



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

### Don't Miss Out!

Democratic activists and progressive voters are leaving nothing to chance in the 2018 Election Cycle. Preparations started immediately following the 2016 General Election. We are now mobilizing to resist Donald Trump and Bruce Rauner. We are evaluating and retooling our message. We are training, organizing and building our Democratic Party infrastructure.

Even with everything we've done since last November, we are not where we need to be yet. Every one of us will need to do more if we want to stop the extreme agenda of the Republican Party. Now, more than ever, the Democratic Party needs you. We need more elected Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen.

Precinct Committeeperson is one the most position in the grassroots

movement in the Democratic Party and it is the most worthwhile positions you will ever hold.

- You will have access to free training to help teach you to mobilize your local Democratic voters.
- Your Precincts Democratic voters rely on you for information about our candidates and the issues.
- Many recent statewide and local elections have been decided by a single vote per precinct and less.
- By serving as a Precinct Committeemen you insure that your views and those of your neighborhood are represented.

We invite you to join the nearly 7,000 other Precinct Committeemen in our effort!

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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 you 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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Virtually every county in our state needs at least one more Precinct Committeeperson and in most cases, they can use more. You can visit [www.ildcca.org/join-the-resistance](http://www.ildcca.org/join-the-resistance) to find more information on becoming a Precinct Committeeperson or joining one of the many activist groups (like Indivisible or Action for a Better Tomorrow).

We need good candidates for Precinct Committeeperson to step forward. The time for circulating petitions to have your name appear for the 2018 primary election ballot begins on September 5th. Please get involved and run for this important LOCAL office. The Democratic Party needs you.

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



### Build The Bench

By Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, @CheriBustos,

As Democrats, We Need to Build the Bench

Any Democratic County Chairman will tell you that candidate recruitment is a daunting task. Finding the right person with the qualifications can be difficult whether you are recruiting for County Board or Congress.

When I served as the Vice Chair of Recruitment for Democrats in Congress, I was shocked at how difficult it was to find qualified and experienced candidates in some swing districts. It made me think: out of 700,000 people, were there not at least a handful of people who both fit their districts and knew how to run a successful campaign?

What I learned was that we as Democrats had been neglecting our bench. We only

had five players on our team: enough for a starting line-up, but we were unprepared for injuries or retirements. While keeping the Presidency and Senate is important, so too are our state legislatures, county boards, and city councils.

That's why I started a program called Build the Bench. It is a one-day candidate boot camp for those running for office or considering it down the line. We bring in the top campaign experts, and participants walk away from the training with knowledge of grassroots organizing, fundraising, messaging, and digital strategy. Selection for the program is competitive, and all participants fill out an application in order to be accepted.

Since we launched in February 2016, the response has been outstanding. Over 80 people have gone through our training. In the 2016 elections, one of our alumni defeated a three-term countywide incumbent despite having never run for office before. In the most recent municipal elections, 12 alumni ran for office and 8 of them won - many in seats held by Republicans for decades. We have also received national media attention for our efforts, and many within the Democratic Party have renewed their focus on training.

Today's City Councilors are tomorrow's members of Congress. Without my experience on the East Moline City Council, I would never have been ready to run for Congress and win. I was fortunate to have had the help of many mentors and friends, as well as the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL), to help me take that first step.

If you or someone you know would be an outstanding candidate and public servant, fill out an application for Build the Bench. Come and learn what it takes.

Next year you might serve on the City Council. And who knows, you might end up being our next member of Congress.

### Asking for Money

By Natasha Smith

In a horrible take of the famous Gretzky quote: "You don't get 100% of the checks you never ask for." (OK, I know — bad grammar and it can read a few different ways, but you get my point.)

People do not just send in checks to every political campaign they come across or like. Even big, multi-million-dollar national campaigns actively ask supporters for donations. Why would you be any different?

Unfortunately, when you run for office, you have no choice. To win an election, you need to talk to voters. To talk to voters, you need money for communications. To get money, you have to ask donors.

Asking for money is never easy. Most people are not comfortable with it, even if it is the only way to win their campaign. They feel bad. Get nervous. They would literally rather do anything else.

But, how you approach your fundraising matters. A bad or negative attitude can't be hidden and is likely to turn off potential donors. If you are apologizing and backing into your asks for support, you are going to be less effective than clearly and confidently asking for what you need.

Campaigns need money

Remember, raising money for your campaign is not wrong. It is not illegal. It is not immoral. It is simply what you need to do to have the resources to win. While raising money doesn't guarantee victory, a vast majority of the time the most well funded candidate wins the election.

