



Community Bankers Association of Illinois
Department of Governmental Relations

2018 Illinois General Election Results

Overview

The predicted “blue wave” of liberal voters swept through Illinois as the Democrat party gained the Governor’s office, swept all constitutional offices and picked up at least 5 seats in the House, giving Speaker Michael Madigan a supermajority to match Senate President Cullerton’s supermajority in the Senate.

While a few races are still too close to call and absentee ballots need to be counted, the makeup of the Illinois House will likely move to an estimated **74 D to 44 R**, from the current 67 D/51 R. The Senate also still has outstanding races but will increase its Democrat supermajority from the current 37 D/22 R to likely **40 D to 19 R**.

Depending on final numbers, there may be as many as 12 new state senators and 35 new members of the House in the next General Assembly.

Four congressional districts were in play this election with Peter Roskam and Randy Hultgren losing in suburban Chicago districts. In Southern Illinois, Mike Bost easily won re-election, while in Central Illinois, Rodney Davis held in in a tight race. Democrats will now hold **13-5** advantage in the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

Breakdown by Office

✓ Governor:

As expected, Democrat candidate JB Pritzker overwhelmingly defeated first-term Republican Governor Bruce Rauner and third-party candidates State Senator Sam McCann and Kash Jackson. Pritzker, who broke national campaign records for pumping the most cash into a self-funded campaign in US history, stayed on message emphasizing the Governor’s failures in office, especially with the budget crisis and benefited from the powerful endorsement of labor unions and trial attorneys.

✓ Attorney General

State Senator Kwame Raoul defeated Republican attorney and former Miss America Erika Harold. Like Pritzker, Raoul gained important union endorsements and benefited from riding the “blue

wave” of a considerably higher turnout of Democrat voters than in 2016. The sitting Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, chose not to run for a fifth term.

✓ **Secretary of State**

Secretary of State Jesse White (D) easily won his sixth term in office defeating Republican Jason Helland.

✓ **Comptroller**

Comptroller Susan Mendoza (D) easily defeated former State Representative, Congressional candidate, and member of Governor Rauner’s administration Darlene Senger. Mendoza may consider a run for Chicago Mayor in 2019.

✓ **Treasurer**

Treasurer Michael Frerichs (D) easily defeated Republican challenger Jim Dodge for another term.

✓ **Congressional Races:**

All 18 Congressional seats were up for re-election. Heading into election day, the Democrats control 11 of the state’s 18 Congressional Seats. There is one open Congressional seat being vacated by Congressman [Luis Gutiérrez](#) who is retiring. Two Suburban Republican Congressman lost their elections: Randy Hultgren and Peter Roskam.

2018 Congressional Candidates		
District	Democrat	Republican
1	Bobby Rush (I)	Jimmy Lee Tillman, II
2	Robin Kelly (I)	David Merkle
3	Dan Lipinski (I)	Arthur Jones
4	Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (I)	Mark Lorch
5	Mike Quigley (I)	Tom Hanson
6	Sean Casten	Peter Roskam (I)
7	Danny Davis (I)	Craig Cameron
8*	Raja Krishnamoorthi	Jitendra “JD” Diganvker
9	Jan Schakowsky (I)	John Elleson
10	Brad Schneider (I)	Douglas Bennett
11	Bill Foster (I)	Nick Stella
12	Brendan Kelly	Mike Bost (I)
13	Betsy Londrigan	Rodney Davis (I)
14	Lauren Underwood	Randy Hultgren (I)
15	Kevin Gaither	John Shimkus (I)
16	Sara Dady	Adam Kinzinger (I)
17	Cheri Bustos (I)	Bill Fawell
18	Junius Rodriguez	Darin LaHood(I)
Notes	An (I) denotes an incumbent. * Denotes an Open Seat	

✓ **State Senate Races:**

In the Senate 59 seats (21 of 37 Democrats and 18 of 22 Republicans) were up for election. Of the 39 Senate seats, only 18 were contested races. Five current Senators are not seeking re-election: Three Democrats - Dan Biss (9th District); Bill Haine (56th District); James Clayborne (57th District); and two Republicans: Tim Bivins (45th District) and Kyle McCarter (54th District). Three appointed Republican Senators are in contested races seeking election to their first full term in office: Craig Wilcox (32nd District); Donald DeWitte (33rd District) and John Curran (41st District).

