



211 S Prospect Suite 9; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

January, 2024

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A Big Year Ahead!

Our hope is you find our newsletters informational and full of what you, our readers, are looking for. The year ahead is significant and our goal is to do everything possible to keep you informed. Please let us know if there is anything different you would like to see, ideas you may have, and how you may be able to help. Be sure to encourage friends and families to request this publication as well.

It's all hands on deck as we move forward and our wish is for you to be a part of it.

Thank you,
McLean County GOP

Member Holiday Gathering

Dues-paying members of the McLean County Republican Party participated in a holiday gathering at Rob Dob's in Bloomington on Thursday, December 7th from 5-7. The event was hosted by the MCGOP to show appreciation to those Republicans who are financially supporting our work. The event featured a cash bar and a generous selection of hors d'ourves. A sampling of photos is shown below.

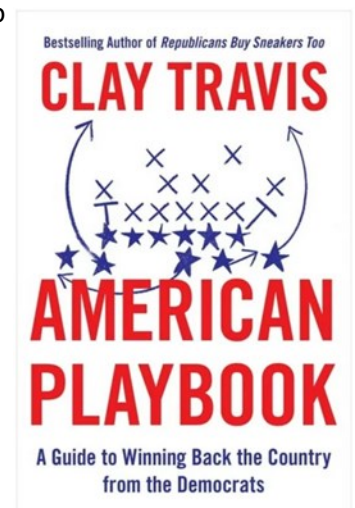


American Playbook—Topic of Member Discussion—January 18

We will hold our inaugural MCGOP members-only book discussion on Thursday, January 18th to analyze *American Playbook* by Clay Travis. We will meet at the MCGOP office, 211 S. Prospect, Suite 9, Bloomington, Illinois. We will begin at 7 PM with refreshments and will quickly move on to discuss this work. Carl Wenning, MCGOP's Communications Manager, will lead the discussion. He will also share information about the author and explain *how to mark a book* so as to get the most out of reading any work.

Attendees are requested to register for this event so we can be adequately prepared. Please do so by going to our [RSVP web page](#).

American Playbook was handed out to paid members of McLean County Republicans at November's Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. Members are encouraged to join the discussion and help us set the direction for MCGOP's role in winning back the country from the Democrats. Those who are not yet members would like to participate in this "members-only" discussion may do so. If you are not already a dues-paying member of the MCGOP, consider becoming so by visiting our [website](#).



Election Judges URGENTLY Needed

The following message was sent to the attention of Democratic and Republican Party Chairs by McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael. She expresses an urgent need for election judges in upcoming elections.

For the first time in my nearly 14 years as County Clerk, we look to be very short of election judges in many Polling Place locations throughout the county. We are asking each McLean County Party Chair to continue to urge your precinct committeepersons and others to continue to recruit election judges for the March 19, 2024, Primary. The pay for their long day is \$220. If they work outside their home precinct, they are reimbursed for mileage. Here are the locations where presently, the need is the greatest:

In *Normal*: We need approximately 80 more judges, there is a need at all Normal locations for more judges.

Specific Rural Locations in need:

Anchor	Blue Mound (Cooksville Fire Station)	Dry Grove (Danvers area)
Bellflower	Chenoa	Hudson
Blm. 01 (township building)	Cropsey	Lexington
Blm. 02 (fire station)	Danvers	Martin (Colfax)



The sign-up form can be found at the link below, or they can email or call me/us to sign up and/or get more information as to the online training, etc. <https://mcleancountyil.gov/797/Election-Workers-Information>

If you can assist, please get in touch with our McLean County Clerk's Office through the link above.

Please note 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](#) that likely has similar needs. Please contact them directly in order to help out in Bloomington.

Republican Candidates Running for Elective Office—Primary Elections, Tuesday, March 19, 2024



