



211 S. Prospect Suite 9, Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

*December 2022*

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**Pillar Managers**

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Connie Beard/Dennis Grundler,  
*Fundraising*  
Jim Fisher, *Campaign/Elections*  
John Parrott, *Precinct Affairs*

## Statement from Connie Beard, Chair of McLean County Republicans

There is great disappointment for Republicans coming out of November's election. It makes no sense to sugarcoat the results. In McLean County, our County Board stays evenly split while our county-wide offices remain in the hands of Republicans. We still have good Republicans representing us in Springfield with Sally Turner, Jason Barickman, Dan Caulkins, Dennis Tipsword, Tom Bennet, and Bill Hauter. Democrats now hold the newer very Democrat 91<sup>st</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> districts. Desi Anderson and Scott Preston fought hard to win, and we should all be grateful that people are willing to step into the fray on our behalf. We still have Congressman Darin LaHood representing a good portion of our county. Appreciation for the challenging campaigns that Esther Joy King, Kathy Salvi, and Dan Brady ran. All supporters felt their loss.

Congratulations to John McIntyre, Chuck Erickson, Catherine Metsker, George Wendt, Lyndsay Bloomfield, Bill Friedrich, Susan Schafer, and Jim Soeldner for re-election to the County Board. Congratulations to Adam Reeves and Geoff Tompkins for their hard work in winning their first election. These ten people will serve McLean County well. Sincere thanks to Ross Webb, Steve Harsh, Jerry Klinkner, Gary Stevens, Vicki Schultz, Hannah Blumenshine, Annette Fellows, Eduardo Monk Jr., and Don Crop, who put themselves into the fray. While falling short of the needed votes to win the election, they did win the admiration and appreciation of those who worked alongside them. We are grateful for the victories of Kathy Michael as County Clerk, Rebecca McNeil as County Treasurer, and Matt Lane as County Sheriff.

There is great disappointment over losing the governor's race, but how Darren Bailey and Stephanie Trussell conducted their campaign should make all Republicans proud.

Finally, great appreciation is felt for the volunteers across our county who worked so hard to make a difference. Illinois is a huge Democratic ship that will take more than one election cycle to change its course. There are lessons to be learned from this cycle which will play out in the months ahead. We must continue striving for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Our faith and trust need to be stronger than ever for the time ahead.



## Thank You Poll Watchers

By Kim Miller

Thank you for becoming a poll watcher in McLean County. I know you are interested in making positive changes in our county. One of the most powerful local offices that many people have not heard of is Precinct Committeemen. Precinct Committeemen are elected every two years by the voters of their local voting precinct. Some of the duties of a PC are as follows: Commission election judges, distribute information on candidates that they personally support, recommend candidates for office, register voters, be a poll watcher, elect county party leaders who then elect state party leaders, pass candidate petitions, and Drive Out the Vote!

McLean County has 111 precincts. Currently, the Republican Party of McLean County has 62 PC positions filled. Forty-nine precincts in McLean County do not have anyone performing the essential duties of the PC. This link to the McLean County Clerk's office shows the current elected PCs. <https://www.mcleancountyil.gov/574/Precinct-Committeepersons>.

Your voter registration card shows your precinct number. You can easily see from this list if your PC position is filled. If unsure, you can contact Connie Beard ([chairman@mcleancountyrepublicans.org](mailto:chairman@mcleancountyrepublicans.org)) or Joanne Knipmeyer ([executivedirector@mcleanGOP.com](mailto:executivedirector@mcleanGOP.com)).

PCs were elected in the June primary to serve for two years. Running on the ballot as a PC is easy. It starts by collecting ten signatures of registered voters in your precinct, and you will be on the ballot. The good news is that even though the election for PCs is over, if your precinct does not have an elected PC, you can be appointed by Connie Beard. Connie is the McLean County GOP Chair. It is as easy as emailing Connie ([chairman@mcleancountyrepublicans.org](mailto:chairman@mcleancountyrepublicans.org)) and expressing your interest in being appointed to serve as a PC. If your precinct has an elected PC and you are interested in assisting with the duties on the PC list, Connie Beard can give you contact information for your PC, and you can ask to assist as a block captain.

This website (<https://precinctstrategy.com/>) has a lot of great information about serving as a PC and how powerful this local office is in effecting change in our county, state, and nation.

If you are not receiving the monthly newsletter from the McLean County GOP, please sign up at [www.mcleancountyrepublican.org](http://www.mcleancountyrepublican.org). That is an excellent place to keep informed about upcoming meetings on election integrity and other important groups you can join in the party.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help.

