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State and Local Election Results Inside



HERITAGE DAYS 2022

PHOTOS BY SUSAN MORAN

Bailey Wins GOP Nomination to Challenge Pritzker

Governor's race pits conservative challenger against Pritzker's progressive record

By Jerry Nowicki & Peter Hancock

State Sen. Darren Bailey, who gained statewide notoriety challenging Gov. JB Pritzker's pandemic executive order authority in court, will be the incumbent's challenger in the November general election.

As of about 9 p.m. Tuesday, Bailey had carried more than 55 percent of the GOP vote from a field of six candidates, while tallies were unofficial.

"Tonight our movement sent a clear message to the establishment and the political elites: We will not be ignored," Bailey said in a victory speech just before 9 p.m.

Bailey, a farmer from downstate Xenia, gained the endorsement of former President Donald Trump over the weekend. He surged late in the race behind at least \$17 million in funding – either directly to his campaign fund or to political action committees attacking his opponent – from Republican megadonor and shipping supply magnate Richard Uihlein.

Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin, the early frontrunner in the race who received \$50 million from another GOP megadonor, Citadel founder Ken Griffin, conceded about 8:25 p.m.

The battle of billionaire benefactors which

ended in Bailey's nomination drew national attention, largely because a campaign committee that has received funding from Pritzker – the Democratic Governors Association – spent approximately \$26 million to influence the Republican primary, largely on ads attacking Irvin and emphasizing Bailey's conservative record.

The Irvin campaign pegged the total anti-Irvin or pro-Bailey spending by Democrats around \$36 million, with Pritzker's campaign spending \$6.5 million and the Democratic Party of Illinois spending \$3.6 million.

In a Tuesday night concession speech, Irvin wished Bailey well, later saying, "the Republican Party must be a party of policies, not personalities."

"You know, our background, our record and our message were so compelling, so overwhelmingly likely to prevail in November, JB Pritzker and the Democratic Party spent the most amount of money in the history ... meddling in a Republican primary to take us down," said Irvin, a combat veteran who would have been the first Black nominee for Illinois governor from either major political party.

As the tides shifted toward Bailey in recent weeks, Irvin adopted a new line of attack, repeatedly saying "a vote for Darren Bailey is a vote for JB Pritzker," arguing that the governor put his dollars behind Bailey because he judged him as the weakest candidate.

Bailey earlier in the campaign didn't disagree with the take that Pritzker viewed him as a weak candidate, but he warned Pritzker to "be careful what you wish for." He has stated his intent to reshape the state's GOP as a more conservative entity, including by endorsing primary challengers of incumbent Republican state lawmakers.

"We're all here because we know that Illinois is in trouble," Bailey said Tuesday night. "Decade after decade of mismanagement in Springfield. Back-to-back billionaire governors who don't understand the struggles of working people. And where has that gotten us? Nowhere."

Jesse Sullivan, a Petersburg venture capitalist who along with Irvin was carrying about 15 percent of the GOP primary vote as of 9 p.m. said he called Bailey on Tuesday night to say he was glad to lose to a man of faith.

"Now it's all of our job to get behind Darren and make sure that we go and try to beat JB Pritzker," he said.

Bailey's nomination sets up a general election contest pitting Pritzker's progressive track record against a candidate who is far to the right of previous leaders of the state's Republican party.

Pritzker, meanwhile, has touted Illinois' firmer fiscal footing since he became governor, pointing to a \$1 billion contribution to the state's "rainy day" fund, an added \$500 million pension payment beyond statutory levels and about \$900 million spent to pay down other interest-accruing health insurance debts.

"Four years ago I told you that we'd reverse the fiscal damage that Bruce Rauner did to this state, that I would end his hostage taking of the budget, reverse his credit downgrades and improve our state's finances," Pritzker said in a Tuesday night speech that concluded just before 10 p.m. "Today we've had four

balanced budgets in four years. We put a billion dollars in the state's rainy day fund. We reduced our state's pension liability and now we've received six credit upgrades."

Bailey is expected to continue his criticism of Pritzker over the issues of rising crime, high taxes and support for law enforcement, while abortion rights will also be a central issue.

During his first term, Pritzker signed a sweeping abortion rights bill, the Reproductive Health Act, as well as legislation repealing a law requiring abortion providers to notify the parents of a minor child seeking an abortion.

He is also calling a special session of the General Assembly in the coming weeks to focus on legislation protecting access to abortion, a move he announced moments after the U.S. Supreme Court released a decision overturning the landmark 1973 ruling in Roe vs. Wade.

On Tuesday night, the governor led his supporters in a chant of "we will not go back."

Bailey, by contrast, is a conservative who opposes abortion rights and has been endorsed by some of the state's most prominent anti-abortion groups.

The pair's previous disagreements on pandemic response and executive authority will also likely play a role in the campaign, as will Bailey's endorsement from Trump and nationwide rising inflation and gas prices.

Pritzker touted his pandemic response Tuesday night, his backing of marijuana legalization, and added funding for state police and violence prevention programs.


He also gave a window into the line of attack he'd employ in the coming months against the candidate that his dollars helped to propagate in the primary.

"A few days ago, Donald Trump came to our state and he did what he does best – spew bile on the ground and hope that it takes root in our soil. And proudly standing by his side was the Republican nominee for governor of Illinois, Darren Bailey," Pritzker said. "Let me be clear, someone who seeks out and accepts

Continued on Page 8



- Arnett, Beryl (Peg), 93, Poplar Grove, June 26
- Brenz, Jenna, 79, Belvidere, June 23
- Gibbs, Ronald, 80, Belvidere, June 20
- LeFevre, Glenn, 78, Belvidere, June 22
- Lockinger, Beverly, 80, Belvidere, June 23
- Lungstrom, Earl "Bub", 96, Cherry Valley, June 24
- Saenz, Emily, 19, Belvidere, June 26



REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

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Robotics and Automation Expo Showcases New Machines

By Charles Herbst

On Thursday, June 16, about a half dozen manufacturers showed the Rockford area the latest in industrial machinery and automation. The fair was sponsored by the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Rockford Chamber and was hosted by A-American Machine and Assembly, located on Elmwood Avenue near Sportscore I.