Darin LaHood	Federal Office	US Congress District 16
Joe McGraw	Federal Office	US Congress District 17
Scott Alan Crowl	Federal Office	US Congress District 17
Gene Doherty	4th Appellate Court	Judge - Holder White Vacancy
Amy Lannerd	4th Appellate Court	Judge - Turner Vacancy
Lisa Holder White	4th Supreme Court	Judge - Garman Vacancy
William E. Hauter	State Office	Illinois Representative District 87
Chuck Erickson	State Office	Illinois Representative District 88
Regan Deering	State Office	Illinois Representative District 88
Desi Anderson	State Office	Illinois Representative District 91
Dennis Tipsword Jr.	State Office	Illinois Representative District 105
Donald R. Rients	State Office	Illinois Representative District 105
Jason Bunting	State Office	Illinois Representative District 106
Sally Owens	State Office	Illinois Senate District 46
Chris Balkema	State Office	Illinois Senate District 53
Jesse Faber	State Office	Illinois Senate District 53
Mike Kirkton	State Office	Illinois Senate District 53
Susan Wynn Bence	State Office	Illinois Senate District 53
Michelle L. Anderson	County Office	Auditor
Don Everhart	County Office	Circuit Clerk
Jason Dazey	County Office	Circuit Clerk
Kathy Yoder	County Office	Coroner
Erika Reynolds	County Office	State's Attorney

In addition, there are 55 republicans running for positions as precinct committeepersons in McLean County. A complete list of all candidates can be found at <https://airtable.com/appHfrM1KmmEbK9dC/shrR693mfOHXyzwAL/tbluY4DjbROkbQfZl>

To determine your legislative district, go to the following website and enter your registered address: https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/my_elected_representative

MCGOP in McLean County Times

*MCGOP Communications Manager Carl Wenning is getting published in [McLean County Times](#) fairly regularly now. He recently began writing a column titled *On the Issues*. His column also appears in the [MCGOP NewsDesk](#) and links are provided on our Facebook page. Here is one of his recent columns that went viral. (Prior McLean County Times articles can be found under the [politics heading](#).*

On the Issues: Gun Violence—by Carl J. Wenning

In the wake of all-too-common mass shootings, many members of our society have pleaded that we need to do something to control gun violence. As a conservative, I agree. But, as a conservative, I also realize that we shouldn't let our emotions run away with us in the present situation. We need a well-reasoned response, not an emotional reaction. Illinois recently passed the *Protect Illinois Communities Act* (Public Act 102-1116). Starting October 1, the Illinois State Police began registering so-called "assault weapons," guns variously described as instruments of war, along with ammunition magazines that carry more than ten rounds. The registration process has not been going well, with an estimated 1% of such gun owners registering their weapons. Many question the constitutionality as well as the wisdom of registering their firearms. Others see it as a precursor to illegal search and seizure, which is unconstitutional. It's no wonder that otherwise law-abiding citizens are resisting the registration process. The situation has become all the more complicated now that the U.S. Supreme Court has turned down an immediate stay of the implementation date pending future appeal.



Supporting a belief that the Safe Communities Gun Control Act is indeed unconstitutional, a majority of Illinois sheriffs have gone on record saying that they will not enforce this law because of the questionable constitutionality of the law in relation to the Second Amendment. This law – passed as a knee-jerk reaction to the July 4, 2022, Highland Park shooting – will probably turn out to be just another useless effort at gun control, given these complications.

In Illinois as elsewhere, as soon as a mass shooting ends, groups begin clambering for new gun laws or offering their favored panaceas to control gun violence. First, Illinois instituted the FOID card with its criminal background check. Guess what? It doesn't work to curtail crime because background history is not a good predictor of future actions. Now, in light of Highland Park, the Democrat-controlled legislature of Illinois is requiring anyone with a so-called assault rifle to register it. Registering guns, let alone banning them, isn't going to stop such senseless gun violence. Even a cursory review of the history of mass shootings shows that they all have three crucial elements: the weapon, the killer, and the culture. If we want to get serious about stopping gun-based violence, we must take all three aspects into account and not just pursue simplistic solutions.

The weapon: Weapon registration and owner identification cards are a knee-jerk reaction to the complex problem of gun violence. Evidence from across the USA shows that gun and owner registration fail to stop such violence. For instance, the 1994 federal Assault Weapons Ban requires owner I.D. and a criminal background check before purchasing any gun, but this did little to nothing to stem gun violence.

Unless the government is willing to confiscate all existing firearms and stop the acquisition of all such weapons, gun bans simply won't work. Grandfathered firearms are still part of the system. It could take a hundred years or more to cycle through the existing stockpile of such guns. Gun bans will do little to reduce gun violence in the here and now.

Still, even if guns are eliminated from among the law-abiding citizenry, only criminals will have guns, and the citizenry will be at their mercy. Even without guns, however, criminals could turn to knives, box cutters, axes, garrotes, explosives, and other blood-letting devices to perform their dastardly deeds, and more will die unpreventably.