In the state Senate, where Democrats already held a 37-22 super-majority, the party increased its majority to 39-20 (or 40-19, depending on final ballot counts). At this time, one Senate races remain too close to call. Republican Senator Michael Connelly leads his opponent, Laura Ellman, by 12 votes. Incumbent Republican Senators Chris Nybo and Tom Rooney lost their races to Democratic challengers.

2018 State Senate Candidates		
District	Democrat	Republican
9*	Laura Fine	Joan McCarthy Lasonde
21	Laura Ellman	Michael Connelly (I)
23	Thomas Cullerton (I)	Seth Lewis
24	Suzy Glowiak	Chris Nybo (I)
26	Tom Georges	Dan McConchie (I)
27	Ann Gillespie	Tom Rooney (I)
29	Julie Morrison (I)	Barrett Davie
30	Terry Link (I)	Soojae Lee
32	Mary Mahady	Craig Wilcox (I)
33	Nancy Zettler	Donald DeWitte (I)
36	Gregg Johnson	Neil Anderson (I)
38	Heidi Henry	Sue Rezin (I)
41	Bridget Fitzgerald	John Curran (I)
45*	David Simpson	Brian Stewart
48	Andy Manar (I)	Seth McMillan
54*	Brian Stout	Jason Plummer
56*	Rachelle Aud Crowe	Hal Patton – Downstate United Candidate
57*	Christopher Belt	Tanya Hildenbrand
59	Steve Webb	Dale Folwer (I)
Notes	An (I) denotes an incumbent. * Denotes an Open Seat	

✓ **State House Races:**

Of the 118 House seats up for election, 64 were contested. There were 13 Representatives not seeking re-election: three Democrats – Laura Fine (17th District); Scott Drury (58th District); and Carol Sente (59th District) and nine Republicans: Jeanne Ives (42nd District); David Harris (53rd

District); Mike Fortner (49th District), Barb Wheeler (64th District); Steve Andersson (65th District); Brian Stewart (89th District); Sara Wojcki Jimenz (99th District); Bill Mitchell (101st District); John Cavaletto (107th District); and David Reis (109th District). Seven newly appointed Representatives were in contested races seeking election to their first term of office: Deanne Mazzachi (47th District); Helene Miller Walsh (51st District); Jeff Keicher (70th District); Mike Marron (104th District); Chris Miller (110th District); Monica Bristow (111th District); and Natalie Phelps Finnie (118th District). Prior to the election, 30 of the 118 members who took the oath of office to begin the 100th General Assembly will not be returning for the 101st, which is roughly a 25% turnover before the ballots are even counted.

There are 20 sitting House members not on the ballot, as some are retiring or seeking different offices, while others lost primary battles: nine Democrats – Dan Burke (1st District); Cynthia Soto (4th District); Julianna Stratton (5th District); Laura Fine (17th District); Barbara Flynn Currie (25th District); Al Riley (38th District); Scott Drury (58th District); Carol Sente (59th District); Litesa Wallace (67th District), and eleven Republicans: Jeanne Ives (42nd District); David Harris (53rd District); Mike Fortner (49th District); Barb Wheeler (64th District); Steve Andersson (65th District); Brian Stewart (89th District); Sara Wojcki Jimenz (99th District); Bill Mitchell (101st District); John Cavaletto (107th District); David Reis (109th District), and Reggie Phillips (110th District). Six newly-appointed Representatives are in contested races seeking election to their first term of office: Deanne Mazzachi (R - 47th District - Bellock); Helene Miller Walsh (R - 51st District - Sauer); Jeff Keicher (R - 70th District - Pritchard); Mike Marron (R - 104th District - Hays); Monica Bristow (D - 111th District - Beiser); and Natalie Phelps Finnie (D - 118th District - Phelps).

