



**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY AUGUST 7, 2021
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Guest Speakers
 - a. *Chicago Alderman Gilbert Villegas, Board Member – Democratic Municipal Officials*
 - b. *Barbara Moore, Executive Director – Democratic Municipal Officials*
4. President's Report
5. Secretary's Report
 - a. *Approval of minutes from May 15, 2021, General Membership Meeting*
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. *Approval of Treasurer's Report from June 2021 – July 2021*
7. Executive Director's Report
8. Upcoming IDCCA Event Recap
 - a. *Summer Brews Young Professionals Reception*
9. IDCCA County Chairs' Brunch
 - a. *Overall update*
 - b. *Ticket Pickup / Buttons*
 - c. *COVID – 19 mitigations*
 - d. *VIP Reception*
 - e. *Party Builder Award Honorees*
 - f. *Seating*
 - g. *Ad Book*
 - h. *50 / 50 Raffle*
 - i. *Brunch Merchandise*
10. REV Project Update
 - a. *2020 County Turnout Project*
11. Adjourn



Code of Conduct

The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and harassment. We ask all meeting participants to embrace our values of equity and equality and conduct themselves in this meeting consistent with those values. President Zahorik has assigned two designees as the first point of contact for anyone who thinks they have experienced discriminatory, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior. We urge you to contact a designee if you have any concerns.

Designees

Dan Kovats, dan@ildcca.org, 217-753-3380 or 773-351-7818

Jillian Hawkins, jillian@ildcca.org, 217-753-3380



**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY MAY 15, 2021
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

MINUTES

Attendance – Executive Board

President Kristina Zahorik, (McHenry)	Vice President Billy Halstead, (Peoria)	Vice President Terry Redman (DeWitt)
Vice President Charlie Laskonis (Winnebago)	Vice President Pam Davidson (Knox) via proxy	Vice President Teresa Vincent (Union)
Vice President Mike Barone (Jackson)	Treasurer Brittany Miller (Tazewell)	Secretary Pam Monetti (Macoupin)
At Large Member Jeff Mears (Johnson) via proxy	At Large Member Cynthia Borbias (DuPage)	At Large Member Dan Sidwell (Bond)
Executive Director Dan Kovats	Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins	

Attendance – General Membership

Katherine Daniels, Adams	Wendy LaFauce, Boone	Rick Wilkin, Bureau
Kimberly Hance, Cass	Robert Brandkamp, Clinton	Mac White, Coles
Kori Rempfer, DeKalb	Rocky Warner, Douglas	David Seiler, Effingham
Al McDowell, Fayette via proxy	Daryle Coleman, Fulton	Jimmy Naville, Greene
Richard Joyce, Grundy	Mark Pohlman, Jersey via proxy	Julie Gondar, Kendall
Lauren Beth Gash, Lake	Dani Brzozowski, LaSalle	Dan Hobart, Livingston
Gary Davis, Logan	Rob Schnicker, Marion	Randy Cottom, Massac



Patrick Cortesi, McLean	Brian Short, Menard	Jan Occhi, Mercer
Scot Luchtefeld, Monroe	Dana Ryan, Morgan	Chrisine Ballard, Ogle
Calen Campanella, Perry	Sheila Maloney, Piatt	Nate Brown, Randolph
Greg Mullinax, Richland	Mike Halpin, Rock Island	Bill Houlihan, Sangamon
Diana Frazier Brenneman, Vermilion	Rena Bever, Wabash	Steven Buban, Warren
Tim Scates, White	Fidencio Hooper-Campos, Whiteside	Nora Gruenberg, Will
Tommy Caliper, Williamson	Junius Rodriguez, Woodfod via proxy	

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by President Kristina Zahorik.
- 2) The following proxies have been submitted for the purpose of voting:
 - a. Al McDowell (Fayette) gives proxy to Tim Singer (Moultrie)
 - b. Mark Pohlman (Jersey) gives proxy to Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)
 - c. Jeff Mears (Johnson) gives proxy to Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)
 - d. Pam Davidson (Knox) gives proxy to Jan Occhi (Mercer)
 - e. Junius Rodriguez (Woodford) gives proxy to Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)
- 3) President Zahorik asked for a moment of silence in memory of Henry County Chair Henry Murphy who had recently passed away.
- 4) President Zahorik led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 5) President Zahorik recognized our newly elected County Chairs including:
 - a. Wendy LaFauce (Boone)
 - b. Mike Halpin (Rock Island)
 - c. Bill Houlihan (Sangamon)
- 6) President Zahorik read the IDCCA Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct reads as:
 - a. The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and harassment. We ask all meeting participants to embrace our values of equity and equality and conduct themselves in this meeting consistent with those values. The IDCCA President has assigned two designees as the first point of contact for anyone who thinks they have experienced discriminatory, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior. We urge you to contact a designee if you have any concerns.