Your fundraising attitude matters so much so that we've included a special class on it in our lesson: Making the Ask.

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We break down every aspect of asking a donor for a contribution. By the end, you will be ready to ask anyone for exactly what you need to meet your campaign goals.

You need to approach your fundraising with an open and positive mind. You don't want the negativity you may be feeling to rub off on the supporters you are asking. After all, if you cannot convince them that giving to your campaign is right thing to do, why would they give at all?

Don't get me wrong. You don't necessarily have to enjoy fundraising, but it is one of the few times as a candidate you get to ask others to do something for you, instead of the other way around.

I know one successful Congressman who told me he liked call time. It gave him a chance to talk in-depth and build relationships with people one on one. He had very limited time to do this otherwise. That's a bit rosy, but then again, he is also very good at raising money.

How important do you think attitude is to fundraise? What's the best way for a candidate, especially new ones, to approach the process?

The NDTC offers free, interactive online training for Democratic candidates running for office. To sign up for training, please visit [www.traindemocrats.org](http://www.traindemocrats.org). The NDTC has also partnered with the IDCCA to provide a monthly training article.

Natasha Smith is the User Experience and Communications Manager for the National Democratic Training Committee. @traindems.



## Governor Rauner should keep his word to protect Illinois women.

By Brigid Leahy,  
@PPIAction

In the years immediately following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, anti-abortion politicians have pushed to pass legislation designed to limit access to abortion and turn back the clock on reproductive rights. The Illinois Abortion Law, enacted in 1975, includes dangerous so-called "trigger" language which says that if *Roe v. Wade* were to be overturned, Illinois' policy would return to criminalizing abortion. That law was followed by discriminatory provisions in state law that deny coverage of abortion in the Medicaid and State Employee Health Insurance Programs.

As new restrictions continue to surface, Planned Parenthood is at the forefront working to repeal these draconian laws. We know what it was like for women before *Roe*; when thousands of women died because they had to turn to unsafe abortions, or when hospitals had separate wards for septic abortion patients. Women must maintain the right to make decisions about their own bodies and have access to qualified, compassionate providers.

Research shows that restricting Medicaid coverage for abortion services forces one in four low-income women to carry an unintended pregnancy to term. And, a woman who wants to have an abortion but is denied one is more likely to fall into poverty than a woman who is able to have an abortion.

Following the 2016 Presidential election, Donald Trump's promises to appoint anti-abortion justices to the Supreme Court made the threat of *Roe* being overturned a possible reality. Reversing *Roe* could have direct and serious consequences in Illinois because of the "trigger" language in the current state law. Planned Parenthood worked in close partnership

with Rep. Sara Feigenholtz and other reproductive health coalition partners to modify past legislation on abortion coverage bans. Adding the repeal of "trigger" language is necessary because we cannot risk losing access to safe and legal abortion in Illinois.

In May 2017, the Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 40 (HB 40), which promises all women access to safe and legal abortion in Illinois. But, before the bill passed the House Governor Rauner announced his intention to veto.

Governor Rauner says HB40 is "controversial", and that is why he would veto. HB 40 guarantees that all women in Illinois will have access to safe and legal abortion no matter how much money they make or how they get their healthcare coverage. Why is that controversial? There is speculation that Rauner could hand down an amendatory veto repealing the "trigger" language, but keeping the Medicaid and State Employee Health Insurance coverage bans in place.

Planned Parenthood of Illinois is committed to the enactment of HB40 in its entirety. Each part of HB40 is equally important in order to ensure that all women in Illinois have the ability to make personal medical decisions about their pregnancies.

Governor Rauner has said, "I am a strong advocate for women's reproductive rights". He should keep his word to the women of Illinois and sign HB 40 into law. Rauner's intention to veto HB40 came as a surprise to reproductive rights supporters throughout Illinois who thought that they could depend on Rauner to protect Illinois women. What is more jarring than going back on his word is that Rauner's position is out of step with every other Illinois Governor (Republican and Democrat) since 1977. Republican Governors Jim Thompson, Jim Edgar, and George Ryan all agreed that women should be able to make their own decisions regarding their health care.

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In 1977, Governor Jim Thompson vetoed the very law that imposed restrictions on Medicaid coverage for abortion. Thompson did so knowing that the General Assembly would override his veto. In his veto message, he acknowledged that the issue was controversial, but he believed that it was his duty to stand against a policy that was harmful to the women of Illinois.

