



211 S Prospect Suite 9; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

**October, 2023**

## Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Welcomes Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White

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### McLean County Republican Central Committee Executive Board

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Barb Hale, Community Engagement  
Kim Miller, Elections  
Jim Fisher, Election Liaison  
Connie Beard, Fundraising



Dennis Grundler  
MCGOP Chairman

The McLean County Republican Party cordially invites the citizens of McLean County to attend the Lincoln-Reagan Dinner on Friday, October 27. The party leadership is “extremely excited” about the dinner and has high expectations for this gala event. Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White will be this year’s keynote speaker.

MCGOP Chairman Grundler said, “**The Party is extremely excited about our Lincoln-Reagan Dinner, particularly about our keynote speaker.**” Justice White will deliver an address to inspire, uplift, and encourage conservative-values voters. Hers will be a message of hope, and it will include the amazing story of how she overcame the odds to rise to a high level of public service.”

“I hope conservative values voters across Central Illinois will consider attending this event. Participants will have an enjoyable time listening to White, a constitutionalist. They will also delight in the knowledge that they are supporting the McLean County Republicans – the Party representing voters with conservative values in the political arena.”

This dinner will be held in Bloomington and features a delicious plated dinner, a silent auction, raffles, door prizes, and more! Emceeding the event will be radio talk show hosts Cat Petersen and Ty Smith (“Modern Renaissance Man”) from Cities 92.9 FM.

The Lincoln-Reagan event will begin at 6:00 PM at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington. Meal service starts at 6:30 PM. Reservations must be made by Monday, October 23. Reservations and meal tickets are available through this [registration link](#).

Please note that sponsorships are also available in the amounts of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 to increase support of the Party. Each level has associated with it meals and other amenities. Sponsorships should be arranged by October 20, if possible.

### Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White

Justice Lisa Holder, White of the Supreme Court of Illinois, is a Decatur, Illinois, native, the daughter of Marvin and Corinne Holder. She attended Decatur Public Schools through third grade and the Macon Public Schools until 1986, when she graduated from Macon Community High School. Justice Holder White graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in Urbana-Champaign in 1993. (cont pg 2)



Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White

### **Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White (cont.)**

Her first legal position was as an Assistant State's Attorney for Macon County, where she handled a wide range of cases from traffic violations to felonies. Later, she worked as an Assistant Public Defender, litigating on behalf of individuals accused of criminal offenses and representing abused and neglected children. After gaining experience in the criminal justice system, Justice White enjoyed a thriving practice at the Decatur law firm, then Brinkoetter & White. She focused her practice on family and criminal law.

With this background, she was appointed Associate Judge in 2001, becoming the first Black judge in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. During her term as an Associate Judge, she was instrumental in securing and implementing the Redeploy Illinois Grant to reduce the incarceration rate for nonviolent juvenile offenders.

In 2008, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed her Circuit Judge to fill a retirement vacancy, and in 2010, she was elected to the position. In this role, she served as Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division.

Again selected to fill a vacancy, Justice White was sworn in as the first Black member of the Illinois Appellate Court, Fourth District, on January 14, 2013. In 2014, she was elected to a full term on the appellate court.

On July 7, 2022, Justice White was sworn in as a Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, the first Black woman to hold this position. Justice White has been active in judicial education, professional leadership, and public service.

In addition to her service to the legal profession, Justice White is dedicated to giving back to the community. She has been a member of the Decatur Public Schools Foundation boards, the Mid-Illinois Chapter of the American Red Cross, Millikin University, and the Community Foundation of Macon County. She served on the Project Success Right Track Truancy Roundtable, a group formed to address local truancy issues. She participated in Varsity Goes to City Hall, a group that paired high school students with professionals working in the students' areas of interest.

Justice White enjoys hosting mock trial programs to expose young people to the justice system and encourage those interested in a career in the law. Justice White has welcomed university and law school students into her chambers as externs. Working with the Girl Scouts, she has hosted activities that allow scouts to meet and learn from women who are judges, police officers, attorneys, court reporters, and probation officers. As part of the Illinois Supreme Court's efforts to expose the public to the state's legal history, Justice White participated in the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission's program, presenting a "retrial" of the famous insanity trial of Mary Todd Lincoln. Another such program addressed "The Alton School Cases," and Justice White was a member of the panel discussion of these milestone cases.