- b. President Zahorik has assigned Executive Director Dan Kovats & Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins as designees.
- 7) Guest Speakers:
- a. *Congresswoman and Chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois Dr. Robin Kelly*
 - i. Spoke about her meetings with Democrats since she was elected to Chair in March.
 - ii. Spoke about her main priorities including expanding our reach as a Democratic Party, deepen our bench of candidates, and more diverse voices within our Party.
 - iii. Thanked all 102 County Chairs' and the strength of the organization being the grassroots effort in every county.
 - iv. Thanked President Zahorik for her leadership.
 - v. Spoke about the coming attacks from the GOP.
 - vi. Spoke about working together to reelect Governor Pritzker, US Senator Tammy Duckworth, and all our down ballot candidates.
 - vii. Spoke about scheduling a listening tour in the coming months and invited all the Chairs to participate.
 - b. *Comptroller Susana Mendoza*
 - i. Thanked all the Chairs for their support.
 - ii. Spoke about fighting back against Bruce Rauner and working to repair the destruction that he caused throughout our state.
 - iii. Spoke about the working on reducing the \$16.7 billion of unpaid bills.
 - iv. Reported that since taking office she has worked to reduce the unpaid bill backlog and as of early May 2021 is paid up on all outstanding bills from vendors with the State of Illinois.
 - v. Reported that she has asked the national credit rating agencies to review the State of Illinois' credit rating and reconsider our rating.
 - vi. Spoke about the rules that were released regarding use of the American Rescue Plan funds.
 - vii. Announced that she is running for reelection to State Comptroller.
 - viii. Wants to leave a legacy of the Illinois Comptroller's Office being the most trusted source of public financial data in Illinois and in our country.
 - ix. Committed to send materials and attend any County Party events.
 - x. Announced her June 30th fundraiser to help kickoff her reelection campaign. Thanked President Zahorik for the contribution from the IDCCA.



- c. *State Treasurer Mike Frerichs*
 - i. Spoke about more stories that Democrats can still tell as we are talking to voters.
 - ii. Reported that his office has brought in over \$1 billion in interest income since he has taken office.
 - iii. Reported that his office has returned over \$1 billion in unclaimed property that was turned over to the State of Illinois.
 - iv. Reported that his office has set up programs to help small businesses during the pandemic.
 - v. Spoke about the fight he took to life insurance companies who refused to pay benefits to the loved ones of policy owners.
 - vi. Spoke about fighting back against companies who mistreat their employees to boost their profits.
 - vii. Reported that he has helped form a Democratic Treasurer's Association to network with other Democratic State Treasurer's throughout the United States.
 - viii. Thanked all the County Chairs for their support. Offered to attend any future County Party events.
- d. *Chicago Alderman Pat Dowell, candidate for Secretary of State*
 - i. Addressed the County Chairs' and presented her credentials for Secretary of State.
 - ii. Took questions from the membership.
- e. *Former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, candidate for Secretary of State*
 - i. Addressed the County Chairs' and presented his credentials for Secretary of State.
 - ii. Took questions from the membership.
- f. *US Senator Dick Durbin*
 - i. Thanked the County Chairs for the opportunity to speak.
 - ii. Spoke about the 2022 election including the new maps, the retirement of Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, and all the great candidates for Secretary of State.
 - iii. Spoke about the approach that President Biden is using to respond to the pandemic and the approval from the public.
- g. *State Senator Mike Hastings, candidate for Secretary of State*
 - i. Addressed the County Chairs' and presented his credentials for Secretary of State.
 - ii. Took questions from the membership.



