



211 S Prospect Suite 9; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

November, 2023

Lincoln-Reagan Dinner In Review!

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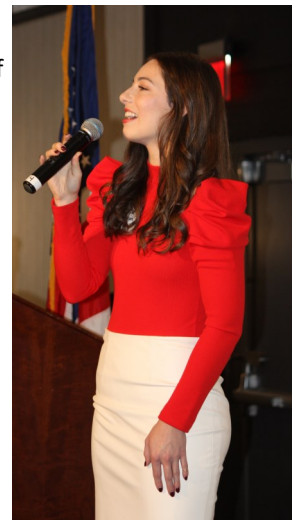
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About 140 individuals attended the 2023 MCGOP Lincoln-Reagan Dinner on Friday, October 27. Attendees heard inspiring comments from Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White, who was interviewed in a homey stage setting by Cat Petersen and Ty Smith from Cities 92.9 FM. In addition, US Congressman Darin LaHood gave many informative and insightful comments about recent events in Washington, DC. His comments about the wisdom of selecting Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana to serve as the new Speaker of the House were of particular note.



Attendees enjoyed a fabulous plated dinner, participated in a silent auction, bought many raffle tickets, and received door prizes. Without question, everyone had a wonderful time. Because pictures are worth a thousand words, feast on this event.. More pictures can be found on the MCGOP Facebook page, and a detailed description of this event is available on our NewsDesk. <https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/>





Illinois Spring 2024 Primary

According to Illinois Law, the State's Primary Election will be held on March 19, 2024. Party primaries include the following candidates for office:

- ✓ President of the United States
- ✓ Representatives in U.S. Congress - All 17 Districts
- ✓ State Senators in Districts 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55, and 58.
- ✓ Representatives in the Illinois General Assembly - All 118 Districts
- ✓ Sanitary District Commissioners/Trustees
- ✓ Circuit Clerks
- ✓ Recorders (in counties with a population of 60,000 or more inhabitants)
- ✓ State's Attorneys
- ✓ Auditors (in counties with a population over 75,000 and under 3,000,000)
- ✓ Coroners
- ✓ Regional Superintendent of Schools (vacancies)
- ✓ County Commissioners (Counties not under township organization)
- ✓ County Board Members (Counties under township organization)
- ✓ Judges (Additional Judgeships if required)
- ✓ Supreme Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
- ✓ Appellate Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
- ✓ Circuit Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
- ✓ Resident Circuit Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
- ✓ Subcircuit Judges, Vacancies will be filled

During these party primaries, the following will be running for elective offices:

- ✓ Delegates and alternate delegates to national conventions (in accordance with approved Delegate Selection Plans)
- ✓ Precinct Committeepersons (all counties, excluding Cook)

Here is what McLean County Republicans know about those running for the various offices:

Circuit Clerk: Donald Everhart
State's Attorney: Erika Reynolds
County Auditor: Michelle Anderson
County Coroner: Kathy Yoder
McLean County Board –
County Board#1: Adam Reeves
County Board#2: Dennis Grundler
County Board#3: George Wendt and possibly Brian Loeffler
County Board#4: none
County Board #5 2-year, Randy Knapp; 4-year, Chad Berck
County Board #6: none
County Board #7: David Dunn
County Board#8: none
County Board#9: Sue Schaefer
County Board#10: Ross Webb
Illinois State Reps –
District 87: Bill Hauter
District 88: Chuck Erickson and Regan Deering
District 91: Desi Anderson
District 105: Dennis Tipsord and Donald Reints
District 106: Jason Bunting
Illinois Senate –
District 46 Sally Owens
District 53: Mike Kirkton, Jason Faber, Scott Preston, Chris Balkema, Susan Wynn-Betts, Gary Minier, and Paul Ducat
U.S. Illinois Reps –
District 16: Darin LaHood
District 17: Judge Joe McGraw and Scott Crowl
IL Supreme Court: Justice Lisa Holder White
Appellate Court 4th District: Eugene Doherty and Amy Lannerd



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.)

