

# ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

## 2022 ILLINOIS PRIMARY ELECTION

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June 29, 2022

The Illinois Primary Election is over, and voters have selected their party nominees for every statewide office, one U.S. Senate seat, two seats on the Illinois Supreme Court, all 17 of Illinois' representatives in Congress, every state senator and representative in the General Assembly, and scores of county and judicial offices.

The shift of the primary election from its usual March date to June 28 created a new set of complications for election officials and candidates trying to get people to the polls. It is the latest that Illinois has held a primary since at least the Great Depression — delayed over three months because the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau numbers needed for redistricting were late — and was less than a week before the July 4 holiday.

There are fascinating races on both the Democratic and Republican tickets. With low voter turnout, there were some interesting and unexpected results.

### STATEWIDE OFFICE – BIG PRIMARY WINNERS

#### **Republican Governor: Sen. Darren Bailey**

**Sen. Darren Bailey** didn't just win -- he dominated the field with almost 60% of the vote in a crowded primary. Aurora mayor Richard Irvin, the establishment candidate, came in third with just 15% of the vote. Many feel this primary election indicates the future direction of the Illinois GOP. There are questions about whether Illinois Republicans have evolved with the times and the state's demographic changes, particularly as its gradual evolution to the right has been hastened by far-right Republicans who became followers of former President Donald Trump. Trump's coalition of discontented voters represents a growing faction challenging the state's GOP establishment. Another sign of the rightward shift can be found in the Illinois General Assembly, where among the GOP's super-minority — 45 of 118 members in the House and 18 of 59 members in the Senate — none are pro-choice.

**Gov. JB Pritzker** considers Bailey's win as a win for himself – viewing Bailey as the easiest path for him to win a second term. Pritzker and the Democratic Governors Association pumped \$34 million into advertising that declared Bailey as the most conservative candidate in the race, and former President Donald Trump endorsed Bailey. Citadel CEO Ken Griffin funneled \$50 million to Irvin, who had been seen as a candidate who could beat Gov. Pritzker in the general election. The takeaway here is Trump's endorsement is strong within the Illinois Republican Party. Now the question is whether he can win statewide as he takes on Gov. Pritzker in the general election.

#### **Democrat Secretary of State: Alexi Giannoulis**

Despite winning the endorsements of Gov. Pritzker, Sen. Dick Durbin, and Secretary of State Jesse White, Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia was defeated by former state Treasurer (and former Illinois Community College Board chair) **Alexi Giannoulis**. Valencia suffered setbacks due to ethical concerns after she failed to report her husband's lobbying business on city disclosures. Giannoulis was heavily supported by a majority of labor unions and outspent Valencia.

#### **Republican Secretary of State: Rep. Dan Brady**

Democrat Jesse White has run the Illinois Secretary of State's Office for more than 20 years, and it employs thousands of state workers. Longtime **State Rep. Dan Brady** cruised to victory over prosecutor John Milhiser, a Griffin-backed candidate. The general election for the open Secretary of State's office is expected to be one of the hottest races in November.

#### **Republican Attorney General: Tom DeVore**

Like the governor's race, this contest is showing how far right Illinois Republicans have moved. Attorney **Tom**

**DeVore** is best known for filing numerous lawsuits (unsuccessfully) against the Governor's Covid-19 mitigation policies. His opponent, Steve Kim, carried establishment backing and was endorsed by former Gov. Jim Edgar. The question here is the same as it is for race for governor – can DeVore be appealing to a statewide constituency in his challenge to incumbent **Kwame Raoul**.

### Treasurer and Comptroller

In the general election, incumbent Treasurer **Michael Frerichs** will face former state Rep. **Tom Demmer**. For Comptroller, incumbent **Susanna Mendoza** will face **Shannon Teresi**. None of these candidates had a primary opponent.

## U.S. CONGRESS

### GOP member vs member -- 15<sup>th</sup> District: U.S. Rep. Mary Miller

In possibly the biggest upset of the night, veteran U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis was defeated by first-year U.S. Rep. **Mary Miller**, a MAGA supporter recently endorsed by former President Trump when he stopped in Illinois for a "Save America" rally. Davis had the endorsement from party leaders and was a ranking member in the House Republican caucus. Miller will have some work to do to earn the level of clout that Davis used to support central Illinois.

### Democrat member vs member – 6<sup>th</sup> District: U.S. Rep. Sean Casten

The intense battle between U.S. Reps. **Sean Casten** and Marie Newman fizzled in recent days with the tragic death of Casten's teenage daughter. Both sides pulled back on ads, and Casten disappeared from the campaign trail. Casten won with 68.1% to Newman's 28.8%.

### Open 1st Congressional District: Johnathan Jackson

**Johnathan Jackson**, son of Rev. Jesse Jackson, rose to the top of a field of 17 Democrats vying for the nomination to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush. This district is solid Democrat.