Heaven forbid that our country should be attacked by the likes of Hamas, who swept away 1,400 unarmed Israeli citizens on October 7. With open borders, who knows what sort of people have entered among the three million illegal entrants since the beginning of the Biden administration that can attack us from within? Remember, it took only eleven terrorists to kill nearly 3,000 defenseless Americans on 9/11. The Islamic terrorists used only box cutters to perpetrate their crimes against humanity. Ergo, a standing militia can benefit this country in ways we cannot dismiss.

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On the Issues: Gun Violence—cont. from page 4

The Killer: Those with murderous tendencies always have been and always will be part of society. Today, potential killers – many mentally ill – roam the streets freely in ways they did not in the past. People who were a danger to themselves and others used to be committed by doctors and judges to mental institutions for their benefit and that of society. Since the 1970s, legal issues and constraints have made involuntary commitment very difficult. Money needed to help those with mental illness has been significantly reduced as well, and now many needy people wander the streets homeless. Some are ticking time bombs.

While only a tiny percentage of people experiencing homelessness will become mass shooters, many more are the members of the general population who are often known to be dangerous. How many times have we heard that a mass murderer indicated they were a clear and present danger, and no one did anything about it? We must become more aware of these dangerous individuals and share that information with law enforcement. Laws that allow society to put dangerous people away must be placed on the books. We also need to pass Good Samaritan laws to protect those who point out others they believe are troubled individuals to the appropriate authorities, even if they do so mistakenly. We shouldn't have to wait until troubled individuals kill before they can be institutionalized and treated for their good and the good of society. (We also need to strengthen the laws associated with swatting where someone calls the police on an innocent person with a false claim of criminal activity.)

Not only are mentally ill adults problematical, but so are many school students who have been bullied, abused, and ostracized from their school communities. These alienated individuals often harbor extreme anger that erupts into school violence. We need to put rules in place and hold accountable school administrators and teachers for not stopping school-based bullying when it is repeatedly pointed out to them. The same must be done for the parents of the abusers. Abused children are known to have stuck out against their parents as well.

The Culture: A third element of gun-based mass murders is undoubtedly the lack of respect for life shown in society. This lack of respect ranges from abortion to murderous video games. Pope St. John Paul II called the Western culture a "culture of death." Ours is a culture of growing disrespect for life in all its stages. Child, spousal, and elder abuse are familiar. Abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia are becoming more and more ingrained in our society. Maiming and killing are seen as nearly a universal way of solving problems.

Many television shows, movies, and video games revolve around gratuitous violence, with gamers pulling their triggers on victims without concern or consequence. They, in effect, become callow murderers. Should we be at all surprised when a deranged individual nurtured on a diet of such violence acts out what is seen on the screen on a near-daily basis? We aren't serious about protecting life until we protect the weakest among us and move away from the violence we call entertainment.

A Final Word:

Controlling, outlawing, or registering guns, institutionalizing those persons most likely to commit crimes of violence, and restricting what we see or do as a society comes at a very considerable cost. Every time we act to increase public safety, we do so at the expense of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. Registering and restricting guns infringes upon the Second Amendment; institutionalizing those most prone to commit acts of violence to themselves or others infringes upon the Fifth Amendment. Controlling what people do or see infringes upon First Amendment rights. How many rights are you willing to give up for safety.

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.

Please Update Your MCGOP Contact Information

Precinct Committeepersons and Candidates Take Note!

2024 is a critical year for McLean County and the Republican Party. As a Precinct Committeeperson, you play a crucial role. In your role, you:

- ★ are the first point of contact for Republican voters in your precinct,
- ★ represent the party to the precinct voters,
- ★ have a significant impact on getting voters to vote,
- ★ help keep elections fair by finding election judges,
- ★ help your precinct secure their vote,
- ★ elect officers of the county's Central Committee,
- ★ elect your State Central Committee Members, and
- ★ have a vote in the local Republican Party.

January PC Launch Event

Saturday, January 13, 2024

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

McLean County Republican Office
211 Prospect Avenue, Suite 9
Bloomington, IL

For questions, contact Kim Miller
at (217) 254-8193

Join us at our January Kickoff event, where we will provide you with insights and a strategy to turn McLean County RED. We will also train you on resources that will make your job as a PC easier.

