



IDCCA
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Newsletter

Issue #17

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE



President's Message

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

The Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association is organizing like you have never seen before and at a pace that is hard to keep up with! The energy is undeniable and it is contagious!

In large numbers, people in every County are getting involved. Individuals are organizing and going door to door to help return the control of government back to its citizens.

As I travel around the state, it's evident that energy is building. County Party events are setting records for attendance and donations raised. We are seeing first time volunteers coming out every day looking to help get Democrats elected in Illinois. You cannot help but feel the momentum that is building in Illinois. Whether it is in McDonough, St. Clair or Whiteside Counties, we are growing like we have never done before.

The enthusiasm is also evident in the number of candidates surfacing to run for public office. In previous off year elections,

Congressional candidates were often slow to surface and faced major uphill battles. It does not appear that we will have that problem this year. Numerous candidates have announced in EVERY district to challenge the incumbent Congressional Republicans!

The IDCCA and the National Democratic Training Committee also hosted our first ever Candidate Boot Camp! Over 70 candidates from around the state came to Springfield for three days of training from campaign experts. These are candidates that are running for everything from Congress to Village Board. It is exciting to see this kind of enthusiasm from our candidates. Thank you to the NDTC for hosting this wonderful event with us.

All this enthusiasm is wonderful but it does not alone spell victory for our Democratic candidates in 2018.

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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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In several races, we will have a contested Primary Election before we have a chance to face off against the Republicans. We will have several difficult tasks before then including:

1. Listen to the Voters and hear what they are saying and learn from it.
2. Nominate a candidate for Governor that can communicate and share a Democratic Party vision with our citizens for fixing our state budget crisis.
3. Continue to recruit and train thousands of volunteers to fill vacant precinct committee positions and to assist us with our efforts.
4. Mobilize and organize our volunteers by county for door to door canvassing, phoning and messaging efforts.

If we are going to building off of the successful Municipal Elections this past April, we must maintain our energy within our base. We must be listening to and communicating with our voters regularly. That is the only way we can affect the change that each of us knows we need to in Springfield and in Washington DC.

The IDCCA is prepared to meet these challenges and is working hard every day to accomplish them. We appreciate your support in the past but we need each of you to step up a little bit more. Challenge yourself and become a precinct committeeman, a candidate, a volunteer, a financial contributor. If you will step up to join us in this effort, I know that there will be no stopping the amount of success that we can achieve together.

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



Daniel Biss,
Candidate for
Governor

@danielbiss

Dear friends,

Thank you for the hard work you do on behalf of Democrats across Illinois. While my fellow Democratic candidates and I will have our disagreements, we ALL agree that Bruce Rauner must go, and you are on the frontlines of defeating him next fall.

Before that general election, there's a crucial step that I believe will strengthen our party: a primary between Democratic candidates seeking to challenge Bruce Rauner. It's a time for Democrats across the state to meet the candidates, learn more about their qualifications, and choose the person that best represents the future of Illinois. I'm honored to be a candidate in this race, and to work to earn your support over the next 10 months.

As a former math teacher, I never intended to run for political office. That changed as we lurched into war with Iraq in 2003. What I saw around me -- a government that lacked transparency, accountability, and honesty -- compelled me to put down the chalk and pick up a clipboard. It was during that time of organizing for progressive candidates and causes that I saw firsthand the power of grassroots people-powered campaigns.

I entered the race for governor because I believe Illinois is at a crossroads. Our next governor will not only be responsible for stopping the destruction caused by Bruce Rauner and protecting our state against Donald Trump, but will need to reverse Illinois' financial decline decades in the making -- starting on day one. But I also believe Democrats in Illinois are at a crossroads. Success in this election hinges on learning lessons from our past. Illinois' future depends on us learning them quickly.

Bruce Rauner is a failed experiment. As he clings to a dangerous ideology, Illinois workers, families, and communities are being destroyed. But how did Bruce Rauner get elected? Because of a broken system that stopped being accountable to most of us. Over time, the wealthy and well-connected have created a system that benefits them -- while the rest of us pay the price. Together, these forces have led us to more than 700 days

without a budget. 700. We literally cannot afford to continue this way.

