



# STEPHENSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

January 9, 2026

VOL.  
1

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Newsletter  
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Welcome to our new 2026 newsletter. A New Year always seems like a good time to implement new changes, a chance to keep our mission statement, front and center and a good time to remind ourselves of our core mission.

- Recruit and support Democratic candidates that are competitive in elections and worthy of voter trust.
- Inform Stephenson County voters of issues, voting records, and candidate positions in a timely manner.
- Support the cause of fair, open, honest and efficient government that serves all citizens without regard to race, creed, color, religion, gender or sexual orientation.
- Seek the increased participation of all eligible voters in Stephenson County elections and guard against all forms of voter suppression.

## Upcoming Protest in Freeport

**STOP  
THIS MADNESS**

**WHERE IS  
CONGRESS?**

**PROTEST**

**Monday, January 19th  
Starts at 12pm  
Corner of Empire St  
& West St, Freeport, IL**

Call 815-801-5760 with questions

**BRING SIGNS & FRIENDS**

The events of the past week are alarming and overwhelming. It can feel like we have no control over what our elected officials—or Trump and his allies—do next. But moments like this demand action. When you step up, you give others permission to do the same.

**Stop the Madness - Where is Congress  
Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at noon**

Bring signs, your friends and remain peaceful  
as we record our objections.

The organizations co-sponsoring this protest

**indivisible**  
**FREEPORT**  
CIRCA 2025

**NAACP**  
Freeport Branch

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF FREEPORT

# What Can You Do

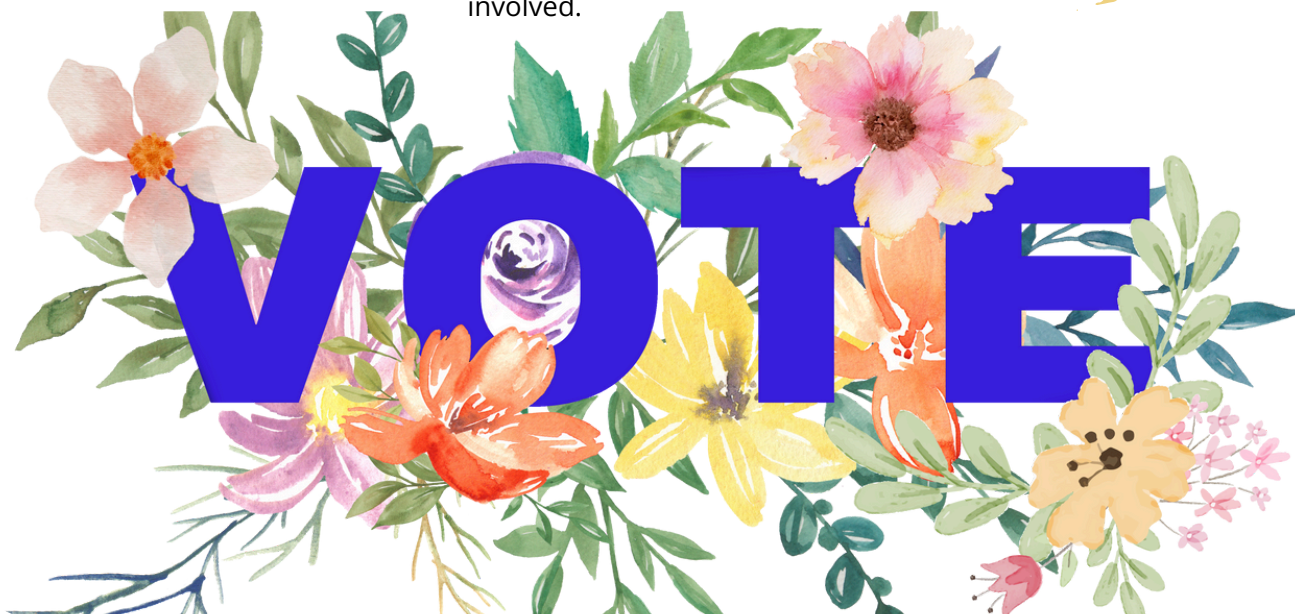
## Take Action:

