we are pleased to report that this year's Chairmen's Brunch was our MOST successful event in our history! The Chairmen's Brunch was once again the premier event for Illinois Democrats and was an exciting kickoff to Democrat Day at the Illinois State Fair. One reporter rightfully stated that the Chairmen's Brunch "dwarfed" the Republican event held the previous morning. The Chairmen's Brunch had over 1,400 individuals in attendance! We had our largest army of dedicated volunteers to help attendees and we were joined by every high ranking Illinois elected official. A special thank you to all of the speakers who stressed the importance that we are "Stronger Together" in our fight against Bruce Rauner and Donald Trump. Our speakers included:

Hon. Dick Durbin, US Senator
 Hon. Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House
 Hon. John Cullerton, President of the Senate
 Hon. Tammy Duckworth, Congresswoman and Candidate for US Senate
 Hon. Cheri Bustos, Congresswoman
 Hon. Lisa Madigan, Attorney General
 Hon. Jesse White, Secretary of State

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

Hon. Michael Frerichs, State Treasurer
 Hon. Susana Mendoza, City Clerk of Chicago and Candidate for Illinois Comptroller
 Hon. Michael Carrigan, President of the Illinois AFL – CIO
 Kathleen Merrigan, U.S. Department of Agriculture's former Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer

The Chairmen's Brunch could not have been as successful as it was without the support of our sponsors. Thank you to each of our sponsors! They include:

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 SAAAction
 Tazewell County Democratic Party
 Honorable Alderwoman Doris Turner
 Union County Democratic Party
 West Central Illinois Building Trades
 Honorable Secretary of State Jesse White
 Will County Democratic Party
 Woodford County Democratic Party

Thank you again to everyone who attended this year's Chairmen's Brunch. We look forward to seeing you again next year!



Voter Protection Training

By Giovanni Randazzo

As we head into Election Day, it is never too early to familiarize ourselves with Election Day tips. And considering that the Governor has promised the greatest Election Day ground game ever, we as Democrats must remain vigilant and be prepared to assist in protecting the rights of voters. The following will be a brief overview of election protection. I urge every Chairman to find at least one attorney (more in larger counties obviously) willing to volunteer time on Election Day to assist in election protection and together with the various campaign organizations, we can provide training. As we get closer to Election Day, we will have a hotline numbers that will provide various types of assistance from campaigns, the Attorney General, the State Board of Elections, and such.

I always start my Election Day lawyer training with this tip. Remember to be nice, polite and courteous to elections officials. Not only will it assist you with making your point, but elections judges have the authority to arrest anyone who breaches the peace and getting arrested (or even the threat of) will not likely assist our cause of protecting voters' rights.

Properly credentialed poll watchers may access the polling place to ensure the integrity of the voting process. Each candidate is permitted to have up to two poll watchers in a polling place, but by a majority vote the election judges may limit the number of people at any given time but at all times they must at least allow one Democrat and one Republican poll watcher to remain. Poll watchers may sit or stand close enough to the judges to visually examine the voter's ballot application to compare the signature on the application with that on the signature verification record, and to observe the judge initialing the ballots. They may also watch the ballots being deposited into the ballot box and observe the general conduct of the election. Poll watchers shall be permitted to observe all proceedings and view all reasonable requested records relating to the conduct of the election, provided the secrecy of the ballot is not impinged. However, they cannot touch any supplies or materials or be so close to the judges that they interfere with the orderly conduct of the election. If you find that

the other side is packing polling places (specifically good Democratic polling places) with poll watchers and/or those individuals are being disruptive or intimidating in anyway, have your poll watcher or attorney ask the election judges to maintain order in the polling place. If that does not work, a quick call to the election authority might.

Another area where we may find Republican voter suppression is in and beyond the campaign free zone. As you all know, no active electioneering, campaigning, or solicitation of votes by a candidate, candidates or party workers is permitted within the polling place or within the 100-foot campaign free zone of the polling place. The campaign free zone is 100 feet from the door of the polling place; however, churches, private schools, or privately owned buildings may designate the entire property (even if it more than 100 feet from the polling room). The election judges determine the boundaries of the campaign free zone. Electioneering includes leafleting or wearing campaign buttons, badges, t-shirts, or hats asking voters to vote a particular way. In recent years, Republicans have used a number of tactics to scare off voters, i.e. dressing people as FBI agents or other law enforcement figures and having them stand near the 100-foot line or stationing people at the line who call out or harass voters as they enter. These situations are clear voter suppression; the election judges and authority (and the Attorney General) should be alerted immediately.

An election judge, a poll watcher, or a voter may challenge a person's right to vote by stating a specific reason for such challenge. The judges, by majority decision, have the sole power to sustain or overrule a challenge. Reasons for challenging include the following:

- § The voter no longer resides at the address at which he/she is registered.
- § The person attempting to vote is not the same person registered.
- § The person attempting to vote has already voted.
- § The person attempting to vote is not registered to vote.

If a majority of the judges sustain the challenge, the voter must be informed of their right to receive a provisional ballot. If a majority of the judges overrule the challenge, the voter will continue to vote as if no challenge had been made. I expect that we will see an uptick in voter challenges this Election because such actions

make the lines longer and frustrate the voter being challenged and those waiting which leads to voters giving up.

In recent years, the Republicans have begun using Voter ID laws to suppress the vote in many parts of the county and have tried to push such laws and rules here, but Illinois has not enacted such laws or rules. In Illinois, a voter is not required to show ID at a polling place. There are some situations that may require the voter to show ID, i.e. there is no record of the voter or if the voter is marked as "inactive". Watch how the election judges interact with voters, if it appears the judges are unnecessarily asking voters to provide identification or if they are challenging multiple voters please call because there could be voter suppression tactics at play.

These are some basic tips that every County Chairmen and Precinct Committeemen should be aware of. There will be more information released as we get closer to the November Election. If you have any specific questions or concerns, you can contact the IDCCA.



Vote **YES**

Safe Roads Amendment

Safety. Accountability. Jobs.

For years, Illinois has underinvested in its roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure. That's put public safety at risk and cost us thousands of jobs. It's all because state government refuses to invest responsibly.

The Safe Roads Amendment is the solution. The Amendment constitutionally protects money collected for transportation so it is spent on transportation.

It is critical to pass the Safe Roads Amendment:



SAFETY

Half of Illinois' roads and 4,200 of our bridges are in poor condition. It's unsafe and puts Illinois at risk for tragedies like the bridge collapses that occurred in Minnesota and Indiana. The danger is real, and it's unacceptable.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Our state of disrepair isn't because we lack money. It's because the politicians have used the Road Fund as a slush fund. Over the last decade, \$6.8 billion has been swept out of the Road Fund. Our roads and our safety shouldn't pay the price for Springfield dysfunction. It's time to hold state government accountable and ensure money collected for transportation is spent on transportation.



JOBS

Aging infrastructure isn't just unsafe. It hurts our economy, makes it more difficult to keep and grow jobs and is costing you money. Raiding transportation funding has cost Illinois nearly 5,000 jobs over the last decade and has increased the average motorist's costs by \$441 every year due to congestion and extra vehicle repairs.