**Primary Election Update – March 20, 2018**

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One of the roughest Illinois primary seasons in history ended tonight and, after fending off surprisingly tough primary challenges, the two wealthy candidates for Governor, Republican incumbent Bruce Rauner and Democratic challenger J. B. Pritzker, an heir to the Hyatt fortune, will face off in the fall election. Rauner has already raised more than $75 million, and Pritzker has raised more than $69 million. Both can self-fund and both will be able to rely on third party contributors. It has been predicted that this will be the most expensive non-presidential campaign in history, with Pritzker and Rauner expected to spend at least $300 million on the race collectively.

Generally, the remaining spring session days after a primary are down time for campaigns, as they reorganize, fundraise, give voters a needed break, and prepare for the fall election. With two candidates so well-funded, however, the November gubernatorial campaign has already begun. Both candidates not only spent money to fend off their intra-party primary opponents, but also spent millions to muddy each other in recent months.

Although Pritzker won his six-person primary with only 45% of the vote, it will be much easier for the Democrats to re-unite after this primary than it will be for the Republicans, who saw an ideological match between Rauner, who took some non-conservative positions on abortion and immigration, and his conservative challenger Jeanne Ives. Rauner beat Ives by a surprisingly close 52% to 48%. Ives was supported by conservative party activist Dan Proft and conservative fund-raiser Richard Uihlein, former supporters of Rauner.

With the exception of the **Attorney General’s Office**, where former Miss America and Harvard-educated lawyer Erika Harald will face off against State Senator Kwame Raoul for a position being vacated by long-time incumbent Lisa Madigan, the Republicans have generally conceded the down-ticket statewide offices. Incumbent Democrats are running for re-election for Secretary of State, Comptroller, and Treasurer and face nominal opposition. There is no presidential race this year, although Trump will be an issue in the campaign, and there is not a U. S. Senate race.

In the **General Assembly,** all 118 House seats and 39 of the 59 Senate seats (21 of 37 Democrats and 18 of 22 Republicans) are up for election in November.  There were 5 primary contests in the Senate and 40 in the House.  House Republican David Reis, House Democrat Dan Burke, and Senate Democrat Ira Silverstein lost their primary elections. In the 2018 election cycle, there are 28 legislators not seeking re-election to their current office:  7 Senators and 21 Representatives. Democrats currently hold a 67-51 majority in the House and a 37-22 super-majority in the Senate.

The Governor’s race will dominate the rest of the Spring Session. The race is particularly important this year as this fall’s winner will be the Governor who will sign the remap in 2021. After maintaining control over the Republicans in the House and Senate for his first two years in office, several Republicans defected from Rauner during the last session on key issues such as passing a state budget supported by an income tax increase. A small group of Republicans supported Ives over Rauner in the primary as well.

In the **Congressional primary races**, long-time incumbent Dan Lipinski, a conservative Democrat from Chicago’s southwest side, barely fended off a challenge from the left **51-49%**, in a race where the Democratic primary winner is guaranteed to win the general election. Former State Senator Jesus Garcia, a progressive Democrat who was an early supporter of Bernie Sanders in 2016, easily won his primary in a solidly Democratic district for the seat being vacated by retiring Congressman Luis Gutierrez. Garcia is also building a machine organization in Chicago’s Latino community. Downstate, Democrat Betsy Londrigan defeated four other candidates in the Democratic primary for the right to take on Republican incumbent Rodney Davis. Hoping to ride a wave of anti-Trumpism, Democrats will have strong candidates facing off against incumbent Republicans Davis, Mike Bost, and Peter Roskam.

Below is more detail in contested General Assembly and Congressional primaries.

**Illinois Senate Races:**

Two Democratic Senators faced primary challengers in Tuesday’s contest: Ira Silverstein, who was defeated, and Iris Martinez. Three Democratic Senators are not seeking reelection this year: Daniel Biss, who vacated his seat to run for Governor; James Clayborne, and Bill Haine. No incumbent Republican Senators faced a primary challenge. There are four Republican Senators who are not seeking reelection this year: Tim Bivins, Pam Althoff, Kyle McCarter, and Sam McCann.

**8th District Democratic:** After facing a tough petition challenge and barely having enough valid signatures to be on the March ballot, Incumbent Senator Ira Silverstein lost Tuesday’s primary to challenger Ram Villivalam. Villivalam defeated Silverstein, Caroline McAteer-Fournier, and David Zulkey.

**20th District Democratic:** Incumbent Senator Iris Martinez defeated a challenge from attorney Bart Goldberg.

**27th District Democratic:** Attorney and health care consultant Ann Gillespie defeated high school music teacher Joe Sonnefeldt. Gillespie will face Incumbent Senator Tom Rooney who is seeking his second term in office.

