



ILDEM

COUNTY CHAIRS'
ASSOCIATION

2020

ANNUAL

REPORT

www.ildcca.org | [@ILDCCA](https://twitter.com/ILDCCA)
info@ildcca.org

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear IDCCA Family and Supporters,

History called to save America. Democrats answered the call. You answered the call.

In the middle of a global pandemic that has taken over 421,000 American lives due to COVID-19, Democrats turned out in record numbers to ensure the integrity of the election process and elect Democratic President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to lead our nation out of the darkness and build America back better.

Who better to build back the country than Democrats? We believe in the promise of America and in good government. We use facts and science in policy making. We believe in opportunity and fairness. It will not be easy, and the pandemic has emphasized where we have fallen short, but we Democrats welcome the chance to build a more perfect union.

Your engagement and support of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) enabled us to protect truth and democracy by electing Democrats.

This was the all-in, game-on year. The IDCCA and our supporters like you understood the seriousness of what was at stake. We were ready, then COVID-19 hit. The IDCCA took on the challenges of this virus and came out stronger. With your help, we continue to build a dynamic and sustainable Democratic partnership resource organization for Illinois Democratic County Parties, to support the Democratic political agenda, to grow the Party, and to elect Democrats at every level. With County Chairs, staff, consultants, partner organizations, and IDCCA Leadership Circle members, we successfully executed our mission.

The IDCCA started 2020 with an ambitious plan for four major projects which reflected our objectives 1) Resource and Training Project, 2) REV Project 3) Election Integrity Project, and 4) GOTV Project. We made positive progress but know there is more to do. This Annual Report provides details about our efforts.

Following science and the advice from our Governor, JB Pritzker, the IDCCA quickly adapted to COVID-19 protocols by going virtual. While we look forward to returning to in-person events, we believe the IDCCA will continue moving in the digital space to connect and engage with Illinois Democrats.

This year was a challenge for more reasons beyond the pandemic health crisis. Not only was 2020 a presidential election year, but it began the two-year term organizational process for the IDCCA and our County Parties. I was proud and humbled to be re-elected as President during this critical time. The structural process included the election and training of Precinct Committeepersons (PCs), the election of County Chairs and formation of their Executive Boards, and the critical appointment and commissioning of Election Judges. In addition, we continued to help get Democratic candidates on the ballot after the primary during the appointment process. Even when the signature requirements remained the same for established parties, we got creative and got it done.

Moving into 2021, the IDCCA plans to continue to work in the areas where we can have the most impact and use the valuable data this election cycle has provided to be as effective as we can in every county. Thank you again for all you do. We could not have been successful without you. Stay safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.

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



The Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association (IDCCA) is a statewide organization formed over 50 years ago to support the political agenda of our Party through grassroots organizing, party building, and helping to elect Democrats using the County Party structure. Every Democrat, everywhere, counts.

Membership is composed of Illinois Democratic County Chairs from all 102 counties. Further details about the IDCCA Executive Board, membership, and mission can be found by going to www.ildcca.org/about/leadership/.

The IDCCA's strength is the grassroots efforts of our volunteer County Chairs and the thousands of Precinct Committeepersons (PC) serving throughout Illinois. As the largest and most active grassroots Democratic partner in Illinois, the IDCCA focuses resources for Democratic County Parties like those found within our Leadership Circle. The IDCCA assists with candidate recruitment and campaign assistance, as well as information sharing to engage Illinois Democrats. The IDCCA is committed to Democratic values and working toward Democratic victories.



NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TRAINING COMMITTEE

2020 Boot Camp

May 18 - 19, 2020

ActBlue

Paid for by the IDCCA & NDTCC

The IDCCA provides resources and training to Democratic County Parties and their membership, candidates and campaigns. Our grassroots supporters use our two full-time staffers in a Springfield office with support from consultants and our Leadership Circle members. This year was particularly challenging given the pandemic.

