



STEPHENSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

January 24, 2026

VOL.
1

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**Eric Sorenson is having LUNCH with us...
...this Wednesday, Jan 28th**

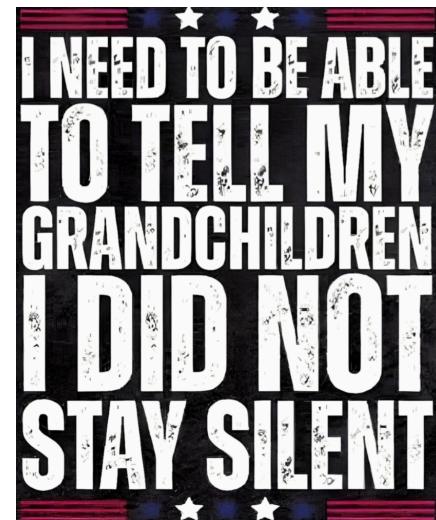


We are meeting at the office, 15 N. Chicago Ave, Freeport this Wednesday. *****Plan to arrive earlier than usual at 11AM***.** Bring your lunch and your questions for Eric.....
.....AND OF COURSE WE'LL HAVE CAKE together. It's a tradition we have with our US Congressman, Eric Sorenson!

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 and now a second shooting in Minneapolis, details not known yet, 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.



Area Events

- **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.



Rockford NAACP Branch · [Follow](#)

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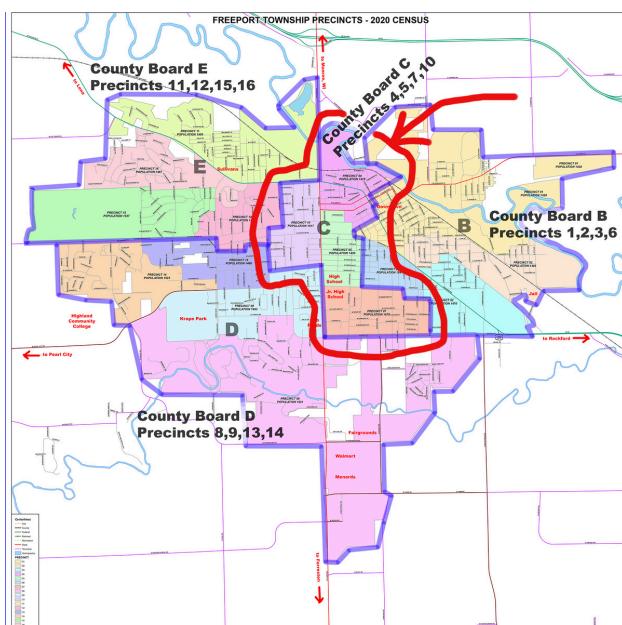
'Meet the Candidates Forum' Saturday, January 31, 9am-11am at Roscoe Township Community Center 4652 Hononegah Rd, Roscoe



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**

Early Voting begins in less than two weeks, on Feb 5th. We're sorry, we don't have a sample ballot yet. The official one hasn't been released yet. Eventually, it will be posted on our [Stephenson County Clerks website here](#). Click the underlined text.

It's not a fault of our County Clerk. There are still a few candidates whose petitions have been challenged and the final decisions have not been announced.



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

Important changes if you Vote by Mail

The postmark rules have changed for your mail in ballot!

IMPORTANT POSTMARK CHANGES
What Vote by Mail Voters Need to Know

Mail Postmark Rules Have Changed

Previously: Mail was postmarked the day you mailed it

Now: Mail is postmarked **the day it is processed** which can result in **at least a 1-2 day delay**

VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS
Must be Postmarked by Election Day to be Counted
A late postmark will **NOT be counted**

Mailing Your Ballot Close to Election Day?
If you are returning your ballot within a week of or on Election Day:
Go to the post office counter & request a **manual postmark**
Use a **secure drop box** (if available)
Deliver your ballot directly to your **election authority's office**

DON'T RISK A LATE POSTMARK
Take one extra step to make sure YOUR VOTE COUNTS!
Check with your election authority for drop box locations and office hours

USPS POSTMARK CHANGE
STARTING DEC 24, 2025

OLD WAY (Before Dec 24, 2025)
Postmark = Day of Drop-off (e.g., Dec 27)

NEW WAY (Starting Dec 24, 2025)
Postmark = Day of Processing (e.g., Dec 28, 29... +1-2 Days Delay)

CRITICAL FOR DEADLINES (Taxes, Ballots, etc.)
IF YOU NEED SAME-DAY POSTMARK:
Go to the USPS Counter & Request a Manual Postmark!

PSA Shared on December 27, 2025. Stay Informed!



CAMBIOS IMPORTANTES EN EL MATASELLOS DEL CORREO
Información clave para quienes votan por correo

Las normas sobre el matasellos del correo han cambiado

Antes: El matasellos se aplicaba el mismo día que enviabas la carta

Ahora: El matasellos se pone **el día que se procesa**, lo cual puede suponer **un retraso de al menos 1-2 días**

PAPELETAS DE VOTO POR CORREO
Debe llevar matasellos del día de las elecciones para ser válido
Un matasellos tardío **NO será válido**

¿Vas a enviar tu voto por correo cerca del día de las elecciones?
Si devuelves tu papeleta dentro de la semana previa o el mismo día de las elecciones:

Acude al mostrador de Correos y pide un matasellos manual
Utiliza una **urna segura** (si está disponible)

Entrega tu papeleta directamente en la oficina electoral correspondiente

No pongas en riesgo tu voto por un matasellos tardío
Da un paso más para asegurar que TU VOTO CUENTE
Consulta con tu autoridad electoral las ubicaciones de buzones y el horario de atención

Email: stephensoncountydemocrats@gmail.com

Phone: 815-801-5760

Find your Precinct Committee Person here

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

Thank you to everyone that attended our **“Where is Congress” Protest** on Martin Luther Kings Birthday. Despite the 4 degrees and freezing cold, 60 people came to Freeport’s Protest. It was a peaceful time with no counter protesters. If you want to see pictures and you’re not on Facebook, [use this link](#).

Considering today’s shooting in Minneapolis, there will be more protests, and strikes called soon.

I’m including one tomorrow, on Sunday in downtown Oregon. There will be propane heaters for people to stand by. They were very much appreciated last Monday.

No More Gestapo!
Emergency protest
in response to the 2nd ICE
murder in Minnesota
1/25/26
2-4:00 pm
Ogle County
Courthouse