In 1998, Governor Jim Edgar vetoed HB 383 which would have rolled back a court ruling requiring Medicaid coverage of medically necessary abortions. In his veto message, Edgar acknowledged the debate on this issue, but came down in support of women.

And, in 2000, the General Assembly made another attempt to roll back the court order on coverage of medically necessary abortion. Governor George Ryan vetoed HB 709 despite having supported a “pro-life’ position on abortion”. He recognized that it was not the place of politicians to put themselves between a woman and her doctor.

In vetoing HB40, Governor Rauner would be siding with a conservative base instead of the Illinois women who are counting on his leadership.

Over the years, the public has come to understand the true purpose of laws like the Illinois Medicaid coverage ban. A majority of Americans oppose these laws, and 2016 polling by Hart Research Associates shows that three in four battleground voters agree with the statement, “However we feel about abortion, politicians should not be allowed to deny a woman's health coverage for it just because she's poor.”

Americans are more supportive of reproductive rights than ever before, cutting off access to safe and legal abortion is out of step with what Americans want. In a recent Pew Research Center poll, about seven in ten Americans said that they oppose Roe being overturned.

Illinois is surrounded by states with extreme restrictions on abortion access. We must make sure that Illinois remains an oasis for access to reproductive health care no matter what happens with the Supreme Court. Neighboring states could completely cut off access to safe and legal abortion should Roe be overturned.

Moreover, we must make sure that every woman, whether she has private or government-funded health insurance, has coverage for a full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion. However we feel about abortion, politicians shouldn't deny a woman access because of how much money she makes or where she lives.

Join the fight for HB 40 by signing up at [www.passhb40.com](http://www.passhb40.com)! Join a canvass, phone bank, or a postcard party to make sure Governor Rauner knows that he must sign HB 40 into law!



### Direct Mail for Local Elections.

By Gillian Rosenberg Armour  
@wfcontact

#### What is direct mail? In campaigns, there are 3 types of mail:

1. Persuasion Direct Mail - mail that is targeted at a group of people who are likely to vote in that election, and who you can persuade to vote for your candidate or issue.
2. GOTV Mail - mail that is targeted at people who are likely to vote for your candidate or issue but are more likely to vote with a reminder of when early voting is available and polls are open.
3. Fundraising Mail - mail that is sent to previous donors with a fundraising solicitation. Fundraising mail operates very differently than persuasion and GOTV mail, so we won't be exploring its use today.

#### Why is mail a useful method for communicating with voters?

Every campaign is different, but typically the following remains true for local races. TV and radio are great ways to communicate a message but few campaigns have the budget to produce and air commercials. You also can't target the exact people you want to hear and see your message. Digital ads are a growing medium and should be considered as part of any campaign plan, however, while you can target digital ads to a specific group, you can't be certain that every person on that list will receive that ad. Mail is still the only medium that allows you to target a very specific group of people with a specific message and guarantee that they look at that message for at least a few seconds.

#### How do I create a direct mail plan?

The first step is to determine the list of people you want to send mail to. A good first step is to narrow the list to people in the district or county and figure out a list of people who are likely to vote in the upcoming election. A good way to do this is to look at past voting history for that specific election.

If you are sending persuasion mail, figure out who on that list you can persuade. Make sure to remove people you know are voting for you and people you know won't for you. Then within that list you can use other factors such as age, gender and geography to narrow the list further.

If you are sending GOTV mail, narrow your list to voters you are certain will vote for you but are infrequent voters that need a reminder about the Election. You can also use mail to encourage likely supporters to vote early or vote by mail. Make sure to include any dates or deadlines for vote by mail or early vote in your mail.

Once you have your list of targeted voters you need to take stock of the

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external factors surrounding your campaign. Are there other elections being held at the same time? Are those elections competitive? Will your mail targets be getting a lot of mail from multiple sources?

The rule of thumb, is to send a minimum of 3 pieces of mail per subject. If you have a highly contested election or there are highly contested campaigns happening at the same time, you will want to increase the number of repetitions. The more mail, the higher recall voters will have on your candidate and their message.

The next step is to figure out the timing for sending your mail. Work backwards from Election Day, so that your last piece of mail should be delivered the day before the election. Starting on that day, work backwards dropping every piece of mail 3 to 5 days apart. To increase voter recall, you should send the mail as close to Election Day as possible. By spreading out the mail more than a week apart you diminish the voter's ability to recall the message in the previous piece.

