

Legislative Director Report: North Cook County/Lake County
Gerri Songer – February 2022

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Attended Celebration in Support of *Lake County's House Delegation* via Zoom. Event began with video of Governor Pritzker asking Lake County voters to send delegation back to Springfield. [Speaker Chris Welch](#), the first black speaker of the house, highlighted the delegation's efforts on the Clean Energy Jobs Act, Women's Reproductive Rights, Redistricting, and Judicial Redistricting to make sure minority voices are heard.

Lake County's House Delegation includes:

[Jonathan Carroll](#) Key Legislation: Food allergies labelling - Elijah's Law, Isolation and Time Out Restraints in School

[Dan Didech](#) Highlighted work on passing budget after Rauner's term and junk bond status; credit rating upgrades; investing in services including teachers, law enforcement, and infrastructure

[Joyce Mason](#) Worked to pass legislation such as an energy bill bringing in \$15M more per year for the Zion area, historic capital plan for infrastructure development, Black Caucus pillars for justice and equality, and health care workers ability to transfer license to work both in and out of state

[Rita Mayfield](#) Served since 2011, highlighted environmental issues she worked on including toxic release of EtO, removal of NRG ash ponds, clean water, clean energy, and clean air

[Bob Morgan](#) Worked to address reproductive rights, travel ban, LGBTQ rights

[Sam Yingling](#) Highlighted that he was Lake County's first openly gay representative, voted to raise minimum wage, supported \$122M stormwater management infrastructure funds to address floodwater mitigation

Other Lake County candidates: Lake County Treasurer [Holly Kim](#), Judge [Christopher M. Kennedy](#) for Appellate Court, [Eric Rinehart](#), Lake County Board Member [John Wasik](#), IL Supreme Court Candidate [Nancy Roterling](#), Lake County Sheriff [John Idleburg](#), IL Representative 62nd District Candidate [Thomas Maillard](#), Democratic Precinct 291 Committeeperson Candidate [Sheila Sebor](#), Judge [Reginald Mathews](#), IL Rep. Candidate [Laura Faver Dias](#), Lake County District 11 Board Member [Paul Frank](#)

Upcoming event: [Holly Kim's Lunar New Year](#) - Feb 19th from 6-7:30p held both in person and on Zoom

Monday, February 7, 2022

Met with President Steve Elza at Local 1211 in Schaumburg.

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Attended Legislative Directors meeting at Local 1211 in Schaumburg.

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Attended Township High School District 214 Board meeting. Spoke, in unofficial capacity, about the Sangamon County Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) ruling that brings attention to rulemaking authority concerning issues of public health.

Historically, as in the case of other school-required vaccinations such as measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), legislation was passed that delegated sole rulemaking authority exclusively to the Department of Public Health, which then worked with state school boards to implement. This is not what was done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of allowing the General Assembly to pass required legislation that is necessary to change the delegation of rulemaking authority to another agency within the same executive branch, the governor took it upon himself to issue emergency orders issuing guidance for school boards to assume this authority and create rules concerning public health and public health programs.

The governor's emergency orders are now ruled void for a number of reasons. Most notably, the judge admonished the governor for issuing guidance for the IL Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) to delegate its rulemaking authority over to schools, which has never been done before. In so doing, the due process rights of students and teachers that would have been protected under the authority of the IDPH were now circumvented under the authority of local school boards.

An appeal to this ruling was filed by the governor's office.

Friday, February 11, 2022

Attended in-person event for IL Rep. Jonathan Carroll's Campaign Kickoff Fundraiser. Spoke to Rep. Carroll who said he would circle back around regarding petition signing. Also touched base with Sen. Julie Morrison who indicated that she was in good shape with petitions. She would appreciate help with canvassing.

Friday, February 13, 2022

Attended (unofficial capacity) virtual Schakowsky Meet and Greet. Webinar speakers included McHenry County Dems Chairperson Kristina Zahorik, Lake County Dems Chairperson Lauren Beth Gash, 9th Congressional District Rep. Jan Schakowsky, and 11th Congressional District Rep. Bill Foster.

Congresswoman Schakowsky spoke of key issues including Reproductive Rights and Affordable Prescriptions/Medicare for All. She encouraged participants to help with canvassing. Following redistricting, her boundary lines now include portions of what was formerly part of Congressman Sean Casten's district.

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Met in-person with Brad Graba and IL Rep. [Candidate Chelsea Laliberte-Barnes](#) in Deer Park. Chelsea would like to expand mental health related services in schools for both students and teachers.

Upcoming Events

[Greater Palatine Area Democrats Petition Drive-Through](#)

Saturday, February 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at GPAD Offices, 1310 W. Northwest Highway, Arlington Heights

[Maine Township Democrats](#)

Drive-Thru Democratic Petition Signing Event

Saturday, February 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine) at [Juno - Acuity Lighting](#), 1300 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines

[Meet & Greet Petition Drive for IL Rep. Candidate, District 52 Mary Morgan](#)

Saturday, February 26th from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at [Whisk Bakery & Coffee Shop](#), 216 S. Main Street, Wauconda

[IL Rep. Candidate, District 54 Mary Beth Canty Campaign Kick-Off Event](#)

Saturday, March 5th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at [Arlington Ale House](#), 111 W Campbell St. Unit 3, Arlington Heights