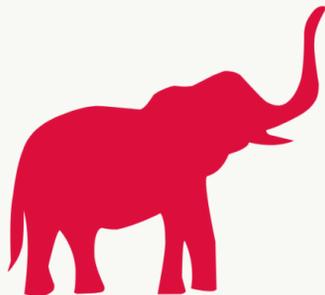




Notable Quote



"All we have to do is decide what to do with the time that is given to us."

~ JRR Tolkien ~

Chairman's Message

- Paul Hofmann

Dear Fellow Republicans,

The Charlie Kirk Memorial Service that was broadcast Sunday, 9/21/2025 was historic. Please read the article below that David Hale has written in memory of Charlie. Sadly, this is the last Newsletter that David will author. He has brought significant improvements and growth. Thank you David!



I have pondered how this moment in our country's history can unite the young and the old to rebuild our country's foundation. Turning Point USA's (TPUSA) culture of engagement, voter contact and canvassing has been pointed to as crucial to the election of President Trump. Some may feel that canvassing and direct voter contact with your neighbors is passé or old school.

TPUSA showed that this view is incorrect but required for us to achieve the rebirth we need. TPUSA showed how to utilize both social media and boots on the ground. We can learn from what they have done in these areas as we work to build our organization stronger in Winnebago County through phone calls, knocking on doors, Republican community events, and plain old "Charlie Kirk style" of talking to neighbors.

This brings me to the topic of Candidate petitions. Now is the time for our Precinct Committee (PCs) persons and volunteers to get petitions signed and processed (Filing is from 10/27 to 11/3/25). This is a tangible and practical way to honor the work that Charlie Kirk fought for to impact the political system. Look through our Event Calendar for opportunities to help us support our candidates. Watch for our text messages and emails. We are here and we are growing.

Finally, there is a Google Drive location where you can download petitions. These are available within 2026 Petitions and Candidates (Google Drive per hyperlink below) Candidate petitions (petitions received from candidates through 9/19/2025) Petition, Loyalty Oath and Statement of Candidacy for those who want to be a Precinct Committee person.

We are in a unique period of our country's history. Our President, the Executive Branch and Congress are undoing damage that has been done to our country, and it is important that we maintain this momentum. See our exciting slate of candidates on the next line by [clicking](#) on the [blue word](#) Candidate Petitions. Please download print and gather.

[Candidate petitions](#) (petitions received from candidates through 9/19/2025) [Petition](#), [Loyalty Oath](#) and [Statement of Candidacy](#) for those who want to be a Precinct Committeeperson

"Eventually, we will replace the nihilists." - Charlie Kirk a few weeks before his death

Winnebago GOP Message

We are all Charlie Kirk "Lions" Now

When Charlie Kirk was 18 years old, he met a Tea Party activist named Bill Montgomery who changed the course of American politics forever. Montgomery, impressed by Kirk's speech at Benedictine University's Youth Government Day, told the young man: "You can't go to college... you need to start an organization to reach out to young people with your message." And so, the day after his high school graduation in 2012, Charlie Kirk co-founded Turning Point USA his version of the Tea Party for students and college students.

Charlie started with practically nothing, driving to campuses alone, handing out flyers and trying to recruit students to talk about free markets and limited government. Tea Party issues. By the time of his death, Turning Point USA had grown to over 3,500 high school and college campuses nationwide, with more than 250,000 student members. But those numbers don't capture the real legacy the thousands of young Americans Charlie inspired to stand up for their beliefs without compromising their character.

Charlie was a good husband to Erika. He was a good father to his two young children. A good man. And above all a good Christian.

Charlie was also more than a good political organizer. He was a lion who carried the truth, and we all felt the comfort of knowing Charlie was out there, standing firm in the face of opposition on campuses across

America. We all knew who Charlie was. We all watched as he sliced through College Campuses with a fearless conservative message that you can practice your conservative values and ideas and still be part of government, culture and politics.

Just three months before his assassination, when asked how he wanted to be remembered, Charlie said without hesitation: "I want to be remembered for courage for my faith. That would be the most important thing. The most important thing is my faith."

That wasn't political posturing or campaign rhetoric that was Charlie's heart laid bare. His faith guided him to support Trump and Vance. He influenced the most powerful people on the planet across the globe with this message that faith was not secondary or tertiary to culture or politics.

He understood the fusion of faith, culture and politics in a way that eluded so many of his generation. While the radical left hijacked politics as their religion, Charlie recognized that true conservatism flows from eternal principles. He knew his mission and executed it with what one observer called "peace, love and acumen. Smart, intelligent and astute."

One witness recalled that shortly before Charlie was shot, he was discussing his Christian faith with an attendee, proclaiming to the crowd that "Christ is Lord" and that the Son of God had "defeated death." Even in his final moments, Charlie was doing what he always did, point young people toward eternal truth.