Impressive strides have been made in electronic components, batteries, programming, and wireless technology. It was an interesting chance to see how far we have (or haven't) come since the days of Mid-Twentieth Century science fiction.

The first machine we saw was "Geoffrey," a Danish-made, battery powered, remote-controlled wagon that could carry about 500 pounds. With a MiR250 platform topped by a Robex top, Geoffrey had 8 sensors that kept the machine from crashing into someone or some other obstruction. This machine could effortlessly carry payloads across a warehouse without complaint for up to 13 hours before its batteries needed recharging. Working with a picker, this machine was designed to make filling orders a snap. It could also be used to make a remote delivery. Unlike a manually operated dolly or a fork truck, Geoffrey could be remotely programmed to complete a very specific task. The machine can be positioned to within one inch of the intended target.

Next, we were introduced to "Rosie," who delivered a basket full of canned soda. This robot is called a KettyBot and designed and manufactured by Pringle Robotics, located in Peoria. The robot specializes in greeting and escorting, and can engage by voice interaction in a bevy of different languages. The robot can also display customized advertising.

Rosie did not have arms, but instead relied on shelves more akin to a kangaroo's pouch to deliver items. Like Geoffrey, Rosie has sensors to keep her from crashing into people or other objects. She is able to navigate a defined path through a room to offer beverages, hors d'oeuvres, or other supplies at a party or in a more stationary environment like an office.

Rosie has worked as a restaurant hostess in Peoria and has also been used by OSF St. Francis Hospital. At the restaurant, Rosie helped the human waitstaff generate generous tips.

At the expo, Rosie had a little trouble navigating the break between carpeting and a hard surface floor and, which she may be able to take a drink order, we might not trust her with a cocktail filled to the rim. Still, the robot can do an impressive number of ordinary transporting and order-taking tasks. She can be loaded up in the kitchen with food and a waiter (or even a customer) can easily unload her at the table.

"Tilda" is a Puductor 2 cleaning robot, also made by Pringle Robotics, that can disinfect a room. She can do rugs and hard surface floors, but, of course, does not do windows. Her ability to remove pathogens from the air makes this a cost-effective way to keep customers and employees healthy. She is used by several companies in the gaming industry, including at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, Indiana.

Finally, we caught up to a row of 3D printers that were churning out holders for attaching cellphones to camera tripods. Mike Rogers of the Illinois SBDC was there and offers free classes at NIU-Rockford for area entrepreneurs and others interested in learning how to use a 3D printer. Upon completion of two classes, a student will be certified as proficient in the operation of the machine. This is a transferable skill that can be used both in our local area and worldwide.

3D printing works by "printing" successive slices of an object on top of each other. After thousands of layers have been printed, the (often plastic) material forms the completed object. The machine is driven by a set of computer instructions as to how each layer should be put down.

When the part you need immediately is in Singapore, it's possible for the Singaporeans to simply send you instructions over the Internet, and your part can be manufactured locally by a 3D printer. Similarly, if an obsolete spare part is out of production, it's possible to fabricate one quickly and easily using the 3D printer.

In recent years, the price of a 3D printer has plummeted to around \$300 for a very basic model. This is something that a household might consider, particularly if a hobbyist lives there. Although the machine and technology have tremendous potential, many of the details and benefits are relatively unknown. In a recent outreach program to Rockford Public School students, only 2 of 1200 students recognized what the device was.

At the expo, we had a lot of time to speak with the vendors that were present. Most of the people there had already experienced other careers and transitioned into robotics. They've found their work in robotics to be rewarding and very exciting. Often their jobs include designing more ergonomically functional workplaces.

There was little or no desire to use these machines to eliminate the jobs of human workers. In many cases, workers cannot be found to do some of the tasks these machines can do. One former tool and die maker gave the example of sanding fiberglass, a particularly nasty job that most humans would rather not perform, even for premium wages. But a machine can do the job without complaint.

There is also a worker shortage. A KettyBot like Rosie can increase the productivity of the existing waitstaff in a restaurant that is constantly shorthanded. The product literature for MiR robots like Geoffrey stresses not only the need to cope with labor shortages, but how these machines can improve worker safety, eliminate human error, and free workers to do more productive, value-added tasks.

Many of the vendors and SBDC staff were somewhat taken aback at the suggestion that someone might ask to use these products and services for offensive and other nefarious purposes. For example, using a 3D printer to fabricate guns, which are sometimes known as "ghost guns."



"Rosie" provides beverages for the thirsty.

Well-aware that technology can be used for good or for evil, several of them described their careers and ambitions as wanting to work for good and the betterment of society. It was gratifying to see the future through their lens of optimism.

Seeing the machines in action and our conversations made it clear: There are not going to be many job opportunities for unskilled workers. Jobs in restaurants, warehouses, grocery stores or janitorial work are either endangered or gone.

A major resource in this community is the Rock Valley College Advanced Technology Center in Belvidere, where courses in mechatronics are offered. Many of these courses are free or offered very inexpensively. If Rockford aspires to be a manufacturing center of excellence, its industrial workforce will need these skills as a prerequisite.

What humans add to the equation

Wondering when a machine becomes a robot, we consulted several dictionaries. The consensus was that a robot is a machine that resembles a human or performs tasks mechanically with humanlike skill. Using that definition, calling any of the machines at the expo "robots" is probably an exaggeration.

