



202 Eldorado Road, Suite B-3; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

October, 2025

Lincoln Reagan Dinner Event

Thursday, September 25, over 160 people gathered to celebrate common-sense ideals that foster safety and prosperity for all Americans. The McLean County Republicans held their annual Lincoln Reagan Dinner event at the Double Tree Hotel. The event included a tribute to Charlie Kirk, with Turning Point ISU President Ben Umbdenstock and Vice President Matt Saner speaking. The featured speaker, Ty Smith, brought together laughter and serious issues, which the audience thoroughly appreciated. A standing ovation for his message was a good indicator of success. Sponsors for the event included County Circuit Clerk Don Everhart, County Clerk Kathy Michael, State Senator Sally Turner, and State Representative Regan Deering.



Senatorial Candidate Don Tracy also helped sponsor. Very generous Freedom Sponsors were Congressman Darin LaHood, The Workout Company of Normal, and SURUS, an interstate company with a mission of "turning Illinois red".



Many candidates and officials up for reelection circulated petitions. New candidates present included Ted Dabrowski, who is running for the Republican nomination for Illinois governor. We also had Dillan Vancil and Jill Bickelhaupt both vying for the 17th Congressional nomination. Bryan Drew, who is running for State Comptroller, was in attendance.

Nearly 1/3 of those in attendance were first-time guests to a Republican event. The overriding attitude was a desire to be involved and work for change in Illinois. The money raised, the friendships formed, and calls for action made the event both successful and meaningful for the future of our county and our state.



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Charlie Kirk Lives On!

At the Corn Crib Stadium in Normal on Sunday September 21, hundreds of people gathered to share their grief over the death of Charlie Kirk and to pray for his widow and two young children, as well as to honor his mission. The McLean County Republicans organized an evening where songs of praise and words of faith were shared. Thanks to Pastor Vince Kobash of Freedom Baptist Church and Jason Harshberger of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, who led in prayers. Turning Point ISU President Ben Umbdenstock and Vice President Matt Saner shared about the impact of Charlie on their local group. Ty Smith, known on YouTube as “The Modern Renaissance Man,” spoke of his interaction with Charlie and Turning Point. Brett and Sara Bunton led worship music. Many new people right here in McLean County are stepping up to be

counted, along with Charlie, as Americans who believe our freedoms are precious. There is work to be done, and we will move forward despite the efforts to intimidate and silence our voices.



Joint Press Conference

Friday, September 26, Republicans gathered at the steps of Hovey Hall on the ISU campus to raise awareness about how student data from universities around the state and nation is being provided to third-party organizations without student permission, in violation of FERPA laws designed to protect student information.

Congressman Darin LaHood emphasized the need for strengthening federal and state laws to prevent the private data of students from being shared for political purposes, a practice that has been ongoing among universities that have partnered with the NGO All IN.

State Representative Travis Weaver also spoke on the issue. State Senator Sally Turner was present in support of the necessary work to halt the practice of disclosing private data without student consent.

State legislation is being developed to address some of these issues. Desi Anderson has gathered a significant amount of evidence regarding the practice of sharing student information with political entities, such as ALL IN, which is led by Democratic operatives. She spoke of the complaint filed with the Department of Education, which is working through the system to address this issue.

Vice President of the ISU College Republicans, Braiden Gonazalez, also spoke on behalf of the concerned students about the violation of trust that they all experienced upon learning about the distribution of their data.

This marks the beginning of an effort to raise awareness of the issue among parents and students on campuses across Illinois and, hopefully, beyond. Others present lending their support to this work were Republican candidates: Ted Dabrowski (Governor), Dillan Vancil (Congress), and Tim Reuestman (State House).



Save the Date

Volunteer Orientation

Want to make a difference? Looking for tools and methods to effect change? Join us for our Volunteer Orientation on Wednesday, October 12, to learn about the various opportunities available to support our core principles of prosperity and safety for all, and to help return common sense to our government. We will meet at 6 pm at the MCGOP Headquarters, 202 S. Eldorado, Suite B3, Bloomington. A light meal will be served, and seating is limited, so reservations are required. Do that now at www.McLeanCountyRepublicans.org/2025_volunteer_orientation

Are you ready?

New Opportunities
**YOU MUST
BE THE CHANGE
YOU WANT TO SEE
IN THE WORLD**

Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 6:00pm
McLean County Republican Headquarters
202 S. Eldorado BL
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
LIGHT DINNER SERVED ALONG WITH GREAT IDEAS!

Freedom Rally

We have some great plans for Sunday, Oct. 12, out at Lake Bloomington. We will gather at the Davis Lodge for a barbecue dinner, featuring significant updates from the Illinois Freedom Caucus and Jasmyn Jordon, the president of the McLean County Young Republicans. Jasmyn is a political reporter for Breitbart and has testified before Congress on intimidation tactics used to silence conservatives on college campuses. We will have live music, and you can shop at our Restore Illinois shop. There will also be candidates to meet and support. Seating is limited at the lodge, so get your tickets now at www.McLeanCountyRepublicans.org/freedom_rally

Coffee and Conversation

And as always, our Coffee and Conversation continues every Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at our headquarters, 202 S. Eldorado, Bloomington.

Tuesday Coffee
**AND
CONVERSATION**

Discuss topics of the day and keep informed about your community



Every Tuesday 10 am - 12 PM

Come and enjoy!

McLean County Republican Headquarters
202 S. Eldorado, Bloomington

www.McLeanCountyRepublicans.org

Open 10am -1pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Expanded Hours coming soon
McLean County Republican Headquarters
202 S. Eldorado, Suite B3, BL

CHECK OUT
OUR
RESTORE
ILLINOIS
SHOP

Express yourself with hats, shirts, flags and more

Charlie Kirk, Gulf of America, 250th Birthday, Veterans, and other patriotic styles

Your donation can be by check, cash or credit card.

Restore Illinois Shop

Visit our Restore Illinois Shop located in our MCGOP Headquarters to pick up your Charlie Kirk shirt, a celebration of our 250th birthday shirt, and more.

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

September Review

Battle Plan Meeting

On Monday, September 8 precinct committeemen gathered at our MCGOP Headquarters for further training and goal setting. It was all part of the continued work to reach voters in McLean County. New precinct committeemen were shown the technology at our disposal for the work ahead.



Day of Play Event

For the seventh consecutive year, we were able to contribute to the community at the Day of Play event, sponsored by the Children’s Discovery Museum. We had a great day interacting with young families in Uptown Normal. We had over 400 families stop by to play our games and interact with us in very positive ways. The focus was on the history of our great nations, our national landmarks, and the value of elections. Children were able to cast their ballots for their favorite cartoon. The winner was Bluey, by the way. Thanks to our volunteers and County Treasurer Rebecca McNeil, who came by to help.



Labor Day Parade

We had a great morning celebrating the working men and women who are the backbone of our nation. Rising wages, increasing jobs and business boom across the nation give us reason to celebrate.

