



**ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2021
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM
AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Guest Speakers
 - a. *Samantha McC'lain, Workers Rights Amendment*
 - b. *Abby Witt, Democratic Party of Illinois*
4. Executive Session
 - a. *IDC'CA litigation update*
5. President's Report
6. Secretary's Report
 - a. *Approval of minutes from November 13, 2021, General Membership Meeting*
7. Treasurer's Report
 - a. *Approval of Treasurer's Report from November 2021 – December 2021*
8. Executive Director's Report
9. Old Business
 - a. *Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy*
 - b. *Virtual Training Series*
10. New Business
 - a. *2022 – 001 – Workers Rights Amendment Resolution*
 - b. *2022 County Chairs' Brunch Update*
 - c. *2022 Boot Camp Update*
 - d. *IDC'CA / Democratic Party of Illinois / National Democratic Training Committee Candidate Cohort*
 - e. *Contest Every Race Update*
 - f. *Annual Report*
 - g. *Endorsement Procedures*
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 NOVEMBER 13, 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 Jay Briney (Mason)	Vice President Charlie Laskonis (Winnebago)	Vice President Pam Davidson (Knox)
Vice President Paul (Snow) Herkert (Callhoun)	Vice President Toni Preckwinkle (Cook) via proxy	Vice President Teresa Vincent (Union) via proxy
Vice President Mike Barone (Jackson)	Secretary Pam Monetti (Macoupin)	Treasurer Brittany Miller (Tazewell)
At Large Member Dan Sidwell (Bond)	At Large Member Christine Ballard (Ogle)	At Large Member Fidencio Hooper-Campos (Whiteside)
At Large Member Rena Bever (Wabash)	At Large Member Lauren Beth Gash (Lake)	Executive Director Dan Kovats
Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins		

Attendance – General Membership

Katherine Daniels, Adams	Wendy LaFauce, Boone	Rick Wilkin, Bureau
Kimberly Hance, Cass	Carol Ammons, Champaign via proxy	Craig McNary, Clark
John Spencer, Clay	Mac White, Coles	Kori Rempfer, DeKalb
Rocky Warner, Douglas	Ken Mejia – Beal, DuPage	Jackie Knackmus, Edwards



David Seiler, Effingham	Al McDowell, Fayette	Daryle Coleman, Fulton
Richard Joyce, Grundy	Dustin Wells, Iroquois	Robert Alexander, Jasper
Mark Pohlman, Jersey via proxy	Brooke Shanley, Kendall	Dan Hobart, Livingston
Randy Harris, Madison via proxy	Rob Schnicker, Marion	Patrick Cortesi, McLean
Brian Short, Menard	Jan Occhi, Mercer	Scot Luchtefeld, Monroe
Dana Ryan, Morgan	Tim Singer, Moultrie	Sheila Maloney, Piatt
Chauntelle Biagi-Bruer, Putnam	Greg Mullinax, Richland	Bill Houlihan, Sangamon
Mitchell Esslinger, Shelby	Diana Frazier Brenneman, Vermilion	Steven Buban, Warren
Nora Gruenberg, Will	Junius Rodriguez, Woodford	

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 12:01pm by President Kristina Zahorik.
- 2) President Zahorik led the organization in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) The following proxies have been submitted for the purpose of voting:
 - a. Carol Ammons (Champaign) gives proxy to Mike Ingram – Alternate
 - b. Toni Preckwinkle (Cook) gives proxy to Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)
 - c. Mark Pohlman (Jersey) gives proxy to Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)
 - d. Randy Harris (Madison) gives proxy to Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)
 - e. Teresa Vincent (Union) gives proxy to Shari Sadowski – Alternate
- 4) President Zahorik introduced the guest speakers for the meeting.
 - a. *Attorney General Kwame Raoul*
 - i. Attorney General Raoul thanked all the County Chairs for their assistance in his election in 2018.
 - ii. Spoke about his work partnering with other Attorney's General on national issues and led the nation on other issues.
 - iii. Spoke about the difficulties of leading the Attorney's General office during a pandemic.
 - iv. Spoke about the efforts to build relationships with law enforcement during everything that was happening around social justice.



- v. Spoke about defending Governor Pritzker from actions that were taken against the life saving mitigations that were put in place throughout the pandemic.
- vi. Spoke about the Attorney's General office being cyber attacked.
- vii. Spoke about not taking anything for granted in elections. Referenced the statewide election in Virginia.
- viii. Took questions from the membership.
- b. *Gracie Fleming, Program Manager – Contest Every Race*
 - i. Gracie spoke about the Party Building efforts that Contest Every Race and the IDCCA are partnering with to assist with candidate recruitment statewide.
 - ii. Presented the “Text to Recruit” program that will be launching on January 19, 2022.
 - iii. Spoke about the role every County Chair will play in this effort to recruit candidates.
 - iv. Spoke about “detargeting” efforts where the program will not recruit a candidate in that race.
 - v. Spoke about the texting timeline from the first text until candidates file in mid-March.
 - vi. Spoke about meetings that every County Chair will schedule with potential candidates to vet recruited candidates.
 - vii. Took questions from the membership.