Finally, you need to make your mail fit into the budget for the campaign. Once you know how many people you need to mail to and how many times you need to mail to them, work with your local union printer and mailshop to get pricing on producing and mailing your pieces. Be sure to obtain accurate postage estimates in advance and include that in the budget. If you need to decrease your mail budget you can lower the number of repetitions or the number of people in your mail universe.

### **Best Practices for creating a mail piece.**

First, you want it to stand out in the mailbox so that people read it. Oversized postcards and mail in bright colors will stand out in a pile of mail. High quality photography is also a good way to communicate a message distinguish yourself from other candidates.

Once you have your imagery you should craft your text. The biggest rule of thumb is that less is more. Be sure to use short simple phrases that clearly communicate your message. If you are citing a policy or fact, make sure to include footnotes.

Here are other best practices for producing mail:

- Make sure to have permission to use a photograph
- All photographs should be a minimum of 1 megabyte
- Include a legal disclaimer from the entity that is paying for the mail
- Print your mail at a union printer and place a union "bug" on the mail
- Check with your printer and/or mail shop on timing for dropping the mail and in-home arrival.
- Proofread your mail multiple times.
- Include the date of the election on every piece of mail.
- Repeat the name of the candidate multiple times on each piece.

Hopefully, this outline provides basic guidance on how to develop a mail plan and create mail that will persuade voters. There are many additional factors that can influence a mail plan. If you have questions for your specific election you can contact me at

[gillian@wildfirecontact.com](mailto:gillian@wildfirecontact.com) and I will be happy to give you advice.

Gillian Rosenberg Armour is Vice President of Wildfire Contact.



### **The Last Blue Wall**

As federal and state governments have cut funding and resources for essential services, it is local officials who have had to get creative to be sure that constituents' needs are met. There's nowhere else to pass the buck, so municipal and county governments have learned new ways to do more with less, building trust with voters along the way. These leaders build records of accomplishments of real service to their communities — creating innovative programs and economic development opportunities, providing affordable housing, repairing infrastructure and constructing new facilities to meet local needs.

Municipal and county offices are Democrats' last line of defense against a gathering red storm. Having seized control of federal and state governments, Republicans have now set their sights on local races in the hopes of achieving the "permanent Republican Majority" that was Bush strategist Karl Rove's ultimate goal. They are organizing through well-financed groups like Community Leaders of America and the ALEC-funded American City County Exchange, and they are succeeding.

The Democratic Municipal Officials (DMO), a non-profit, non-federal 527 with 6,000 current members, has a vital role to play in keeping America's cities and towns in Democratic hands, and in identifying and supporting the future leaders of the Democratic Party. The DMO is the organization best suited to work at the local level to elect, retain and support Democrats in the offices that make the greatest difference in constituents' daily lives.

### **Connect, Engage, Empower**

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For more than 30 years, the DMO has been the national organization bringing together elected Democratic municipal leaders from across the country. Membership in the DMO has traditionally been open to any incumbent municipal official who self-identifies as a Democrat, including those who hold non-partisan office. As an official constituency organization with three voting seats—including an executive committee seat—on the Democratic National Committee, the DMO is the Democratic voice in local politics and the local voice in national Democratic politics.

### Events

The DMO currently hosts two large membership breakfasts held in conjunction with each of the National League of Cities annual conference. The DMO also holds receptions at Democratic National Committee meetings, the Democratic National Convention, and state municipal leagues to raise awareness of the DMO amongst Democratic leaders around the country. Headquartered in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, DMO regularly attends the Illinois Municipal League.

### Member Engagement

The DMO regularly engages with members through email, social media, and membership calls on a variety of topics of interest to municipal officials. Communications may focus on best practices, highlight innovative work by a municipality or municipal leader, or focus on issues of rising national importance. This outreach has been invaluable in both fostering local Democratic talent and identifying issues and trends before they receive attention in national political circles or in the press.

### Labor Council and Curriculum

In 2016, the DMO hired a part-time labor and policy fellow to begin compiling a Labor Curriculum. Working in conjunction with our labor partners, the DMO Labor

Council aims to give local elected officials a better grasp of the issues that are important to the labor community: whether it be a basic understanding of public sector unions or a more in-depth examination of Project Labor Agreements, prevailing wage laws or so-called “right to work” efforts. The DMO and our labor partners recognized that most municipal officials come into office with very little background in labor negotiations, and felt it was important to provide this context at the beginning of their electoral careers.

