Libertarian Party of Illinois

Political Division Report

Reporting Period: April 2023

**Divisional changes**

**POLITICAL:** Jim Humay appointed as Regional Deputy Director for Chicago/Cook & DuPage Counties effective as of the end of the March 2023 meeting.

**Divisional vacancies**

**POLITICAL**: Regional Deputy Director

* Outer Chicagoland (8 counties)
  + DeKalb, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will
* Stateline (4 counties total)
  + Boone, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago
* Northwestern Illinois (8 counties)
  + Bureau, Carroll, Henry, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam, Whiteside
* Quad Cities (2 counties)
  + Rock Island, Mercer
* West Central (12 counties)
  + R1: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, Warren
  + R2: Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Pike, Schuyler, Scott
* North Central (8 counties)
  + Iroquois, Livingston, Marshall, McLean, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford
* Capital (6 counties)
  + Logan, Macon, Mason, Morgan, Menard, Sangamon
* East Central (9 counties)
  + Champaign, Coles, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Moultrie, Piatt, Vermilion
* South Central (7 counties)
  + Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Shelby
* Metro-East (3 counties)
  + Madison, Monroe, St. Clair
* South Central (6 counties)
  + Bond, Clay, Clinton, Effingham, Fayette, Marion
* Southeastern (6 counties)
  + Clark, Crawford, Cumberland, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland
* Southern Illinois (21 counties)
  + R1: Jackson, Perry, Randolph, Washington
  + R2: Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Wayne
  + R3: Edwards, Gallatin, Wabash, White
  + R4: Hardin, Massac, Pope, Saline
  + R5: Alexander, Johnson, Pulaski, Union, Williamson

**POLITICAL/FIELD OPS INTER-DIVISIONAL**: Precincts Director

**Divisional communications**

The Division has been relatively dormant for the past month while awaiting the results of the April consolidated election.

Congratulations to Brandon Wisenburg and Aisha Pickett in their successful re-election bids in their respective races for Peoria Heights village trustee and Harvey City Treasurer. Their new terms will begin in May and will run through May 2027.

Additional congratulations are in order to Justin Gerstner (village president-elect in Hamel) and Patrick Liapes (Poplar Creek Library Board trustee-elect). Gerstner’s four-year term will begin in May and will run through May 2027. Meanwhile, Liapes’ unexpired two-year term will begin in May and will run through May 2025. (We hopefully look forward to Patrick running for a full six-year term in 2025.)

Thank you to everyone else, including myself, who stepped up to run in this election cycle. Between all candidates, we collectively earned 7,173 votes (based on pre-certified returns) in the April consolidated election, one of our best consolidated election performances to date. It resulted in four wins on the night and five wins overall in the 2023 consolidated election cycle.

There were two contested races in this election cycle that will again be contested in 2025, and I encourage Patrick Liapes (who won) and John Broux (who lost by a very thin margin) to make runs for full terms then. At that time, the elected positions currently held by Jonathan Russell (Harrisburg CUSD #3 Board of Education) and Kelly Liebmann (Greenwood Township Trustee) will also be up for election.

Next in the Political Division’s docket:

* To establish a master election strategy for the 2024 election cycle, which will include a heavy-handed strategy for local races since the presidential race is the only statewide-contested race in 2024.
* Preparations for petitioning in the eight established counties in their respective Libertarian primaries in 2024. We should make a serious effort to keep DeWitt and Kankakee counties established after no candidates ran in 2022.
* Preparations for a likely legal battle should the Cook County Clerk and the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners try to blockade any attempt of Libertarians using their established party status in Cook County to run for any Congressional and General Assembly seats whose districts are exclusively within the borders of the county. Libertarians have been established in Cook County since 2020 and we should be able to utilize our established party status for Congressional and General Assembly districts as long as they’re exclusively within the county’s borders. I do not intend to let the duopoly tamper with and retool our major party status in Cook County without a fight. We fought on behalf of our Board of Commissioners candidates in 2022, and we should do the same for anyone wishing to run for Congress or the General Assembly.

