

### 2024 ILLINOIS GENERAL ELECTION UPDATE

In a decidedly blue state, the 2024 General Election was never expected to alter the political dynamics in Illinois. There were no statewide elections. There wasn't a battle over a Supreme Court seat or a constitutional amendment. Within the General Assembly, more than half of the general election races were uncontested, and among the contested races, only a handful were truly competitive. All 118 state House seats and 24 of the 59 state Senate seats were up for election. Going into Election Day, Democrats held, and continue to hold, veto-proof supermajorities in both chambers with 78 members in the House, the most in modern history, and 40 in the Senate.

Even though the needle did not move in Illinois on Election Day, the results still showed a shift. In 2020, Joe Biden won Illinois by 17 points (58% to 41%). Currently, Kamala Harris is only leading Donald Trump by about 8 points (53% to 45%). This had an effect down the ballot.

House Democrats were eyeing six Republican-held House seats across the state in the hopes of flipping them. Even heading into Election Day, the party thought they could flip as many as four seats. However, it looks like the House GOP will hold onto all 40 of their seats. While the McLaughlin, Grant, and Schweizer districts (discussed below) could still be swayed by late-arriving mail-in ballots, it appears they have survived millions in collective spending against them.

House Republican Leader **Tony McCombie** said that her party would be targeting just a few seats in each election as part of a 10-year plan that will carry them to the next redistricting opportunity following the 2030 census. This cycle, she faced significant financial disadvantages. Conservatively, the Democrats spent at a 10 to 1 advantage over Republicans. Despite being significantly underfunded, even Republican challengers held their own in several districts.

The outcome of the U.S. Presidential election will potentially have significant political and policy impacts in Illinois, as federal leadership influences a wide range of state-level issues. Two broad areas of discussion for the General Assembly could include environmental regulations and changes to healthcare policy.

Keep in mind that in two years, Illinois will be voting for a U.S. Senator, governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller and treasurer – all offices currently held by Democrats who are likely looking to move “upward.” U.S. Sen. **Dick Durbin**, who turns 80 this month, has not yet announced his intentions for 2026. Illinoisans only once elected any governor three times. If Sen. Durbin and/or Gov. **JB Pritzker** opt not to seek reelection – or if Pritzker pursues higher office – that shakes up the entire Democratic ballot and colors how lawmakers will think through issues over the next two years.

#### U.S. CONGRESS

*\* Illinois re-elected all incumbents \**

**District 12** – Rep. Mike Bost (R) wins

Incumbent Rep. **Mike Bost** was challenged by **Brian Roberts**. Bost has been serving in Congress since 2015. A former firefighter, he is known for his strong conservative values, especially on gun rights, veterans' issues, and

support for limited government. He has deep roots in Southern Illinois and is popular in more rural areas. Roberts was looking to unseat Bost by focusing on healthcare reform, economic issues, and workers' rights.

**District 17** – Rep. Eric Sorensen (D) wins

Incumbent Rep. **Eric Sorensen**, first elected in 2022, faced former judge **Joe McGraw**. Sorensen represents a district that traditionally leaned Republican but has recently become competitive for Democrats. Sorensen outperformed Democratic presidential candidate **Kamala Harris** in this district and is leading McGraw by eight points.

#### ILLINOIS SENATE

40 Democrats – 19 Republicans  
\* Illinois re-elected all incumbents \*

**District 1** – Sen. Javier Cervantes (D)

**District 4** – Sen. Kimberly Lightford (D) *contested*

**District 5** – Sen. Lakesia Collins (D)

**District 7** – Sen. Mike Simmons (D)

**District 10** – Sen. Robert Martwick (D) wins

Sen. **Robert Martwick** typically has a contested election requiring a lot of time and money to defend. This cycle, the Republicans did not focus on this race and Martwick easily defeated his challenger by 18 points.

