



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

It is nice to have the March Primary in the rear view mirror. There are many positive indications that Democrats can compete and win against Billionaire Governor Bruce Rauner. That being said there were many things that we need to be on guard for. Now more than ever we need a sense of urgency if we are going to really take the fight to Governor Rauner.

I am happy to report that all three of the IDCCA endorsed candidates were victorious in the Democratic Primary. Also two of the highest financially supported Rauner candidates were beaten because of the efforts of the Democratic Party and Organized Labor. We can hold our heads high that on March 15th, we won the day. What we need to be on guard about are the problems that were being reported statewide.

The Democratic Primary saw record turnout and many counties were not prepared for this. Many counties did not have enough ballots for Democrats and Republicans. Election judges were also untrained or unprepared for Same Day Voter Registration. Many counties extended voting hours to 8:30pm because of the

countless problems. This is something that should alarm every County Chairmen and every Precinct Committeemen. Going into the November election we must keep a watchful eye on these issues to make sure that the proper authorities are informed on these situations. In future newsletters we will go over training in Voter Protection to ensure that individuals are prepared come Election Day and that every voter has a chance to cast their vote.

By the time the General Election gets here the Democratic Party will be at full capacity with resources with multiple statewide races, legislative races (both Congressional and Illinois), local county wide races and the fight for the White House. We are facing the real possibility of Donald Trump as the top of the GOP ticket. Governor Rauner and U.S. Senator Kirk have already pledged their support for Trump if he is the nominee. We know we will not be able to compete with the money that these three individuals can throw around.

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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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But what we do know is that we have been candidates, we are able to organize better and a majority of the State of Illinois disagrees with their positions.

I know that it is only April but we need to start getting organized now. This should include the training that the IDCCA is putting together and it should include the recruitment of new Precinct Committeemen. We know that if we reach voters with our message that they are more likely to vote for the Democratic candidate. By November, the billions that will be spent on television and radio advertising will seem like white noise to voters. We need to be knocking on their doors and identifying the issues that are important to them. Event with unlimited resources, billionaire Governor Rauner will not be able to push his anti-Union, anti-student, anti-senior and anti-disabled agenda if we take our message directly to the voters.

The IDCCA will be playing a major role in helping each of the County Parties with organizing and taking the fight to Governor Rauner. We took a big first step last month at our first ever Chicago Reception on March 21st. Well over 200 people attended the event and we raised over \$70,000 to go towards our three year plan. It was very inspiring to see so many people who support our organization and believe in the future of the Democratic Party. This event is something that has been talked about for a while and to see it finally come to fruition is very satisfying. Thank you to the IDCCA Executive Board, to the members of the Host Committee, to all of the event sponsors and to all of the County Chairmen who were able to attend.

Even though I am extremely proud of what we accomplished last month, I am immediately reminded that the big fight is still to come. One week prior to the Primary Election it was reported that Governor Rauner gave his campaign fund two million dollars from the reported 50 million he made last year in interest. It's laughable when Rauner talks about how much he cares about Illinois while social services and universities are making drastic cuts because of his inability to do his job. We should be reminding voters every chance that we can that the House & Senate Democrats have passed a budget. Governor Rauner choose to veto that budget instead of working with legislators to make amendatory cuts. Under the Illinois Constitution, Governor Rauner is responsible for submitting a budget. So as we enter the 10th month without a state budget, Governor Rauner continues to

act like a child.

We know what we are up against and we know what we need to do to fight off Governor Rauner in November. We cannot wait until Donald Trump or Ted Cruz is the GOP nominee. The Republican Party is imploding on itself because of extremist views like Trump and Cruz. There will be literally several issues on the ballot (i.e. Roe v. Wade, Union rights, Free Speech, LGBT rights) in the General Election. Add in the extremist views of Governor Rauner and proves that this election will be the most important of our lives.

We must act with a sense of urgency if we expect to fight back against these individuals. Each of us is a member of the Democratic Party for various reasons. Whether it is because of your commitment to Organized Labor, your support of civil rights issues, your support of women's issues, etc. Many of the voters in your precinct share your commitment. We need to be reaching these voters now so that they know the Democratic Party is going to fight for them. If we can get these voters to turn out and vote, we can guarantee that we will be able to stop Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Bruce Rauner and Mark Kirk.