- h. *Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia, candidate for Secretary of State*
 - i. Addressed the County Chairs' and presented her credentials for Secretary of State.
 - ii. Took questions from the membership.
 - i. *Chicago Alderman David Moore, candidate for Secretary of State*
 - i. Addressed the County Chairs' and presented his credentials for Secretary of State.
 - ii. Took questions from the membership.
- 8) President's Report
- a. Reported on the work that the organization invested in for 2021 including digital outreach, training, candidate recruitment, messaging, and a Chairs Toolbox.
 - b. Reported that we are moving forward with our Virtual Training Series sessions. Asked for input from the County Chairs on future topics.
 - c. Reported that we are partnering with Cook County Board of Review Member & Leadership Circle Member Mike Cabonargi to assist with recruitment & training of Township Assessor candidates.
 - d. Reported our Virtual Boot Camp will take place on May 22, 2021.
 - e. Announced that Kendall County Chair Julie Gondar will Chair the Training Committee and has been asked with developing a Chairs Toolbox.
 - f. Recognized the McLean County Democrats and McLean County Chair Patrick Cortesi in pushing back on the GOP efforts to disenfranchise voters during the redistricting efforts.
 - g. Spoke about the cancer of Trumpism that continues to grow throughout our state.
 - h. Spoke about candidate recruitment for down ballot races.
 - i. Spoke about the vital role that every County Chair plays in identifying Democrats and turning them out on Election Day.
- 9) Secretary's Report
- a. Secretary Pam Monetti submitted the minutes from the February 20, 2021, General Membership Meeting.
 - b. Secretary Monetti made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Moultrie County Chair Tim Singer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 10) Treasurer's Report
- a. Treasurer Brittany Miller submitted the Treasurer's Report for March 2021 – May 2021.
 - b. Reported cash on hand for the following PACs:
 - i. State PAC – \$240,055.35
 - ii. Federal PAC – \$5,563.56



- c. Treasurer Miller made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Boone County Chair Wendy LaFauce seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

11) Executive Director's Report

- a. Executive Director Kovats thanked the spring semester interns including Blake Meyer, Evan Blankenberger, and Nickie Meyer. Made a request for possible interns for the summer semester.
- b. Reported that the IDCCA Virtual Training Series has seen, to date, 1,157 individuals register for training, 590 individuals have attended a VTS session, and 645 unique individuals have participated in our training. Reported that the VTS sessions have a 51% attendance rate. Reported that all VTS sessions are posted to the IDCCA YouTube page for Chairs to use in the future for training. Reported that the next training session will be July 19th for campaign finance and August 23rd for ballot access.
- c. Reported that we have moved forward with a direct mail fundraiser instead of our traditional Springfield Legislative fundraiser. He asked that all County Chairs consider a donation to support the organization.
- d. Asked for all County Chairs to report County Party meetings, events, & fundraiser to the IDCCA so it can be shared with our statewide elected officials / candidates.
- e. Reported that the IDCCA ran a billboard in Effingham to draw attention to Congresswoman Mary Miller's remarks suggesting "Hitler was right". Reported that the billboard is scheduled to come down on Monday May 17, 2021. Reported that the County Chairs in the area were briefed on this billboard before we went up with it. Reported that the billboard accomplished the goal of raising awareness of the remarks of Congresswoman Miller. Thanked the Clinton County Democrats, Coles County Democrats, Effingham County Democrats, State Representative Kam Buckner, Cook County Board of Review Member Mike Cabonargi, & State Senator Ram Villivalam who partnered with us to help raise funds to keep the billboard up. Reported that no decision has been made on moving the billboard to another location. President Zahorik also mentioned that the IDCCA has submitted a complaint and requested an investigation into State Representative Chris Miller's involvement in the January 6th Insurrection.

12) General Membership Resolution

- a. President Zahorik announced that she has pulled the Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy Resolution from consideration to allow for more input into the policy.
- b. Submitted General Membership Resolution 2021 – 001 for consideration. Made a motion to approve Resolution 2021 – 001. Secretary Monetti seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.



13) IDCCA Events

- a. IDCCA / National Democratic Training Committee Boot Camp – Virtual – Saturday May 22, 2021.
- b. Summer Brews Young Professionals Reception – Monday July 12, 2021.
- c. Tentative – Fall Brews Young Professionals Reception – Springfield.
- d. County Chairs' Brunch – Wednesday August 18, 2021.
 - i. Highlighted the County Party sponsorship.
 - ii. Reported that the guest speaker has been asked and we are waiting to get a response.

