



Legislative Director Report - November and December 2022

Legislative Director Report - January and February, 2023

January:

I sent over 3,000 text messages to CTU/IFT Members living in Chicago, asking for their support for Brandon Johnson. I interacted with several who responded with questions or positive follow up.

Participated in planning for the February 25 Legislative Brunch.

I sent out invitations to several legislators to attend the Legislative Brunch on February 25, 2023 – Senators Christine Pacione-Zayas, Omar Aquino, Sarah Feigenholtz, Ram Villivalam, Rob Martwick, and Mike Simmons. Representatives Lindsey LaPointe, Ann Williams, Jaime Andrade, and Will Guzzardi.

I resent emails and followed up with their office throughout January and February.

February:

Participated in final planning for the Legislative Brunch.

Attended the Local 1211 Legislative Brunch. Was pleased to welcome Senators Christine Pacione-Zayas, my Senator, and Senator Mike Simmons, along with Representative Lindsey LaPointe as part of our panel.

The panel was a tremendous success. Legislative Director, Katie Page and Local 1211 President, Steve Elza deserve tremendous credit for organizing and executing the event, as well as fellow Legislative Director, Brad Graba. It was one of our best attended breakfasts and it was an honor to be a part of it.

November

Prior to and on election day, I participated in phone banking for Nabeela Syed, candidate for the 51st Illinois House District. Local



1211 should be proud that Nabeela, along with other Local 1211 endorsed candidates, were successful in being elected to the Illinois General Assembly.

December

Monday December 12, along with Steve Elza, I attended the Chicago Federation of Labor COPE (Committee on Political Education) meeting at the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 134 meeting hall. The meeting was to formally endorse candidates for the upcoming City of Chicago elections - see attachment. The CFL COPE chose to remain neutral in the mayoral race but endorsed the current incumbents in the city treasurer and city clerk race, as well as most incumbents of the city council. There were a few disputed endorsements that required a standing vote - the 41st and 48th Wards. In the 41st, the standing vote chose to remain neutral but in the 48th, which also had a push to remain neutral, the majority chose to endorse contractor Joe Dunne instead of remaining neutral. The push for neutrality was due to there being several candidates vying for the open seat and many of whom have been endorsed already by individual Locals.



2023 CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

MAYOR

Neutral

CITY TREASURER

Melissa Conyears-Ervin

CITY CLERK

Anna M. Valencia

CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward Daniel La Spata
2nd Ward Brian Hopkins
3rd Ward Pat Dowell
4th Ward Lamont Robinson
5th Ward Desmon C. Yancy
6th Ward William E. Hall
7th Ward Neutral
8th Ward Michelle A. Harris
9th Ward Neutral
10th Ward Ana Guajardo
11th Ward Nicole Lee
12th Ward Neutral
13th Ward Marty Quinn
14th Ward Jeylu B. Gutierrez
15th Ward Neutral
16th Ward Stephanie D. Coleman
17th Ward Neutral

18th Ward Derrick G. Curtis
19th Ward Neutral
20th Ward Jeanette B. Taylor
21st Ward Ronnie L. Mosley
22nd Ward Michael D. Rodriguez
23rd Ward Neutral
24th Ward Neutral
25th Ward Neutral
26th Ward Jessica "Jessie" Fuentes
27th Ward Walter Burnett, Jr.
28th Ward Jason C. Ervin
29th Ward Chris Taliaferro
30th Ward Ruth Cruz
31st Ward Felix Cardona Jr.
32nd Ward Scott Waguespack
33rd Ward Rossana Rodríguez Sánchez
34th Ward Bill Conway

35th Ward Carlos Ramirez-Rosa
36th Ward Gilbert "Gil" Villegas
37th Ward Emma M. Mitts
38th Ward Nicholas Sposato
39th Ward Samantha "Sam" Nugent
40th Ward Andre Vasquez
41st Ward Neutral
42nd Ward Brendan Reilly
43rd Ward Timmy Knudsen
44th Ward Bennett R. Lawson
45th Ward James "Jim" Gardiner
46th Ward Roushaunda Williams
47th Ward Matt Martin
48th Ward Joe Dunne
49th Ward Maria Hadden
50th Ward Debra Silverstein



Legislative Director Report – October 2022

While I was out of town much of the month, I communicated with several of the IFT endorsed candidates, primarily incumbents. I was to have attended one fundraiser for Kevin Olickal, candidate for the Illinois House 16th District, but unfortunately a family conflict came up. I did reach out to Kevin and inform him of my absence and our commitment to his election.