We compared the "robots" at the expo to the "positronic" robots of author Isaac Asimov, the Jetsons, or even the histrionic Daleks, screaming for the extermination of Doctor Who as well as all of humankind. Unlike the "robots" at the expo, the robots of science fiction, for better or worse, really were humanlike, because they had sentience, intelligence, creativity, and personality. But they were just that—fiction.

While the directions may be stunningly complex, real machines still can only do exactly what they are programmed to do. Machines can add faster than we can, and they can perform backbreaking labor tirelessly without injury. But in 2022, a machine cannot complete any task where creativity, compassion, or personality are essential. And that's what we as humans bring to our planet.



State Representative Dave Vella takes a look at "Geoffrey," the MiR Robot.

O Holy St Jude!

Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, faithful intercessor for all who invoke you, special patron in time of need; to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance; help me now in my urgent need and grand my earnest petition. I will never forget thy graces and favors you obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to you. Amen.

St. Jude, pray for us and all who honor thee and invoke thy aid.

(Say 3 Our Father's, 3 Hail Mary's, and 3 Glory Be's after this.)

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Outcome Oriented

People Oriented

Team Oriented

**DEMOCRATIC SPECIMEN BALLOT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
JUNE 28, 2022**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SPECIMEN BALLOT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICES AND CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED IN THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN BOONE COUNTY ON TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022.

Julie A. Bliss

JULIE A. BLISS, COUNTY CLERK
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FEDERAL	
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	TAMMY DUCKWORTH
STATE	
FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	JB PRITZKER 1219 (JULIANA STRATTON)
<input type="radio"/>	(BEVERLY MILES 167 (KARLA SHAW)
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	KWAME RAOUL
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	ALEXI GIANNOULIAS 808
<input type="radio"/>	DAVID H. MOORE 162
<input type="radio"/>	ANNA M. VALENCIA 478
<input type="radio"/>	SIDNEY MOORE 80
FOR COMPTROLLER (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	SUSANA A. MENDOZA
FOR TREASURER (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	MICHAEL W. FRERICHS
CONGRESSIONAL	
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	BILL FOSTER
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
No Candidate	
LEGISLATIVE	
FOR STATE SENATOR THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	STEVE STADELMAN
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-EIGHTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	DAVE VELLA
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	PETER JANKO

**REPUBLICAN SPECIMEN BALLOT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
JUNE 28, 2022**

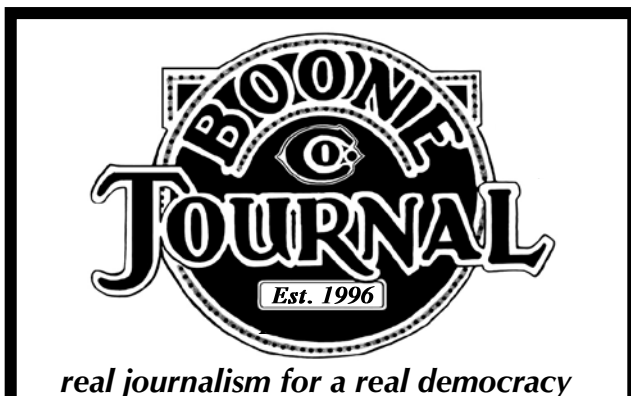
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Julie A. Bliss

JULIE A. BLISS, COUNTY CLERK
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FEDERAL	
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	CASEY CHLEBEK 502
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	PEGGY HUBBARD 1632
<input type="radio"/>	ROBERT "BOBBY" PITON 510
<input type="radio"/>	JIMMY LEE TILLMAN II 319
<input type="radio"/>	ANTHONY W. WILLIAMS 439
<input type="radio"/>	KATHY SALVI 1446
<input type="radio"/>	MATTHEW "MATT" DUBIEL 590
STATE	
FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	(DARREN BAILEY 3404 (STEPHANIE TRUSSELL)
<input type="radio"/>	(PAUL SCHIMPF 142 (CAROLYN SCHOFIELD)
<input type="radio"/>	(RICHARD C. IRVIN 944 (AVERY BOURNE)
<input type="radio"/>	(GARY RABINE 616 (AARON DEL MAR)
<input type="radio"/>	(MAX SOLOMON 108 (LATASHA H. FIELDS)
<input type="radio"/>	(JESSE SULLIVAN 962 (KATHLEEN MURPHY)
<input type="radio"/>	(Write-in _____
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	STEVE KIM 1824
<input type="radio"/>	DAVID SHESTOKAS 1155
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	THOMAS G. DeVORE 2487
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	DAN BRADY 4107
<input type="radio"/>	JOHN C. MILHISER 1360
FOR COMPTROLLER (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	SHANNON L. TERESI
FOR TREASURER (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	TOM DEMMER
CONGRESSIONAL	
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	JERRY EVANS 422
<input type="radio"/>	ANDREA HEEG 152
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CATALINA LAUF 599
<input type="radio"/>	SUSAN L. HATHAWAY-ALTMAN 282
<input type="radio"/>	CASSANDRA TANNER MILLER 201
<input type="radio"/>	MARK JOSEPH CARROLL 353
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	DARIN LaHOOD 1544
<input type="radio"/>	WALT PETERS 873
<input type="radio"/>	JoANNE GUILLEMETTE 654
<input type="radio"/>	MICHAEL REBRESH 314

