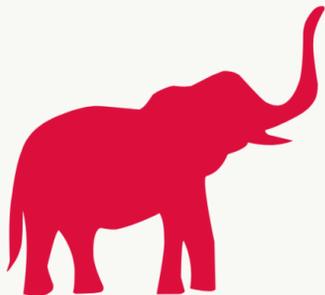




Notable Quote



"From the foundation of our Republic to the taming of the frontier, right up to modern times and your wonderful work, voluntarism, the idea of neighbor helping neighbor, has been one of the distinguishing marks of the American experience and one of the primary causes of our nation's greatness."

President Ronald Reagan, Remarks Honoring Youth Volunteers, April 25, 1985

Chairman's Message

- Paul Hofmann

Dear Fellow Republicans,

How quickly good news gets buried or worse, twisted. On July 17, the *Wall Street Journal* ran two headlines side by side.



"Economy Is Showing Trump Effect" and "Wholesale Prices Held Steady in June." One attempts to stir up worry about a 2.7% inflation rate. The other quietly admits that wholesale prices fell flat at zero percent for the month. That may not make for flashy headlines, but it's a meaningful sign that things are stabilizing.

We faced down brutal inflation over the past 4 years. Families were stretched thin, savings eroded, and prices climbed in every direction. The fact isn't lost on any of us that it's all changed under President Trump and the Republican-led Congress. We're seeing measurable progress. Not hype. At our Republican Century Club Dinner July 15th, I had the chance to reflect on these national wins on the economy, but also on the world stage. Trump's peace through strength isn't just a slogan it's delivering results.

- Pakistan and India, two nuclear powers, have agreed to a ceasefire.
- Trump/Rubio brokered a peace treaty in the bloody conflict between the Congo and Rwanda.
- The Abraham Accords continue expanding.
- Our ally Israel is receiving strong support as opposed to 4 years of hollow words.

Serious achievements become serious results. It's why Pakistan and Israel have both nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. That's not spin. That's leadership being recognized on the world stage. Be sure though that national wins won't mean much if we don't lock in local victories. We need to send Republicans to Congress, take back Illinois State House seats, and strengthen the foundation here at home. That starts with Precinct Committeemen (PC). If you're ready to do more than vote, if you're ready to help shape who gets elected, who volunteers, and who shows up, becoming a PC is the next step. We don't need perfection. We need commitment, consistency, and courage. Our volunteer led Century Club Dinner was one exciting event that highlighted how our local strategy connects with national momentum and more meetings are being planned over these next few months to build momentum. We encourage your participation whether by drops or buckets. Without you our community falls. With you our community wins. See you at our next meeting!

Winnebago GOP Message

The 600 Plan: Rebuilding from the Ground Up



The Republican Party in Winnebago County is laying the groundwork for something new and urgently needed. With 180 Precinct Committeeman (PC) seats and only about 70 currently filled, the local infrastructure has gaps. The 600 Plan is a plan to close them. This initiative aims to recruit and train 600 committed Team Builders who will form the backbone of a sustainable, grassroots Republican resurgence. It's not a one-time push. It's a long-range strategy that will unfold over the next four to six months and continue through the 2026 election and beyond. Our first planning meeting on June 28th, drew strong interest and left people energized. Momentum is building and we're just getting started. Join us for the next strategy session on Saturday, July 26 at 9:30 AM at 555 S. *Perryville Road (lower level)* RSVP [here](#). Whether you attended the first session or are looking to get involved for the first time, this meeting is for you. You'll hear how the 600 Plan works, how you can plug in, and why building now is the only way we win later. This is how we grow a new generation of leaders and neighbors who are trained, motivated, and ready to engage voters face-to-face. If you're tired of sitting on the sidelines, now is the time to step in! The 600 Plan is flexible, sustainable, deeply personal and about participation. Everyone brings different strengths and availability. What matters most is showing up in the ways you can.

Be part of THE 600.