5) President's Report

- a. President Zahorik thanked Vice President Terry Redman (DeWitt) for stepping in to run the May 2021 General Membership Meeting.
- b. Thanked all the County Chairs who participated in the statewide assessment survey that staff had shared throughout October.
- c. Welcomed our newest County Chairs.
 - i. Ken Mejia – Beal, DuPage
 - ii. Jack Skelcher, Johnson
 - iii. Brooke Shanley, Kendall
 - iv. Karl Coleman, Macon
- d. Thanked members of the IDCCA Leadership Circle for attending.
- e. Shared her thoughts on the election in Virginia. Shared quotes from an article from *The Guardian* regarding the Virginia election.
- f. Spoke about the challenges we are facing in the midterm elections.
- g. Spoke about the concerns with messaging on issues, especially the Build Back Better Act. Highlighted the Democratic Party of Illinois (DPI) hire of Jake Lewis as Communications Director and spoke about our partnership with DPI.



- h. Spoke about the work of the digital fundraising team to boost our Federal PAC to over \$50,000.
 - i. Spoke about the recruitment efforts as part of the Recruit, Engage, & Vote (REV) Project. Spoke specifically about recruiting Election Judges to combat the efforts of the GOP “Stop the Steal” activities.
 - j. Spoke about our increase in data projects to assist with decisions and resources within the organization. The IDCCA has recent finished a project that outlines the turnout projections for the 2022 General Election for each county.
 - k. Spoke about the investment that the IDCCA made in the reapportionment and redistricting efforts in several counties.
 - l. Encouraged the County Chairs to monitor their County Board for items regarding changing the size of their precincts.
- 6) Secretary’s Report
- a. Secretary Pam Monetti presented the minutes from the August 7, 2021, General Membership Meeting.
 - b. Secretary Monetti made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. At Large Board Member Christine Ballard (Ogle) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 7) Treasurer’s Report
- a. Treasurer Brittany Miller presented the Treasurer’s Report for August 2021 through November 2021.
 - b. Presented an update to cash on hand.
 - i. State PAC – \$316,580.00
 - ii. Federal PAC – \$44,435.38
 - c. Patrick Cortesi (McLean) made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Mike Ingram (Champaign) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 8) Executive Director’s Report
- a. Executive Director Dan Kovats thanked Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins for her work on the ongoing data project for the organization.
 - b. Executive Director Dan Kovats thanked the Fall Intern, Eddie Jakubauskas, for his work this semester.
 - c. Provided an update on the Virtual Training Series (VTS). Year to date, the IDCCA has conducted 21 VTS training sessions. 1,508 individuals have registered to participate in a VTS session, and 783 individuals have attended a VTS training. Announced the next VTS session for Monday, November 15th at 6pm, for a training on “How to use ActBlue”.
 - d. Provided a report on a digital ad buy for the IDCCA where we targeted Illinois Republican Members of Congress. Reported that the ads reached 61,609



individuals and 78,963 unique views of the ads. Reported that the ad gathered over 100 new email addresses.

- e. Made a request to the County Chairs to submit their County Party events to the IDCCA so it can be shared with our partners. Reported that our statewide elected officials and candidates want to attend their events, but many don't know about their events.
 - f. Reported that the statewide assessment is still being reviewed and no information is available at this time.
 - g. Reported that staff has begun end of year processes including budget and Annual Report. Reported that the budget will be submitted to the Executive Board and the Annual Report should be available at the next General Membership Meeting.
- 9) County Chairs' Brunch Recap
- a. Executive Director Kovats reported a Profit & Loss Report (P&L Report) was provided in the County Chairs' packets. This report outlined all four events within the County Chairs' Brunch.
 - b. Reported that the Brunch Merchandise fundraiser ended in a loss. This was because we attempted to expand the merchandise options for the event, and we did not sell enough to cover the printing costs.
 - c. Thanked the IDCCA staff, consultants, interns, and over 100 volunteers for their efforts to make this event successful. Reported that after the decision was made to move the event outdoors, we had four days to execute the change. Reported that, other than the heat, the event was very successful.
- 10) Fall Brews Young Professionals Reception Recap
- a. Executive Director Kovats thanks Craig Colbrook & Dan Lewis for serving as Co-Chairs of the event. Reported that over 250 people attended the event.
 - b. Reported that the event has raised over \$15,000. Reported that over 100 people committed to our Host Committee.
 - c. Reported that we intentionally do not ask for high dollar sponsorships to allow more people to participate in the event.
- 11) Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy
- a. President Zahorik reported that 75% of the organization has signed their Prevention Policy. Encouraged the remaining 25% to sign and return their policy so that they can continue to participate in IDCCA events.
 - b. Executive Director Kovats reported that emails and snail mail copies have been sent to the remaining 25%.
- 12) At Large Executive Board Member & Sgt At Arms Appointments
- a. President Zahorik reported that the following appointments have been made to the Executive Board. These appointments have been approved by the Executive Board.



