

**Legislative Director Report: North Cook County/Lake County**  
Gerri Songer – November 2020

**Saturday, October 17, 2020**

<https://womensmarch.com/?fbclid=IwAR0-e-2eqGZtEXLs9sL07gHJXBF2rvU4tgizXWwHUxkQyKhFHniWk5v1S0c>

Attended the *Women's March* at Mike Rylko Community Park in Buffalo Grove. This event was co-hosted by Newtown Action Alliance, Mundelein LGBT Alliance and Allies, Northshore Human Rights, and BLM Wheeling.

The mission of the Women's March was to harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change. Women's March is a women-led movement providing intersectional education on a diverse range of issues and creating entry points for new grassroots activists and organizers to engage in their local communities through trainings, outreach programs, and events. Women's March is committed to dismantling systems of oppression through nonviolent resistance and building inclusive structures guided by self-determination, dignity and respect.

Speakers included *US Rep Raja Krishnamoorthi, US Rep Brad Schneider, IL Sen Julie Morrison, Lake County Treasurer Holly Kim, newly appointed IL 10th District Senator Adriane Johnson, Lake County Judge Candidate Marnie Slavin, and others.* Spoke with Sen Julie Morrison and Sen Adrian Johnson.

**Saturday, October 17, 2020**

Participated in Lit Drop for *IL Rep Mary Edly Allen.* Spoke with Rep Edly Allen, she emphasized that not only does she support educators, but she is a retired teacher herself.

**Thursday, October 22, 2020**

Participated in *Phone Banking* at the Local 1211. Answered questions about the Fair Tax along with Mail-In Ballots and Early Voting.

**Monday, October 26, 2020**

Attended a virtual reception and discussion supporting *IL Senate President Don Harmon and IL Senator Julie Morrison* with special guest, *U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth.* Sen Morrison discussed legislation she co-sponsored that is part of [Senate Bill 1966](#), which closes gaps in the process of getting a FOID card. The duration of FOID cards would be reduced from 10 down to 5 years. There would be a background check at each point of sale, and fingerprinting would be required for a first FOID card or concealed carry. Both IL Sen Harmon and US Sen Duckworth are optimistic regarding key state and federal races but stress that, even though Election 2020 is almost here, now is the time to work harder than ever to rally for our candidates/incumbents.

### **Monday, November 2, 2020**

Participated in *Phone Banking* from home. Answered questions about the Fair Tax.

### **Monday, November 3, 2020**

Participated in *Poll Watching* in Palatine.

### **Saturday, Sunday, November 7-8, 2020**

Participated in *IFT Boot Camp for Union Leaders* via Zoom. The focus of training included:

1. Union Structure - Leadership, Five Functions of the Union, Values of Labor Movement, Local/Council's Place in Labor Movement, Service v. Organizing Model of Union Representation
2. Union Governance
3. Union Leadership

### **Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

Joined candidates and volunteers at the *Lake County Dems Celebration* via Zoom to recognize Lake County hard-fought results. Heard final outcomes, stories from the campaign trail, and celebrated successes. Speakers included Waukegan Park District Commissioner Marc Jones, former IL Rep. Lauren Beth Gash, Congressman Brad Schneider, and Congresswoman Lauren Underwood.

Elected officials included IL Sen. Adriane Johnson, IL Rep Rita Mayfield, IL Rep. Bob Morgan, IL Rep. Joyce Mason, IL Rep. Dan Didech, IL Rep. Sam Yingling, State's Attorney Eric Rinehart, Lake County Circuit Court Clerk Erin Cartwright Weinstein, County Board Member John Wasik, and many others.

### **Ranked Choice Voting**

*FairVote IL's* top legislative priority is to bring Ranked Choice Voting to the General Election for state offices. This organization introduced a bill in the Illinois House and [Senate \(SB2267\)](#), which, like so many pre-COVID bills, was dropped in the rush to deal with the pandemic.

Momentum for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is growing. At least four states are expected to use RCV in their presidential primaries: Iowa and Nevada (for early voters); Alaska, Hawaii, Wyoming, and Kansas (for all voters). Maine passed legislation to use RCV in their presidential elections and [will use it in the general election](#).

For more information on Ranked Choice Voting, visit <https://www.fairvoteillinois.org>.