



MCLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

— ★ NEWSLETTER ★ —

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

August, 2026

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Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Returns August 25

The McLean County Republicans invite supporters from across the county to attend the annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner on **Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m.** at the **DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington**. This year's theme, "I'm With the Farmer," celebrates the men and women who work every day to feed our communities while recognizing the vital role agriculture plays in Central Illinois.

The evening will feature **Darren Bailey** as keynote speaker, joined by featured candidates **Don Tracy, Dillan Vancil, Bryan Drew, and Max Solomon**. Guests will also enjoy live music by the **Baier Family String Quartet**, a live and silent auction, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, photo booth, cash bar, and an excellent dinner.

Early Bird tickets are available now for **\$70**, a savings of \$10, for a limited time. But on Monday August 2 they go to \$80.

Whether you're interested in hearing from conservative leaders, supporting local Republican candidates, or enjoying a memorable evening with friends, this event promises to be one of the highlights of the year. Reserve your seats today at https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/2026_lincoln_reagan_dinner



9/11 Memorial Battle of the Badges Returns to Honor Our First Responders

On **Friday, September 11, 2026**, the McLean County Republicans invite the community to gather at **Corn Crib Stadium in Normal** for the **9/11 Memorial Battle of the Badges**, a special evening honoring the courage, sacrifice, and service of our local police officers and firefighters. The event begins with a moving **Opening Ceremony at 6:30 p.m.**, followed by a friendly baseball matchup between our hometown heroes.

As we mark the **25th Anniversary of September 11**, this family-friendly event provides an opportunity to remember the victims of that tragic day, pay tribute to the heroes who answered the call, and thank the first responders who continue to protect our communities every day.

Bring your family, wear your patriotic colors, and help us show our appreciation for those who serve. Tickets are available now and can be purchased online at https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/2026_battle_of_the_badges.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful evening of remembrance, community, and gratitude with you.

YOU CAN BE A SPONSOR OF THIS EVENT!!! CHECK OUT OUR SPONSOR PAGE: https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/battle_badges_sponsor



Letter to The Editor

By Carl Hinshaw (also published in The Pantagraph)

JB Pritzker has been our Governor for over seven years. He and his super majority in Springfield have provided handsomely for fellow lawmakers raising their pay for part-time work from \$67,000 to \$101,450 annually for about a 50% raise since 2019. The average homeowner has seen their property tax bills rise about 50% under the current governor who initially promised property tax reform. Affordability for who?

Farmers have struggled in recent years but nothing is ever mentioned about rapidly rising taxes on farmland. Gasoline and fuel prices have dropped over a dollar a gallon recently but no one in the press notices. Nearby states temporarily eliminated their gas taxes, but Illinois refused.

The state budget process ended in late May behind closed doors at 4:00 a.m. on the final day. There were numerous bi-partisan bills presented for property tax reform in Illinois. The super majority refused to advance any of them for a vote. All proposals died. Tax multipliers will be out very soon for next year. Get prepared for another big assessment jump. Affordability for who?

The new budget was about 5-6 billion dollars short of funding the state pension system. Nothing new here but who makes up that difference? Any shortfall can be added to "pension" line items on your property tax bill. Once again, affordability for who?

JB signed 395 bills recently after the new budget was completed. 360 of those were Democrat sponsored bills. Only 35 were GOP sponsored. Democracy? Yes, but the USA was never a true democracy. We are a constitutional republic where the minority has a voice. Not in Illinois. Affordability in Illinois is quite possible but mostly for those connected to a public union, the state pension system or elected office. It may be time this November to consider candidates who will truly give a voice to the majority of us who have an "affordability" problem in Illinois!

Learn How to Appeal Your Property Taxes

Property taxes are a concern for many homeowners. Join the McLean County Republicans on **Saturday, August 29, from 1:00–3:00 p.m.** for a free seminar explaining the property tax assessment appeal process.

Local Realtor **Carl Hinshaw**, with **35 years of experience**, has helped more than **65 homeowners** successfully reduce their property tax assessments. He will provide an overview of the process, explain what information is needed, and answer questions.

The seminar will be held at **McLean County Republican Headquarters, 202 S. Eldorado, Suite C1, Bloomington**. **Seating is limited, and advance registration is required.**

This version is short enough to fit alongside other event announcements while still highlighting the key benefits and encouraging readers to register. https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/property_seminar

Town Hall with Darren Bailey and Aaron Del Mar



Join Republican gubernatorial candidates Darren Bailey and Aaron Del Mar for a Town Hall on **Monday, August 10** at **Victory Church, 18180 U.S. Highway 150, Bloomington**. Doors open at **5:00 p.m.**, with the program running from **6:00–8:00 p.m.**

This free community event offers an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates as they discuss their vision for Illinois and answer questions from attendees. Whether you're interested in the issues facing our state or want to learn more about the campaign, everyone is welcome to attend.

