



211 S Prospect Suite 9, Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

**February 2023**

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**January 14<sup>th</sup> Town/City Council Candidate Forum Successful**

The MCGOP-sponsored non-partisan Council Candidate Forum on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> turned out to be quite a success. The room was packed with voters with over 60 in attendance. Candidates for the city and town councils of Bloomington and Normal gave brief presentations in relation to their candidacy. All six candidates for the Town of Normal were present. Candidates from Bloomington Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 4, Ward 6, and Ward 8 were present and spoke. Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 8 are unopposed. Ward 4 and Ward 6 are contested. Two candidates, Cody Hendricks, Ward 6 and John Dananberger, Ward 4, canceled at the last minute and failed to attend. Jordon Baker, Ward 6 and Steven Nalefski, Ward 4 were in attendance. It is surmised that attendance consisted of approximately 80% Republicans and 20% Democrats – not unexpected given that this was an MCGOP-sponsored event.

The event provided an opportunity to everyone to see what issues are and how the candidates agreed and disagreed on them. According to BLNNEWS editor Diane Benjamin, "There is a stark difference between the three (Mayor) Koos wants to see elected as reliable YES votes, and the three who know they answer to the taxpayers."



During a discussion about debt of the Town of Normal, conservative candidate Karl Sila noted something to the effect that "It's nice Normal has a plan, but the real question is why a town of 50,000 people is \$100,000,000 debt." That's a good question, one that clearly had the attention of conservative candidates Stan Nord, who is seeking his second term on the council, and Mark Tiritilli who is seeking his fist. Also in attendance were Kathleen Lorenz who is seeking a third term on the council, Karyn Smith has filed for second term, and new-comer Andy Byars.

By all measures, this was a successful forum. McLean County Republicans continue to educate voters and help encourage civic engagement. To keep up to date about our current happenings, be sure to visit our website and be sure to like and follow us on our Facebook page.

## **School Board Candidate Forum February 11<sup>th</sup> MCGOP-Sponsored Non-partisan Event**

The next state-wide election – the 2023 Consolidated Election – will take place on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. This election will present voters with candidates for city and town councils, school boards, and perhaps a ballot measure or two – such as the Unit 5 proposal for a tax increase (following its defeat on November 8<sup>th</sup>). To inform voters, MCGOP will be sponsoring a non-partisan

### **School Board Candidate Forum on Saturday, February 11, 2023,**

**9:00 AM at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center, 10 Brickyard Dr., Bloomington, Illinois.**

**Breakfast tickets must be reserved by noon—February 8 (see below)**



***LEARN WHO THE CANDIDATES ARE FOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD!***

***LEARN FOR WHOM TO CAST YOUR VOTE ON APRIL 4TH.***



Candidates for area school boards in all areas of the political spectrum have been invited to share their platforms at this forum. Following brief introductory comments by the moderator, the floor will immediately open to questions from the audience, including the media.

School board candidates from across McLean County are invited to contact Chairman Dennis Grundler to be included in the agenda. Dennis can be reached at [chairman@mcleancountygop.com](mailto:chairman@mcleancountygop.com) or (217) 299-7152.

There are a host of issues that concern voters, but especially parents. Topics of especial concern include such things as critical race theory, diversity/equity/inclusion, library holdings, and sex education in the curriculum. Issues also include responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the question, “Whose children are they anyway?” Of course, out-of-control school district spending and real estate tax increases are also part of the equation.

The program begins with a plated breakfast. Doors open at 8:45 AM, with breakfast starting at 9:00 AM. The program starts at 9:30 AM and wraps up at about 11 AM.

**Breakfast tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance.** Cost is \$20 per ticket. The deadline for making reservations is noon on Wednesday, February 8. (Meals cannot be guaranteed if reservations are made after the Wednesday noon deadline; tickets generally will not be available on-site, so please make your reservations and payment in advance.) To make your meal reservation, go to the following link:

[https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/2023\\_february\\_school\\_boards](https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/2023_february_school_boards)

## Heritage Foundation Speakers – Critical Race Theory

### What are the real issues with “Critical Race Theory” in our schools?

**Saturday, March 18, 2023, 9:00 AM (program 10:00-11:00 AM) - REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
**Holiday Inn Express—1715 Parkway Plaza Dr., Normal-**



**Jonathan Butcher** is the Will Skillman Fellow in Education at The Heritage Foundation. He is the author of *Splintered: Critical Race Theory and the Progressive War on Truth* (Bombardier Books, April 2022). He co-edited and wrote chapters in *The Critical Classroom* (The Heritage Foundation, 2022), discussing the racial prejudice that comes from the application of critical race theory in K-12 schools. In 2021, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster nominated Jonathan to serve on the board of the South Carolina Public Charter School District, a statewide charter school authorizer. He has researched and testified on education policy around the U.S. Enjoy the latest updates from the front line as Education Specialist Jonathan Butcher of the Heritage Foundation speaks on the issue of "Critical Race Theory" as it impacts our schools.

