



NAIFA IL Legislative Update

By: Evan Manning, Government Relations Manager

March 18, 2026

Springfield Update – Primary Election

Voters in Illinois went to the polls on Tuesday to choose their party candidates for the upcoming November elections. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Winners of Tuesday’s contest are highlighted below in yellow.

United States Senate

This year, Illinois voters will elect a new United States Senator to replace longtime Democratic US Senator Dick Durbin, who is retiring. While Illinois’ Democratic Primary featured 10 candidates, the true battle was between Congressman Krishnamoorthi, Lt. Governor Stratton, and Congresswoman Robin Kelly. While the Republican primary featured six candidates, the Party failed to recruit a strong, well-known candidate.

Krishnamoorthi led in fundraising, while Stratton, who has served as two-term Governor JB Pritzker’s Lt. Governor since 2019, benefited from Pritzker’s endorsement and cash infusion from the Illinois Future PAC, which ran pro-Stratton ads. Kelly, who has served in Congress since 2013, benefited from late ads funded by the Indian American Impact Fund, a group that supports Krishnamoorthi, but aired ads boosting Kelly in an attempt to blunt Stratton in this three-way race.

Stratton emerged victorious in Tuesday’s contest – giving Governor Pritzker a national ally as he potentially contemplates a presidential run in 2028. She will face former Republican Party chair Don Tracy in November. With Illinois solidly established as a blue state, barring something unforeseen, Stratton is on track to become the next U.S. senator from Illinois.

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
* <i>Open Seat</i>	Raja Krishnamoorthi Kevin Ryan Juliana Stratton Robin Kelly Steve Botsford Jr. Bryan Maxwell Jonathan Dean Sean Brown Awisi Bustos Christopher Swann	Casey Chlebek Don Tracy R. Cary Capparelli Pamela Denise Long Jimmy Lee Tillman, II Jeannie Evans

Statewide Constitutional Offices:

Illinois voters will elect all six statewide constitutional offices this year. Democrats currently hold all six constitutional offices in the state of Illinois and are projected to maintain control of them after November’s election. Republicans struggled to field well-known, electable statewide candidates.

Governor Pritzker ran unopposed in Tuesday’s contest. With Lt. Governor Stratton running for the U.S. Senate, Pritzker selected former Deputy Governor Christian Mitchell as his running mate. He will face a rematch against downstate farmer and former legislator Darren Bailey, who secured his party's nomination on Tuesday.

In the race for Secretary of State, little-known candidate Dianne Harris won the Republican nomination and will face incumbent Alexi Giannoulias in November.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza chose not to seek reelection. Four Democrats – Representative Margaret Croke, Senator Karina Villa, Representative Stephanie Kifowit, and Lake County Comptroller Holly Kim - competed to replace her. Croke emerged victorious on Tuesday.

Attorney General Kwame Roul ran unopposed in Tuesday’s primary, as did Treasurer Michael Frerichs.

OFFICE	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
Governor Lt. Governor	JB Pritzker (I) Christian Mitchell (Pritzker)	Darren Bailey Aaron B. Del Mar (Bailey) Ted Dabrowski Carrie Mendoza (Dabrowski) James Mendrick Robert Renteria (Mendrick) Rick Heidner Christina Neitzke-Troike (Heidner)
Attorney General	Kwame Raoul (I)	Robert W. Fioretti
Secretary of State	Alexi Giannoulias (I)	Walter Adamczyk Diane M. Harris
Comptroller*	Karina Villa Holly Kim Margaret Croke Stephanie A. Kifowit	Bryan Drew
Treasurer	Michael W. Frerichs (I)	
* Denotes Open Seat		

Congress:

All 17 congressional seats are up for election. Democrats currently hold 14 of Illinois’ 17 congressional seats. There are five open seats in this election cycle; Congresswoman Robin Kelly and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi are both running for the US Senate, and three long-time Congressman are retiring: Danny Davis, Jan Schakowsky, and Congressman Jesus “Chuy” Garcia. Garcia initially filed petitions but

subsequently withdrew from the race leaving his Chief of Staff -- Patty Garcia -- as the lone Democrat on the ballot. These open seats lead to a flurry of candidates filing to succeed by the outgoing members of Congress.

In the 2nd Congressional District, Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller defeated several challengers, including former Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., who was seeking a political comeback.

