

**Libertarian Party of Illinois
Political Division Report
Reporting Period: February 2023**

Divisional changes and vacancies

- **POLITICAL:** Deputy Director (one in consideration), Candidate Recruitment Director, Deputy Candidate Recruitment Director, Legislative Director
- **POLITICAL/FIELD OPS INTER-DIVISIONAL:** Precincts Director

Divisional communications

I'm still trying to catch up since being reappointed, with my current focus being on the upcoming consolidated election cycle – next week's (Tuesday, February 28) consolidated primary for races that have an overabundance of candidates forcing such an election and the Tuesday, April 4 consolidated general election.

I appeared at a legislative town hall February 6 in Shelbyville, held by my newest representation in Springfield, state Rep. Brad Halbrook (R-Shelbyville) and state Sen. Steve McClure (R-Springfield).

One of the questions that was brought up during the Q-and-A segment was about the dismal 43% voter turnout that was in Shelby County in 2022. While Halbrook and McClure surely couldn't come up with any answers, I took the time to explain that the issue with voter turnout lies with political races that are run uncontested. If I recall correctly, 60% of all political races at all levels were uncontested in 2022, one of which was Halbrook's race.

In comparison, here are the voter turnout rates in all its neighboring counties in 2022:

CHRISTIAN	59.57% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Schluter/Phillips 3.44%
COLES	57.25% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Schluter/Phillips 2.54%
CUMBERLAND	64.06% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Dan Robin 2.42%
DOUGLAS	56.69% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Schluter/Phillips 2.75%
EFFINGHAM	UNKNOWN	Best Libertarian Result: Dan Robin 2.03%
FAYETTE	61.44% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Dan Robin 2.49%
MACON	49.84% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Schluter/Phillips 2.67%
MONTGOMERY	67.56% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Dan Robin 5.29%
MOULTRIE	62.44% VT	Best Libertarian Result: Schluter/Phillips 2.55%

I shared this data with the audience and sent it to Halbrook and McClure after the town hall. Voters are more likely to show up to vote when there is more than just one choice (or even two equally rotten choices) on the ballot.

We've struck on that truth with every single election cycle since 2016 – with voter support for Gary Johnson establishing McLean County in 2016, Mike Leheney establishing Kankakee County in 2018, our local efforts deriving from our 2020 ballot access lawsuit that established Cook, DeWitt, McHenry, Peoria, and Tazewell counties, and last fall, Dan Robin in Montgomery County.

All this data that was presented ultimately led to my question: “Would you support any legislation that truly creates fair and equal elections, where regardless of party affiliation, all candidates submit the same number of signatures to be on the ballot?”

Neither were aware of any such bill for such reforms in this General Assembly. Upon looking through the Illinois House docket, I have yet to see any. I have not looked on the Senate end yet.

ELECTED OFFICIALS DELETIONS: The following names need to be deleted from the Elected Officials page on our website:

Jasen Howard: He left the state for a new job and resigned from his position shortly after earning his re-election in 2021.

John Prentice: He didn’t win his bid for Village President in 2021, so I was just confused why it was still there.

Appendix Schedule – February 2023 Report

Legislation To Follow
Local Candidates – 2023 Consolidated Election
Candidate Recruitment through 2025

Appendix A
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Appendix A
Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Legislative Report
Reporting Period: February 2023
LEGISLATION TO FOLLOW

[HB2716](#) Ranked Choice Voting Nabeela Syed (D-Palatine)
Provides that members of the General Assembly and the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, and Treasurer shall be elected by ranked choice voting.

NOTES: We have previously supported efforts in the General Assembly regarding our elections enacting a system of ranked choice voting. The fact that a 23-or-24-year old freshman legislator from the north suburbs of Chicago has presented this legislation this go-around should hopefully say something. It's an effort that Republicans loathe, and something that we (as well as independents and other third parties) agree with Democrats on.

This could be something our Cook County affiliates can work with Rep. Syed and potential co-sponsors on. It should also be equally of importance that our other counties – especially the other seven established counties – to reach out to their legislators to support this bill.

Contact info for Rep. Syed:

Palatine Office: (773) 916-6553
info@repsyed.com

Springfield Office: (217) 782-3696

ANALYSIS: SUPPORT

[HB2893](#) Exemptions/Corporation Act of 1983 Jenn Douglass (D-Westmont)

Amends the Business Corporation Act of 1983. Provides that a business with an average employee head count of 49 or fewer employees is exempt from the taxes imposed under the Act.

