Libertarian Party of Illinois

Political Division Report

Reporting Period: July 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**

*Received three recruitment inquiry from National*

I received three candidate inquiries from National since the last meeting.

**Brandon Padget** – seeking Federal office in 2024 – from West Frankfort (6/20/23)

Has been a member of LPIL since 2017 and has had prior interest in running for office

*May speak to him about running for countywide office in Franklin County*

*2020: Circuit Clerk race uncontested, contested races for state’s attorney and coroner*

*Placement in circuit clerk race could establish Franklin County*

*Placement in coroner race could maybe even establish Franklin County*

 *Democrat won coroner race by 518 votes*

*Statewide races:*

*2018 (Jackson/Mohip) 4%*

*2020 (Jorgensen/Cohen, Malouf tie) less than 1%*

*2022 (Schulter/Phillips, Robin, Stewart, Nelson tie) 2%*

**Nicholas Sizemore** – seeking local/county office in 2024 – from Pekin (6/21/23)

Currently not listed as a member of LPIL, no confirmation of National membership either

**Andrew Klingsporn** – seeking local/county office in 2024 – from Wilmette (6/30/23)

Currently not listed as a member of LPIL, has history donating to National

LP Chicago and NW Cook have been made aware of this potential candidate

*Received provisional inquiries for potential candidate interest*

**6/21**: Was forwarded an email from Stephen Harlfinger about running for the Illinois House in the 66th District (Suzanne Ness). I have not responded to it yet, but it does appear that D66 is not in the list of House districts that we can target in established counties. I’ll gather some more information before getting back to Stephen.

**7/15**: ED Justin Tucker forwarded an email from John Daviera about running for office in Kankakee County. I haven’t responded to John yet, but I should make it known that we need candidates for 2024 to keep K3 established. If we can get that part knocked out of the way, then we can focus on his 2025 mayoral election in K3 city proper.

*More candidate interest – thank you for sending the email, Justin!*

On 7/18, ED Justin Tucker sent an email to party members to run for office in 2024 as a Libertarian. Here is a summary of responses as of midnight on July 21:

**Jarrod Weishaar**: Precinct committeeperson. (Potential countywide candidate? McHenry County)

**Matt Cunningham**: Township committeeperson. (Since the office isn’t up again until 2026, ED Tucker appointed his as TC in Lemont Township.)

*His wife, Christine, is considering running for office too. Something to consider for 2025/26.*

**Joseph Monack**: 7th Congressional District. All constituents are within Cook County, but it bleeds 20 feet into DuPage County along a frontage road with no voters on the DuPage side. Technically the only Congressional District whose constituents are completely within Cook County. We should be able to present a good case should Democrats try to challenge.

**Mike Shereck**: Still weighing options for 2024, but potentially pursuing a city council run in Naperville for 2025.

I can only imagine that this is only the beginning of even more responses in the days and weeks to come.

*July 15 political strategy meeting*

Several members of the party met in the LPIL virtual conference room on Saturday, July 15. Those in attendance were Chairman/BAD Bill Redpath, Secretary Ken Mattes, Treasurer Russ Clark, ED Justin Tucker, and Political Director Jake Leonard. VC Matthew Piron was unable to attend to prior commitments.

The meeting was to discuss a general political strategy going into 2024.

One of the items discussed was the volume (or lack thereof) of candidate inquiries coming from National. They have been coming in significantly slower since the new administration came in last year. As a result, since the departure of key figures within National’s political division, emails are coming from them less often, on average 1-3 a month compared to upwards of 7-10 per month prior to the 2022 convention.

ED Tucker’s email that was sent out on 07/18 was proof enough that we should be bringing in candidate inquiries internally. That includes through our own website.

Prior to the integration of CiviCRM, we had these systems in place for potential candidates to email us through our Contact Us page. Sure, the backend to access these messages was atrociously awful, but it was certainly more effective than National forwarding candidate inquiries to the Political Division, especially after Cara Schulz left.

We may have a clearer idea about any potential plans relating to our only statewide race in 2024. Instead of the initial nuclear option of not circulating statewide petitions at all, the options have somewhat expanded to three options (with a potential nuclear fourth option as a backup).

Our three primary options to handle petitioning for the 2024 presidential race – in a CliffsNotes summary – are:

1. Petitioning the LNC for ballot access funds, even though their priority might focus more on New York over Illinois for the second election cycle in a row.
2. The eventual nominee covers the costs of ballot access petitioning. Chase Oliver and Lars Mapstead are the only nominees who have made verbal and/or written commitments to helping state affiliates get them on the ballot, even if it’s on their own dime. No commitments as of 7/21/23 from candidates Jacob Hornberger or Mike ter Maat.
3. Not circulating and filing petitions for POTUS in 2024 and picking things up once again in 2026 when there are more political races to petition for.