State Spotlight

Illinois gives Universal Studios a \$7.2 million tax break in JB Pritzker's \$5.5 Billion budget to build a permanent Haunted House in Chicago. [Story here.](#) Pritzger to spend \$2.5 billion on Illegal Foreign Nationals in the State of Illinois [Story Here.](#)

----- Local Spotlight -----

The city of Rockford as well as several other local government entities are being Represented by Zephyr Government Services as their lobbyists in Springfield. City of Rockford spends \$10,000 a month on Zephyr Lobbying. [See story here and here.](#)



A Night of Momentum: Century Club Brings Republicans Together

There was something unmistakably hopeful in the air at the Republican Century Club Meeting on July 15th at Francescos. With 47 in attendance and a packed agenda, the evening struck a perfect balance between strategy, inspiration, and fellowship.

The event welcomed seven new Century Club members. Guests mingled over refreshments, shared stories, and stayed engaged as speakers outlined bold goals for 2026 and beyond. Attendees called it “upbeat,” “energizing,” and “the most focused event in years.”

State Rep. Marty McLaughlin delivered straight talk on Springfield's legislative gridlock, economic reform, and the strategic use of vote-by-mail to reach low-propensity voters. Dillan Vancil, running for US Congress against Eric Sorenson in the 17th Congressional District, made a strong impression with his message on rebuilding trust and sharpening Republican focus in Winnebago County.

The meeting also introduced the communications team dubbed the “Dream Team” and touched on real progress in Precinct Committeeman recruitment. Jason Hoyt shared the vision behind The 600 Plan, inviting all to the July 26 strategy session. Event organizer and Chair of the Century Club, Kathy Easton, announced her candidacy for State Rep. running against Dave Vella, and new officers were chosen. Kathy Easton was elected as Chair, Abigail Rozanas as Vice Chair, Wendy Owano as Secretary and Lowel Ingram was elected the Treasurer of the Century Club.

Winnebago GOP Chairman Paul Hofmann summed it up: “We're finding our stride again.” And Kathy Easton noted, “People left encouraged, this wasn't just another meeting. It felt like a movement.”

The Century Club is more than a finance team it's the fuel behind a rising Republican tide in Winnebago County.

Attended the dinner, but not quite sure if you want to join? You can find more information about Century Club [here](#)

Ready to become a member? Click the red button below.



[Become a Century Club Member Here!](#)

Upcoming Events

July 21 - Rockford City Council - General Meeting Rockford City Hall - Council Chambers 5:30 pm

July 26 - Meeting of THE 600 - Lower Level at 555 S. Perryville Rd., Rockford, IL 9:30 am RSVP [here.](#)

August 5 - 10th - Boone County Fair

August 13 - 17th - Winnebago County Fair (Winnebago GOP schedule and fair details to be announced very soon! Stay tuned to our Winnebago GOP website calendar for all the latest details [here](#)).

August 23 - Precinct Committeeperson Training - hosted by the **Leadership Institute** at Winnebago GOP Headquarters RSVP [here.](#)

August 25 - Senator Andrew Chesney Galena Event - 9380 US Hwy 20 W, Galena, IL more details [here.](#)

August 26 - Leader Tony McCombie Lake Carroll Golf Outing - 29-11 Ironwood Dr., Lanark, IL 11:30 am - 5:30 pm More details [here](#)

October 5 - Winnebago GOP Chili Cook Off - Details coming soon! (Hosted by Winnebago GOP)

[See Online Events Calendar here](#)

*Registration is required for some events

Important Dates – 2026 Election Cycle

We want to make sure you're aware of the key dates coming up in this election cycle! These are the moments where our preparation becomes action.

August 5, 2025 - Petition circulation begins. We'll be working alongside others to make sure we have the right people on the ballot and the signatures to back them.

August 23, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM – **Precinct Committeeman Training** hosted by the **Leadership Institute**. We strongly encourage anyone considering a PC role to attend this valuable training. (RSVP [here](#))

October 27 – November 3, 2025 - Filing period for candidates and Precinct Committeemen. This is when we formalize our intention to lead and represent our communities.

March 17, 2026 - Primary Election. We plan to be fully engaged in supporting strong Republican candidates and getting out the vote.

On or before April 16, 2026 - Winnebago Republican County Convention. Officers, township chairs, and State Central Committee

candidates will be elected—we need committed voices in the room when that happens.

We believe that when we show up prepared and unified, we win. Let's keep these dates in front of us and treat each one as a step toward real change.