**District 13** – Sen. Robert Peters (D)

**District 16** – Sen. Willie Preston (D)

**District 19** – Sen. Michael Hastings (D) *contested*

**District 20** – Garciela Guzman (D) *contested* – Replacing Sen. Natalie Toro (D) after defeating in the Primary

**District 22** – Sen. Cristina Castro (D)

**District 25** – Sen. Karina Villa (D) *contested*

**District 27** – Sen. Mark Walker (D) *contested*

**District 28** – Sen. Laura Murphy (D)

**District 31** – Sen. Mary Edly-Allen (D) *contested*

**District 34** – Sen. Steve Stadelman (D) *contested*

**District 37** – Li Arellano (R) – Replacing the retiring Sen. Win Stoller (R)

**District 40** – Sen. Patrick Joyce (D) wins

Incumbent Sen. **Patrick Joyce** was challenged to a rematch by **Philip Nagel**. Joyce was appointed to the Illinois Senate in 2019 and was seeking re-election after beating Nabel by about 11% in 2022. The district runs from the south suburbs to encompass most of Kankakee County and parts of Grundy County. As a farmer, Joyce has a strong connection to the agricultural community, which is vital in this district. Despite that lopsided loss, the Senate Republicans supported Nagel, an Air Force veteran, with hundreds of thousands of dollars in both cash and in-kind contributions. Ultimately, Republicans determined the hill was too steep and withdrew support in the weeks leading up to Election Day. In 2026, Senate Minority Leader **John Curran** will need to defend 16 out of the 19 members in his caucus, which will inevitably cost a lot of money. It turned out to be a good move because Joyce ended up winning by nearly 18 points.

**District 43** – Sen. Rachel Ventura (D) *contested*

**District 46** – Sen. Dave Koehler (D) *contested*

**District 49** – Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel (D) *contested*

**District 52** – Sen. Paul Faraci (D) *contested*

**District 53** – Sen. Chris Balkema (R) – Replacing the retiring Sen. Tom Bennett (R)

**District 55** – Sen. Jason Plummer (R)

**District 58** – Sen. Terri Bryant (R)

## ILLINOIS HOUSE

Likely 78 Democrats – 40 Republicans

- District 1** – Rep. Aaron Ortiz (D)
- District 2** – Rep. Lisa Hernandez (D) *contested*
- District 3** – Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado (D)
- District 4** – Rep. Lillian Jimenez (D)
- District 5** – Rep. Kimberly Neely DuBuclet (D) *contested*
- District 6** – Rep. Sonya Harper (D) *contested*
- District 7** – Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D)
- District 8** – Rep. La Shawn Ford (D) *contested*
- District 9** – Rep. Yolonda Morris (D)
- District 10** – Rep. Jawaharial “Omar” Williams (D)
- District 11** – Rep. Ann Williams (D)
- District 12** – Rep. Margaret Croke (D)
- District 13** – Rep. Hoan Huynh (D) *contested*
- District 14** – Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D)
- District 15** – Rep. Michael Kelly (D) *contested*
- District 16** – Rep. Kevin Olickal (D)
- District 17** – Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D) *contested*
- District 18** – Rep. Robyn Gabel (D) *contested*
- District 19** – Rep. Lindsey LaPointe (D) *contested*
- District 20** – Rep. Brad Stephens (R)
- District 21** – Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid (D)
- District 22** – Rep. Angie Guerrero-Cuellar (D)
- District 23** – Rep. Edgar Gonzalez, Jr. (D)
- District 24** – Rep. Theresa May (D) *contested*
- District 25** – Rep. Curtis Tarver II (D)
- District 26** – Rep. Kam Buckner (D) *contested*
- District 27** – Rep. Justin Slaughter (D)
- District 28** – Rep. Robert “Bob” Rita (D)
- District 29** – Rep. Thaddeus Jones (D)
- District 30** – Rep. Will Davis (D) *contested*
- District 31** – Michael Crawford (D) *contested* – *Crawford defeated Rep. Mary Flowers (D) in the Primary*
- District 32** – Lisa Davis (D) – *Davis defeated Rep. Cyril Nichols (D) in the Primary*
- District 33** – Rep. Marcus Evans, Jr. (D)
- District 34** – Rep. Nick Smith (D) *contested*
- District 35** – Rep. Mary Gill (D) *contested*
- District 36** – Rick Ryan (D) *contested* – *Replacing the retiring Rep. Kelly Burke*
- District 37** – Rep. Patrick Sheehan (R)
- District 38** – Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin (D)
- District 39** – Rep. Will Guzzardi (D) *contested*
- District 40** – Rep. Jaime Andrade, Jr. (D) *contested*
- District 41** – Rep. Janet Yang Rohr (D)
- District 42** – Rep. Terra Costa Howard (D)
- District 43** – Rep. Anna Moeller (D) *contested*
- District 44** – Rep. Fred Crespo (D)