LEGISLATIVE	
FOR STATE SENATOR THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	JUAN REYES
FOR STATE SENATOR THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	DAVE SYVERSON 2499
<input type="radio"/>	ELI NICOLosi 1030
FOR STATE SENATOR FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	ANDREW S. CHESNEY
REPRESENTATIVE	
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-EIGHTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	JONATHAN OJEDA
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	JOE C. SOSNOWSKI
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EIGHTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	TONY M. McCOMBIE 171
<input type="radio"/>	VICTORIA ONORATO 106
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NINETIETH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	JOHN M. CABELLO 218
<input type="radio"/>	MARK W. SZULA 77
COUNTY	
FOR COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	JULIE A. BLISS
FOR COUNTY TREASURER (Vote for one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CURTIS P. NEWPORT
FOR SHERIFF (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	BRIAN WADSWORTH 1440
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	SCOTT W. YUNK 4602
<input type="radio"/>	ODA T. POOLE 277
FOR CIRCUIT CLERK (For an unexpired 2-year term) (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	KARRI ANDERBERG 2623
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	PAMELA CODUTO 2808
COUNTY BOARD	
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT ONE (Vote for not more than four)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	DAVID R. WILTSE 799
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	BRENT MUELLER 1182
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	RAYMOND R. LARSON 835
<input type="radio"/>	MARK D. PENTECOST 531
<input type="radio"/>	LISA ZUPON 716
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	BRIAN R SCHNEIDER 770
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT TWO (Vote for not more than four)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	TOM WALBERG 1483
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	KARL JOHNSON 1155
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	RYAN CURRY 1226
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	ALISA PATTERSON 1117
<input type="radio"/>	BRANDON C. PARKER 991



FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT THREE	
(Vote for not more than four)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHERRY BRANSON	884
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RODNEY J. RILEY	872
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARION L. THORNBERRY	794
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in	
PROPOSITION	
CITY OF LOVES PARK PROPOSITION TO CONTINUE TO LEVY A MUNICIPAL RETAILERS' AND OCCUPATION TAX	
"Shall the corporate authorities of the City of Loves Park, Illinois be authorized to continue to levy a Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Service Occupation Tax, at a rate of one percent (1%), until June 30, 2034 to be used for expenditures on public infrastructure, including but not limited to repairs, maintenance, improvements and reconstruction of roadways, drainage systems, pedestrian and bikeway facilities and water systems?"	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	222
<input type="checkbox"/> NO	61

2022 Primary Election Results

Tuesday's Primary Election brought relatively predictable results to the Prairie State. Like the rest of America, Republicans continued to nominate candidates considerably to the right of the mainstream. In a generally "blue" state like Illinois, this strategy has set the stage for a cultural battle this November.

In the Democratic race for Governor, J B Pritzker handily defeated his challenger, Beverly Miles. On the Republican side, Darren Bailey, a Donald J. Trump-endorsed candidate, easily defeated five other challengers, including Republican, Aurora Mayor Richard Irwin.

Bailey complained of Governor Pritzker's status as a billionaire, but his win was assisted by \$17.1 million in campaign contributions from the ultra-conservative billionaire Richard Uihlein, who owns the out-of-state, Wisconsin-based, ULINE office supply business. Alleged billionaire Donald J. Trump flew to Downstate Illinois to make a noisy, last-minute endorsement of Mr. Bailey. Mayor Irwin's campaign was fortified by Chicago billionaire Ken Griffin, who spent \$50 million on the election.

As a legislator, Bailey has sponsored legislation along with State Representative Joe Sosnowski to expel Chicago from Illinois. Bailey's fellow legislators (including a number of Republicans) expelled Bailey from a session of the Illinois General Assembly for not wearing a face mask until he complied with House rules the next day.

In other statewide races, Democratic Attorney General Kwame Raoul will be challenged in November by Republican Thomas DeVore. To replace retiring Secretary of State Jesse White, Republican Dan Brady will face Democrat Alexi Giannoulis. Incumbent Comptroller Susan Mendoza will be opposed by Republican Shannon Teresi. State Treasurer Michael Frerichs will be challenged by current Dixon State Representative Tom Demmer.

Republican Kathy Salvi will challenge incumbent US Senator Tammy Duckworth.

In Belvidere and Southeast Boone County, the current 11th District Congressman, Bill Foster will face Republican Catalina Lauf. In the rest of Boone County, Darin LaHood has defeated his Republican challengers to become the Republican 16th Congressional District candidate. The Democrats have not slated a candidate to challenge LaHood in November for the seat currently held by Congressman Adam Kinzinger. In Rockford, the 17th Congressional district will be a contest between Democrat Eric Sorensen and Republican Esther Joy King. This latter race is expected to be

one of the closer Congressional races in the US this November.

Also in Belvidere, 34th Senate District Sen. Steve Stadelman will be challenged by Republican Juan Reyes. In the remaining areas of Central Boone County, perennial Republican Senator David Syverson handily defeated Eli Nicolosi in the 35th Senate district. In Southern and Northwest Boone County, Andrew Chesney ran unopposed as the Republican candidate in the 45th Senate District. The Democrats have not slated candidates to challenge Syverson and Chesney.

Turning to the Illinois House, in the 68th House District, which now includes Belvidere, incumbent Democrat Dave Vella will be challenged by Republican Jonathan Ojeda. In the 69th House District, Joe Sosnowski will be challenged by Democrat Peter Janko of Marengo. Janko is a longtime advocate of bringing Amtrak service to the area, as well as Metra to Huntley and Marengo. Sosnowski's district included much of Belvidere before redistricting.

In the 70th House District, which used to include part of Belvidere, but is now southeast of Boone County, Jeff Keicher was unopposed in the Republican primary. In the 89th House District, which now includes Southern Boone County, Tony McCombie defeated her opponent for the Republican nomination. In the 90th District, including Northwest Boone County, Republican John Cabello handily defeated his primary opponent, Mark Szula. The Democrats have not slated candidates yet in these three House districts.

OP-ED

The Cult of Trump

By Scott Reeder

It was a carnival of the bizarre.

