**2022 Primary Overview**

The Illinois General Primary election was held Tuesday, June 28. Traditionally held in March, the 2022 primary was moved back due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the 2020 U.S. Census, and in turn on the decennial redistricting of legislative seats.

As the first election under the new maps, all 177 seats in the Illinois General Assembly are on the ballot. Redistricting also impacted races for Congress, with Illinois losing a congressional district forcing some sitting members of the Illinois delegation to run in new districts or against each other. Additionally, all constitutional offices are up for election this cycle.

Governor

Starting at the top of the ticket, Democrat Governor JB Pritzker held off a nominal challenge from Beverly Miles with 91% of the vote. State Senator Darren Bailey made a strong showing in the Republican gubernatorial primary, winning with 57% of the vote. Jesse Sullivan finished second with 15%, followed by Aurora mayor Richard Irvin with 14%.

Irvin had been bankrolled by hedge fund founder Ken Griffin, formerly the state’s wealthiest citizen. Bailey was in turn supported by another wealthy supporter, Dick Uihlein. With additional funds spent by the Democratic Governors Association and Governor Pritzker to attempt to influence the outcome in Bailey’s favor, the Illinois Republican primary for Governor was named by the New York Times as the most expensive non-presidential election in U.S. history.

Attorney General

In the Republican race for Attorney General, firebrand conservative attorney Thomas DeVore defeated Griffin-backed Steve Kim, with 44% of the vote compared to 34% for Kim and 21% for David Shestokas. DeVore will face incumbent AG Kwame Raoul in the November general election.

Secretary of State

With incumbent Jesse White’s decision not to seek reelection, the race for Secretary of State saw primaries for both political parties. In the Democratic primary, Former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias prevailed 52% to 34% over Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia. On the Republican ticket, State Representative Dan Brady of Bloomington was the winner with 52% of the vote over former U.S. Attorney John Milhiser, who was part of the Ken Griffin-backed slate of candidates.

Treasurer

State Representative Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) was unopposed in his race for the Republican nomination and will face incumbent Mike Frerichs in November.

Comptroller

Another Griffin candidate, Shannon Teresi was unopposed in the Republican race for Comptroller. Teresi is a CPA and the McHenry County Auditor. She will face incumbent Susana Mendoza in the general election.

U.S. Congress - House of Representatives

1st District - Jonathan Jackson prevailed in a crowded Democratic primary with 28% of the vote, overcoming Chicago Alderman Pat Dowell and State Senator Jacqueline Collins.

3rd District – State Representative Delia Ramirez (D-Chicago) had a commanding victory with 65% of the vote over Chicago Alderman Gil Villegas.

6th District – Newly drawn legislative maps resulted in U.S. Representatives Sean Casten and Marie Newman running against each other in the Democratic primary. Casten won with 68% to Newman’s 28%.

13th District –Reagan Deering won a close race over fellow Decatur native and former Yale football player Jesse Reising and two other candidates with 34 percent of the vote in the Republican primary. The winner will face candidate Nikki Budzinski in the general.

15th District – In another case where redistricting forced an inter-party contest, first-term U.S. Representative Mary Miller defeated congressional colleague Rodney Davis in the Republican primary. Miller was endorsed by former President Donald Trump and defeated Davis 57% to 42%.

U.S. Congress – Senate

Kathy Salvi won a crowded Republican primary to take on Senator Tammy Duckworth in November. Salvi, an attorney and former public defender won with just 30 percent of the vote. Candidate Peggy Hubbard, who attended the January 6th riot at the U.S. Capitol was the next vote getter with 24 percent. Former President Donald Trump did not make an endorsement in the race.

Illinois Senate

10th District – State Senator Robert Martwick easily held off a challenge from Chicago Police officer Erin Jones with 65% of the vote in the Democratic primary. Jones candidacy was undermined by claims that she had previously voted in Republican primaries.

16th District – Business owner Willie Preston defeated attorney Lamont Williams in the Democratic primary with 54% of the vote. This is essentially an open seat with State Senator Jacqueline Collin’s decision to run for Congress.

31st District – On the Democratic ticket, former State Representative Mary Edly-Allen defeated current State Representative Sam Yingling, 55-44 percent. Edly-Allen had the backing of Senator Melinda Bush as well as support from Governor Pritzker.