So how do we change course? We do it by being honest about who's winning, who's losing, and who pays. We do it by taking our state back.

That begins with a budget that provides for working families, instead of punishing them. We do this by instituting a fair tax that asks the wealthy to finally pay their fair share, so that we can honor our commitments, and begin making real investments that will strengthen our families and our economy. We must also end our dependence on a faulty property tax system that benefits the insiders, while forcing the rest of us to pick up the tab. And we must change the funding formula for our schools to give every student access to a high quality public education, including community college. It means investing in people, through higher wages and healthcare, and real investments in all communities across our state.

In my campaign and as governor, I will continue to fight the broken system. And I will continue to lead by example to do so.

When I say that we need a clear picture of our leaders' potential conflicts of interest, so voters understand who they will be accountable to, I also make my tax returns public. (You can find them here). I'm the only candidate in this race who has done so, giving you a chance to learn about any potential influences on my campaign or administration.

When I say that we must provide healthcare for all, I have not only passed a law out of the Senate that requires insurance companies to continue to cover preexisting conditions regardless of Trump's "healthcare plan", but as governor, I would end the profitable Medicaid contracts for insurance companies who refuse to participate in the Illinois insurance exchange, thereby refusing to offer coverage to all Illinoisans.

And when I say that we need to provide a quality public education to all, I support smart changes to our funding formula that allow us to do so, even at a cost to the wealthy schools in my district.

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These are the values I believe in, and these are the values I'm running on for governor of Illinois. But we can't do any of these things alone.

Every day as I travel the state, I see in so many people the same frustrated energy that encouraged me to join a "meetup" nearly 14 years ago. In them, I see a shared understanding that a movement of people ready to make change is more powerful than money and the machine -- and it's how I know that together we will be successful.

In what's already been called the most expensive gubernatorial race in our nation's history, the antidote isn't more money. It's more people and more passion. That's why I invite you to join us.

Thank you again for volunteering your time to lead our communities and work for a better Illinois. Thank you for giving up your weekends to knock on doors. Thank you for the late nights spent entering data and sorting through lists. Thank you for marching in parades in 90 degree weather and thank you for being the heart, soul and backbone of the Democratic Party.

I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

Onward,
Daniel



Bob Daiber,
Candidate
for
Governor

@BobDaiber

Illinois has been operating without a state budget for nearly three years.

In that time, the state's credit rating has been downgraded eight times, the backlog of unpaid bills has surpassed \$14.5 billion, more than 1,500 employees at public universities and community colleges have been laid off, and countless social service providers are struggling to keep their doors open as they wait up to seven months to receive payment from the state. And now that Gov. Bruce Rauner failed to reach a budget agreement for the third consecutive fiscal year, the costs

and consequences of this unprecedented partisan gridlock are going to get significantly worse

The challenges we face in this state are insurmountable, and I decided the only thing I could do is roll up my sleeves and help. I have been helping people my whole life as a teacher for nearly 30 years, and I want to do just that as your next Governor for the State of Illinois. I was raised with the values of paying it forward to the next generation and creating ways that would lead to a better future.

As your next Governor, I promise to get a budget passed. I am committed to working to get our financial house in order. Not only am I a proud husband, and father of two sons, but I am an educator, a farmer, passionate about my community, a taxpayer, and a voter.

I am running to bring stability to the economic condition to the Land of Lincoln. Illinois must have a budget to attract business and uphold its responsibility to all entities that provide state services. I will work to layout a clear plan to resolve the back log of bills, improve the state's bond rating, and adequately fund education.

With my strong passion for education, full funding of education (K-12) will be a high priority of my administration. I do not support pro-rating general state aid to pay other bills. To improve the quality of our schools, we must first see that they receive 100% of funds that they are entitled prior to making adjustments on the current formula. If the money is not available to fully fund at this level, it will not be possible to begin another system that may be viewed as more equitable for districts with lower equalized assessed evaluations. It will also be my goal to return higher education to a 2012 funding level to stop the brain drain in Illinois of students leaving to attend out-of-state institutions.