- i. Chris Ballard (Ogle)
- ii. Fidencio Hooper – Campos (Whiteside)
- iii. Rena Bever (Wabash)
- iv. Lauren Beth Gash (Lake)
- v. Sgt At Arms Nate Brown (Randolph)

13) Recruitment / Get Out The Vote / Slate / Mailer Pieces

- a. Executive Director Kovats reported that we are working with Wildfire Contact to assist with messaging around recruitment. Reported that we have three mailer templates to recruit PC's that will run in Ford & Stark counties. This will be separate from the Text to Recruit program.
- b. Reported that the IDCCA will be looking into investing in a Vote By Mail mailer program that will target “drop off” Democratic voters. This program will be targeted in the Primary and General Election.
- c. Reported the development of a slate walk piece and Get Out The Vote mailer that will be available for all County Parties to use. This will be available after the Primary Election.
- d. Reminded County Chairs that the IDCCA has a preferred union printer list that is available for them to use.

14) Election Judge Recruitment & Digital Ads

- a. President Zahorik reminded the importance of recruiting and appointing Election Judges. This effort should not be left to the County Clerks.
- b. Report to assist with these efforts that we will be launching digital ads in counties that need assistance. These ads would run for 2 months leading up to the commission of the Election Judges.

15) 2022 IDCCA Event Dates

- a. President Zahorik reported that we have released the dates of the IDCCA General Membership Meetings and events for 2022.
- b. Executive Director Kovats gave an overview of the dates and events for 2022.

16) 2022 General Election Turnout Project

- a. Assistant Executive Director Jillian Hawkins provided an overview of the Turnout Project. This was a county-by-county and precinct-by-precinct project.
- b. Reported that the IDCCA is predicting 52% turnout for the 2022 General Election. This is based on previous election cycles.
- c. Reported that a county-by-county breakdown will be available by the end of the year.

17) Meeting was adjourned at 1:31pm.



December 2021 Treasurer's Report – Federal PAC

1. State the beginning balance:

Date: December 1, 2021

Balance: \$50,739.19

2. Indicate money received:

Amount: \$2,092.00 from Various Donors (Digital)

Amount: \$50.00 from John Gloor

Total Contributions: \$2,142.00

3. State the main expenses:

Amount: \$1,000.00 to Nelson Wurth Consulting (Compliance)

Amount: \$500.00 to Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats

Amount: \$35.32 to Act Blue (Online Donation Processing)

Total Disbursements: \$1,535.32

4. Indicate closing balance:

Date: December 31, 2021

Balance: \$51,355.33

Prepared by: [Signature]

Reviewed by: [Signature]

Date: 1/4/22

Date: 1/4/22

Accepted by: Brittany S. Miller

Date: 01/06/22



December 2021 Treasurer's Report – State PAC

1. State the beginning balance:

Date: December 1, 2021

Balance: \$305,098.85

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

Amount: \$6,500.00 from Various Donors (General Donations)
Amount: \$304.65 from Various Donors (Web Store)
Amount: \$55.00 from Various Donors (Digital)

Total Contributions: \$6,859.65

3. State the main expenses:

Amount: \$11,442.35 to Payroll
Amount: \$5,416.18 to Various Expenses (postage, printing, utilities, website, etc.)
Amount: \$4,546.00 to Hunt Insurance Agency (D&O Insurance)
Amount: \$2,250.00 to Campaign Donations
Amount: \$1,700.00 to Barb Mason Campaign Services (Compliance)

Total Disbursements: \$25,354.53

4. Indicate closing balance:

Date: December 31, 2021

Balance: \$286,603.97

Prepared by: [Signature]

Reviewed by: [Signature]

Date: 1/4/22

Date: 1/4/22

Accepted by: [Signature]

Date: 01/06/22



Illinois Democratic Leadership Key Staff Contacts

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Congresswoman Robin Kelly	Tony Presta	tonyniu@yahoo.com
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Congressman Mike Quigley		
Congressman Sean Casten	Don Black	don@castenforcongress.com
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	Coburn Gillies	coburn@cheribustos.com

Secretary of State Candidates

Candidate	Staffer	Email
Alexi Giannoulis	Haleigh Hoff	haleigh@alexiforus.com
David Moore	Delmarie Cobb	dlecobb@thepublicityworks.net
Anna Valencia	Allison Schraub	allison@voteannavalencia.com



2022 Meeting / Event Schedule

Saturday January 22nd – General Membership Meeting (virtual)

Saturday February 5th – 1st Annual IDCCA Virtual Trivia Night (virtual)

Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday April 12th / 13th / 14th – Party Builder Awards (TBA)

Saturday April 23rd – Boot Camp (Bloomington)

Saturday April 23rd – General Membership Meeting (in-person @ Boot Camp)

Monday July 11th – Summer Brews Young Professionals Reception (Chicago)

Wednesday July 27th – County Convention (statewide)

Wednesday August 17th – County Chairs' Brunch (Springfield)

Saturday September 10th – General Membership Meeting / Executive Board Election (Springfield)

Monday October 10th – Fall Brews Young Professionals Reception (Springfield)

Workers' Rights Amendment to The Illinois' Constitution

What It Is...

