Libertarian Party of Illinois

Political Division Report

Reporting Period: March 2023

**Divisional changes and vacancies**

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

**Divisional communications**

The past month has been rather slow, with very few recruitment emails coming in from National. The only candidate recruitment emails I received from National over the past month were:

**Brett Ryan** – Nettle Creek Board of Education (already had on candidate list)

**Amy Benkert** – Interested in running for office in 2024. Provided information about potential races. Lives in McHenry County. Forwarded copy of email to McHenry County Libertarians for further consideration leading up to the 2024 Libertarian Primary in the county.

Congratulations to Christopher Laurent in winning his bid for the Chicago Police Council of the 14th District. Justin Tucker received 41 votes in his write-in campaign for the third seat in the 14th District. I’m not 100% on when that term begins, but we should prepare to get him listed on the Elected Officials page soon.

Albert Abney and Angelette Taylor were both on the ballot in a six-way race for Harvey alderperson in the Second Ward. Abney received 31 votes, finishing fourth, while Taylor earned 16 votes, finishing sixth. I didn’t know about either of their campaigns until they were completed.

Also, in Harvey, current city treasurer Aisha Pickett is seeking re-election on April 4 against David Clay II.

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

**Jacob Collins**: He drew a two-year term when he was elected in 2020. According to the Kankakee County Clerk, Collins never filed for election in his district after county board redistricting in 2022.

**Appendix Schedule – February 2023 Report**

Legislation To Follow Appendix A

Local Candidates – 2023 Consolidated Election Appendix B

Candidate Recruitment through 2025 Appendix C

Action Items For The Political Division Appendix D

Appendix A

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Legislative Report

Reporting Period: March 2023

LEGISLATION TO FOLLOW

[HB2716](https://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2716&GAID=17&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=147839&SessionID=112&GA=103) 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 Springfield Office: (217) 782-3696
info@repsyed.com

ANALYSIS: SUPPORT

[HB2893](https://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2893&GAID=17&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=148035&SessionID=112&GA=103) 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 Springfield Office: (217) 782-1448
Office.RepJLD@gmail.com

ANALYSIS: MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

[HB2975](https://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2975&GAID=17&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=148122&SessionID=112&GA=103) 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](https://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/campaigndisclosure/pdf/contributionsummary.pdf) 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 Springfield Office: (217) 782-1840
davidsmeyer@ilhousegop.org

ANALYSIS: OPPOSE

[HB3221](https://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=3221&GAID=17&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=148377&SessionID=112&GA=103) 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 Springfield Office: (217) 782-8088
repcassidy@gmail.com

ANALYSIS: MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

[SB0315](https://ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=0315&GAID=17&GA=103&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=144021&SessionID=112) Ranked Choice Voting Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines)

**NOTES**: Senate companion bill to [HB2716](https://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2716&GAID=17&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=147839&SessionID=112&GA=103).

**Contact info for Sen. Murphy**:
Des Plaines Office: (847) 718-1110 Springfield Office: (217) 782-3875

[SB1391](https://ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1391&GAID=17&GA=103&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=145723&SessionID=112) 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 employee 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-team 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*](https://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2041&GAID=17&DocTypeID=SB&LegId=146912&SessionID=112&GA=103) *and* [*SB2279*](https://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2279&GAID=17&DocTypeID=SB&LegId=147168&SessionID=112&GA=103)*. 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: March 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 – ***ELECTED***

**Chicago Police Council District 14**: Justin Tucker (write-in) – ***NOT ELECTED***

*Grundy*

**Nettle Creek Board of Education:** Brett Ryan

**Mazon/Verona/Kinsman Board of Education**: Jenae Wise

*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

Reporting Period: March 2023

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

**TBD**Amy Benkert Johnsburg

**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.

Appendix D

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Action Items

Reporting Period: March 2023

POLITICAL TIMELINE THROUGH 2025

1. Motion to appoint Jim Humay as Deputy Political Director for the Chicago/Cook and DuPage Counties region

**RATIONALE**: It is no secret that I've had difficulty getting volunteers since then-Chair Bennett Morris appointed me to the role in an interim capacity in early November 2019 before the Board of Directors unanimously approved my official appointment a couple of weeks later. I lost the majority of the division during the transition, losing pretty much everyone with the exception of Kevin Kauzlaric at the time, as Kevin and I were essentially running the division without the active presence of a divisional director for roughly 18 months.

Then, for understandable reasons, Kevin had to step down. For the majority of my first tenure as Political Director, the Division was pretty much run by Campaigns Director Jon King (at least for part of it) and Ballot Access Director Bill Redpath outside of myself.

The fact that Jim reached out to me on February 20 meant something. This is the third time in both of my tenures as PD combined that someone has actually reached out to me about helping out in the division (including the short time that I had Bennett as Legislative Director, which was definitely appreciated at the time).

I need to make up for lost time in the Division and having a Deputy Director will help ensure that I can finish some unfinished business that will better equip our candidates moving forward, not only local but also statewide. We have eight established counties going into the 2024 election cycle, four of which we would really need to retain our status in this cycle due to not running countywide candidates in those counties in 2022. We also have Congressional races exclusively within Cook County, as well as General Assembly races where districts are exclusively within Cook and Peoria counties to focus on, on top of our lone statewide ballot campaign for the presidential race.

Secretary Ken Mattes and Executive Director Justin Tucker both reached out to me, supporting Humay’s appointment. During my conversation with Tucker, I made an error equating his support with concern while explaining what occurred at a recent Libertarian Party of Chicago meeting, which I should have never considered in my initial withdrawal of the motion. Having spoken to several individuals following my withdrawal, I have realized that it was an unwise, ill-informed, and rash decision not knowing the full story on something that was truly none of my business.

I made some misassumptions that led to the initial motion withdrawal about Humay’s “putting caucus over party”, what that apparently, per my misunderstanding of what Justin said, wasn’t the case at all.

However, in further evaluation of those actions, I chose to enact what I lined out in the 2022 Political Division Officers Guide which allowed for Deputy Directors and Candidate Recruitment Directors to be divided by region. Jim’s talent would be best in use within Chicago, Cook County, and a neighboring county that we need to work hard to establish party status in: DuPage County. (The other remaining county that is needed to ensure ballot access for the Chicago Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is Will County, which is part of the Outer Chicagoland region.)

The last thing I need is to burden someone with overloading someone with work that might be too much for them. Chicago and Cook County (and eventually DuPage County) is a large enough leviathan to tackle, moreorless trying to tackle the political actions of the Libertarian Party of Illinois.

Hopefully, with the duties split up by region, this should help the division as appropriate for their own region.

*Submitted respectfully at 3:20 p.m. CDT on this 18th day of March 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