The Illinois House is currently composed of 67 Democrats and 51 Republicans. Democrats will hold a supermajority vote in the 101st General Assembly following Tuesday’s election. As of Wednesday morning, House Democrats have the potential for a net +6/+7 increase. Republican losses include: Peter Breen, Christine Winger, Jerry Long, Sheri Jesiel, David Olsen, the David Harris open seat, and the Mike Fortner open seat. Helen Miller-Walsh, who was recently appointed to replace Nick Sauer was winning by one vote at midnight. Incumbent Democrat Natalie Phelps Finnie lost her election bid.

2018 State House Candidates		
District	Democrat	Republican
15	John D’Amico (I)	Amanda Biela
17*	Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz	Peter Lee
18	Robyn Gabel (I)	Julie Cho
19	Robert Martwick (I)	Ammie Kessem
35	Fran Hurley	Herbert Hebein
37	Matthew Hunt	Margo McDermed
41	Val Montgomery	Grant Wehril
42*	Kathleen Carrier	Amy Grant
43	Anna Moeller	Andrew Cuming
44	Fred Crespo	Katy Dolan Baumer
45*	Diane Pappas	Christine Winger

2018 State House Candidates

District	Democrat	Republican
46	Deb Conroy (I)	Jay Kinzler
47	Jim Caffrey	Deanne Mazzochi (I)
48	Terra Howard	Peter Breen (I)
49*	Karina Villa	Tonia Khouri
50	James Leslie	Keith Wheeler (I)
51*	Mary Allen	Helene Miller Walsh
53*	Mark Walker	Eddie Corrigan
54	Maggie Trevor	Tom Morrison (I)
55	Martin Moylan (I)	Marilyn Smolenski
56	Michelle Mussman (I)	Jillian Bernas
58*	Bob Morgan	Rick Lesser
59*	Dan Didech	Karen Feldman
61	Joyce Mason	Sheri Jesiel
62	Sam Yingling (I)	Ken Idstein
64*	Trisha Zubert	Tom Weber
65*	Richard Johnson	Dan Ugaste
68	Jake Castanza	John Cabello
69	Angie Bodine	Joe Sosnowski
70*	Paul Stoddard	Jeff Keicher
71	Joan Padilla	Tony McCombie (I)
72	Mike Halpin (I)	Glen Evans Sr.
76	Lance Yednock	Jerry Long (I)
77	Kathleen Willis (I)	Anthony Airdo
79	Lisa Dugan	Lindsay Parkhurst (I)
81	Anne Stava-Murray	David Olsen (I)
82	Tom Chlystek	Jim Durkin (I)
84	Stephanie Kifowit (I)	Patty Smith
86	Larry Walsh Jr. (I)	Rick Laib
88	Jill Blair	Keith Sommer (I)
89*	Nicholas Hyde	Andrew Chesney
90	Amy Davis	Tom Demmer (I)
91	Carolyn Blodgett	Mike Unes (I)
93	John Curtis	Norine Hammond (I)
94	Richard Cramsey	Randy Frese (I)
95	Dillon Clark	Avery Bourne (I)
96	Sue Scherer (I)	Herman Senior
97	Mica Freeman	Mark Batinick (I)
98	Natalie Manley (I)	Alyssia Benford
99*	Marc Bell	Mike Murphy
101*	Jennifer McMillin	Dan Caulkins