Furthermore, as Governor, I will work to bring about greater efficiencies in state government by eliminating duplicate administrative roles in my immediate appointments

As a candidate for governor, I favor reforming our current tax structure. While I support a progressive income tax schedule, I realize that immediate attention needs to be given to the state's revenue problem. In saying that, I realize a slight increase may be necessary on the current tax rate to begin stabilizing the debt. The interest tax payers pay each day is eating away at revenue that is needed for

necessary programs such as education and social services.

Likewise, I will uphold the rights of working men and women to collectively bargain their work place contracts. On March 21, I signed a pledge that I will not sign Right-to-Work legislation in Illinois. Rather, I will demonstrate how strong Labor-Management relationships can yield safe and profitable industries.

I also support Illinois passing an Equal Rights Amendment to more fully recognize the rights of women in the workplace.

My candidacy will work to develop an atmosphere of comprise and collaboration to relax the extreme polarization that exists between the legislative and executive branches of government. Government must work for the best interests of all citizens, not for special interests.

For 22 years I have served in public office as a local elected official. These years of experience have instilled in me a working knowledge of government which is closest to the people. Policies which I will promote and adopt will strengthen revenue for local government and not impair their ability to grow and prosper.

I also have a proven record as an advocate for labor. I have been a union member for a long time and in each capacity you learn about governing. Governing is an art. Part of governing is being able to collaborate and understanding compromise, and learning how to work with others. That is a key thing for a Governor in this state. You must understand how the legislative process works, which are some of the ways I am prepared to be our next Governor.

I also believe my plan to lead the state's financial house to a healthier path can happen with restructuring the Illinois tax system and a progressive tax could help Illinois' budget deficit.

I support pension plans and everyone getting one pension. We have to support the pension system to make it whole.

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I also come from a heritage of Illinois agriculture families. My experience in regional planning for residential and business development has helped to better serve the communities. Each and every year agriculture brings revenue and I will promote and support Illinois farmers, too.

Not only is it a pleasure to work and meet the great people across the state and travel across the regions of the prairie land, but it is a privilege. My only hope is that we will work together as a party and bring back the needs of Illinois voters first.



Chris Kennedy,
Candidate
for Governor

@KennedyforIL

Dear Friend & County Chair –

Thirty years ago, Chris Kennedy moved from Boston to Decatur to join the fight against hunger in Illinois. Working for Archer Daniels Midland, he lived in Decatur and spent time in Peoria and the Metro East selling barge freight and learning the day-to-day workings of the agricultural economy in Illinois.

Thirty years later, Chris Kennedy is running for Governor to restore the American Dream to Decatur and the rest of Illinois. Since announcing for Governor on February 8, 2017, his stops downstate have been met with large crowds that remind him why he's in this race: to restore the American Dream in a single generation, to invest in schools and energize the economy in every region, and to invest in children's health and education to help young mothers and families build healthy children.

He knows that we need a Governor who believes passionately that our public universities and community colleges are vital economic assets and engines in every region of the state. He knows that we need a Governor who understands the South and West sides of Chicago like he knows Central, Southern, Western and Eastern Illinois because, as

President Franklin Roosevelt used to say, 'We all go up, or we all go down, together.'

As Governor, he will continue his career-long support for the labor movement and its role in building the middle class because he has always believed that union labor provides a competitive advantage for Illinois' economy. He will fight to make sure that Illinois families, including the working men and women of the Illinois AFL-CIO, can realize the potential of the American Dream.

Last week, Chris held his first in what will be a series of town hall meetings that will give him a chance to outline his blueprint and vision for Illinois. He focused on the inherently flawed property tax system, which leads to deep disparities between rich and poor school districts. As Chris said, the American Dream is crippled by the current property tax system that allows the wealthy insiders to game the system. To restore the promise of the American Dream, we must change the way we fund our grade schools and high schools.

Chris's downstate visits also remind observers why he will be a positive force at the top of the ticket in 2018. Quoting "Capitol Fax" (May 8, 2017): "One of the things you can't help but notice in the press coverage of Kennedy's downstate appearances is the report on crowd size. His family name is packing halls all over the place as locals come out to witness a part of history."

A few recent examples:

* May 25th McDonough County - Democrats enjoyed their largest crowd in history. That led McDonough County Democrats Kerry Nielsen and Lee Trotter, to say: "Chris Kennedy brought a new message of hope to the largest crowd of Democrats ever assembled in McDonough County."

