

Welcome!

spring
into action

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GEARING UP FOR THE 2018 ELECTIONS: EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

By Sharhianna Fulce and Tommie Robinson

Agenda

- 🍃 Welcome and Introduction
- 🍃 Icebreaker
- 🍃 Overview of 2018 Elections
- 🍃 Understanding Candidates
- 🍃 What You Can Do
- 🍃 Resources

Learning Objectives

- 🍃 Gain knowledge of upcoming elected offices in the November 6, 2018 election
- 🍃 Learn more about candidate platforms
- 🍃 Gain tangible skills to engage voters to support early care and education
- 🍃 Develop ideas to engage voters in your own community

Ice Breaker

Instructions:

1. Form small groups around the posted pictures in the room.
2. Identify the legislators that are running for office in the upcoming general elections and their opponents.
3. You will have 5 minutes.

Why does it matter to be engaged in our election process?

- 🌿 Elected officials make decisions about public funding and laws that impact people.
- 🌿 As voters, we can have a voice by voting for a candidate that cares about early childhood issues.



Recap: What Happened in the Primaries?

- During the March 20th 2018 primaries, Illinois voters selected their candidate of choice.



Open Seats:

Federal

- U.S House of Representatives

State

- Attorney General
- Governor
- Secretary of State
- State Comptroller
- State Treasurer
- Illinois House Representatives
- Illinois State Senators

Results of the Primary Elections: Governor's Race

The Governor is the chief executive of the state government.

The governor appoints individuals to oversee different agencies, including the Illinois State Board of Education, the director to Department of Human Services, and the Director to DCFS

The Governor must also submit a balanced budget for the General Assembly to consider.



Bruce Rauner (R)



J.B. Pritzker(D)

Results of the Primary Elections: State's Attorney General Candidates



Erika Harold (R)



Kwame Raoul (D)

- The Illinois Attorney General is responsible for providing legal counsel for various state agencies including the Governor of Illinois and the Illinois General Assembly, and conducting all legal affairs pertaining to the state.

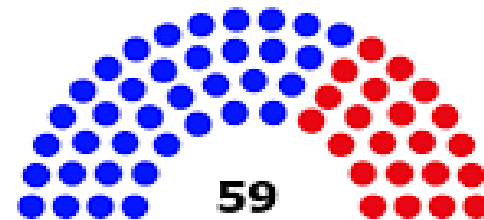
Other Races on November's Ballot: Illinois House and Senate Races

🌿 The General Assembly passes laws and a state budget.

🌿 Two Chambers: House of Representatives (118 members) & Senators (59 members)

🌿 All 118 House seats will be on the ballot in the November 6th

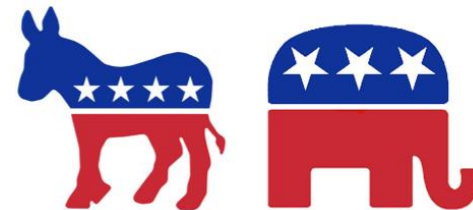
🌿 Only, 39 Senate seats will be on the ballot on November 6th (check your district)



How You Can Decide Who to Vote For?

Understanding candidate platforms

- 🌿 Candidates often develop a “political platform” that outlines their principle goals
- 🌿 Platforms give voters a sense of the candidate’s position on key issues and their values.
- 🌿 You can review their platform to see if they care about the same issues that you do!



Group Questions

- 🍃 Where can you find a candidate's platform?
- 🍃 What do you look for in a candidate's platform?
- 🍃 Why is it important to know a candidate's platform?

Deeper Dive into Candidate Platforms

THE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Candidate for Governor: Bruce Rauner



Platform

- 🌿 **Criminal Justice Reform**
 - 🌿 Increasing job training and opportunities for offenders
- 🌿 **Illinois Economy**
 - 🌿 Property tax freeze
- 🌿 **Jobs**
 - 🌿 Lower the cost of doing business by reforming workers compensation system
 - 🌿 Reining lawsuit abuse
 - 🌿 Freezing property tax
- 🌿 **Education**
 - 🌿 Funded education for the first time in years
 - 🌿 Early Education to historic levels

Candidate for Governor: J.B. Pritzker



Platform

- 🌿 **Criminal Justice Reform**
 - 📌 Legalize marijuana and modernize sentencing
 - 📌 Reform juvenile justice system
- 🌿 **Jobs**
 - 📌 Raise wages in Illinois
 - 📌 Investment in small business by expanding microloans
- 🌿 **Economic Stability**
 - 📌 Leverage Federal funds to invest in Illinois rail, water, broadband and community infrastructure
- 🌿 **Early Childhood Education**
 - 📌 Increase access to Child Care Assistance Program by raising income eligibility to 200% of FPL
 - 📌 Expanding birth-to-three services and create a new Family Engagement Portal

Sharhi Fulce

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

What Can You Do: Voter Registration

Register Families to Vote

- ✔ Promote voter registration deadlines and instruction in the weeks before the election
- ✔ Child care providers, ask parents and guardians during drop-offs and pick-up, if they are registered to vote.
- ✔ Display posters and other flyers at your site showing voter registration deadlines and voter registration forms.
- ✔ **Make voter registration available** and offer people the opportunity to register to vote at your site



Get Everyone Involved

- 🍃 Incorporate voter registration into activities and interactions with families and providers.
- 🍃 Assign a staff member to plan direct voter registration activities.
 - 🍃 **Example:** I voted stickers or posters for parents, vote flyers, pretend booth voting.
- 🍃 **Collaborate!** Identify partners in your community and encourage them to register voters.



Activity

- 🍃 In a small group, discuss what you can do in at your child care program or organization to support children and families this upcoming elections?
- 🍃 One group member will report back from each group

Resources

Voter Registration Toolkit

- 🌿 Voter's Registration Toolkit (IAFC will release this summer)



Websites

- 🌿 Join our e-Advocate listserve to learn more about ways you can get out the vote!
<https://www.actforchildren.org/for-advocates/champion/>
- 🌿 Illinois State Board of Election's website
<http://www.elections.il.gov/>