2018 State House Candidates		
District	Democrat	Republican
104	Cynthia Cunningham	Mike Marron
105	Benjamin Webb	Dan Brady (I)
107*	David Seiler	Blaine Wilhour
109*	Cynthia Given	Daren Bailey
110*	Shirley Bell	Chris Miller
111	Monic Bristow (I)	Mike Babcock
112	Katie Stuart (I)	Dwight Kay
113	Jay Hoffman (I)	Doug Jameson
114	LaToya Greenwood (I)	Jason Madlock
115	Marsha Griffin	Terri Bryant (I)
116	Jerry Costello (I)	David Friess
117	Jason Woodlard	Dave Severin
118	Natalie Phelps Finnie (I)	Patrick Windhorst
Notes	An (I) denotes an incumbent. * Denotes an Open Seat	

Further Analysis

Democrats rallied voter turnout, primarily in retaliation of President Trump, and benefited from historic early voting numbers. Over 1.1 million Illinoisans had already cast a ballot by Monday morning either in person or by mail, 45 percent higher than the last midterm election.

The amount of campaign money spent in Illinois races this year was historic with Democrats enjoying the largesse. First, the governor's race was headed by billionaire JB Pritzker, who ranks 7 spots higher than President Trump on the list of 400 richest Americans. Pritzker self-funded his campaign to the tune of \$170 million, which left all other fundraising from traditional Democrat-giving groups like labor unions and trial lawyers to boost legislative races. Between the two billionaires, Pritzker and Rauner raised and spent over \$255 million, exceeding the previous national record set by the Brown/Whitman California gubernatorial race in 2010. Speaker Madigan raised \$35 million through three different political action committees to spend on House races alone. The House GOP legislators, who had benefitted from Governor Rauner's wealth in previous years by as much as \$40 million in 2014 failed to raise the same amount of money in 2018 and were overwhelmed by last-minute Democrat campaign money drops in races throughout the state. In the Senate races, Republicans ultimately could not compete monetarily with Democrats when Senate President Cullerton had so few races to fund.

In addition to Democrats having more money at their disposal, the other game-changer for Republicans has been the ongoing changing demographics of suburban Chicago. The collar counties, once a bastion of GOP votes, now has swing districts in almost every area. Changing demographics in Chicago and the suburbs, along with the liberal revolt against President Trump's win two years ago, greatly impacted the Illinois campaigns this year.

Governor's Race

Governor Bruce Rauner, a billionaire venture capital businessman, sought reelection after an embattled first term serving as the first Republican governor of Illinois since George Ryan left office in 2002. Rauner and his lieutenant governor Evelyn Sanguinetti were the lone GOP statewide officeholders with a strong Democrat majority in both the House and Senate throughout their first four years. For over two of those years, the state operated without an approved budget, relying on court-ordered continuous payments for state employees and Medicaid beneficiaries. Partisan tensions rose dramatically, largely due to Rauner's unrelenting public campaign against long-time Speaker of the House Michael Madigan and the governor's priority of pushing anti-labor union initiatives, including right to work. While he touted economic growth by improving the business climate in Illinois and worked towards a new school funding formula for K-12 education, given the budget crisis and state credit rating downgrades, the governor was never able to have any real successes during his first term to promote going into the next election. Additionally, his office always seemed in limbo, especially after a complete firing of top staff in the middle of his term.

JB Pritzker, heir to the Hyatt hotel fortune and an even wealthier billionaire was successful in negating Governor Rauner's money advantage in the general election. Pritzker, pledging to self-fund his entire campaign, enabled the Democrat party to focus its plentiful resources on legislative races instead. Pritzker focused on the "failure" of Rauner during the last four years, especially over the budget crisis, and enjoyed the powerful endorsement of labor unions and trial attorneys.

Ultimately, Rauner could not overcome the perceived failures of two-plus years without a state budget while very publicly blasting Speaker Madigan without any willingness to compromise with Democrats. Ironically, Illinoisans ultimately gained an increase in income taxes under the Rauner administration. His campaign went strangely quiet in the summer months and never regained momentum moving into the last weeks of the election cycle. Pritzker rode through the last months on positive polling, most showing him ahead of Rauner by double digits.

