



211 S Prospect Suite 9; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

July, 2023

In this issue:

Showing the Pride	1
Candidates for President	2
Current Issues Illinois Politics	2
PolitiBits	3
Featured Recipe	3
Leadership Institute	3
Upcoming Events	4
Why Join McGOP?	5

McLean County Republican Central Committee Executive Board

Chairman

Dennis Grundler

Vice Chair

John Parrott

Secretary

Bruce Hany

Treasurer

Carl Haney

Division Chairs

Matt Steinkoenig, Blm South
Jim Snyder, Blm North
David Blumenshine, Normal
George Wendt, County West
Adam Reeves, County East

Vice Chair At Large

Jim Fisher, Elections
Carl Wenning, Communications
Chelsie Leffelman, Community
Engagement
David Paul Blumenshine,
Fundraising
Brandon Hepner, At Large

Showing the Pride July 4th

MCGOP party members and several political candidates showed their American pride by marching in three July 4th parades – in Downs, Towanda, and Danvers. Shown below is the crew in Downs. Among the representatives, senators, and candidates who marched with us were the following: Lisa Holder White; Dan Caulkins; Regan Deering; Erika Reynolds; Sally Turner; Tom Bennett, and Jason Bunting. Thanks to all who showed up to demonstrate their American pride and support of the Republican Party!



Marchers gathered at Downs before the July 4th parade. In total, marchers handed out 1,000 small American flags along the way!

Current Issues in Illinois Politics

Illinois, like any other state, has a variety of political issues that are relevant to its residents. Some of the key issues in Illinois politics at this time include the following:

Fiscal Challenges: Illinois faces significant fiscal challenges, including budget deficits, mounting debt, and pension obligations. These issues have led to debates over taxation, spending priorities, and pension reform.

Corruption and Ethics: Illinois has a history of political corruption, which has led to a focus on ethics reforms and efforts to increase transparency and accountability in government. The state has taken steps to address these issues but concerns about political ethics persist.

Education Funding: Education funding is a prominent issue in Illinois. There have been debates about how to fairly distribute funds to schools across the state, especially in economically disadvantaged areas. Ensuring adequate educational resources and addressing disparities in access to quality education are ongoing concerns.

Crime and Public Safety: Crime rates, particularly in some areas of Chicago, have been a major concern for Illinois residents. Discussions center around strategies to reduce violence, improve community-police relations, and implement criminal justice reforms.

Republican Candidates for President in 2024

While it's early in the 2023/2024 election cycle, the field of Republican candidates for president is large and growing. Consider the field as this newsletter goes to press:

MOST FAVORED:

These individuals have thrown their hats into the ring for the Republican presidential nomination and based on the current state of affairs, have the greatest likelihood of getting the party's support:

- ★ Donald Trump, Former President of the United States
- ★ Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida

BIGGEST CONTENDERS:

The following individuals have likewise declared their candidacies, but their paths to obtaining the Republican nomination for president are somewhat more fraught with difficulties compared to the most-favored candidates:

- ★ Nikki Haley, Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and former Governor of South Carolina.
- ★ Mike Pence, former Vice President and prior Governor of Indiana.
- ★ Tim Scott, South Carolina senator.
- ★ Ted Cruz, U.S. Senator from Texas

LONGSHOTS:

The following individuals have declared their candidacies but are considered by many to have vanishingly small prospects of winning the Republican nomination for president:

- ★ Ryan Binkley, a Dallas-area businessman, and non-denominational pastor.
- ★ Doug Burgum, a former tech executive.
- ★ Chris Christie, the former New Jersey governor.
- ★ Larry Elder, a former conservative media personality.
- ★ Will Hurd, a former Texas congressman.
- ★ Asa Hutchinson, a U.S. attorney, congressman, DEA administrator, and two-term Arkansas governor.
- ★ Perry Johnson, a Michigan businessman, and 2022 gubernatorial candidate.
- ★ Vivek Ramaswamy, an investor, and former pharmaceutical company CEO.
- ★ Francis Suarez, the current Miami mayor.

NOT TO BE COUNTED OUT:

Possible but unlikely future candidates (some have already ruled themselves out, but that can change) include the following:

- ★ Kristi Noem, Governor of South Dakota.
- ★ Mike Pompeo, former U.S. Secretary of State and former Director of the CIA.
- ★ Tom Cotton, U.S. Senator from Arkansas.

Stay tuned for updates on the MCGOP newsletter, Facebook page, and emails.

