



IDCCA  
April  
2017  
Newsletter

Issue #15

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE



## President's Message

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

### What Does the Democratic Party Stand For?

I have heard what we as Democrats stand for summed up into one word before, for me that word is compassion.

While simplistic, it's spot-on.

I know that I am wading into some very tricky territory when I try to define what it is that we stand for, because as much as any one of you have done, I too have traveled this state and know our Illinois Democrats, their make-up, and the various forms we take well.

I do however think that we Democrats share a great deal in common with each other and it is that commonality that draws newly emerging Democrats to identify with us. That is why we need to talk about our basic identity and why people should become Democrats, be active within the Democratic Party, and why they should support our candidates,

especially now as more people are getting involved than ever before.

Democrats believe:

In Economic Justice (A good paying Job) that provides opportunities for growth for all our citizens and a brighter future for the generations that will follow us. A future that includes being able to have access to higher education, being able to afford to settle down, providing for a family, buying a home and building for a retirement. The consolidation of wealth that we have seen in our nation, and the pillaging of our wages and savings through the elimination of all workers' rights and protections, is obscene. Our nation's workers have been forced to be beholden to the "Company Store," owned by an elite 1% that takes all that we toil for and leaves little crumbs we must use to provide for basics, things we took for granted not so very long ago. [Continued on page 2]

[Presidents Message](#) —Page 1

[No More Business As Usual for Macoupin Dems](#)—Page 2

[IDCCA/National Democratic Training Committee Update](#)—Page 2

[Social Media](#)—Page 3

[Why I Am Marching](#) —Page 4



### 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 you 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

[Continued from page 1]

This country and the middle class were built by organized labor and we must protect it.

In Healthcare as a right, where we collectively as a nation have a responsibility to care for the weakest among us. A person – regardless of their social and economic standing, their individual opportunities and capabilities, their level of health or sickness – deserves to live with dignity. It is our responsibility to help those who need it transition to a higher social ability or economic independence. The undermining of our healthcare system and the dissolution of the ladders to opportunity built by Democrats for years are chronically impoverishing millions of Americans.

In Human Equality and self determination as the basis for mutual respect, essential to our coexistence. Regardless of an individual's geographical origin, nation of birth, gender, age, sexual orientation or identification and economic status, we are all deserving of protection from discrimination for any or these things that make us the unique individuals we are. No exceptions. These differences must never be allowed to shorten our life, limit our independence, our earning ability, deprive us of housing, or of sharing our life with who we love. Nor should we ever allow these differences to be exploited by those in power to divide us against each other for oppression.

We believe in the truth, in saving our planet and in science, not instead of a higher power nor solely because of one. But because it is only with the truth that an honest discussion can begin to bring about real change on the difficult issues of our day.

It is important to note that I am not a scholar, a professor of Political Science or of Sociology, but I am a lifelong Democrat that wants what I do to have a meaning greater than myself. I know that the most important thing is not the fight, but who we are fighting for. That is what it means to be a Democrat to me.

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



## No More Business as Usual for Macoupin Dems

By Josh Ross

If the surprising and unanticipated results of the 2016 election should have taught us anything here in Macoupin County, it's very simply that there is no more business as usual for us Dems. We have been fortunate for decades here in Macoupin County. We have been viewed throughout the state as a bastion of Democratic Party success and strength. We are viewed as a strong hold of the party in downstate Illinois. The Republican Party in Macoupin County has not won election to a county wide office in a generation. Unfortunately, success breeds complacency and complacency leads to failure. For too long, we have had the luxury of being able to bask in our perennial success. Election cycle after election cycle we have put forth strong candidates who have been carried to office in Carlinville. All that changed on November 8, 2016. Despite some very strong candidates, there was not one opposed race above the county level that went favorably for the Dems. If we want to be more honest with ourselves, if one looks at the numbers, this has been coming for quite some time. In all honesty, we didn't work hard enough. We didn't take things seriously enough. We didn't mobilize with the urgency that was necessary and we paid the price. Fortunately, our county offices that were on the ballot were unopposed but do not fool yourself for one minute, those days are over.

You see, we're not the only ones who can look at numbers. If you think for one moment that our friends from the other party are not licking their chops and rounding up solid candidates to challenge every county office in future elections, you are mistaken. Our Republican friends have recently had a shake-up in leadership and their new chairman is a hard worker. He's said publicly that he wants more feet on the ground, wants more contested elections at every level. This is a sounding of the alarm for us Dems as much as it is a rallying cry for Republicans. 2016 showed that we can no longer take anything for granted, that we can no longer just assume that our friends, neighbors and families will vote the right way, that we can no longer be complacent and assume that we will win simply because we're Democrats in Macoupin County and that's just what we do. I hope that everyone understands that elections in 2018

start now. We cannot sit back and assume that an 11th hour push will get us over the hump. Planning and organizing needs to be happening now. The Republican Party in Macoupin County is no longer our perennial punching bag, it is and will be a formidable foe and if we choose to ignore them, we do so at our own peril.