### Political Council

In the aftermath of unnecessary losses in municipal races nationwide, the DMO convened a diverse group of political professionals representing every aspect of a modern campaign to serve as a resource for DMO members. Members of the Political Council have committed to providing advice and services to the DMO and its members. In its first year, the DMO helped find staff for a competitive council race in the Midwest, advised council members on communications in the midst of a major crisis in their city, and provided fundraising training to members of the DMO board. The political council will continue to be a resource as the organization grows and evolves.

### How County Chairs Can Engage

Democratic Municipal Officials is excited to start building partnerships with the IDCCA, and County Chairs across our home state of Illinois. Here are a few ways we can begin to coordinate to strengthen local Democratic interests.

Connect us with your municipal leaders – DMO is constantly building our list of Democrats serving at the municipal level. Whether or not they hold a partisan office, send us the list of your mayors, council members, and other Democrats elected to city positions in your county.

Alert DMO to critical elections – Is a Democrat running against a Republican in a key mayoral or council election? Make sure DMO knows about it so we can connect

these candidates with our network of consultants and resources.

Keep us Informed – Send DMO updates on state level preemption or other policy issues affecting local officials in your county.

Shine a Light on your Rising Stars – Is there a council member or mayor who is on their way up? Let DMO know about them. We are always scouting officials for our State Chapter leadership, and the exposure and benefits that entails.

Notify us about your Trainings – We want to get the word out about your trainings. Let us know when you are getting local Democrats together so we can help build attendance.

We look forward to hearing from you about these and other ways County Chairs can partner with the DMO. More than ever, Illinois is a blue haven in a red sea. Thank you for keeping the Democratic bench strong.

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## Young Democrats of Illinois.

By Kevin Brooks, President Young Democrats of Illinois @Kbrooks2080

It is with profound gratitude and boundless optimism that I start my term as President of the Young Democrats of Illinois (YDI). Joining me on the Executive Board of YDI are eight of the most dedicated and inspiring young leaders that I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Together, I believe that we will be able rally young people throughout Illinois around the values of the Democratic Party, and help our Party retake control of the Governor's Mansion in Springfield and the Congress in Washington, D.C.

The Young Democrats of Illinois is the official youth organization of the Democratic Party of Illinois. Our mission as an organization is to activate young people statewide by advocating for Democratic Party values, provide training and

resources to local chapters and Democratic campaigns, and identify and develop our state's next generation of leaders. In concert with statewide and local stakeholders, our organization will develop campaign strategies to reach young people in every region of the state. Our members will have opportunities to grow and strategize together through trainings and social/professional events, expanding their networks and learning new skills in the process. In addition, YDI is fully committed to ensuring the Democratic Party remains a diverse, inclusive, and progressive party organization.

YDI will be on the front lines advocating for a platform that directly addresses issues facing young people today. Our organization will be organizing millennial-focused roundtables and forums to covering issues of concern ranging from the

student loan debt crisis to criminal justice reform. These events will provide an opportunity for young people to speak directly to Democratic candidates and officeholders about the issues impacting their lives.

Additionally, we look forward to working directly with candidates and campaigns to help develop policy proposals that address these unique challenges impacting our generation.

Lastly, I am making outreach to our brothers and sisters in organized labor a priority for our organization. When labor unions thrive, working and middle-class young people thrive. When organized labor is under attack, middle-class Americans suffer. This why the systematic effort by Gov. Rauner to destroy unions is so chilling. GOP efforts to undermine the worker's rights will lead to a further broadening of the gap between the wealthy and average Americans. Young Americans have been disproportionately harmed by this economic inequality, and it is our responsibility as Young Democrats to fight back.

We believe in a Democratic Party that advocates for the values and ideas rooted in creating opportunities for our country's youth to lead rich and rewarding lives. To translate our Party's values, we must go out into our communities and take our message directly to Millennials, and provide them with the tools that they need to become effective leaders. The Young Democrats of Illinois know that the task that we are undertaking won't always be easy, but with the support of our fellow Illinois Democrats we will build a movement that will expand our Party and win elections.

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**Kevin Brooks** is the President of Young Democrats of Illinois (YDI). A DePaul University alumnus, he majored in Political Science and was elected by his peers to serve as the Student Representative for the Department. Kevin has experience working on local and statewide campaigns, most recently as a staffer on the 2016 Illinois Democratic Coordinated Campaign. He also has experience working alongside several non-profit organizations, including the Clinton Global Initiative and DCSA: RefugeeOne. In the past, he has served as the Deputy Political Director of the College Democrats of Illinois and as a Executive Board member of the DePaul Democrats. Kevin Brooks currently resides in Glen Carbon.