**District 45** – Marti Deuter (D) wins – *Replacing the retiring Rep. Jenn Ladish Douglass (D)*

With Rep. **Jenn Ladish Douglass** (D) retiring, former state Rep. **Dennis Reboletti** (who served from 2007 to 2015) desired to reclaim a seat for the GOP in the House. Reboletti faced Elmhurst City Council member **Marti Deuter**, who has served in that office for the past 11 years and ran on a platform of social issues such as LGBTQ+ rights and abortion rights, education reform, and environmental sustainability. The district is mostly within DuPage

County with a sliver of Cook County as well. In 2022, Douglass defeated incumbent Republican **Deanne Mazzochi**, who had held the seat since 2018, by less than 1%. Deuter ended up winning this seat by nearly 8 points.

**District 46** – Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock (D) *contested*

**District 47** – Rep. Amy Grant (R) is leading Williamson (D) by exactly 500 votes: 29,531 to 29,031

Incumbent State Rep. **Amy Grant**, who has served since 2018, was challenged for the second time by **Jackie Williamson** in this DuPage County district. This is an area that has seen tight elections – and this year was no exception. In 2020, this district voted +12 for Joe Biden. Last cycle, Williamson did not receive meaningful help from the House Democrats – but that changed this year, as Democrats were all in to support Williamson. Williamson’s challenge to Grant emphasized their differences on progressive policies such as healthcare and reproductive rights. This one could take a little time to be decided.

**District 48** – Rep. Jennifer Sanalitra (R) wins

Incumbent State Rep. **Jennifer Sanalitra** faced **Maria Vesey**. Sanalitra has a business background and has been vocal about reducing taxes, lowering crime rates, and increasing government accountability. She represents a suburban district that values fiscal conservatism. Vesey focused on healthcare, social services, and environmental issues but came up about 16 points short.

**District 49** – Rep. Maura Hirshchauer (D) *contested*

**District 50** – Rep. Barbara Hernandez (D) *contested*

**District 51** – Rep. Nabeela Syed (D) wins

Incumbent State Rep. **Nabeela Syed**, who at 25 is one of the youngest legislators in the General Assembly, flipped her suburban seat two years ago. Her challenger, **Tosi Ufodike**, is a trustee on the Ela Township Board. Syed represents a historically GOP area that has been trending more Democratic in recent years. These two candidates pit progressive policies on education and equity against conservative economic strategies. Syed was one of a handful of Democrats considered to be vulnerable in November who voted against parts of the Democratic-crafted state budget package this spring, which included the \$750 million tax hike package. Syed’s hard work paid off and she managed to hold off Ufodike handily.

**District 52** – Rep. Marty McLaughlin (R) leads Peterson by 969 votes: 28,532 to 27,563

Incumbent Rep. **Martin McLaughlin** was challenged by **Maria Peterson** in a northwest suburban district that includes swaths of Lake and McHenry counties. McLaughlin brought a strong fiscal conservative approach. Peterson, who has worked as a labor attorney and once owned a fitness and exercise business, campaigned on issues such as healthcare reform, climate change, and supporting working families. Peterson most recently lost her challenge to local GOP Senator Dan McConchie by less than one percentage point, so her name ID is relatively strong.

**District 53** – Rep. Nicolle Grasse (D) *contested*

**District 54** – Rep. Mary Beth Canty (D) *contested*

**District 55** – Rep. Marty Moylan (D)

**District 56** – Rep. Michelle Mussman (D)

**District 57** – Rep. Tracy Katz Muhl (D) *contested*

**District 58** – Rep. Bob Morgan (D) *contested*

**District 59** – Rep. Daniel Didech (D) *contested*

**District 60** – Rep. Rita Mayfield (D)

**District 61** – Rep. Joyce Mason (D) *contested*

**District 62** – Rep. Laura Faver Dias (D)

**District 63** – Rep. Steven Reick (R) *contested*

**District 64** – Rep. Tom Weber (R)

**District 65** – Rep. Dan Ugaste (R) *contested*

**District 66** – Rep. Suzanne Ness (D) *contested*  
**District 67** – Rep. Maurice West II (D) *contested*  
**District 68** – Rep. Dave Vella (D)  
**District 69** – Rep. Joe Sosnowski (R) *contested*  
**District 70** – Rep. Jeff Keicher (R) *contested*  
**District 71** – Rep. Dan Swanson (R)  
**District 72** – Rep. Gregg Johnson (D) *contested*  
**District 73** – Rep. Ryan Spain (R)  
**District 74** – Rep. Bradley Fritts (R) *contested*  
**District 75** – Rep. Jed Davis (R) *contested*