35th District – Senator Dave Syverson easily defeated a challenge from Eli Nicolosi in the Republican primary. Nicolosi, the Winnebago County Republican Chairman, had a rocky campaign plagued by accusations of forged campaign petitions and domestic abuse claims from his estranged wife.

37th District – State Senator Win Stoller prevailed in the Republican primary, holding off challenger Brett Nicklaus with 51%-48% of the vote. Nicklaus had been assisted by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, who weighed in on the race in response to the involvement by associates of Stoller in Representative Mark Luft’s race.

43rd District – In the Democratic primary, Will County Board member Rachel Ventura defeated recently appointed Senator Eric Mattson, a Joliet firefighter. Mattson was appointed to the seat previously held by former Senator John Connor and was backed by the Democratic party establishment in Will County over the more progressive Ventura.

54th District – Senator Steve McClure held off a challenge from Don Debolt in the Republican primary earning 60 percent of the vote. Debolt was among a number of far-right candidates endorsed by State Senator and now gubernatorial nominee Darren Bailey and the “Eastern Bloc” coalition of conservative Republican state legislators.

Illinois House

6th District – State Representative Sonya Harper held a commanding lead over challenger Carolynn Crump in the Democratic primary. Harper’s candidacy this cycle got off to a rocky start with difficulty in fulfilling candidate petition filing requirements.

15th District – Hoan Huynh defeated Eileen Dordek with 44% of the vote for the seat previously held by House Majority Leader Greg Harris. Harris announced he would not be running for reelection.

16th District – Kevin Olickal successfully challenged State Representative Denyse Wang Stoneback in the Democratic primary 52%-47%. Olickal was able to secure important endorsements from State Senator Ram Villivalam and U.S. Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi and Jesus “Chuy” Garcia.

19th District – State Representative Lindsay LaPointe easily held off challenger Tina Wallace with 75% of the vote.

21st District – Abdelnasser Rashid won a close race against State Representative Mike Zalewski in the Democratic primary winning 51% to 48%. Rashid highlighted Zalewski’s vote against a bill to eliminate parental notification requirement for abortions and his ties to former Speaker Michael J. Madigan in his successful challenge.

71st District – State Representative Dan Swanson easily defeated challenger Matthew Rauschert in the Republican primary with 66% of the vote. Rauschert was backed by the Eastern Bloc in this race.

75th District – In another race involving the “Eastern Bloc” challenger Jed Davis defeated State Representative David Welter in the Republican primary.

87th District – Physician William Hauter defeated Tazewell County Treasurer Mary Burress in the Republican primary for the seat held by long-time lawmaker Keith Sommer. Sommer announced he would not be running for reelection.

89th District – State Representative Tony McCombie easily handled challenger Victoria Onorato in the Republican primary with 75% of the vote.

90th District – In what is essentially an open district, former State Representative John Cabello prevailed over Mark Szula for the Republican nomination with 73% of the vote. Szula had been recruited by the influential Operating Engineers 150 to run against Cabello. Cabello was defeated in the 2020 election by Democrat Dave Vella.

93rd District – Travis Weaver took out first term State Representative Mark Luft in the Republican primary. Weaver is the son of former State Senator Chuck Weaver, and Luft is the son of former Democratic State Representative Richard Luft. The race, along with that of Brett Nicklaus reveals inter-party divisions among Republicans in the Peoria area.

95th District – State Representative Tim Butler soundly defeated perennial candidate Kent Gray in the Republican primary. Gray had hoped to capitalize on pro-Trump sentiment by highlighting his connections to the former president, but Butler easily won the match 73% to 26%.

98th District – State Representative Natalie Manley, a member of Speaker Chris Welch’s leadership team easily held off challenger Barry Haywood with 89% of the vote in the Democratic primary.

117th District – State Representative Patrick Windhorst made a strong showing for the Republican nomination against challenger Ron Ellis, a former Williamson County Commissioner.

118th District – First-term State Representative Paul Jacobs bested challenger Aaron Smith with 68% of the vote in the Republican primary. Smith is the vice-chair of the John A. Logan Community College Board of Trustees.