### Open 3rd Congressional District: State Rep. Delia Ramirez

State Rep. **Delia Ramirez** defeated Chicago Ald. Gil Villegas by a wide margin of 65.8% to 23.7% in a newly drawn district. This was a win for U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia, who endorsed Ramirez. This district is also solidly Democrat.

### Open 13th Congressional District

**Nikki Budzinski** (D) will face **Regan Deering** (R) in this newly drawn district. This district runs from the Metro East to Champaign and was drawn for a Democrat, but the area has been represented by a Republican (Rodney Davis) for a long time and only leans Democrat. Democrats will have to drive turnout up to capture this new seat.

### Open 17th Congressional District

**Eric Sorensen** (D) defeated former state Rep. Litesa Wallace to take on **Esther Joy King** (R) in November. This is a newly drawn district that leans Democrat but could be a very tight race in November.

## ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

The Illinois Supreme Court's 2nd and 3rd District seats are up for election in November (the 3rd District did not have a contested primary on either side). The results will determine the balance of control. Democrats currently have the majority on the court with a 4-3 advantage. In the 2nd district, Democrat **Elizabeth Rochford** will face either Republican **Mark Curran** or **Daniel Shanes** (still too close to call). In the 3rd District, Republican **Michael Burke** will face Democrat **Mary Kay O'Brien**.

## ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**HOUSE:** The June 28 primary election was not friendly for incumbents.

In the House, Speaker Chris Welch lost three Democratic incumbents. House Revenue Chair **Mike Zalewski** lost in a huge upset to super progressive **Abdelnasser Rashid**; **Denyse Wang Stoneback** lost to **Kevin Olickal**; and **Kathleen Willis** lost to progressive **Norma Hernandez**, a Triton College trustee. In a five-way Democrat race to replace House Majority Leader Greg Harris, **Hoan Huynh** prevailed, even though Gov. Pritzker supported Eileen Dordek.

In total, House Democrats had 10 incumbents facing challengers. Reps. **Sony Harper, Michael Kelly, Lindsey LaPointe, Curtis Tarver, Justin Slaughter, Thaddeus Jones,** and **Natalie Manley** all won their primaries.

The House Republican caucus will look much different next spring. A small faction of the House Republican Caucus — the extreme right “Eastern Bloc” led by Sen. Bailey — worked against candidates selected by Minority Leader Jim Durkin, resulting in the loss of two incumbents. **David Welter** lost to **Jed Davis**, who was backed by Sen. Bailey, while **Mark Luft** lost to **Travis Weaver**, former Sen. Chuck Weaver’s son. In the open seat following Rep. Keith Sommer’s retirement, **William Hauter** overcame Durkin’s pick Mary Burress. Several other candidates in open primaries also defeated Durkin’s preferred candidate. In addition, many members of Durkin’s leadership team are leaving or running for other offices, including Reps. **Avery Bourne, Tom Demmer,** and **Mark Batinick**. Tuesday’s results are incredibly important for the future of the House Republican Caucus.

**SENATE:** Senate President Don Harmon backed losing candidates in two open primary contests. Newly appointed Sen. **Eric Mattson** lost to progressive Will County Board member **Rachel Ventura**, despite the support of his caucus and nearly a million dollars spent. President Harmon also backed LaMont Williams, who lost in an open contest against **Willie Preston**. Incumbent Sens. **Omar Aquino, Robert Martwick,** and **Celina Villanueva** all fended off their primary opponents.

State Rep. **Sam Yingling** failed in his attempt to move to the Senate to take over the vacated seat left by Senator Melinda Bush. President Harmon and Sen. Bush strongly backed former Rep. **Mary Edly-Allen**, who came out on top.

Republican incumbent Sen. **Win Stoller** pulled out a win against Brett Nicklaus, who had been backed by Leader Durkin. Other victorious Senate Republicans include **Steve McClure** over Bailey-backed Don Debolt and **Dave Syverson** over Eli Nicolosi.

This November, the Senate Democrats may lose a seat or two, but they are unlikely to lose their super-majority status and will lean a little further to the left.

Overall, House and Senate Republicans were expecting to be competitive in many districts across the state, particularly in the collar counties, with the support of financing from billionaire Ken Griffin. As detailed below, Griffin decided last week to leave Illinois and with an extremely conservative gubernatorial candidate at the top of the ballot, it is hard to predict how the Republican Party will fare in November against a Democratic Party that has become more progressive. Republicans and Democrats in Illinois are both becoming more polarized.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### PANDEMIC-RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Gov. Pritzker has extended his previously issued pandemic-related Executive Orders to July 24, 2022.

## **SPECIAL SESSION FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS**

Despite the action of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, reproductive healthcare remains legal in Illinois. A few years ago, the General Assembly removed the trigger law that would have prohibited abortion in the state with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Additionally, Illinois Medicaid and most private health insurance plans are required to cover abortion care.

