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Tenth News

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Blue Wave Helped by Tenth Dems Election Protection Team



While voter suppression is on the rise in many parts of our country, here in the 10th District, we protected voter rights, helping many people register and vote. We worked to ensure that every person entitled to vote was allowed to vote.

More than 125 volunteers participated in election protection activities, either at early voting sites, Election Day polling places, or the Lake County Clerk's Office after November 6th.

And this mattered, especially given how close some of the races were. Provisional and absentee ballots still needed to be tallied. When all the votes were counted, Democratic candidates for State Representative (Mary Edly-Allen), Lake County Sheriff (John Idleburg), and Lake County Board (Jessica Vealitzek) all prevailed, adding to the successful Election Night for Democrats.

The results in our district reflect the success of our Election Protection Project. For instance, U.S. Congressman Brad Schneider won reelection to his House seat in a landslide; and in neighboring districts, Lauren Underwood and Sean Casten defeated Republican incumbents as Democrats won control of the House of Representatives. In fact, our Election Protection Team had attorneys on call to help ensure that every eligible individual who came to the polls in Underwood and Casten's districts could vote.



Statewide, the vote in the 10th District Volunteers Gathered for Tenth Dems Election Protection Team Training. was instrumental in the victories of JB Pritzker and Juliana Stratton, Kwame Raoul, Susana Mendoza, Michael Frerichs, and Jesse White. In Lake County, we won all three countywide offices on the ballot with the election of Holly Kim as Treasurer, Robin O'Connor as County Clerk, and John Idleburg as Sheriff. And for the first time ever, Democrats now make up the majority on the Lake County Board.

Congratulations to All Our Winning Candidates!



Thanks to our local Blue Wave, Democrats now have a majority of seats on the Lake County Board for the first time. One of these new board members, Jessica Vealitzek, is already proving to be a good role model. She had this to say after winning:

“Now that I have had a chance to celebrate (and breathe) and my children are sleeping soundly next to me, I have time to more thoughtfully respond to tonight’s exciting election results. First, thank you to Mr. Bartels for his service and for his gracious phone call tonight. I understand governing is not easy and I have respect for anyone who serves. I will need a whole separate post to thank all the wonderful people who helped me this past year. For now: thank you to the two little ones and my husband who made my run possible, and worthwhile. These last few weeks, I have received messages from Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and those who were going to skip voting this year because they were so fed up, telling me they voted for me—some warily, some with excitement, but all because we share a vision and a hope for a government that works for us with integrity and honesty. I am humbled by your faith. I will not always be right, I will not always make you happy, but I can promise you this: I will work hard, I will be available, and I will always keep in mind the people of Lake County. To those whose support I have not yet earned: I hope to gain your trust and respect these next four years. Thank you, 10th District.”



Jessica is joined as a new Board Member by Democrats John Wasik, Angelo Kyle, Jennifer Clark, Julie Simpson and Adam Didech. Tenth

Dems also worked hard to elect countywide victors John Idleburg for Sheriff, Holly Kim for Treasurer and Robin O’Connor for County Clerk.



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U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos Named DCCC Chair

Congratulations, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, for being named the new Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee! In April, our Tenth Dems University (TDU) presented “Winning Everywhere: A Democratic Path to Victory in 2018” with Congresswoman Bustos. She discussed how Democratic candidates could win and answered questions from the audience. The success of Democrats up and down the ballot and around the nation proved her right! It took a lot of hard work from so many, but Democrats went on to win numerous races in our area, including several few believed could be flipped from red to blue.



Mary Edly-Allen Beats Right-Wing Extremist Helene Walsh



Although her hotly contested race was separated by only one vote on Election Night, State Rep.-Elect Mary Edly-Allen won her seat by almost 400 votes once all the ballots had been counted. Edly-Allen, a commonsense teacher, beat Helene Walsh, a right-wing extremist and wife of Joe Walsh (Walsh is a former Tea Party Republican Congressman from the suburbs who challenged Tammy Duckworth, lost miserably, and now hosts a right-wing radio show.).



