



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

The 2018 Election cycle is well underway in every county in Illinois. You can see it in every county as volunteers are going door to door to get signatures to help get candidates on the ballot.

The energy is infectious. You can't help but feed off the optimism from a first-time candidate. Learning from the grizzled veteran as they masterfully walk their precinct pointing out where the Democrat doors are. Seeing an energized base of Democratic voters coming together to resist Bruce Rauner and Donald Trump.

We know that the time to sit on the sidelines has past. Each of us must play a more active role in helping to build the Democratic Party. We must knock on some doors, make a couple of calls to our neighbors or host a meet and greet for local candidates. We can no longer sit back and think that someone else will do it. We've got to get involved.

A large part of how we build the Democratic Party is with down ballot candidate recruitment. Every County Chair must play a central role in year-round recruiting of potential candidates. Currently we should have petitions out for County Clerk, County Treasurer, Sheriff, Regional Superintendent of Schools and County Board. If you don't have candidates in for these races, please let us know immediately so that we can assist with recruitment.

The office of Democratic Precinct Committeemen will also be on the Democratic Primary ballot in 2018. Currently we have over 8,000 Precinct Committeepersons statewide but close to 3,500 remain unfilled.

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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

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Every County Chair, elected Democrat, Labor leader, Resistance volunteer and activist should be helping to find candidates to run for these offices.

Precinct Committeeperson is the most important elected position in politics because these are the people who want to build the Democratic Party.

We also cannot forget about the 2019 Municipal Elections. These are the lesser known but arguably more important School Board, City Council and Park Board races. County Chairs should be identifying potential candidates now so that they are starting to lay the ground work for a campaign in the future.

No Republican in Illinois should go unchallenged in the upcoming elections. There are too many energized Democrats in every county for that to happen.

We also must be more than just anti Bruce Rauner or anti Donald Trump. We must stand for something and show voters that we are going to fight to change things. A great example of this was the school funding bill (Senate Bill 1) that was signed into law this summer. Democrats led the way to ensure that public school funding is based on the needs of the community and not the zip code. Our children will have the resources and funding no matter if they live in Barrington or Bartonville.

Democrats also helped to protect a women's right to choose (House Bill 40). With a mad man in the White House and an unpredictable Supreme Court, Illinois Democrats took the lead to make sure that women will still have access to safe, legal reproductive healthcare.

Bruce Rauner has also vetoed the Debt Transparency Act (DTA) that was supported by Comptroller Susana Mendoza. This legislation calls for State Agencies to report what unpaid bills they have on a monthly, instead of yearly, basis. This isn't a partisan issue and has broad support on both sides of the isle. Democrats have led this effort to bring more transparency to state government and I'm confident they will override this veto.

I hope you are excited about the 2018 Election. We have a lot to be proud of as Democrats and we will be out there talking with our neighbors about what we stand for. I hope you'll join us.

Doug House
IDCCA President
Rock Island County Democratic Party
Chairman
@ILDCCA @RICoDemocrats



What Are You Willing To Do?

By Kristina Zahorik,
@mchenrydems

Five years ago, my former boss spoke to me from beyond the grave. I was reconnecting with former Senator Paul Simon colleagues at an event to support the SIU Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. His biography was being shown and I heard that distinctive voice remind me "What kind of a world would you like to see? What are you willing to do to achieve it?"

What kind of a world? Well, not the kind I was seeing. Government is less about policy based in fact and serving people, and more about moneyed corporate interests. People are being driven apart because of artificial barriers and fear mongering. Civil discourse is reduced to lies, hate, and personal attack.

What was I willing to do? I wanted to do something, but did not know what, having never been active in the Democratic Party and having been a stay-at-home mom of five for longer than I care to mention. What was clear: if I didn't step up, how could I expect anyone else to?

I reached out to my county Party. Those who had been fighting the good fight for years were willing to take me in, show me the ropes, and let me join them in making a difference. I worked hard. I put in a lot of hours and miles. I developed and strengthened working relationships with like-minded organizations and groups, recruited candidates, learned how to run campaigns, strategized on issues, increased our county party's profile, made better use of social media, ran events, organized volunteers, increased fundraising for the Party and candidates, filled the ballot, worked with state-wide and national campaigns, held local elected officials

accountable, and got elected to municipal office. When my Chairman became ill, I stepped up to fulfill his role until he was able to return.

After a year of working with the county Party, I was encouraged by State Central Committeewomen (SCC) Nancy Shepherdson of the 6th and Lauren Beth Gash of the 10th, to run in my own district. I understood that being a SCC was like being a PC for the State Democratic Party. I initially felt I had my hands full with my position as Vice Chairwoman of the county Party, but damn that Simon voice, what more could I do? No one had filed to run for the seven county SCC position, so on the last day to file as a write-in, I did. I won with over the required 100 write-ins just from McHenry County.

