



A Union of Professionals

1274 Newsline



North Suburban Teachers Union – Local 1274, CFL, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

March 2012

Election Issue: 2012 Primary

Once again, election season is upon us.

The Illinois primary takes place on March 20th, determining which candidates will win a spot on the November ballot. Offices up for grabs include all seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois Senate and Illinois House.



As always, the Illinois Federation of Teachers has developed a list of endorsed candidates. These endorsements are primarily based on the positions of the candidates on education and labor issues. The goal is to find and support the

candidates most likely to stand with teachers and children in this highly charged era of assaults on labor and public education.

The process for endorsing candidates is careful and painstaking. Candidate positions are determined by the voting records of incumbents, by answers to candidate surveys sent out by the IFT, and by interviews with candidates conducted by union members serving on local committees, including the Local 1274 COPE (Committee on Political Education). The pros and cons of endorsement are thoroughly discussed, and sometimes the decisions are not easy. (For more on the process, see the box on the right.)

Descriptions of some of the endorsed candidates in our region is on pages 2 and 3. While endorsements are only suggestions for our members, we strongly urge you to find out more about each of your candidates. And, of course, don't forget to vote on March 20th! ■

To find out what district you live in, go to:

www.elections.il.gov

To see a complete list of IFT-endorsed candidates, go to:

<http://ift-aft.org/Politics/>

2012PrimaryElectionEndorsements

Endorsing candidates: How does it work?

How does the IFT decide on candidates to endorse?

For non-incumbent candidates, the IFT sends a questionnaire about the issues. For incumbents, voting records are compiled. This information is scored. The state is divided into regions, and local committees, made up mainly of union members, interview the candidates in each region. These committees make recommendations to the IFT Executive Board, which makes a final decision about endorsement, taking into consideration the issues, the interviews and other factors such as electability.

What is the role of Local 1274?

Local 1274 has its own COPE Committee (Committee on Political Education) that endorses candidates and makes campaign contributions directly to area candidates. COPE's goal is to help the best candidates get elected,

but also to establish close working relationships with area legislators so that they will turn to us for advice when critical issues arise in Springfield or Washington, D.C. Members of the local also serve on the IFT's regional PAC.

Which issues do we ask the candidates about?

This year, candidates have been asked about school funding, pension protection, charter schools, teacher evaluations and tenure, collective bargaining rights, right to strike, and privatization of government services.

Why are so many of our endorsed candidates Democrats?

It may appear that we are tied closely to the Democratic Party, but endorsements are based primarily on the candidates' stand on issues, as well as their willingness and ability to stand up for us, regardless of their political party.



Continued on page 4

Who Are the Candidates?

Ilya Sheyman (D) - Candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, 10th District

The 10th Congressional District is the seat once held by Senator Mark Kirk. When Kirk moved up to the U.S. Senate, Bob Dold won the seat over IFT-endorsed candidate Dan Seals in the Republican sweep of 2010. The 10th is an economically diverse district that has consistently voted Democratic in presidential elections, and where a strong labor- and education-friendly candidate might hope to win.



In the primary, the IFT has endorsed Democrat Ilya Sheyman, a candidate with a compelling personal story. He immigrated to the United States with his parents as Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union. A product of public education, Sheyman is a longtime supporter of public schools. Our local union leaders first became acquainted with

Sheyman when he worked for A+ Illinois, a coalition of organizations advocating a comprehensive reform of the school funding system. Sheyman also has experience working as a community organizer and in a variety of political campaigns.

Heather Steans (D) - 7th State Senate District

Steans has served in the Illinois Senate since 2008. One cause of concern with Steans is her family ties -- her sister is Robin Steans, Executive Director of Advance Illinois, the organization that has promoted anti-labor and anti-teacher legislation and also a founder of charter schools in Chicago. However, Representative Steans's voting record on IFT issues is 89%. She has a strong record on labor issues in general and on most educational issues aside from charters. Finally, in the recent situation involving some of our members regarding recertification and lapsed teaching licenses, she has been helpful in seeking a resolution.



The 7th State Senate district includes all or parts of the 40th, 46th, 47th, 48th, and 49th wards of Chicago

Daniel Biss (D) - 9th State Senate District



With our support, Biss won his election to the 17th Illinois House district in 2010. This year, he is running for the seat of retiring State Senator Jeff Schoenberg. A former math professor, Biss has a close working relationship with Local 1274. Last spring, he cast a crucial vote on SB 512, the poisonous pension bill that was defeated in a Senate committee on which he sits.