**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. As of April 18, 2022, he is still listed on the Elected Officials page despite no longer being an elected official.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ADDITIONS**: If I’m not able to make the changes within CiviCRM by April 30, then the following names need to be added to the Elected Officials page:

**Justin Gerstner**: Elected in uncontested race as **Hamel Village President**. Term Start: 2023. Term End: 2027. Election Date: 04/04/2023.

**Patrick Liapes**: Elected in uncontested race for **Poplar Creek Library Board Trustee** which was an unexpired two-year term. Term Start: 2023. Term End: 2025. Election Date: 04/04/2023.

We may likely be additions later, which will include appointments or write-in victories. There are a couple pending, which isn’t limited to the following:

**Jon King**: Previously a Bellmont Village Trustee. May likely be appointed to the board by the mayor-elect. Once confirmation is received, then I will request the addition.

**Jake Leonard**: Ran as an undeclared write-in candidate for Nokomis Township Library Board. Montgomery County Clerk has only reported write-in results for declared candidates, meaning undeclared write-in results won’t be out until April 25. If it isn’t determined from election returns, then I intend to seek an appointment, then run for an unexpired four-year term in 2025 for that particular seat.

If you are appointed to an elected position, please let us know so that we can include you on the website.

**Appendix Schedule – April 2023 Report**

Legislation To Follow Appendix A

Local Candidates – 2023 Consolidated Election Summary Appendix B

Candidate Recruitment through 2025 Appendix C

Appendix A

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Legislative Report

Reporting Period: April 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 Rep. Syed**: Palatine: (773) 916-6553 Springfield: (217) 782-3696  
[info@repsyed.com](mailto:info@repsyed.com)

ANALYSIS: SUPPORT

[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 Rep. Davidsmeyer**: Jacksonville: (217) 243-6221 Springfield: (217) 782-1840  
[davidsmeyer@ilhousegop.org](mailto: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 Rep. Cassidy**: Chicago: (773) 784-2002 Springfield: (217) 782-8088  
[repcassidy@gmail.com](mailto: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 Sen. Murphy**: Des Plaines: (847) 718-1110 Springfield: (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

Appendix B

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Election Summary

Reporting Period: April 2023

LOCAL CANDIDATES (UPDATED)

These are the latest uncertified results from the entire 2023 consolidated election cycle, both for the February 28 primary and April 4 general.

**LOCAL CANDIDATES**

*Christian*

**Pana City Clerk (2-year unexpired):** John Broux – ***NOT ELECTED***

*Cook*

**Harvey City Treasurer:** Aisha Pickett (re-election) – ***ELECTED***

**Chicago Police Council District 14**: Chris Laurent – ***ELECTED***

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

**Poplar Creek Library Board (2-year unexpired)**: Patrick Liapes – ***ELECTED***

*Grundy*

**Nettle Creek Board of Education:** Brett Ryan – ***NOT ELECTED***

**Mazon/Verona/Kinsman Board of Education**: Jenae Wise – ***NOT ELECTED***

*Madison*

**Hamel Village President:** Justin Gerstner – ***ELECTED***

*McLean*

**Normal Town Trustee:** Karl Sila – ***NOT ELECTED***

*Montgomery*

**Nokomis City Commissioner:** Jake Leonard – ***NOT ELECTED***

*Peoria*

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

Appendix C

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Candidate Recruitment Report

Reporting Period: April 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

I will be forwarding Chicago/Cook and DuPage area potential candidates to Regional Deputy Director Jim Humay to make contact.

**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 will be in 2025. First contact 11/10/2020. Last contact 01/20/2021. Planning to reach out later this year.

*Submitted respectfully at 10:40 p.m. CDT on this 18th day of April 2023 by the officers of the Political Division of the Libertarian Party of Illinois.*Jake Leonard, Political Director

Bill Redpath, LPIL Chairman and Ballot Access Director

Jon King, Campaigns Director