In the crowded race in the 7th Congressional District, State Representative La Shawn Ford (who was endorsed by retiring Congressman Danny Davis) won his party's nomination Tuesday.

In the 8th Congressional District, former Congresswoman Melissa Bean won the primary. Bean previously lost when the district leaned more Republican.

In the crowded 9th Congressional District race, former State Senator and Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss defeated several challengers, including progressive candidate Kat Abughazaleh and State Senator Laura Fine.

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
1 st Congress	Jonathan Jackson (I)	Marcus Lewis Christian Maxwell
2 nd Congress*	Robert Peters Eric France Donna Miller Yumeka Brown Willie Preston Jesse Jackson, Jr. Patrick J. "PJK" Keating Toni C. Brown Sidney Moore Adal Regis	Michael Scott Noack
3 rd Congress	Delia Ramirez (I)	Angel Oakley
4 th Congress*	Patty Garcia	Lupe Castillo
5 th Congress	Mike Quigley (I) Matthew Conroy Anthony Michael Tamez Ellen A. Corley	Tommy Hanson Kimball Ladien Barry Wicker
6 th Congress	Sean Casten (I) Joseph "Joey" Ruzevich	Niki Conforti Skylar Duensing
7 th Congress*	Anthony Driver, Jr Richard R. Boykin Melissa Conyears-Ervin Jazmin J. Robinson La Shawn K. Ford Felix Tello Reed Showalter Anabel Mendoza Rory Hoskins Jason Friedman	Patricia "P Rae" Easley Chad Koppie

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
	Kina Collins Thomas Fisher David Ehrlich	
8 th Congress*	Neil Khot Kevin B. Morrison Junaid Ahmed Ryan Vetticad Melissa L. Bean Yasmeen Bankole Dan Tully Sanjyot Dunug	Mark Rice Jennifer Davis Kevin Ake Herbert Hebein
9 th Congress*	Patricia A. Brown Phil Andrew Kat Abughazaleh Mike Simmons Laura Fine Sam Polan Nick Pyati Bushra Amiwala Justin Ford Daniel Biss Jeff Cohen Bethany Johnson Howard Rosenblum Hoan Huynh Mark Arnold Fredrickson	John Elleson Paul Friedman Rocio Cleveland Dongbo Mark Su
10 th Congress	Brad Schneider (I) Morgan Coghill	Carl Lambrecht
11 th Congress	Bill Foster (I)	Jeff Walter Michael Pierce Tedora Brown Charlie Kim
12 th Congress	Julie Fortier	Mike Bost (I)
13 th Congress	Nikki Budzinski (I) Dylan Blaha	Jeff Wilson Joshua Loyd
14 th Congress	Lauren Underwood (I)	James T. "Jim" Marter Gary Vician
15 th Congress	Jennifer Todd Randy Raley Paul Davis Kyle Nudo	Judy Bowlby Mary E. Miller (I) Ryan D. Tebrugge
16 th Congress	Paul Nolley	Darin LaHood (I)
17 th Congress	Eric Sorensen (I)	Dillan S. Vancil Julie Bickelhaupt
* Denotes Open Seat		

Illinois State Senate

Thirty-nine of the state's fifty-nine Senate seats are up for election this year. There are four open seats: Senator Laura Fine is running for Congress, and Senators Mark Walker, Don DeWitte, and Dale Fowler are retiring. Sixteen Senators are currently running unopposed. Democrats currently hold a super-majority in the Senate (40 Democrats/19 Republicans).

Senators Feigenholtz (6th Senate District) and Jones, III (14th Senate District) both won their respective Democratic primaries. Republican State Representative Paul Jacobs won the nomination to replace retiring Senator Dale Fowler. In the 33rd Senate District, Republican Danielle Penman won the nomination to replace retiring Republican Senator Don DeWitte. She will face Democratic challenger Michele Clark in November. The Senate Democrats are targeting this race.

Below is a list of contested races for the 2026 election cycle.