Resource Highlights

- **Assisted County Parties:**
 - Reorganizing and conducting their mandated biannual County Conventions.
 - Recruiting candidates to fill vacancies on the General Election ballot; including creative ideas to help fulfill ballot signature requirements for Established Political Parties.
 - Recruiting, appointing, and commissioning Democratic Election Judges and poll watchers.
 - Providing access to election attorneys (IDCCA and Democratic Party of Illinois) for County Chairs.
- **Leading the way to electing more Democrats**
 - Coordinated distribution of over 50,000 Joe Biden / Kamala Harris yard signs statewide.
 - Assisted the statewide Coordinated Campaign with two rounds of Make A Plan To Vote mailing to over 80 counties targeting dropoff Democratic voters. Thank you to IDCCA Leadership Circle Member **Gillian Rosenberg Armour** for her assistance.
 - Endorsed and actively supported congressional candidates Betsy Dirksen Londrigan and Dani Brzozowski.
- **Partner in the 2020 Coordinated Campaign**
 - Statewide and congressional campaigns.
 - Focused on Voter Protection.
 - “Vote Yes For Fair Tax” Committee planning and outreach sessions.
- **Elected the most gender diverse Executive Board in the history of the IDCCA, with eight women Chairs being elected to President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and At Large Member.**



Training Highlights

The IDCCA took advantage of technology and expanded its successful training programs last year into the IDCCA Virtual Training Series (VTS) and the IDCCA and NDTC Boot Camp.

Virtual Training Series (VTS)

Thanks to our Leadership Circle and partners, we ran successful and robust VTS sessions geared towards County Chairs, precinct committeepersons, volunteers, and candidates. The IDCCA held a record number of 29 VTS sessions with a total of 1,207 attendees. Previously recorded VTS are available on the IDCCA website at: <https://ildcca.org/virtual-training-series/>. The IDCCA plans to continue this important training series in 2021.

A special thank you to our VTS presenters including:

Gillian Rosenberg Armour, Tom Bowen, Hon. Kam Buckner, Hon. Mike Cabonargi, Rachel Cleary, Hon. Kevin Conlon, Hon. Mike Frerichs, Margo Gislain, Hon. Greg Harris, Barnabas Helmy, Hon. Bill Houlihan, Paul Kendrick, Zain Khan, Zach Koutsky, Hon. Andy Manar, Mike Matejka, Jason McGrath, Sarah Nelson, Hon. Lamont Robinson, Hon. Debra Shore, Brian Stryker, Genevieve Thiers, Hon. Jackie Traynere, Hon. Anna Valencia, Heather Wier Vaught, Hon. Mark Von Nida, Erika Walker, Jen Walling, Seth Wiggins, Emily Wurth, Hon. Kristina Zahorik, and Mike Ziri.

IDCCA & NDTC Boot Camp

With mounting COVID-19 concerns and in consultation with our partners, the IDCCA and the National Democratic Training Committee (NDTC) decided to shift our traditional intensive three day in-person training to a two night virtual training. This change in platform had an unanticipated benefit of providing access to the training to more Democrats throughout the state. The 2020 Boot Camp was the largest in our history with 470 participants. Attendees were selected for two tracks, Democratic Party building or candidate / staff training. Participants were selected based on their involvement with their local County Party and a recommendation from their County Chair.

Boot Camp continues to grow throughout the state. Those who attend remain valuable resources within their communities. The IDCCA is proud to see more and more alumni running for office. To date, the IDCCA Boot Camp has trained 769 candidates with 214 Boot Camp alumni running for public office and 78 alumni being elected. 2020 saw our largest number of Boot Camp alumni run for public office (116), of which 45 were elected in November.



The IDCCA Recruit, Engage, Vote (REV) Project was a 3-tiered project developed to identify Democratic voters and increase both Democratic turnout and participation in local County Parties across the state by reaching out to voters who aligned with Democratic Party values. The connections made during the REV Project further bolstered and strengthened the Democratic base. We saw progress in 69 counties where Democrats were able to expand their base voters in the 2020 Election.

