



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

### Something great is happening!

There is a new awaking of civil disobedience. Young and old are getting up off the couch to join the resistance and go out into the streets to show their dissatisfaction with the policies of the Trump administration. People are literally "Mad as hell and they are not going to take it anymore". When only a few short months ago, you could not get anyone to take their face out of their phone long enough to make eye contact and say hi to their neighbor, today people are meeting with strangers and uniting to stand against a Republican force that is dividing our country along all lines.

This new energy and motivation is opportunity and it must be embraced by our Democratic Party Chairmen and Chairwomen across the state. We must include these activists and their activism in all the things we do. We must welcome them into our central committee meetings. We must include them into our social media. We must be open to the new energy and we must celebrate them because they are our present and our future.

If we do not catch this wave as it passes

through our shared history, we risk losing our relevance as Democratic leaders. We must engage with our old and new allies that make up this movement so that we can better understand it, so that we can help it to grow and foster its momentum into 2018.

I understand that I am asking many of you to get outside of your personal comfort zones but you need to know that we are playing catch-up because individual progressive movements and organizations are forming outside of our party structure at a pace previously never seen before. We need these groups to join us and we need to attend their meeting and teach them how to mobilize candidates and advance their causes because we need them and they need us.

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

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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](mailto: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



## ILBCF Announces 2017 Legislative Research Fellows

By Larry Luster

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation is proud to announce its inaugural class of legislative research fellows. Fellows were selected from a large pool of talented applicants that were, after much deliberation, narrowed down to four recipients. Applicants were tasked with developing a legislative proposal that aimed to positively impact the Black community. Fellows are responsible for drafting memos, developing fact sheets, executing communication strategies, preparing presentations, legislative analysis and impact analysis. Our fellows will be providing the Council on Urban Affairs information to help ILBC members make informed decisions that helps that black community, while developing the next group of leaders through work experience. Below are a list of our fellows:

### Crystal Martin

Presently, Crystal is a high school counselor at the Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men, in Chicago Illinois. She is a 2nd year PhD student of Community Psychology at National Louis University with a dissertation entitled "Survivors Guilt vs. the 'Sell Out': Social Barriers to College Persistence for African American First Generation College Students", which explores the self sabotaging behaviors of this student population. Crystal holds a BA in Television Production and Directing from Columbia College Chicago; an MA in Counseling and an MEd in Educational Leadership from Lewis University, and Post Graduate Certification from the National Institute for Urban School Leaders at Harvard University. Through a grant from the Pollination Project, in December 2016, Crystal started First2Finish, a non-profit college access program targeting first generation students and making investments for college readiness beginning in the first grade. First2Finish will enroll its "First Class" of participants in Fall 2018.

### Subria A. Whitaker

Subria A. Whitaker is from Chicago's South Side and her family currently resides in the Morgan Park Neighborhood. An alumna of Morgan Park High School, Subria graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal

Arts and Sciences with Distinction in Communication in May, 2016. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Sport Administration from Northwestern University's School of Professional Studies. Last summer, Subria was selected by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation to participate in the Congressional Black Caucus Emerging Leaders Program where she served as the 2016 Stephanie Tubbs Jones Intern in the Office of United States Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge. She'd previously served as an Undergraduate Intern in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia.

### Malayzja D. Anderson

Malayzja D. Anderson is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in World History from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Her current research interests include student activism, 20th century social movements and Middle Eastern history. As a Graduate Assistant in UIS's Diversity Center, Malayzja develops student programming aimed at retaining minority students and facilitates micro-aggression reduction workshops. Malayzja is currently the Treasurer for the UIS Rotaract Club, Vice President of Graduate Assistants in their union and a mentor for the Necessary Steps Mentor Program at UIS. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in African American Studies and another in History from Chicago State University. In 2014 Malayzja served as a Public Policy Intern in Senator Kimberly A. Lightford's district office.