NOTES: I can't help but be shocked that a Democrat is introducing such a bill. We all know that taxation is bad enough as it is, not to mention if you're working for a small business and having to pay even more in corporate taxes. The fact that small business with 49 or fewer employees are exempt from corporate taxes is a good thing.

However, I would likely read further in the text before making an informed decision on this legislation. She is also a freshman legislator.

Contact info for Rep. Douglass:

Westmont Office: (630) 413-1080
Office.RepJLD@gmail.com

Springfield Office: (217) 782-1448

ANALYSIS: MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

[HB2975](#)

Political Contribution Limits

C.D. Davidsmeyer (R-Jacksonville)

Amends the Election Code. Removes a provision that the State Board of Elections shall adjust the amounts of the contribution limits for inflation.

NOTES: According to the language of the bill, it would remove the rights of the State Board of Elections to adjust campaign contribution limits based on inflation. In the previous election cycles, SBE [set these limits](#) for the 2021 and 2022 election cycles. It would also reduce the individual limit from \$6,000 to \$5,000, plus additional reductions across the board.

I honestly cannot see this as a good thing because with a party as small as ours, we could use every penny we can get, especially as ballot access continues to be more costly cycle over cycle.

I cannot, in good conscience, support this bill. Not just because of the reduced limits, but also the restrictions it would place in the fundraising efforts of our Executive Director, Justin Tucker with said reduced amounts.

Contact info for Rep. Davidsmeyer:

Jacksonville Office: (217) 243-6221

davidsmeyer@ilhousegop.org

Springfield Office: (217) 782-1840

ANALYSIS: OPPOSE

[HB3221](#)

Electronic Petition Signatures

Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago)

NOTES: Haven't read much into the bill, but I will evaluate it further for a further update in March. However, should this mean that, if passed, we could do just like we did in 2020, this could be a good thing for us. Don't want to celebrate too soon if that is the case. More next month.

Contact info for Rep. Cassidy:

Chicago Office: (773) 784-2002

repcassidy@gmail.com

Springfield Office: (217) 782-8088

ANALYSIS: MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

[SB0315](#)

Ranked Choice Voting

Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines)

NOTES: Senate companion bill to [HB2716](#).

Contact info for Sen. Murphy:

Des Plaines Office: (847) 718-1110

Springfield Office: (217) 782-3875

SB1391 TIF/Development Project Gillespie/Edly-Allen/Turner/Peters/Villivalam
Amends the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act in the Illinois Municipal Code. Modifies factors used by a municipality to determine if an area is a blighted area or a conservation area to be included in the area of a redevelopment project area when establishing the area. Provides that a new redevelopment project area shall have a completion date no later than December 31st of the 20th year after the ordinance was adopted (rather than the 23rd year), and provides that the redevelopment project area may be extended, with the approval of each member of the joint review board, only 2 additional years (rather than extended to the 35th year and extended again to the 47th year). Provides that a municipality may not approve redevelopment project areas or expansions of redevelopment project areas that overlap with an existing redevelopment project area. Provides that 10% of moneys deposited into the special tax allocation fund shall be transferred to the local chamber of commerce or chambers of commerce representing the redevelopment project area for the chamber or chambers of commerce to use for grants to businesses that employ fewer than 50 full-time employees if the business moves within the redevelopment project area. Provides that moneys transferred to a chamber of commerce not used or pledged within one year of transfer of the moneys shall be returned to the municipality and are designated surplus funds of the redevelopment project area. Adds nonvoting members to joint review boards. Provides that, if a school district or community college district does not approve of the creation of a redevelopment project area, then the portion of the taxes attributable to the increase in the current equalized assessed valuation which would be payable to the nonconsenting district shall be paid to that district. Effective immediately.

NOTES: Referred to me by Treasurer Russ Clark. The bill would allow for a TIF district classification so large, it would force taxpayers in the state of Illinois to pay for a new stadium in Arlington Heights for the Chicago Bears, while the McCaskeys, who own the Bears, barely contributes a single red cent while expressing their wishes to leave Soldier Field, currently considered the smallest stadium in the National Football League.