Due to the pandemic, REV plans shifted from grassroots canvassing to a Virtual Phone Bank. Volunteers around the state were able to participate from the safety of their homes. We had three phases: Phase 1 involved newly elected and appointed Precinct Committee people and other volunteers calling targeted voters in their precinct. Phase 2 moved from calling targeted precincts to targeted counties, specifically focusing on encouraging drop off Democratic voters to apply for Vote By Mail (VBM). Phase 3 centered on volunteers contacting those who had requested a VBM ballot to ensure they received, voted, and returned their VBM ballot.

The 2020 REV project had over 600 volunteers across 45 Counties and Townships. All the critical data collected was input into VoteBuilder, ensuring that we can continue to build on this work for years to come and that future candidates and campaigns can gain from this valuable information.

Important Issues for Election Judges

Issues Election Judges and Voters Should Know



ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT

The IDCCA continues to provide assistance in two key areas with the Election Integrity Project and with election framework and training.

Recognizing 2020 would be a challenging year and the importance of being able to guarantee a fair and free election, the IDCCA worked with our County Parties in their statutory function of recruiting and commissioning of Democratic Election Judges and Democratic Panel Judges, recruiting and training of poll watchers, educating Democratic voters about the election process and Vote By Mail, and actively participating in the Democratic Party of Illinois Election Protection working group. These activities proved vital to protecting election integrity.

The IDCCA thanks everyone who worked and volunteered during the pandemic to ensure the integrity of the election.



While General Membership meetings offer an opportunity of friendship and fellowship with County Chairs' throughout the state, they are also an excellent opportunity for training and vital campaign updates. President Zahorik invited the following individuals to our General Membership meetings to update our County Chairs' throughout the year:

Tom Bowen (IDCCA fundraising consultant), **Claudia Chavez** (Midwest Director, Biden for President), **Betsy Dirksen Londrigan** (IDCCA endorsed candidate for Illinois 13th Congressional), **US Senator Dick Durbin**, **State Treasurer Mike Frerichs**, **Dani Brzozowski** (IDCCA endorsed candidate for Illinois 16th), **Magdalena Fudalewicz** (Illinois State Director, Bloomberg for President), **Cameron Joost** (Illinois State Director, Biden for President), **Paul Kendrick** (Executive Director, Rust Belt Rising), **Jennifer Lee** (Senior Advisor, Vote Yes for Fairness), **Mary Morrissey** (Executive Director, Democratic Party of Illinois), **Caroline Pokrzwinski** (State Outreach Associate, Act Blue), and **Lara Sisselman** (Communications Director, Vote Yes for Fairness).

Ten Executive Board meetings and three General Membership Meetings were held in 2020. Executive Board meetings are open to all elected and appointed officers of the IDCCA, IDCCA staff, and IDCCA counsel. General Membership meetings are open to all County Chairs or their designee, Leadership Circle members, and invited guests. General Membership meetings are usually held quarterly at the call of the President. Due to COVID-19, the May and August meetings were virtual. The February meeting was held at IUOE Local 965 (Springfield).



IDCCA BRUNCH @ 6

The annual County Chairs' Brunch is one of the highlights of the year for Democrats across the state of Illinois. Held in August on the morning of Governor's Day / Democrat Day at the Illinois State Fair, it serves as the kickoff to campaign season energizing our base for the work ahead. The yearly event has attracted prominent national figures like Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi**, US Department of Transportation Secretary and former Presidential candidate **Pete Buttigieg**, and US Senator **Amy Klobuchar (MN)**.

As COVID-19 interfered with our annual in-person event, we were able to pivot and create a meaningful online event. The IDCCA appreciates all the help, ideas, and input from Leadership Circle members, consultants, and friends that made this year's Brunch a success.

There were several changes to accommodate the shift to a virtual event. The first big change was moving from our traditional 9 am to 6 pm on August 31st – and we gave the event a new name: Brunch @ 6. Then we expanded the speaking program to include several members of the Illinois Democratic Congressional Delegation, IDCCA endorsed candidates, and our statewide officials. The fun event included entertaining videos highlighting grassroots volunteers, our County Chairs and Parties, as well as some pretty cute future Democratic voters. Videos included a short clip thanking Governor **JB Pritzker** for his work keeping Illinois safe during the pandemic. We also premiered our first television commercial highlighting Democratic support for healthcare coverage. President **Joe Biden** surprised guests with a video thanking the County Chairs' and Democrats throughout Illinois for all the work they were doing to support his campaign.