McHenry County Chairman Mike Bissett said, "Kristina has worked tirelessly to build crucial relationships with organized labor and other leaders throughout the 14th Congressional District. She has pushed our county party to be far more than it would have been without her involvement. We filled our 2016 ballot with new candidates largely due to her efforts. She made sure that all of our local Democratic candidates were supported financially by organized labor. She did an incredible job. Kristina understands the political reality of working for change in a very red county, and has never given up the good fight. We've had successes and beaten the odds more than once. I am lucky to have her as an ally. I am proud to call her my friend."

I appreciate his words and the work we have been able to accomplish. An accomplishment I am proud of is working toward a stronger Party structure for Party building, to helping candidates get elected, and reduce volunteer burnout. My first year in the county Party, we had less than thirty elected precinct committeemen (PC) out of 212 precincts. Prior to the November 2016 election, I helped fill about 86 precincts and since the 2016 election, we have climbed to 130 filled precincts.

The SCC position has given me the gravitas to organize, build bridges, be a resource, and advocate throughout the 14th. As SCC, I worked with organized labor, women's groups, environmental activists, and Democrats to monitor local municipalities [Continued on Pg. 3]

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and county boards who were taking up the Rauner turn-around agenda, then organize successful protests against it. We were among the first in the state to do so. Initially, the Republican controlled McHenry County Board passed the turn-around agenda, but efforts culminated in our County Board having to rescind the vote after I filed a violation of Open Meetings Act and a local union carried the day by filing a successful lawsuit.

Rauner is bad enough for our state, but since the November 2016 election, we seem to be further away from the world I and fellow Democrats envision. The growth of new organizations like Indivisible, ABT, People Over Party, Women Who March, and Our Revolution will only strengthen us. More people are willing to do what it takes to put our country, our state, and our communities back on the right path. People are stepping forward wanting to do more, wanting to fight for a better world, a better Illinois. We must work together. We must strip away the labels. We must not let those against us; divide us.

The world we Democrats envision values all people, values the dignity of work, values facts and science, values equality and justice, values our environment, and values opportunity. As the Democratic Party Platform states, "What makes America great is our unerring belief that we can make it better. We can and we will build a more just economy, a more equal society, and a more perfect union—because we are stronger together. Cooperation is better than conflict, unity is better than division, empowerment is better than resentment, and bridges are better than walls."

Simon said when running for President, "I stand here as a Democrat, not as a neo-anything, as one who is not running away from the Democratic tradition of caring and daring and dreaming."

Let us care. Let us dare. And let us fulfill the American dream together.

What are you willing to do? March, protest, call, email, text, write letters-to-the-editor, send postcards, join your local Democratic party, become a precinct committee representative, call out the lies and fake news, be informed, stand up and speak out, support Democratic candidates, run for office? Maybe build bridges between the

Party and emerging organizations, groups, or people? All of these things matter and are necessary for success. We need you. There is much to do.

Kristinal Zahoric is the State Central Committeewoman, 14th Congressional District and Vice Chairwoman, McHenry County Democratic Party.



Madison County Democrats Hold Gubernatorial Caucus

By Mark Von Nida,
@MadColLDems

On September 18, Democrats in Madison County were among the first in the state to express their choice of candidates in the Gubernatorial 2018 primary election. Although the Democratic Nominee will not be selected until the March 20th Primary Election in 2018, all Democratic voters were invited to take part in a caucus style straw poll.

"The Madison County Democratic Party was excited to host a 'straw poll' where voters met other Democrats and voiced their preference for one of the Democratic Candidates for Governor," Democratic County Chairman Mark Von Nida said. "Our caucuses were based on the same rules as the Iowa Presidential Caucus, the results were released to the media. Since no candidate received a majority of caucus goer's support, no one became the endorsed candidate.

The caucus took place in seven locations across Madison County. Undecided voters were welcomed. Caucus goers had an opportunity to discuss issues and the merits of each candidate.

"This was a great opportunity for rank and file Democrats to have a voice in the election. Instead of wooing a few party leaders, candidates had to concentrate on the type of retail politics that emphasizes making a connection to regular voters. On Caucus night, Democrats got to hear from voters from a cross section of industrial, suburban and rural parts of the County. The diversity of Madison County will say a lot about which candidate should represent the Democratic Party in next year's election." Von Nida added. "The presidential straw poll was a great success last year. The event drew hundreds out to show support for their preferred candidate."

