



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BLUEWAVE





President's Message

Dear IDCCA Family & Supporters:

From my earliest days working for Senator Paul Simon, I have loved meeting, talking, and working with the people of Illinois. As I travel the state as the new President of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA), I am constantly reminded of how hard people work and how generous they are to their neighbors. Illinois is a great state. There is value in her people, in her resources, and in her future. Yet, many Illinoisans still struggle and many are concerned for our future. There are some who try to use these fears against us, trying to divide us. This election showed what we can do when we stand together, when we reject the rhetoric of hate, when we reject the rhetoric of division, and when we reject the notion that government doesn't work. Democrats understand government, and government officials at all levels, should exist to help people – all people.

The IDCCA accomplished great things in 2018. Continuing the 102-county strategy, former President Doug House and the IDCCA team worked with county parties to create our Blue Wave. We emerged with a Democratic Governor who received more votes than any other Democratic candidate since 1976. We turned out a record number of voters, added to our majorities in the State Senate and House, elected the entire statewide ticket, made serious inroads into what were once Republican strongholds, and elected key congressional candidates to provide a check on the outrages of the Trump Administration.

As you read through this 2018 Annual Report, you'll begin to get a sense of the work that went into achieving these victories. The IDCCA is a resource for our county parties. One of the most visible and valuable resources are our trainings. There were 28 distinct training sessions throughout the state, including our Candidate Boot Camp with a record 122 attendees. In addition, the IDCCA embarked on targeted projects to help our county parties. Projects new for 2018 included the Project Blue Wave Recruitment which fielded 62 Democratic candidates for county-wide, county board, and General Assembly seats. This was important because prior to recruitment, these seats were going unchallenged. In addition, we expanded social media use to communicate and push out the Democratic message and hosted two widely viewed and attended Attorney General Debates.

Looking forward to 2020, what could possibly be next? First, we need to continue to be a strong resource for all 102 counties and hang on to our victories. We need to support those elected working to make Illinois better. We have large swaths of our state that did not benefit from the Blue Wave. We need to expand and bolster our grass roots communication and social media outreach. We need to continue to encourage and train Democratic candidates who represent what America looks like. We are also facing new challenges like an alarming amount of soft voter suppression. We're up for any challenge that awaits us with your continued support.

The IDCCA could not have been as successful without the commitment of our partners and supporters. Thank you to all who contributed. I look forward to working with you in 2019.



Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Zahorik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristina Zahorik
President, Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association
Chair, McHenry County Democratic Party



The IDCCA is a resource for 102 Democratic county parties which are the backbone of the Democratic Party. We work to provide assistance in Party building, candidate support and coordination with county parties, and participate in statewide actions. Unprecedented IDCCA efforts contributed to historic wins in 2018. Efforts that included Get-Out-the-Vote and Ballot Chase programs contributing to a reported 73% total vote share improvement for Democratic county races. Voter Hub also reported the Governor's race showing 83% of counties having a higher Democratic vote share as compared to the last gubernatorial election. The IDCCA was active in recruiting, training, and providing support to county level candidates. Illinois saw an impressive 605 Democrats run for county-wide or county board office. In 16 counties, Democratic Parties fielded a full slate of candidates.

County Party Building

Resources The IDCCA provided information on and strategies for party building, access to and training for Votebuilder, access to counsel, and a centralized location for best practices. The IDCCA President traveled the state as an ambassador and liaison working with county parties, the Democratic Party of Illinois, and with other like-minded organizations. IDCCA maintained staff throughout the year and election cycle to field the hundreds of calls, emails, and texts from our Chairs and membership. They provided a wide range of services like: election information and strategy, contact with IDCCA counsel and election law attorneys, Votebuilder assistance, messaging, and key data from the Coordinated Campaign. This year, the IDCCA was able to add staff, hiring an Assistant Executive Director and Communications Director.

Precinct Committeeperson Recruitment

Precinct Committeepersons are the heart of the Democratic Party and our grassroots efforts. The IDCCA assisted County Chairs with recruiting over 1,000 new Precinct Committeepersons.