While Biss has no opponent in the March 20th primary, he has started his campaign for the Fall election and will need our support in the days leading up to November.

The 9th State Senate district includes all or parts of Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Golf, Kenilworth, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Northfield, Skokie, Wilmette, and Winnetka.

Candidates for the Illinois House

Kelly Cassidy (D) - 14th House District

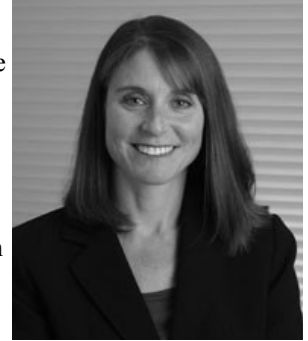
Cassidy was appointed to her House seat in May of 2011. Since that time, she has compiled an IFT voting record of 92%. In her interview with the IFT PAC committee and on her questionnaire, she expressed strong opposition to gutting our pensions. She is running in a contested primary.



The 14th district includes the 48th and 49th wards of Chicago.

Laura Fine (D) - 17th House District

Fine, currently the clerk of Northfield Township and an instructor of political science at Northeastern Illinois University, is running for the seat currently held by Daniel Biss. This is an important race for the IFT and Local 1274, since the district has been represented by a legislator whose door is open to us. As a non-incumbent, our endorsement of Fine was based on her answers on the questionnaire and her interview.



Ann Williams (D) - 11th House District

A former Assistant Attorney General, Williams has served in the Illinois House since 2011. She has a close working relationship with local leadership, calling upon them for advice and guidance on education and labor issues.



The 11th district is located in Chicago's north side, including Ravenswood, Roscoe Village and West Lakeview.

The 17th district includes all or parts of Evanston, Wilmette, Skokie, Golf, Glenview, Morton Grove and Northbrook.

Robyn

Gabel (D) - 18th House District



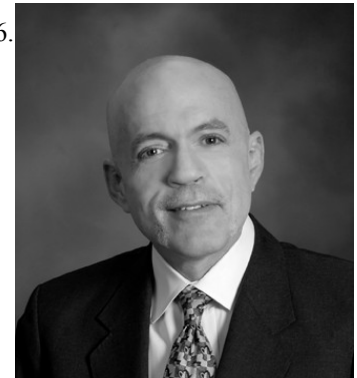
Gabel was elected to this House district in 2010. In her first term as a house member, she compiled an excellent voting record of 87% on IFT issues.

The 18th House district includes large parts of Evanston and New Trier Townships, as well as a slice of Chicago's 49th Ward.

Greg Harris (D) 13th House District

Harris has been in the Illinois House since 2006. He has earned the IFT endorsement in every election since then, and has compiled a voting record of 85% on IFT issues.

The 13th House District is located in Chicago, including parts of Uptown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, North Center and Bowmanville.



Endorsing Candidates, continued from page 1

In the past, we have sought out Republican candidates -- state representative Beth Coulsen is an example of a Republican legislator from the North Shore who we endorsed. The fact that there are so few Republicans on our list reflects the records and opinions of Republican candidates, rather than any pre-existing bias toward either party. The truth is that we simply can't endorse candidates who will consistently vote against our interests in either Springfield or D.C.

It may appear that we are tied closely to the Democratic Party, but endorsements are based primarily on the positions of the candidates on our issues, not on their political affiliations.

How do we support the candidates we endorse?

We publicize our endorsements to our members. In some cases we provide volunteers for the campaigns. And, of course, we do send campaign contributions.

How do we raise money for campaign contributions?

Money for Local 1274's COPE comes from voluntary contributions from union members. Funds are kept in a separate account and are not co-mingled with other union money, so none of the regular union dues are used as campaign contributions. Likewise, the IFT's campaign contributions come from separate funds, raised from members, in accordance with federal election law. ■

Council Corner

District 39SS: The negotiations team has begun contract negotiations with the Board. We continue to raise concerns about outsourcing with the community.

District 219SS: We had had several meetings with the Director of Human Resources concerning retirements. The union negotiation team continues to prepare for negotiations by going over proposals and working closely with our field service directors.

District 807T: Union members on the Evaluation Committee met with administration members to begin work on a new evaluation system. Three members on the union team met with three members of the administration as the Joint Committee on Honorable Dismissal. The union bargaining team met for the first time to discuss issues and make plans for creating proposals for a new collective bargaining agreement.

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