MCGOP Website Getting Facelift

In the coming months, the [MCGOP website](#) will get a "facelift" in preparation for the spring 2024 primary elections. Changes have already begun to appear. For instance, see the new images scrolling across the home page. Consider the additional new and recently updated items:

MCGOP NewsDesk: This page consists of press releases issued by the McLean County Republican Party. Here is where you can get comments from our leadership about policies of local, state, and national interest. The information includes candidates and their beliefs and MCGOP recommendations for upcoming elections.

News Resources: This page provides a litany of conservative news sites with the latest local, state, and national news information. This page will make a difference if you want to supplement your reading and beef up your political understanding. In addition to news items, this page also contains links to conservative bloggers who regularly issue informative videos.

Monthly Newsletters: Our newsletters – intended primarily for the MCGOP membership – can yet be found on our website. Newsletters provide topics of particular interest from our elected leaders and Executive Board and information about the latest party events locally – some statewide. Don't miss out on our monthly recipe section – an absolute favorite! Newsletters are typically posted on the second Thursday of each month.

As always, the [MCGOP Facebook](#) page experiences multiple, up-to-the-minute updates on a near-daily basis. We typically have three to five posts per day. If you have not liked and followed our page, be sure to do so to get daily updates and a host of newsworthy tidbits.

PolitiBits

PolitiBits are bits of useful political information too small to merit a separate article. They are compiled here for their appeal and interest. (Please note that announcements of candidacies do not constitute endorsements.)

The [McLean County Board](#) approved the creation of 20 new voter precincts at its June 20th meeting. These precincts were created from existing precincts that had grown too large. Nine precincts were created within the Bloomington Election Commission districts eleven across McLean County. As a result of these changes, some voters will have new polling places. Stay tuned for details.

The next General Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Elections will be held for the positions of judge, auditor, coroner, etc. Many positions for precinct committee persons (PCs) also will be filled. Candidates will be canvassing the electorate for nomination petitions this fall. If you are interested in running as a PC, please contact...

Former State Rep. Dan Brady had been looking at running in either the 17th Congressional District race or the 88th Illinois House District contest in 2024. The Bloomington-Normal Republican declared this past Friday (June 7th) that he won't be running for either of those offices this time around.

Election judges will be needed for future elections in McLean County and Bloomington. These are temporary paid positions at polling stations. Training is provided. See <https://www.mcleancountyil.gov/1584/Election-Judge-Training-Application>

Did you know that McLean County has two election authorities? The [McLean County Clerk's Office](#) handles all elections for the county except the City of Bloomington. Voting in the City of Bloomington is conducted by the [Bloomington Election Commission](#).

[Vote-by-mail for McLean County](#) is now available for the March 19, 2024, General Primary Election. There are two ways to submit your application – one version to print and mail in, the other to complete and submit online. Bloomington voters have a separate application process available through this [link](#).

View the [Illinois Election Calendar](#) for the 2024 General Primary Election for critical dates and deadlines.

The McLean County Republican Central Committee (MCGOP) has posted its most recent set of Bylaws (adopted July 10, 2022) to its website: https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/mcgop_bylaws



AUGUST 13: MCGOP summer picnic will be held on Sunday, August 13th. This year the event will be held at the [Hesed House Venue](#) in rural Heyworth. We understand that U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White will be present to speak with us. Details are incomplete as this issue of our MCGOP Newsletter

goes to press. Watch both the MCGOP [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for announcements and reservations.

AUGUST 17: Republican Day at the Illinois State Fair will take place on Thursday, August 17th, this year, and you are invited to attend the Republican Day Rally. The event will be held on the Director's Lawn at the State Fairgrounds (801 East Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702) and will start at noon! Gates will open at 11:30 am CST, and food will be served.

We look forward to seeing you there! [If you need more information or want to get tickets, please visit the ILGOP website to reserve your spot today!](#)

SEPTEMBER 14: Our annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner has been slated for September 14th, but the speaker is still in question. Details are incomplete as this issue of our MCGOP Newsletter goes to press. Watch both the MCGOP [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for announcements and reservations. For now, hold the date.

Featured Recipe – Lemon Chiffon Pie

(Serves 6-8 per pie; prep time 45 minutes; chill time 2 hours)

INGREDIENTS

1 env. unflavored gelatin
1 c. granulated sugar
½ tsp. salt
4 egg yolks
1/3 c. of real 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 boils and the gelatin dissolves. Remove from heat and stir in grated lemon peel. Chill in an ice bath, stirring occasionally, 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.

Upcoming Events

(Updates about events can be found on the MCGOP [Website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page.)

JULY 14: The next *Pints & Politics* gathering will occur on Friday, July 14th, at [Barrel Head](#), 9 Brickyard Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701. The event is quite informal and runs from 5-7 PM. Join us for a brew and a round of discussions about the day's events. No reservations are necessary. This will be the last Pints & Politics gathering until this autumn.