Justice White is a member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves on the Culinary Committee and enjoys singing in the choir. She and James, her husband of thirty-five years, are the proud parents of Brett and Myah.

### **McLean County Chair Remains in Republican Hands**

In a party-line vote on September 14, the majority of the McLean County Board voted to elect Catherine Metsker (R) to replace John McIntyre (R) as Chair of the McLean County Board. McIntyre retired earlier in the month due to unspecified health reasons. The vote was nine in favor versus eight opposed.

Long-time Board member Chuck Erickson (R) nominated Metsker, citing her 38 years of residency in McLean County and nine years of experience as a Board member. In addition, Erickson noted, Metsker has served for three years as chair of the McLean County Board's Finance Committee. She also has served on the Board's Executive Committee and the Health Committee. Metsker hails from Carlock.

Though some Democrats called foul, Republicans smartly played the rules to keep the Chairmanship of the McLean County Board in Republican hands, believing that the chairmanship position should not flip between parties due to the unfortunate health-related resignation of its former chair.



*New County Board Chair Catherine Metsker (R)*

## 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.)*

- ★ **George Wendt** announced on September 4 that he will again be running in District 3 for the McLean County Board. Wendt has been a member of the County Board for many years. He also serves on the Executive Board of McLean County Republicans. Visit [George Wendt for McLean County Board](#) for additional information.



*George & Jeannie Wendt*

- ★ **David Dunn**, Bloomington resident, has thrown his hat into the ring to run for the McLean County District 7. He's a 29-year-old Air Force veteran who returned from Afghanistan in 2020. He holds a degree in economics from Western Illinois University and has been working in banking in the Bloomington-Normal area since 2017. Following a notable crime incident in his Rainbow Avenue neighborhood, he decided to run for the McLean County Board with his focus on public safety and law enforcement. He wants to place a strong emphasis on making McLean County a great place to do business.

- ★ Grundy County Board Chairman **Chris Balkema** proudly announces his candidacy for the Illinois State Senate in the 53<sup>rd</sup> State Senate District. A conservative and stalwart of the Republican Party, Balkema is poised to elevate Illinois' political landscape, prioritizing the needs and rights of its citizens. The 53<sup>rd</sup> State Senate District touches the [northern reaches of McLean County](#), including Towanda, Lexington, Chenoa, and regions to the west of I-55 approximately. For more information on Chris Balkema's campaign, please visit [chrisbalkema.com](#)



*Chris Balkema and Family*

- ★ Republicans need two candidates to run for office on the McLean County Board in District 5. One candidate is needed to fill a two-year term, and another is needed to fill a four-year term. If interested, contact McLean County Republicans. County Board district maps can be seen by clicking [here](#).

- ★ Nearly 50 proud Republicans marched in Bloomington's Labor Day Parade on September 4. The event included lots of familiar MCGOP faces, including several political candidates now running in the March 2024 primary.



*Our proud crew of Labor Day Parade marchers.*

- ★ McLean County Republicans returned for a fifth time to the annual *Day of Play* event sponsored by the Children's Discovery Museum and PNC Bank in uptown Normal on Saturday, September 23. The event ran from 10 AM to 3 PM. MCGOP volunteers offered activities for children where they voted for their favorite cartoon, participated in a matching game of famous national historic sites, played an interactive quiz game on American History, dressed up like Abraham Lincoln or Betsy Ross, won prizes, and received other free goodies. The MCGOP's Connie Beard coordinated the event.



*Chelsie Leffelman & her daughter at Day of Play!*

**More PolitiBits next page!**



## PolitiBits—cont.

- ★ A crowd of supporters and well-wishers gathered on August 30 to meet with Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White. Justice White shared her passion for service as the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Supreme Court Justice. The gathering was held at *Rob Dob's Restaurant* in Bloomington.

*L-to-R at this event were Judge Amy Lan-  
nerd, Illinois 4<sup>th</sup> District Appellate Court;  
Connie Beard, MCGOP Fundraising Chair;  
Justice Lisa Holder White, Illinois Supreme  
Court 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court; State  
Senator Sally Turner, Illinois Senate 44<sup>th</sup>  
District; and Regan Deering, Candidate  
for 88<sup>th</sup> State House District.*



- ★ **Desi Anderson** has announced that she will run for State Representative in the 91<sup>st</sup> State House District, challenging a freshman Democrat incumbent, Sharon Chung. Anderson is a business owner and mother, residing in rural Carlock with her husband and son. After several years of international relief and humanitarian work abroad, she received her degree from Indiana University and established a successful business in McLean County.

