

Press Clippings 12-02-20

---Chicago Tribune--- 12/02/2020

Winnetka District 36 names veteran administrator to new inclusion, diversity post

By: Karen Ann Cullotta

A veteran educator who has served at school districts in River Forest and Elgin has been named to a new director of diversity and inclusion administrative position at Winnetka School District 36.

Denise Matthews, who was hired as the district's director of student services, inclusion and equity, will begin her role in Winnetka on July 1, 2021, at a salary of \$150,000, according to public records.

The district's current Director of Student Services, Beth Martin, is retiring in June 2021, officials said.

"Ms. Matthews' extensive leadership experience, which ranges from serving in various roles in school- and district-level administration to almost a decade as a special education teacher, will be an asset to students, families and staff," Superintendent Trisha Kocanda said in a statement.

"It is evident that Ms. Matthews also has extensive expertise in literacy and a passion for social emotional learning, two key areas that align with our district's current goals," Kocanda said.

Matthews most recently served as director of special education for District 90 in River Forest and worked as assistant director of specialized student services in Elgin-based School District U-46. She said in a statement that she is looking forward to joining the team in Winnetka.

"I am eager to begin building relationships with district educators and families to further develop an environment of inclusive excellence for all learners," Matthews said.

Matthews, who has two master's degrees, one in Educational Leadership and Administration and another in Language, Literacy and Specialized Instruction from DePaul University, also has a bachelor of arts degree in English Education from the University of Belize.

A previous Golden Apple Award nominee, Matthews was twice named Special Education Teacher of the Year while teaching in Oak Park, officials said.

The Examiner of SOUTH ELGIN

Volume 16
Number 30

"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

50 cents
December 2, 2020



Cheap Seats:
What COVID cures?
See Page 5

No comments made
at public tax hearing
See Page 8

Police union contract ratified by village board

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

At the remotely held Village Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 16, trustees unanimously approved, as part of the consent agenda, an agreement between the village and Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP) South Elgin Chapter 204.

"It is the collective bargaining agreement for 2020 to 2023," said Chief of Police Jerry Krawczyk via email. "The collective bargaining agreement is what is agreed between the village and MAP, police union, on salary, ben-

efits and other work-related matters."

According to its website, MAP is a collective bargaining and legal defense Illinois labor union organization serving law enforcement.

A new agreement was created this year that provided reforms, according to Krawczyk.

"The previous collective bargaining agreement ended on April 30," Krawczyk said. "The changes were salary, health insurance and detective on-call."

According to the agreement, one-

time bonuses are offered at five, 10, 15 and 20 years of service. The bonuses range from \$200 at five years, to \$500 at 20 years. Specialty pay is offered for various positions such as investigator, canine and school liaison officers twice a year for \$250. Health insurance benefits are equated to full-time, non-bargaining village staffs.

"The patrol officers have been represented by MAP for many years and traditionally, the agreements are for 3 years," Krawczyk said.

The new agreement runs through

April 30, 2023.

Projected full-time salary expenses totals \$3.7 million, according to the village operating and capital improvements budget for May 1 to April 30, 2021. Projected police staff is 38, which is comprised of 24 patrol officers plus 14 administrative and clerical positions that include six sergeants, two deputy chiefs and one police chief.

Village, police administration and MAP with SEPD patrol officer representatives were part of the pact process, Krawczyk said.

Latest U-46 tax levy hike set for Dec. 14 approval

By Seth Hancock

Despite schools remaining closed due to COVID-19 restrictions and enrollment declining by its largest number, the Board of Education in School District U-46 has given its unanimous support to again raise the property tax levy by the largest rate allowed under the law while it is set to finalize the tax hike.

Homeowners can expect a 2.3 percent increase from U-46 according to officials. This comes as the district recently reported a drop of 1,391 students in enrollment to fall to 36,623 total students.

Without discussion, the board voted 7-0 under the consent agenda for the levy determination and accompanying resolution at its Nov. 2 meeting which was held electronically. An additional resolution and the certificate of tax levy were presented on Nov. 16, also electronically, with a vote planned on Dec. 14.

The total proposed levy is \$337.3 million, a 3 percent increase from 2019's extension of \$327.5 million. The corporate and special purpose levy is set

to increase 3.5 percent from \$285.1 million to \$295 million, a defensive levy as U-46 awaits final equalized assessed valuations next year with the district actually expecting \$292.8 million, a 2.7 percent increase.

The district defensively levies in order to take as much in funding from taxpayers it legally can.