14) REV Project

- a. Reported that we continue to meet with County Chairs to get feedback on what is working, what resources are needed, and what is happening on the ground in each county. Reported that staff is working on finishing a turnout project to measure Democratic turnout in counties.
- b. Executive Director Kovats recognized Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins' efforts to compile a list of candidates that runs for the nonpartisan, municipal races.

15) Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm



May 2021 Treasurer's Report – State PAC

1. State the beginning balance:

Date: May 1, 2021

Balance: \$272,222.66

2. Indicate money received (contributions to events or programs):

Amount: <u>\$3,331.23</u>	from	<u>Internal Revenue Service (Refund)</u>
Amount: <u>\$2,500.00</u>	from	<u>Digital 4 Dems (2021 Boot Camp)</u>
Amount: <u>\$773.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (Digital)</u>
Amount: <u>\$675.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (Bumper Sticker)</u>
Amount: <u>\$525.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (2021 Brunch)</u>
Amount: <u>\$500.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (2021 Party Builder Awards)</u>
Amount: <u>\$180.55</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (Web Store)</u>

Total Contributions: \$8,484.78

3. State the main expenses:

Amount: <u>\$13,300.00</u>	to	<u>Consulting</u>
Amount: <u>\$11,310.74</u>	to	<u>Payroll</u>
Amount: <u>\$6,095.00</u>	to	<u>Party Building Activities</u>
Amount: <u>\$3,389.92</u>	to	<u>Printing & Postage (Bumper Sticker)</u>
Amount: <u>\$2,000.00</u>	to	<u>Facility Rental (2021 Brunch)</u>

Total Disbursements: \$39,426.88

4. Indicate closing balance:

Date: May 31, 2021

Balance: \$241,280.56

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

Date:

6/4/21

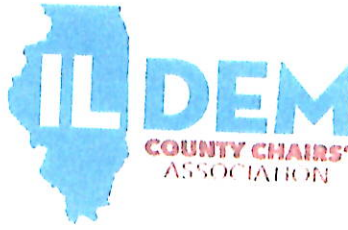
Date:

6/4/21

Accepted by:

Date:

06/09/2021



May 2021 Treasurer's Report – Federal PAC

1. State the beginning balance:

Date: May 1, 2021

Balance: \$6,409.47

2. Indicate money received:

Amount: \$2,930.00 from Various Donors (Summer Brews YP Reception)

Amount: \$1,424.00 from Various Donors (Digital)

Amount: \$890.00 from Various Donors (Bumper Sticker)

Total Contributions: \$5,244.00

3. State the main expenses:

Amount: \$500.00 to Nelson Wurth Consulting (Compliance)

Amount: \$99.83 to Various Disbursements (Online Donation Processing)

Total Disbursements: \$599.83

4. Indicate closing balance:

Date: May 31, 2021

Balance: \$11,053.64

Prepared by: [Signature]

Reviewed by: [Signature]

Date: 6/2/21

Date: 6/2/21

Accepted by: Brittany S. Miller

Date: 06/09/2021



June 2021 Treasurer's Report – State PAC

1. State the beginning balance:

Date: June 1, 2021

Balance: \$241,280.56

2. Indicate money received (contributions to events or programs):

Amount: <u>\$18,390.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (2021 County Chairs' Brunch)</u>
Amount: <u>\$2,950.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (Bumper Sticker)</u>
Amount: <u>\$1,550.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (2021 Raffle)</u>
Amount: <u>\$1,000.00</u>	from	<u>Friends of Don Harmon (2021 Ad Book)</u>
Amount: <u>\$421.00</u>	from	<u>Various Donors (Digital)</u>

Total Contributions: \$24,858.00

3. State the main expenses:

Amount: <u>\$11,260.75</u>	to	<u>Payroll</u>
Amount: <u>\$11,000.00</u>	to	<u>Consulting</u>
Amount: <u>\$10,000.00</u>	to	<u>Party Building Activities</u>
Amount: <u>\$7,711.00</u>	to	<u>Various Expenses (2021 County Chairs' Brunch)</u>
Amount: <u>\$2,500.00</u>	to	<u>Campaign Donation</u>
Amount: <u>\$2,000.00</u>	to	<u>Facility Rental (Office Rental)</u>