Doug House
President

Executive Director's Message

By Dan Kovats, Executive Director IDCCA Chairmen,

Can you believe the excitement in this room?

That was the question that I was asked the most on March 21st. We had a packed house at our first ever Chicago Reception at the Hubbard Inn. There were so many people there that a half hour into the Reception you could barely move. I was truly impressed by the hard work of the Executive Board and our fundraising team to pull off this event. This was the first step for the IDCCA in our three year plan and it was a big one.

I would like to thank some of the individuals who made our Chicago Reception possible. Thank you to President House for his leadership and his determination to make this event happen. Thank you to Nancy Kohn who was the driving force behind the event and who made sure that we were able to reach our goal for the event. Thank you to our Host Committee and to our sponsors who believe in the

vision and direction of the IDCCA. Thank you Michael Carrigan, President of the Illinois AFL – CIO, and to Organized Labor who were significant supporters at the event. Thank you to Liz Nicholson for her support and guidance. Finally, thank you to the IDCCA Executive Board for your unwavering support as we chart a new course for the IDCCA. The Chicago Reception was a resounding success and I'm proud to have played a role in it.

With the Chicago Reception and the Democratic Primary behind us, we must focus on getting to work. On April 13th each County Party will host their County Convention to elect their leadership for the next two years. Each County Chairmen has been sent a memo outlining some "best practices" for conducting your County Convention. If any County Chairmen have any questions or concerns prior to their County Convention, please let me know immediately.

County Chairmen will also be receiving two memos from the IDCCA. The first memo will outline the procedure on how to appoint candidates to the ballot for the November General Election. The second memo will outline the procedure on how each County should elect Delegates to represent their County Party at the State Democratic Convention.

Two of the major parts of the IDCCA three year plan will go hand in hand. The first part will be the recruiting of Precinct Committeemen for open precincts. County Chairmen will be receiving a memo outlining the procedures on how to appoint individuals to become Precinct Committeemen. If we are to stand a chance to fight back against Governor Rauner then we need every precinct in every County to have an active Precinct Committeeman. While the recruiting process is ongoing, the IDCCA will be hosting updated training sessions throughout the state.

The training sessions are important for every Precinct Committeemen to know what their duties are and where we need their help.

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We are in the process of planning out the training sessions but I am happy to announce that the IDCCA will be partnering with the National Campaign Training Committee to provide the training. We will be structuring the training to provide need to know information on Precinct Committeemen duties, what you should do and say when you knock on a voter's door, basic Vote Builder training, Voter Protection, social media, Get Out The Vote and many other important topics. The training sessions will be a day long and will be organized by Congressional Districts (outside of Cook County and the Collar Counties).

We will also be working with several of the IDCCA Newsletter Campaign & Issues training writers to create an IDCCA Speakers Bureau. These individuals will be attending the IDCCA Trainings, County Party meetings and Democratic organization meetings to assist with providing training. The Campaign & Issues training will continue to be a part of the IDCCA Newsletter and we are looking to expand upon that in the future.

The last thing I want to mention is something that has been developing over the last several months. At the Chicago Reception President House told supporters that the IDCCA will be organized, trained and vocal in our opposition to Governor Rauner. I've already covered how we are going to be organized and trained. But how will we be vocal in our opposition to Governor Rauner? By developing a regional media strategy! I don't want to give too many details away but we are in the process of developing a strategy based on the media markets throughout the state and the media within each County. We will be bringing on staff to assist with this strategy and we will be reaching out to the County Chairmen within the next month to implement this strategy.

These are exciting times for the IDCCA and I am proud of the work we have accomplished. But there is still work to be done. I'm ready to get to work and I hope you are to.

IDan Kovats
Executive Director

IDCCA Cash Raffle

By Brandt Patterson

Only 500!

That's how many tickets are available for the 2016 IDCCA Cash Raffle. The IDCCA Cash Raffle is one of our longest running and consistent fundraisers for our organization. This is your opportunity to win \$10,000 this summer! Not only do you have a chance to walk away with a nice chunk of change, you will directly be helping our organization continue to provide resources to each of our County Parties.