County Chairs Boot Camp As part of the 2018 IDCCA & National Democratic Training Committee Candidate Boot Camp, 25 County Chairs participated in a first ever County Chairs Boot Camp focusing on fundraising, communications, volunteer recruitment, technology, Votebuilder, and social media. This training allowed County Chairs' from all over the state to share ideas and network.

Project Blue Wave This initiative, managed by the Rock Island County Democratic Party, assisted with Party building, infrastructure, and funding support. The IDCCA aided County Chairs to fully implement their comprehensive plans.

Communications This year the IDCCA hired a Communications Director to implement a robust communications strategy which included dozens of

press releases and several op – eds challenging the opposition and promoting Democratic candidates. It also included working with County Chairs and county level candidates on messaging. This year had a new Facebook Live series called Soapbox Sunday to interview key partners and elected officials.

Sexual Harassment Policy & Pledge

The IDCCA was the first statewide organization to develop a sexual harassment policy & pledge for county parties. Our policy & pledge included a step-by-step process on how to report, investigate, and determine a resolution for claims of sexual harassment within our organization. The IDCCA also shared this policy & pledge with Democratic candidates running in the 2018 Primary Election.

County Candidate Assistance

Project Blue Wave Candidate Recruitment

The IDCCA led the effort to recruit an additional 79 candidates to run in the General Election for county-wide, county board, and General Assembly offices. Over 75% of those candidates were on the ballot and provided voters a Democratic choice. In a significant number of these races, it was the first time in years a Democrat had run.

Candidate Boot Camp The IDCCA continues partnering with the National Democratic Training Committee to provide an intensive and comprehensive Candidate Boot Camp. In only its second year, the number of attendees grew by almost 40%. One hundred and twenty two candidates went through the program, of which 63 were on the 2018 ballot and 11 were elected. New to the Candidate Boot Camp was an advanced candidate and County Chairs training program.

Project Connect The IDCCA organized weekly conference calls with county parties and congressional, state legislative, and judicial campaigns. These calls were conducted throughout the fall, serving to facilitate strategic partnerships between the county parties and campaigns.

Statewide Highlights

The IDCCA worked with statewide and congressional candidates, as well as the Coordinated Campaign. We assisted in providing a conduit for training, support, and event opportunities in every county.

Annual County Chairs' Brunch

The County Chairs' Brunch serves as a kickoff to Democrat Day at the State Fair. It is a unique opportunity for Democrats to come together and hear from our candidates. This year's Brunch had a record overflow crowd of 3,000 descending on Springfield. Keynote Vice President Joe Biden was unable to attend due to illness; Mayor Pete Buttigieg (South Bend, IN) stepped in and provided the energized crowd with an inspiring vision of the future for the Democratic Party. Thank you to those who assisted in making this happen.

Democratic Party Builder Awards

The IDCCA honored four outstanding Democrats for their lifelong contributions to party building in Illinois. At our annual Chicago Reception, the IDCCA honored Cook County Board President Hon. Toni Preckwinkle (Cook), Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Hon. Debra Shore, and Citizen Action Illinois Co-Director William McNary. At the annual County Chairs' Brunch, retiring Illinois House of Representatives Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie was honored.

Attorney General Candidate Forums

Democrats fielded eight candidates in the primary for Attorney General. The IDCCA hosted two well attended candidate forums. The Springfield forum was co-hosted by News / Talk 94.7 & 970 WMAY with Jim Leach moderating. The Chicago forum was held at IUOE Local 399 with Amanda Vinicky of WTTW / Chicago Tonight moderating. Nearly 600 people registered to attend both events with more viewing online thanks to Blue Room Stream.

Partner Organization Support

The IDCCA is honored to continue our partnership with the Democratic Party of Illinois, Illinois State Democratic Victory Fund, Illinois AFL-CIO and other unions, Illinois Democratic Women, Young Democrats of Illinois, and College Democrats of Illinois. We are also proud to continue relationships with several other likeminded organizations such as Indivisible Illinois, Equality Illinois, Planned Parenthood, Personal PAC, and Citizen Action Illinois.