As soon as I stepped out of my vehicle, I saw a "F--- Biden" flag flying next to someone's RV. A pickup nearby had the same message painted on both its doors – with firearms forming each letter.

Then I saw someone walk by wearing a T-shirt that said, "Jesus Christ is my savior and Donald Trump is my president."

Nearby, a booth was selling bumper stickers that said "FU46" (Biden is our 46th president).

I thought of the words of Jesus who said in Matthew 5:22: "If you say that someone is worthless, you will be in danger of the fires of hell."

June 25, I covered my first Donald Trump rally.

But it was hardly my first presidential event. I've covered rallies for Bill Clinton, both Bushes and Barack Obama. But the Trump rally in Mendon, Illinois, was different.

I'm an evangelical Christian. I'm a rural voter. And I'm a white male who supports limited government and low taxes. Statistically, I ought to be right in the middle of the Trump sweet spot.

Sorry, folks. I'm not there. For the life of me, I don't understand the obsequious devotion many have for our 45th president.

Mike Lindell, the CEO of My Pillow, spoke at the Trump rally of his Christian faith, overcoming his addiction to crack cocaine and becoming a successful businessman. As annoying as I find his television ads, I have to say I find his personal story uplifting. After all, Christianity is about redemption.

But then I saw T-shirts being hawked that read: "Joe and the Hoe Gotta Go." Why are they calling Kamala Harris a hoe? It's obviously a racist pejorative too often hurled at Black women. Some might say it's a reference to her long-ago affair with San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. I don't condone adultery.

But Trump has had multiple extramarital affairs during his lifetime and his supporters seem willing to look past those. And in the case of Lin-

dell, the forgiveness of his past sins is celebrated – along with his support for Trump.

I thought of Jesus' words in John 8:7 when a woman caught in the act of adultery was thrown in front of him in the temple court. The religious leaders demanded that she be stoned. But Jesus said, "Whichever one of you has committed no sin may throw the first stone at her."

I was perplexed enough by this seeming dichotomy that I asked a Trump supporter about it.

His name is David Blumenshine, and he coordinates GOP gubernatorial hopeful Darren Bailey's campaign for much of central Illinois. He also was at the rally.

I asked him, as a believer, if he was OK with the "F- Biden" flags all around us.

"My wife and I aren't, uh, real pleased about it, but you know, it is what it is. We have a First Amendment for a reason."

I agree that Trump and his supporters have every right to say those things. But that doesn't mean they're constructive, unifying or good for the country.

Back when I was a college student, then-vice president George H.W. Bush said after a debate, "We tried to kick a little ass last night," in his face-off with Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro.

Americans were outraged at the crudeness of the statement and dismayed that such words would come from the lips of a sitting vice president.

In our post-Trump political world, such a statement would hardly raise an eyebrow.

Many in the crowd were ebullient over the U.S. Supreme Court's recent rulings overturning Roe v. Wade and expanding gunowner rights. Trump promised he would appoint justices who supported such measures – and he delivered.

Those are political accomplishments his supporters can point to when explaining their support for the 45th president. All politicians cite their accomplishments, but few have the devotion that Trump draws.

A chaplain gave the invocation for the rally. During the prayer, which was interrupted multiple times by cheers, the pastor expressed dismay at the blurring of lines of masculinity and femininity. Hours later, Trump was critical of the transgender movement.

But in between, the crowd was entertained with such songs as "Macho Man" and "YMCA" by the Village People.

In my more than 35 years in the news business, I've never covered an American political rally like this one. The closest I have come was in 1999 in Havana, Cuba.

I had traveled there with Gov. George Ryan, and Fidel Castro held an impromptu news conference. A reporter asked the dictator, who had ruled for 40 years, if it was about time for there to be an election.

Castro walked out of the news conference and stood before a crowd of hundreds, perhaps thousands, who had waited in the heat to see him.

Castro yelled, "Is it time for an election?" The crowd in unison shouted "No! No! No!" And then they chanted, "Fidel, Fidel, Fidel."

It was unlike anything I have witnessed – until this past week.

As Trump cited his accomplishments, the crowd responded with their own chant, "Thank you, Trump. Thank you, Trump. Thank you, Trump."

My mind was transported back to Havana, and once again, I thought: "This is a personality cult."

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

TAKE NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CASE NO. 2022TX7

To: Susan Vole; Spouse of Susan Vole; Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.; Ronald Graham; Kelly Vole; Julie Bliss, Boone County Clerk; Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, unknown owners or parties claiming any right, interest or title in the described real estate:

Property located at: 205 Gables Dr SW, Poplar Grove, IL
Property Index No. 03-28-276-024
Tax Sale Certificate No. 2018-00071

This property was sold on October 31, 2019 for delinquent general taxes for the year of 2018. A Petition for Tax Deed for this property was filed on April 18, 2022.

Your right to redeem the property from the sale will expire on October 18, 2022. If you fail to redeem by that date, the court may enter a judgment granting petitioner a tax deed.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Belvidere, Illinois on October 25, 2022 at 9:15 AM before Judge Barch via Zoom (Meeting ID: 963 9791 8024, Passcode: None), or whomever may be sitting in his or her stead.

