



MCLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

— ★ NEWSLETTER ★ —

202 S. Eldorado Road, Suite C-1, Bloomington Illinois

July, 2026

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McLean County Republicans Central Committee Executive Board

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Don Handzo, Blm South

Lis Hiltabrand, Blm North

Jerry Klinkner, Normal

Annette Thompson, County West

Chelsie Leffelman, County East

Pillar Chairs

Membership, Dave Nayak

Precinct Affairs, Kim Miller

Outreach, Jim Fisher

Volunteer Coordinator, Katrina
Eames

Election Integrity—Barb Hale

Celebrating July 4th!

McLean County Republicans continue the 250th national celebration that was launched during Freedom Week. Friday night, July 3 we will have our red tent up at the Cornbelter's ball game in the Corn Crib Stadium on Raab Road in Normal. Join us as we enjoy America's great pastime of baseball and as we bring our 250th hats, shirts, flags and more to the con-course. Look for our big red tent. You can meet candidates, learn about the fall election and pick up your patriotic gear to be dressed right for July 4th.

On Saturday, July 4th we will take part in 3 county parades with our Freedom Train. You can join us for all or one of these parades. We will be tossing fun 250th footballs to the kids.

- ★ Towanda- Line up at 9am across from the Towanda elementary school, step off at 10am
- ★ Downs- Line up at 11:30 in the Tri-valley School parking lot, step off at noon
- ★ Chenoa- Line up starts at Division and Mill Street at 1pm with parade launching at 2pm

Here is the link to sign up for walking in the parade: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FAFAB2DA7F5C25-64644908_2026

Republican Election Judges Urgently Needed

The McLean County Republican Party is seeking Republican voters to serve as Election Judges for upcoming elections. Election Judges are essential to ensuring our elections are conducted fairly, accurately, and transparently. They assist voters, verify voter information, help operate polling places, and work together to maintain confidence in the election process.

McLean County is served by two election authorities—the McLean County Clerk's Office and the Bloomington Election Commission—and Republican Election Judges are needed for both. Training is provided before Election Day, and Election Judges receive compensation for their service.

If you are a registered voter in McLean County, willing to complete training, and available to serve on Election Day, we encourage you to consider this important civic responsibility. Learn more about becoming a Republican Election Judge by visiting www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/become_an_election_judge or contact **Barb Hale, Election Integrity Chair at 239-218-5239**. Your participation helps protect the integrity of our elections and strengthens confidence in our democratic process.

The McLean County 4-H Fair Returns July 29 – August 2

Summer in McLean County wouldn't be complete without one of our community's most cherished traditions—the **2026 McLean County 4-H Fair**, taking place **Wednesday, July 29 through Sunday, August 2** at the Interstate Center Fairgrounds in Bloomington. Known as the home of the **world's largest county 4-H Show**, the fair brings together thousands of families to celebrate agriculture, youth achievement, and the very best of our community.

For five exciting days, visitors can enjoy outstanding 4-H exhibits, livestock competitions, carnival rides, grandstand entertainment, live music, delicious fair food, commercial exhibits, and activities for every age. While the midway and entertainment create lasting memories, the heart of the fair remains the remarkable accomplishments of McLean County's young people, whose hard work and dedication are on display throughout the week.

The **McLean County Republicans** are proud to once again participate in this great community tradition. Our fair booth provides an opportunity to meet neighbors, visit with local candidates and volunteers, learn about current issues, and discover ways to become involved in strengthening our community. Whether you're interested in volunteering, registering to help with future events, or simply stopping by for a conversation, we'd love to meet you.

Our volunteers play an important role in making the week a success. Just **two hours** of your time can help us welcome visitors, share information, and connect with voters from every corner of McLean County. Every conversation helps build stronger neighborhoods and encourages the common-sense values that make our county a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Here is a link to sign up to volunteer for the fair. Volunteers get a free ticket to the fair. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FAFAB2DA7F5C25-64644908-2026>

If you're planning to attend the fair, be sure to stop by the McLean County Republicans booth, say hello, and consider signing up for a volunteer shift. Together, we can celebrate our agricultural heritage, support our outstanding 4-H youth, and continue building a stronger future for McLean County..