**District 76** – Amy “Murri” Briel (D) leads Bishop (R) by 505 votes: 23,459 to 22,954

In this open seat, **Amy “Murri” Briel** was running to replace the retiring Rep. **Lance Yednock (D)** against **Liz Bishop** in a J-shaped district that stretches from DeKalb south and then west along the Illinois River Valley. Briel is Yednock’s former chief of staff and considers herself to be a “pragmatic Democrat.” Bishop has served as a deputy state central committeewoman for the state Republican Party and has a background in finance that includes jobs as a bank examiner and auditor. This race remains close, but Briel is expected to benefit from yet-to-be counted vote-by-mail ballots.

**District 77** – Rep. Norma Hernandez (D) *contested*

**District 78** – Rep. Camille Lilly (D)

**District 79** – Rep. Jackie Haas (R) wins

Incumbent Rep. **Jackie Haas** has served her district since 2020 and is facing a challenge by **Billy Morgan**. Morgan’s campaign contrasts Haas’ fiscal conservatism with more progressive policies on social and economic issues. Despite significant spending in this district, Haas is comfortably leading Morgan by nearly nine points.

**District 80** – Rep. Anthony DeLuca (D) *contested*

**District 81** – Rep. Anne Stava-Murray (D) *contested*

**District 82** – Rep. Nicole La Ha (R) *contested*

**District 83** – Rep. Matt Hanson (D)

**District 84** – Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D)

**District 85** – Rep. Dagmara “Dee” Avelar (D) *contested*

**District 86** – Rep. Lawrence “Larry” Walsh, Jr. (D) *contested*

**District 87** – Rep. William Hauter (R) *contested*

**District 88** – Regan Deering (R) *Replacing the retiring Rep. Dan Caulkins (R)*

**District 89** – Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R)

**District 90** – Rep. John Cabello (R)

**District 91** – Rep. Sharon Chung (D) wins

Elected in 2022 under a new political map, incumbent Rep. **Sharon Chung** defended her central-Illinois seat against **Desi Anderson** with education and healthcare as key election issues. Anderson most recently lost a race for a Senate seat in 2022.

**District 92** – Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)

**District 93** – Rep. Travis Weaver (R)

**District 94** – Rep. Norine Hammond (R)

**District 95** – Rep. Mike Coffey (R) *contested*

**District 96** – Rep. Sue Scherer (D) *contested*

**District 97** – Rep. Harry Benton (D) wins

Incumbent Rep. **Harry Benton** worked to defend a seat he flipped after veteran Republican Rep. **Mark Batinick** stepped down in 2023. Benton spent more than \$2 million to focus his messaging on labor rights, education

reform, and creating economic opportunities for working-class families. Benton was challenged by **Gabby Shanahan**, an executive assistant at the right-leaning Illinois Policy Institute, in one of the hottest races in the state. Like many of the other candidates for the General Assembly this year, Shanahan said her priorities included efforts to lower property taxes and manage inflation and the cost of living. Benton successfully defended his seat and won by about four points.

**District 98** – Rep. Natalie Manley (D)

**District 99** – Kyle Moore (R) – *Replacing the retiring Rep. Randy Frese (R)*

**District 100** – Rep. Christopher “C.D.” Davidsmeyer (R)

**District 101** – Rep. Chris Miller (R)

**District 102** – Rep. Adam Niemerg (R)

**District 103** – Rep. Carol Ammons (D)

**District 104** – *Rep. Brandun Schweizer (R) leads Clem by 771 votes: 23,163 to 22,392*

Freshman Rep. **Brandun Schweizer**, a 21-year veteran of the Marine Corps, is the incumbent for the seat, but he has only held it for less than a year. Schweizer’s lack of time to establish himself as an incumbent means this race was much more similar to a race for an open seat – in a district that has been trending Democrat. Schweizer was appointed to the seat after former Rep. **Mike Marron** retired last year from the district, which includes Vermilion County and parts of Champaign County outside of the Champaign-Urbana Community. His opponent **Jarrett Clem** was born and raised in the district and is a staunch labor advocate. He also serves as a trustee at Parkland College. As the business manager with IBEW Local 601 in Champaign County, Clem targeted his campaign towards creating jobs in the district that needs opportunity. This race remains close and will be decided by outstanding VBM ballots.