"Since levies are filed by the last Tuesday in December of the previous year, it is still necessary to defensive levy to insure receipt of all property tax dollars to which the District is entitled," the determination states.

Also to receive a Dec. 14 vote is an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) update with three other districts (300, 301, 303) concerning the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System.

The IGA "has been in place for more years than I can recall," according to Superintendent Tony Sanders. He said: "Historically, U-46 has been the fiscal agent and housed the Northern Kane County Region 110 Educational System, and that has shifted now over to the Burlington Central School District 301."

Village proclamation recognizes U-46 teachers

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

At the Village Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 16, Village President Steve Ward read a proclamation recognizing District U-46 teachers. The meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Reading from the proclamation, Ward said on March 16, U-46 schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected about 38,000 students. Teachers and administrators to-

See Teachers, pg. 5

School District U-46 approves final SRO police pact

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 voted 6-1, Veronica Noland voting no, to approve the School Resource Officer (SRO) contract with the City of Elgin at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 16 which was held virtually due to COVID-19 regulations.

The cost for salaries and overtime/event security remained the same as last year, \$505,242. On Nov. 2, the board cast the same 6-1 vote approving of SRO contracts from Bartlett, South Elgin and Streamwood at a cost of \$581,543, a 3.1 percent increase from \$563,961.

All four contracts are generally approved at the same time each year, but Elgin's City Council had

not approved its contract when the other three came to the U-46 board.

"Contract language changes were the same as considered by the Board of Education for the three previous SRO contracts," John Heiderscheidt, director of school safety and culture, wrote in a memo regarding the Elgin contract.

The four police departments provide an SRO for U-46's secondary schools, middle and high schools. Those schools have remained shutdown due to the district's decision to remain in distanced learning.

Prior to the Nov. 2 vote, Noland said "we have wonderful SROs," but "I can't have my vote be part

of that systemic racism." She added: "We need to remove the threat (of police) from our lives."

The board generally agreed it wanted to seek different security options in the future but wanted to approve this year's contracts. The board explicitly stated its reasons were because of partisan political organizations guiding them, not citing a single complaint or allegation of wrongdoing by U-46 SROs, as some claimed the mere existence of police is racism.

"The power and the versatility of the Black Lives Matter movement is telling us what our black and brown communities feel about the police," said board member Kate Thommes.



Next holiday decor

Now that Thanksgiving has passed many homeowners spent the remainder of the weekend to decorate for the next holiday such as was the case at this village residence. Christmas is now just over three weeks away.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

A View from the Cheap Seats



COVID For All!

By Rich Trzupek

Friends, as it appears we are about to embrace socialism anyway, let's go all in. Let's do it Bernie style.

As you may recall, the phrase "for all" was sprinkled throughout Bernie's policy positions like cocaine on Tony Montana's kitchen table. There was "Medicare for all" and "free tuition for all" and "free neck massages from attractive young people who must not be identified by gender – for all," etc.

So why COVID for all? Because it turns out that COVID is more than just a pandemic that very occasionally kills somebody who catches it while providing blue state governors with excuses to effectively shut down small businesses by the score, prohibit public assembly and introduce sketchy voting systems. It's more. It's so much more.

It turns out COVID is also a cure for heart disease, cancer and respiratory failure. Yes friends it's true! Those are the "big three" natural killers in the United States and have been for years. For time immemorial, the percentage of Americans the die from heart disease, some form of cancer and respiratory failure has remained more or less unchanged, peaking in the winter and dropping in the summer, but the proportions remain more or less the same.

Then COVID hit and something remarkable happened: The percentage of US Citizens who die from heart disease, cancer and respiratory failure dropped – dramatically. That's not according to your humble, right-wing nut-job, correspondent. That comes directly from the Centers for Disease Control official records.

A woman by the name of Genevieve Brand, assistant program director of the Applied Economics master's degree program at Johns Hopkins, put together a webinar entitled "COVID-19 Deaths: A Look at U.S. Data" that highlighted this remarkable trend. This in turn led to an article published in the *Johns Hopkins Newsletter*, a student-run publication.

Student journalist Yanni Gu summed up one of Brand's key findings:

Surprisingly, the deaths of older people

stayed the same before and after COVID-19. Since COVID-19 mainly affects the elderly, experts expected an increase in the percentage of deaths in older age groups. However, this increase is not seen from the CDC data. In fact, the percentages of deaths among all age groups remain relatively the same.

"The reason we have a higher number of reported COVID-19 deaths among older individuals than younger individuals is simply because every day in the U.S. older individuals die in higher numbers than younger individuals," Briand said.