After the July 4 holiday, the General Assembly will convene into special session to consider reproductive health issues. No session dates has been set. In calling for the special session, Gov. Pritzker stated that the session is meant “to more firmly protect women’s reproductive rights in Illinois and address the challenges posed by this radical Supreme Court decision.”

One possible item is a non-binding statewide referendum this November to boost Democratic turnout in what is anticipated to be a stronger election cycle for Republicans. However, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action wants more than the symbolic gesture of a ballot initiative to show support. It is calling for legislative authority for nurse practitioners to perform early abortions, a streamlined process for out-of-state providers to become licensed in Illinois, state funding to open new abortion clinics and expand existing facilities, as well as state money to help transport and house out-of-state women seeking abortions in Illinois.

## **HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY BILL**

Gov. Pritzker has signed legislation updating Illinois law to recognize certificates like GEDs the same as high school diplomas. [Public Act 102-1100](#) ensures that all high school equivalency certifications are considered equally and attempts to correct the misunderstanding that GEDs and similar certificates are less legitimate than high school diplomas.

## **FFA DUES COVERED BY STATE**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture announced that Future Farmers of America dues for every student taking agriculture education classes across the state will be covered starting this fall. The elimination of dues makes Illinois a FFA affiliation membership state, ensuring that every student enrolled in agricultural education will have FFA membership dues automatically paid.

## **CONGRESS PASSES NEW GUN SAFETY LAW / SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN NY GUN LAW**

The new [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) strengthens background checks for the youngest firearms buyers, expands the definition of a gun seller, and imposes new penalties on gun traffickers. It could also give Illinois and its communities a share of \$15 billion to improve school safety and fund mental health initiatives. The legislation also makes \$750 million available to the 19 states, including Illinois, and the District of Columbia that have "red flag" laws to make it easier for them to temporarily take away firearms from people who have been adjudged to be dangerous, and to other states with violence prevention programs. To receive the money, a state with a red flag law would have to have a legal process in place for the gun owner to fight the removal of the firearm.

Meanwhile, the US Supreme Court has struck down a New York conceal-and-carry law that required New Yorkers who want to carry a handgun in public to show a special need to defend themselves. The Supreme Court made it clear that Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense.

## **CITADEL MOVING HEADQUARTERS FROM ILLINOIS TO FLORIDA**

Citadel CEO Ken Griffin has announced that the company will move its headquarters from Chicago to Miami, citing Florida’s better business environment. Griffin (who is worth \$28.9 billion) was the wealthiest resident of Illinois and has donated more than \$600 million to organizations in the region. This is the latest corporate

departure from Illinois, coming after Caterpillar and Boeing also announced they were leaving. Kellogg Co., conversely, announced earlier this month that it will open its headquarters in Chicago.

### **CULLERTON SENTENCED TO YEAR IN PRISON FOR EMBEZZLEMENT**

Former Illinois Sen. **Thomas Cullerton** has been sentenced to one year in prison after pleading guilty to embezzling nearly \$250,000 from a Chicago Teamsters job that had him doing little or no work. Cullerton pleaded guilty in a separate extortion case in 2019 and has been cooperating with federal prosecutors. He has not yet been sentenced. He is one of eight former General Assembly members to be charged with federal crimes in the past three years.

### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BANS JUUL E-CIGARETTES**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has ordered all JUUL e-cigarette products off the market, citing “inconsistent and conflicting data” on safety. The FDA’s orders only pertain to the commercial distribution, importation, and retail sales, and do not restrict individual consumer possession. In 2019, the Illinois General Assembly raised the legal age for tobacco and nicotine purchases to 21. In Illinois, state leaders largely supported the regulatory move.

### **CHICAGO SEEKING 2024 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION**

Gov. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot recently pitched Democratic National Committee officials about Chicago’s bid to host the 2024 Democratic National Convention. In separate presentations, New York, Houston, and Atlanta representatives made their cases to host the 2024 event.

### **COM-ED TRIAL POSSIBLY PUSHED TO 2023**

Utility giant Com-Ed’s public corruption trial, which was set for September 12, has been postponed because of a delay in another major trial set to begin soon — the child pornography trial of R&B superstar R. Kelly (which was to begin August 1 and has now been pushed back to August 15). The Com-Ed case includes four members of indicted former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan’s inner circle. Madigan’s former chief of staff Timothy Mapes was set to go to trial for lying under oath in January 2023. Mapes’ trial could also be delayed.

### **LISA HOLDER WHITE TO TAKE OATH ON ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT**

Justice Lisa Holder White will become the first Black woman to sit on the state’s high court when she takes the Supreme Court’s oath of office on Thursday, July 7. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Rita B. Garman. Justice White’s appointment is effective July 8 and concludes on Dec. 2, 2024, when the seat will be filled in the November 2024 general election.

*For more information on state legislative and public policy issues, please contact:*

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