We were honored to be joined by two guest speakers. Thank you to Senator **Dick Durbin** for his assistance in having US Senator **Cory Booker (NJ)** and US Senator **Tammy Baldwin (WI)** join us.

Let's hope in 2021 we will be back together, in-person for our annual event that traditionally draws thousands of grassroots supporters, County Chairs and their County Party membership, as well as our partners representing Labor, activist and issue organizations, members of the IDCCA Leadership Circle, politicians, campaigns, candidates, IDCCA Boot Camp participants, and elected officials from every level of government to Springfield.

Note: Videos of Brunch @ 6 were provided to County Parties to use to grow their base and GOTV. A special shout out to IDCCA Leadership Circle Member **Ken Snyder** for his guidance and help with the Brunch @ 6.

Be a part of the 2021 Brunch - Check us out online at <https://ildccabrunch.org/>

SAVE THE DATE: August 18, 2021 - COUNTY CHAIRS' BRUNCH



2020 PARTY BUILDER AWARD

For the past four years, the IDCCA has honored outstanding Illinois Democrats for their contributions to building the Democratic Party. The IDCCA solicits and reviews nominations before making a determination. This year, the awards were presented at the IDCCA Chicago Reception. The 2020 honorees were IDCCA Leadership Member and Cook County Board of Review Commissioner and State Central Committeeman **Michael Cabonargi**, Secretary of State **Jesse White**, and the organization **Invest to Elect Illinois**.

Congratulations to our 2020 Honorees! To learn more about the 2020 honorees and see a full list of previous honorees, please visit <https://ildcca.org/about/honorees/>.



The IDCCA is honored to continue our partnership with Democratic organizations throughout the state, including the Democratic Party of Illinois, the Illinois Senate Democratic Victory Fund, Illinois Democratic Women, the Young Democrats of Illinois, and the College Democrats of Illinois.

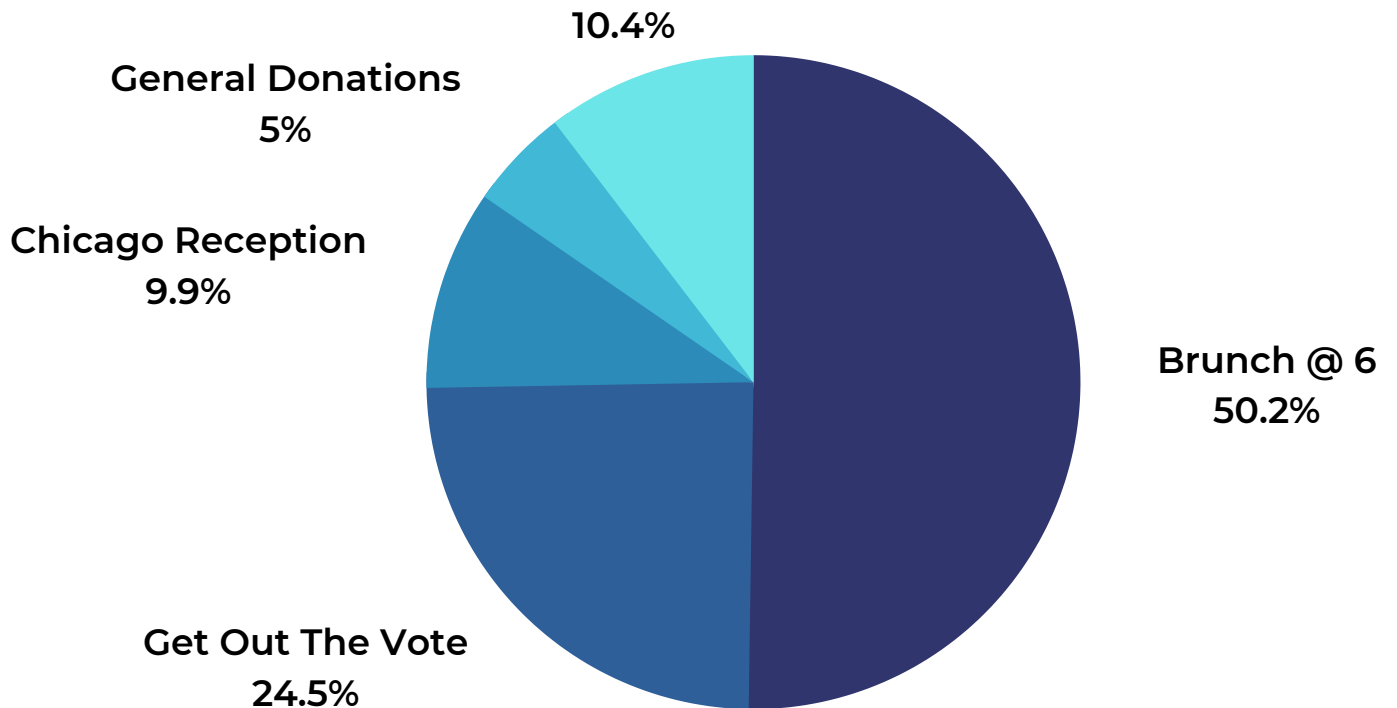
We are also proud to continue relationships with several like minded organizations such as the Illinois AFL – CIO, Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership Training Academy (IWIL), Indivisible Illinois, Equality Illinois, Planned Parenthood, Personal PAC, Citizen Action Illinois, and the Illinois Environmental Council.