# What Happened To The Expected “Red Wave”?

Commentary by Carl Wenning, MCGOP Communication Manager

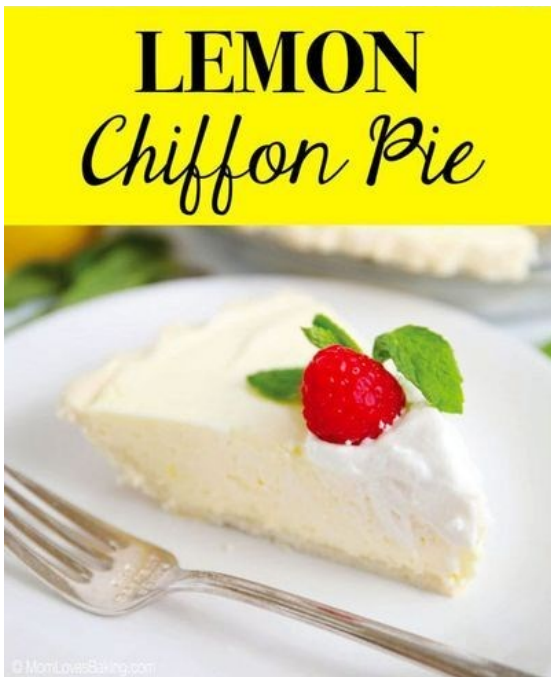
Many conservative voters across the nation were looking for a “red wave” to materialize during the November General Election. It did appear here and there. Unfortunately, it did not materialize everywhere. Some states, like Florida, experienced the red wave, but others, like Illinois, did not.

Locally, we had hoped for a swing away from a 50-50 Republican-Democrat County Board to one decidedly Republican. After the election was over, however, McLean County was left with 10 Republicans and 10 Democrats as before, with no straightforward way to determine how the Board will be led. The status quo was maintained, but things will be much more confusing and controversial.

On a statewide level, we did not win the Governorship (Darren Bailey), Lt. Governorship (Stephanie Trussell), and its accompanying offices such as Secretary of State (Dan Brady), Attorney General (Tom DeVore), Treasurer (Tom Demmer), and Comptroller (Shannon Teresi). Neither did the Republican candidate for the US Senate, Kathy Salvi, win her election. Locally, our candidates for State Senate (Desi Anderson) and Representatives (Scott Preston and Esther Joy King) did not win. Fortunately, several other Republican state and local candidates were returned to office.

This pattern was repeated time and again across the nation. Again, the expected red wave did not materialize. What happened, and what will be the consequences? Perhaps Victor Davis Hanson hit the nail on the head, as shown in this hour-long commentary: <https://youtu.be/bB4gnbxcHvE>.

MCGOP leadership will keep these comments and concerns in mind as we move forward to this spring’s consolidated elections for the Unit 5 school board and city and town governments of Bloomington and Normal.



## Ingredients:

- 1 env. unflavored gelatin
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- 4 egg yolks
- 1/3 c. fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tsp. grated lemon peel
- 4 egg whites
- 1 c. Cool Whip topping
- 2 shallow 9-inch graham cracker crusts

## Directions:

Combine gelatin, *half* of the sugar, and salt in a heavy saucepan. Beat egg yolks together, adding lemon juice and 2/3 cup water. Stir into gelatin mixture. Stir over medium heat until the mixture comes to a boil and the gelatin dissolves. Remove from

heat and stir in grated lemon peel. Chill in an ice bath, occasionally stirring, until partially set. In a separate bowl, beat egg whites together, gradually adding the remaining sugar. Continue beating until soft peaks form. Fold egg whites into a partially set gelatin mixture. Fold in the Cool Whip topping. Pour into graham cracker crusts and chill until firmly set.

## City And Town Council Races On The Ballot

Bloomington and Normal had seven candidates file for positions on their respective city/town councils in the April 4<sup>th</sup> election. Normal has also received three petitions for offices that do not exist but are mandated by the Illinois Municipal Code that the town appears to have been ignoring for many years. This election will feature these candidates and candidates for school boards, though it will be a few days before school board petitions are due.

In **Bloomington**, the following candidates have filed for city council:

Ward 1: Jenna Kearns has filed for candidacy. Incumbent Grant Walch chose not to run.

Ward 2: Donna Boelen, the incumbent, is seeking re-election.

