



211 S Prospect Suite 9; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

January 2023

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McLean County GOP Chairman Connie Beard Steps Down

Connie Beard has announced that she will be stepping down as chairman of the McLean County Republican Central Committee effective Tuesday, December 13. In her place, the Vice Chairman of the committee, Dennis Grundler, will step in to assume the position and take leadership of the county party. Grundler was elected Vice Chairman at the July 2022 Convention of the county party and has continued to serve as precinct committeemen of Old Town 2 precinct. Beard will work in conjunction with the new chairman to ensure a smooth transition takes place. "I have been a volunteer in the party for over 18 years and enjoyed nearly five years serving as chairman. Due to a local change of residence and family needs, I must pass the privilege of serving our local GOP to Dennis. He will complete my term, which will end with the primary of 2024.

I am extremely grateful for the support I have been given over these years and the friendships that I have developed. There will be a couple of months of personal tasks I must tend to, but I will return to helping behind the scenes in a new role as Chairman Emeritus. As we have lowered the average age of our GOP board considerably with our last convention, I am pleased and confident that Dennis will be able to lead our party with fresh ideas and vigor. The fight for our founding principles must carry on, and I pray the younger generations will pick up the torch and lead. Our family is staying in Illinois, so I will continue to work for a better McLean County. This community is worth the sacrifice."

In his new role as Chairman, Dennis Grundler will immediately step in to work with the other county chairpersons from State Senate District 53 to find a replacement for Jason Barickman, who recently announced his resignation, as well as filling the seat being vacated by State Representative Keith Sommer of the 88th District.

A full slate of events for the county party has already been announced, starting with January 14 breakfast meeting at the Doubletree, where all candidates for Bloomington and Normal City Council races are invited to present their platforms. Then follows a breakfast meeting on Saturday, February 11, where voters can hear from area school board candidates. Both events will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, and details with tickets will be available online at www.McLeanCountyRepublicans.org

McLean County Republican Party

<http://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/>

Safe-T Act Ruled Unconstitutional

A Kankakee County judge has found that a key provision of Illinois' sweeping criminal justice law violates the state constitution, potentially rolling back a controversial measure that would eliminate cash bail as of New Year's Day, according to the judge's ruling. Judge Thomas Cunningham's ruling affects only the pretrial release provisions of the law, leaving all other measures of what is known as the SAFE-T Act intact.

Cunningham's decision stems from lawsuits filed by several dozen state's attorneys across Illinois. Cunningham agreed with the prosecutors' argument that the Democratic-controlled state legislature violated the separation of powers component of the Illinois Constitution when it passed a measure eliminating cash bail and, therefore, interfered with the duties of the judiciary. He noted in his 36-page opinion that the Illinois Supreme Court has specifically held that judges have "independent, inherent authority to deny or revoke bail to 'preserve the orderly process of criminal procedure.'"

Cunningham also wrote that the SAFE-T Act "creates new classes of offenses exempt from bail which are not included in the Constitution; it utterly abolishes monetary bail as an option for a judge to utilize to ensure a criminal defendant's appearance in court; and contradicts the constitutional standard regulating when a defendant may be held without bail." "In eliminating monetary bail, the discretion constitutionally vested to the courts to protect victims and their families by this method is gone," Cunningham wrote. "The constitutional requirement of bail is meant to help ensure victims' safety, the defendant's compliance with the terms of release, and the defendant's appearance in court."

Cunningham also ruled that the state legislature "improperly attempted" to amend the state constitution by disregarding bail as part of the pretrial release process. The judge said the more appropriate way to raise that issue would've been to let the electorate decide whether there should be a constitutional amendment about bail. Such a measure would be presented during an election and would require 60% of those voting on the question to vote "yes" for it to pass or more than 50% of all ballots cast to vote in favor of the question.