2020 Fundraising - \$601,211

The IDCCA raises funds from a variety of sources and events to maintain a Springfield office, employ staff and consultants, provide training, access to Votebuilder, and support to 102 counties, as well as candidates. We would like to thank all of our generous supporters.

Digital / Trivia Night / Raffle / Bumper Stickers / Web Store / Boot Camp





2020 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



The IDCCA Leadership Circle is an advisory board made up of elected officials, members of Organized Labor, political activists, and supporters who are not County Chairs. The role of the IDCCA Leadership Circle is to act as Ambassadors for the IDCCA and help expand the resources we provide to our County Chairs.

Leadership Circle Chair Hon. Kevin Conlon, Founder & President of Conlon Public Strategies

- Gillian Rosenberg Armour, Managing Director, Wildfire Contact
- Deborah Bandy, Director, Healthcare Policy and Advocacy
- Hon. Kam Buckner, State Rep (26th)
- Hon. Michael Cabonargi, Cook County Board of Review Commissioner
- Tim Drea, President, Illinois AFL-CIO
- John Dunn, Governmental Relations, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies
- Ramsey Ellis, MD MPH, Orthopedist
- Sharon Fairley, Professor from Practice, University of Chicago Law School
- Matt Glavin, Principal, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies
- Monica Gordon, Director of Government and Community Relations, Chicago State University
- Hon. Don Harmon, President of the Illinois State Senate
- Ron Holmes, Co-Founder, The Majority-Minority Group
- Hon. Bill Houlihan, State Central Committeeman (18th)
- Brianna Lantz, Governmental Affairs Specialist
- Hon. Lucy Moog, Committeeperson, 43rd Ward
- Hon. Josina Morita, Commissioner, MWRD
- Olivia Pantoja, Governmental Affairs Specialist
- Bob Reiter Jr, President, Chicago Federation of Labor
- Hon. Nancy Rotering, Mayor, Highland Park
- David Saunders, Partner, Jenner and Block
- Hon. Debra Shore, Commissioner, MWRD
- Ed Smith, President and CEO, Ullico Inc.
- Ken Snyder, Founding Partner, Snyder Pickerill Media Group
- Hon. Heather Steans, State Senator (7th)
- Genevieve Thiers, Founder, NewFounders Conference
- Hon. Jackie Traynere, County Board Member, Will County
- Hon. Anna Valencia, Chicago City Clerk
- Hon. Gilbert Villegas, Alderman, Chicago 36th Ward
- Jen Walling, Executive Director, Illinois Environmental Council
- Kimberly Walz, Governmental Affairs, Walgreens
- Mae Whiteside, President and CEO, CKL Engineers LLC

2020 TOP SPONSORS

Our generous sponsors fueled our work to build and support our County Parties, ensuring Every Democrat, Everywhere, Counts! We look forward to working with you in 2021. To learn how you can join this committed and generous group as an IDCCA sponsor, please contact dan@ildcca.org.

