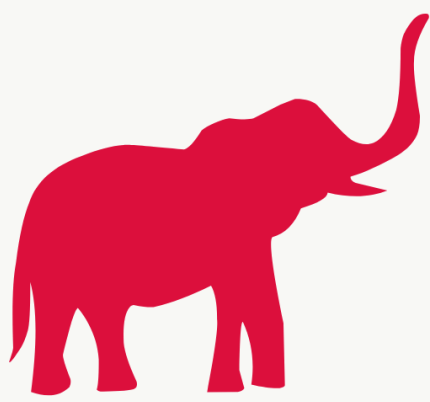


Winnebago GOP NEWSLETTER

June 2025



Notable Quote

"We celebrate No Kings day every July 4th."

The Texas Republican Party

June 14, 2025

Chairman's Message

- Paul Hofmann

Dear Fellow Republicans,



This newsletter comes at a time when our nation faces serious global challenges. As a parent with family members in the military, I'm often asked: *"Are you comfortable with President Trump as Commander in Chief?"* My answer without hesitation is YES. Unlike many past leaders, President Trump honors our troops and avoids using them as political pawns. His decisions reflect both national interest and their safety. We are engaged in a cultural battle to preserve Western Civilization. Do not fear or falter. Pray for our leaders, our soldiers, and our nation. Recently, the Rockford Family Initiative's *Walk for Life* drew roughly 300 participants, while the *No Kings Rally* drew 2,000. Media coverage highlighted the disparity, and only 10 of our own attended. But our cause is not the minority. The closure of the Auburn abortion clinic and the growth of pregnancy centers prove that life is winning. Locally we have a plan for winning elections. Here's our plan moving forward: We're committed to building a 600-strong grassroots multi-precinct team in preparation for the 2026 election. This network will be the backbone of our voter outreach and community engagement. We'll ensure our precinct leaders and volunteers have access to accurate, up-to-date voter lists which is an essential tool for building lasting connections and supporting our Republican candidates from the ground up. We must strengthen also unity within our party especially locally by fostering respectful dialogue, addressing internal conflicts, and resisting the urge to turn disagreements into division. We don't have to be the same, but we must stand together. These efforts are essential if we are to effectively advance Republican values not just in Winnebago County, but across Illinois and beyond. Thank you for your continued commitment. Let's keep moving forward, together.

Winnebago GOP Message

Recently, the Mayor of Rockford and the Chief of Police publicly distanced themselves from cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Mayor even went so far as to [publish a warning](#) to local Undocumented Foreign Nationals on Facebook of the possible presence of ICE in Rockford. The post has since been deleted. Their decision undermines the rule of law and sends the wrong message about accountability and public safety. As citizens, we must stay alert to local leadership choices that conflict with our values and national priorities. Elections have consequences. Elections are fast approaching and by mid-summer at the beginning of August prospective candidates will begin circulating petitions to obtain ballot access. We must begin to prepare now. A plan has been advanced called the 600 for which a Strategy Session will take place Saturday June 28th at 9:30am. This exciting plan was presented at the most recent Winnebago GOP Party Meeting by Author and local resident Jason Hoyt. And its now our plan. The Primary will take place in March of next year. We are best served by preparing ahead of time.

- **Vote early.** Plan to vote before Election Day.
- **Use your mail-in ballot.** If eligible, request your ballot and return it promptly.
- **Ballot collection is legal.** Feel free to collect and return ballots from trusted friends and family to official drop boxes. This is a secure and legal way to increase voter participation.
- **Engage your representatives.** Contact your local State Representative and State Senator. Let them Know where you stand on the important issues that directly impact our lives... You can find their names and phone numbers at: www.ilga.gov (Click on "Legistator Lookup" at the top of the pages.)

Change starts locally. Let's stay active, informed, and engaged.

