

# 2018 Primary Election Results Report

## Statewide Offices

With this election not occurring during a presidential election year, voter turnout was expected to be low with an angry, “anti-incumbent” sentiment. Many Republican voters were upset over the 15 House republicans that voted for the 2017 income tax increase. Going into the election, Democrat turnout was thought to be more highly motivated given the contested races for Governor and Attorney General and the general enthusiasm of the progressive elements of the party.

### Governor & Lt. Governor

**Republican Primary:** Jeanne Ives, current Illinois House Representative for the 42<sup>nd</sup> district, and Rich Morthland, candidate for Lieutenant Governor and former Illinois House Representative from 2011-2013, challenged incumbent Governor Bruce Rauner and Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti. Ives’s challenge stemmed from her claim of Governor Rauner’s betrayal to the republican party by signing into law legislation making Illinois a sanctuary state for undocumented immigrants and expanding abortions within Medicaid. Ives made the race close as socially conservative republicans showed up at the polls especially in downstate. Suburban support was enough to salvage a victory for Rauner as he won by a margin of 51.5% to 48.5%.

**Democrat Primary:** The Democrat ticket for Governor contained a variety of candidates vying for a chance at the November election; however, three candidates edged out the rest—JB Pritzker, Chris Kennedy, and Daniel Biss. JB Pritzker, a Chicago billionaire, ran on hot topics like the legalization of marijuana and a graduated income tax. His Lt. Gov. candidate, Juliana Stratton, is a current Illinois House Representative for the 5<sup>th</sup> district serving her first term. Chris Kennedy, son of former U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, who served as chairman of the University of Illinois Board Of Trustees, benefited from the Kennedy family name recognition. Kennedy’s Lt. Gov. candidate is Ra Joy who has participated in an advocacy coalition for political and government reform. Daniel Biss, current Illinois Senator for the 9<sup>th</sup> district, focused his campaign around the fact that he is not a millionaire or billionaire and a Bernie Sanders, middle-class candidate. His Lt. Gov. candidate, Litesa Wallace, is currently serving as House Representative for the 67<sup>th</sup> district. Pritzker with the help of strong union support, party regulars and Speaker Mike Madigan’s support was able to hold off a charge from Kennedy. Kennedy and Biss split the progressive, anti-establishment voters allowing Pritzker to win with only 45.4% of the Democrat primary vote.

Both of the party nominees come away from their primary victories severely wounded. From now until November both Gov. Rauner and JB Pritzker will need to secure their base early with the winner in November being able to generate enthusiasm for their candidacy.

### Attorney General

**Republican Primary:** Erika Harold, an attorney and former Miss America, ran against Gary Grasso, a founding partner and attorney at Grasso Bass, P.C. Grasso also served two terms as mayor of Burr Ridge and currently serves on the DuPage County Board. Both are running platforms calling out political corruption within Illinois politics. Supported by Gov. Rauner, Harold cruised in the primary and is the GOP’s best opportunity to win the AGs office in decades.

**Democrat Primary:** There were eight democrat candidates vying for Attorney General, but two with more name recognition dominated the results. Former Governor Pat Quinn fell short in his bid to return to statewide office, ceding the nomination to Kwame Raoul, State Senator for the 13<sup>th</sup> district.

### **Illinois Senate Districts**

**Senate District 8:** Incumbent Ira Silverstein faced opposition from three other candidates, Ram Villivalam, David Zulkey, and Caroline Mcateer-Fournier. Silverstein was badly wounded politically after his violation of the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and claims of sexual harassment. Silverstein forfeits his incumbency to union lobbyist Ram Villivalam.

**Senate District 20:** Incumbent Iris Martinez faced a primary challenge from Bart Goldberg. She cruised to another electoral victory.

**Senate District 54:** This seat currently held by Kyle McCarter had four candidates vying for the spot once McCarter announced he would not be seeking reelection. The four candidates were George Barber, Rafael Him, Benjamin Stratemeyer, and Jason Plummer. Plummer had the most name recognition as he has ran for the U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional seat in 2012 and Lieutenant Governor in 2010. Plummer easily wins to succeed McCarter.