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
6 th Senate	Sara Feigenholtz Nick Uniejewski	
8 th Senate	Ram Villivalam (I)	Vince Romano
9 th Senate*	Patrick Hanley Rachel Ruttenberg	Tom Lally
14 th Senate	Emil Jones, III (I) Ahmed Karrar Kenny Williams	Brian Skala
17 th Senate	Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (I)	Frederick L. Walls
18 th Senate	Frances Ann Hurley (I)	Christine McGovern
21 st Senate	Laura Ellman (I)	Julie Berkowicz
23 rd Senate	Suzanne "Suzy" Glowiak Hilton (I)	Linda Z. Polacek
24 th Senate	Benjamin "Ben" McAdams	Seth Lewis (I)
26 th Senate	Nabeela Syed	Darby Hills (I)
27 th Senate*	Carina Santa Maria	David Mathis
29 th Senate	Julie A. Morrison (I)	Kate McGrath
32 nd Senate	Karen Battaglia	Craig Wilcox (I)
33 rd Senate*	Michele Clark	Danielle Penman Jessica Breugelmans
35 th Senate	Sarah B. Mertens	Dave Syverson (I)
36 th Senate	Michael W. Halpin (I)	Brad Beekman Patrick Harlan
38 th Senate	Ernie R. Marcelain	Sue Rezin (I)
42 nd Senate	Linda Holmes (I)	Edgardo "Eddie" Perez
45 th Senate	Joseph H. "Joe" Berning	Andrew S. Chesney (I)
48 th Senate	Doris Turner (I)	Frank Lesko
56 th Senate	Marsia Geldert-Murphey Kevin Hall	Erica Harriss (I)

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
57 th Senate	Christopher Belt (I)	Daniel Rhyne
59 th Senate*	Tamiko "T.C." Mueller	Paul Jacobs Stephen Vercellino
* Denotes Open Seat		

Illinois House of Representatives:

All 118 House seats are up for election this year. There are ten open seats. Seven members are running for higher office: Representative Ford (Congress), Representative Croke (Comptroller), Representative Huynh (Congress), Representative Syed (State Senate), Representative Kifowit (Comptroller), Representative Tipsword (Sheriff), and Representative Jacobs (State Senate). Representatives Smith and Grant are retiring. Representative Moylan filed petitions to run for reelection, but subsequently retired from office, paving the way for his Chief of Staff, Justin Cochran, to run as the only Democrat. Cochran was appointed to replace Moylan. Fifty members are running unopposed. Democrats currently hold a super-majority of the House seats (78 Democrats/40 Republicans).

Democratic Representative Jamie Andrade (40th District) and Republican Deputy Minority Leader Norine Hammond (94th District) lost their primary bids. Andrade was challenged by progressive candidate Miguel Alvelo Rivera, who received significant support from the teachers' unions. Justin Higgins, who was supported by conservative Tom DeVore and the House Freedom Caucus, defeated Hammond on Tuesday.

In the 42nd District, appointed Representative Margaret DeLaRosa won her first primary bid. She replaced Representative Terra Costa Howard who was appointed to a judgeship. In the 52nd District, Maria Peterson won her primary and will face Representative Marty McLaughlin in November. The House Democrats are targeting this race. McLaughlin narrowly won in 2024.

Republican Liz Bishop won the primary in the 76th District. She will face a rematch with first-term Democratic Representative Amy Briel in November.

Three Republican Representatives: Leader Tony McCombie (98th District), Charlie Meier (109th District), and Dave Severin (116th District) all defeated conservative primary challenges. In the 118th District, Republican Scott Doody won the primary to replace Representative Paul Jacobs who is running for the Senate. Doody will face Democrat Chip Markel in November.

Below is a list of contested races for the 2026 election cycle.

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
1 st Representative	Guadalupe "Lupe" Rivera Aaron M. Ortiz (I)	
2 nd Representative	Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (I)	Laura Hruska
4 th Representative	Lilian Jimenez (I) Kirk Ortiz	
8 th Representative*	John Harrell	