**District 105** – Rep. Dennis Tipsword Jr. (R) *contested*

**District 106** – Rep. Jason Bunting (R)

**District 107** – Rep. Brad Halbrook (R)

**District 108** – Rep. Wayne Rosenthal (R)

**District 109** – Rep. Charlie Meier (R)

**District 110** – Rep. Blaine Wilhour (R)

**District 111** – Rep. Amy Elik (R) *contested*

**District 112** – Rep. Katie Stuart (D) wins

Incumbent Rep. **Katie Stuart** was up against **Jay Keevan**, with education and healthcare dominating the race. Stuart has served since 2017 and is focused on public education funding, healthcare reform, and women’s rights. Keevan represents a more conservative approach to government, focusing on individual freedoms, such as parental rights in education, and fiscal restraint. Stuart comfortably defeated Keevan by eight points.

**District 113** – Rep. Jay Hoffman (D)

**District 114** – *Rep. Kevin Schmidt (R) leads Greenwood by four points, or 1,844 votes: 22,669 to 20,825*

Incumbent Rep. **Kevin Schmidt** faced a rematch with former state Rep. **LaToya Greenwood** in this East St. Louis-based district. Greenwood ran again after losing her seat to Schmidt in 2022. She was campaigning on a platform of social justice, healthcare reform, and economic opportunities for working-class families, presenting a more progressive agenda compared to Schmidt’s conservative stance. It appears that this district has officially flipped to the GOP.

**District 115** – Rep. David Friess (R)

**District 116** – Rep. Dave Severin (R)

**District 117** – Rep. Patrick Windhorst (R)

**District 118** – Rep. Paul Jacobs (R)

## CHICAGO ELECTION RESULTS

### **Cook County State's Attorney** – Eileen O'Neill Burke (D) wins

The Cook County State's Attorney race was a high-profile contest between Democrat **Eileen O'Neill Burke**, a former appellate judge, and Republican **Robert Fioretti**, a former Chicago alderman. This election marks a shift from the usual Democrat-vs-Democrat dynamic, and both candidates focused heavily on criminal justice and public safety in the wake of Chicago's crime and violence concerns.

O'Neill Burke positioned herself as a moderate with a focus on upholding the SAFE-T Act, particularly its controversial elimination of cash bail. She advocated for detaining violent offenders, especially those involved in gun crimes, to keep the public safe. Fioretti, who switched to the Republican party in recent years, criticized current State's Attorney **Kim Foxx's** approach, particularly her handling of violent crime and support for police. He proposed a tougher stance on habitual crimes and aimed to address vacancies in the state's attorney's office, especially in the felony division.

The two candidates brought distinct approaches to public safety, with O'Neill Burke supporting reforms aimed at balancing public safety with criminal justice reforms, while Fioretti leaning on traditional law-and-order approaches, arguing for increased support of law enforcement and stricter prosecution for repeat offenders.

### **Chicago School Board**

For the first time, voters selected half the members of an expanded Chicago Public School board, determining the future of public education in one of the nation's largest school districts. This is just the first step to a fully elected school board because only half of the 21-member new board were elected. The other half will be appointed until the next election in 2027, when all seats will be up for election.

The Chicago Teachers Union put about \$1.5 million into campaigns for candidates it supported. Millions more went towards funding other independent candidates. Ultimately, only three or four candidates endorsed by the CTU prevailed. Given that Chicago Mayor **Brandon Johnson** is a close ally of CTU, he could appoint any CTU-backed candidate to one of his 11 appointed seats in January 2026, including those who did not win outright on Election Day.

## ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Three non-binding advisory questions -- establishing a "millionaire tax" to support property tax relief, expanding insurance coverage for IVF treatments, and increasing election worker protection --were overwhelmingly favored by voters. These outcomes provide lawmakers insight into public opinion on the issues but do not have a direct legislative impact.

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

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