The 2016 IDCCA Cash Raffle tickets are \$100 apiece. The grand prize for this year's Cash Raffle is \$10,000 and there are multiple smaller prizes to win. Second prize walks away with \$2,500, third prize takes home \$1,000, fourth prize gets \$500, and fifth through tenth prize pockets \$300. Those are some sizable cash prizes to our winners!

Tickets are \$100 apiece and can be purchased multiple ways. You can contact your local County Party Chairman; you can contact the IDCCA or you can purchase your raffle tickets online at <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/idcca-2016-cash-raffle>. The 2016 Cash Raffle winners will be announced at the IDCCA Chairmen's Breakfast in Springfield on August 18th.

From Rockford to Cairo, the proceeds of the Cash Raffle will help provide the necessary resources that our organization needs to take the fight wherever Democratic values are challenged. When you buy a ticket, you join the fight!

Prizes are subject to a minimum of 400 tickets sold. Otherwise cash prizes may be 50% of purse.

Only 500 tickets will be sold and they are already selling quickly! Make sure you get your Cash Raffle ticket today!

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association.

Brandt Patterson is the Chairman of the Richland County Democratic Party and Chairman of the 2016 IDCCA Cash Raffle



Equality Illinois
By Mike Ziri, Director of
Public Policy Equality Illinois

"You've got marriage equality. Aren't you done?" That's a question I've often been asked about the struggle for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. As policy director at Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest advocacy organization for LGBT Illinoisans, I push back forcefully.

LGBT Illinoisans are part of the fabric of our state. And in Illinois, we have a strong legal foundation to stand on as we look to the future. We have LGBT-inclusive civil rights protections, anti-bullying policies, and marriage equality. Thanks to our work in 2015, we now protect LGBT youth from harmful and discredited conversion therapy.

As far as we've come in Illinois regarding legal protections and widespread acceptance, the work for a much more challenging lived equality continues here and across America.

Our organization is educating faith communities on how to advocate for equality and create safe and welcoming congregations for LGBT individuals. Through sensitivity trainings, we encourage law enforcement personnel and TSA agents to be better allies to the LGBT community. Through our Corporate Social Responsibility program, we are working with businesses to foster and ensure the most affirming and welcoming workplace environments possible. By opening a Central Illinois office, we significantly expanded our critical educational programs and outreach events throughout the state. With this work, we are building broad coalitions with faith leaders, students, labor unions, community and advocacy groups, and businesses.

We know the fight for full legal equality for LGBT Illinoisans is not over. That's why we are pushing forward on proposals in Springfield that advance the equal rights of LGBT Illinoisans. For instance, SB 3046 curtails the use of the gay and trans panic defense in murder cases in Illinois.

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

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These defenses allow a criminal defendant to blame the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as the cause of the attacker's violent action.

Another bill, SB 3286, establishes non-discrimination protections in jury service.

Transgender individuals face many challenges. For instance, nationally, 78% of transgender people report harassment and bullying in schools, and 90% report workplace discrimination. Some challenges are related to a person's inability to update identity documents, including birth certificates, to reflect the person's accurate gender identity. More than 75% of transgender people have not been able to update the gender marker on their birth certificate. To avoid humiliation and harassment, it is critically important for transgender individuals to have identification documents that reflect their authentic gender identity.

That's why Equality Illinois is advocating for HB 6073, which would modernize the standard for a person to change the gender marker on their birth certificate. Consistent with modern standards of medical care, a mental health or medical professional would declare that the person has undergone clinically appropriate treatment and, therefore, the gender marker should be changed. The federal government and eleven other states have adopted a similar standard.

Most critical at the moment are the budget challenges facing Illinois. Equality Illinois is a member of the Responsible Budget Coalition, a large and diverse coalition of 250 organizations united to preserve vital services for Illinoisans. The coalition focuses on three common principles: ensure adequate revenue to support state priorities and make smart investments, make no more cuts to services, and establish fairness in revenue sharing and cuts caused by failure to raise adequate revenue. We stand by those principles as this ongoing budget impasse threatens the livelihoods and lives of so many Illinoisans.

We are also leading the opposition to anti-equality measures that would weaken the Illinois Human Rights Act and allow discrimination against same-sex couples, transgender students, and unmarried straight parents. These anti-LGBT equality bills are part of a broad national effort to weaken the equal rights of LGBT people.