### Ndjuoh MehChu

Ndjuoh MehChu, a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, is a third-year J.D. Candidate at the University of Chicago Law School. At the Law School, he is an active member of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project and previously served as a clinical student in the Law School's Civil Rights and Police Accountability Project. Ndjuoh has extensive experience in issues at the intersection of social justice and human rights. He has held positions at the ACLU of Illinois and the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. Ndjuoh previously served as an International Human Rights research fellow at the University of Lucerne School of Law in Lucerne, Switzerland and again at the University of Milan, Cattolica in Milan, Italy. Prior to Law School, Ndjuoh worked as a Special Education and Math teacher in the South Bronx. Ndjuoh is also a graduate of Rutgers University, New Brunswick with degrees in Economics and Africana Studies.

Larry Luster is the Executive Director of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation. Follow the foundation @ilbcfoundation



## Why am I Marching?

By Diana Carlile

When I was in high school, I started working at Illinois Bell in Springfield through a co-op program. I am proud to say that it turned into a 33-year career. When I started at Illinois Bell, I also joined the IBEW and became an active union member. My union job allowed me the opportunity to provide for my family. I was a working mom with no college education. Thanks to my fair wages, benefits and support from my union, I could send both of my children to college.

Over my entire career, I went through three corporate mergers and four company changes. Thankfully I continued to work in the same building. AT & T closed my office in Springfield due to downsizing. I could retire because of my years of service and the benefits that my union fought for. Unfortunately, this is not always the case in our country.

I attended the Women's March on Washington because I wanted to stand up for the working mom's like me. Donald Trump has repeatedly said that he is in favor of Right to Work. Mike Pence led the charge for Indiana to become Right to Work. Bruce Rauner seems hell bent on breaking the public employee unions so that he can push through Right to Work.

Being a union member provided me fair wages, benefits and safe working conditions. Right to Work would strip these basic rights. I believe that I needed to step up and make my voice heard. Working men and women are under attack in our country and in Illinois. My resolve to the union movement and to my brothers and sisters is stronger now because I attended the Women's March. I am ready to take the fight to Trump and Rauner to make sure that Illinois and our country does not go for Right to Work.

Diana is an Executive Board Member of the Springfield and Central IL Trades and Labor Council.

## IDCCA GOVERNOR STRAW POLL



### Illinois Democratic County Chairmen Association Straw Poll Results

Last month the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association (IDCCA) announced the results of their online straw poll conducted from Monday January 23rd to midnight on Sunday January 29th. The poll asked respondents to select their preferred Democrat candidate to run for Governor and Lt. Governor in 2018. The result was comprised of its existing members and Democrats who joined the organization via online submission of name, email, and zip code. More than 5,352 ballots were cast online.

"The winner of this first ever measurement of Democratic Party leaders, grass roots activists, and volunteers was our Party as a whole," said IDCCA President and Chairman of the Rock Island County Democrats Doug House. "The overwhelming response we received demonstrates that Democrats are ready to take on Bruce Rauner and bring Illinois back from the devastation he has caused our state."

The straw poll results are as follows. These results were tabulated from 5,352 responses and examined for duplicates and interference by IDCCA team members. This poll is not a scientific representation of the Democratic Primary electorate.

1. State Senator Daniel Biss —25%
2. Alderman Ameya Pawar—15%
3. Chris Kennedy—12%
4. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos—11%
5. J.B. Pritzker—10%
6. State Senator Andy Manar—7%
7. Congresswoman Robin Kelly—4%
8. State Senator Kwame Raoul—2%
9. City Treasurer Kurt Summers—1%

\* 13% of responses were for write in candidates.

Full results will be available at [www.ildcca.org/governor-straw-poll-results/](http://www.ildcca.org/governor-straw-poll-results/)

President House further noted that the overwhelming response to this poll indicated the hunger for more information about the candidates for Governor.

"We were thrilled to see such a strong

response from Democrats across Illinois and will take this opportunity to feature each announced candidate for Governor through our website, social media channels, and information packets distributed to our 102 County Chairmen," said House. "Voters in Illinois, having seen the devastating effects of Rauner's lack of leadership and now Trump's first week in office, are desperate for a way to fight back. IDCCA stands ready to point them in the direction of our Democratic candidates."

Finally, House indicated IDCCA would build upon this success with additional polls.

"This is the beginning of the campaign to determine our nominee, and we strongly believe that there needs to be more attention on our field, not less. We will engage our leaders, newly acquired members, and the candidates in the future to bring further attention to our tremendous field of candidates," House concluded.