Check & Update Your Voter Registration

Need to check your voter registration, register to vote, or update your information after a move? Use the Illinois State Board of Elections [Voter Registration Lookup](#) to ensure your information is current.

To register online, have your Illinois driver's license or state ID and the last four digits of your Social Security number ready. Staying up to date ensures you can sign petitions, vote, and participate fully in the election process.



Precinct Spotlight

Titus Berndt - Owen 3
Republican Precinct Committeeman

At just 28 years old, Titus Berndt exemplifies the dedicated grassroots leadership that strengthens our Republican Party. An embedded systems engineer who manages teams developing critical automotive computer systems, Titus brings both technical expertise and deep community commitment to his role as precinct committeeman.

Originally from George, Washington a small town of 300 where Fourth of July celebrations are their biggest event together, Titus moved to Rockford in 2021 after working in Seattle and Detroit. He chose Rockford because he saw it as a place where "little things could make a big difference" and where genuine community engagement could create meaningful impact.

Titus's Republican values were shaped early through attending March for Life events in Seattle with his father. These instilled in him a lifelong commitment to protecting the unborn. Currently he leads monthly gatherings at a local abortion clinic and finds ways of connecting women with resources through the Pregnancy Care Center and advocating for life-affirming alternatives.

His approach to community engagement is refreshingly personal and authentic. Rather than pushing political agendas, Titus focuses on building relationships helping neighbors with fallen trees, attending neighborhood barbecues, and simply being present in his community. He believes that trust must come before political conversations, and that local unity matters more than distant politics.

Married for three years to his wife from Cincinnati, Titus is also a devoted father to his 3-year-old son and 20-month-old daughter. He advocates for genuine human connection over technological solutions, believing that spending time with neighbors and family creates stronger communities than any digital platform ever could.

Through his methodical, relationship-focused approach to precinct leadership, Titus demonstrates that effective Republican organizing starts with authentic community presence and genuine care for neighbors.

Platform Highlight

SECURE OUR ELECTIONS, INCLUDING SAME DAY VOTING, VOTER IDENTIFICATION, PAPER BALLOTS, AND PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

Read the full **Republican Party Platform** [here](#)

Big Communications Update: New Tools to Spread the Word

We're excited to announce several updates that will energize your outreach efforts and show the community that the Winnebago County GOP is organized, active, and ready to lead! See below:



The all-new Winnebago County GOP Membership Card was officially launched this past Tuesday and it's not just a card, it's a passport to local savings! With exclusive restaurant discounts on the back, this card is our way of saying thank you for your support and helping our members show their pride wherever they go. Get yours today for \$20!

[Become a Card Carrying Member Here!](#)

Fresh Business Cards

Tri-fold Brochures are Here!

You asked and we delivered. Brand-new business cards and local GOP brochures are now available and will be ready for pick-up at Headquarters soon. These materials are perfect for community engagement, recruitment, and letting people know who we are and what we stand for. Don't leave the next meeting or event empty-handed!





Updated Email Addresses

We've modernized our communication infrastructure and added dedicated email addresses to help you get in touch with the right people faster and more efficiently. See addresses below. Whether it's events, volunteer opportunities, or general inquiries, there's now a clear channel for every need.

Main Contacts

Paul Hofmann

chair@winnebagogop.com

Kathy Easton:

keaston@winnebagogop.com

Lowell Ingram:

treasurer@winnebagogop.com

Wendy Owano:

wowano@winnebagogop.com

Andrew Gilbey:

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Communications Team:

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Additional Emails

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volunteer@winnebagogop.com

media@winnebagogop.com

contact@winnebagogop.com

podcast@winnebagogop.com



Closing Note

Thank you for your continued support of the Republican Party and our shared vision for a brighter future. Together, we're building a stronger, more prosperous Winnebago County. Let's keep the momentum going!

Contact Us

[Email: communications@winnebagogop.com](mailto:communications@winnebagogop.com)

[Phone: 815-669-0501](tel:815-669-0501)

[Website: winnebagogop.com](http://winnebagogop.com)

Check out our Social Media Below



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Youtube



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Committee - aka Winnebago GOP

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