The Heritage Foundation is an American conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C. that is primarily geared toward public policy. The foundation took a leading role in the conservative movement during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, whose policies were taken from Heritage's policy study *Mandate for Leadership*. Free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense—these are the values that we fight for every single day. As the nation's largest, most broadly-supported think tank, The Heritage Foundation has long been the bastion of the American conservative movement.

Also speaking will be **Matt Crouch**, Regional Coordinator for Heritage Action for America. He will lay out the field work that this branch of the Heritage Foundation is doing to impact policy across the nation.

This event will be held at [Holiday Inn Express](#), ([Click here for a map.](#)) Doors open at 9:00 AM with a self-serve buffet breakfast. The program running from 10 to 11 AM.

Make your reservations and pay for your ticket through the following link. *Seating is limited*, so get your tickets early. Reservations must be made not less than three days in advance and should be completed by noon on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE: NO WALK INS.** [https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/march\\_2023\\_brunch](https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/march_2023_brunch)



### Inaugural Gathering

**Friday, February 17, 2023, 5:00 PM—Cash Bar**  
**Casper Brewing Company—3807 Ballybunion Road, Bloomington**

Join us for our inaugural *Pints & Politics* gathering! This is for you. Typically MCGOP events are held during the day or Saturday mornings and not convenient for everyone. So we've arranged for political discussions—over a pint of suds.

This is the time to come out and find out more about your candidates for your city or town council and your local school board races. Get educated about your choices and what is going on in your community with our politics. Please RSVP on our upcoming events tab on our website, so we know how much room to request. [https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/pints\\_and\\_politics](https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/pints_and_politics) Map and directions, click here <https://rb.gy/702clw>

Venue expected to move monthly, watch for future notifications and updates. Look forward to seeing you there.

## Featured Recipe – Sugar Cookies (Lofthouse style)



SERVES: 2 dozen

PREP TIME: 4 ½ hours

COOK TIME: 8 minutes

### I N G R E D I E N T S

#### Cookie dough:

1 cup stick butter, softened

1 cup heavy cream, room temp

1 cup sugar

2 teaspoons vanilla

2 eggs, room temp

4 teaspoons baking powder

4 cups flour

#### Frosting:

½ cup stick butter, softened

½ cup solid vegetable shortening

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

4 cups sifted powdered sugar

2 Tablespoons milk

### D I R E C T I O N S

FOR THE COOKIES: Cream the butter until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the heavy cream, sugar, vanilla & eggs. Mix until combined. Add the baking powder and flour and mix well.

Shape the dough into a circle/ball & wrap in saran wrap. Cool in the fridge overnight or for several hours.

Pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Roll out the dough on a floured surface. (I prefer them nice & thick about 1/2" but anywhere between 1/4" -1/2" is good.) Use a 3"- 3 1/2" circle cookie cutter. Place circles on a parchment lined cookie sheet. (These cookies spread a little while baking, so they don't do well when cut into other shapes)

Bake for 8-10 minutes (depending on the size of your circle) or until bottoms are a very light brown. Check at 8 minutes & DO NOT overcook or they will be dry. Take them out right when they are done and don't look wet on top.

For the Frosting: In a large bowl, cream butter and shortening with electric mixer. Add vanilla. Gradually add sugar, one cup at a time, beating well on medium speed. Scrape sides and bottom of bowl often. When all sugar has been mixed in, frosting will appear dry. Add milk and beat at medium speed until light and fluffy. \*

Keep bowl covered with damp cloth until ready to use. For best results, keep icing bowl in refrigerator when not in use.

Once cookies are cool use piping bag, spatula, or knife to frost cookies.

### N O T E S

\*For frosting, if it is still too dry add a splash of milk until it is at the consistency you want. If it is too wet, then add spoonful of powdered sugar until you're happy with the consistency.

From the kitchen of <https://www.classyclutter.net/heavenly-sugar-cookies/> for the cookie dough and Wilton for the frosting recipe