Governor's Club (\$57,800)

Construction and General Laborers District Council of Chicago and Vicinity

County Chairs' Club (\$15,000)

- IBEW Local 134
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
- Local 881 UFCW

Platinum Level Sponsor (\$10,000 - \$14,999)

- Gori Law Firm P.C
- Illinois Laborers Legislative Committee
- Illinois Pipe Trades
- Peoria County Democratic Central Committee
- Hon. Heather Steans
- Ullico Management Company

Gold Level Sponsor (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

- AFSCME Illinois Council #31
- Chicagoland Operators Joint Labor-Management PAC
- Cook, Bartholomew, Shevlin, Cook, and Jones LLP
- Barry Darrow
- FK Day
- Democratic Party of Illinois
- The Driscoll Firm, PC
- Hon. Tammy Duckworth
- Hon. Dick Durbin
- Hon. Bill Houlihan
- IBEW Local 176
- IBEW Local 702
- Illinois Education Association
- Illinois Federation of Public Employees
- Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Illinois Senate Democratic Fund
- Kane County Democratic Party
- Eileen Kusner
- Lake County Democratic Party
- Hon. Andy Manar
- Midwest Region Laborers Political League
- James "Bud" Potter
- Leo Smith
- Marie Spence

Silver Level Sponsor (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

- Act Blue
- Adams County Democratic Party
- Mike Bloomberg 2020
- Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
- DuPage County Democratic Party
- Goldenberg Heller and Antognolli, PC
- Hon. Don Harmon
- Hon. Jay Hoffman
- Illinois AFL-CIO
- Illinois Political Active Letter Carriers
- IUOE Local 649
- Hon. Robin Kelly
- Macoupin County Democrat Party
- McHenry County Democratic Party
- McLean County Democratic Party
- Niles Township Democratic Organization
- Ogle County Democratic Party
- Sangamon County Democratic Party
- St. Clair County Democratic Party
- Gerald Sullivan
- Will County Democratic Party
- Winnebago County Democratic Party
- Shawn Zedric-Doscotch



2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Board

- President Kristina Zahorik (McHenry)
- Vice President Billy Halstead (Peoria)
- Vice President Mark Guethle (Kane)
- Vice President Terry Redman (DeWitt)
- Vice President Jay Briney (Mason)
- Vice President Charlie Laskonis (Winnebago)
- Vice President Doris Turner (Sangamon)
- Vice President Pam Davidson (Knox)
- Vice President Paul (Snow) Herkert (Calhoun)
- Vice President Toni Preckwinkle (Cook)
- Vice President Teresa Vincent (Union)
- Treasurer Brittany Miller (Tazewell)
- Secretary Pam Monetti (Macoupin)
- At Large Member Mike Barone (Jackson)
- At Large Member Jeff Mears (Johnson)
- At Large Member Cynthia Borbas (DuPage)
- At Large Member Derek Jones (Rock Island)
- At Large Member Dan Sidwell (Bond)

Leadership Team

- Executive Director Dan Kovats
- Asst. Executive Director Jillian Hawkins
- Nancy Kohn, Fundraising Consultant
- Christina Nowinski Wurst, Fundraising Consultant
- Tom Bowen, Fundraising Consultant
- Bill Houlihan, Senior Advisor
- Toby Trimmer, Senior Advisor
- Neil Calderon, Senior Advisor

A special thanks to Art Friedson, Katherine Miles, Michal Sered-Schoenberg and Joey Slater for their contributions to our work in 2020.