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Cook County Slate Has Experience

After a relatively quiet primary season, Cook County Democrats are preparing to re-elect a slate of incumbents to several county offices in November.

Leading the ticket is Cook County State's Attorney Richard A. Devine, who has held that post since 1996. In his reelection campaign, Devine is emphasizing a nationally acclaimed Domestic Violence Unit and a Victim/Witness program which the United States Department of Justice is using as a model for other locations to follow. Devine is also proud of his death penalty reforms which include updated procedures in handling suspects in capital cases.

Going for her second term as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Dorothy Brown is stressing her accomplishments in updating the back office of the court system, including new information technology systems, improved customer service, employee development and training and financial accountability.

Also seeking a second term is Cook County Recorder of Deeds Eugene Moore, a former member of the Illinois House of Representatives who served with Tenth Congressional District Democrats Chair Lauren Beth Gash. His office is the second largest of its kind in the nation. Moore implemented a state-of-the-art cashing system and increased production with a reduced staff.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District has three Democratic commissioners up for reelection. This all woman team includes Gloria Alitto Majewski, Patricia Young and Barbara J. McGowan.

The District manages the waterways in Cook County and the storm water that empties into these bodies of water. Its major project has been the ongoing Deep Tunnel system that is managing flood control and storm water in the county.

Next Month: A review of candidates for the state legislature.



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Tenth News

May, 2004 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Newsletter Volume 1, Edition 5

Rep. Washington Sees Key Issue

Our current jobless recovery brings to mind James Carville's prophetic words spoken when the Bush 41 occupied the White House, "It's the economy, stupid."

State Rep. Eddie Washington (D-Waukegan), whose district covers North Chicago and Waukegan, has devoted much of his first term to fostering economic development in his 60th Legislative District. With respect to the upcoming Tenth Congressional District contest between Democratic challenger Lee Goodman and Republican incumbent Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), Washington says, "The key issue is the economy and with it, economic development."

"In my area, the school impact formula comes to mind," said Washington. "Naturally, the school systems in North Chicago are always under stress because of the amount of military personnel families that attend the public schools. And yet the compensation does not take place in a timely fashion as did the \$87 billion going outside the country for the Iraq War.

"And we still have a war on poverty and a war on ignorance that's being ignored. I'd like to see the school district compensated on a timely basis where the state of Illinois and School District 187 are not put under a strain and always made to play catch up. They need those dollars to continue the kind of quality education they're trying to achieve."

The first-term legislator also decries the building of more retail businesses inside the Great Lakes Naval Base instead of outside the perimeter as a drag on economic development. That way the local tax base can benefit and job opportunities can be provided. This "friendly fire" by the Federal government is depressing his district and Washington wants to fight it. "Incentives must be created to have these same retailers locate around the perimeter of the base in North Chicago, where the local residents, too, can enjoy some of the tax benefits."

Washington, who has been a strong advocate for his constituents during his first term, said, "That is a major problem the way I see it."



10th Dems March

Participating in the largest demonstration in the Capital's history, more than 1.1 million Americans from all over the country rallied for women's reproductive freedom April 25 on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Speakers at the March for Women's Lives, co-sponsored by the ACLU and Planned Parenthood as well as about 1,400 other organizations, targeted President Bush and his Administration's policies aimed at severely curtailing a woman's ability to obtain reproductive services, which have limited women's overall access to health care. Joining in the March were Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats (from left top row) Marcy Maller, Bev and John Hmurovic; (from left bottom row) Susie Krasnow, Carol Jones and her daughter, Marli Jones. Not pictured, Nancie Blatt.

Mark Kirk: Thoughtful Warmonger

By Chuck Knight

During the run-up to the Republican war in Iraq, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), whose background includes a stint in naval "intelligence," came out early in identifying Iraq as a clear and present danger to America.

On October 8, 2002, Kirk told Congress that "the Iraqi regime represents a growing present danger to the United States. . ." Kirk then voted for a joint Congressional resolution which authorized President Bush to use the U.S. military force against Iraq.

Since President Bush initiated hostilities against Iraq in March, 2003, Kirk has been an unflinching supporter of "Operation Iraqi Freedom." Kirk voted for the \$87 billion dollar special appropriation to make the first installment payment of the costly war in Iraq.

Apparently in league with the White House misinformation campaign to justify the war, Kirk repeatedly informed his constituents that the former Iraqi regime possessed weapons of mass destruction that justified the war. For example, for months Kirk's official congressional website recommended a highly flawed assessment of the British government on "Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction" as a "thorough summary of the current situation within Iraq."

In a letter to a constituent, Kirk actually claimed that U.S. forces had found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Citing Colin Powell's address to the U.N., warning of dangerous mobile chemical weapons laboratories, Kirk claimed that soldiers of the Third Infantry had actually discovered such mobile weapons factories.

In fact, as U.S. weapons inspector, David Kay, has publicly acknowledged, the consensus within the United States intelligence community is that the mobile trailers found in Iraq were actually designed to produce hydrogen for weather balloons, or perhaps to produce rocket fuel.

Kirk owned up to only "one piece" of intelligence as wrong: The President's claims about a purported Iraqi attempt to purchase uranium from Niger, claims that the government knew to be false because of reports it had received from Joseph Wilson in early 2002.

Kirk likes to portray himself as a thoughtful, independent member of Congress. In fact, on matters of war and peace, he follows the lead of his President and party 100% of the time.

To effect real change in our country's national security policies, it is not enough to merely get rid of the administration that makes those policies. It is time to get rid of members of Congress like Mark Kirk who support those policies.



Two hundred people attended the Military Families Speak Out forum at a packed Northminister Presbyterian Church in Evanston on April 18. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky was the featured speaker. David Borris, a member of the Tenth Congressional District Democrat's Steering Committee, helped organize the event.

Townships Elect Officers

Three members of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats' Steering Committee were among the persons elected officers of the Moraine, West Deerfield, Libertyville and Waukegan Township organizations in Lake County.

In Cook County, the township chair is elected directly by the voters in the primary every four years. The current chairs, Bill Crowley of New Trier Township, state Rep. Elaine Nekritz (D-Glenview) in Northfield Township, Wheeling Township's Patrick Botterman and Sue Walton in Palatine Township, were elected in 2002 and continue in their terms.

Tenth Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash was chosen chair of the Moraine Township group while Steering Committee member Tom Jurgens was picked as the co-chair in Libertyville Township. Susie Krasnow, another member of the Tenth's Steering Committee, is the new chair of the West Deerfield Township Democrats.

The list of township officers is as follows:

Libertyville Township

Tom Jurgens, co-chair
Mary Maillard, co-chair
Stuart Willis, vice chair
Suzanne Herbes, treasurer
Jim Spencer, treasurer
Jerry Maillard, secretary

Moraine Township

Lauren Beth Gash, chair
Harold Rafson, secretary

Remaining officers were not selected at the Newsletter deadline.

Shields Township

No officers were selected at the Newsletter deadline.

Vernon Township

No officers were selected at the Newsletter deadline.

Waukegan Township

Mike Hewitt, chair
Bob Stefanowski, first vice chair
Tony Figueroa, second vice chair
Cynthia Alexander, third vice chair
Stephanie Earl Smith, fourth vice chair
Pat Ducher, treasurer
Keith Turner, secretary
Eddie Washington, legislative liaison
Henry "Hank" Bogdala, parliamentarian
Harold Beadling, sergeant at arms
Jay Ukena, legal counsel

West Deerfield Township

Susie Krasnow, chair
Karen Truskowski, vice chair
Ron Schwartz, secretary
Julie Sherman, treasurer