### **Illinois House Districts**

There were numerous primaries this year because of the anti-incumbent/anti-establishment sentiment. Many representatives from both parties either resigned or decided not seek reelection which will provide a new look to the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly next year. A minimum of 28 of the 118 seats will have new faces.

**House District 1:** Incumbent Dan Burke faced primary opponent Aaron Ortiz. The heavily Hispanic district bounced the incumbent Burke who had not faced a serious challenger in about 10 years. Ortiz beats Burke.

**House District 4:** In Cynthia Soto's open seat, four very competent women vied for the opening: Iris Millan, Anne Shaw, Delia Ramirez, and Alyx Pattison. All four candidates are active volunteers and advocates in their communities. Ultimately, Delia Ramirez was victorious.

**House District 5:** After taking up candidacy as Lieutenant Governor, Juliana Stratton's House seat opened up to four competitors: Dilara Sayeed, Lamont Robinson Jr., Felicia Bullock, and Ken Dunkin, who once served in this capacity before he lost his primary to Stratton. The heavily, union-supported, Madigan-backed Robinson wins the nomination.

**House District 14:** Incumbent Kelly Cassidy faced primary opponent Arthur Siegel. Cassidy easily returns.

**House District 17:** Laura Fine gave up her re-election to run for Dan Biss' Senate seat. Five candidates vied to succeed her: Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, Mary Rita Lueke, Candace Chow, Alexandra Eidenberg, and Pete Dagher. Gong-Gershowitz narrowly wins.

**House District 19:** Jeffrey Laporte challenged incumbent Robert Martwick. Martwick wins big.

**House District 24:** Incumbent Elizabeth Hernandez wins her primary reelection over Robert Reyes.

**House District 25:** Leader Barbara Flynn Currie decided not to seek reelection, which opened this seat to six different candidates contending for the spot: Grace Chan McKibben, Angelique Collins, Curtis Tarver II, Adrienne Irmer, Anne Marie Miles, and Flynn Rush. Craft brewer Curtis Tarver prevails in the crowded field.

**House District 27:** Tawana (TJ) Robinson challenged first-time incumbent Justin Slaughter, appointed to replace Rep. Monique Davis in January 2017. Slaughter survives.

**House District 28:** Incumbent Robert Rita faced two primary challengers, Mary Carvlin and Kimberly Nicole Koschnitzky. The well-financed Rita wins easily.

**House District 29:** Corean Davis challenged incumbent Thaddeus Jones. Davis ran a spirited, grassroots race but it was not enough to defeat the Madigan-backed Jones who outspent Davis 8 to 1.

**House District 31:** Willie Preston challenged long-time incumbent Mary Flowers. Flowers had not had a serious primary in almost two decades, she prevails.

**House District 38:** Four candidates competed for Al Riley's open seat: Cecil Matthews Jr., Debbie Meyers-Martin, Max Solomon, and David Bonner. Meyers-Martin takes the nomination.

**House District 42:** Burt Minor, Amy Grant, and Ryan Edward Byrne faced off for Jeanne Ives's open seat. Amy Grant's service as a DuPage County Board member helped her to victory.

**House District 46:** Gordon (Jay) Kinzler and Roger Orozco contended for the Republican opportunity to challenge Democrat incumbent Deb Conroy. Kinzler will be her opponent this fall.

**House District 49:** Nic Zito and Tonia Jane Khouri faced off for Mike Fortner's open seat. Fortner voted for the income tax rate hike and to override the Governor's veto of the tax increase. Khouri, also a DuPage County Board member, defeated Zito.

**House District 53:** Katie Miller and Eddie Corrigan contended for David Harris's open seat. David Harris also voted for the income tax rate hike and to override the Governor's veto. Eddie Corrigan faces Democrat Mark Walker in the fall.