Even after the Bears leave for Arlington Heights, the departure would likely force the Chicago Park District to pursue longer-term deals with Major League Soccer's Chicago Fire, which has played at the stadium from 1998 to 2005 and since 2020. That may also push for more individuals to pursue a second professional football team in the near future, whether it be the return of Arena Football in 2024, or any instance in the near future where expansion plans may be a factor in the XFL or the USFL.

Overall, the relocation will hurt the overall Chicago economy, both in the short-term and long-term. Meanwhile, taxpayers will be forced to pay the costs of a new stadium 30 minutes away in the suburb of Arlington Heights.

There was a similar plan in 2015 where the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area, which includes 14 counties in south central and southwest Illinois (including the Metro-East) would have been on the hook with a new stadium to replace the stadium formerly known as the Edward Jones Dome (now The Dome at America's Center) at the cost of \$24 billion. Taxpayers didn't go for it on both sides of the river, and the Rams and owner Stan Kroenke

took the Lombardi Trophy that the Rams won in St. Louis at Super Bowl XXXIV under coach Dick Vermeil and quarterback Kurt Warner and left for a return to Los Angeles. Look how well that went: taxpayers paid an extravagant cost for SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, a shared venue with the Los Angeles Chargers.

Yes, the notes on this bill is a bit long-winded, but not only does this aggravate me as a sports fan (by the way – screw the Rams, go Battlehawks!), but it angers me as a taxpayer in this state. The bill is vaguely worded at best. Does this TIF district only impact Arlington Heights and surrounding suburbs? Or is it so vaguely worded that at some point, even taxpayers in downstate Illinois will be forced to pay the costs?

Regardless, it should be opposed in any capacity.

There are too many people to give contact information for, but I do know that four of them are from the Chicagoland region, while Doris Turner is from Springfield.

ANALYSIS: STRONGLY OPPOSE

There are two additional Senate bills I am looking into as it relates to freelance workers/independent contractors. Those bills are [SB2041](#) and [SB2279](#). I have not gone through those bills in detail, but I will have more next month.

Appendix B
Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Candidate Recruitment Report
Reporting Period: February 2023
LOCAL CANDIDATES (UPDATED)

These are the latest candidates that I currently have from the Facebook post in our official group for the 2023 consolidated election cycle, both for the February 28 primary and April 4 general. If there are additional candidates, please let me know.

LOCAL CANDIDATES

Christian

Pana City Clerk: John Broux

Cook

Harvey City Treasurer: Aisha Pickett (re-election)

Chicago Police Council District 14: Chris Laurent

Chicago Police Council District 14: Justin Tucker (write-in)

Grundy

Nettle Creek Board of Education: Brett Ryan

Madison

Hamel Village President: Justin Gerstner

McLean

Normal Town Trustee: Karl Sila

Montgomery

Nokomis City Commissioner: Jake Leonard

Peoria

Peoria Heights Village Trustee: Brandon Wisenburg (re-election)

Appendix C
Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Candidate Recruitment Report
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POLITICAL TIMELINE THROUGH 2025

Candidate Recruitment and the Political Division reports the following regarding candidate status in future election cycles:

2024 GENERAL:

- I will communicate soon with the following about running in 2024 for the following positions:

CONGRESSIONAL

Cicinelli, Chris	Oak Park
Cochran, Andrew	Chicago
McDulin, Maxwell	Chicago
Powell, Tracy	Chicago
Seiler, Lucas	Chicago

ILLINOIS SENATE

Rowe, Phil	Des Plaines	Senate District 28?
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ILLINOIS HOUSE

Bailey, Marcelis	Chicago	House District 25?
Mathews, John	Berkeley	House District 7?
Wardman, William	Chicago	House District 19?

2025 CONSOLIDATED:

- ***Jacob Loyd*** wanted to run for mayor of Herrin in 2021, but wasn't even allowed to pick up candidate paperwork. Next race, barring a 2023 special election, will be in 2025. First contact 11/10/2020. Last contact 01/20/2021.

Submitted respectfully at 11:31 p.m. CST on this 20th day of February 2023 by the officers of the Political Division of the Libertarian Party of Illinois.

Jake Leonard, Political Director

Bill Redpath, Ballot Access Director

Jon King, Campaigns Director