Sunday Soapbox

In a new feature, IDCCA Communications Director Toby Trimmer created and implemented a Facebook Live series to conduct strategic interviews with Illinois Democrats, starting with IDCCA Executive Director Dan Kovats and ending with newly elected IDCCA President Kristina Zahorik (McHenry). Over 17,000 people tuned in to watch the 5 month long series. The IDCCA looks forward to expanding social media outreach in 2019. Be sure to "like" us on social media @ILDCCA.

IDCCA Newsletter & Website

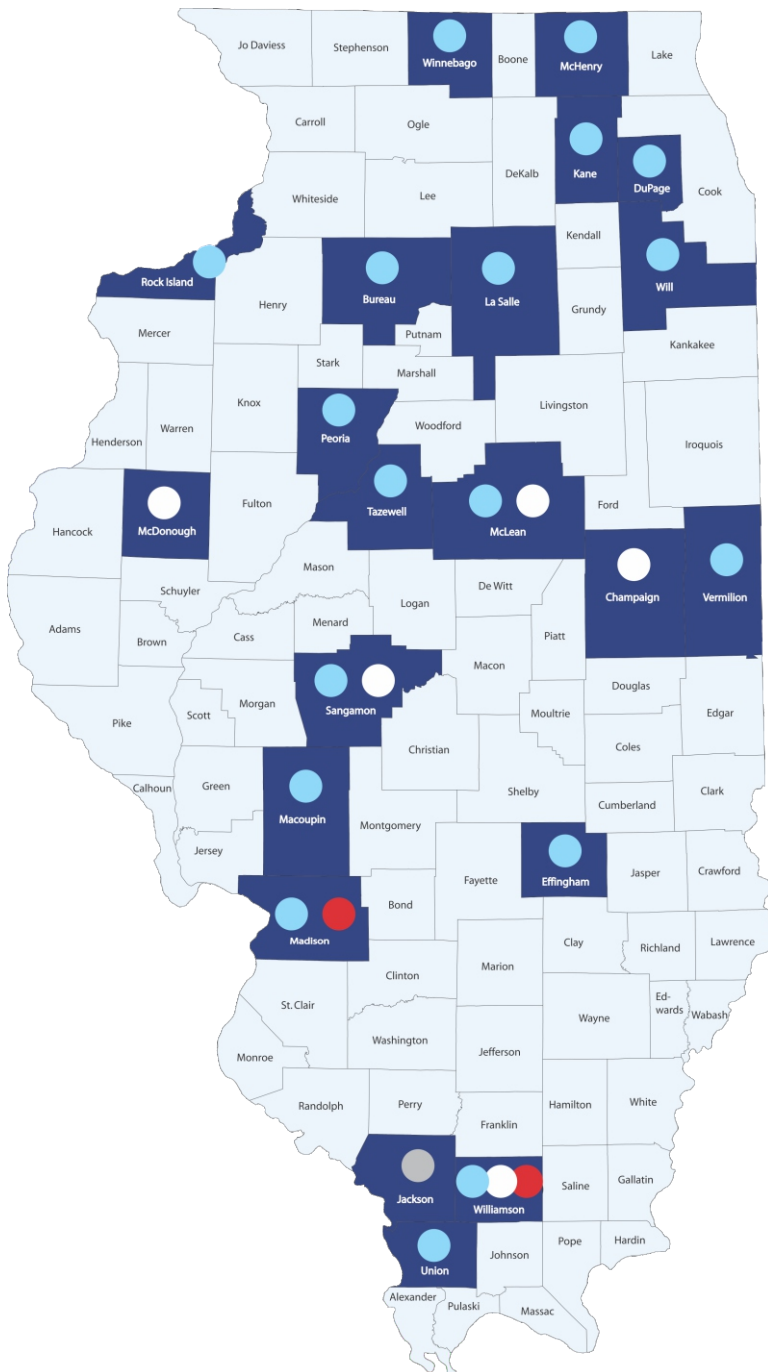
The IDCCA is committed to communicating with our membership. In addition to a social media presence, we publish a newsletter and maintain a website. In 2018, the IDCCA published 10 newsletters packed with important material regarding the IDCCA, issues, candidate training, political internships, and candidate events throughout the state. The IDCCA also maintains a website at www.ildcca.org.