### Campaigning in the Time of Trump: Three Steps Every Campaign and Local Party Need to Follow to Capitalize on Trumo

By Kelly Dietrich

The current mood of the country and within the Democratic Party is a mix of fear, frustration and a big desire to do "something." It isn't everyday millions of people, most of whom are not regularly politically active, take to the streets to protest organically. The question facing every local party leader and candidate is: How to do channel and use this energy to win at the ballot box?

We have three suggestions for every campaign and party. The central idea is simple: Be aggressive and play the long game. Don't let this

unique moment in American history pass by. Take advantage of it.

#### 1. Be Aggressive

People want something, anything, to do to make them feel like they are making a difference. Give them that opportunity. If you have the budget to prospect for new donors online or through the mail, now is the time. If you can host local house parties, do it. Give people in your area an outlet for their frustration.

#### 2. Empower and Build Relationships with Activists

As a local party leader, candidate or elected official, you should be empowering the people in your community who want to stand up and act. The more people we can get active today, the better. Even more effective, is empowering more people to get other people active.

Don't just encourage people. Be a part of it. Go to the protests. Attend the meetings. Join the Facebook Groups. Don't go asking for money. Go looking to build relationships. Go to listen and learn. Offer help where ever you can.

#### 3. Collect Data

This is the long game. The people who are protesting, advocating, and want to be involved for the first time are the key to your next election. Do not lose the chance to get their email. Ask them to follow you on Facebook or Twitter. Your goal is to collect their contact information. Then, when the next Election Day rolls around and some of the current enthusiasm and urgency is gone, you can still find them. By November they may not all still be in the streets, but they will get to the ballot box - especially if you remind them.

There's plenty more we can and should do, but these three priorities will help Democratic organizations and infrastructure for more than just the next few months. They will help us build and strengthen the long-term community we need to win on Election Night.

Kelly Dietrich, National Democratic Training Committee. Kelly is the founder of the NDTC, a free, online training school for any Democratic candidate or leader to learn how to run more effective and winning campaigns.

@TrainDems, TrainDemocrats.org

**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC  
TRAINING COMMITTEE**



## Investing in Illinois

By Illinois State Treasurer  
Michael Frerichs

Serving as Treasurer of Illinois, I remain humbled by the various ways we help our families. Our office provides the financial tools for Illinoisans to invest in themselves by making college and trade school more affordable, fighting for consumers, and returning valuables and hard-earned money back to families.

Some Illinois families have additional worries and fears about saving for their loved one who has a disability or blindness. On January 30th, I was honored to announce a new program called Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE). ABLE accounts are a tax-free investment tool to ensure families can care for their loved ones.

We were able to accomplish this by working together with 13 other states, red states and blue states, from around the country to create the program with the lowest fees in the country. By working together we were able to accomplish much more than if we had gone it alone.

Since I took office in 2015, my team has been looking for ways to improve the lives of everyday Illinois families. Since 2011, my office has discovered over \$550 million of life insurance benefits were never paid to the rightful beneficiaries. We are working diligently to get that money to the loved ones of the deceased, and to make sure it never happens again.

This year, our office filed additional legislation to ensure life insurance companies review their records going back to 1996 and confirm death benefits have been paid to the rightful heirs. Life insurance companies are able to compare their policy holders against the federal Master Death File. We are going to help life insur-

ance companies keep the promises that they made to their customers.

In January, I sent a letter to President Donald Trump to urge him to give assurances to responsible financial institutions that conduct business with state-licensed medical cannabis cultivators and dispensaries. With the confirmation of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, I urged President Trump to give the medical cannabis industry, financial institutions, and patients a clear vision and confidence to continue services and care. There is no denying that Illinois patients have found relief through a medical cannabis prescription to treat veterans with PTSD and children with seizures.

We want people to make Illinois their home and live their lives to the best of their abilities. We are a state of doers. We are a state of builders. We need our leaders to reflect our work ethic and values. We work everyday to make our future a little bit brighter. I will continue to stand tall for the people of Illinois by investing in our people, businesses, communities, and families.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Treasurer,

Mike Frerichs

State Treasurer of Illinois

@MikeforIllinois