- Talk to your coworkers and friends and others about how a rules-based international system has helped prevent another world war.
- Immigrants are vital to our country.
- For a lot of people who weren't paying attention, the killing of Nicole Good can wake them up...but not if we stay quiet.
- Share protests in the area to help more people know about them.
- Show up to vigils and protests when you can. Bring someone with you.
- Call your elected officials—and keep calling over and over, especially if you have Republican officials.
- Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121
- <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>
- Do not let them divide us. When white people see themselves as the target, the tide historically can change, but we must be loud.
- Register people that are not registered to vote. If you don't know how, give us a call. **815-801-5760**
- Know the dates of the upcoming **March 17, 2026 Primary Election** (find them later in this newsletter).
- **Subscribe to Heather Cox Richardson** and read her daily newsletter in your email or on Facebook called "Letters From An American". Heather has Politics Chat videos that can help you decide what to do also. If you **watch her video** from Thursday, you'll recognize some of what we've written here.
- Act locally, stand up for your neighbor. Run for an office, attend meetings and get involved.



- **Vigil for Nicole Good** in this **Sunday, January 11, 2026** from **2pm - 3pm** at the Federal Building, 327 S. Church St., Rockford, IL
- 50501 is calling for a **Walk Out on January 20<sup>th</sup>**. You can learn about that and make up your own mind if you want to participate on their **website here**.

**When will this end? ...  
it will end when  
enough people say it  
has to end...**



## Area Events

- **Attend Lunch Club** at the Stephenson County Democrats office, 15 N. Chicago Ave, Freeport, every Wednesday, from 11:30 - 1:30. Open to all. Bring your lunch, make friends and learn how to help get Democrats elected.
- **ATTENTION - Eric Sorensen will attend Lunch Club on January 28, 2026** - Note time change. We will start at 11am on that date. We expect Eric to arrive at 11:30 and will stay until 12:15.

- **Candidate Event - Northern Winn Dems, January 31, from 9:30 - 11am.** Township Community Center, 4562 Hononegah Rd, Roscoe, IL - Confirmed participants include: US Senate - Rep. Robin Kelly, Illinois Comptroller - State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, US Congress IL16 - Paul Nolley, IL Senate District 45 - Joe Berning, IL House District 90 - John Ping, and State Central Committeeman - Kevin Lamm and Patrick Cortesi

This is a unique opportunity to meet with candidates to share your priorities and discuss key issues.

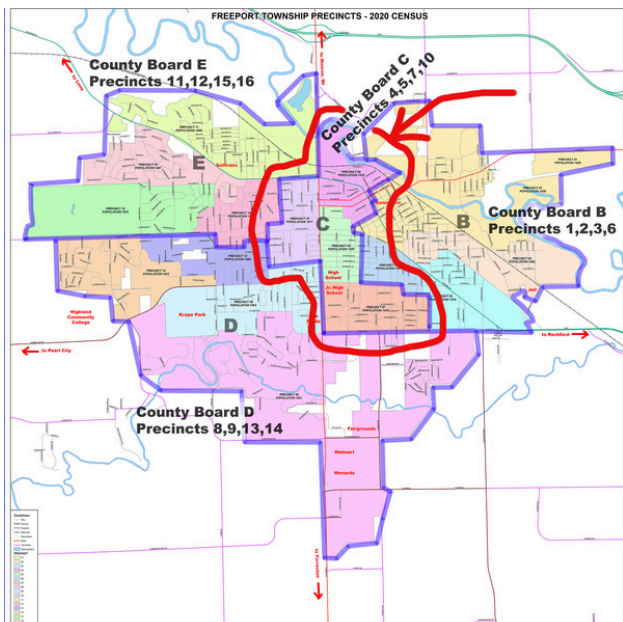
- **Candidate Meet and Greet - JoDaviess County, January 31** from 2 - 4pm, Elizabeth Community Center, Elizabeth, IL - Confirmed participants include: Confirmed participants include: US Congress IL16 - Paul Nolley, Comptroller candidates Holly Kim, and Stephanie Kifowit, IL Senate District 45 - Joe Berning, IL House District 90 - John Ping, and State Central Committeeman - Kevin Lamm and Patrick Cortesi

There is still time for more candidates to confirm, so stand by. There are no links to this event yet but they are coming soon.

