Libertarian Party of Illinois

Political Division Report

Reporting Period: June 2023

**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**: Candidate Recruitment Director, Deputy Candidate Recruitment Director

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

**Divisional communications**

*No candidate recruitment inquiries from National lately*

Candidate recruitment inquiries from National have pretty much grounded to a halt since the full April report. I don’t know if that’s issues with National’s side of things, or it’s the ongoing issue surrounding CiviCRM.

*Housekeeping regarding Elected Officials page*

Speaking of CiviCRM, I was somehow able to get Justin Gerstner listed on the Elected Officials page. Simultaneously, while I don’t know how, but I was able to get Jacob Collins removed from the list, as he didn’t run for office in 2022.

However, I was not near as successful in getting Patrick Liapes listed for trustee of the Poplar Creek Library Board. Should the IT Department be able to resolve this, he was elected to an unexpired two-year term set to end in 2025.

With that correction, that would put our elected officials list up to eight.

*Upcoming vacation and limited availability*

I will be out of state between Thursday, June 22 and the early morning hours of Tuesday, June 27 due to a family trip to visit relatives in Texas. I will have a limited capacity in responding to Political Division matters, as I will likely only be available to respond via phone (likely between 8 p.m. Thursday evening and noon on Tuesday).

As some of you know, my biological father passed in a tragic accident early last month, and I’m supposed to hear from the Aransas County Coroner during this trip about his cause of death. My father was cremated shortly after the coroner’s inquest and investigation per my grandmother’s wishes, so one of the things I’ll be doing down there is spreading some of his ashes along the Gulf of Mexico.

*2024 master election strategy*

The drafting of a master election strategy for the Libertarian Party of Illinois in the 2024 election cycle is gradually moving along.

Some Cliff’s Notes about the strategy:

* With the ongoing issues surrounding the LNC, and its spending on frivolous lawsuits against five different state affiliates, including the Libertarian Party of Michigan and the formerly associated Libertarian Party of New Mexico, the Political Division fully expects no ballot access funds to come in. With that likelihood, it is a futile attempt for the Libertarian Party of Illinois to bother petitioning for the lone statewide race in 2024. Not with our currently limited financial resources.
  + However, if the eventual nominee wants to bankroll the entire drive, while utilizing their own volunteers, more power to them. I just hope they realize that it’s going to be as costly, if not more costly, as 2022.
* With the statewide race out of the question, our focus should be on all down-ticket races, including attainable races that we could petition for to contest races that would otherwise go uncontested. This goes from U.S. House all the way down to the county level.
* This fall, we begin petitioning for our eight Libertarian primaries in Cook, DeWitt, Kankakee, McHenry, McLean, Montgomery, Peoria, and Tazewell counties.
  + McLean County marks its fourth consecutive primary, while Kankakee County marks its third.
  + Meanwhile, Cook, DeWitt, McHenry, Peoria, and Tazewell counties are preparing for its second primary.
  + Montgomery County will be preparing for its inaugural primary.
  + Of these counties, DeWitt, Kankakee, McHenry, Peoria, and Tazewell counties are designated as **MUST RETAIN** counties for 2024. We must run candidates, even if they’re paper candidates, to extend the major party status in said counties through 2028.
* Simultaneously, the Political Division would like to work with any chapter that is in any of the collar counties of each established county to run candidates for countywide office.
  + Currently, there is only one known candidate within the collar counties surrounding any of our established counties. Curtis Ryan, who briefly sought the nomination for Governor in 2022 and is considering a State Senate race in 2024, may be seriously considering a countywide race in Christian County, which is a collar county of Montgomery County. That race will likely be for Circuit Clerk or Coroner, both of which are currently held by Democrats.
* In addition, there are several Congressional and General Assembly districts that are exclusively within the borders of not only Cook County, but also Peoria County, that we should consider running candidates in.
* In Cook County, there will be a special election in 2024 for the Cook County Board of Commissioners in District 1, due to Brandon Johnson vacating his seat months after being elected mayor of Chicago. Jim Humay earned nearly 8% against Johnson in 2022, so this should be an opportunity that we should take advantage of in 2024.
* We should also utilize the Moulton Maneuver wherever possible to run candidates in counties where Democrats and/or Republicans would normally go uncontested.

A full report should be available to all by the time petitioning begins for our respective primaries.

*LiberTEA Fest 2023*  
Ralyn Sue Speerly Schraceo contacted me last Wednesday regarding the 2023 edition of LiberTEA Fest.

She told me that this year's event will be in Moline on August 5, but she didn't specify the exact venue.

This year's event will be in partnership with the Illinois Freedom Alliance, of which I know some of our members are active in, with the intent to bolster turnout.

She is encouraging any Libertarian candidate to attend, and I'm sure it wouldn't matter whether it was for countywide, county board/commission, General Assembly, or Congressional.

She can be contacted by calling (217) 492-1163.

She has been asking for Libertarian participants/candidates to attend since 2018. I think 2024 could present our biggest opportunity, especially in the counties that are either heavily Democrat or heavily Republican with rarely contested political races at any level.

*Coalition building for the 2024 election cycle*  
Some people might not like what I'm planning to do, but we've been lacking in coalition building with other third parties. We definitely need to take advantage of the local major party status in the eight counties that we have the status in. We also need to bombard the other 94 counties whenever possible.

I've had some conversations with Mitch Davilo, immediate past Chair/Captain of the Illinois Pirate Party and the current Chair/Captain of the Chicagoland Pirate Party. He is amenable to a coalition to run candidates alongside us on the Libertarian ballot line, and he has a line with the chair of the Transhumanist Party of Illinois.

I know we have a lot in common with both of these parties, and they also are aware of the difficult struggles involved with ballot access for any level of political office above municipal office. I think we could mutually benefit from this coalition, and we'd have more candidates in the pool to actively run for office.

Our biggest target is Cook County, and there's a lot of political offices -- especially General Assembly and Congressional -- that are ripe for the taking. If we can run coalition candidates as Libertarians in the districts where we don't have candidates, it's a win-win for us, and in part, them as well.

I think this could be a serious play that could add several more established counties in 2024. I'm sure that everyone would appreciate if we could establish all of the collar counties surrounding each of our eight established counties.

I had considered involving the Forward Party in this coalition, but I have not attempted to reach out to them.

**Appendix Schedule – June 2023 Report**

Legislation To Follow Appendix A

Special Report on Candidate Recuitment – May 17, 2023 Appendix B

Action Items Leading Up To July 2023 Appendix C

Appendix A

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Legislative Report

Reporting Period: June 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 – Special Report

May 17, 2023  
SPECIAL REPORT ON CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

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**

Appendix C

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Action Items

Reporting Period: June 2023

ACTION ITEMS THROUGH JULY 2023

* Continue draft of 2024 master campaign strategy
* Respond to any incoming candidate recruitment inquiries
* Attempt 20 follow-up on existing CR inquiries about 2024 intentions
* Work on master list of Chicago/Cook/DuPage area candidates for Regional Deputy Director Jim Humay
* Reach out to chapter chairs in DeWitt, Kankakee, McHenry, Peoria, and Tazewell counties about their election plans for 2024 to retain their local ballot access/established party status.
* Any other action items as necessary.

*Submitted respectfully at 12:55 a.m. CDT on this 19th day of June 2023 by the officers of the Political Division of the Libertarian Party of Illinois.*Jake Leonard, Political Director

Jim Humay, Regional Deputy Director – Chicago/Cook and DuPage Counties

Bill Redpath, LPIL Chairman and Ballot Access Director

Jon King, Campaigns Director