JULY 19: *Voter Registration Training - Become a Deputy Registrar*. Please join us for training to be able to sign up people to register to vote. Training is only an hour. A Deputy Registrar is an individual who has completed training provided by an election authority to register voters. Deputy Registrars may register voters who reside anywhere in the State of Illinois, and the Board of Elections will forward the registrations to the proper jurisdiction. Let us know to expect you by checking in for details [through this link](#).

JULY 20-21: Join the sixth annual *Seats for Soldiers* event at the Corn Crib to support local veterans. Help "save seats" for Soldiers to raise money for *Hope for the Warriors*®, a national non-profit that helps Central Illinois veterans from all branches of the military – from enlisted to the deployed. Read more at [cities929.com](#).

JULY 25-29: The *McLean County Fair* is earlier this year than ever, but that won't prevent the MCGOP from showing up with their display tent! The fair runs from Tuesday, July 25th, through Saturday, July 29th. Look for our signature tent along the main fairway. If you do attend the fair, be sure to stop by. You may learn more about the Fair by going to <https://www.mcfc.org/event/23fair/>

AUGUST 12: On Saturday, August 12, 2023, the Tazewell County Republican Party and the Peoria County Republican Party will host their esteemed *Leadership Institute* for a valuable day-long seminar on campaign management and getting out the vote! The cost is minimal; only \$25. The fee includes lunch and expert instruction from two of Leadership Institute's premier presenters, Angela and Chris Faulkner. They will share their vast knowledge and political experience as they show what effective and successful campaigns do. Follow the link below for detailed information and registration. <https://www.litraining.org/.../24f886ec-5a48-4435.../summary>



Current Issues in Illinois Politics—cont. from page 1

Healthcare and Medicaid: Access to affordable healthcare and the sustainability of the state's Medicaid program are important issues in Illinois. Debates often revolve around expanding healthcare coverage, controlling costs, and ensuring access to quality healthcare services.

Economic Development: Illinois's priorities are promoting economic growth and attracting businesses to the state. Discussions focus on fostering a business-friendly environment, investing in infrastructure, and creating job opportunities.

Energy and Environmental Policy: Illinois has been grappling with energy and environmental issues, including debates over clean energy, carbon emissions reduction, and transitioning to renewable energy sources. Balancing economic concerns with environmental sustainability is a key consideration.

These are just a few examples of the issues that are relevant in Illinois politics. The state's political landscape is complex, and many other topics may be important to Illinois residents, depending on their specific concerns and priorities. Again, stay tuned for updates on the issues and the candidates.

Why Join McLean County Republicans?

People join political parties for various reasons, depending on individual perspectives and goals. Joining the McLean County Republicans will help voters at the national, state, and local levels. Here are some reasons why people choose to join McLean County Republicans:

- ★ **To stay informed:** Political parties provide opportunities for education and learning about the political process, governance, and policy issues. Parties often organize seminars, workshops, and training sessions to develop the skills of their members in areas such as public speaking, campaigning, and policy analysis. Joining a party can be a valuable learning experience that deepens your understanding of politics and public affairs.
- ★ **To have influence and make an impact:** Joining a political party allows individuals to have a greater influence on the political process and decision-making. By aligning with a party, you can work collectively with like-minded individuals to shape policies and promote your values and ideas within the party's platform.
- ★ **To network with others to provide aid and gain support:** Political parties provide a network of like-minded individuals who share similar political ideologies and goals. Joining a party can help you connect with people who share your passion for specific issues or causes. It offers opportunities to collaborate, gain support for your ideas, and work together towards common objectives.
- ★ **To participate in election politics:** Political parties are crucial for electoral campaigns and winning elections. Joining a party can provide access to resources, infrastructure, and expertise to enhance your chances of running for office or supporting candidates who align with your beliefs. Parties often have established campaign structures, funding mechanisms, and voter outreach strategies that can be advantageous.
- ★ **To help formulate policies:** Political parties play a significant role in shaping public policy. By joining a party, you can participate in policy discussions, contribute to developing party platforms, and influence the direction of policy proposals. This can be a way to actively engage in the democratic process and work towards implementing policies that you believe will benefit society.
- ★ **To advocate for the causes you believe in:** Parties can serve as platforms for advocacy and activism. By joining a party, you can work collectively with other members to raise awareness about specific issues, lobby for legislative changes, and mobilize support for causes that align with your values. Parties often have established channels for engaging with policymakers and the public, which can amplify your advocacy efforts.

The MCGOP will soon initiate a new membership campaign with many defined benefits. Stay tuned for details.