Our important work does not stop at the Illinois border. Equality Illinois is the largest LGBT advocacy organization in the Midwest, and it is the responsibility of the community

to speak up on issues in Washington, D.C. Just driving across the border to Indiana, Missouri, or Kentucky means our non-discrimination protections are stripped from us. In a majority of states, a LGBT person could get married Sunday and be fired on Monday. Or kicked out of their apartment. Or be denied a meal at a restaurant. All because of who they love or for living authentically. This is unacceptable.

That's why we are working in Washington, D.C. to pass the Equality Act, the first-ever comprehensive civil rights bill for LGBT Americans. With the Equality Act, all LGBT Americans would enjoy the full protections of the law that we enjoy here in Illinois.

I urge you to join our cause and work with us to ensure lived equality and justice for all Illinoisans. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at mziri@eqil.org.

The IDCCA and the National Campaign Training Committee

By Kelly Dietrich

The National Campaign Training Committee (NCTC) is excited to announce a partnership with the IDCCA to offer every Democratic candidate in Illinois access to free online campaign training, including those running for down-ballot offices, such as city council, school

board, judge, or first time candidates in big races just getting started. The training is expected to roll out in late Spring.

The NCTC and IDCCA are committed to working with local candidates elect more Democrats to office, but also to improve the performance of every Democrat on the ticket, and create a deeper bench of qualified candidates for higher office in the future.

Candidates will be granted access to the NCTC online campaign school where they may take lessons on demand, 24/7, as often as needed throughout the cycle. Classes are free and the NCTC trainings are available for any Democrat or progressive candidate.

Access will be granted via an in-kind donation of \$100 which needs to be reported according to the campaign's relevant campaign finance laws.

The online campaign school places an emphasis on self-reliance, relationship building, mak-

ing data driven decisions and crafting a plan to meet the goals needed to win. The courses cover every aspect of a campaign: field, fundraising, media and management. Classes are video-centric, each taking about 30-45 minutes to complete. Each class includes templates, examples and downloads. Classes are interactive, with candidates encouraged to post or email questions directly.

While every race is unique, the strategies and tactics available to them are not. The NCTC teaches candidates how to adapt and customize these to meet the goals they need to win.

Click here if you're interested in learning more about the NCTC or to pre-register for access to the training when it launches.



Precinct Captains 2.0—Building the Bench in Illinois Digitally

By Abin Kuriakose, Chicago

"Shut it down"

A common phrase I come across from both elected officials and candidates when it comes to anything digital media: from a website, to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat (don't worry – looks like only presidential candidates are using the last one).

However, in the rapidly changing world of how we communicate - digital media can no longer be ignored or sidelined. It's becoming a key asset to any political campaign just as messaging and field organization.

In the incredible revolution we've seen around digital media we've seen another incredible re-imagination around campaigns can operate in the digital world. While many of us have become families with VAN - social media, interactive websites and data analytics are no longer just options but valuable assets in any campaign.

With IDCCA emerging as the new political powerhouse in state politics, the association and its many members are in the prime position and building a digital edge that can serve supplement our winning strategies in messaging, recruiting the best candidates and field.

Here's some core principles behind building valuable digital assets

Social Media Builds Relationships: it requires an investment of time and strategy - you're in this for the long haul. Too often do we have social media accounts (Facebook pages, Twitter, etc) that had a great start and then loses consistency. You're in this for the long haul - consistent social media activity builds relationships with your followers.

People are on Facebook Everyday: not on your website. Only few a categories of websites (news, businesses, etc) will achieve strong daily visitors but most political websites will have a few every visitors per day unless it's a high profile, competitive race. Social media habits include users on their accounts almost every day - take advantage of that audience with your own accounts for your township or county organization.

A Natural Extension to Field and Message: big volunteer day coming up? Create a Facebook event one week in advance and share it every other day. On the day of action, post photos of electeds speaking or volunteers knocking on doors. On the day after - remind your followers of the great turnout of volunteers and reminding folks of other volunteer opportunities. Even for folks who won't be able to come to your fourth or fifth event, active social media activity can target followers who show up at your sixth event.

Abin Kuriakose (abin412@gmail.com) serves as Special Projects Coordinator for Raja Krishnamoorthi congressional campaign in Illinois' 8th District. Since 2012, Abin has been advising candidates and elected officials on digital media strategy from website development to social media utilization.