I also attended the IFT Convention in St. Louis (See the information below)

As the election approaches, I am hoping to participate in more phone calling/texting. I have been using my social media platforms to push for support for our endorsed candidates as well as support for the Workers Rights Amendment.

IFT Convention Report – October 21 – 23 – Kevin Palmer

IFT Retiree Seminar – Friday October 21

The IFT held a seminar for all Retiree Delegates to the convention. Among the topics were –

Pension System Benefit Overview – a review by TRS of the current state of the retirement system/fund including the current switch to Aetna as the sole insurance provider. A major benefit to the switch, is a much lower premium to retirees over 65 years or older.



Repealing the Windfall Elimination Provisions/Government Pension Offset – this is a key benefit if passed as it would qualify current retirees to access to their full Social Security benefits and not just the greatly reduced amount currently allowed. With well over 290 cosponsors in the U.S. House and over 50 in the U.S. Senate, this is very close to passage.

Workers' Rights Amendment campaign – with passage of this amendment, currently on the 2022 ballot, all workers in Illinois would be guaranteed constitutional access to collective bargaining. It is essential that all of our members vote YES on this historic legislation. Additionally, for retirees, the IFT has announced that one of its First Vice Presidents on the IFT Governing Board will be assigned the task of representing the Retiree Constituency. This is a major move forward, given that retirees only gained separate recognition at the 2016 convention.

Saturday October 22

After attending the Quad Local Breakfast – Locals 1211, 504, 571, and 1274, the convention formally convened. We heard from a variety of speakers, including the Mayor of St. Louis Tishaura Jones, David Hogg from the Lakeland H.S. Florida shooting and March For Our Lives Founder, and Chicago student, Trevon Bosley a victim of gun violence and a member of March For Our Lives. Both spoke about the importance of efforts like those from IFT and AFT in combating violence on our streets and our schools.

Our business began with addresses from IFT President, Dan Montgomery and IFT Secretary-Treasurer, Jane Russell. The General Session then began to review and vote on the many Resolutions that



were previously proposed and accepted to be discussed and potentially adopted by the Convention. The highlight of which was Resolution No. 11 – Investing In Illinois Kindergarten Through 12 Career And Technical Education Programs. Local 1211 President,

Steve Elza, and delegates Bobby Walser and Josh Cattero spoke on behalf of the Resolution. CTE is a vital part of advancing our goals as educators to meet the needs of ALL students. All three, along with others, spoke eloquently as to the need for schools to embrace CTE in their curriculum.

Other Resolutions touched on the need to increase funding and access to counseling, increase support, for our paraprofessional staff, curb gun violence and seek better methods of early intervention, parental leave of our members as well as expanding access to more sick days associated with Covid related illnesses, tax credits for teachers who purchase their own supplies, and improving the evaluation process to strengthen the teaching profession. University issues related to tenure and the treatment of non-tenured faculty. Saturday concluded with the election of all three IFT Officers as well as the 44 Second Vice Presidents. All 44 of the slated Vice Presidents won, including our very own Steve Elza who was the seventh highest vote getter.

Sunday October 23

The last day of the convention began with remarks from IFT President, Dan Montgomery as well as First Vice President and President of the Chicago Teachers Union – Local 1, Stacy Davis Gates. Stacy introduced Illinois Speaker of the House, Chris Welch who gave a resounding speech on his support for the IFT and for



education in Illinois. We then had a recorded message from Illinois Governor, JB Pritzker who is busy campaigning for reelection. The Governor spoke about his success in increasing funding for education in Illinois and his commitment to continuing his efforts after his reelection. Our last main speaker was AFT President, Randi Weingarten who, as always, gave a rousing speech which left the convention energized to move forward on our return home and in carrying our new education goals.