There is a potential nuclear fourth option as a last-ditch backup, but at this time, it is only on a need-to-know basis. If we have to exercise this option, we will have to call for a special meeting of the Board of Directors to discuss the specifics and put it up for a vote. But for now, this option should only be exercises when it must be an absolute necessity.

*Housekeeping regarding Elected Officials page*

I have tried in the past month to add Patrick Liapes to the elected official page, but with zero success.

The following information needs to be added to ensure that it gets in:

Patrick Liapes

Poplar Creek Library Board Trustee

Term Start Year: 2023

Term End Year: 2025

Election Date: 04/04/2023

***REMINDER****: 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.

**UPDATE** **7/21/23**: Discussions are continuing, but nothing new to report on.

*Candidate trainings – (maybe?)*
LP National is reportedly planning on online candidate trainings via private Zoom classrooms. The downside of this is that it’s reserved only for those with active memberships with LP National.

The training(s) will be held in coordination with United Independents.

No dates have been specified on the public business list for LP National.

I may need to speak to Russ Clark and anyone else who may be willing to organize a candidate training session sometime later this year if one isn’t already in the works for the state convention in Elmhurst. My understanding that the one that was previously done (I believe earlier this year?) went well.

*Remote appearances*

I made an appearance via Zoom during the Fox Valley Libertarian Party meeting on June 28, which featured Libertarian presidential candidate and Chase Oliver. While in attendance, I asked a question to Oliver about our ballot access drive and what he would do as the nominee to help cover our costs should the LNC fall through and not contribute a dime. His response, in addition to the political strategy meeting between members of the Executive Committee and the Political Division, would help in developing multiple options to handle our lone statewide election in 2024.

**Appendix Schedule – July 2023 Report**

Candidate Recruitment Report Appendix A

Action Items Leading Up To August 2023 Appendix B

Appendix A

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Special Report

Updated July 23, 2023
CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT REPORT

**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 Seiler, Lucas

**OAK PARK**: Cicinelli, Chris

Utilizing a similar method as 2020 when Preston Nelson ran for Congress in a Chicagoland Congressional district:

**WOODSTOCK** Monack, Joseph 7th Congressional

**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.

***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**

The following information is information known to the Political Division as of July 23, 2023 and represents tentative candidates for the 2024 county primaries, unless left empty. Cycles signify the number of election cycles it is entering since attaining major/recognized party status (e.g. Cycle 4 signifies the fourth election cycle since becoming established in 2016):

**COOK COUNTY BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD UNTIL 2026 CYCLE 2**

Circuit Clerk: *Murphy, Michael*

State’s Attorney: *Kopinski, Andrew*

CCBC District 1:

TBD: *Klingsporn, Andrew*

**DEWITT COUNTY BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD UNTIL END OF 2024 CYCLE 2**

Circuit Clerk:

State’s Attorney:

Coroner:

County Board A:

County Board C:

**KANKAKEE COUNTY BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD UNTIL END OF 2024 CYCLE 3**

Circuit Clerk:

Recorder:

Auditor:

State’s Attorney:

Coroner:

County Board: All odd-numbered districts plus District 24

TBD: *Daviera, John*  *Scott, Nicole*

**MCHENRY COUNTY** **BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD UNTIL END OF 2024 CYCLE 2**

County Board Chairman:

Circuit Clerk:

State’s Attorney:

Auditor:

Coroner:

County Board:

**MCLEAN COUNTY BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD THROUGH 2026 CYCLE 4**

Circuit Clerk:

State’s Attorney:

Auditor:

Coroner:

County Board: One seat each in all 10 districts

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD THROUGH 2026 CYCLE 1**

Circuit Clerk: *Leonard, Jake*

State’s Attorney:

Coroner:

County Board: Should be one seat in all seven districts

**PEORIA COUNTY BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD UNTIL END OF 2024 CYCLE 2**

Circuit Clerk:

State’s Attorney:

Auditor:

Coroner:

County Board:

**TAZEWELL COUNTY BALLOT ACCESS: GOOD THROUGH 2026 CYCLE 2**

County Board Chairman:

Circuit Clerk:

State’s Attorney:

Auditor:

Coroner:

County Board:

TBD: *Sizemore, Nicholas Casey, Gabe*

*Note: I had previously misconstrued unintentionally that Tazewell County was at risk of losing its status in 2024. The candidacy of Gabe Casey for an unexpired two-year term for State’s Attorney must have came up during my sabbatical. Casey received 18.4% in a two-way race for the office against a Republican. This would, in fact, surpass the 5% threshold three times over (and then some), extending the party’s status in Tazewell County until 2026. My apologies for this unintentional error.*

**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 B

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Action Items

Reporting Period: July 2023

ACTION ITEMS THROUGH AUGUST 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
* Continue 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, and Peoria 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 4:33 a.m. CDT on this 23rd day of July 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