It should come as no surprise that shortly after Gu's article appeared on the interwebs, the thought control police ubiquitous to college life in the United States these days moved quickly to quash it, pulling it from the newsletter's web-site. It should also come as no surprise that doing so made not the slightest bit of difference. Once something interesting like this pops up on the web, somebody is going to make a copy and somebody did.

At his point, Hopkins officially acknowledges the existence of the story and even reluctantly provides a link to it, though each page is water-marked "Retracted by The Newsletter" lest somebody dare to read it.

They also go to great pains to discredit Brand so that the appropriate level of panic can be maintained. But while they can quibble with certain details in Brands work, the basic point that CDC has been reporting fewer deaths caused by the big three natural killers and more deaths caused by COVID is indisputable. I suppose that makes sense to the same people who believe there is nothing amiss when the number of votes cast in a state exceeds the number of registered voters.

No doubt when the COVID vaccine starts to hit the street, we'll find deaths by heart disease, cancer and respiratory failure return to normal. This will, of course, lead to more panic as the MSM and their Democrat allies conclude that the "Trump vaccine" cause heart attacks, cancer and destroys lungs.

Makes about as much sense as the rest of the news these days.

Email: richtrzupek@gmail.com



Storm's Roy commits to Purdue University



Abigail Roy, as a freshman in 2018, executing a header deep in West Chicago's end of the pitch between the Wildcats' Alex Alcantar, left, and Vanessa Montenegro.

By Seth Hancock

South Elgin senior Abigail Roy will be continuing her soccer career at the Division I level after signing her letter of intent to play for the Purdue Boilermakers in Indiana competing in the Big Ten Conference (BTC).

Roy, a Bartlett resident, is a forward who played for the Storm her freshman year and was all-conference in the Upstate Eight. She ran track and field at South Elgin and played club soccer her sophomore year, and she intended to return to the Storm soccer field as a junior before COVID-19 regulations cancelled spring sports.

At Purdue, Roy plans to major in integrated business and engineering, and she hopes to be a strong competitor on the soccer field for the Boilermakers.

"I decided that Purdue was the perfect fit for me because when I stepped on campus, it immediately felt like a second home," Roy said. "The girls on the soccer team, the coaches and the academic advisor all made me feel welcomed and supported. I knew right away that Purdue was the place where I could become the best version of myself on and off the field."

According to align4edc.org, ACE is an organization composed of business and community leaders, in partnership with U-46, promoting academic and communal outreach.

"I just want to thank them for coming up with this idea and pushing it forward," said Richmond. "It's been a challenging year for everybody, and I just think we owe all the teachers out there a debt of gratitude for all they're doing for the students and keeping the schools running in this very difficult time."

Roy added: "Athletically, my goal at Purdue is to take my game to the next level. In the Big Ten, there is not one player who isn't working hard 110 percent of the time. With this competitive atmosphere, I plan to challenge myself, get faster, stronger and more creative with the ball to help Purdue win games and take home championship titles. Academically, my interest lies in business/engineering, and thankfully, Purdue has a major that covers both these interests."

The Boilermakers went 8-9-3 overall, 3-6-2 in the BTC, in 2019. Roy will play under coach Drew Roff who has coached Purdue the last four years while holding a 153-99-20 record in his 14-year collegiate coaching career.

Although things remain up in the air regarding high school sports, Roy intends to play for the Storm this season and wants to end her high school career strong.

"If we are able to have a high school season, I plan to lead the Storm to conference, regional and state championships. I know our team has the heart and talent to make it happen, so I'm really looking forward to it."

Letters to the Editor

Deadline for letters is noon on Monday. Please include a phone number for verification, and submit letters electronically.

All letters are printed as received. Grammatical and spelling errors are the responsibility of the author.

In response to a response

Dear Editor

I would like to respond to Bob Miller's letter to the editor published on Nov. 25. If wearing masks, social distancing and quarantines are so effective, why do "purported" Covid-19 numbers continue to rise?

As a retired registered nurse, I have survived the polio epidemic of the 50s as well as the Asian Flu epidemic. I also survived

The Hong Kong Flu of 1968. At that time I was in high school and became violently ill -- to the point of being bedridden for two weeks and losing 30 pounds. Because we didn't have the internet I had no idea that my ailment may have been due to the Hong Kong flu. So, my dear sir, you don't have to wear a mask to protect me - I have herd immunity and I am a survivor!

Francine Freiberg

Teachers

Continued from page 1

taling 2,935 have refined new educational technology, provided online educational programs and delivered 1.9 million meals.