**54th District Republican – Open Seat:** Four candidates were vying to replace retiring Republican State Senator Kyle McCarter. Former Lt. Governor candidate Jason Plummer defeated George Barber, Clinton County Board member Rafael Him, and certified public accountant Benjamin Stratemeyer. There is no Democratic candidate on the November ballot at this time.

**57th District Republican – Open Seat:** On the Republican side, Air Force reservist Tanya Hildenbrand defeated controversial radio talk show host Bob Romanik to take on Cahokia School Board President Christopher Belt in November to replace retiring Democratic Senator James Clayborne.

**Illinois House Races:**

Eight House Democrats faced primary challengers on Tuesday: Dan Burke (defeated), Kelly Cassidy, Robert Martwick, Elizabeth Hernandez, Justin Slaughter, Robert Rita, Thaddeus Jones, and Mary Flowers. There are 8 House Democrats not seeking re-election in November: Scott Drury, who vacated his seat to run for Attorney General; Julianna Stratton and Leticia Wallace, both of whom vacated their seats to run for Lt. Governor; Cynthia Soto; Carol Sente; Barbara Flynn Currie; Al Riley, and Laura Fine who seeks to replace State Senator Daniel Biss.

Seven House Republicans faced primary challengers on Tuesday: House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, C.D. Davisdmeyer, Norine Hammond, Dan Brady, Charlie Meier, David Reis (defeated), and Terri Bryant. Thirteen House Republicans are not seeking re-election this year: Bob Pritchard, Chad Hays, Barbara Wheeler, Patti Bellock, Bill Mitchell, Mike Fortner, Steve Andersson, Sara Jimenez, Reggie Phillips, John Cavaletto, David Harris, and Jeanne Ives, who challenged Republican Governor Bruce Rauner in the primary.

**1st District Democratic:** In a highly-contested race, Back-of-the-Yards High School teacher and coach Aaron Ortiz defeated incumbent Democratic Representative Dan Burke.

**4th District Democratic – Open Seat:** Delia Ramirez defeated Iris Millan, Alyx Pattison, and Anne Shaw to replace retiring Representative Cynthia Soto. Ramirez was backed by Chuy Garcia and endorsed by Bernie Sanders.

**5th District Democratic – Open Seat:** With the support of the coalition that elected Representative Juliana Stratton, Lamont Robinson Jr. emerged as the winner from the crowded field to replace Stratton, who vacated the office to run for Lt. Governor. Robinson defeated Felicia Bullock, former State Representative Kenneth Dunkin, and Dilara Sayeed.

**14th District Democratic:** Incumbent Kelly Cassidy defeated a challenge from Arthur Siegel.

**17th District Democratic – Open Seat:** Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, with the backing of Speaker Madigan, emerged as the winner in the crowded primary field to replace Representative Laura Fine, who is running to replace Senator Dan Biss. Biss vacated his seat to seek the Democratic nomination for Governor. Gong Gershowitz defeated Candance Chow, who had the backing of the Evanston Democrats, Pete Dagher, Alexandra Eidenberg, and Mary Rita Luecke, who was endorsed by the IEA.

**19th District Democratic:** Incumbent Representative Robert Martwick easily defeated a challenge from Jeffrey Laporte.

**24th District Democratic:** Incumbent Representative Elizabeth Hernandez defeated a challenge from Robert Reyes.

**25th District Democratic – Open Seat:** Curtis Tarver II emerged as the winner in the crowded primary field to replace Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, who is not seeking re-election. Tarver defeated William Calloway, Grace Chan McKibben, Angelique Collins (daughter of former Senator and Representative Annazette Collins), Adrienne Irmer, Anne Marie Miles, and Flynn Rush, son of Congressman Bobby Rush.

**27th District Democratic:** Incumbent Justin Slaughter defeated Tawana Robinson.

**28th District Democratic:** In a highly-competitive race, incumbent Robert Rita defeated challengers Mary Carvlin and Kimberly Koschnitzky.

**29th District Democratic:** Incumbent Representative Thaddeus Jones easily defeated challenger Corean Davis.

**31st District Democratic:** Incumbent Mary Flowers easily defeated a challenge from Willie Preston.

**38th District Democratic – Open Seat:** Former Olympia Fields Mayor Debbie Meyers-Martin emerged as the winner from the crowded primary field to replace Representative Al Riley, who is not seeking re-election. Meyers-Martin defeated David Bonner, an assistant state’s attorney in Cook County, former Matteson mayoral candidate Cecil Matthews Jr., and Max Solomon.