Annual Members Cookout

On June 20 we held the annual MCGOP Members Cookout where our 102 dues paying members had an opportunity to come together. Those that were able to attend enjoyed good food, good company and encouragement for the months ahead. Updates were shared about campaigns and a behind-the-scenes preview of what is to come. Candidates for county board, Jeff Lord, Geoff Tompkins, and Jerry Klinkner shared about their campaigns. Great questions and great response from all those attending. We all also enjoyed great barbecue courtesy of Chairman Connie Beard and her husband David.



MCGOP Members enjoyed hearing from County Board Candidates Kevin Lower, Jeff Lord, Geoff Tompkins, and Jerry Klinkner as they shared their goals of working to serve the people of McLean County.

Mark Your Calendar

- ★ JULY 3- CORNCRIB BALLGAME TO CELEBRATE THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY- WE WILL BE THERE WITH OUR MCGOP TENT
- ★ JULY 4 FOURTH OF JULY PARADES- WATCH FOR OUR FREEDOM TRAIN- SEE PAGE 1 FOR PARADE DETAILS INCLUDING WALKING WITH US
- ★ JULY 13 PC BATTLE PLAN MEETING; EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
- ★ JULY 29- AUGUST 2 MCLEAN COUNTY FAIR- WE WILL BE RIGHT ON THE MIDWAY
- ★ TUESDAY, AUGUST 25- LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER EVENT WITH DARREN BAILEY AT THE DOUBLE TREE HOTEL
- ★ MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, LABOR DAY PARADE
- ★ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11- 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 HONORED WITH A BATTLE OF THE BADGES AT THE CORNCRIB- ALL SPONSORED BY THE MCLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

McLean County Republican Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner

Mark your calendar for one of the premier conservative events of the year! The McLean County Republican Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner will be held on **Tuesday, August 25, 2026**, starting at 6:30, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington.

This year's theme, "**I'm With the Farmer & The Dell**," celebrates the hardworking farmers who are the backbone of McLean County and our nation's agricultural success. We are honored to welcome **Darren Bailey, candidate for Illinois Governor**, as our keynote speaker.

The evening will feature live music by the **Baier Family String Quartet**, a live auction, silent auction, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, photo booth, cash bar, and an opportunity to gather with friends and fellow conservatives from across Central Illinois.

**Discount Early Bird Tickets are now on sale for just \$70—a \$10 savings! ** You will have choices between Yankee Pot Roast, Farmhouse Chicken or Three Cheese Lasagna. Don't miss your opportunity to attend this inspiring evening celebrating conservative leadership, community, and agriculture.

Purchase your tickets today at:

www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/2026_lincoln_reagan_dinner

We look forward to seeing you on August 25!



Walk With Us
in
THE 4TH OF JULY
Parades!

★ LET'S CELEBRATE FREEDOM TOGETHER! ★

We will be running our
FREEDOM TRAIN!

★ JOIN US AT ANY (OR ALL!) OF THE THREE PARADES:

TOWANDA	DOWNS	CHENOA
10AM	NOON	2PM

★ GRAB YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, AND
LET'S MAKE THIS A PARADE TO REMEMBER! ★

1776 - 2026
250
YEARS

CONSERVATIVES

in Action

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

★ HELD A DAY LONG CELEBRATION
HONORING OUR NATION

AWARDED \$3,276 IN
SCHOLARSHIP MONEY TO
AREA TEENS

COLLECTED OVER 500LBS
OF FOOD & WORKED A SHIFT FOR
MIDWEST FOOD BANK

★ GAVE OUT 350 MEMORIAL
POPIES AND 500 AMERICAN
FLAGS ON MEMORIAL DAY

★ HELD A COMMEMORATIVE EVENT
HONORING ABRAHAM LINCOLN &
DONATED \$500 TO THE COUNTY
MUSEUM TO HELP WITH
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

★ RAISED \$800 FOR HOORAH
FOR HEROES TO HELP
WOUNDED VETS

Thank You!

