**Illinois Updates – May 13, 2022**

Justice Garman to Step Down

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita Garman announced that she will retire from her position on the state’s highest court effective July 7, 2022. Garman was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001 to fill a vacancy and went on to win a permanent seat on the court the following term. A Republican, she was the second woman to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court, having first served at both the circuit and appellate court level. Fourth District Appellate Court Judge Lisa Holder White will fill out the remainder of Garman’s term from July 8, 2022, through December 2, 2024. Holder will make history as the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

Irvin Holds Rare Press Conference

Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Irvin held a press conference this week, one of the few he has granted since launching his campaign for Governor. During the press conference, Irvin was repeatedly asked questions regarding his position on the recent leaked U.S. Supreme Court opinion regarding Roe v. Wade, as well as whether he voted for Donald Trump in past elections or would vote for Donald Trump for president in 2024. Irvin evaded these questions, drawing criticism from his Republican opponents as well as Governor JB Pritzker. Irvin’s campaign is being funded by billionaire hedge fund owner Ken Griffin.

In spite of a significant cash advantage, a recent poll of likely Republican primary voters conducted by WGN Chicago showed Irvin with just a four-point lead over State Senator Darren Bailey. In the poll conducted May 6-8, 2022, Irvin led among likely voters with 24.1 %, Bailey with 19.8 %, and Gary Rabine, Jesse Sullivan and Paul Schimpf with single digit support. Undecided voters made up the largest percentage at 36.9 %, and 57.4 % of the respondents said that they would be more likely to support a candidate for governor who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump. The general primary election is June 28, 2022.

More Endorsements in the Third Congressional Primary

U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez and State Comptroller Susana Mendoza this week announced their support of Chicago Alderman Gil Villegas for the newly-drawn Third Congressional district. Villegas faces State Representative Delia Ramirez, who is backed by Congressman Jesus “Chuy” Garcia for the seat. The Third Congressional district was designed to be a Latino-majority seat, and the race is shaping up to be a proxy battle between Gutierrez and Garcia.

Buckner Makes it Official

State Representative Kam Buckner (D-Chicago) officially announced his plan to run for Mayor of Chicago against incumbent Lori Lightfoot this week. The run has been rumored for several months. Buckner has served in the House of Representatives since 2019 and previously worked for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu. Chicago businessman Willie Wilson will again run for mayor and other candidates are likely to emerge in the coming weeks.

Former Representative and Congressman Tim Johnson Dead at 75

The family of former Illinois Representative and U.S. Representative Tim Johnson announced his passing this week at age 75. Johnson represented Champaign in the Illinois General Assembly for 24 years before making the move to Congress where he served another 12 years. An attorney, Johnson was well known as a tireless campaigner who focused on constituent service.

Dates to Remember

* June 28, 2022 – Illinois General Primary Election
* November 8, 2022 – Illinois General Election