



# 1274 NEWSLINE



NORTH SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION – LOCAL 1274, CFL, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

## Illinois Midterm Elections

**Tuesday, November 6**

It's time to take action! The midterm elections are coming up and your vote is important. The Illinois Federation of Teachers has endorsed a set of candidates who support our issues of public education, workers' rights, and a fair economy. We want elected officials who will protect our union rights and fight for public education.

**Here are the IFT endorsed candidates for the offices of the Governor and Attorney General, along with several key races in NSTU member districts.**

**Governor: JB Pritzker (D)**



Prizker is a supporter of school unions. "I strongly support the right of workers to bargain collectively over their wages, benefits and working conditions in the public and private sectors. And I will be committed to ensuring educators and support staff get the salaries and pensions they are due."

He is also against state funding for charter schools. "I oppose diverting public education funds to private schools and I oppose school vouchers. We need to impose a moratorium on charter school expansion. With public schools inadequately funded, I oppose taking state money away from public schools for private school tax credits."

This is in strong contrast to Governor Rauner, who infamously held up the Illinois budget for a record 734 days in an effort to pass anti-union, anti-worker, anti-education legislation. He vetoed the budget, which thankfully was overridden with the

help of legislators from his own party. This hasn't stopped Rauner from touting the school funding reforms that were part of the very budget he refused to pass. Rauner is not a friend of public education or the rights of workers.

**Attorney General: Kwame Raoul (D)**



Raoul was appointed in 2004 to fill the vacancy left in the Illinois House when Barack Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate. As a legislator, he has worked hard for equal rights, criminal justice reform, voting rights protections, and co-sponsored the Illinois' expansion of Medicaid under the ACA.

State attorneys general are the first line of defense against state and federal actions in issues such as health care, environmental protection, and immigrant rights. The office of Illinois Attorney General is responsible for protecting the public interest of the state and its people. This is a critical office for educators and workers. We need someone who will defend our constitutional right to our pensions and who will stand up for workers.

Raoul recognizes that unions are under attack at both the state and federal level. He has pledged to fight to protect our rights to organize and to aggressively enforce labor laws. After the recent Janus decision by the Supreme Court, Raoul said, "the ruling is a reminder of the role Illinois' attorney general can play in defending workers, even when they cannot count on protection from the federal government or the courts."

Raoul's opponent, Erika Harold, was handpicked by Rauner to promote his anti-worker agenda. She supports the Janus ruling that allows public-sector employees to stop paying fair-share fees, and she endorses the weakening of workers' compensation laws, making it more difficult for workers who are injured to make up for lost wages.

While Kwame Raoul has almost 25 years of experience as a lawyer and Illinois State Legislator, including extensive experience as a litigator, it is unclear whether Erika Harold has ever argued a case in court. She dodged this question in a Chicago Tribune questionnaire by saying the goal of her cases "is to successfully resolve them prior to trial." At a recent debate, when asked to name a Supreme Court decision in history with which she disagrees, Erika Harold could not name ONE. Kwame Raoul named Dred Scott, Citizens United, and the Janus decision.

### Illinois Comptroller: Susana Mendoza (D)



As the current Illinois Comptroller, Susana Mendoza has stood up to Governor Rauner, ensuring that vital agencies and schools received payment from the state during the Rauner-imposed budget crisis. She has

also transformed state finances in Illinois. After coming into office and learning that state agencies only had to submit their bills once a year, Mendoza realized that she had no way of knowing how much the state actually owed. Budgets were created with year-old numbers! The bill she drafted -- the Debt Transparency Act -- was vetoed by Rauner, which was overridden and passed. This revolutionized the budget process for Illinois. Now instead of once a year, the Debt Transparency Report is published every month.

Thanks to the DTA, we learned that Illinois racked up more than *\$1 billion in late payment interest penalties* during Rauner's two-year budget stand-off.

By the time legislators finally overrode his budget veto, Mendoza had met with legislators on both sides and armed them with up-to-date budget information on the dire consequences of a third year without a budget. After the budget passed, she spent two months fighting Rauner to issue \$6 billion in bonds to pay off old debts. When he finally relented, she refinanced from 12 percent to 3.5 percent, which will save Illinois taxpayers *\$4 billion to \$6 billion* over the life of the bonds.

See all IFT endorsements at  
[ift-aft.org/vote/candidates](http://ift-aft.org/vote/candidates)

## Illinois Senate

### 8th District - Ram Villivalam (D)

*Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, and Northern Chicago*



After crushing ineffective incumbent Ira Silverstein in the primary, Ram Villivalam is the clear choice in the upcoming general election. According to the Chicago Sun Times, "The time is right for a new state senator to

lead the 8th District on the North Side, and we believe the voters have a capable, knowledgeable and progressive choice in labor union activist Ram Villivalam."

### 9th District - Laura Fine (D)

*Evanston, Wilmette, and Winnetka*



Fine is running for the seat vacated by Daniel Biss in his bid to run for governor. As the Representative for the 17th District, Laura Fine was very supportive of our interests as educators. We need her voice in the Illinois Senate.

### 27th District - Ann Gillespie (D)

*Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Prospect Heights, and Palatine*



Gillespie is running against incumbent Tom Rooney, who has a poor voting record on IFT issues. Gillespie is supportive of teacher pensions and opposes any changes. Incumbent Rooney recently voted against on the

measure to raise teacher starting salaries to \$40,000 and is in favor of eliminating pensions for new teachers, instead putting them on a 401(k) type plan.

