Libertarian Party of Illinois

Political Division Report

Reporting Period: August 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 only one recruitment inquiry from National*

**Noah Henderson** – open to various races, but was considering the 5th Congressional district

* Recently moved to Chicago from California
* Earned bachelor’s degree in economics, St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia
* Spent the past three years pursuing his Juris Doctorate at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign
* Awaiting results of Illinois State Bar
* Adjunct professor, Loyola Chicago
* Could be a potential candidate for AG in 2026, potential backup candidate for Cook County State’s Attorney in 2024

If he pursues the 5th Congressional district, he’s looking at 13,974 signatures minimum.

*Two additional inquiries from the Executive Director’s email (or directly to me)*

**Jim Syler** – Jackson County – Precinct Committeeperson

* Information provided
* Justin advised him to remit paperwork to the Chicago mailing address

**Brett Schrad** – Piatt County – OPEN

* Provided figures for various potential options for 2024
* Resides in Dan Caulkins’ House district (88th)
* Also has a residence in Sadorus, Champaign County in case Champaign County wants to run him as a candidate

*Communications from McHenry County*

I received an email from Secretary Ken Mattes about their plans for 2024 on August 14.

He detailed a potential countywide slate comprising of himself and Jim Young. Potential candidates for State’s Attorney and coroner are still being fleshed out.

I provided some details about what the office of coroner entails to one of those potential coroner candidates, Rachel Zastrow.

*Libertarian primary figures announced*

McLean and Tazewell counties, through their respective county clerks Kathy Michael and John Ackerman, have published signature requirements for the upcoming primary in the spring.

**McLean County**Countywide: 78 signatures

*Circuit Clerk, State’s Attorney, Auditor, Coroner*

County Board District 1: 07 signatures *Also apply to District 2*

County Board District 5: 09 signatures *Also apply to District 6*  
County Board District 4: 10 signatures *Also apply to Districts 8 & 9*

County Board District 10: 11 signatures

County Board District 7: 12 signatures

County Board District 3: 13 signatures

Precinct Committeeperson: 10 signatures

**Tazewell County**

Countywide: 50 signatures

*Circuit Clerk, State’s Attorney, County Board Chairman, Auditor, Coroner*

County Board District 1: 25 signatures *Also apply to Districts 2 & 3*

Precinct Committeeperson: 10 signatures

*Primary figures posted for two other counties*

McHenry County Clerk Joseph Tirio and the Peoria County Election Commission also recently published their figures for the upcoming primary.

Considering both counties earned local major party status in 2020 as the result of *Libertarian Party of Illinois v. Pritzker* and a strong showing from the county slates in both counties, it appears that Republicans in McHenry County and Democrats in Peoria County are trying to pretend that our established status doesn’t exist.

Unless rectified in the courtroom, we will likely not be able to hold primaries in those counties.

*Speaking of counties being denied primaries…*

I recently was in contact with Montgomery County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser about figures for the Libertarian primary next spring.

In what I consider an act of cowardice, Leitheiser forwarded my information to State’s Attorney Andrew Affrunti, who is essentially denying Libertarians a primary.

They’re wanting to force us to collect 543 signatures, or just over ten times that of the controlling Republican party candidates to run in a countywide race.

*Are consolidated local ballot access lawsuits imminent?*

Considering what is going on with denying Libertarians their primary in McHenry, Montgomery, and Peoria counties, it poses the question that we may have to sue county clerks in multiple counties.

It was one thing with Montgomery County. But to deny two counties that have had established status since 2020? I find that questionable, and the county clerks in those counties need to know that we mean business.

*Communication with the Executive Committee*

I communicated with Chairman Bill Redpath about the Montgomery County situation with the primary essentially being denied.

Shortly afterward, I would communicate with Vice Chairman Matt Piron, Secretary Ken Mattes, and Treasurer Russ Clark about the matter.

It appears that the “statewide substitution” that has allowed for Kankakee County and McLean County to become established isn’t near as solid as it was in 2016 and 2018.

Russ mentioned that due to LPIL becoming solidified on the countywide question, we’ve apparently become part of the 2024 candidate’s guide (labeled as page 15, but it’s page 19 in the PDF document):

*A political party which at the last election in any congressional district, legislative district, county, township, municipality, political subdivision, or district in the State polled more than 5% of the entire vote cast within such territorial area or political subdivision, as the case may be, has voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve the respective territorial area of such district or political subdivision, is an “established political party” as to such district or political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)*

*For example, if a candidate of the “Imaginary” party for Treasurer in “County #1” received more than 5% of the entire votes cast in the county in 2022, the “Imaginary” party would be an established political party as to just “County #1” in 2024.*

By this rationale, Montgomery County should be established through 2026 through the 2022 Attorney General race. Affrunti doesn’t see it that way, as well as the outdated advice from an ILSBE representative.

I’m still looking to fill a slate in Montgomery County, where I’m seeking to run for Circuit Clerk.

But if I must sue, and our affiliates in McHenry and Peoria counties might have to sue, then should we attempt to consolidate our lawsuits into one and go above the heads of the local circuit courts?

This is where I would like to see further input to determine best practices that would allow all three counties to still have their primaries.