JICTB, Inc., Petitioner
Angela L. Tucker, Esq.
JICTB, Inc.
1701 Broadmoor Dr. Ste 100
Champaign, IL 61821

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 23, 30, July 7 - P

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the operating purposes of Boone County Fire Protection District No. 2 in the County of Boone, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023 will be on file and available for public viewing during business hours

(8:00 AM – 5 PM) at the station at 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, IL.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday July 20th, 2022 at Boone County Fire Protection District at 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, IL. and that final hearing and action will be taken at that time.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2022

Brian Kunce, Fire Chief

Published in the Boone County Journal June 16, 23, 30th 2022

TAKE NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CASE NO. 2022TX8

To: Harrolle Properties, Inc.; Blackhawk Bank; AT&T Corporation; Kalpesh Patel; Julie Bliss, Boone County Clerk; Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, unknown owners or parties claiming any right, interest or title in the described real estate:

Property located at: 6010 Welty Dr, Cherry Valley, IL
Property Index No. 05-31-300-024
Tax Sale Certificate No. 2018-00164

This property was sold on October 31, 2019 for delinquent general taxes for the year of 2018. A Petition for Tax Deed for this property was filed on April 18, 2022.

Your right to redeem the property from the sale will expire on October 18, 2022. If you fail to redeem by that date, the court may enter a judgment granting petitioner a tax deed.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Belvidere, Illinois on October 25, 2022 at 9:15 AM before Judge Barch via Zoom (Meeting ID: 963 9791 8024, Passcode: None), or whomever may be sitting in his or her stead.

JICTB, Inc., Petitioner
Angela L. Tucker, Esq.
JICTB, Inc.
1701 Broadmoor Dr. Ste 100
Champaign, IL 61821

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 23, 30, July 7 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: MARY VITEK, Deceased.
Case No. 2022 PR 28

PUBLICATION NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of MARY VITEK. Letters of Office were issued on the 2nd of June, 2022 to BARBARA GONZALEZ, 706 Cynthia Lane, Glendale Heights, IL 60139, who is the legal representative of the Estate. The attorney for the Estate is REBECCA A. LAHO, of Mulyk Laho Law, LLC, 45 S. Park Blvd., Suite 230, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before December 16, 2022, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk—Probate Division, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office – Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to their attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated June 14, 2022
By: /s/Rebecca A. Laho
Rebecca A. Laho – ARDC #6275326
MULYK LAHO LAW, LLC
45 S. Park Blvd., Suite 230
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Telephone: 630-852-1100
Fax: 630-852-1128
ralaho@mulyklaholaw.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 16, 23, 30

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY

IN THE ESTATE OF: JACQUELINE S. FRIEDL, Deceased.
Case No. 2022 PR 27

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Jacqueline S. Friedl. Letters of Office were issued on June 16, 2022, to Charles R. McGonigal, 20840 Free Church Road, Caledonia, Illinois 61011, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Amy L. Silvestri of Silvestri Law Office, 2208 Charles Street, Rockford, Illinois 61104.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 30, 2022, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate's legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated: June 21, 2022
Charles R. McGonigal, Administrator
Amy L. Silvestri ARDC#06210065
Silvestri Law Office, Attorney for the Representative
2208 Charles Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104
(815) 227-0700
amy@silvestri-law.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 23, 30, July 7

OP-ED

The Spirit Of '76: Protecting Us Against the Putin Playbook

By **KEN PAULSON**
Director, Free Speech Center

As we gather to celebrate Independence Day, it's a good time to reflect on how our most fundamental freedoms have served this nation well.

It's an even better time to think about what would happen if those liberties were taken away.

Sadly, the latter doesn't take much imagination in 2022. Your closest video screen will show you scenes of Russian troops pummeling Ukraine with the support of a majority of the Russian people.

The Russian public has been told that their country is doing noble work ferreting out "Nazis" and that the West is engaged in its usual persecution of Russia and its people. Surveys say most Russians believe it.

In times of war, people always want to see their government as the good guys, but it's still a little hard to grasp how that many people can be so thoroughly misled.

That's the power of the Vladimir Putin playbook. The Russian president quickly and with little opposition eliminated the freedoms of speech and press.

First, Putin bandied around allegations of "fake news," undermining domestic news media that had far more latitude than their Soviet Union counterparts.

Then he coordinated a plan with the national legislature to pass a law imprisoning those who "lied" about the war, including even calling it a war. Russian media of integrity had to close, and international journalists in Russia had to temper their reporting.

That left the internet as the one avenue for Russians to learn the truth about their country's misdeeds. Putin then banned social media outlets and sharply limited access to international news sites.

In short order, the Russian people were isolated, left to believe the lies of their government.

It took just weeks for Putin to wipe out freedoms of press, speech and dissent.

Could anything like that ever happen in the United States? As unlikely as it might seem, there are some areas of concern.

After all, over the past 60 years, certain presidents from both parties have been known to mislead the public about the purpose and progress of wars. And the use of "fake news" claims to evade responsibility began with politicians in this country, only to be adopted by totalitarian leaders around the globe.

Today there are active efforts to overturn *New York Times v. Sullivan*, the 1964 Supreme Court decision that made investigative reporting viable in the United States. And there are many politicians, again of both parties, who want to control how private social media companies are run.

Do I believe that America could fall victim to something resembling the Putin playbook? No. But it's also no longer unthinkable.

It's not a coincidence that the first step would-be dictators take is to shut down the press. That eliminates questions and accountability, both of which are anathema to those who abuse power.

There are some today who choose not to be informed, saying the media are biased. Well, there are tens of thousands of media outlets in this country, including manipulative cable channels, partisan sites that masquerade as news providers and those sites that would entice us with clickbait. But there are also many core news organizations of integrity, including *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *PBS* and the very newspaper you're reading right now. They're the ones we need to support with readership and subscriptions.

From the very beginning of this nation, Americans understood the importance of a free press aggressively reporting on people in power. In an era when newspapers were fiercely partisan and unfair, that first generation of citizens still insisted on journalists being protected by the First Amendment.

That shouldn't surprise us. After all, the model was right there in 1776 in the document we celebrate this week.

The Declaration of Independence called out King George III, reporting a list of injustices perpetrated by the mother country against its colonies. We had "unalienable rights," it said, and they were being violated. Americans were no longer going to put up with this "long train of abuses and usurpations."