In this effort he had also begun to turn his attention to lighting fires within Churches that had been silent for decades. Now Pastors and Christians are rising up across the nation knowing they can address the culture, government, politics and their faith with eternal principles.

Grieve we will. Reflect for a time we must. We will heal eventually, and we are going to have a mission to carry Charlie with us, and Charlie would say to all of us: carry Jesus with you first. With peace, love and acumen. Smart, intelligent and astute.

Charlie demonstrated that you can be uncompromisingly conservative while still engaging in respectful dialogue in how government operates and how we as the American people stand in that nexus. He proved that faith and reason aren't enemies but allies in the fight for truth.

We are all Charlie Kirk Lions now.
~ David Hale Winnebago County PC W2-P5 ~

State Spotlight

Pritzker's Illinois: A State Under Strain

Gov. J.B. Pritzker, one of the nation's biggest funders of transgender activism ([Tablet Magazine](#)), [blames Trump](#) for the Charlie Kirk assassination. Yet early evidence suggests the killer was motivated by anger over Kirk's views on transgender issues. If anything, Pritzker's own ideological crusade is closer to the motive than Trump's words.

A surplus of [\\$3.3 billion](#) of dollars in the Illinois' road fund shows Gov. J.B. Pritzker's automatic gasoline tax hikes are not necessary, and lawmakers should halt them. Illinois drivers have been paying more for gas every July since 2019, when Pritzker doubled motor fuel taxes and tied annual tax hikes to inflation. The state gas tax is now 48.3 cents per gallon, costing each driver an [extra \\$143](#) annually and ranking Illinois as [No. 2](#) in the country for highest gas taxes. [See story here](#)

Immigration enforcement is increasing in the Chicago area as two top federal officials came to Chicago on Tuesday to participate in [immigration raids](#). Thus far there have been no known raids in Rockford in this most recent battle between the JB Pritzger's Illinois and Trump's Federal Government. According to the US Constitution the Federal Government has sole and exclusive authority over all issues related to immigration.

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

Rockford Mayor speaking in downtown Rockford at the Federal Courthouse to a group of about 20 Democrat Protestors called the President a "F***** liar and a sexual predator." The salty language was a departure from the pedantic image McNamara likes to present to the public. [See Story Here](#).

State Rep. Dave Vella co-sponsored HB 3438 a bill proposing a \$1.50 "delivery tax" on most retail packages shipped to Illinois residents. If passed in the upcoming November veto session, the tax will apply statewide including to every household in Winnebago County. All money collected will be directed only toward transit and infrastructure funding in the city of Chicago. [See bill here](#)

The Winnebago County Highway Department announced that work to replace the box culvert on Latham Road over Mud Creek will begin the week of September 22, 2025. Latham Road will be closed to all traffic in the project area during construction. [See Story Here](#)

Upcoming Events

September 27 - Defeat Pritzker - 600 Strategy Session - Winnebago GOP HQ 555 S. Perryville Rd., Rockford IL.

9:30 am - Strategy session on how to unify the party and defeat the Democrats. 10:15 am - Door knocking for candidate petition signature collection.

October 6 - Rockford City Council - General Meeting - Rockford City Hall - Council Chambers 5:30 pm

October 17 - Movie Night Winnebago GOP Headquarters - 555 S. Perryville Road, Rockford IL 6:00 pm Movie = Will be announced soon! (Hosted by Winnebago GOP) REMEMBER - This is a great opportunity to invite someone new! This is not simply a fun event to attend but a way to grow our outreach and the party!

October 20 - Rockford City Council - General Meeting - Rockford City Hall - Council Chambers 5:30 pm

October 21 - Monthly Winnebago GOP Republican Party Meeting Loves Park City Hall 6:00 pm

October 25 - Defeat Pritzker - 600 Strategy Session - Winnebago GOP HQ 555 S. Perryville Rd., Rockford IL.

9:30 am - Strategy session on how to unify the party and defeat the Democrats. 10:15 am - Door knocking for candidate petition signature collection.

October 30 - Candidate Judge Scott Robinson Fundraiser Hidden Creek Estates - 13276 White School Rd, Roscoe, IL. 61073

5:30 pm - 9:30 pm Cash Bar - Cigar Bar - Food - Silent Auction (Event not Sponsored 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 – November 3, 2025 – Petition circulation continues. We'll be working alongside others to make sure we have the right people on the ballot and the signatures to back them. Please contact us at an email address below on how you can sign one of these petitions to start the process to get your candidate on the Ballot. [Without these petitions nobody gets on the ballot.](#)

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.



Platform Highlight

#17 - KEEP MEN OUT OF WOMEN'S SPORTS!

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

Communication Materials

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 over the summer. 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 can be picked up at Headquarters during office hours. 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:

agilbey@winnebagogop.com

Communications Team:

communications@winnebagogop.com

Additional Emails

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centuryclub@winnebagogop.com

elections@winnebagogop.com

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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Twitter



Youtube



Instagram

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Committee - aka Winnebago GOP

Contact Us

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