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
	Jill Bush Shantel Franklin Latonya Mitts	
12 th Representative*	Litcy Ludvic Kurisinkal Paul Kendrick Karim Lakhani Mac Lebuhn	Justin J. Kumar
13 th Representative*	Sunjay Kumar Demerike "Demi" Palecek James O'Brien Adam Braun Ridge Knapp	Terry Nguyen Le
17 th Representative	Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (I)	James "Jim" Geldermann
18 th Representative	Robyn Gabel (I)	Pete Donaghue
19 th Representative	Lindsey LaPointe (I)	John "JZ" Zimmers
21 st Representative	Abdelnasser Rashid (I)	Eric Su
25 th Representative	Curtis J. Tarver II (I)	Antoinette Jewel Simmons
26 th Representative	Kam Buckner (I) Kenya Franklin	
34 th Representative*	Cleopatra "Cleo" Cowley Aja Kearney	
35 th Representative	Mary Gill (I)	David A. Dewar Charles (Chuck) Lay
36 th Representative	Rick Ryan (I)	David Sheppard
39 th Representative	Will Guzzardi (I)	Cesar A. Guillen
40 th Representative	Miguel Alvelo-Rivera Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (I)	
41 st Representative	Janet Yang Rohr (I)	Ajay Gupta
42 nd Representative	Margaret A. DeLaRosa (I) Lynn LaPlante	Stephanie W. Trussell
44 th Representative	Fred Crespo (I)	Ralph Black
45 th Representative	Martha "Marti" Deuter (I)	Gina Parrilli
46 th Representative	Diane Blair-Sherlock (I)	Pedro Jovany Mendoza
47 th Representative*	Erica Bray-Parker	Robert A. Vrankovich
48 th Representative	Amanda Zahorak	Jennifer Sanalidro (I)
49 th Representative	Maura Hirschauer (I)	John Paul Augustynowicz
51 st Representative*	Jenny Levin	Lori Smith
52 nd Representative	Erin Chan Ding Maria Peterson	Martin McLaughlin (I)
53 rd Representative	Nicolle Grasse (I)	Elizabeth Bauer
54 th Representative	Mary Beth Canty (I)	Wayne Keen
55 th Representative*	Justin Cochran (I)	Joseph Johnson
56 th Representative	Michelle Mussman (I)	Edward "Ed" Lapinski
57 th Representative	Tracy Katz Muhl (I)	Daniel T. Behr
61 st Representative	Joyce Mason (I)	Tina Marie Durrant

DISTRICT	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
64 th Representative	AJ Johnson	Tom Weber (I)
65 th Representative	Ricky Rivard	Dan Ugaste (I)
66 th Representative	Suzanne Ness (I)	Laurie Parman
68 th Representative	Dave Vella (I)	Kathy Easton
69 th Representative	Peter Janko	Joe C. Sosnowski (I)
70 th Representative	Veronica Garcia-Martinez	Jeff Keicher (I)
71 st Representative	Kermit Thomas	Dan Swanson (I)
73 rd Representative	Nicole Dopler	Ryan Spain (I)
74 th Representative	Nolan Kemp	Bradley J. Fritts (I)
75 th Representative	Caroline McCree	Jed Davis (I)
76 th Representative	Amy "Murri" Briel (I)	Liz Bishop Crystal Loughran
77 th Representative	Norma Hernandez (I)	Anthony Airdo
78 th Representative	Camille Lilly (I)	Julian-Jahleel Randolph Jemison
80 th Representative	Anthony DeLuca (I)	Adam M. Beaty
81 st Representative	Anne Stava (I)	Laura Hois
83 rd Representative	Matt Hanson (I)	Jesse Rodriguez
84 th Representative*	Saba Haider Jared Ploger	Brian Scopa
85 th Representative	Dagmara "Dee" Avelar (I)	Chris Metcalfe
89 th Representative		Victoria Onorato Tony M. McCombie (I)
90 th Representative	John Ping	John M. Cabello (I)
94 th Representative		Norine K. Hammond (I) Joshua S. Higgins Bailey Templeton
97 th Representative	Harry Benton (I)	Gabby Shanahan
98 th Representative	Natalie A. Manley (I)	Nona Parker
101 st Representative	Douglas Fagan	Chris G. Miller (I)
104 th Representative	Mary Catherine Roberson	Brandun Schweizer (I)
107 th Representative		Brad Halbrook (I) John Hauge
109 th Representative		Charlie Meier (I) Zachary Meyer
111 th Representative	Rosetta "Rosie" Brown	Amy Elik (I)
112 th Representative	Katie Stuart (I)	Jimmy Ford
114 th Representative	George McClellan Jr.	Kevin Schmidt (I)
116 th Representative		Angela Evans Dave Severin (I)
118 th Representative*	Homer "Chip" Markel	Scott Doody Harold Visser Dayton Loyd
* Denotes Open Seat		