* April 30th La Salle County - Chris spoke at the annual La Salle County Democrats' dinner in Utica. Normally an event that attracts 250-300, this night saw 600 energetic Democrats drive through cold and rain to attend what was the largest turnout in the last 22 years, according to La Salle County Democratic Party Chair, Rocky Raikes.

And on June 1st, Chris's children Chris jr. and Kate Kennedy visited the Fourth Annual JFK Dinner in Whiteside County (hosted by six county parties in the region). Look for members of the Kennedy family to make visits to your counties in the coming months as they spread

out across the state to deliver Chris's message of change for Illinois.

Last September, when Chris spoke at the Rock Island County Democrats' 49th Annual Salute to Labor Labor Day picnic, He told the 2,000-or-so people gathered along the shores of the Mississippi River that "American history teaches us the same lessons over and over again. We're taught that we're stronger together than when we're alone ..."

Kennedy often quotes President Franklin Roosevelt to convey the heart of his candidacy – that 'we all go up, or we all go down, together.' That is the meaning and message of his candidacy, and that is the message Democrats can run on and win on in every region of the state in 2018. We need to make this campaign about extending the American Dream to every citizen in every region in Illinois.

If you need additional information about Chris Kennedy or have an event you want the campaign to know about, please visit www.kennedyforillinois.com and send the campaign a note. Thanks for all you do to strengthen the Democratic Party at the local, grassroots level.



Alex Paterakis,
Candidate
for
Governor

@akexoaterakis

Rauner, a wealthy private equity investor, ran for governor as a Republican in 2014 on a populist pledge to "shake up Springfield" and "bring back Illinois." After two years, four months he's done neither, leaving destruction in his path. And rather than bringing back Illinois, Rauner has torpedoed any progress it. Illinois has been unable to pass a full-year budget during his tenure. Yet this "expert negotiator" has done nothing but call CPS teachers illiterate, Mike Madigan corrupt and thinks he can bully his policy through the general assembly.

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In paying for day-to-day operations Illinois is now spending approximately \$17 million a day more on average than it receives in taxes and fees. This has caused the backlog of unpaid bills to grow to nearly \$12.8 billion, not including approximately \$800 million in late-payment interest penalties that have accrued. The estimate of our worst-in-the-nation unfunded pension liability has risen under Rauner to \$130 billion from \$105 billion.

Each of the three major credit rating agencies has downgraded Illinois twice since Rauner was inaugurated, continuing a long slide that's making it ever more expensive for the state to borrow money.

Public colleges and universities have been hard hit in the budget crisis and are getting destroyed by the rating agencies. The schools are accordingly cutting programs, staff and days of operation. This is what the Republicans want. They want cuts, by not funding a budget, they are reducing the size of government without legislation. This hurts our families both young and old whom are now having to struggle for their basic human rights, education and healthcare. But there is hope, we can defeat the Trump loving Governor that feels that making his friends rich is better than helping those less fortunate.

To make Illinois Prosperous once more we need to:

Reduce the crippling Tax Burden on families, freezing any property taxes increases

Issue a balanced budget that is fair to the Middle Class

Provide protections and opportunities for the Middle-class, Blue-Collar worker through reforms to strengthen Unions and an increase to the Minimum Wage

Pass criminal justice reform and refocus resources from prisons to rehabilitation programs, and social and mental health services

Increase funding to K-12 education and childcare

Spreading the wealth across the state and not only to Chicago

Legalize the sale of Cannabis, with tax revenues funding educational programs

Rauner's supporters are in a perpetual dudgeon about House Speaker Michael Madigan, whom they blame for every irresponsible act of fiscal stewardship in Springfield since the mid-1980s.

In truth, Illinois has had Republican governors for 20 of the 32 years that Madigan has held the speaker's gavel.

I will not reference Bruce Rauner as "Governor Rauner" anymore. He does not deserve the title. We will fight "Governor" Rauner and his Republican colleagues locally and nationally to save what makes this country and state great.... its people.