How extreme is Helene Walsh? Here she is at a local Republicans' rifle raffle held just weeks after the mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Full House Hears Former Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheila Markin Nielsen Discuss Trump and Reality

By Laurence D. Schiller

Tenth Dems University (TDU) was proud to host former Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheila Markin Nielsen for a lecture at Max and Benny's Restaurant in Northbrook. The full house ate breakfast and listened to Markin before asking her questions.

In March of 2018, Markin launched the MarkinReport.com, which is a self-described edgy, and sometimes humorous, blog on current politics. As Sheila put it, the 2016 election greatly upset her and when she is upset, she writes. And we are glad she does!

Nielsen's blog is informed by her many conversations with political figures, including candidates and former elected officials, giving it an insightful view of the political world. Her talk, "Donald Trump's Attack on Reality: What's Happened to US?" included a discussion of Bob Mueller's indictments, the GOP's use of fake news, and the enduring nature of Trump's base.

Markin also suggested that the handwriting is on the wall for Trump and the Republican Party. The GOP, now less than 30 percent of the electorate, continues to shrink as moderates flee. Moreover, with Michael Cohen, Michael Flynn, and others talking to Mueller, an avalanche of truth is coming for Trump. Mueller is putting together evidence, clear and possibly soon to be public, that just might sway Trump's followers. Markin believes that many will respond as one particular juror on the Paul Manafort trial did—though she entered a Trump fan, even she couldn't deny the evidence.

In addition, Trump and the Republicans have awakened the Democratic grassroots, as evidenced by the strength of the Blue Wave in November. We, the people, will defeat them, but only if we continue our work and vote. This is, Markin remarked, a critical moment for our democracy. She hopes our nation will emerge as a stronger and more vibrant democracy after the train wreck of the Trump presidency.



An Intern's View to a Wave

By Alec Heilizer

Having an internship with Tenth Dems this past year allowed me to see the midterm elections from a different point of view. It was far from just reading a headline about one big campaign. Tenth Dems is active in so many races up and down the ballot that my internship allowed me to get engaged in everything from JB Pritzker's successful campaign for governor to countywide races for Sheriff, Treasurer, and Clerk.

In 2018, the electorate was energized and eager to learn more about the district's Democratic candidates. This was good news, but it required a lot of organization. It meant engaging with all types of people in the 10th District. I saw this firsthand at a meet-and-greet in Lake Forest for then-State Representative candidate Bob Morgan (Morgan won his election!). Questions about the budget and other policy issues were extremely detailed. I also felt the community's resurgent sense of activism at the Tenth Dems Poetry and Prose Awards Night in Waukegan where high school students defined courage, often evoking tears of both sadness and hope. I witnessed this energy at the polls throughout the 10th District, where Democrats had historically high early vote totals.

"The Democratic candidates make it so easy to fight and campaign for them! I want to do more!" That was the sentiment I heard most often on the campaign trail. I heard this from students, moms, and grandparents who were outraged by the Lake County Republicans auctioning off an AR-15 just weeks after a mass shooting in which the same type of gun was used. I heard it from law enforcement officials and criminal justice reformers alike after yet another death in the Lake County Jail under the Republican Sheriff.

Tenth Dems gave me many incredible opportunities to become more engaged in fun and creative ways. At Stevenson High School, I passed out literature and answered questions from students, recruiting future volunteers and interns. I also helped staff a presentation by "the Democrats' secret weapon" Cheri Bustos about turning red seats blue. We sold an array of buttons to audience members eager to help elect more Democrats. And I'll always remember having the chance to give the opening remarks at JB Pritzker's Lake County Campaign Kickoff. It was an honor to speak in front of a group of loyal and energized Democrats. That doesn't happen at every internship.

What was the best part about being an intern this election cycle? It wasn't just talk about how bad Trump and the Republicans were; it was the desire to do something about it. Tenth Dems played a role in turning energy into action into success at the polls. I'd like to think that I played a small role in that, which is so rewarding.



The author (far left) with JB Pritzker and other Tenth Dems volunteers.

Tenth Dems Volunteers Had a Great Evening at Our Annual Awards Dinner!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make it such a wonderful experience. Keynote Speaker Tina Tchen was fantastic. Congressman Brad Schneider made clear why we're proud to have named him this year's recipient of the Abner Mikva Leadership Award. And our volunteers (including, of course, our award winners) are all just amazing.













Paid for by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats (www.tenthdems.org)