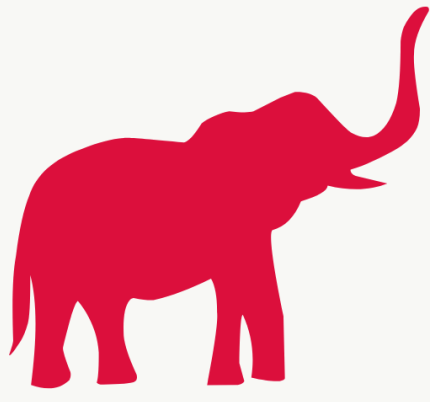


Winnebago GOP NEWSLETTER

April 2025



Notable Quote

“Peace is never handed to a nation on platter of complacency. Peace must be waged. Peace must be earned.”

*U.S. Rep. Katherine St. George (NY), Chicago, IL,
July 9, 1952*



Chairman’s Message

- Paul Hofmann

Dear Fellow Republicans,

We have just completed the Consolidated Election and the results are official as of April 15th. There was a significant increase in recruited candidates this cycle. THANK YOU to our candidates for taking this step, investing your time and working hard to be elected. It is a lot of work to build and execute your campaign. Some of you were going through this process for the first time. While we summarize the county results for our recommended candidates as 20 Wins and 20 losses; it is difficult to measure the progress made building the Republican brand in our county. We do note that voter turnout did increase, but still remains low and that our opponents were quite active in Rockford. We have begun the review of the various campaigns, results and various events that affected them. We are reviewing how the Winnebago GOP worked to support them and opportunities for improvement in the next election cycle. The ILGOP has the goal of turning Illinois Republican by 2030. Please remember that there were a million more votes for Republican state legislators than Democrats in the previous election cycle and 57% of Illinois voted for Republican US Representatives! We continue the battle and to build our momentum on to 2026 Mid-Term Elections.

Winnebago GOP Message

Every two years, federal elections grab the spotlight with big debates and high stakes. But just months later, in April, local elections quietly decide who governs our schools, roads, and public safety in Winnebago County, Rockford, and beyond.

Although party lines blur locally, real ideological differences still shape our everyday lives. This past April, low Republican turnout meant few local gains and revealed even more open opportunities to shape our future. The next local election is on the horizon, and staying informed and involved is key.

Connect with our community, know where candidates stand, and vote. Our city and county’s future depend on it. We promise to keep you informed as your local Republican Party. We also promise exciting changes on the near horizon for our Republican Party locally.

State Spotlight

Proposed Ban on Utility Campaign Donations:

A bill introduced in the Illinois House aims to prohibit campaign contributions from government-regulated utilities. This follows the conviction of former House Speaker Michael Madigan and the "ComEd Four" in a bribery scandal involving Commonwealth Edison, highlighting efforts to curb corruption in state politics.

Pritzker’s Critique of Trump Tariffs:

Governor JB Pritzker publicly criticized President Trump’s tariff policies, warning they could harm Illinois farmers by increasing grocery costs and prompting retaliatory levies on U.S. agricultural exports. The ongoing tensions between state and federal economic agendas promises to continue. As seen above we are winning the tariff battle and the stock market is defying Pritzker’s prognostications.

Controversy Over Homeschooling Regulations:

House Bill 2827 has sparked debate, with critics arguing it imposes burdensome regulations on homeschooling families. Many see this as an attempt to restrict educational freedom, though supporters claim it ensures accountability. We remain skeptical.

Mascot Ban Legislation Advances:

The Illinois House passed a bill banning certain school mascots, particularly those deemed culturally insensitive. While specifics vary, the move has drawn mixed reactions, with small segment praising inclusivity efforts and a majority decrying it as overreach.

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

Abortion Clinic Zoning Dispute:

A Rockford abortion clinic's operations remain in limbo following an Illinois Fourth District Appellate Court ruling on April 12, 2025, upholding a zoning challenge. This has fueled debates over reproductive rights, local zoning authority, and community values, making it a significant political flashpoint.

Refugee Resettlement Challenges:

Winnebago County resettles more African refugees primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo than any other Illinois county. More than 600 arrived last year, prompting discussions about housing, job support, and integration, led by groups like the Swahili Community Help Center. This issue is testing local resources and the re-elected Mayor’s budget planning and his ability to hold the line on property taxes.

Election Updates

- 3 losses occurred and were recorded after mail in ballot counting completed.

- Turnout for the City and County increased from previous consolidated election.

- City had 19.45% turnout of 89,607 registered voters

- Winnebago County had 17.18% turnout of 94,894 registered voters.

[Want more detailed information about this past election and exact vote counts? Click here for all election results](#)

Upcoming Events

May 20th - Winnebago County Republican Central Committee Meeting.

May 31th - Winnebago Country Republican Central Committee Precinct Committeeman Training



Precinct Spotlight

Pam Harding - Harlem 4
Republican Precinct Committeewoman

Pam Harding has lived in Machesney Park for more than 45 years, serving her neighborhood faithfully both in ministry and civic life. A retired Harlem School District food warehouse manager and current associate pastor at Rockford Faith Center, Pam now represents Harlem 4 as a dedicated Precinct Committeewoman and a voice of reason within the School District.

Pam believes that strong communities begin with personal connection. “In this culture people tend to turn inward,” she says, “but I’ve learned that when you engage with honesty, sharing your values and listening, you build trust, and people open up.” Before knocking on doors, Pam sends a letter introducing herself and thanks her neighbors for the opportunity to serve whether they voted for her to be a PC or not. Her grassroots approach includes printing sample ballots, highlighting candidates aligned with Republican values, and equipping voters with tools to stay informed.

She also serves ad hoc on the Election Integrity and Lincoln Day Dinner Committees, and leads the government ministry at her church. A proud conservative voice for faith, family, and freedom, Pam isn’t afraid to take a stand. “This role isn’t just political—it’s a calling,” she says. From her home on a corner lot filled with campaign signs to her bold voice in local circles, Pam is helping guard the fences for the next generation.

Platform Highlight

"Federalism and the Rights of States"

Emphasizes the importance of state and local governments over centralized federal power.

"Regulatory Reform"

Calls for reducing burdensome government regulations and ensuring government agencies do not overreach their constitutional authority The Republican Party Platform can be found

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!

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