Born in 1987 in Skokie, Alex has been a resident of Illinois his entire life. Alex attended Adlai E Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire IL. A Structural Engineer from Purdue University, Alex is also an entrepreneur and small business owner. Alex's passion for Civil Engineering allowed him to work for construction companies that have helped improve the Illinois highway system. In 2011, Alex started 2 companies that he has shaped into businesses that serve the local community, support and hire veterans and create jobs in the local economy.



Ameya Pawar,
Candidate for
Governor

@Ameya_Pawar_IL

Prior to 2011, I had no political experience of any kind, whatsoever. When I decided to run for alderman of Chicago's 47th Ward, challenging a candidate backed by the Chicago machine, I had no money and no endorsements. But that didn't stop me and my tiny grassroots campaign from knocking on every door in my community and talking with people about the issues that mattered to them. In the last six years, I've learned how to gain support for long overdue projects, like Chicago's independent budget office, a proposal I introduced in 2012, that is now a reality. But there is one pervasive aspect of politics that I have never and may never feel

entirely comfortable with: talking about myself incessantly.

It has always been my intention to let people judge who I am and what I stand for by the outcomes of my work. That is how the leaders I most admire conduct themselves, and it has always seemed both more honest and more powerful to me. I've also had the luxury of representing a community where I can be available and accessible to all those who want to get to know me in person. Whether they want to ask about my education policy or simply share their opinion on local business development, they can walk right into my office.

Recently, though, for a few reasons I've begun to question part of my philosophy. First, my wife has been telling me that people need to know more about me as a person, my background, and my motivations. She is right when she tells me that we all have to do things at work that we aren't thrilled about, but if they're for an important end, we suck it up and do them. Asking people for their vote is the greatest request for trust that can be made in a democracy. So I realize that it's my responsibility to build the trust necessary to make such a request in good faith.

Second, there have been individuals and news outlets suggesting there is no minority candidate in this race. This claim caught me by surprise, even amid a political race. Last time I checked -- this morning while shaving, and this afternoon in the window of a car -- I am brown. I'm not African American. I'm not Latino. I am Asian American. I'm Indian American, the first one ever elected to Chicago City Council. My parents moved to Illinois from India in the 1970s to make a better life for themselves and their family. As for all people, my life has been shaped by my background.

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My father grew up in India under British rule. The British were wealthy and few, while the Indian people were many and kept poor. My dad had no running water growing up and had to do homework by candlelight. He was malnourished. He got typhoid. The British maintained power through a strategy called “divide and rule” which kept the Indian people divided and poor, fighting each other over scraps.

When my dad came to Illinois he became an engineer who worked on the factory floor. He was laid off several times due to downsizing or offshoring or automation. One employer refused to pay him. We’d have a good year and a bad year. But my parents got by with hard work and support from their community. They kept at it, and they found their piece of the American dream.

I am even more of a minority in the current election. The other candidates are either billionaires or many times multi-millionaires. I’m not a billionaire, or a millionaire. Every month, my student loans and the child care for my daughter cost more than my mortgage. I grew up in a blue collar household that primarily depended on one income. We had two incomes at times, but no income at other times). Until I was seven years old, we lived in an apartment off Devon Avenue in Chicago. But like many families, when it came time for me to start school we left for the suburbs. That proved difficult, as we faced housing discrimination in some areas, until we landed in the welcoming immigrant community of unincorporated Des Plaines.

Once there, I did well in middle school but skated my way through high school, where a few teachers told me I wasn’t college material. I was always interested in foreign affairs and history, but I was usually a lackluster student. My high school antics left me with few prospects for further education. I bounced around at community college before starting to get my act together. Eventually, I made my way to Missouri Valley College, where I

knuckled down, big time. Through grit (and \$300k worth of debt) I made my way into grad school at IIT and then the University of Chicago, where I earned two master’s degrees, in threat response management and social service administration.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, and it changed the trajectory of my life’s work. I could not believe what I saw from the leaders of the wealthiest nation in the history of humanity: our politicians blamed those most devastated by the storm for their poverty. They did not mention the decades of divestment that had despoiled the hardest hit communities.

In the wreckage wake of Hurricane Katrina, I saw the convergence of my family’s story - - punctuated with work instability and wage theft -- with the stories of so many other families around the country. I ran for office because I wanted to be of service (my backup plan if I lost was the military). I ran because it is disgraceful for civic leaders in the most powerful nation on earth to blame the disenfranchised for their weakness. It is exactly their job to do something about it.