Total Disbursements: \$47,903.39

4. Indicate closing balance:

Date: June 30, 2021

Balance: \$218,238.17

Prepared by: [Signature]
 Date: 7/2/21

Reviewed by: [Signature]
 Date: 7-2-21

Accepted by: [Signature]
 Date: 07/05/2021



June 2021 Treasurer's Report – Federal PAC

1. State the beginning balance:

Date: June 1, 2021

Balance: \$11,053.64

2. Indicate money received:

Amount: \$6,230.00 from Various Donors (Summer Brews YP Reception)

Amount: \$1,560.00 from Various Donors (County Chairs' Brunch)

Amount: \$1,264.00 from Various Donors (Digital)

Amount: \$785.00 from Various Donors (Bumper Sticker)

Total Contributions: \$9,839.00

3. State the main expenses:

Amount: \$1,000.00 to Democratic Party of Illinois (Contribution)

Amount: \$259.94 to Various Disbursements (Online Donation Processing)

Total Disbursements: \$1,259.94

4. Indicate closing balance:

Date: June 30, 2021

Balance: \$19,632.70

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____

Accepted by: _____

Date: _____



Illinois Democratic Leadership Key Staff Contacts

Democratic Party of Illinois	Abby Witt	Abby@ildems.com
Democrats of the Illinois House (Speaker Welch)	Laurie Duszynski	LDuszynski@HDemsIL.com
Illinois Senate Democratic Fund (President Harmon)	Magen Ryan	magen@ilsenatedems.org
Illinois Democratic Women	Kim Savage	kimsavage@gmail.com
Illinois Democratic Women	Jennifer Camille Lee	jennifercamillelee@gmail.com
Young Democrats of Illinois	Quinne Welter	welter.quinne@gmail.com
College Democrats of Illinois	Daniel Green	collegedemocratsillinois@gmail.com

Governor JB Pritzker		
Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton	Jennifer Blackman	jennifer@teamjulianastratton.com
Attorney General Kwame Raoul	Hanah Jubeh	hanah@kwameraoul.com
Secretary of State Jesse White	Rocco Claps	Rocco.Claps@gmail.com
Comptroller Susana Mendoza	David Szostak	david.szostak@susanamendoza.com
Treasurer Mike Frerichs	Samantha Szpunar	sam@friendsoffrerichs.com
US Senator Dick Durbin	Bill Houlihan	billhou54@aol.com
US Senator Dick Durbin	Greg Bales	gmbales@gmail.com
US Senator Tammy Duckworth	Cameron Joost	cameron@tammyduckworth.com
Congressman Bobby Rush		
Congresswoman Robin Kelly	Tony Presta	tonyniu@yahoo.com
Congresswoman Robin Kelly	John Moore	johnvmoore@gmail.com
Congressman Marie Newman	Ben Hardin	ben@marienewmanforcongress.com
Congressman Chuy Garcia		
Congressman Mike Quigley		
Congressman Sean Casten		
Congressman Danny Davis		
Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi	Brian Kaissi	brian@rajaforcongress.com
Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky	Ben Head	benhead@janschakowsky.org
Congressman Brad Schneider	Jake Kaplan	jake@schneiderforcongress.com
Congressman Bill Foster	Robert Bourret	Robert@billfoster.com
Congresswoman Lauren Underwood	Ronnie Cho	ronnie@underwoodforcongress.com
Congresswoman Cheri Bustos	Dave Alvarez	Dave@cheribustos.com



Illinois Secretary of State Candidates Key Staff Contacts

Candidate	Staffer	Email
Pat Dowell	Bryce Yancy	Bryce@illinoisfordowell.com
Alexi Giannoulis	Haleigh Hoff	haleigh@alexiforus.com
David Moore	Delmarie Cobb	dlcobb@thepublicityworks.net
Anna Valencia	Allison Schraub	allison@voteannavalencia.com