**Morgan Malone** is a professional organizer, idea engineer, dedicated Southside resident, and is the newly elected First Vice-President of Young

Democrats of Illinois. Hailing from Old Dominion University, Morgan majored in Women's Studies and has since worked in positions across the civic landscape. She has formerly worked at a global research foundation centered around democracy, as a union organizer creating unions throughout the state of Illinois, and as a field director, creating outreach plans for varying campaigns. She is currently the Program Manager over the Englewood Quality of Life Plan, a visionary community development strategy, with Teamwork Englewood in Chicago.



**James K Riley** - 24 years old. Born and raised in Gardner, Illinois. Village Councilman of Gardner, Vice-Chairman of the

Grundy County Democrats, and Second Vice President of the Young Democrats of Illinois. James is a General Manager for the Travel Centers of America Corporation, and is very involved with politics, work and love golfing.



**Alimyon M. Allen** was elected to the Young Democrats of Illinois Board as Secretary. Alimyon also serves as the Treasurer for Sangamon County Young

Democrats. She served in the Graduate Public Service Internship Program as a Grants Manager and Procurement/Sourcing Specialist. In addition to campaign experience, Alimyon has experience in local, state, and federal government. Alimyon also worked along various not-for-profit organizations, such as Amnesty International USA. She serves as an area coordinator for Amnesty. Alimyon is a graduate from the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS). Alimyon received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science along with a focus in Public Health. She is a Master of Public Administration candidate at UIS. Her research and professional interests involve public policy in areas such as criminal justice, healthcare, civic engagement, and education.



**Jaylin D. McClinton** is District Manager for Illinois State Representative Juliana Stratton. In addition to his day-job, Jaylin is actively involved with

organizations including Young Democrats of Illinois (currently serving as Treasurer of the organization), Men For Choice (M4C), Organizing For Action (OFA), Personal PAC's Future Voices Council, G-PAC Illinois, and mentoring through the Champaign-Urbana One-to-One Mentoring Program. Jaylin is an alumnus of Saint Sabina Academy, Curie

Metropolitan High School, where he was enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he majored in African-American Studies and Political Science with a Pre-Law Concentration obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS). In high school, Jaylin served as an election judge through Mikva Challenge and in 2013 while in college, Jaylin served as an intern in the office of then-State Senator Michael Frerichs, who would later run for Illinois State Treasurer in 2014. These early experiences would propel Jaylin into the world of politics and government resulting in his involvement with several political campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels and serving as a delegate candidate for Hillary Clinton to the 2016 Democratic National Convention (DNC). In addition, Jaylin served as a White House intern in the last class under President Barack Obama's administration and is a former member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Jaylin is a native of Chicago, Illinois and resides on the South Side in the Roseland neighborhood.



**Jillian Hawkins** is from Springfield, IL and a member of the Sangamon County Young Democrats. She attended the

University of Illinois Springfield as a Graduate Public Service Intern and graduated with her Master's in Political Science in 2016. She has also worked as field staff on several local races in Springfield and Sangamon County. Jillian is the Sergeant at Arms for YDI.

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**Kimberly Budnick**

graduated with her Bachelor's degree in psychology from Illinois State University in 2013. Here she served as an executive board member for the Leadership and Service Office and coordinator of the CONNECT Mentorship Program in Chicago's south side. She has also been involved in research focusing on urban education, racial bias in exclusionary educational practices, violence prevention, and childhood homelessness.

She then dedicated her early career to serving vulnerable populations. She has worked directly with homeless families in Illinois, North Carolina, and Australia. She has also served as a special education instructor, residential counselor, and community organizer. During these experiences, she witnessed numerous violations of the rights of her clients and was inspired to pursue a career in politics to change these practices at the state and national level.

Kimberly is currently working towards her Master's degree in political science through the University of West Florida with specializations in policy and international relations. She also presently serves on the review board for the World Health Organization's Quality Rights Initiative to protect the global rights of those with mental and intellectual disabilities. Kimberly is further developing her skills in constitutional rights through volunteer work with the LGBTQAI community through Equality Illinois and Humans for the Advancement of Religious Equality. Finally, Kimberly serves as a member on RAINN's speaker bureau.

In addition to serving as National

Committeewoman on the Young Democrats of Illinois executive board, Kimberly is chartering a chapter of YDI in central Illinois. Kimberly also serves as a Morton precinct committeeperson through Tazewell County Democrats of Illinois.

Third Vice President Jamie Brown and National Committeeman Anthony Jackson are also newly elected members of the YDI Executive Board.