When I was elected alderman in an upset victory against a candidate backed by the establishment, I gained what Theodore Roosevelt called “the best prize that life has to offer”: the chance to work hard at work worth doing. So I got to work.

I passed one of the strongest anti-wage theft ordinances in the country. I co-chaired the Chicago Working Families task force which led to the passage of Chicago’s paid sick leave ordinance. I worked to raise the minimum wage. We secured millions of dollars for our neighborhood schools—and created a model that helps make schools the anchors of their communities.

Today in Illinois, our government is not working. We’re entering our third year without a state budget, which should be the bare minimum a government does. Social service agencies and schools are shutting their doors. The refusal to work together on even the most basic things is keeping us from the urgent work we’re

supposed to be doing as a state—which is to lay the foundation for shared prosperity for future generations. I’m proposing a New Deal in Illinois—one which rebuilds our crumbling infrastructure, reinvests in good-paying jobs, and recommits to early childhood education and public schools. And we can do it all without further burdening the middle class.

We can increase funding to all public schools across the state by eliminating corporate tax loopholes. We can provide universal access to childcare and support working families with paid sick leave, fair scheduling practices, parental leave and a living wage. With New Deal infrastructure programs we can create tens of thousands of new middle-class jobs and repair aging infrastructure across Illinois. With much-needed reforms to our criminal justice system we can refocus resources from prisons to diversion programs, job training and placement and social and mental health services.

The people at the top always tell us the ticket to a better life is tax cuts for them and fewer protections for everyone else. They say growth comes from insecurity and a race to the bottom between workers and businesses. But that approach has never worked a single time in our history. It just stacks the deck against those who work hard and can’t get ahead. They tell us to do more with less. And now we’re doing less with less. They leave us fighting over scraps.

My campaign is based on the idea that inspiring a movement of people is the best way to combat the enormous amount of money in this race. That’s why on June 15 I’m doing a statewide virtual town hall to share my vision for our state and bring people together to have the kinds of conversations that no longer seem possible in today’s politically divisive environment. I hope you can join me.

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I have no other interests beyond my family and civil service. I have no conflicts of interest, but I have a lot of interest in policies that conflict with the way our state is currently run. As the Indian American son of immigrants; as the child of a blue collar household; as a current tens-of-thousands-aire, I am a minority in this race. It just means I have to work harder than the next candidate. Like my parents before me, that's exactly what I plan to do.



JB Pritzker,
Candidate
for
Governor

@JBPritzker

Today, Illinois is in crisis: last among the states in our credit rating and nearly last in education funding. Services for families are closing, and healthcare has been cut back. There are a lot of reasons for this, but chief among them is our failed governor, Bruce Rauner.

Since announcing my campaign to beat Bruce Rauner two months ago, I have had the privilege of listening to many voices of hard working, good people all across our state. Illinoisans are committed to building a better life for their families and moving our state forward, but they are being let down by their governor.

Over a century ago, my great grandfather emigrated to America and arrived in Illinois penniless. He found a job and worked hard, but he had help. A social service agency helped him find a place to live. A public school helped him learn English. And a state university allowed him to get a higher education degree. You can't pull yourself up by your bootstraps if you don't have any, and Illinois gave my great grandfather his bootstraps.

It's still true today that everyone in our state deserves the opportunity to lift

themselves up – middle class families seeking better paying jobs and a college education for their kids, workers striving to get to the middle class, and our most vulnerable who need a helping hand.

But our governor and our government have let us down. Our public schools are barely scraping by without proper funding from the state. Our state universities are laying off faculty and staff, while our students are facing cuts to their financial aid.

Bruce Rauner has decimated our state's future, forcing people, businesses and jobs to flee. We are over 700 days into a historic budget crisis, and Rauner continues to attack working families instead of doing his job for this state. He holds the state budget hostage and won't give up on his right wing agenda to reduce wages and workplace safety, reduce workers' rights, and diminish our public education system.

Our state needs a leader who has a proven record of bringing people together, thinking big, and getting results. That's why I'm in this race.