2018 Candidate Boot Camp Attendees

Training

The IDCCA is committed to providing our Chairs and membership with the training they need to be successful. The IDCCA and our partners conducted 28 different training sessions in 21 counties, presenting 5 unique specialized training programs for targeted audiences that served more than 1000 participants.



PRECINCT COMMITTEE PERSON TRAINING

19 training sessions conducted in 18 different counties reaching 661 participants

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Bureau | Madison | Tazewell |
| DuPage | McHenry | Union |
| Effingham | McLean | Vermilion |
| Kane | Peoria | Will |
| LaSalle | Rock Island | Williamson |
| Macoupin | Sangamon | Winnebago |



VOTE BUILDER TRAINING

5 training sessions conducted in 5 different counties reaching 102 participants

- Champaign
- McDonough
- McLean
- Sangamon
- Williamson



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

2 training sessions conducted in 2 different counties reaching 58 participants

- Madison
- Williamson



GOTV TRAINING

1 training session conducted in Jackson County reaching 77 participants



National Democratic Training Committee **Candidate Boot Camp - Class of 2018**

Ashonta Akiwowo, Cook
Robert Alexander, Jasper
Aaron Ammons, Champaign
Maryam Ar-Raheem, Champaign
Will Asher, Sangamon
Erika Bachner, Cook
Lisa Badger, Sangamon
Christine Ballard, Ogle
Marc Bell, Sangamon
Stacy Bernardi, Winnebago
Jill Blair, McLean
Angelique Bodine, Boone
Diana Brenneman, Vermilion
Dani Brzozowski, LaSalle
Kimberly Budnick, Tazewell
Odie Carpenter, Sangamon
Carissa Casbon, Lake

Dillon Clark, Montgomery
Mimi Cowan, Will
Scott Cross, Sangamon
Sara Dady, Winnebago
Don Daughtery, Crawford
Amy Davis, Lee
Chris Doscotch, Peoria
Kevin Duesterhaus, Pike
Julie Emig, McLean
Angela Fellars, Winnebago
Dennis Fisher, Shelby
Kevin Gaither, Coles
Tom Georges, Lake
Cynthia Given, Richland
James Greenwood, Rock Island
Marsha Griffin, Union
Dick Haas, Livingston

Michele Hansen, LaSalle
Angela Harris, Sangamon
Patricia Hayes, Sangamon
Mary Hays, Piatt
Brenda Hernandez, Cook
Dustin Heuerman, Champaign
Daniel Hobart, Livingston
Doug House, Rock Island
Karla Huffman, McLean
Matthew Hunt, Will
Nicholas Hyde, Jo Daviess
Patrick Hyde, Jo Daviess
Mary Beth Hyde, Jo Daviess
Mohammad Iqbal, Kane
Ilaine Jessup, Kendall
Nicholas Jimenez, Kane
Christopher Jump, Fulton



Candidates attending the 2018 IDCCA & NDTC Candidate Boot Camp

National Democratic Training Committee Candidate Boot Camp - Class of 2018

Ashonta Akiwowo, Cook
Robert Alexander, Jasper
Aaron Ammons, Champaign
Maryam Ar-Raheem, Champaign
Will Asher, Sangamon
Erika Bachner, Cook
Lisa Badger, Sangamon
Christine Ballard, Ogle
Marc Bell, Sangamon
Stacy Bernardi, Winnebago
Jill Blair, McLean
Angelique Bodine, Boone
Diana Brenneman, Vermilion
Dani Brzozowski, LaSalle
Kimberly Budnick, Tazewell
Odie Carpenter, Sangamon
Carissa Casbon, Lake
Dillon Clark, Montgomery
Mimi Cowan, Will
Scott Cross, Sangamon