"It's a privilege to officially announce my candidacy to be the next State Representative in the 91<sup>st</sup> District," said Desi Anderson. "For too long now, we have watched the state of Illinois move in the wrong direction. Unfortunately, Springfield has gone away from common sense, freedom-focused solutions that many of our neighbors believe in and want to see reflected in their government. Instead, out-of-touch lawmakers fail to consider the working families, farmers, and future generations when voting on legislation significant to our livelihood. I am ready to put in the time and energy to get Illinois back on track, create a prosperous future for our kids, and put Illinois families at the forefront."



*Desi Anderson, Candidate for  
State Representative 91st District*

The 91<sup>st</sup> District stretches from Bloomington to Bartonville and encompasses portions of McLean, Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties.

- ★ The McLean County Republicans' new coffee mugs have just arrived! You can get yours by becoming a member of the MCGOP. Sign up today through this membership link: <https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/membership>
- ★ **Mike Kirkton**, a veteran, businessman and farmer, announced that he will be a candidate for Illinois State Senate District 53. Current Senator Tom Bennett has stated that he will not seek reelection.



## Please Update Your MCGOP Contact Information

## Data Verification Project

The MCGOP office recently launched a comprehensive data verification project. A census is now being conducted to update voter information roles. Up-to-date voter information is critical to the MCGOP in getting the word out about local and state elections. Follow this [data verification project link](#) to provide your contact information. Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance.

### Upcoming Events

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



CAN WE LOOK FORWARD  
TO SEEING YOU?

- October 14:** McLean County Republicans will participate in the Illinois State University Homecoming Parade. Kicks off is at 10:00 AM. We are looking for proud Republicans to show the colors by walking the parade route with our many candidates for political office! The event starts at the intersection of College Avenue and University Street. Look for the red fire vehicle. There will be no float. We ask that all Republican candidates walk together as we did during the Labor Day parade. Please sign up to participate through [SignUpGenius](#) so we know who's coming.
- October 20:** The MCGOP will have a members-only film screening featuring *Sound of Freedom*. General and premium MCGOP members have been invited to watch the movie in a comfortable setting with a 75"-screen TV, surround sound, and plenty of good food to munch on while viewing this viral film. The deadline to reserve your seat is Wednesday, October 18, so act now using this [RSVP LINK](#). Do you know someone who would like to join but isn't a General or Premium Member? Tell them to join at either level [HERE](#).
- October 27:** This year's MCGOP Lincoln-Reagan Dinner will feature Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White. Emceeding the event will be radio talk show hosts from Cities 92.9 FM Cat Petersen and Ty Smith. Event begins at 6 PM at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center. [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

## Featured Recipe – Hot German Potato Salad

(Yields: 8-10 servings; Preparation Time: 1.5 hours)

### INGREDIENTS

4 or 5 large Russet or Burbank Russet potatoes	1½ tsp salt
10 slices of bacon	¾ C apple cider vinegar
½ C chopped onions	1½ C water
3 T flour	Celery seed
3 T granulated sugar	Chopped boiled eggs, parsley, and pimentos (optional)

### DIRECTIONS

Place enough potatoes to fit in the bottom of a kettle loosely. Boil for about one hour or until the skins crack and loosen. Remove from the water and cool. Fry the bacon and set aside. When cool, crumble the bacon into small pieces. Remove most of the grease from the pan, retaining about 2-3 tablespoons. Place chopped onion in the pan and cook until transparent and slightly browned. Add flour and stir under heat until flour has been cooked. Add sugar and salt, followed by vinegar and water. Stir until warmed through. Add celery seed. Bring sauce to a slow boil until thickened. Slice potatoes into sauce and heat through, gently mixing. Serve warm.

*Editor's note: This recipe is a perfect accompaniment for autumn outdoor cook-outs consistin of a grilled entrée, sauerkraut, cinnamon apple sauce, baked beans, corn on the cob, and more. It's a very popular side dish at family potlucks.*