Party officials were pleased to have drawn even bigger crowds after changing their by-laws to make the outcome of the straw poll the official endorsement by the party in next year's primary election. According to Von Nida; "We had participation from most of the campaigns drawing nearly 700 voters to our meetings." The campaigns targeted supporters and worked to turn them out as an early test of organization. Participants were asked to fill out volunteer cards with email and cell phone information so the party could follow up afterwards.

The candidate with the most to prove was hometown favorite, Bob Daiber who wanted to show decisive downstate support. While he won a plurality of voters, Daiber missed getting endorsed because he failed to get a majority. JB Pritzker, Chicago entrepreneur and philanthropist had an opportunity to demonstrate early spending translated into wide spread appeal. Showing strong support among urban and union households, Pritzker virtually tied with the local candidate. State Senator Daniel Biss registered a third place showing by concentrating his support in one location. No other candidate was able to overcome the viability threshold of 20% in any location. Chris Kennedy, Chicago businessman and the son of Robert and Ethel Kennedy, was showed limited support and decided to combine forces with Daiber.

What to Look For In A Campaign Treasurer

By Natasha Smith, @traindems

Every campaign needs a treasurer, whether it be for a small-town city council race or a Senate election. But choosing the wrong person for the job can be enormously costly. Here we'll break down the three kinds of treasurers that you can hire and why or why not you'd want to bring them on your team.

But before we get into the different kinds of treasurers, let's talk about what a treasurer does (or is supposed to do). Treasurers, along with their candidates, are usually the people financially and legally responsible for the campaign. If something goes wrong, the treasurer and candidate will be held accountable...not the campaign manager.

There are three main duties that are under the treasurer's domain, the first of them being monitoring contributions.

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Campaigns survive on money, and it's the treasurer's job to stay on top of incoming donations and ensuring that they are being properly filed and reported to the Federal Election Commission.

The second task is tracking the money. Campaigns are run like businesses, and businesses typically have money flowing in and out of the bank account. Your treasurer must can stay on top of your funds down to the very last cent. This includes small things like being aware of processing timeframes for banks and deadlines for filing receipts with federal and state governments.

The third duty entrusted to a treasurer is being responsible for compliance. Perhaps the most complicated task of a treasurer is ensuring that all contributions are following the strict regulations of campaign finance. Before your campaign can even start raising money, you need to register with the FEC and qualify as a political committee. There are certain limits on contributions your campaign can receive depending on what state your race is in — your treasurer should be aware of both state and national fundraising laws.

With all the nuances with campaign finance, it's best to have a specific person designated to oversee the three tasks stated above. Now that we know what a treasurer does, we can break down the three kinds of treasurers you might consider for your team.

The Working Treasurer: This is the picture-perfect treasurer. This person will be able to handle cash flow, stay on top of contribution laws, and stay organized when it comes to your financial situation. The ideal treasurer may have some experience in accounting or other jobs that work with money and is good with numbers. If you can find a treasurer who is self-sufficient and reliable, congratulations — that's a diamond in the rough.

The Symbolic Treasurer: chances are, this person isn't going to bring much to the table as far as work ethic goes. But having a recognizable name in your campaign could be beneficial. Building up your "street cred" by having a campaign veteran on your team can make you look like a more viable candidate in the eyes of some voters. Don't be too quick to write this kind of treasurer off. Do keep in mind that you or someone else will likely have to do the brunt of the work as a Deputy Treasurer.

The Problematic Treasurer: we all have that

one friend (or maybe more than one) who just cannot keep on top of his or her finances and maybe even filed for bankruptcy in the past. This person can't seem to read a calendar and won't ensure that your finance reports are filed on time. You certainly do not want the one time you get media coverage to be due to a treasurer scandal! And you do not want to spend precious campaign funds on fines.

With the three basic types of treasurers outlined, you can go forth and choose the right treasurer for your campaign.



Annual Awards Luncheon

Keynote Speaker

JOY-ANN REID

MSNBC host of AM Joy & frequent Meet the Press commentator



YOU ARE THE PRO-CHOICE RESISTANCE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH
CHICAGO HILTON & TOWERS

Co-chairs:

AMY BLUHM
EILEEN DORDEK

Honorees:

KHADINE BENNETT

Advocacy & Intergovernmental Affairs Director, ACLU of Illinois

JACKIE KAPLAN-PERKINS

Director of Human Rights Watch, Chicago

TINA TCHEN

Former Assistant to President Barack Obama, Former Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama

11:00 a.m. General Reception
VIP Reception

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

1:30 p.m. VIP Reception
with Honorees

[Click Here to Support the Luncheon by Purchasing a Ticket or Table](#)

For more information: info@personalpac.org • www.personalpac.org

Please RSVP by October 20, 2017