**42nd District Republican – Open seat:** Amy Grant emerged as the winner Tuesday to replace Representative Jeanne Ives, who vacated her seat to challenge Republican Governor Bruce Rauner in the primary. Grant defeated Winfield Township Republican Party Chairman Burt Minor and Ryan Bryne.

**46th District Republican:** Gordon Kinzler defeated Roger Orozco to take on incumbent Democratic Representative Deb Conroy in November.

**47th District Democratic – Open Seat:** Jim Caffrey and Anne Sommerkamp squared off in the 47th District seat that is being vacated by Republican Representative Patti Bellock. The winner will face College of DuPage Board of Trustees Chairwoman Deanne Mazzochi in November.

**49th District Republican:** Nick Zito lost to Tonia Jane Khouri, who was supported by Dan Proft, to replace Republican Representative Mike Fortner who is not seeking re-election.

**53rd District Republican – Open Seat:** On the Republican side, Eddie Corrigan defeated Katie Miller, who was supported by Dan Proft, to replace Republican Representative David Harris, who is not seeking re-election.

**56th District Republican:** Jillian Bernas, who was supported by Dan Proft, defeated Charlotte Kegarise. Bernas will face Incumbent Democratic Representative Michelle Mussman in November.

**59th District Democratic – Open Seat**: On the Democratic side, Daniel Didech, who has the support of Speaker Madigan, defeated Susan Malter to win the Democratic nomination. The 59th District seat is being vacated by Democratic Representative Carol Sente who is not seeking re-election.

**59th District Republican – Open Seat**: On the Republican side, Karen Feldman defeated Marko Sukovic. Fedlman and Didech will face off in November.

**62nd District Republican:** Ken Idstein, who was supported by Dan Proft, easily defeated Adam Solano. Idstein will face Incumbent Democratic Representative Sam Yingling in November.

**67th District Democratic:** In the race to replace Representative Litesa Wallace who ran for Lt. Governor, Gerald Albert, community activist Valeri DeCastris, Angela Fellars, and director of Career Development for Rockford University Maurice West II faced off.

**70th District Democratic – Open Seat**: Paul Stoddard defeated Howard Solomon to win the Democratic nomination. Stoddard will face Republican Jeff Keicher in November to replace Republican Representative Bob Pritchard.

**76th District Democratic:** Lance Yednock, who was endorsed by local 150, defeated Jill Bernal. Yednock will face Incumbent Republican Representative Jerry Long in November.

**82nd District Republican**: Incumbent House Republican Leader Jim Durkin easily defeated a challenge from Michael Straub, who was supported by Dan Proft.

**89th District Republican – Open Seat:** Andrew Chesney defeated Steven Fricke. Chesney will face Nichola Hyde in November to replace Republican Representative Brian Stewart.

**93rd District Republican:** Incumbent Republican Representative Norine Hammond defeated a primary challenge from Joshua Griffith (Proft candidate). Hammond will face John Curtis in November.

**99th District Republican – Open Seat:** On the Republican Side, Mike Murphy defeated a write-in challenge by Steven Westerfield. Murphy will face Democrat Marc Bell in November to replace Republican Representative [Sara Wojcicki Jimenez](http://www.ilga.gov/house/Rep.asp?GA=100&MemberID=2471) who is not seeking re-election.

**100th District Republican:** Incumbent Republican Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer defeated a challenge from Jonas Hicks Petty, who was supported by Dan Proft.

**101st District Republican - Open Seat**: Dan Caulkins, who was supported by Dan Proft, was leadingTodd Henricks and Randy Keith at the time of writing. The winner will face Jennifer McMillin in November to replace retiring Republican Representative Bill Mitchell.

**104th District Democratic – Open Seat:** Cynthia Cunningham defeated Frank McCullough Jr. Cunningham will face Republican Mike Marron in November to replace Republican Representative Chad Hays, who did not seek re-election.

**105th District Republican:** Republican Representative Dan Brady defeated a challenge from realtor David Blumenshine.

**107th District Republican – Open Seat:** Blaine Wilhour defeated Laura Meyers to win the Republican nomination. Wilhour will face Democratic David Seiler to replace Republican Representative John Cavaletto, who is not seeking re-election.

**108th District Republican**: Incumbent Representative Charlie Meier defeated a challenge from Don Moore.

**109th District Republican:** Incumbent Representative David Reis lost to challenger Darren Bailey, who was supported by Dan Proft.

**110th District Republican – Open Seat**: Chris Miller defeated Terry Davis. Miller will face Shirley Bell in November to replace Republican Representative Reggie Phillips.

