Libertarian Party of Illinois

Political Division Report

Special Report on Candidate Recruitment

May 17, 2023

I have been working on assembling an updated list of candidates for the next three years, as the current listing might be a little dated. The updated list of candidates comes from previous Political Division reports from January and April 2022, the April 2023 report and from backed-up email archives.

**CONGRESSIONAL – 2024**

While we have established party status in Cook County, we could face Democratic objections relating to Congressional districts that are exclusively within Cook County’s boundaries.

The following need follow-up communications due to prior interest in 2022:

**CHICAGO**:

Cochran, Andrew McDulin, Maxwell Powell, Tracy Seiler, Lucas

**OAK PARK**: Cicinelli, Chris

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 2024**

We should prepare for potential Democratic opposition in two of the counties we have established status in: Cook County and Peoria County. There are many districts exclusively within Cook County boundaries, as well as two House districts in Peoria County.

With the likeliness that we will not petition for POTUS, we should prepare for people to step up for lesser offices.

***ILLINOIS SENATE***

The following are interested in Illinois Senate races in 2024 or need a follow-up from prior interest in 2022:

**DES PLAINES**: Rowe, Phil

**POSEN**: Perez, Phillip

**STREAMWOOD**: Garcia, Aris

**TAYLORVILLE**: Ryan, Curtis

***ILLINOIS HOUSE***

**BERKELEY:** Mathews, John

**CHICAGO**: Bailey, Marcelis Wardman, William

**COUNTYWIDE / COUNTY BOARD – 2024**

In 2024, our eight established counties will be able to hold their respective local primaries on March 19, 2024.

McLean County will mark its fourth election cycle as an established county after becoming established in 2016 by the Gary Johnson presidential campaign. It’s of utmost importance to extend that status to 2028. I do not currently know of any potential candidates in the county as this time, but it will soon be known once petitioning begins in late summer/early fall.

Kankakee County marks its third election cycle as an established county after becoming established in 2018 by through the state treasurer campaign of then-K3 resident Mike Leheney. After having relatively successful voter returns in 2020, outside of a lone county board candidate, no one stepped up to run for available countywide positions in 2022. This is a **MUST RETAIN** county, because with no candidate on the ballot in 2024, we will lose our status at the end of the 2024 election cycle. Retaining would once again extend its status, this time to 2028.

Additional **MUST RETAIN** counties include DeWitt, McHenry, Peoria, and Tazewell due to running no countywide candidates in 2022. Retaining in 2024 would extend recognized status to 2028. I heard rumblings of one or two candidates considering running in McHenry County for countywide office, so that is a start. I am certainly not opposed to paper candidacies, if it means retaining our status in the above five counties.

Cook County is in strong shape, thanks to a strong showing in 2022 led by County Assessor candidate Nico Tsatsoulis, who earned just over one out every five votes against Democratic incumbent Fritz Kaegi (23.02%). 2024 will mark the second election cycle in the highest-populated county in the state, following our landmark election cycle in 2020 following our ballot access lawsuit *Libertarian Party of Illinois v. Pritzker* alongside the Illinois Green Party and select independent candidates. Cook, along with DeWitt, McHenry, Peoria, and Tazewell counties, became established in the same cycle due to being able to petition for local elections.

Outside of the usual races that will be contested, there will be a special election for the remaining two-year term for Cook County Commissioner in District 1, a race that Jim Humay earned nearly 8% against Brandon Johnson. Johnson will be vacating his seat this month due to being sworn in as the mayor of Chicago.

Montgomery County is the newest established county and will be holding its inaugural primary in 2024. The county became established because of the 2022 attorney general race and nominee Dan Robin.

**ESTABLISHING COLLAR COUNTIES & POTENTIAL CANDIDATES**

Outside of these established counties, we should plan to assist countywide candidates where we can in the collar counties surrounding each established county. With readily available volunteers, it shouldn’t be too much of a task to get a Libertarian on the ballot in any surrounding non-established counties:

**COOK**: DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will

No known candidates

**DEWITT**: Logan, Macon, Piatt

No known candidates

**KANKAKEE**: Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Livingston, Will

No known candidates

**MCHENRY**: Boone, DeKalb, Kane, Lake

No known candidates

**MCLEAN**: Champaign, Ford, Livingston, Logan, Piatt, Woodford

No known candidates

**MONTGOMERY**: Bond, Christian, Fayette, Macoupin, Sangamon, Shelby

One of the candidates for State Senate, Curtis Ryan, is considering running for either Circuit Clerk or Coroner in Christian County. This was among the options that the Political Division discussed with him and may be a better attractive option for his campaign intentions in 2024. Both positions are held by Democrats and have not been contested in the past three election cycles where the offices were on the ballot.

**PEORIA**: Fulton, Knox, Marshall, Stark

No known candidates

**TAZEWELL**: Logan, Mason, Woodford

No known candidates

**TBD – 2024**

There are always stragglers that despite receiving all the information and advice the Political Division has to offer, potential candidates either never continue communications or never follow through with their intended campaign.

Rather than just letting them fall off the radar, I only consider it appropriate to reach out to these individuals. This full list includes all individuals who sought to run from office between 2018 and 2023. It includes prior communications from when I worked in Candidate Recruitment under Scott Schluter and Kyle Symons:

Abernatha, Wesley Alton Abour, Mo Chicago

Adams, Dayton Mount Vernon Adler, Vincent Marion

Barbino, Elizabeth Naperville Benkert, Amy Johnsburg

Bertini, Matthew Naperville Boswell, Jonathan Marissa

Brands, Cody Findlay Calderon, Bryan Waukegan

Cordova, Ruben O’Fallon Crane, Andrew Wauconda

Donovan, Alexander Rockford Floyd, Nathan Alton

Franzgrote, Scott Island Lake French, David Quincy

Gomez, Marco Chicago Hase, Cheryl Manteno

Heiston, Brian Earlville Hilst, David Chatham

Janda, Erin Grayslake James, Jonathan Rockford

Kernagis, Anthony Countryside Loyd, Jacob Herrin

Marqua, Tim Rockford McDonnel Hilligoss, Karen Montgomery

Miocic, Jure Plainfield Nee, Matt Crete

Nevsimal, James Crystal Lake Perez, Marco Chicago

Pippin, Justin Normal Pruitt, David Chicago

Ramsden, William Chicago Roden, Brian Bloomingdale

Root, Brian Wheaton Rutledge, Ed Lemont

Schrad, Brett Sadorus Shaffer, K. Eric Dunlap

Smith, Brandon Taylorville Smith, Joseph Edwardsville

Stansfield, Jason Jacksonville Stevens, Fletcher Tuscola

Sturm, Dylan Rock Island Sturtevant, Skylar Mach. Park

Sutton, Nicholas Alton Theisen, Eric Harvard

Valentino, Anthony Davis Junction Warren, Logan Rock Falls

Watkins, Christopher Granite City Watkins, Darva Chicago

Wenger, Joey Loves Park Witt, Mike Mason City

Yocum, Aaron Polo

I do not have much information relating to the 2025 consolidated or 2026 general election cycles. The only candidate I have on my radar for 2025 is Jacob Loyd, who was considering running for mayor in Herrin. He’s specified in the TBD list for 2024 in case he decides to run for something next year.

I hope this is a more informative and more descriptive report relating to candidates and candidate recruitment.

**Jake Leonard**

**Political Director, Libertarian Party of Illinois**