That is the same spirit with which America's free press has exercised its duties since 1791. Abolitionist newspapers took on slavery, suffragist papers focused on injustices against women and news organizations spanning centuries have reported on scandals, corruption and racial injustice.

Continued on Page 7

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Spirit of '76

from page 6

We live in a highly polarized time, when it's easy to dismiss the views of those with whom we disagree and deride those who publish the facts we don't want to acknowledge.

We have to take care, though, that our internal political wars don't turn us away from the core principles contained in the Declaration of Independence.

We remain a free people and need to be vigilant in protecting our rights and documenting the abuses in people in power, not just when the other guy's party is in office. That's the real spirit of '76.

Ken Paulson, a retired member of the Illinois Bar, is the director of the Free Speech Center, a nonpartisan and nonprofit center based at Middle Tennessee State University. www.freespeechcenter.com

OP-ED**Better Politics, Smarter Government: A Gold Mine For Illinois Political Junkies**

By John T. Shaw

I recently went looking for a nugget and found a gold mine.

Let me explain. I visited the website of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum a few weeks ago to track down information on a former Illinois lawmaker from its oral history collection. I emerged several hours later delighted, stimulated, and eager for a return trip.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is a remarkable institution, serving as a kind of mecca for those interested in our 16th president. It offers unmatched resources about Lincoln but also has plenty of other materials about Illinois politics and government. Among other things, the library has a remarkable oral history collection, which it says is "dedicated to preserving the stories and memories of Illinois's citizens, not just the famous and prominent among us."

The library has conducted more than 1,000 interviews for its oral history project, including conversation with veterans, farmers, civil rights activists, athletes and politicians. It has more than 200 interviews about Illinois government and politics. Major topics include the battle for the Equal Rights Amendment, the state's pension crisis, Barack Obama's years in Illinois, Ronald Reagan's youth in Dixon, reflections of legislators and journalists, and the administrations of Dan Walker, Jim Thompson, Jim Edgar and Pat Quinn.

During my foray into the oral history collection, I came across some gems. For example:

Abner Mikva's early impressions of Barack Obama

Mikva served in both the Illinois and U.S. House of Representatives and as a federal judge

and White House legal counsel. Mikva recalls trying as a federal judge to hire Barack Obama as a law clerk. Obama had other plans, but the two men later became colleagues and friends at the University of Chicago Law School. Mikva says Obama was a "fabulous teacher" and "an incredibly effective state senator." Mikva says that Obama ran a "miserable" campaign for the U.S. House in 2000 and pondered leaving politics. However, Obama persisted and launched a longshot bid to win the U.S. Senate seat in 2004. Obama ran a strong campaign and had good luck when two formidable contenders dropped out of the race because of personal scandals. Then Barack Obama gave an amazing speech in Boston at the Democratic National Convention — and the rest is history.

Dawn Clark Netsch's ideal for political campaigns

Netsch was a law professor, state senator, comptroller and the Democratic nominee for governor in 1994. In her interview, Netsch describes political campaigns as an "opportunity to educate" the public on important issues. She believes candidates should explain complex issues, identify a range of solutions and endorse a policy. This view of campaigns has largely disappeared, especially with the arrival of 30-second attack ads. But Netsch argues that this approach respects voters and strengthens our democracy.

Christine Radogno's attempt to end a protracted budget stalemate

Radogno was a Republican state senator from 1997 to 2017 and the Senate GOP leader from 2009 to 2017. In her interview, she describes the frustration of working with a governor of her own party, Bruce Rauner, who was a "disruptor" rather than a deal maker. "He made himself irrelevant by not compromising," she says. Radogno vividly describes her effort to assemble a Grand Bargain with Senate Democratic Leader John Cullerton to end the protracted budget stalemate of 2015-2017. Radogno's effort failed, and she resigned from the Senate. But she said the serious bipartisan negotiations were "such a pleasant experience. This is how it should be."

Mike Lawrence drafts three speeches for Governor Edgar

Lawrence was a veteran journalist, press secretary and the second director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. Lawrence left the Edgar administration in the summer of 1997 to come to the Institute but continued to informally advise the governor. That summer, Edgar agonized over three options for his future: run for a third term as governor in 1998, seek a U.S. Senate seat or retire from politics. To help Edgar decide, Lawrence wrote a draft speech for each of the alternatives. As Edgar read the speech announcing his retirement, he grew emotional. He later told Lawrence that he knew "intellectually" this was the right decision, but that it was very hard to leave a job he loved.

As I listened to these interviews, I was struck by the clear voices, compelling personalities, and wonderful stories that emerged. This oral history collection really brings Illinois history to life. Audio from every interview is available online at OralHistory.Illinois.gov

John Shaw is the director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Shaw's monthly column explores how Illinois can work toward better politics and smarter government.

Pritzker to Call Special Session on Reproductive Rights

Move prompted by U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker will call a special session of the General Assembly in the coming weeks to focus on legislation to strengthen women's access to abortion and other reproductive health services in Illinois.

Pritzker made that announcement Friday, just hours after the U.S. Supreme Court released an opinion overturning the landmark 1973 abortion rights case Roe v. Wade.

"We knew this day was coming," Pritzker said at a hastily called news conference in Chicago. "The extremists on the Supreme Court have made an abhorrent decision, one rooted in partisanship, leaving an indelible stain on our nation."

Pritzker had already been scheduled to hold a news conference Friday to highlight legislation he signed recently expanding access to medication that protects against HIV infection. But the Supreme Court's decision, released shortly after 9 a.m., upended those plans and set off a flurry of reaction, both for and against the ruling.