Ward 4: Steven Nalefski and John Wyatt Danenberger have filed for candidacy. Incumbent Julie Emig did not file for a second term.

Ward 6: Jordan Baker and Cody Hendricks have filed for candidacy. De Urban, who was appointed temporarily to replace Jenn Carillo, did not file.

Ward 8: Kent Lee is the only candidate to file for candidacy to replace Jeff Crabill, who is not running for a second term.

Other City Council seats in Wards 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be filled in the 2025 election. At this time, a mayor also will be elected.

In **Normal**, three trustees' four-year terms are expiring and are up for election: Stan Nord, Karyn Smith, and Kathleen Lorenz. Four additional individuals have filed for election as trustees: Marc Tiritilli (former mayoral candidate), Andy Byars, Karl Sila, and Rachael Lund.

Three candidates also filed for non-existent seats in Normal town government following this summer's failed referendum to declare the town a village. In the outcome of a legal hearing, Normal was ruled an incorporated town. It, therefore, appears to lack town officers mandated by the Illinois Municipal Code. The following filed for these positions:

Amy Conklin submitted petitions for town clerk

Charles Sila filed for town collector

Robert Shoraga filed for town supervisor

These offices are not generally on the ballot, so their petitions could be contested to see how the fallout from the recent town vs. village controversy will be handled.

While the turnout for these sorts of elections tends to be low, the elections are critically important to the operations of our municipalities and schools.





## Consider A 2023 MCGOP Membership

**Did you know that the National Republican Party does not send any money to the county parties?** We are on our own to find funds to help our local candidates defeat destructive legislative initiatives such as the 2020 Tax Amendment burden that Gov. Pritzker tried to pass. We defeated that amendment and kept McLean County in Republican hands despite the State Democratic Party putting us in their crosshairs.

**However, 2023 is lining up to be a real battle to hold back the flood of Chicago policies from our school boards to our county board, and we need your help.**

What will your membership money do in 2023?

- Support the work of recruiting and electing solid conservatives to run for office
- Provide funds to support the campaign costs of county Republican Candidates
- Continue recruitment and training of grassroots representatives- our Precinct Committeemen.
- Developing methods of holding those elected accountable for their service
- Keeping watch over the electoral process through the placement of election judges and poll watchers
- From School Boards to Springfield, watching the policies and legislation that impact your daily life
- Create effective communication tools to inform and educate voters
- Help us defeat JB Pritzker and choose an effective governor to represent all the people of Illinois, not just Chicago
- Keep our majority hold in the McLean County Board to protect our public safety, our infrastructure, and our economy
- To reelect our good Republican county-wide officeholders
- And more!

***The stronger our party, the stronger our voice in McLean County!***

We offer two ways you can join the McLean County Republicans:

Join via a monthly reoccurring online payment plan OR an annual payment plan via card or check.

- Young Republicans (under 30 years of age): \$5 a month or an annual gift of \$25
- Grassroots: \$6 a month or an annual gift of \$50
- Restore Illinois: \$8 a month or an annual gift of \$75
- Trump Circle: \$10 a month or an annual gift of \$100
- Eisenhower Circle: \$25 a month or an annual gift of \$250
- Teddy Roosevelt Circle: \$45 a month or an annual gift of \$500
- Reagan Circle: \$85 a month or an annual gift of \$1,000
- Lincoln Circle: \$170 a month or an annual gift of \$2,000

Choose your preferred method of supporting your McLean County Republicans! Please note that memberships are processed on an INDIVIDUAL basis.

**[Click here for Annual Payment](#)**  
**[Click here for Monthly Payment](#)**  
**[Click here for Mail in Form to Join](#)**

Contribution rules:

1. This contribution is made from your own funds, and funds are not being provided to you by another person or entity for the purpose of making this contribution.
2. You are a US citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident (i.e., green card holder)

***Thank you for supporting the McLean County Party.***



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Coffee & Conversation Christmas Extravaganza 2022**

*Tuesday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.—noonish*

Make plans to join us for Christmas music, cookies and a special Christmas message from a very dear friend of our group. We encourage you to bring a friend, and if inclined (not a requirement) a plate of your favorite baked goods. If you dare, don your “Ugly Christmas Sweater”. Hope to see you and all your friends and neighbors there!

*Contact Sue Fiene for further details 217-898-8550.  
GOP Headquarters—211 S Prospect, Suite 9; Bloomington*

## *Merry Christmas from us to you!*

The leadership of McLean County Republicans wishes  
to extend to you and yours a

***Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!***