

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

**Upcoming Events**

**Primary Election** - Tuesday, June 28, 2022

**2022 AFT Convention** - July 14-17 (in *Boston*)

**2022 IFT Convention “Together”** - October 21-23 (in *St. Louis*)

**General Election** - Tuesday, November 8, 2022

VIEW:

[Cook County Voter Information](#)

[Lake County Voter Information](#)

\* Review *campaign contributions, voting records, and bios* at:

[VoteSmart.org](#)

[IllinoisSunshine.org](#)

**Highlight**

The IFT is advocating for the [Workers’ Rights Amendment \(WRA\)](#) to pass in November. The WRA - formally known as [Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 11](#) - would amend the Illinois Constitution to guarantee the fundamental rights of workers to unionize and collectively bargain.

**Saturday March 12, 2022**

Attended Local 1211 Legislative Breakfast in Palatine at the Cotillion Banquets. Legislator attendees included: [Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi](#), [Sen. Laura Murphy](#), [Sen. Ann Gillespie](#), [Rep. Mark Walker](#), [Rep. Michelle Mussman](#), and [Rep. Terra Costa Howard](#). IFT President [Dan Montgomery](#) and IFT Legislative Director Dave Comerford from Springfield both attended. Local 1211 founder, John Braglia was honored. The Local 1211 office will now be called, “The John Braglia Center” to commemorate his achievements. Topics discussed included: Tier 2 pensions and pension reform, SEL and mental health funding, disinformation in the school communities, CTE expansion and other state mandates, education funding and the impact of TIF districts, new revenue enhancements, and workers’ rights amendment in IL.

**Thursday March 17, 2022**

Attended Township H.S. Dist. 214 Board of Education meeting. A recognition ceremony was held to honor District Service and Student Excellence.

**Saturday March 26, 2022**

Attended Mary-Oke in Grayslake, a fundraiser in support of State Senate, 31st District Candidate [Mary Edly-Allen](#). Volunteered to help canvass and write postcards. Former IL Rep. Edly-Allen

will run against [Rep. Sam Yingling](#) in the [June 2022 Primary election](#) to face Republican [Adam Solando](#) in the General election.

Other Lake County challenges include Senate District 26, in which incumbent, [Senator Dan McConchie](#), will face democratic challenger, [Candidate Maria Peterson](#), an attorney from North Barrington. In the 52nd House District, incumbent [Rep. Martin McLaughlin](#), a Barrington Hills Republican, will face [Mary Morgan of Island Lake](#). Morgan works in the curriculum and instruction office for Wauconda Unit District 118.

### **Wednesday-Thursday, April 6-7, 2022**

Attended Lobby Days in Springfield. Legislation highlighted in Springfield by IFT Legislative Director, Dave Comerford, was [Senate Bill 2298](#) TIF and PTELL Reform. This bill will allow local school districts to participate in decision-making rather than allowing municipalities to have exclusive authority over decision-making process.

Dave Comerford confirmed that unfunded liability for the five Illinois State pension systems, has reached \$140B. TRS comprises \$4.5B of this liability and is currently 45% funded. Illinois retirement systems include: State Employees' Retirement System (SERS), State Universities Retirement System (SURS), Judges' Retirement System (JRS), General Assembly Retirement System (GARS) and Teachers' Retirement System (TRS).

### **News**

#### [Walker Joins Newly Formed Illinois Assyrian Caucus](#)

The Illinois Assyrian Caucus includes members from the Illinois House and Senate, and aims to elevate the voice of Assyrians in state government by increasing visibility and creating a better understanding of the community's needs.

### **Upcoming Political Events**

VIEW: [Tenth Dem Upcoming Events](#)

### **Sign Up for Legislator Newsletters**

[Senator Laura Murphy](#) - <http://www.senatorlauramurphy.com/news>

[Senator Julie Morrison](#) - <https://www.juliemorrisonforstatesenate.com>

[Senator Dan McConchie](#) - <https://senatormcconchie.com>

[Representative Mark Walker](#) - <https://www.staterepwalker.com/news>

[Representative Martin Moylan](#) - <http://www.staterepmoylan55.com>

[Representative Jonathan Carroll](#) - <https://repjonathancarroll.com>