"Today, Illinois Right to Life joins millions of Americans in celebrating the end of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that has denied over 63 million preborn children their most fundamental right: life," the Illinois Right to Life organization said in a statement. "With today's ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, states have regained the ability to protect preborn children and their mothers."

Attorney General Kwame Raoul criticized the decision in a statement.

"I am extremely disappointed with today's Supreme Court decision, which jeopardizes the health, the safety and the lives of millions of women in the United States — especially those who already have the least access to health care and other resources," he said. "This single decision rolls back 50 years of court precedent and with it, decades of progress toward reproductive autonomy."

Illinois is among the states with laws already on the books protecting access to abortion. In 2018, the state adopted a law allowing public funding of abortion through its Medicaid program. And in 2019, lawmakers passed the sweeping Reproductive Health Act which, among other things, enshrines abortion access as a "fundamental right" in Illinois law.

Continued on Page 8



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Primary

from page 2 **Special Session**

from page 7

the endorsement of a racist, misogynistic, homophobic, xenophobic, twice impeached former president does not deserve to come anywhere near the state's highest office."

Pritzker had a nominal primary challenger in Chicago area nurse Beverly Miles, but that race was called in Pritzker's favor about a half hour after polls closed with Pritzker carrying more than 90 percent of the vote unofficially.

Secretary of state

For the first time in nearly a quarter century, Democratic Secretary of State Jesse White was not on the ballot Tuesday, having announced his retirement after six terms.

On the Republican side, state Rep. Dan Brady had a wide lead over former central Illinois prosecutor John Milhiser, pulling more than three-quarters of the vote as of 10:30 p.m.

Brady, of Bloomington, is a funeral director by profession and a partner in the funeral home firm Kibler-Brady-Ruestman. He served as McLean County coroner from 1992 until he was elected to the Illinois House in 2000, rising to the post of assistant minority leader.

The Democratic winner was Alexi Giannoulas, a former state treasurer from 2007 to 2011 and unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Senate in 2010. After public life, from 2012 to 2018, he held a job in wealth management at the Chicago office of Bank of New York Mellon, and in 2019 he announced the formation of his own private investment company, Annoula Ventures. He said he wouldn't be involved with that private investment vehicle if elected secretary of state.

Giannoulas had a lead of about 120,000 votes with 60 percent of votes recorded as of about 10:30 p.m.

The office is primarily known for administering motor vehicle services – driver's licenses and vehicle registrations – but it reaches far beyond that. The Illinois secretary of state is also the state librarian, which provides services to public libraries throughout the state. It also manages the state archives, serves as the state's official recordkeeper, administers lobbying laws and operates its own police force.

The major issues in the race will largely center on modernization of the office and shortening wait times at driver services facilities.

Attorney general

Southern Illinois attorney Thomas DeVore's lead in the Republican primary for attorney general was substantial enough that Deerfield attorney Steve Kim conceded just after 10:30 p.m.

DeVore was the attorney who represented Bailey in his lawsuits challenging Pritzker's COVID-19 mitigation orders while Kim had the backing of megadonor Ken Griffin and a late endorsement from former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar.

DeVore had a lead of about 60,000 votes with 60 percent of votes counted as of 10:30 p.m.

He will go on to face incumbent Democrat Kwame Raoul, who did not have a primary opponent.

Treasurer & Comptroller

Neither's party's voters had a choice in the treasurer's race or for that of state comptroller Tuesday.

Incumbent Comptroller Susana Mendoza, of Chicago, had no primary challenger, while McHenry County Auditor Shannon Teresi ran unopposed on the GOP side.

Treasurer Michael Frerichs, of Champaign, ran unchallenged to retain the role as the state's chief investment officer, while state Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, had no challenger on the GOP side.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Finally, during last year's veto session, lawmakers passed a bill repealing the state's Parental Notice of Abortion law, removing the last legal restriction on abortion in Illinois.

Friday's Supreme Court decision will have no effect on those laws. In fact, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, in a concurring opinion, specifically pointed to Illinois and other states as being unaffected by the decision.

"Today's decision therefore does not prevent the numerous States that readily allow abortion from continuing to readily allow abortion," he wrote. "That includes, if they choose, the (friend of the court) States supporting the plaintiff in this Court: New York, California, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii."

But Illinois' laws stand in stark contrast to those of some neighboring states that already had so-called "trigger laws" on the books that would either ban or severely restrict access to abortion upon reversal of Roe v. Wade.

"Let me make this explicit and clear to women throughout our state, throughout the Midwest and our nation – Illinois will be a safe haven for the exercise of your reproductive rights," Pritzker said. "In Illinois, Roe v. Wade is still the law and it will remain the law as long as we have a pro-choice legislature and a pro-choice governor."

It wasn't immediately clear what types of legislation lawmakers would pursue in a special session.

One that is likely to come up, though, is House Bill 1464, which prohibits state regulators from revoking or suspending the license of a health care provider solely because they were sanctioned in another state for performing abortions. That measure passed the House this year but requires action in the state Senate.

Senate Republican Leader Dan McConchie, of Hawthorn Woods, suggested in a news release that Democrats may also try to pass legislation to offer public funding for out-of-state residents to receive abortion services in Illinois.

"Right now, Illinoisans can already get an abortion in all nine months of pregnancy for any reason and use taxpayer dollars to pay for it. But that's not enough," he said. "Now, they want us to help pay for out-of-state residents to travel to Illinois to receive abortions and even allow non-physicians here to perform them."

The Supreme Court's decision is also certain to cause political fallout in Illinois because it came just four days before the state's June 28 primary elections, and it is certain to be a top-tier issue going into the Nov. 8 general elections.

"For this primary on Tuesday and November's general election, game on. This is on the ballot," Sen. Christina Pacione-Zayas, D-Chicago, said at the news conference.

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