National Spotlight

HHS Reverses ER Abortion Mandate

The Department of Health and Human Services has repealed a controversial Biden-era mandate that required emergency room physicians to perform abortions under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). The revised policy restores EMTALA's original purpose to ensure emergency care for all patients while protecting both mother and unborn child. This shift allows doctors to exercise their medical judgment without being compelled to perform procedures that may violate ethical or professional standards. The change reaffirms the principle that emergency care should prioritize saving lives, not enforcing political agendas in the exam room.

State Spotlight

Metra Rail Service Coming to Rockford No Transit Tax Changes (Yet)

The largest ever \$550 billion Illinois budget for 2026 includes \$275 million in capital funding to extend Metra passenger rail service from Chicago to Rockford. The extension will utilize the Milwaukee District West Line which starts in Elgin and goes to Union Station. Service is expected to begin by late 2027.

Currently, Rockford, Winnebago, and Boone Counties are not included in the taxing district of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), which currently

funds CTA, Metra, and Pace services through sales taxes, real estate transfer taxes and other transit-related fees in Cook and the five collar counties.

A recent proposal to replace the RTA with a new Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA), would have restructured governance and expanded funding mechanisms with future considerations to include Rockford. It passed the [Illinois Senate but did not advance in the House](#). That may change if the proposal is reintroduced and if passed could increase taxes in Rockford significantly to fund the Chicago Transit Authority’s mismanaged Pension fund.

As of now, the rail extension will proceed without new transit taxes for Rockford-area residents. Any changes to taxing jurisdiction would require future legislative action. As for Pritzker’s record setting Illinois budget, independent analysts (CGFA) estimate a [\\$673 million shortfall](#) for FY 2026.

Trump and Kennedy Strike at Illinois’ Medicaid for Illegals program

JB Pritzker was caught misleading congress on Medicaid for illegals at a Congressional Hearing last week. Pritzker told Congress he was unaware of illegal immigrants receiving taxpayer-funded healthcare, but the facts say otherwise. Since 2020, Illinois has spent more than **\$1.6 billion** on healthcare for undocumented adults, covering around **54,000 enrollees**.

Cost overruns forced Illinois to freeze enrollment for those under 65. In order to gain more control over how Medicaid Block Grants are spent HHS recently shared Illinois’ Medicaid data with Homeland Security to investigate potential misuse of federal funds. Pritzker’s denial doesn’t hold up and could come back to hurt him when he Officially Announces his run for the Presidency. Taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability, not political cover-ups. Visit www.ilga.gov to contact your representatives and demand answers.

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

Fred VanVleet–Backed Housing Development Approved

NBA star Fred VanVleet, along with local partners, has received approval to construct up to 180 new rental units a mix of duplexes and four-plexes, on Rockford’s east side near Fincham Drive. This project aims to alleviate housing shortages in a market with low inventory, offering family-friendly optioning from \$1,200 to \$2,000 per month.

State Targets Blight at Singer Mental Health Center Site

Illinois’ “Surplus for Success” initiative allocates \$300 million to address derelict properties across the state, including the long-vacant H. Douglas Singer Mental Health Center in Rockford. The site has sat unused for years and is now a priority for cleanup and redevelopment. Local officials cite recent data showing a 60% rise in nearby property values, a 39% drop in violent crime, and new business growth as justification for the project. The funding aims to prepare sites like Singer for future private investment, job creation, and housing or commercial development opportunities.

Workforce Development Continues with Bi-Partisan Support

The Rockford City Council recently approved up to \$675,000 for a workforce development agreement with LT Construction. The funds will support a program training young adults in trade skills through building and repairing city sidewalks. Since its launch, the initiative has restored over 28,000 linear feet of sidewalks near schools, parks, and other key public areas. This year, the program will also support six paid summer interns contributing around 4,300 hours of job training. The council emphasized the program’s dual benefit: improving public infrastructure and providing meaningful career paths for local youth.