This November, Illinoisans will be voting to elevate workers' rights to a constitutional level. Voters will weigh in on whether the state's constitution should be amended to include a provision that will establish fundamental rights for workers to collectively bargain and unionize. The amendment would effectively ban so-called "right-to-work" laws in Illinois.

The Workers' Rights Amendment – would prevent Illinois from ever passing a state law or local ordinance "that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety." This amendment would ensure that workers across the state have the freedom to collectively bargain so their voices are more powerful.

Anywhere from 19 to 22 states across the nation have proposed "right-to-work" laws, including Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Currently, 27 states have these laws. Illinois does not have a "right-to-work" law on the books, and data shows that Illinois workers and the state's economy have fared better as a result.

A [May 2021 report](#) from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute and the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign found that "right-to-work" states are worse at building middle-class jobs and delivering economic growth. According to data, Illinois workers earn higher wages, are more likely to have health insurance coverage, have higher rates of homeownership, and are more productive than their counterparts in the 27 states with "right-to-work" laws. These findings accounted for factors such as cost of living, occupation, race and gender, and wages and income.

Research continues to show us that collective bargaining offers workers solid pathways into good, middle-class jobs. Construction workers and signatory contractors certainly know this, and voters and elected officials understand this even more. A [bi-partisan majority in the Illinois General Assembly passed the Workers' Rights Amendment](#) on to allow voters to decide whether Illinois should ban "right-to-work" permanently. As the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted working people, we need to make sure workers have the pay, benefits, resources, and protections they deserve. The Workers' Rights Amendment is a major step in that direction. "Right-to-work" is not only harmful to working families, but it's also bad economic policy.

By passing the Workers' Rights Amendment this November, We can ensure the hard-working people of Illinois have access to good, family-sustaining jobs at a time when Illinois and the nation are in dire need of both.

What We Need You To Do – Vote Yes For Workers Rights

1. We formally request that the Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association formally endorse the Vote Yes For Workers' Rights Amendment.
2. Place the workers' Rights Amendment on your general membership and at your individual county party regular meeting agendas for discussion for every meeting even if it is only briefly – Working men and women are on the ballot, and as the Party of Labor this also “Our Campaign”
3. Identify at least one central committee person to report on The Workers' Rights Amendment at every meeting, it doesn't need to be a lengthy report even just the mention of the Amendment and simply urging everyone to promote it is enough to start.
4. Emphasize – Legacy to your local county party organizations, officials and candidates, noting that we will never do anything that is more important than to secure a living wage with benefits for the workers of Illinois than pass the Workers' Rights Amendment.
5. Unions are working to ensure **Every Union Member** is registered to vote – please work with our states' labor unions to get their membership registered to vote for the amendment.
6. Challenge every elected official and political organization that wants your support, to support you by publicly and vocally supporting The Workers' Rights Amendment.
7. Financially Contribute to the Works' Rights Amendment by participating in the Illinois AFL-CIO fundraiser in Springfield on February 16th, 2022. Contact Tim Drea 630-253-0337
8. In the coming weeks and months formal plans and materials will be shared for additional engagement of your union members and the general public.

Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Doug House

Workers' Rights Amendment

Cell – 309-558-8512



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION 2022 – 001

WHEREAS, the membership of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (the "IDCCA") is committed to supporting the rights of all to collectively bargain in the State of Illinois,

WHEREAS, the IDCCA supports Organized Labor's efforts to uplift working families and the middle class throughout Illinois and the nation,

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2021, the 102nd Illinois General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 0011 that amends the Bill of Rights Article of the Illinois Constitution to add Section 25: Workers' Rights,

WHEREAS, the proposed Section 25: Workers' Rights would state:

(a) Employees shall have the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work. No law shall be passed that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety, including any law or ordinance that prohibits the execution or application of agreements between employers and labor organizations that represent employees requiring membership in an organization as a condition of employment.

WHEREAS, SJRCA0011 has been added to the November 2022 General Election ballot for consideration of the voters of Illinois,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS' ASSOCIATION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The IDCCA supports the rights of all to collectively bargain.
2. The IDCCA supports our partners in Organized Labor.
3. The IDCCA endorses the passage of the Workers' Rights Amendment on the November 2022 General Election ballot.
4. The IDCCA strongly encourages County Democratic Parties, Democratic elected officials, and Democratic candidates seeking office endorse the Workers' Rights Amendment.