## Illinois House

### 17th District - Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D)

*Skokie, Golf, and Glenview*



Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz is running for the seat vacated by Laura Fine. Investing in education is one of her top issues. "I'll work to ensure that our local schools are being funded at an adequate level from the state in an effort to

reduce the dependency on local property taxes." She has an extensive background in defending immigrant rights, and believes that a pension is a promise.

## Take Action!

Besides voting, other actions you can take are canvassing for IFT candidates or working a phone bank. NSTU-COPE is partnering with other locals to schedule canvassing, which is directed toward like-minded voters such as other union members. The phone bank is hosted by NSTU at our Local office and is directed to NSTU members.

NSTU-COPE stands for the North Suburban Teachers Union Committee on Political Education, the Political Action Committee (PAC) of Local 1274. Funded by VOLUNTARY contributions from our own members, NSTU-COPE engages in the political process at the local level to advocate on issues related to the work that we do: supporting public education, protecting workers' rights and retirement security, and creating a fair economy. Many political battles lie ahead, perhaps none more important than electing candidates supportive of our issues this coming fall.

**Here are actions coordinated by NSTU-COPE for the midterm elections. Contact Steve Grossman with any questions ([stevegrossman@nstu.org](mailto:stevegrossman@nstu.org))**

### Canvass with educators for JB and Martwick

Wednesday, October 17, 5 - 7:30 PM  
4354 North Central Avenue, Chicago

### Canvass for JB, Raoul, and area legislators

Saturday, 10/20, 10 - Noon  
2010 East Algonquin Road, Schaumburg

### Canvass for JB, Raoul, and area legislators

Sunday, 10/21, 10 - Noon  
2010 East Algonquin Road, Schaumburg

### Phone banking to Local 1274 members

Monday, 10/22, 4 - 7 PM  
Local 1274 Office @ 9933 North Lawler, Skokie

### Canvass in Chicago for JB

Saturday, 10/27, 9 AM, Noon, or 3 PM  
JB Office, 4750 West Peterson Avenue

### Canvass with educators for JB, Fine, and Gong-Gershowitz

Saturday, 10/27, 10 AM - 1 PM  
1926 Waukegan Road, Glenview

### Canvass with educators for JB, Fine, and Gong-Gershowitz

Saturday, 11/3, 10 AM - 1 PM  
1926 Waukegan Road, Glenview



NSTU Vice President Pankaj Sharma, IFT President (and former NSTU President) Dan Montgomery, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, and Congressman Brad Schneider met on July 2, 2018 with other labor leaders and Congressional Democrats to strategize a path forward after the Janus decision.



Visit [012740.il.aff.org/take-action](http://012740.il.aff.org/take-action) to sign up for the North Suburban Teachers Union Committee on Political Education

## New Local 1274 Website [nstu.org](http://nstu.org)

NSTU Local 1274 has a new website. Visit [nstu.org](http://nstu.org) to find news articles about Local 1274 events and actions, information on each Local 1274 Council, current and past Newslines, Local 1274 member-directed professional development opportunities, and a calendar of Local 1274 events.



## From the President: Midterms Matter

While many of us are focused on the political drama unfolding daily before us out of Washington, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that we are facing an important election closer to home. At stake during the midterms of November 6th will be the constitutional officers of the state of Illinois: Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Comptroller; all the house and half of the senate seats in the General Assembly; and all members of the U. S. House of Representatives, along with a variety of local offices and voter initiatives.

**"For those who think that midterm elections do not matter, lest we not forget that Rauner slipped into office during the 2014 midterms where an unpopular incumbent and voter apathy led to low voter turnout. The result has been catastrophic."**

Most consequential is the opportunity before us to end the spectacular failure of Bruce Rauner's governorship. For those who think that midterm elections do not matter, lest we not forget that Rauner slipped into office during the 2014 midterms where an unpopular incumbent and voter apathy led to low voter turnout. The result has been catastrophic. Rauner's singular issue - in fact his obsession - is to weaken the rights of workers by destroying their unions. During the 2014 campaign, Rauner vowed to shut down the government if he felt that was what was needed to advance his agenda. At that one thing, he was true to his word. Failing in his constitutional duty to submit a balanced budget in any of the years of his tenure, Rauner vetoed all spending plans sent to his desk, creating an historic budget crisis that lasted over two years. A backlog of unpaid bills piled up, scores of social service agencies went out of business for lack of funding, the state's credit rating was dropped to junk-bond status, students were denied promised MAP grants and funding for higher education plummeted, causing over 75,000 students to leave Illinois for neighboring states that provided greater stability. Enough is enough.

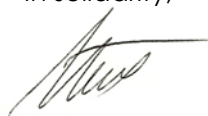
As you can read throughout this issue, the IFT has endorsed a strong list of candidates across the state, including several excellent contenders in districts where many of our colleagues live. We urge all of our members to vote on November 6th or before - early voting has already begun.

But we really hope that many of you will do more than that. Union members in general, teacher

unionists in particular, and especially Local 1274 members, have a long tradition of advocating for issues that meet our interests, and candidates that share our values.

The Local is partnering with other unions to participate in a variety of campaign actions in support of JB for governor, Kwame for Attorney General, and others (see page 3). We are also hosting our own phone bank on Monday, October 22nd, from 4-7PM at the local office, making member-to-member calls in support of our candidates. So grab a friend or colleague and get involved! Midterms do matter.

In solidarity,




### 1274 Newsline

Produced and published by the North Suburban Teachers Union Local 1274 – IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

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