Admission **is free**. We encourage supporters and interested community members to arrive early for seating. We hope you'll join us for an informative evening and be part of the conversation about Illinois' future.

Meet County Board Candidate Matt Steinkoenig



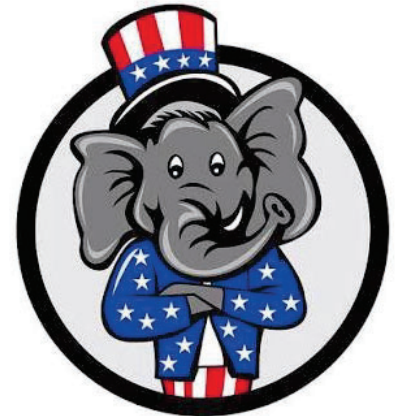
Get to know McLean County Board District 10 candidate **Matt Steinkoenig** at a casual community meet-and-greet on **Wednesday, August 5**, from **4:00–6:30 p.m.** at **Rob Dob's, 801 N. Hershey Road, Bloomington**.

This informal gathering is a great opportunity to ask questions, share your thoughts, and discuss the issues that matter most to you and your family. Whether you're interested in local government, community priorities, or simply want to meet one of the

candidates seeking to represent District 10, everyone is welcome.

Guests can enjoy light appetizers, a cash bar, and relaxed conversation while learning more about Matt's vision for McLean County. For additional information, call **309-287-1543**.

Your voice matters—come join the conversation and help shape the future of our community.



90 Minutes to Impact Returns This August

Making a difference in McLean County doesn't require an entire day—just **90 minutes**. The McLean County Republicans are inviting volunteers to join our **90 Minutes to Impact** voter outreach events on **Saturdays, August 15, 22, and 29**, from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at Republican Headquarters.

Whether you enjoy knocking on doors, placing door hangers, making phone calls, or sending text messages, there's a role for everyone. No experience is necessary, and volunteers can stay for the full event or simply stop by for 90 minutes. Every conversation and every door reached helps connect voters with our candidates and our message before Election Day. A light lunch will be provided, and training and materials will be available for all volunteers. If you've been looking for a practical way to make a real impact in our community, this is it.

Please invite a friend and RSVP today. Together, we can build momentum, strengthen our grassroots efforts, and help elect common-sense conservative leaders across McLean County. Reserve your spot at https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/august_90_minutes

McLean County Fair in Full Swing — Join the Fun Through August 2

The McLean County Fair is off to a fantastic start, and there's still plenty of time to stop by and enjoy everything our community has to offer! Our McLean County Republicans tent has welcomed hundreds of visitors with free cold water, shade from the summer sun, candidate information, patriotic merchandise, raffles, and family-friendly activities. More than **25 dedicated volunteers** have generously donated their time to greet fairgoers and help make our booth a welcoming place for everyone.

If you haven't made it to the fair yet, don't worry—the fair continues **through Sunday, August 2**. Be sure to visit our tent, browse our shirts, hats, and flags, enter one of our exciting raffles, and learn more about the candidates and issues that will shape the future of McLean County. **Friday night is Candidate's Night**, with special prizes and an opportunity to meet local Republican candidates.

Come out, enjoy the fair, support your community, and stop by to say hello—we'd love to see you!

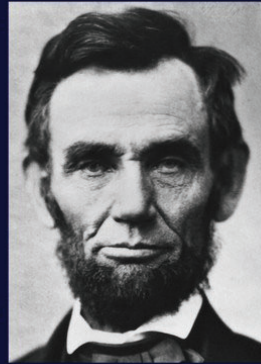




Mark Your Calendar

- ★ THROUGH AUG 2—MCLEAN COUNTY FAIR
- ★ AUG 5—MEET COUNTY BOARD CANDIDATE MATT STEINKOENIG
- ★ AUG 10—MEET DARREN BAILEY AND AARON DEL MAR
- ★ AUG 15, 22, 29—90 MINUTES TO IMPACT
- ★ AUG 25- LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER EVENT WITH DARREN BAILEY AT THE DOUBLE TREE HOTEL
- ★ AUG 29—LEARN HOW TO APPEAL YOUR PROPERTY TAXES
- ★ SEPT 7- LABOR DAY PARADE
- ★ SEPT 11- 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 HONORED WITH A BATTLE OF THE BADGES AT THE CORNCRIB- ALL SPONSORED BY THE MCLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

America will never
be destroyed from
the outside. If we
falter and lose our
freedoms, it will
be because we
destroyed ourselves
~ Abraham Lincoln



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