**Republicans need to know that you do not stand for what Trump and the people surrounding him are doing.**

**HATE NEVER  
MADE ANY  
NATION GREAT**

*We Need*  
**HELP**



We **need TWO candidates** now to run for County Board in **District C**, right in the center of Freeport. One seat is open because Todd McKenna moved out of the county and resigned, and the second seat—held by Lou Ann Hayes—is up for reelection.

It's not too late, but the window is closing. These candidates can be slated after the Primary, if people step up now. Real change happens locally, and this is a moment to make it happen. **If you've ever thought about running—or know someone who should—this is the time. Call us if you want more information. 815-801-5760.**



# Voting Timeline: 2026 Primary

## December 17

**Apply for Vote By Mail**  
First day to apply for a vote by mail ballot for the 2026 General Primary Election

## January 2

**UOCAVA Application**  
First day for persons outside the country to apply for Vote by Mail ballot

## February 5

**Voting by Mail Begins**  
First day for the election authority to mail an official ballot

## February 18

**Grace Period Registration and Voting Begins**  
First day of grace period registration and voting at the office of the election authority or at a location designated

## February 5

**Early Voting Begins**  
First day for early voting at the office of the election authority and at any additional locations

## February 17

**Close of Voter Registration**  
Last day for regular registration or transfer of registration

## March 1

**Online Voter Registration Closes**  
Last day for online voter registration

## March 12

**Last Day to Mail Vote by Mail Ballots**  
Last day for the election authority to receive, by mail, an application for a vote by mail ballot

## March 17 General Primary Election

## F.Y.I.

- **Federal Seats:** In Stephenson County candidate include Incumbent Congressman Eric Sorensen in the 17<sup>th</sup> District (the southern part of our county and Paul Nolley in the 16<sup>th</sup> District (the northern part of the county) running against the incumbent Rep. LaHood.
- In addition US Senator Dick Durbin is not running again and there are MANY Democrats running for his seat. In the next few days and weeks, it will be clearer, who will be on our Primary ballots.
- **State Seats:** All the State wide Offices are up for election. They include Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer, Secretary of State, and Attorney General
- **County wide seats:** There are many seats up for election. We have Democrats running for County Board, none of them have an opponent in the March Primary.

You can find more information about candidates on [our website here](#), including links to candidates websites and contact information. We have some yard signs and campaign literature in the office but not for every candidate. This is not because we haven't asked for it. Please keep in mind that candidates have a responsibility to get their information out to the public and into our hands. They don't always succeed getting their campaign literature and signs to us. We will keep asking.

[Register to vote here](#)

[Check your voter registration here](#)



The news is happening so fast, it's hard to keep up. Indivisible is calling for **"Ice Out for Good"** pop-up protests this weekend. We don't have any official planned protest in Freeport this weekend, but anyone can start one. You can also join the vigil in Rockford on Sunday or in Oregon today.



## Call to Action! Justice Vigil for Our Communities Affected by ICE

Sunday January 11, 2026

2pm - 3pm

Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse  
327 S. Church, Rockford, IL

A time to GATHER and reflect on the  
recent events and peacefully stand together as a community  
in honor of the lives forever changed by ICE actions.



**TODAY** in Oregon, at the Ogle County Courthouse

## Justice for Renee Good

We gather to stand in solidarity against the system that took an  
innocent life and demand justice for her and all victims of ICE  
enforcement

1/9/26 at 5:30 pm  
Ogle County Courthouse

We will hold a moment of silence and reaffirm our commitment to  
protecting our neighbors and demanding accountability from our  
leaders. Please bring candles, signs, and your voices.



**"The Party told you to reject  
the evidence of your eyes and  
ears. It was their final, most  
essential command."  
—George Orwell (1984)**

## Interesting



**Heather Cox Richardson · Join**

Leslie R. Myers · 4h ·

Simply call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at  
(202) 224-3121 and ask for the US  
Representative or Senator's office.

**Call GOP congressmen  
who won't run again & tell  
them to step down NOW!  
Democrats will win  
special elections & stop  
Trump before it's too late!**

Email: [stephensoncountymocrats@gmail.com](mailto:stephensoncountymocrats@gmail.com)

Phone: 815-801-5760

[Find your Precinct Committee Person here](#)