The state will appeal Cunningham's decision to the state Supreme Court, according to a statement late Wednesday from Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul. His office noted that the ruling only applies to jurisdictions that fall under the more than 60 lawsuits — later consolidated into one lawsuit in Kankakee County court — against Raoul, Gov. J.B. Pritzker and other state officials. The ruling does not apply to Cook County. But it's not immediately clear when the state Supreme Court would hear the appeal or whether the pretrial provisions would be put on hold until the high court makes its ruling. The state Supreme Court has been overseeing the implementation of the no-cash bail policy and other pretrial provisions that have been slated to go into effect on Sunday.

The ruling represents a victory for opponents of the 764-page SAFE-T Act, who've long argued that the no-cash bail policy would drastically limit a judge's ability to detain dangerous criminals ahead of their trial. Supporters of the law argue the end of cash bail is a way to ensure a more equitable court system. Pritzker's office late Wednesday called the ruling "a setback for the principles we fought to protect through the passage of the SAFE-T Act."

"The General Assembly and advocates worked to replace an antiquated criminal justice system with a system rooted in equity and fairness," he said in a statement. "We cannot and should not defend a system that fails to keep people safe by allowing those who are a threat to their community the ability to simply buy their way out of jail."

City/Town Council Candidate Brunch

We invite you to attend the McLean County Republican's City/Town Council Candidate Forum on Saturday, January 14. This non-partisan event will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington.

Thirteen Bloomington and Normal Council candidates have been invited to share their platforms at this candidate forum, and all but two have confirmed that they will be present at the Forum. Each candidate will be given time to speak, and then the floor will be open to questions from the audience, including the media.

This Saturday morning program includes a plated breakfast. Doors open at 9:00 AM, with the program starting at 9:30 AM and wrapping up at 11 AM. Brunch tickets must be purchased no later than Tuesday, January 10. Get details about the Forum and your ticket by visiting the MCGOP website at:

https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/2023_jan_city_council_brunch

We hope to see you there!

McLean County Republican Party



Lessons Learned From Autumn Election

There are lessons to be learned from this past autumn's general election. If you have seen the following video with Victor Davis Hanson, please take the time to do so.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB4gnbxcHvE>

Spring Elections Coming



The spring 2023 election will soon be upon us. Locally, there will be elections for city and town council positions and school boards. In the Town of Normal, there will be a "battle" about three new positions given that the town was ruled an incorporated body in the recent districting petition fiasco. To keep up with the issues and news, be sure to follow McLean County Republicans on our Facebook page.

You can like and follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/mcleancountygop>

New Office Hours & Volunteers Needed At MCGOP Headquarters

New office hours for McLean County Republicans will start on January 10th. Volunteers are needed to staff the office on Tuesdays and Saturdays as follows:

- Tuesdays: 10-12 and 12-2
- Saturdays: 9-12

**OUR OFFICE
HOURS HAVE
CHANGED**



If you've never served in this capacity before, sign up with someone with experience. Two volunteers are needed for each time slot. Please sign up today using Sign Up Genius. Here's the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fafab2da7f5c25-gopoffice1#/>

Tinky's Cozy Apple-Maple Pudding

When you pour hot cider and maple syrup on top of the cake batter, it looks awful, but they sink to the bottom of the dish and form a sweet sauce. Serve this apple-maple pudding with vanilla ice cream.

Total Time: 60—**Yield:** 8 servings

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup milk, divided
- 2 cups apple slices (about 2 medium apples, peeled and cored)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh chopped ginger
- 1 cup sweet apple cider
- 1 cup grade B maple syrup



Instructions

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt, and set aside. In a medium bowl, cream together butter and sugar. Beat in egg. Stir in flour mixture, a third at a time, alternating with milk (beginning and ending with flour mixture).

In a medium bowl, combine apples, sugar, cinnamon, and ginger, and place in an ungreased two-quart casserole dish. Pour batter over apple mixture; make sure all apple pieces are covered.

In a medium saucepan over high heat, combine cider and maple syrup and bring to a boil, stirring often. Pour over batter; it will sink. Bake 35 to 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake (without hitting the liquid on the bottom) comes out clean. <https://newengland.com/today/food/tinkys-cozy-apple-maple-pudding/>