Illinois' lieutenant governors run on the same ticket as the Governor. As Pritzker's running mate, State Representative Juliana Stratton will serve as lieutenant governor; she is an attorney and former Director of the Center for Public Safety and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Pritzker Administration Preview

State government will once again maneuver through the transition period between a Republican and now Democrat administration with agency directors and top staff most likely leaving and new leaders appointed. Pritzker will assemble a transition team to oversee that process in the coming months.

The most prevalent policy issue in the gubernatorial campaign was a graduated income tax, supported by Pritzker. Illinois' flat income tax rate is imposed by the state constitution. Lawmakers could pass legislation that would take a referendum to voters in a future election to change the state constitution and allow for a graduated income tax. However, moving to a graduated income tax would not be a short-term solution to Illinois' fiscal woes; a referendum would not even be presented until the November 2020 ballot, and then another separate bill would need to pass to impose the new progressive rates. The earliest time in which new revenues from a graduated income tax, as promoted

by Pritzker, could be collected would be FY 2021. Rauner opposed the progressive tax structure and advocated for lowering the current income tax rates.

With a supermajority in both chambers, Governor Pritzker will seemingly have strong support for his initiatives in the legislature, while likely expected to support House and Senate proposals as well. Ideas already being offered include a statewide broadband internet, a tax based on mileage driven versus gasoline purchased, gaming expansion, legalized recreational marijuana, and a public option Medicaid for All program.

Attorney General

In the only chance the Republicans had to win a constitutional office, State Senator **Kwame Raoul**, who also has represented the seat formerly held by President Obama since 2004, defeated Republican Erika Harold for Attorney General. Like Pritzker, Raoul gained the important union endorsements and benefited from the incredibly higher turnout of Democrat voters than in 2016. Harold, who had not previously held office and thus had a name-recognition challenge, gained momentum earlier in the cycle but could not match the fundraising for campaign dollars that boosted Raoul. The sitting Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, chose not to run for a fifth term.

Illinois House

Democrats won at least six seats, nearly all in the suburbs, while losing one race in far southern Illinois, for an overall gain of 5 seats, enough to win supermajority status at 72 D/46 R. Those six seats are defeated Republican incumbents Peter Breen, Jerry Long, Christine Winger, and Sheri Jesiel, along with open seat candidates Tonia Khouri and Eddie Corrigan. Four more races are still too close to call for final numbers with absentee ballots still outstanding. One of those four races is now in favor of the Democrat candidate (Representative David Olsen's seat). Helene Miller Walsh (R) is winning the open seat of former Representative Nick Sauer by a single vote but will likely lose when absentee ballots are counted due the Democrats' strong absentee ballot get-out-the-vote program. Representatives Mark Batinick (R) and Tom Morrison (R) are currently winning their races but still need to count absentee ballots.

Suburban Republicans, including several incumbents, were at a considerable disadvantage this cycle, attempting to hold their seats in the midst of intense and expensive Congressional races in the area, namely Congressmen Peter Roskam and Randy Hultgren. Both incumbent congressmen lost their seats to Democrats, even in traditionally strong Republican DuPage County, where Governor Rauner also lost to Democrat JB Pritzker, making it difficult for local GOP officials to hang on to support down the ticket.

In addition to the Trump impact, money played a critical role in the outcome of races this year. Governor Rauner had supported House GOP legislators in previous years, giving as much as \$40 million in 2014 to legislative races but dropped that support to \$16 million while fighting his reelection battle. Conversely, Speaker Madigan raised \$35 million through three different political action committees to spend on House races alone and did not need to help the self-funding Pritzker in the governor's race. Republicans were overwhelmed by last-minute Democrat campaign money drops in races throughout the state.