To our volunteers, donors,
and community partners.
Together, we're making
McLean County stronger.

HONORING OUR PAST |
 SERVING OUR COMMUNITY |
 BUILDING OUR FUTURE

This & that

Apparel Sale!!

A simple way to help is taking a 2 hour shift at our office. We are hoping to add Saturdays 11-1 so people can come by to shop for the 250th apparel we have on hand. If you are willing to work any of our 11-1 shifts please call Katrina Eames, Volunteer Coordinator. 309-838-8144.

★ McLEAN COUNTY ★
REPUBLICAN
250TH APPAREL SALE
 ★ ★ ALL THIS MONTH AT MCGOP HEADQUARTERS ★ ★

ALL 250TH SHIRTS AND HATS ARE **10% OFF!**

Additional **FUN DESIGNS** ARE AVAILABLE!

LOCATION: 202 S. ELDORADO, SUITE C1 BLOOMINGTON

CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR OPEN TIMES.
www.McLeanCountyRepublicans.org

JOIN US

Every Tuesday Morning



FREE - FUN - INFORMATIVE

10:00am - 12:00pm

McLean County Republican Headquarters
 202 S. Eldorado Suite B3, Bloomington

Impact Project

We are growing!! More members, more precinct committeemen, more volunteers calls for more space! We are expanding into an additional office space and with your help we can make it truly a remarkable outreach center to voters in our county.

The McLean County Republicans are launching the Impact Project, an exciting initiative to expand and enhance our office space to better serve our growing team of volunteers, elected officials, and supporters. As our organization continues to gain momentum, our current space is no longer sufficient to meet the demands of meetings, training, and outreach efforts.

This project will create a more functional and welcoming environment, including dedicated volunteer work areas, improved meeting space, and a centralized hub for fundraising and operations. These upgrades will allow us to better organize, collaborate, and mobilize as we work toward shared goals across McLean County.

The Impact Project is more than a renovation—it is an investment in our future. With your support, we can build a space that strengthens our mission and increases our effectiveness. Together, we are creating a foundation for continued growth, stronger engagement, and lasting impact in our community.

You can help with a single donation at www.McLeanCountyRepublicans.org/impact_project

McLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

THERE ARE WAYS TO HELP!

★★★ GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. PROTECT OUR VALUES.

CONTACT OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
KAT EAMES - (309) 838-8144 | katrina52303@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JULY 29 – AUGUST 2** – McLean County Fair – working our MCGOP tent
- AUGUST 25** – Lincoln Reagan Dinner with Darren Bailey
- SEPTEMBER 7** – Labor Day Parade
- SEPTEMBER 11** – Battle of the Badges at the Corncrib in honor of the 25th anniversary of 9/11

EVERY HOUR YOU GIVE MAKES AN IMPACT.

Our success depends on caring volunteers like you.

THANK YOU!

ONGOING WAYS TO HELP

- 1. BE A PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN OR BLOCK CAPTAIN**
 Contact Kim Miller: millerkim617@gmail.com | 217-254-8193
- 2. SUPPORT OUR WORK**
 Help with website, social media, phone banks, event setup & more.
- 3. COMMUNICATION SUPPORT**
 Help with phone calls & send text messages to Republican voters. Contact Kim Miller.
- 4. HELP BUILD OUR PARTY**
 Help with one of the 5 Pillars of our county party. Contact Connie Beard, Chairman chairman@mcleancountyrepublicans.org 309-824-9394
- 5. WALK IN PARADES & EVENTS**
 From Memorial Day to the Fair – we need you!

THE FIVE PILLARS OF THE MCLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

- COMMUNICATION**: Reaching and engaging with our community.
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH**: Building relationships and providing support.
- FUNDRAISING/ MEMBERSHIP**: Providing the resources to advance our mission.
- CAMPAIGN/ ELECTIONS**: Supporting candidates and winning elections.
- PRECINCT AFFAIRS**: Activating grassroots volunteers in every precinct.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER MCLEAN COUNTY!
 LEARN MORE AT WWW.MCLEANCOUNTYREPUBLICANS.ORG/VOLUNTEER