Kristina Zahorik
President of the IDCCA

Pam Monetti
Secretary of the IDCCA

January 22, 2022



TO: IDCCA President Kristina Zahorik
CC: IDCCA General Membership
FROM: Dan Kovats, IDCCA Executive Director
DATE: Wednesday January 19, 2022
SUBJECT: 2022 Virtual Training Series Recommendations

In October 2021, the IDCCA surveyed our membership to assess what resources our County Parties needed to be more effective in the 2022 election cycle. One of the biggest take aways from that assessment was the need to provide more trainings on topics that are relevant to our members. Based on this response, we will focus on meeting this need by expanding our Virtual Training Series to cover the following topics:

Fundraising, Budgeting, and Compliance

- Do's and Don't's of spending Political Action Committee (PAC) funds
- Campaign disclosure training and the role of the County Party Treasurer
- Creating an Election 2022 Budget
- How to develop an effective digital and email fundraising program

Communications for County Parties and Candidates

- How to write a press release that will have impact
- What is earned media and how can you earn it
- Social media for County Parties and Candidates – scheduled for January 26th

Operations

- Creating a County Party strategic plan
- How to recruit and train Precinct Committeeperson
- How to use Votebuilder

Voter Protection

- Poll Watching 101
- General Voter Protection Awareness
- Updates in election laws

We have already begun to implement some of these trainings. Our plan is to reach out to leading experts in Illinois and nationally to present during these trainings.

On Wednesday, January 26th we will be hosting a Social Media for Candidates & County Parties training. This training will be facilitated by Apollo Artistry, the IDCCA's digital firm. This training, along with all of the requested trainings will be conducted as part of the Virtual Training Series and will be held online. The trainings are then posted on our YouTube channel, which is accessible from our website at <https://ildecca.org/virtual-training-series/>. Dates, times, and registration will be sent out through the IDCCA email list.

Save The Date

Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Brunch

August 17, 2022
9 AM

NEW LOCATION!

Bank of Springfield Center

1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield



Visit our website at
ildccobrunch.org for more
information!

For any questions please contact Dan Kovats at Dan@ildcca.org or 217.753.3380.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association



TO: IDCCA President Kristina Zahorik
CC: IDCCA Executive Board
FROM: Dan Kovats, IDCCA Executive Director
DATE: Sunday December 5, 2021
SUBJECT: IDCCA Endorsement Procedures

Per your request and input, I have codified and updated the IDCCA Endorsement Procedures. I recommend these procedures be shared with the General Membership, after approval from the IDCCA Executive Board. Also with Presidential approval, I can provide these procedures to Democratic candidates seeking IDCCA endorsement.

For historical context, endorsement procedures were updated from procedures approved by the IDCCA ahead of the 2018 election cycle. The procedures lay out how Chairs & candidates may be informed of the IDCCA endorsement vote, what will be expected of candidates who are seeking endorsement, and how the voting process will be conducted. Updated in these procedures is a threshold of request from the General Membership to consider an endorsement in a statewide race or multi-county congressional, legislative, or judicial district, as well as the procedures for endorsement in a multi-county congressional, legislative, or judicial district, and finally the interview process for candidates.

It should be noted our Bylaws are silent on endorsements and only specify that all members are limited to one (1) vote per county. The Bylaws do allow for proxy voting and is something that is outlined in the Endorsement Procedures.

Furthermore, it is important to point out IDCCA endorsements reflect the grassroots nature of the organization, which is to say comes from membership. These procedures, with the small updates, maintain this approach and both clarifies and codifies the process.



Request to consider an endorsement (statewide & multi-county districts)

At least a 4 weeks prior to a scheduled General Membership Meeting, unless approved by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, requests to consider an endorsement should be made to the IDCCA President (the “President”) for statewide consideration or an IDCCA Executive Board Member (the “Board Member”) who resides in the considered district for which an endorsement is sought. If no Board Member resides within a multi-county district, requests to consider an endorsement should be made to the longest serving County Chair (the “Senior Chair”) within the district. The Senior Chair should then reach out to the President for coordination efforts.

For a request to be considered:

Statewide Office – **at least 35% of IDCCA members** must make a request to consider an endorsement to the President in writing using the US Postal Service or email at least four weeks prior to a General Membership Meeting. If the threshold is met, the endorsement consideration will be placed on the agenda at the next scheduled General Membership Meeting. The four-week notice may be waived by the President with the advice and consent of the IDCCA Executive Board.

Multi-County District – **at least 40% of all members within the district** must make a request to consider an endorsement to the Board Member or Senior Chair within the considered district. If the threshold is met, the Board Member or Senior Chair will organize a meeting (in-person or virtual) of all County Chairs within the considered district to discuss and vote on an endorsement.