*Article was published with permission of the Macoupin County Democratic Party. The article can be found of the Macoupin County Democratic Party's webpage. [www.macoupindems.com/no-more-business-as-usual-for-macoupin-dems/](http://www.macoupindems.com/no-more-business-as-usual-for-macoupin-dems/)*



IDCCA/National  
Democratic Training  
Committee

### 2017 Candidate Boot Camp

Friday May 19th – Sunday May 21st

@ILDCCA @TrainDems

The Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association is partnering with the National Democratic Training Committee to host our first ever Candidate Boot Camp! This three-day training will take place on Friday, May 19th through Sunday, May 21st at the Crowne Plaza – Springfield. The training will be geared towards individuals who are considering running for County Wide, County Board or municipal offices. Candidates will learn everything from putting together their campaign plan to how prepare for Election Day.

Candidates will go through training on four important areas including:

Field Operations  
Fundraising  
Communications  
Digital / Social Media

There is no attendance fee for individuals to attend the training. If they choose to travel to Springfield for the weekend, they will be responsible for their own hotel room. We will send out information on the discounted room rate at the Crowne Plaza - Springfield.

Space will be limited to 60 attendees! Once an individual has signed up, they will receive a questionnaire about what office they are considering running for, why are they considering running and their involvement with their local County Party. Candidates can sign up online at: <http://www.traindemocrats.org/event/2017IDCCABootcamp>



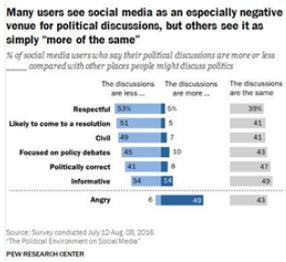
## Social Media

By Ron Holmes,  
@RonHolmesIL

The conversations that once took place at kitchen tables across this country are now taking place on social media platforms with global reach. Sports enthusiasts no longer have to wait for the evening edition of SportsCenter to see highlights of their favorite team. Investors no longer have to wait for the morning paper to read stock prices. And voters no longer depend on traditional news sources for their political news. Why? Because the Internet.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
@pewresearch

The Political Environment on Social Media  
[pewrsr.ch/2eCBi5c](http://pewrsr.ch/2eCBi5c)



So, whether you're a social media novice or getting ready to sign up for a social media platform, let's look at the good, the bad and the ugly.

The good:  
It's free! Whether you're a County Chairman or simply a party activist, there's no excuse for you not to have a social media account to help push your message. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are all free so get off the sidelines and get into the #ilbudget debate and tell the Governor to #dothejob!

**IL Working Together**  
@illinoisWorking

Crazy idea: instead of spending millions on campaign ads 18 months before Election Day, maybe instead --> #RaunerDoYourJob?

heraldandreview @heraldandreview  
\$19K spent on Rauner 'Isot' tape ads in Decatur market @RVVoyles + @alison0512 report --> buff.ly/2od1WAnr

It's a great way to build your network. Social media is a great way to find like-minded activists or to find reporters that may cover your issues. It's also a great way to start a dialogue with elected officials. Make sure to use the search feature with key words to find folks that can help you build your local party organization.

**Li Chano From 79th**  
@chancetherapper

Thank you Governor, I would love to have meeting with you this week if possible.

**Bruce Rauner** @GovRauner  
Congrats to @Chancetherapper for making history as an independent artist and taking home 3 Grammys. It is proud that you're one of our own.

It's an opportunity to proactively tell your story. It's 2017, you're probably on the internet somewhere. Whether you like it or not, someone is talking about your campaign or efforts to improve your community. Don't let them fill the vacuum. Proactively push your message and don't just get pushed around.

**ILDEM ILDCCA**  
@ILDCCA

Every day more information comes out about how Boss Rauner actively blocked an attempt to fix the crisis he...

**Did Rauner 'Pull Votes' Off The Grand Bargain?**  
Ten Republican senators voted for at least one bill in the grand bargain. We asked all of them about Gov. Bruce Rauner's role in stopping them from going  
nprilinois.org

It doesn't take a lot of time. Just ask President Trump, those tiny hands can really push out tweets...