Sara Dady, Winnebago
Don Daughtery, Crawford
Amy Davis, Lee
Chris Doscotch, Peoria
Kevin Duesterhaus, Pike
Julie Emig, McLean
Angela Fellars, Winnebago
Dennis Fisher, Shelby
Kevin Gaither, Coles
Tom Georges, Lake
Cynthia Given, Richland
James Greenwood, Rock Island
Marsha Griffin, Union
Dick Haas, Livingston
Michele Hansen, LaSalle
Angela Harris, Sangamon
Patricia Hayes, Sangamon
Mary Hays, Piatt
Brenda Hernandez, Cook
Dustin Heurman, Champaign

Daniel Hobart, Livingston
Doug House, Rock Island
Karla Huffman, McLean
Matthew Hunt, Will
Nicholas Hyde, Jo Daviess
Patrick Hyde, Jo Daviess
Mary Beth Hyde, Jo Daviess
Mohammad Iqbal, Kane
Ilaine Jessup, Kendall
Nicholas Jimenez, Kane
Christopher Jump, Fulton
Darlene Kloeppel,
Champaign
April Kostenski, Macon
Beth Kremer, Kendall
Terry Lake, Vermilion
Lynn LaPlante, DuPage
Gina Lathan, Sangamon
Germaine Light, Vermilion
Scot Luchtefeld, Monroe



SAVE THE DATE

Candidate Boot Camp May 17th-19th, 2019

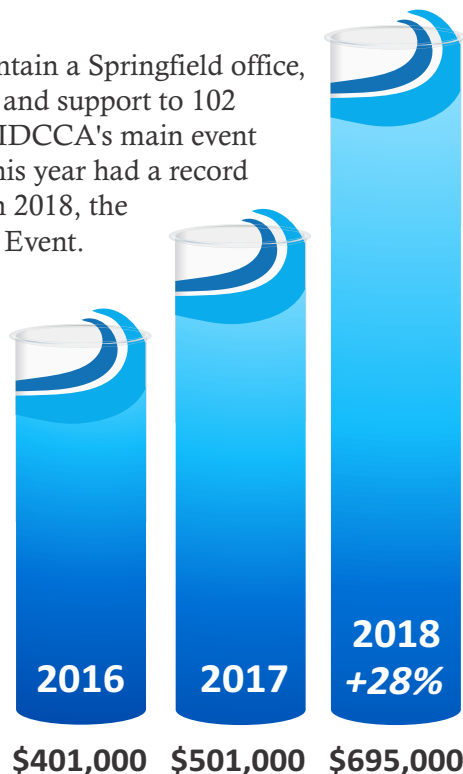
Fundraising

Total Raised - \$695,000

The IDCCA raises funds from variety of sources and events to maintain a Springfield office, employ staff & consultants, provide training, access to Votebuilder, and support to 102 counties, as well as candidates. Thank you to all who contributed. IDCCA's main event is the annual must attend County Chairs' Brunch in Springfield. This year had a record number attending with representation from almost every county. In 2018, the IDCCA was excited to launch a new Chicago Young Professional's Event.