Prior to Endorsement Consideration – Statewide

Once a request to consider an endorsement has met the proper threshold, the IDCCA Executive Director (the “Director”) will initiate the following:

- A letter via US Postal Service and electronically announcing the date, time, and location of the next scheduled General Membership meeting will go out to each County Chair. Included in this letter will be an announcement from the President that an endorsement will be considered for a specific office. The endorsement procedures and proxy vote authorization will be included in this letter. Per our Bylaws, every County Chair will be limited to one (1) vote unless they have been authorized to proxy vote for County Chairs not in attendance.
- All candidates for the office being considered for endorsement will be notified via USPS and electronically of the endorsement consideration and will be required to submit credentials if they wish to be considered. Credentials include a candidate prospectus, information about agenda, and a detailed plan on how they wish to work with the IDCCA to get elected. Credentials must be submitted to the Director three (3) days prior to the scheduled endorsement consideration. **Any candidate that does NOT submit credentials will NOT be considered for endorsement.**
- Any County Chair unable to attend the General Membership meeting may submit a proxy authorization. Proxy authorizations must be signed, notarized, and submitted to the Director either in-person or via USPS before the start of the General Membership meeting.
- The Director will create a ballot for the vote that will include candidates who have submitted their credentials. An option of “No Endorsement” will be added to all ballots. All Chairs in attendance will receive a ballot at the start of the General Membership meeting. All proxy authorizations will be attached to the designated County Chair.



- Any candidate who has submitted credentials to be considered for endorsement will be invited to speak at the General Membership Meeting prior to an endorsement vote. The Director will work with campaign staff to schedule the speaking times for candidates.

Prior to Endorsement Consideration – Multi-County Districts

Once a request to consider an endorsement has met the proper threshold, the Director will initiate the following:

- The Director will work with the Board Member or Senior Chair to identify a date, time, and location for a meeting of all County Chairs within the multi-county district.
- A letter via USPS and electronically announcing the date, time, and location of this meeting will go out to each County Chair within the multi-county district. Included in this letter will be an announcement from the Board Member or Senior Chair that an endorsement will be considered for a specific office. The endorsement procedures and proxy vote authorization will be included in this letter. Per our Bylaws, every County Chair will be limited to one (1) vote unless they have been authorized to proxy vote for other County Chairs not in attendance.
- All candidates for the office that is being considered for endorsement will be notified via USPS and electronically of the endorsement consideration and will be required to submit credentials if they wish to be considered. Credentials include a candidate prospectus, information about their agenda, and a detailed plan on how they wish to work with the IDCCA to get elected. Credentials must be submitted to the Director three (3) days prior to the scheduled endorsement consideration. **Any candidate that does NOT submit credentials will NOT be considered for endorsement.**
- Any County Chair unable to attend this meeting may submit a proxy authorization. Proxy authorizations must be signed, notarized, and submitted to the Board Member or Senior Chair either in-person or via USPS before the start of the meeting.
- The Board Member or Senior Chair will create a ballot for the vote that will include candidates who have submitted their credentials. An option of “No Endorsement” will be added to all ballots. All Chairs in attendance will receive a ballot at the start of the meeting. All proxy authorizations will be attached to the designated County Chair.
- Any candidate who has submitted credentials to be considered for endorsement will be invited to speak at the meeting prior to an endorsement vote. The Board Member or Senior Chair will work with campaign staff to schedule the speaking times for candidates.

Endorsement Consideration & Voting – Statewide

The President has the authority to set the agenda of the General Membership Meeting and will determine when the endorsement will be considered during the meeting. Once the endorsement consideration has been called for during the meeting, the President will invite candidates to present their credentials to the General Membership.

- At any point during the General Membership Meeting, the President may ask for a motion to endorse by acclamation any incumbent statewide Democratic elected official. This motion will require a second and approved by a voice vote of the County Chairs in attendance.
- Only candidates who have submitted credentials will be able to present their credentials in person at the General Membership Meeting.



- Candidates will be given a total of ten (10) minutes to address the General Membership. IDCCA staff (the “Staff”) will monitor time to ensure every candidate is given an equal amount of time. Candidates will allow for questions during their time.
- The President will then ask for a motion to move the meeting into Executive Session to consider an endorsement. This motion must be seconded and approved by a voice vote of the County Chairs in attendance. Staff and legal counsel (the “Counsel”) will be allowed to stay but will not have voting privileges. All non-County Chairs will be asked to leave the meeting.
- The President will Chair the Executive Session. The President will make all final decisions on motions and speaking order. Counsel will assist the President to ensure any actions taken are lawful and abiding by the IDCCA Bylaws (the “Bylaws”). The most current form of Roberts Rules of Order will be used to govern the Executive Session.
- The President will open the floor for discussion on the candidates who have submitted their credentials for consideration. County Chairs will be encouraged to speak freely, within proper decorum, for or against any candidate being considered for endorsement.
- After a reasonable length of time to allow for discussion, the President will ask for a motion to vote on endorsement. This motion must be seconded and approved by a voice vote of the County Chairs in attendance. Once this motion has been approved, County Chairs will vote their ballot for the candidate of their choice. Ballots will be turned into the Director for counting. The President may appoint up to three (3) County Chairs to oversee the counting of ballots.
- If a candidate has received at least a plurality of the total voting members during voting, then that candidate will be considered endorsed by the IDCCA. If a candidate does not receive at least a plurality of the total voting members during voting, then there will be no endorsement by the IDCCA.
- A certification of the final vote will be signed and approved by the President and the IDCCA Secretary (the “Secretary”).
- The President will decide on the best course of action to announce the results of the endorsement consideration to the public.
- Once all deliberations have been completed, the President will ask for a motion to close Executive Session and move back to Regular Business of the General Membership Meeting. This motion must be seconded and approved by a voice vote of the County Chairs present. Any non-County Chairs will be allowed to reenter the meeting.