Republicans in McHenry and Montgomery counties and Democrats in Peoria County want to play dirty? Then sue them we may have to do!

There was another insight from Russ that the matter of Montgomery County is not a similar case to Cook County’s state’s attorney race in 2020. The “statewide substitution” on precedent with *Libertarian Party of Illinois v. Yarbrough* might not be applicable, utilizing an addition interpretation of 5/ILCS 10-8.

Furthermore, Russ believes that this could endanger other counties in the future, even in counties where county clerks do want us on the ballot and will use the “statewide substitution” as a pretext to do so.

That would mean Montgomery County has been established – twice – in 2014 with Chad Grimm/A.J. Cummings in the gubernatorial race (7.77%) and in 2022 with Dan Robin in the Attorney General race (5.29%) – and been screwed over twice. *I’m not willing to allow a third opportunity to become established only to be squandered by crybaby Republicans. Even being squandered twice under questionable means not supported by the Illinois Election Code is too much.*

*Still awaiting figures for the remaining counties*

As of August 22, no figures have been publicized by Cook, DeWitt, or Kankakee counties.

It is pertinent that they publish their numbers before the beginning of petitioning on September 5.

If they do not, and they’re unwilling to provide our numbers, what would this mean? Could all eight counties band together in suing our county clerks? I would like to know because it’s bad enough that they’re already denying primaries in three counties already.

*LiberTEA Fest 2023 and recent events*If you made your way to Moline for LiberTEA Fest on August 5 and would like to share anything from that event, please reach out to Communications Director Amanda Parsons so that it can be featured in the upcoming newsletter.

The same applies to events that have occurred since the July meeting, including the McHenry County Fair and the Chicagoland Picnic.

*Coalition building for the 2024 election cycle*  
Similar to what Chairman Redpath has been doing, I have been working on coalition building with other third parties.

Discussions are continuing with Mitch Davilo of the Chicagoland Pirate Party. I’m hoping to speak with the new chair/Captain of the Illinois Pirate Party soon. Communications through them will lead to the current chair of the Transhumanist Party of Illinois.

I’ve also been trying to get in contact with the Constitution Party of Illinois, which has been re-established by the national party under new leadership. CPIL was disaffiliated several years ago when Randy Stufflebeam of Belleville was in charge. The party is now led by Dr. Steven Sylvester of South Holland. I’ve received no return responses since my initial communications in mid-June.

Communications with the Forward Party of Illinois are at a standstill right now, because their interim chair has not returned communications with me since July 22.

**Appendix Schedule – August 2023 Report**

Candidate Recruitment Report Appendix A

Agenda Items for the August 2023 Meeting Appendix B

Action Items Leading Up To September 2023 Appendix C

Appendix A

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Special Report

Updated August 22, 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:

*Slate pending including Ken Mattes and Jim Young*

**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*

**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 Harlfinger, Stephen

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

Padget, Brandon W. Frankfort Perez, Marco Chicago

Pippin, Justin Normal Pruitt, David Chicago

Ramsden, William Chicago Roden, Brian Bloomingdale

Root, Brian Wheaton Rutledge, Ed Lemont

Schrad, Brett Atwood Shaffer, K. Eric Dunlap

Shereck, Mike Naperville 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 D. Junction

Warren, Logan Rock Falls Watkins, Christopher Granite City

Watkins, Darva Chicago Weishaar, Jarrod

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.

**Jake Leonard**

**Political Director, Libertarian Party of Illinois**

Appendix B

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Motions

Reporting Period: August 2023

BUSINESS ITEMS ON AGENDA

**MOTION** to appoint Cody Graves as Legislative Director.

**Rationale**: We have had a vacancy in this role since Bennett Morris served in this capacity quite some time back. The opening was mentioned recently in the Classical Liberal Caucus Discord server. I provided Cody with the role and responsibility that entails from the Political Division directors guide that was drafted in 2021.

Cody has experience in state legislative races, both House and Senate, from when he was living in Washington. He also holds dual degrees in economics and political science from Seattle Pacific University.

He is a member of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, although it appears he is listed among membership twice, one which was done in 2022 and one that was done earlier this year.

Outside the party, he works as a cloud SecDevOps engineer for T-Rex Solutions, specifically working at Scott Air Force Base. He is a former U.S. Army Sergeant, and he currently resides in O'Fallon.

**ACTION ITEMS POST-APPROVAL**

**TREASURER**: We will need to make sure we get LegiScan going again. I know we did in 2021 when Bennett held the position, but I didn't receive an invoice from them last year. I can reach out to them and get an invoice for 2023. (If there is a better legislative platform we could use going forward, I'm open to suggestions.) If we stick to LegiScan, I will just have them email the invoice directly to you instead.

**IT** **DIVISION**: Cody would need access to the [legislative@lpillnois.org](mailto:legislative@lpillnois.org) email address at a bare minimum*.* I am not certain since the LD vacancy when Bennett resigned if those emails were ever forwarded to me in the interim. Currently uncertain if he would need access to CiviCRM, so I will leave that to the Division's discretion.

Appendix C

Libertarian Party of Illinois Political Division – Action Items

Reporting Period: August 2023

ACTION ITEMS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 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 9:09 p.m. CDT on this 22nd day of August 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