**House District 56:** Jillian Rose Bernas and Charlotte “Char” Kegarise vied for the republican candidate to challenge democratic incumbent Michelle Mussman. Bernas who previously lost to Mussman will try again.

**House District 59:** Marko Sukovic and Karen Feldman faced off for the republican candidacy in November. This seat is currently held by Carol Sente (D) who is not seeking reelection. Feldman is the Republican nominee.

**House District 59:** Daniel Didech and Susan Malter competed to fill Carol Sente’s opening in the November election Didech will be the favorite to keep this seat in Democrat hands.

**House District 62:** Adam Solano and Ken Idstein faced off for the opportunity to challenge democratic incumbent Sam Yingling in November. Idstein who benefited from strong independent expenditure support, moves onto the fall election.

**House District 67:** After seeking election as Lieutenant Governor, Litesa Wallace’s seat opened to four primary candidates: Valeri DeCastris, Maurice West II, Gerald Albert, and Angela Fellars. West will succeed Wallace.

**House District 76:** Jil Bernal and Lance Yednock contended for the democrat candidate to face republican incumbent Jerry Lee Long in November. Yednock wins with backing from organized labor and Speaker Madigan.

**House District 82:** House Minority Leader Jim Durkin faced Burr Rifge Mayor Michael “Mickey” Straub who was backed by Dan Proft. Even though Durkin did not vote to increase the income tax rate, this primary stemmed from the anti-establishment sentiment. Durkin wins handedly.

**House District 89:** Andrew Chesney and Steven Fricke vied for this seat’s opening once Rep. Brian Stewart decided to run for the Senate. Chesney, a manufacturer, will succeed Stewart.

**House District 93:** Joshua Griffith challenged incumbent Norinne Hammond. Hammond broke ranks and voted for the income tax rate hike and to override the Governor’s veto. She has little problem winning the primary but will again have a difficult re-election.

**House District 100:** Jonas Hicks Petty challenged incumbent CD Davidsmeyer. Davidsmeyer’s vote for the income tax rate hike caused virtually no problem for him.

**House District 101:** Todd Henricks, Dan Caulkins, and Randy Keith faced off for Bill Mitchell’s open seat. Bill Mitchell voted for the income tax rate hike and to override the Governor’s veto. Heavy independent expenditures put Caulkins in the winner’s circle.

**House District 105:** David Paul Blumenshine challenged incumbent Dan Brady. Brady has no problem in his re-election.

**House District 107:** Blaine Wilhour and Laura Myers contended for John Cavaletto's open seat. Cavaletto voted for the income tax rate hike but not to override the Governor's veto. Wilhour was able to withstand a last minute effort by the teachers' union to elect Myers.

**House District 108:** Don Moore challenged incumbent Charles Meier, who voted for the income tax rate increase but not to override the Governor's veto. Meier survives.

**House District 109:** Darren Bailey challenged incumbent David Reis. Reis's vote for the income tax increase ultimately was his undoing. Bailey pulls off another upset of an incumbent.

**House District 110:** Chris Miller and Terry Davis competed to fill Reggie Phillips's open seat in November. Phillips voted for the income tax increase and to override the Governor's veto. Miller wins easily.

**House District 112:** Former House Representative for this seat, Dwight Kay, and Wendy Erhart faced off for the chance to challenge Democrat incumbent Katie Stuart. Dwight Kay lost to Katie Stuart in 2016. There will be Kay Stuart rematch in November.

**House District 115:** Paul Jacobs challenged incumbent Terri Bryant after she voted for the income tax increase and to override the Governor's veto. Bryant wins handedly.

**House District 115:** Marsha Griffin and Tamiko "TC" Mueller vied for the chance to be the democratic candidate in November. Griffin takes on Terri Bryant.

**House District 118:** Patrick Windhorst, Wes Sherrod, and Samuel Stratemeyer faced off for the Republican candidacy to challenge Natalie Phelps Finnie. Phelps-Finnie was appointed to this seat after Brandon Phelps retired late in 2018. Windhorst is the GOP nominee.