Endorsement Consideration & Voting – Multi-County District

The Board Member or Senior Chair has the authority to set the agenda of the meeting. Once the endorsement consideration has been called for during the meeting, the Board Member or Senior Chair will invite candidates to present their credentials to the County Chairs.

- At any point during the meeting, the Board Member or Senior Chair may ask for a motion to endorse by acclamation any incumbent multi-county district Democratic elected official. This motion will require a second and approved by a voice vote of the County Chairs in attendance.
- Only candidates who have submitted credentials will be able to present their credentials in person at the meeting.



- Candidates will be given a total of ten (10) minutes to address the County Chairs. Board Member or Senior Chair will monitor time to ensure every candidate is given an equal amount of time. Candidate will allow for questions during their time.
- Board Member or Senior Chair will then ask for a motion to move the meeting into Executive Session to consider an endorsement. This motion must be seconded and approved by a voice vote of the County Chairs in attendance. If they are in attendance, Staff and Counsel will be allowed to stay but will not have voting privileges. All non-County Chairs will be asked to leave the meeting.
- Board Member or Senior Chair will Chair the Executive Session. Board Member or Senior Chair will make all final decisions on motions and speaking order. The most current form of Roberts Rules of Order will be used to govern the Executive Session.
- Board Member or Senior Chair will open the floor for discussion on the candidates who have submitted credentials for consideration. County Chairs will be encouraged to speak freely, within proper decorum, for or against any candidate being considered for endorsement.
- After a reasonable length of time, to allow for discussion, the Board Member or Senior Chair will ask for a motion to vote on endorsement. This motion must be seconded and approved by a voice vote of the County Chairs in attendance. Once this motion has been approved, County Chairs will vote their ballot for the candidate of their choice. Ballots will be turned into the Board Member or Senior Chair for counting. The Board Member or Senior Chair may appoint up to three (3) County Chairs to oversee the counting of ballots.
- If a candidate has received at least a plurality of the total voting members during voting, then that candidate will be considered endorsed by the County Chairs within the multi-county district. If a candidate does not receive at least a plurality of the total voting members during voting, then there will be no endorsement by the County Chairs within the multi-county district.
- A certification of the final vote will be signed and approved by the Board Member or Senior Chair.
- The Board Member or Senior Chair will then inform the President and Director of the outcome of the endorsement vote. The Board Member or Senior Chair may ask the President to add the endorsement consideration of the endorsed multi-county district candidate to the agenda of the next scheduled General Membership Meeting.
- If an endorsement consideration of the IDCCA of an endorsed multi-county district candidate is added to the agenda of the next scheduled General Membership Meeting, the endorsement of the County Chairs within the multi-county district is given the strongest consideration.
- If an endorsement consideration of the IDCCA of an endorsed multi-county district candidate is added to the agenda of the next scheduled General Membership Meeting, the Director will add the candidate's credentials to the meeting Chairs Packet.
- If endorsement consideration by the IDCCA of an endorsed multi-county district candidate is added to the agenda of the next scheduled General Membership Meeting, the General Membership will not need to move to Executive Session to vote on the endorsement consideration, unless the President determines it is needed.
- If the endorsed multi-county district candidate is also endorsed by the IDCCA, the President will decide on the best course of action to announce the endorsement to the public.



Appendix A

Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association

Proxy Authorization

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss.
COUNT OF _____)

I, _____ (please print), Chair of the
_____ (please print) County Democratic Party, hereby appoint,
_____ (please print), as my proxy to represent me
at the IDCCA General Membership Meeting scheduled for (Insert Date) at (Insert Time) at
(Insert Location), and to act in my stead, authorizing this person fully to do all things that I could
or might do if personally present.

Specifically, I authorize _____ (please print) to vote my one
(1) vote to do every act whatsoever necessary or proper to be done in or upon all matters that
may lawfully come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Further, I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies previously given by me to any person or persons.

Signature of County Chair

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
BEFORE ME, a notary public, this
_____ day of _____, 2022.

Notary Public



Appendix B

Candidate Information Required Before Endorsement Consideration

Candidates must submit the following credentials to be considered for endorsement by the IDCCA:

- A letter addressed to the President stating their interest to be considered for endorsement and stating the office you are interested in.
- A digital photo of candidate.
- All campaign contact information, including but not limited to:
 - Campaign Manager name, phone, and email.
 - Political Director name, phone, and email.
 - Campaign Headquarters address and phone.
 - Addresses of all campaign offices throughout the state or district.
- Candidate prospectus.
- Outline of their agenda and qualifications for the office.
- A detailed plan on how the candidate plans to work with the IDCCA to get elected.

All information should be emailed or mailed to the IDCCA at:

Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association
Attn: Endorsement Consideration
PO Box 3445
Springfield, IL 62708

or emailed to dan@ildcca.org.