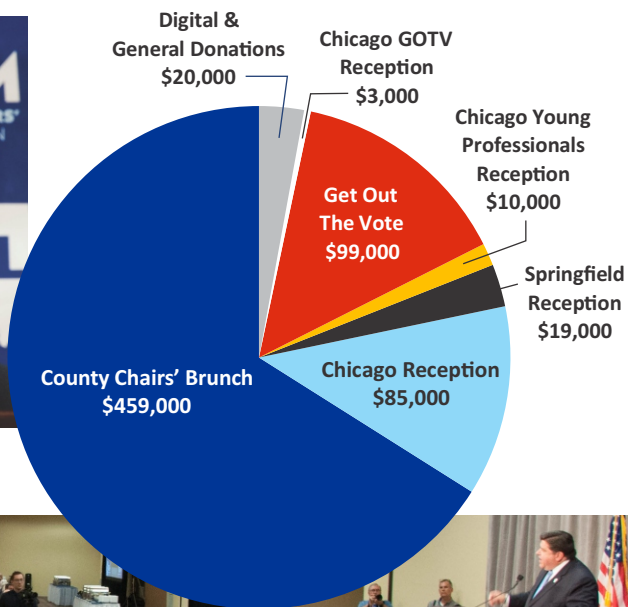
U.S. Senator Dick Durbin



Illinois House Majority Leader
Barbara Flynn Currie



South Bend (IN) Mayor
Pete Buttigieg



SAVE THE DATE
County Chairs' Brunch Wednesday August 14th, 2019, Springfield

Newsletter Contributors

*We are grateful to the 2018 IDCCA Newsletter contributors.
Articles can be found online at www.ildcca.org/newsletter*

Hon. Carlos Acosta, Will Attig, Bret Bender, Hon. Melinda Bush, Hon. Cheri Bustos, Hon. Pete Buttigieg, Ryan Croke, Colleen Daley, Hon. Pam Davidson, Art Friedson, Monica Gordon, Kaylie Hanson Long, Ben Head, Doug House, Kerri Kennedy, Jes Klass, Ridgley Knapp, Jack McNeil, Hon. Jimmy Naville, Larry Quick, Hon. Juliana Stratton, Genevieve Theirs, Jessica Thomas, Toby Trimmer, Hon. Doris Turner, Josh Witowski, Ellen Wolcott, Hon. Kristina Zahorik

2018 IDCCA Leadership Circle

Special thanks to the IDCCA Leadership Circle. Leadership Circle Members serve as IDCCA Ambassadors expanding our network and resources. If interested in serving on the Leadership Circle, contact kristina@ildcca.org.

Deborah Bandy, Director,
Healthcare Policy & Advocacy

Kam Buckner, Executive Director,
World Sports Chicago

Michael Carrigan, President, Illinois AFL – CIO

Kevin Conlon, Founder & President,
Conlon & Dunn

John Dunn, Director of Government Relations,
McGuire Woods

Matt Glavin, Director of Government Affairs
Illinois American Water

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State Central Committeewoman

Don Harmon, State Senator, 39th District

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Lucy Moog, Democratic Committeewoman
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Will County

Heather Steans, State Senator, 7th District

Anna Valencia, City Clerk, City of Chicago

Genevieve Theirs, CEO, NewFounders

Kim Walz, Regional Director of
Local Governmental Relations, Walgreens

Mae Whiteside, President & CEO,
CKL Engineers LLC



(Left to Right) – Omari Prince, MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Attorney General Kwame Raoul, U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly, former IDCCA President Doug House, IDCCA Executive Director Dan Kovats, & IDCCA Leadership Circle Member Mae Whiteside

2018 IDCCA SPONSORS

The IDCCA appreciates the generous support throughout the year from our sponsors. The contributions made funded the work necessary to build and support our county parties, as well as the historic Blue Wave. We look forward to working with you in 2019. Anyone wanting to join at a sponsorship level, please contact us at dan@ildcca.org. Thank you!!!



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Construction & General Laborers District Council
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Governor's Club

Illinois Laborers Legislative Committee
Illinois Pipe Trades
Rock Island County Democratic Party
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U.S. Senator Dick Durbin

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Illinois AFL – CIO
IUOE Local 399
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Trades Council
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Democratic Party of Christian County
Democratic Party of Illinois
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Alderman Michelle Harris
Doug House
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IBEW Local 134
IBEW Local 364
Illinois Association of Realtors
Illinois Political Active Letter Carriers
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IUOE Local 965
IUPAT District Council 30
IUPAT District Council 58
Kane County Democratic Party
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State Senator Dave Koehler
Labor Council of West Central Illinois
Laborers Local 231
Laborers Local 703
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Lawrence County Democratic Party

Macon County Democratic Party
Mason County Democratic Party
McGuire Woods
McHenry County Democratic Party
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Minuteman Press
Monroe County Democratic Party
MRH Solutions LLC
OPCMIA Local 18
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Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 137
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