For Immediate Release:
Monday May 17, 2021

Contact: Dan Kovats, Executive Director
(773) 351-7818 / dan@ildcca.org

Secretary of State Candidates Address Democratic County Chairs' Association

Springfield, IL – On Saturday, May 15th, the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) invited announced Democratic candidates for Secretary of State to address the 102 Democratic Party County Chairs at the quarterly General Membership Meeting. Five candidates, Chicago Alderwoman Pat Dowell, former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis, State Senator Michael Hastings, Chicago Alderman David Moore, and Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia, spoke and took questions. Following the meeting, IDCCA President Kristina Zahorik issued the following statement:

“Illinois has so many great Democratic candidates looking to carry on and build upon the legacy of IDCCA Party Builder Honoree Secretary of State Jesse White. It will be an exciting primary. The five candidates shared their vision with us and look forward to meeting everyone in person as the state continues to open up. My fellow Chairs and I look forward to electing another great Democrat to serve the people of Illinois as Secretary of State.”

The scheduled meeting was conducted via Zoom. It was attended by nearly 70 County Chairs, along with invited guests Democratic Party of Illinois Chair Congresswoman Robin Kelly, US Senator Dick Durbin, candidate Comptroller Susana Mendoza, candidate Treasurer Mike Frerichs, and members of the IDCCA Leadership Circle.

The IDCCA has not endorsed any candidate planning on running in next year's Democratic primary for Secretary of State.

###

About the IDCCA... The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide, grassroots Democratic Party organization comprised of the elected Democratic County Chairs in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in every county and region of Illinois while continuing to grow the Democratic Party throughout the state. McHenry County Democratic Chair Kristina Zahorik is the President of the IDCCA.



For Immediate Release:
Monday June 28, 2021

Contact: Dan Kovats, Executive Director
(773) 351-7818 / dan@ildcca.org

OSSOFF TO DELIVER KEYNOTE SPEECH AT ANNUAL COUNTY CHAIR'S BRUNCH

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is proud to announce United States Senator Jon Ossoff (GA) as the guest speaker at the annual County Chairs' Brunch.

The County Chairs' Brunch has a history of attracting some of the highest national officials and is a premier event for Illinois Democrats. In previous years, the County Chairs' Brunch has had the pleasure of hosting Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (CA), US Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN), and Mayor Pete Buttigieg (South Bend, IN) in the great state of Illinois.

Sen. Ossoff won his seat in the 2020 Georgia run-off, which gave Democrats the crucial 50-seat threshold in the United States Senate. This allows Vice President Kamala Harris to be the tie-breaking vote.

IDCCA President Kristina Zahorik released the following statement.

“I remember just this past January when we all had Georgia on our mind -- we waited anxiously to see if Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock would help tilt the balance of the Senate in favor of the Democrats. They did, and we are seeing the fruits of our labor as Democrats in Washington pass legislation like the American Rescue Plan to help our country build back better. Jon Ossoff was the right candidate for the job, and we're honored to have him join us in Illinois to inspire us to keep our Democratic majority in 2022.”

This year's Brunch to kick off Democrat Day (now Governor's Day) at the Illinois State Fair will take place on Wednesday, August 18th at 9:00 am CT at the Crowne Plaza Springfield. More information is available at www.ildccabrunch.org.

We would like to invite members of the Illinois & National Press Corp to join us in-person on Wednesday, August 18th. Members of the Press Corp will be asked to RSVP for the event.

###

About the IDCCA... The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide, grassroots Democratic Party organization comprised of the elected Democratic County Chairs in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in every county and region of Illinois while continuing to grow the Democratic Party throughout the state. McHenry County Democratic Chair Kristina Zahorik is the President of the IDCCA.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association / Labor Donated / Printed in House



For Immediate Release:
Monday June 28, 2021

Contact: Dan Kovats, Executive Director
(773) 351-7818 / dan@ildcca.org

Mary Miller Votes Against Bill Honoring U.S. Capitol Police Officers

Springfield, IL - On Tuesday, June 15, Illinois Congresswoman Mary Miller joined twenty-one other House members in [voting against awarding medals to officers](#) who responded to the January 6, 2021 failed insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Today, Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association President Kristina Zahorik issued the following statement:

“Illinois continues to suffer embarrassment from the actions and comments of Mary Miller, now because she does not support honoring the heroes who defended our nation’s Capitol. 406 of her colleagues joined the bi-partisan vote and [just 21 House Republicans, included Mary Miller, voted no.](#)”

“[Quoting Hitler, voting against certifying Electoral College votes](#), and now thumbing your nose at the officers who died and protected you and other members of Congress -- Mary Miller, explain yourself, please.”