- ★ On October 14, a small contingent of McLean County Republicans participated in the ISU Homecoming Parade. Here at the assembly point are Gary Stevens (with violin), Brandon Hepner (driving), and Jim Fisher.
- ★ On October 20, the MCGOP held a members-only film screening featuring *Sound of Freedom*. General and premium MCGOP members were invited to watch the movie in a comfortable setting with a 75"-screen TV, surround sound, and plenty of treats. A small contingent attended, but they had a rollickingly good time thanks to the event sponsor.
- ★ There are now seven announced Republican candidates for State Senate in the 53rd District. Since last month's MCGOP newsletter, new candidates to announce from our vicinity are Washington Mayor Gary Manier and Jesse Faber, a farmer who teaches agriculture at Pontiac High School. Manier and Faber join Grundy County Chair Board Chris Balkema and former Livingston County Board member Mike Kirkton in the race to fill the seat now held by Senator Tom Bennett. Bennett declined to run again, fulfilling a campaign promise to serve only a limited number of terms. The 53rd District is a predominantly Republican region with parts of thirteen Illinois counties, including McLean, Peoria, and Tazewell.
- ★ Randall Knapp has been appointed as the newest member of the McLean County Board for District 5 in Normal. His appointment was approved by the Board on Thursday, October 12, with a decisive 17-2 vote. His appointment was made among four individuals who had applied for the position. Following the vote, Knapp replaced longstanding member John McIntyre, who had served as the Board chair until September. McIntyre, a Republican, resigned due to health issues, and according to Board rules, his seat had to be filled by a fellow party member. The appointment of Knapp received unanimous support from all the Board's Republicans, with the endorsement of the new chair, Catherine Metsker. However, two out of the 10 Democrats on the board, namely Beverly Bell (District 6) and Corey Beirne (District 10), cast dissenting votes.
- ★ Randall Knapp and Chad Berck will run in the April primary for seats on the McLean County Board. Both will be running in District 5. Knapp will be running for the two-year term; Berck will be running for the four-year term. Staggered terms exist at this point in the election cycle due to the decennial census that causes a "realignment" of positions every ten years. Other candidates might be running for this and other offices, so this listing might not be complete. The list in the article above might be more so.
- ★ Milan resident Scott Cowl has entered the race for Illinois' 17th Congressional District in the upcoming election. Cowl, a life-long farmer and former president of the AFSCME union, emphasizes that he is not a seasoned politician. He is vying for the GOP nomination alongside retired judge Joe McGraw from Rockford, both aiming to secure a House seat that has been under Democratic control for over ten years.
- ★ Don't forget that candidates for elective office are now making the rounds to gather petition signatures so they can be placed on the spring primary ballot. If they should come calling, please give them the courtesy of your support.
- ★ Many MCGOP NewsDesk feature stories have recently appeared in the [McLean County Times](#). Six articles appeared in the *Times* between October 9 and 16, with more to follow. The publication's editions appear on Mondays. You may [subscribe to their Newsletter](#) if you'd like to receive electronic reminders via email.
- ★ Did you hear our advertisements for the Lincoln-Reagan Dinner on *Cities 92.9 FM*? Ads began running just before mid-October and continued for several days.
- ★ A new proposal regarding "assault weapon" registration has been introduced, [Illinois House Bill 4150](#), in response to the Democrats' recently implemented gun ban/registration law. The purpose of the present Bill is to safeguard the personal information of law-abiding gun owners, particularly the data they are obligated to provide to the state for the registration of specific firearms. The newly enacted gun ban/registration law prohibits the ownership of several commonly held firearms and mandates that gun owners register additional firearms and attachments with the state by January 1. Despite ongoing legal challenges in the courts, House Bill 4150 aims to address concerns about the privacy of gun owners' information. If this Bill is successfully passed and the gun ban law is deemed unconstitutional, it would require the State Police to promptly destroy all personal information submitted by gun owners for compliance with the registration requirements of the law. Please visit this link for a comprehensive list of firearms subject to registration, please visit [this link](#).



More PolitiBits next page!

PolitiBits—cont.

- ★ On October 15, two proud members of McLean County Republicans – Joanne Knipmeyer and Chelsie Leffelman – graduated from the Lincoln Series program. They, along with six others, were honored at a Hesed House celebration in Heyworth. The Lincoln Series is the foremost educational and preparatory leadership initiative for Republican Women. This program equips participants with essential tools, knowledge, and a broad state-wide network, fostering the development of purposeful leadership among Republican women in Illinois. A key objective is to amplify the presence of Republican women in both elected and appointed roles within governmental and political spheres. Notably, over 200 graduates of the Lincoln Series have successfully transitioned into diverse roles, contributing to government, policy, and campaigns. To learn more about our McLean County contingent that represented McLean County, go to the [MCGOP NewsDesk](#). Learn more about this program by following this [Lincoln Series link](#).



2023 Lincoln Series Leadership Class graduates at Hesed House Venue celebration. Joanne (l) and Chelsie (r) are shown rightmost in this image provided by Gabby Shanahan, who is running for State Representative.

- ★ Did you know that the McLean County GOP has a very active [Facebook page](#) (typically 5-10 posts per day), that it regularly posts to its [MCGOP NewsDesk](#) (typically 1-2 articles per week), and that many of our NewsDesk items appear as feature stories in [McLean County Times](#) (seven stories in the past month)? Further, did you know we describe our upcoming activities on our [Future Events](#) web page? In addition, you can download and read our monthly communications through our [Newsletter Archive](#). The MCGOP Communications Committee is working hard to keep McLean County's voters well-informed, as are all our [Executive Board Members](#).
- ★ Bob and Julie Dobski and others are hosting a fundraiser at Rob Dob's on November 13 from 5-7pm for Judge Joe McGraw. See the details on page 5.