As examples, the most expensive House race occurred in the suburbs with defeated Representative Peter Breen (R). Breen was outspent by Democrat Terra Costa Howard \$2 million to \$1.12 million for a total of \$3.12 million in one House district. The seat held by retiring Representative Mike Fortner (R) also almost reached the \$3 million mark with Democrat Karina Villa outspending and defeating Tonia Khouri. Both the Senator Tom Rooney (R) and Neil Anderson (R) races topped over \$3 million, as well.

Outside of the outcomes on November 6, another twist in the House races is the entrance of conservative radio show host Dan Proft and money from businessman Dick Uhlein. Proft supported several candidates against the House GOP leader Jim Durkin in the primary race, and many of those candidates won election to the House, including Blaine Wilhour (107th), Dan Caulkins (101st), and Darren Bailey (109th).

Illinois Senate

Thirty-nine of the 59 State Senators ran in the election this year, due to the staggered terms in the Senate. Of those 39, 17 were contested with 5 open seats.

Senate President John Cullerton already enjoyed a supermajority with a 37 D – 22 R count and will likely increase that veto proof status, for a possible 40 D – 19 R count. Two races are still too close to call with absentee ballots needing to be counted. Democrats did pick up at least one seat in the suburbs with Ann Gillespie defeating Senator Tom Rooney. The remaining races are Republican incumbents Michael Connelly and Chris Nybo.

In addition to the high Democrat voter turnout, Republicans also suffered from a tremendous campaign dollar deficit compared to the Democrats. While the Governor supported the House Republican Organization with \$16 million in campaign money, he did not contribute to the Senate Republican campaigns.

Congressional Delegation

While each of the 18 Illinois Congress seats had contested races this year, only 4 of them were in play, 2 in the suburbs and 2 downstate. Republicans Peter Roskam of Wheaton and Randy Hultgren of Plano both had the political fight of their lives in 2018, dealing with the liberal anger at President Trump and changing demographics of their home districts in the suburbs. Roskam, seeking a seventh term in Congress and having served in Republican leadership, was portrayed as too conservative for the current district by **Sean Casten** of Downers Grove and lost to Casten by a considerable margin. Naperville nurse **Lauren Underwood** challenged Congressman Randy Hultgren, serving since 2011, primarily over healthcare. Democrat Underwood will be the first woman and first minority to represent the suburban district.

Downstate, three-term Republican **Rodney Davis** of Taylorville faced Springfield Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, again primarily over healthcare. After a night of bouncing result numbers and CNN calling the race for Londrigan, Davis ultimately won reelection in a tight race. Congressman **Mike Bost** held onto a win against Democrat challenger Brendan Kelly in far southern Illinois. President Trump visited the district the weekend before the election to help bolster Bost's numbers.

Illinois' congressional delegation moves from 11 Democrats/7 Republicans to **13 Democrats/5 Republicans**. Illinois is expected to lose a Congressional seat in the next redistricting map due to a lower population.

Next Steps for the Illinois General Assembly

The lame-duck 100th General Assembly will reconvene November 13th through 15th and November 27th through 29th for the Fall Veto Session. The General Assembly has 75 vetoes pending for consideration (47 total vetoes and 28 amendatory vetoes). Typically, the General Assembly convenes again for a lame-duck session in January although no January dates are scheduled at this time. Given the outcome of yesterday's election, it is possible that the Democratic Leaders in the General Assembly may forgo meeting in January and wait to tackle any remaining or outstanding issues during the Spring Session. As a reminder, any legislation passed prior to December 31st that contains an immediate effective date will require passage with a 3/5 vote in each chamber (36 votes in the Senate/72 votes in the House). After January 1st, legislation with an immediate effective date requires passage by only a simple majority vote in each chamber.

Per the Illinois Constitution, the newly elected members of the 101st General Assembly will be sworn into office on Wednesday, January 9th at noon and all Constitutional Officers will take office Monday, January 14th. Schedules and deadlines for the 2019 Legislative Session should be distributed at the end of the month.

For more information, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact [Jerry Peck](#) or [Megan Peck](#) at 800/736-2224.