The proclamation corresponded with a national teacher celebratory week from Nov. 16 to 20.

Clinton Elementary School Principal Jonathan Miquelon said he and other school district staff attended the meeting to show their support to the village for its recognition.

Fox Meadow Elementary School Principal Jason Gold said local schools are pushing on and he was thankful to address the board..

"We truly plan to work together as a South Elgin school area," said Gold. "It's just a very exciting opportunity for all of us to be here together."

Fox Meadow Elementary School Assistant Principal Laurie McCann said the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge with the back and forth of restrictions.

Alignment Collaborative for Education (ACE) members Nancy Coleman and Andrea Fox helped set up the teacher recognition, according to Trustee Scott Richmond.



BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet!

ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY

\$19.99

/mo. where available



2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$59.99

MO. for 12 Mos.

America's Top 120 Package

190 CHANNELS

Including Local Channels!

*All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 55/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.



FREE VOICE REMOTE

Hey Google

The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature.



FREE SMART HD DVR INCLUDED

* Requires eAutoPay discount and includes Hopper Duo DVR (\$5 discount for 24 months) or Wally/11



FREE STREAMING ON ALL YOUR DEVICES

CALL TODAY! 1-855-668-7518

Plus ... Switch to DISH and GET A FREE \$100 GIFT CARD

Se Habla Español

Call 7 days a week 8am - 11pm EST





Promo Code: DISH100

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 1/31/21. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$74.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200, \$94.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV; receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. * DISH Network received the highest score in the Nation in the J.D. Power 2018-2019 U.S. Residential Provider Satisfaction Studies of customers satisfaction with their current television provider. Visit jdpower.com/awards. All new customers are subject to a one-time processing fee. Gift Card terms and conditions apply, call for full details.

Twenty SHS athletes achieve academic honors

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood athletics program showed not only their dedication on the field but also off as the Sabres had 20 athletes earn academic all-conference in the Upstate Eight Conference.

To achieve that accomplishment, a student-athlete (sophomore and above) must hold at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4-point scale and compete on a varsity team.

While an accomplishment any year, it's magnified in 2020 as athletes com-

peted under heavy restrictions both from distance learning to IHSA rules due to COVID-19.

"I am so proud of what our fall athletes accomplished this year," said Streamwood athletic's director Jason Ziols. "Having to deal with the guidelines and restrictions of COVID on their athletic seasons while at the same time dealing with the daily struggles and unknowns that distance learning entails was quite a challenge."

Ziols added: "To learn that over a third of all of our fall athletes earned academic all-conference honors was incredible. It speaks volumes to the dedication, perseverance and pride our Sabre athletes have demonstrated both on and off of the athletic playing field."

From the cross country program were boys sophomore Saul Villarreal and girls seniors Estefany Nieto, Barbara Salgado, Joselyn Bolanos and Rani Patel along with junior Nicole Barcenas and sophomore Ashley Harrison.

From the golf program were boys sophomores Austin Barousse and Isak Lujan-Gore and girls junior Kiley Rottman.

From the girls tennis team were juniors Diya Patel, Valeria Sanchez, Aracely Hernandez, Stephanie Hernandez, Alanni Gesundheit, Carolina Hurtado, Amber Tanigue, Gabriela Pytel, Katelyn Nguyen and Kaitlyn Esteban.



Bari Beef

Chicago's authentic Italian style sliced *Fresh!*

Beef & gravy

NOT FROZEN
READY IN 10 Minutes

Italian Beef • Italian Sausage

Meatballs Pre-Cooked

Cooked and Sliced • Heat and Serve

Wholesale Prices

Party Orders are our Specialty!

FREE GRAVY with purchase of Beef

710 Schneider Drive • South Elgin

Route 31 to Sundown by Burger King, west on Sundown to the first street, Schneider Dr. North to 2nd Building on west side.

Hours: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Call Ahead for Information

847-695-7555

Democratic setbacks spark turmoil over party leadership

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

As the dust settled after Tuesday's general election in Illinois, Republicans in the state patted themselves on the back after making gains, while high-ranking Democrats pushed back against embattled state party leader Michael Madigan.

"I'm going to give ourselves an A because before Tuesday, the House Republicans were expected to lose up to 11 seats. And right now, we were at a net gain of two," House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said during a news conference Wednesday, Nov. 4. "We were outspent five-to-one by Speaker Madigan and we still prevailed."