###

About the IDCCA... The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide, grassroots Democratic Party organization comprised of the elected Democratic County Chairs in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in every county and region of Illinois while continuing to grow the Democratic Party throughout the state. McHenry County Democratic Chair Kristina Zahorik is the President of the IDCCA.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association / Labor Donated / Printed in House



For Immediate Release:
Wednesday June 30, 2021

Contact: Dan Kovats, Executive Director
(773) 351-7818 / dan@ildcca.org

Reps. Bost and LaHood Vote to Keep Taney Bust in the Capitol

Springfield, IL -- Last night, Illinois Congressmen Mike Bost and Darin LaHood joined in lock step with the majority of their Republican House colleagues in [voting against HR 3005](#), which calls for the removal of a bust of former Chief Justice Roger Taney from the Capitol Building. Today, Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association President Kristina Zahorik released the following statement:

“Chief Justice Taney authored the infamous decision [Dred Scott v. Sanford](#), which denied emancipation to an enslaved person on the grounds that the Constitution does not grant citizenship to persons of African descent. His decision dealt a devastating blow to the abolition movement in the nineteenth century. Our Illinois Congressmen should honor those who fought for the American values of equality and justice within the hallowed Capitol Building, rather than the author of a 164-year-old, pro-slavery decision.”

###

About the IDCCA... The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide, grassroots Democratic Party organization comprised of the elected Democratic County Chairs in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in every county and region of Illinois while continuing to grow the Democratic Party throughout the state. McHenry County Democratic Chair Kristina Zahorik is the President of the IDCCA.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association / Labor Donated / Printed in House



For Immediate Release:
Thursday July 8, 2021

DPI Contact: Eileen Boyce
EBoyce@ildems.com
IDCCA Contact: Dan Kovats
dan@ildcca.org

Mary Miller and Marjorie Taylor Green Do Not Represent Illinois
Illinois Republicans Should Condemn Miller, Green for Hateful Speech

Springfield, IL - Fringe Illinois Republican Congresswoman Mary Miller welcomed conspiracy theorist and hate speech provocateur Georgia Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Green to Illinois this week. Today, Abby Witt, Executive Director for the Democratic Party of Illinois, and Dan Kovats, Executive Director for the Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association, released the following statement:

"Mary Miller and Marjorie Taylor Green are two peas in a pod blindly following their dear failed leader Donald Trump. They [voted against honoring the police officers](#) who protected them and others from the January 6 failed insurrection instigated by Trump. Miller and Green both purposely spew hate concerning statements referencing Hitler, the Holocaust, and Nazi "[Brown Shirts](#)" into their remarks."

"The Miller and Green show are now fundraising together in Illinois, continuing their grift and conspiracy theory partnership. If they are the Republican Party, they don't represent the majority of middle Americans and they don't belong in Congress spewing hate and division. "

[Mary Miller quoted Hitler](#) the day before the failed insurrection. Marjorie Taylor Green, again, [made another Nazi-era reference](#) regarding the push to vaccinate more Americans -- her second comment in months.

###



For Immediate Release:
Thursday, July 22, 2021

Contact: Dan Kovats, Executive Director
(773) 351-7818 / dan@ildcca.org

Democratic County Chairs Announce 2021 Party Builder Honorees

Springfield, IL - In 2017 the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) established a Party Builder Award to recognize individuals who have dedicated their lives to growing the Democratic Party throughout Illinois. Today, the IDCCA is proud to recognize Barb Brown and John Penn as the 2021 Party Builder Award Honorees for their grassroots efforts in building the Democratic Party. IDCCA President Kristina Zahorik released the following statement:

“We are proud to recognize Barb Brown and John Penn for their work strengthening the Democratic Party at the grassroots level. Their unwavering commitments to empowering everyday Illinoisans are shining examples of how politics can -- and does -- change lives. They expanded the influence of the Democratic Party across our state and played critical roles in shaping Illinois into the progressive, pro-union state it is today. Barb and John are giants of Illinois Democratic politics, and it is truly an honor to recognize them for their decades of service.”

The Honorable **Barb Brown** was the former Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois and the former County Chair of the Randolph County Democratic Party.