Appendix C

Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association

Endorsement Ballot

County: (Insert County Name)

Chair: (Insert County Chair Name)

Votes (including proxies): _____

Ballot _____ (Initialed/Counted by IDCCA Executive Director)

Candidate A _____

Candidate B _____

Candidate C _____

Candidate D _____

No Endorsement _____



Appendix D

Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association

Endorsement Vote Certification

I, (Insert Name), President of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association and I, (Insert Name), Secretary of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association do hereby certify the final vote total for the endorsement vote for the office of (Insert Office). This vote was held on (Insert Date) at (Insert Time) at (Insert Location).

Name	Vote Total	Endorsement
Candidate A	<u>(Insert Final Vote)</u>	_____
Candidate B	<u>(Insert Final Vote)</u>	_____
Candidate C	<u>(Insert Final Vote)</u>	_____
Candidate D	<u>(Insert Final Vote)</u>	_____

_____ No candidate could obtain 51% of the total voting members. There will be no endorsement in this race.

Signed

(Insert Name)

IDCCA President

(Insert Name)

IDCCA Secretary



For Immediate Release:

Wednesday November 17, 2021

IDCCA Contact: Dan Kovats, Executive Director

(773) 351-7818 / dan@ildcca.org

DPI Contact: Contact: Jake Lewis

(312) 394-0867 / jlewis@ildems.com

Davis, LaHood Continue Hypocrisy on Infrastructure

Congressmen Tout Program They Just Voted Against

Springfield, IL - Yesterday, Darin LaHood and Rodney Davis released statements [celebrating US DOT RAISE grant awards](#) for Central Illinois just one day after President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal that would expand the RAISE program, a bill both LaHood and Davis voted against. After facing [significant criticism](#) for their opposition to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, it is clear that LaHood and Davis are desperate to cover their tracks and confuse the public about their infrastructure opposition.

Today, Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association Executive Director Dan Kovats and Democratic Party of Illinois Executive Director Abby Witt released the following joint statement:

"The hypocrisy we are consistently subjected to from Darin LaHood and Rodney Davis is exhausting. Neither supported the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, but they continue to tout the need for funding for our roads and bridges. Now we find out that LaHood and Davis are celebrating infrastructure funding programs while simultaneously voting to discontinue the very programs they're celebrating. This is politics at its worst.

"They can't have it both ways, either you support - and vote for - investing in our infrastructure and growing good-paying jobs, or you don't. These Congressmen have made it clear they would rather put politics above people, and the public won't let them get away with this duplicitous behavior."

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program was originally [created under the Obama Administration](#). Section 21202 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan recently passed by Congress and signed into law expands the RAISE program into the newly-named Local and Regional Project Assistance program and invests \$7.5 billion into these important investments in our infrastructure. [Both LaHood and Davis voted against the recently signed-into-law bipartisan infrastructure bill](#), opposing the expansion of RAISE grants and the future investment into local infrastructure.

###

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:
Tuesday January 4, 2022

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

Mary Miller: One Year Later

Springfield, IL - On the eve of the one-year anniversary of [Mary Miller's infamous quotation of Adolf Hitler](#) and her [vote not to certify electoral college votes](#) - one of the main drivers of the January 6 insurrection – President Kristina Zahorik of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association released the following statement:

“A year ago Mary Miller quoted Adolf Hitler to make a political point, and later [could not even unequivocally apologize](#) after being repudiated by both Republicans and Democrats for it. A day later, she acquiesced to the demands of the insurrectionists who attacked police and the U.S. Capital, and voted against certifying electoral college votes lawfully electing President Joe Biden.”

“While the news cycles may be shorter, our memories must remain long – Mary Miller is unfit to serve in Congress.”

###

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For Immediate Release:
Thursday January 6, 2022

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

January 6: One Year Later, Support for Political Violence Is Up
Will Illinois Republicans do their part to condemn support of political violence?

Springfield, IL - On the one-year anniversary of the insurrection at our nation's capital and the fact recent [polling is showing an increase in Americans saying political violence can be justified](#), President Kristina Zahorik of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association released the following statement:

“We cannot forget the death and destruction caused by the Pro-Trump insurrectionists on January 6, 2021, and as Americans we all have a responsibility to speak out against what happened that day, as well as condemn the type of political violence January 6 has inspired. As President Biden said this morning, “You can’t love your country only when you win. You can’t obey the law only when it is convenient. You can’t be patriotic when you embrace and enable lies.””

“Illinoisans should not forget Representatives Mary Miller and Mike Bost bowed to the demands of insurrectionists when they [voted against counting electoral college votes](#). Nor should we forget Representative Darin LaHood [would not support a bi-partisan commission to even investigate the insurrection](#).”

“I hope all Illinois Republicans, including Mary Miller, Mike Bost, and Darin LaHood, show that they love their country even though their candidate lost, that they support and believe in the rule of law by denouncing the Big Lie, and will be patriotic by publicly condemning the type of political violence we witnessed January 6, including telling their supporters political violence of any type is never justified in America.”

###

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