**The Hill**  
@thehill

Biden to Trump: Grow up and stop tweeting  
[hill.cm/a5xOVk6](http://hill.cm/a5xOVk6)



The bad:  
It's not a replacement for traditional campaigning or lobbying elected officials. Sorry folks; social media is a tool, so you're still going to have to talk to people if we're going to win elections and govern. So, in the words of former First Lady Michele Obama: let's move!

**ILDEM ILDCCA**  
@ILDCCA

If you want to fight back against Trump and Rauner, join your local Democratic Party!  
#Democrats



You're not going to become a social media expert overnight. You're just not but practice makes perfect, so there's that.

**Miami Herald**  
@Miamiherald

Department of Education misspells name in tweet, then misspells the apology tweet  
[hrl.d.us/2ki8e1c](http://hrl.d.us/2ki8e1c)

**US Dept of Education** @usedgov · 7h  
Education must not simply teach work - it must teach life. - W.E.B. DeBois



Trolls. Seriously, some people are the worst. Just remember, the internet is a big place full of "unique" opinions. You're not going to be able to change everyone's mind so remember to #resist.

**Susana A. Mendoza**  
@susanamendoza10

ICYMI here's @ilgop creepily stalking me. On the taxpayer's \$\$\$? Next time they should have the courtesy to say hi & not run #stalker #twill

**IL Republican Party** @ilgop  
SPOTTED: @ilComptroller Susana Mendoza's "LOADED" taxpayer-funded SUV, feat. heated leather seats, navigation, and a power liftgate. #twill

The ugly:

It's permanent. Sorry Mr. President...

**AJ+**  
@ajplus

Guess who President Trump is contradicting with his Syria actions? Himself.

**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump  
What will we get for bombing Syria besides more debt and a possible long term conflict?  
**Obama needs Congressional approval.**

Ron Holmes is the Founding Principal at Ron Holmes Consulting LLC  
@RonHolmesIL



## Why I am Marching

By Kara Highfill  
@KMoneyDaBoss

As a civically engaged millennial who has been involved in politics and community engagement since high school, it's probably surprising to learn that before the Women's March on Chicago, I had never marched in a protest before. In fact, very few of my friends, all equally involved with politics and civic duty, had ever done something like this, which I think speaks to the incredible value that we found in this march.

Personally, I have always felt that the best way to affect change is by working within the system.

That's why I decided to study Political Science and Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago and pursue the career path that I have. It's also why, during the 2016 election, I managed a state representative race in DuPage County.

As anyone who has worked campaigns can attest, the work is endless but infinitely rewarding when your candidate is victorious on election night. While I felt overjoyed for doing my part in electing a candidate that is a champion for women's issues and represents her district well, the euphoria was blunted by the realization that the outcome at the national level was seismically different than what I had assumed was a foregone conclusion. What should have been an evening of celebration, ended up being a wake up call.

As soon as I heard about the women's marches being planned throughout the country, though, it hit me that being civically engaged and working within the system was no longer enough. Too many voices weren't being heard, and the effect on future generations was too great to not take this opportunity to amplify the voices of women throughout the world. There

was no question of whether I would be there. My friends all felt the same: this was no longer an option. We were never not going to march.

It was a feeling that I felt echoed throughout the march from women of all ages, colors and backgrounds. It may not have been a big, seismic change, but with that march, something had shifted. This peaceful – even polite – gathering of women and allies marching through the streets of Chicago and cities across the country and world was the most effectual thing I have ever been a part of.

Once I knew I was going to be a part of the march and once I had reached out to a few of my friends to get a group together, I realized that it was only natural to involve Off the Sidelines (OTS). Founded by Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, my current boss, OTS is a non-partisan organization dedicated to getting women off the sidelines, involving them in issues that affect their lives and putting their ideas into action. So I started reaching out to OTS members, friends, acquaintances and coworkers, and together we built up a network of women from all over the city and outside the city to come march with us.

The one thing that we all had in common was this shared feeling that this march was

unquestionably something that we needed to do. Perhaps more importantly, I think we all left the march with a shared feeling that this march was not an ending or the pinnacle of how we would affect change. Instead, it instilled in each of us the need to carry this feeling forward and keep finding ways to engage and affect change.

Undoubtedly, the next few years will continue to bring opportunities for engagement and connection, as well as obstacles that will seem insurmountable. But after this march, I know that I am surrounded by strong, likeminded women who will not let these obstacles stem the tide of progress. Our momentum is still picking up speed, and in two years and four years and beyond, I believe we will see the change that has started outside the political system take root and change the political landscape of Illinois and our country.

In the meantime, I will continue to march and to stand shoulder to shoulder with the amazing women who are getting off the sidelines en masse to bring this change to light.