Please join us on Saturday, January 13th, for this special Kickoff to the New Year. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Details and RSVP through this link: https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/january_pc_kickoff

Calendar of Events

- ★ Saturday, February 17 - Meet the Candidates Brunch at the DoubleTree Conference Center. Admission is by pre-paid reservation only. The fee is \$25 per person paid in advance; reservations will not be accepted at the door due to the need to order meals in advance. MCGOP General and Premium members will be admitted free of charge, but reservations are required.
- ★ Saturday, March 9 - Morning Brunch with Jesse Sullivan (2022 Illinois gubernatorial candidate) speaking on people of faith in public service. Admission is by pre-paid reservation only. The fee is \$30 per person paid in advance; reservations will not be accepted at the door due to the need to order meals in advance. MCGOP General and Premium members will be admitted free of charge, but reservations are required. The location will be at the DeMik Community Room at 1304 Morrissey (Wilber Group South Bldg.), Bloomington.
- ★ Tuesday, March 19 - Primary Election
- ★ Wednesday, April 17 - McLean County GOP Convention, During this convention, elected Precinct Committeepersons will choose the next McLean GOP Chairperson, Executive Board, and State Central Committeemen. This event will be open to dues-paying MCGOP members.

Jesse FABER
STATE SENATE
CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

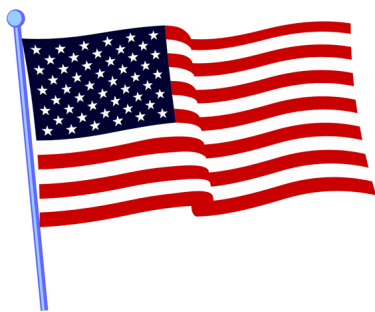
RSVP HERE

FREE • THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 • 5:30-7:30 PM • FREE

Bob & Ringo's Grill + Smokehouse

223 W MADISON STREET | PONTIAC, ILLINOIS 61764

PLEASE RSVP TO <https://electfaber.com/contact/>



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.)*

- ★ **2nd AMENDMENT RAFFLE WINNER** – We have a winner for our 2023 MCGOP Handgun Raffle! Because we desire to protect the confidentiality of the winner, we will not announce the winner's name here. The winner was contacted directly by MCGOP Chairman Dennis Grundler. Congratulations winner! The MSRP of the handgun was \$633, and a total of 145 tickets were sold. The raffle netted the Party a profit of about \$750 which will be used to further our efforts to turn the State of Illinois RED and keep McLean County in Republican hands. Thanks to all who supported this 2nd Amendment raffle and our Party.
- ★ **January 18TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR WRITE-IN PC CANDIDATES** – If you are interested in running as a McLean County Precinct Committeeperson for 2024-2025 but did not get your nominating forms completed and submitted on time, you may still run as a write-in candidate. Applications to run as a write-in candidate are due shortly. Once registered as a write-in candidate, only ten votes are required to win the position if running unopposed. Contact MCGOP's Kim Miller at (217) 254- 8193 immediately if you are interested in running.

Featured Recipe—A Breakfast Treat For The New Year

As winter has embraced us, indulging in comforting breakfast dishes becomes a delightful way to ignite the warmth in our bellies and kickstart each day. Here's a quick and delightful crêpe recipe crafted from readily available ingredients. Crêpes, akin to thin pancakes, offer versatility with a range of sweet and savory fillings and toppings. This breakfast classic traces its roots to 13th-century France.

Prep Time: 10 mins; Cook Time: 20 mins; Total Time: 30 mins; Servings: 4; Yield: 8 crêpes

INGREDIENTS

1 cup all-purpose flour	½ cup water
2 large eggs	¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup milk	2 tablespoons butter, melted

DIRECTIONS

Combine flour and eggs in a large mixing bowl, whisking thoroughly. Gradually incorporate milk and water while stirring until well combined. Add salt and melted butter, then beat the mixture until it becomes smooth.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium-high heat. Pour or scoop approximately 1/4 cup of batter onto the griddle for each crêpe. Tilt the pan in a circular motion to ensure an even coating of the surface.

Cook until the top of the crêpe is no longer wet and the bottom has a light brown color, which takes about 1 to 2 minutes. Use a spatula to gently loosen the crêpe from the skillet's edge, then flip and cook until the other side achieves a light brown hue, typically around 1 minute more. Serve the crêpes hot.

Source: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/16383/basic-crepes/>