WHO I AM

For 24 years I've been married to the love of my life, MK. We met on Capitol Hill when I was working for U.S. Senator Alan Dixon. MK has been my partner in everything important in life, and she is my partner in this campaign.

We have two wonderful children. Our 14-year-old daughter Teddi is a track and cross-country runner, and our 12-year-old son Donny is a math whiz and a football fanatic.

My kids are being raised with the lessons my parents taught me – the value of hard work, the importance of never taking for granted how privileged we are to live in this country, with its freedom and its blessings. My parents taught me that I've got to work twice as hard to earn the opportunities I've been given, and MK and I are trying to convey that to Teddi and Donny.

My parents were entrepreneurs who built a small motel business that became successful. I'm proud of the business my parents built, but I didn't follow them into it. Instead, I built my own. Today, we have over 1,700 employees in Illinois, many of whom are proud union members.

While I've been able to successfully create jobs and help businesses grow, what I'm proudest of is the work I've done to solve big challenges for the people of Illinois and help lift up our communities.

WHAT I'VE DONE FOR ILLINOIS

School Breakfast for low income kids.

There are 55,000 kids in low-income school districts who now get school breakfasts every day because of my work with Share Our Strength and the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Our children can't learn on an empty stomach and they shouldn't have to try. Last year, we pushed the state to get on board, and a law was passed so that 175,000 kids more kids across the state could get the breakfast they need to start their day.

Child care and pre-school. Early childhood education is a passion of mine. For two decades I've been proud to be a national leader on this issue, working with government, business and non-profit leaders to create early learning programs both in Illinois and across the nation. In 2014, President Obama asked me to help organize a White House Summit on Early Childhood that brought leaders from across the country together to advance the cause of early learning.

Creating new jobs for our future.

Illinois was losing technology jobs. Our

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best and brightest entrepreneurs and engineers were leaving Illinois. I

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wanted to change that. So, I brought together our universities, state and local governments, and industry leaders to create a non-profit, small business technology incubator called 1871. Today, 1871 has helped create 6,000 good paying jobs in Illinois and has helped transform our state into one of the top technology startup hubs in the world.

This is the most important work of my life – identifying challenges, bringing people together, and getting results for Illinois. There's so much more we can do in our state to improve the lives of our families and communities. That's exactly what I'm going to do as governor.

WHY I'M RUNNING

I am confident we can meet the challenges ahead, overcome them, and chart a course for building jobs, prosperity, and equity for all of Illinois.

Putting families and communities first. That starts with passing a budget. Over 700 days without a budget is 700 days too long. Stopgaps and one-off funding measures are not going to do the job. Illinois' working families and communities that need help ought to have a government that puts them first. I'll do that as governor.

A progressive tax system. A progressive income tax is a first step toward more fairness, taking the burden off of low-income and middle-class families. Illinois is one of just four states that uses an antiquated, flat tax system. It is time for a progressive tax system, where those who have the ability to pay more are the first to help.

Investing in education. Education is an investment in our children, our economy, and our state's future. As governor, I'll invest in the people of Illinois. That starts with building up our state universities and community colleges and increasing state funding to our schools. Among all 50

states, Illinois is nearly last for state funding of public education. That's unacceptable. I will make sure that our schools and our kids get the resources they need for educational excellence.

Creating jobs. Illinois must invest in our entrepreneurs and small businesses. They're the most prolific job creators in our state, but they're not receiving the support they need. And in our most vulnerable communities, they're not receiving support at all. I am committed to increasing access to capital across our state and providing the training and mentorship small businesses and their workers need to thrive.

Raising wages and standing up for working families. As governor, workers in Illinois will have a partner in Springfield and will always have a seat at the table. I'm so proud to have the labor movement fighting with me, receiving the endorsements of 15 unions as well as the statewide AFL-CIO. I am committed to standing with our state's hardworking men and women of labor to protect wages, raise the minimum wage, and defend collective bargaining rights. When Bruce Rauner says he wants "Right to Work" laws, he means he wants workers to make less money, and there is no place for that in Illinois. I'll be a governor who wakes up every day thinking about how to improve the lives of Illinois workers.