She was the first in her family to attend college and earned three degrees from Southern Illinois University. She taught countless students in her 20+ years in the SUIC Department of Political Science, where she emphasized and encouraged participatory democracy. Beyond the classroom, she taught American government and democracy to international scholars through a summer program funded by the U.S. State Department in conjunction with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

Barb also had a deep passion and commitment for creating avenues for women to engage in the political process and public service, and she was a co-founder of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership Training Academy (IWILTA), Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois, an elector in the 2012 Electoral College, a co-founder of Southwestern Illinois Democratic Women, and a founder of Southern Illinois Democratic Women. Additionally, she served as the Randolph County Clerk of the Courts, the former Chair of the Randolph County Democratic Central Committee, a nine-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention, a two-time candidate

About the IDCCA... The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide, grassroots Democratic Party organization comprised of the elected Democratic County Chairs in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in every county and region of Illinois while continuing to grow the Democratic Party throughout the state. McHenry County Democratic Chair Kristina Zahorik is the President of the IDCCA.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association / Labor Donated / Printed in House



for Illinois' 58th State Senate District, and served notable roles in the campaigns of President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama.

Sadly, Barb will receive the Party Builder Award posthumously, as she passed away on May 5, 2016. Her son, Randolph County Chair Nate Brown, is accepting the Party Builder Award on her behalf. In a letter read by the family at her funeral, President Barack Obama remembered Barb as living “a life of commitment: commitment to her family; her community; her students. She taught political science at Southern Illinois University but to Barb, politics was more than theory. It was a way to improve lives and strengthen communities, and she practiced that faith through her service to the people of Randolph County and her tireless efforts on behalf of the Democratic Party. As a statewide candidate, I quickly learned what Dick Durbin and other Democrats knew: If you want anything done in Southern Illinois, call Barb Brown.”

A major figure in the labor movement in Illinois, **John Penn** has served the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) for over fifty years. He first joined Local Union 362 in Bloomington, Illinois as a second-generation member in 1965, and ascended to his current position as the union's Vice President and Midwest Regional Manager in 2008. Along the way, he served as secretary-treasurer and business manager for Local 362, as well as business manager of the Great Plains Laborers' District Council.

At Local 362, John was renowned for his ability to empower union members at the grassroots level. “We were raised that the member is always first,” he has said -- and his career serves as proof of that philosophy. Under John's leadership, Local 362 made significant strides toward improving the lives of its members. John's other recognitions include the Presidential Points of Light Award from President Clinton (given to individuals whose voluntary, direct action solves social issues in their communities) and the Bloomington Pantagraph's Person of the Year recognition, both in 2003.

John's tireless commitment to bettering his community does not end with LIUNA. He also serves as a Co-Chair of the Children's Christmas Party for Unemployed Families and on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Special Olympics. In addition, he is a past member of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board, a past Vice President of the McLean County Economic Development Council, and a past member of the Illinois Department of Transportation Highway Safety Committee. John also helped to re-establish the Bloomington Labor Day Parade (after a 40-year absence) and began the McLean County Union News, which ran from 1982 to 2002. John has been a strong advocate for Organized Labor within the Democratic Party and served as the Chair of the McLean County Democratic Party until 2018.

About the IDCCA... The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide, grassroots Democratic Party organization comprised of the elected Democratic County Chairs in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in every county and region of Illinois while continuing to grow the Democratic Party throughout the state. McHenry County Democratic Chair Kristina Zahorik is the President of the IDCCA.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association / Labor Donated / Printed in House



John and his wife, Mary, still reside in Bloomington. They have one daughter, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Brown and Penn will be recognized at the County Chairs' Brunch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois on August 18th at 9:00 A.M. They are the third and fourth honorees of the Party Builder Award in 2021, joining Senate President **Don Harmon** and Speaker **Emanuel "Chris" Welch**. For more information or tickets to the IDCCA County Chairs' Brunch, go to www.idccabrunch.org.

###

About the IDCCA... The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide, grassroots Democratic Party organization comprised of the elected Democratic County Chairs in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in every county and region of Illinois while continuing to grow the Democratic Party throughout the state. McHenry County Democratic Chair Kristina Zahorik is the President of the IDCCA.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association / Labor Donated / Printed in House