**112th District Republican:** Former State Representative Dwight Kay defeated Wendy Erhart. Kay will face Incumbent Democratic State Representative Katie Stuart in November.

**115th District – Democratic:** Marsha Griffin defeated Tamiko Mueller and will face Representative Terri Bryant in November.

**115th District – Republican:** Incumbent Republican Representative Terri Bryant defeated a challenge from Paul Jacobs.

**118th District – Republican:** Patrick Windhorst defeated Wes Sherrod and Samuel Stratemeyer for the Republican nomination. Windhorst will face appointed State Representative Natalie Phelps Finnie in her first election in November.

**Illinois Congressional Races:**

All 18 Congressional seats were up for re-election Tuesday. Currently, the Democrats control 11 of the State’s 18 Congressional seats. There is one open Congressional seat being vacated by retiring Congressman [Luis Gutiérrez](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/luis_gutierrez/400163). There are 4 Congressional Democrats facing a primary: Robin Kelly, Dan Lipinski, Mike Quigley, and Danny Davis. There are 3 Congressional Republicans facing a primary: Mike Bost, Adam Kinzinger, and Darin LaHood.

**2nd District Democratic:** Incumbent Congresswoman Robin Kelly defeated challenger Marcus Lewis. The primary will be Kelly’s most difficult race in 2018.

**2nd District Republican:** The winner of Patrick Harmon, David Merle, and John Morrow will face incumbent Congresswoman Robin Kelly in November.

**3rd District Democratic**: Incumbent Dan Lipinski faced a strong challenge from Marie Newman, which at the time of writing is too close to call. The winner will take on Arthur Jones in November.

**4th District Democratic – Open Seat:** Jesus Chuy Garcia defeated Sol Flores and Richard Gonzalez to win the Democratic nomination. Garcia will face Mark Lorch in November. The winner will replace retiring Congressman [Luis Gutierrez](https://ballotpedia.org/Luis_Gutierrez).

**5th District Democratic:** Incumbent Mike Quigley defeated challenges from Sameena Mustafa, Steve Schwartzberg, and Benjamin Wolf. Quigley will face Republican Tom Hanson in November.

**6th District Democratic**: In a race that’s too close to call at the time of writing, Sean Casten, Carole Cheny, Amanda Howland, Ryan Huffman, Kelly Mazeski and Jennifer Zordani all sought to challenge incumbent Peter Roskam in November.

**7th District Democratic:** Incumbent Danny Davis defeated a challenge from Anthony Clark. Davis will face Republican Craig Cameron in November.

**7th District Republican:** Craig Cameron defeated Jeffrey Leef. Camreon will face Incumbent Congressman Danny Davis in November.

**9th District Republican:** John Elleson defeated Max Rice, Sargis Sangari, and D. Vincent Thomas Jr. Elleson will face Incumbent Jan Schakowsky in November.

**10th District Republican**: Doug Bennett defeated Sapan Shah and Jeremy Wynes. Bennett will face incumbent Congressman Brad Schneider in November.

**11th District Republican:** Nick Stella defeated Connor Vlakancic. Stella will face incumbent Congressman Bill Foster in November.

**12th District Democratic**: Brendan Kelly defeated David Bequtte. Kelly will face Incumbent Republican Representative Mike Bost in November.

**12th District Republican:** Incumbent Mike Bost easily defeated a challenge from Preston Nelson. Bost will face Brandan Kelly in November.

**13th District Democratic:** Betsy Londrigan defeated Jonathan Ebel, David Gill, Erik Jones, and Angel Sides to win the Democratic nomination. Londrigan will face Incumbent Rodney Davis in November.

**14th District Democratic:** Lauren Underwood emerged as the winner in a crowded primary field to face incumbent Republican Representative Randy Hultgren in November. Underwood defeated George Weber, Jim Walz,Matt Brolley, John Hosta, Daniel Roldan-Johnson, and Victor Swanson.

**15th District Democratic:** Kevin Gaither defeated Carl Spoerer. Gaither will face Incumbent Congressman John Shimkus in November.

**16th District Democratic**: Sara Dady defeated Amy Briel, Neill Mohammad, Beth Vercolio-Osmund. Dady will face Congressman Adam Kinzinger in November.

**16th District Republican:** Incumbent Congressman Adam Kinzinger defeated a challenge from Jim Marter. Kinzinger will face Dady in November.

**18th District Democratic**: Brian Deters, Darrel Miller, and

Junius Rodriguez fought to face incumbent Congressman Darin Lahood in November in a race that’s too close to call at the time of writing.

**18th District Republican**: Incumbent Republican Darin LaHood defeated a challenge from Donald Rients.