HOW DEMOCRATS WILL WIN

Since I announced my candidacy, I have been building a grassroots campaign of volunteers across our state. With the massive resources and incumbency advantage the GOP Governor has, winning in 2018 won't be easy. So rather than attacking my Democratic primary opponents, I've taken the fight directly to Bruce Rauner every day.

I encourage you to visit my website dedicated to taking on the governor and his failed leadership at www.CrisisCreatinRauner.com. Then sign up on my campaign website at www.jbpritzker.com and follow me on Twitter at [@jbpritzker](https://twitter.com/jbpritzker) and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jbpritzker.

With the support of the labor movement and powered by our many grassroots volunteers, we're building a field operation that will reach voters in every county across the state. We're going to win in 2018, and we intend to beat the Republicans up and down the ticket, taking back Congressional seats, state house and senate seats, and county seats across the state.

Let's clean up Bruce Rauner's mess, get our state back on track, and chart a course for Illinois' future. I'm ready for the fight ahead, and I hope you'll join me.

JB Pritzker

PLEASE JOIN THE
**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC
COUNTY CHAIRMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**

DOUG HOUSE, PRESIDENT

FOR THE **2017 ANNUAL
CHAIRMEN'S BRUNCH**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 8:00AM

DOORS OPEN AT 8:30AM

PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:00AM

**CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
3000 SOUTH DIRKSEN PARKWAY
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$40

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESIDENT'S CLUB \$10,000

GOLD SPONSORSHIP \$5,000

SILVER SPONSORSHIP \$2,500

BRONZE SPONSORSHIP \$1,000

TABLE SPONSORSHIP \$500

**TICKETS WILL BE HELD IN EACH
GUEST'S NAME AT THE DOOR**

*EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
ENDS JULY 17TH*

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
DISCOUNTED TO \$35**

**EARLY SPONSORS WILL
RECEIVE A SPACE IN
OUR AD BOOK**

**SEE SPONSOR BENEFITS FOR
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
SPONSORSHIPS, EXHIBITION TABLES
OR OUR AD BOOK CALL 217-753-3380**

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE ILDCCA.ORG



TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL IT WITH A CHECK TO
ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 3445, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62708

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

EMPLOYER _____ OCCUPATION _____

_____ **\$40 INDIVIDUAL** _____ **\$35 INDIVIDUAL EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ENDS JULY 17**

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

_____ **PRESIDENT'S CLUB (\$10,000 DONATION)**

You will receive two reserved tables of 10 with preferred seating at the 2017 Chairmen's Brunch; you will be listed as a member of the President's Club in the Ad Book; and you will receive four tickets to the VIP Reception with elected officials. Early Bird Special! Free full page ad if you purchase your sponsorship before July 17th.

_____ **GOLD SPONSOR (\$5,000 DONATION)**

You will receive two reserved tables of 10 with preferred seating at the 2017 Chairmen's Brunch; you will be listed as a Gold Sponsor in the Ad Book; and you will receive two tickets to the VIP Reception with elected officials. Early Bird Special! Free half page ad if you purchase your sponsorship before July 17th.

_____ **SILVER SPONSOR (\$2,500 DONATION)**

You will receive one reserved table of 10 with preferred seating at the 2017 Chairmen's Brunch; you will be listed as a Silver Sponsor in the Ad Book; and you will receive two tickets to the VIP Reception with elected officials. Early Bird Special! Free quarter page ad if you purchase your sponsorship before July 17th.

_____ **BRONZE SPONSOR (\$1,000 DONATION)**

You will receive one reserved tables of 10 with preferred seating at the 2017 Chairmen's Brunch; you will be listed as a Bronze Sponsor in the Ad Book. Early Bird Special! Free quarter page ad if you purchase your sponsorship before July 17th.

_____ **TABLE SPONSOR (\$500 DONATION)**

You will receive one reserved table of 10 with preferred seating at the 2017 Chairmen's Brunch. Early Bird Special! Free recognition in our program book if you purchase your sponsorship before July 17th.

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TABLE REGISTRATION

Tickets will be held for each individual guest at the door

PLEASE SUBMIT GUEST NAMES BY AUGUST 1ST.

NAME/EMAIL _____

NAME/EMAIL _____