On The Issues—An McGOP Anonymous Survey

Tell our political leaders and candidates what you think!

McLean County Republicans encourage citizens to speak loudly to their elected officials and political candidates. Complete our MCGOP anonymous survey by telling us how strongly you agree or disagree with 15 political positions. You will also be allowed to provide open-ended comments about any topic that concerns you.



On the Issues: Anonymous Survey

Please respond to the following questions so that your elected representatives can know how you feel about the following issues. Be sure to click on the red "Submit" button at the end of the survey so your responses are recorded.

Do you have concerns about increasing taxes and crumbling infrastructure? Are you concerned with crime, illegal drugs, human trafficking, and illegal immigration? Where do you stand on life issues? Please let your political leaders know how you feel, and we will share your thoughts and concerns with those who do or might yet represent you.

Once you complete this anonymous survey, you may request to see how others in McLean County feel about some issues. The survey will run from now through November 30. A summary article will appear in our December newsletter and NewsDesk web page. We will be sure that your elected officials and candidates for office learn about the results. Click on the [survey link](#) to participate.

Autumn 2023 Handgun Raffle

McLean County Republicans are selling raffle tickets for a Hellcat 3" Micro-compact OSP handgun with manual safety. This handgun is ideal for concealed carry or smaller hands. It will provide you with the safety you crave. It will also make a great Christmas gift for yourself or a significant other! This beauty retails at \$633 (MSRP).

Ticket sales will continue through December 16 at 11:59 PM. A random drawing will occur shortly after that, and the MCGOP will contact the winner via phone or email. Conditions apply. See complete details and get your raffle tickets through this [Handgun Raffle link](#).



Connie Beard ★ Hon. Dan Brady ★ Hon. Andy Byars ★ Bob & Julie Dobski
 Charlie Farner ★ Tom Good ★ Ryan & Angie Gremore ★ Dennis Grundler
 Hon Kathleen Lorenz ★ Hon. Scott & Ali Preston ★ Senator Sally Turner
 Hon. George Wendt

Host Committee In Formation

Invite you to join them for a reception in support of

JUDGE JOE MCGRAW

CANDIDATE FOR ILLINOIS 17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH 5:00-7:00 pm

ROB DOB'S RESTAURANT

801 N HERSHEY ROAD | BLOOMINGTON, IL

\$50

per person

\$75

per couple

Sponsorships Available

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GOLD SPONSOR

\$500

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☐ \$50/person

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Mail completed form and check payable to:

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PO Box 1451 | Rockford, Illinois 61105



Donate & register online by scanning this code!

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in an election cycle. Contributions to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. By federal law, the maximum amount an individual may contribute is \$3,300 per election or \$6,600 per couple. Political Action Committee (PACs) may contribute up to \$5,000 per election. Contributions from corporations, labor unions, foreign nationals and federal government contractors are prohibited.



Please Update Your MCGOP Contact Information

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.

Data Verification Project

Featured Recipe – Bread Stuffing

(Yields: 8-10 servings; Preparation Time: 15 minutes; Bake Time: 45 minutes)

When thinking about Thanksgiving side dishes, this from-scratch stuffing consistently earns its spot on the essential recipe list. The timeless appeal of Bread Stuffing lies in its impeccable combination of herbs, soft bread, vegetables, and butter.

Crafting our Thanksgiving stuffing is a breeze, requiring only three simple steps. Partnering seamlessly with a succulent turkey, this Bread Stuffing elevates the entire meal to extraordinary heights. You'll cherish this recipe whether enjoyed as a side or sandwiched between slices. While the raisins are optional, they add a delectable finish that should not be missed!



INGREDIENTS

¾ cup butter	2 large celery stalks, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped (1/2 cup)	9 cups soft bread cubes (15 slices)
1 teaspoon salt	½ teaspoon ground sage
¼ teaspoon pepper	½ cup raisins (optional)
1½ teaspoons chopped fresh thyme leaves or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves	

DIRECTIONS

Grease a 3-quart casserole or rectangular baking dish, 13x9x2 inches.

Melt butter in a 4-quart Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Cook celery and onion in butter 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, until tender. Remove the Dutch oven from the heat.

Toss celery mixture and remaining ingredients (raisins optional), using a spoon, until bread cubes are evenly coated. Place stuffing in casserole. Cover with lid or aluminum foil and bake at 325°F for 30 minutes; uncover and bake 15 minutes longer.



**GRATEFUL
THANKFUL
BLESSED**

**WE WISH YOU THIS AND MORE FOR YOUR
THANKSGIVING.**