Upcoming Events

- June 21 - Bring your friends and family to Luckey’s dairy farm 6:30-11AM! Enjoy lot’s of activities and crafts for kids of all ages! 1704 Kelly Rd, Caledonia IL 61011
- June - 21 FREE Community Shred Event - Hosted by State Senator Andrew Chesney Roscoe Middle School - 6121 Elevator Road, Roscoe, IL 1:00 pm - 3:00pm
[More details here](#)
- June - 21 Dillan Vancil for Congress Fundraiser Emerson Pub Banquet Room - 3312 West Rockfalls Rd., Rock Falls, IL 6:00 pm - 8:00pm
[FREE to Attend](#)
- June - 26 House Republican Leader Tony McCombie Summer Lunch Reception Carmine’s Rosemont - 9850 Berwyn Ave., Rosemont, IL 11:00am [Register here](#)
- June - 28th The 600 Strategy Session Coffee and Donuts. 9:30am session begins at 555 S. Perryville Rd. Rockford, IL RSVP to Events@WinnebagoGop.com
- July - 7 Rockford City Council - General Meeting Rockford City Hall - Council Chambers 5:30pm
- July - 12 NIRW (Northern Illinois Republican Women) Patriotic Prayer Picnic Macktown Forest Preserve 11:00am - 1:00pm Cost \$15 - Cash or Check at the Door *RSVP to Debbie @ 815-985-1563 by call or text or to Carolyn @ 815-289-7172 Deadline to RSVP is July 7, 2025*
- July - 15 Republican Century Club Meeting and Dinner Francesco’s Ristorante - 7128 Spring Creek Rd, Rockford, IL 61107 6:00 pm
- July - 21 Rockford City Council - General Meeting Rockford City Hall - Council Chambers 5:30 pm
- August - 13 - 17th Winnebago County Fair Winnebago GOP schedule and fair details coming soon!

See Online Events Calendar [here](#)

**Registration is required for some events*



Precinct Spotlight

Andrew Smith - Winnebago 2
Republican Precinct Committeeman

Andrew Smith is the Precinct Committeeman (PC) for Winnebago 2 and has been involved in Republican politics since he was a kid walking precincts for his father’s state rep campaign. By the time he was 12 he knew how to work a walk list before most people finished their Christmas list.

As a PC in Winnebago County, Andrew focuses on the basics, building trust, talking to voters, and helping elect solid conservatives who will uphold the Constitution.

In 2023, that commitment was put to the test when he helped organize support for Justice Lisa Holder White’s

campaign for the Illinois Supreme Court's newly drawn 4th District. She became the first Black Woman to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court. The effort stretched across 41 Illinois counties from Winnebago in the North to Sangamon County in Central Illinois and required more than 5,000 petition signatures just to get on the ballot. Andrew helped line up endorsements, coordinate outreach, and kept communication going, sometimes seven days a week.

His efforts helped secure one of only two Republican-held Supreme Court seats in the state. "I want that person on the wall that's going to follow the Constitution," he said. "I was born a conservative. It was about law, fairness, and getting solid Republicans elected."

Andrew encourages fellow PCs to start local. "I start by talking to the Republicans I know. No debates just listening and being consistent."

For Andrew, being a PC just means doing what needs to be done, making calls, knocking on doors, showing up, and following through. It's not complicated, but it makes a difference. And for him, it's not just about politics, it's about the core of who he is: someone who believes in doing the work, standing by his principles, and making sure the right people are in the right places to lead.

Platform Highlight

" Republicans Will Protect and Defend a Vote of the People, from within the States, on the Issue of Life "

We proudly stand for families and Life. We believe that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that no person can be denied Life or Liberty without Due Process, and that the States are, therefore, free to pass Laws protecting those Rights. After 51 years, because of us, that power has been given to the States and to a vote of the People. We will oppose Late Term Abortion, while supporting mothers and policies that advance Prenatal Care, access to Birth Control, and IVF (fertility treatments).

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



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
Phone: [815-669-0501](tel:815-669-0501)
Website: winnebagogop.com

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Committee - aka Winnebago GOP

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