The overall number of flipped seats could change, however, as some races remained close with hundreds of thousands of mail-in votes still outstanding statewide. In Illinois, any mail ballot postmarked by Election Day will be counted if received by the election authority by Nov. 17. The state board of elections is scheduled to certify final results on Dec. 4.

According to unofficial, preliminary tallies by the Associated Press Friday afternoon, Republican challengers had taken four seats away from Democrats, but Democrats also took out two incumbent Republicans – Grant Wehrli, of Naperville, and Allen Skillicorn, of East Dundee, both of whom issued concessions.

But the GOP also won back some seats in the Chicago suburbs that they lost in the "blue wave" elections of 2018.

In the 45th District in DuPage County, for example, Republican Seth Lewis defeated incumbent Democratic Rep. Diane Pappas. And in the 51st District in Lake County, Republican Chris Bos held a wide lead over Democratic Rep. Mary Edly-Allen.

Both Pappas and Edly-Allen were first-term representatives who defeated incumbent Republican lawmakers in 2018.

Meanwhile, in the Illinois suburbs

outside St. Louis, known as the Metro East region, Republican Amy Elik defeated two-term incumbent Rep. Monica Bristow, while Republican David Friess defeated first-term Democratic Rep. Nathan Reitz.

Based on those preliminary results, Democrats will still hold a 72-46 majority in the House, just one seat more than a three-fifths super majority.

But in the 68th District in the Rockford area, incumbent Republican John Cabello held a lead of less than 400 votes on Democratic challenger Dave Vella as of Friday in an undecided race.

In the Senate, where Democrats currently hold a 40-19 majority, three races remained extremely close, but Democrats appeared poised to possibly gain one. In District 25, Democrat Karina Villa held a slight lead over Republican Jeannette Ward in a race to replace Republican Sen. Jim Oberweis, who stepped down this year to run for Congress.

Senate Republicans also elected a new leader for their caucus following the election. Sen. Dan McConchie, of Hawthorn Woods, was picked to replace Sen. Bill Brady, of Bloomington. Brady did not seek another term as minority leader.

Republicans also counted as victories the defeat of Gov. JB Pritzker's proposed graduated income tax constitutional amendment as well as the vote not to retain Democratic Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride.

Throughout the campaign, Durkin said, Republicans were broadcasting one consistent message.

"Lack of trust with state government in Springfield, corruption, has loomed largely throughout the state of Illinois in our message in the suburbs, but also in the Metro East area," he said.

The success of that message wasn't lost on a number of top-level Democrats either, and it quickly prompted a number of them to immediately call for replacing the state party's chair-



Jim Durkin. (Courtesy photo)

man, House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Madigan has been under fire, even from some members of his own caucus, since July when he was implicated in a bribery scheme involving utility giant Commonwealth Edison, even though he has not been charged and has denied wrongdoing. A special legislative committee has been formed to investigate his role in the scheme to determine whether he should be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including possible removal from office.

Republican groups used that extensively in their advertising campaigns in which they tied Democratic candidates, as well as Justice Kilbride, directly to Madigan.

The first to openly call for Madigan's replacement after the election was U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, who won re-election to a fifth term Tuesday night.

"Well I can tell you, all across our state, and the advertising told the story, we paid a heavy price for the speaker's chairmanship of the Democratic Party," Durbin said Oct. 4, dur-

ing an interview on WTTW-TV's "Chicago Tonight" program. "Candidates who had little or no connection with him whatsoever were being tarred as Madigan allies who are behind corruption, and so forth and so on. It was really disconcerting to see the price that we paid on that. I hope he takes that to heart and understands that his presence as chairman of our party has not helped."

The next day, Gov. JB Pritzker was asked to respond to those comments during his daily COVID-19 briefing.

"Look, I agree with Sen. Durbin that, you know, opponents were able to

tap into voters' concerns about corruption and their lack of trust in government," Pritzker said. "There are real challenges there."

Asked specifically whether he agreed with Durbin that the Democratic Party of Illinois needs new leadership, Pritzker replied, "Yes."

Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth also issued a statement to the *State Journal-Register* calling for Madigan to step aside both as speaker and party chairman.

Madigan, meanwhile, issued a statement Thursday indicating he has no plans to step aside.

"I am proud of my record electing Democrats who support workers and families and represent the diversity of our state," he said in the statement. "Together, we have successfully advanced progressive policies that have made Illinois a strong Democratic state with supermajorities in the legislature. Illinois is the anchor in the 'blue wall' that has been reconstructed in the Midwest, and I look forward to continuing our fight for working families as chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois."