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# Primary Proof That 2010 Will Be Challenging for Democrats

by John Hmurovic

If the results from the February 2 primary prove anything, they seem to provide more evidence that 2010 will be a challenging year for Democrats. Of the headline races on the ballot in precincts of the 10th Congressional District (U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and Cook County Board President), Democrats could very well sweep all four in November, but the primary election results hint that only one is virtually guaranteed. The others will be battles.

## Cook County Board President

The worst news for local Republicans on election night was that Cook County Board President Todd Stroger lost. If Democratic voters had re-nominated him for another term, Republicans would have been well-positioned for a rare win in a Cook County race. In order to win in November, Stroger would have needed to overcome a complete lack of support from suburban Cook County voters. Countywide, Stroger received just 14 percent of the vote, but in 10th District precincts he barely received two percent. Of the 290 Cook County precincts in the 10th District, Stroger received just one vote in 82 of them and no votes in 48 others.

By contrast, Democratic primary winner Toni Preckwinkle proved to be popular throughout Cook County and extremely popular in 10th District precincts. She won countywide with 49 percent of the

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# Tenth News

MARCH 2010 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 7, Edition 3

## Tenth Dems Celebrates Primary Candidates

by Barbara Altman — Photos by Ravi Ganapathy

A standing-room-only crowd of Democrats gathered on February 4 at Flatlanders Restaurant & Brewery in Vernon Hills to celebrate primary victories, renew relationships, and build momentum for the November general election. Hosted by Tenth Dems, the event provided an opportunity to meet and greet, to commiserate, and to congratulate. After a social hour fueled by pub food and drink, primary candidates for

offices from Congress to County Board took the mic to publicly thank supporters and praise one another for races well run. All speakers emphasized the task ahead and the importance of working together to win in the fall. It was a fantastic opportunity to chat with new friends and old about...what else? Politics.

**More photos of this exciting event may be found inside**



*The SRO crowd included Democratic candidates for offices at every level, Federal to precinct.*

# Why We Need Alexi Giannoulias

by Steve Sheffey

The good news is that Alexi Giannoulias is our nominee for the U.S. Senate. The bad news is that David Hoffman lost. Both were good candidates, and both had strengths and weaknesses. But now that the Democrats have chosen Alexi, it is incumbent upon us to rally around him and do all we can to defeat Mark Kirk.



Dan Seals and other Tenth Dems listen intently to post-primary celebration speakers.

Alexi is strong on all of the Democratic, progressive values that we care about. He is 3-0 in statewide elections—that's three more statewide elections than Mark Kirk has won.

Let's remind ourselves of what Alexi stands for, which is what we and the Democratic Party stand for:

Alexi Giannoulias is strong on environmental issues. On January 24, 2010, the League of Conservation Voters endorsed Alexi. In December 2009, the Sierra Club endorsed Alexi. Remember when Mark Kirk used to brag about those endorsements? Not this time.

Bottom line: "Alexi Giannoulias has been a principled leader on environmental issues as Treasurer, and we are excited to be supporting his run for the U.S. Senate," said Jack Darin, director of the Illinois chapter of the Sierra Club. "He is the only candidate to promote economic policies that will not only put people back to work, but will create the clean energy jobs of the 21st Century."

Alexi Giannoulias is strong on reproductive choice issues. Planned Parenthood endorsed Alexi. Remember when Kirk used to brag about that endorsement? Not this time. Nancy Keenan, President of NARAL



Before speeches begin, Tenth Dems enjoy food, drink, and conversation.

Pro-Choice America, said, "Women's freedom and privacy are at stake, and I am committed to working with NARAL Pro-Choice America's



On the Sunday before the primary, Dan Seals discusses primary-day plans with campaign workers.

## The Primary Thing

by George Rosenblit

How would you feel if you believed in your heart that you could personally be instrumental in improving the government of the people, for the people, and by the people; ran for a political office; and then lost the primary election? That's what happened on February 2 to a lot of good Democrats. But don't answer yet, because there's more than meets the eye. The candidates were not alone. Behind every hopeful candidate are volunteers who believe in him, too. For David Hoffman, I was one of those volunteers.

David Hoffman had good reason to believe he had a shot at the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate. He had a great resume. He had served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney to Patrick Fitzgerald in Chicago for five years. He was appointed Deputy Chief of the Narcotics and Gangs Section where he supervised all federal gang investigations and prosecutions as well as prosecution of white collar crimes. While Inspector General for the City of Chicago, he directed a 55-person staff of attorneys, investigators, and auditors that exposed bribery, fraud and theft schemes, corruption in contracting, illegal employment practices, ethics violations, and extensive waste. After Roland Burris declared that he would not run for the Senate seat vacated by Obama, Hoffman threw his hat in the ring.

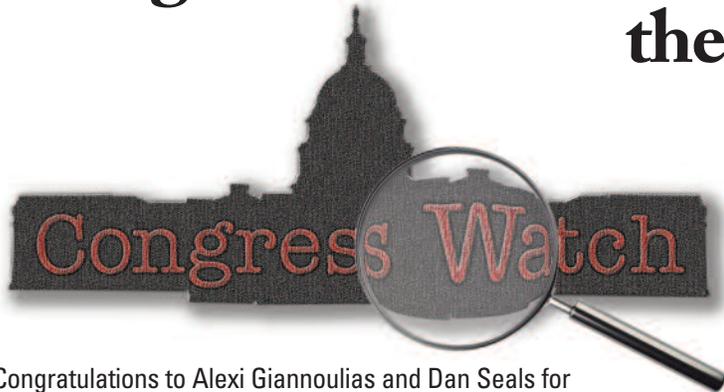
When I first read about this background, I was very impressed and could feel the rush of adrenaline that impelled me to volunteer to help. Hoffman worked hard and we volunteers worked hard, too, making telephone calls, blogging, ringing doorbells, handing out literature at train stations, hosting coffees, raising funds. The candidate's schedule was grueling, with as many as three or four talks a day to various groups. At the end of each day, he was completely exhausted. It was a good exhaustion that we volunteers felt, too.

And we saw progress. Our candidate started in third place, based on independent polls, with Alexi Giannoulias in first place and Cheryl Jackson in second. Then, as his campaigning progressed and he obtained newspaper endorsements, he passed Jackson in the polls. Now, the rush of adrenaline really started pumping for me and the other campaign volunteers. And then, on election night, Hoffman's staff, family and friends—and volunteers—were assembled in front of TV screens, watching the returns, full of hope and excitement.

But it wasn't our night. The people of Illinois chose Alexi Giannoulias. Our candidate conceded. I was stunned as were many

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# Congress Must Save American Democracy from the Supreme Court's Assault



Congratulations to Alexi Giannoulias and Dan Seals for winning tough primary races to become the Democratic nominees for Illinois' U.S. Senate seat and 10th District Congressional seat, respectively.

Given our state's traditional Democratic makeup and the 10th District's increasingly progressive bent, both candidates have an excellent shot at winning the general election in November. With all that's at stake—healthcare, jobs, financial reform, American democracy itself—it's imperative that we put aside differences from the primary and come together now as one strong Democratic team to support these two promising candidates all the way to victory in November.

Assuming Giannoulias and Seals succeed in the general election, plenty of work awaits them. With Republicans blocking the Democratic agenda at every turn, we're counting on Giannoulias and Seals to support President Obama's leadership in moving our country forward, not backwards to the anti-democratic policies of the Bush administration. We'll be relying on our new representatives to join Senate and House leaders in fighting for much needed reforms to create jobs; improve healthcare; strengthen our schools; develop sources of sustainable energy; reduce our national debt, and, most important, protect and defend our American democracy.

The task of upholding American democracy just got a lot tougher in the wake of the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Citizens United v. FEC*. Overturning a century of campaign finance law, the Court ruled 5-4 that corporations had the same right to free speech as individuals, reasoning that, therefore, the federal government cannot prohibit labor unions or corporations from spending money on election campaigns.

The ruling is expected to open the floodgates to corporate spending on election campaigns. It also gives corporate lobbyists a new weapon—the ability to punish elected officials who, in an effort to do what's right for the American people, vote against corporate interests. "Wall Street banks and firms, having just taken our country into its worst economic collapse since the Great Depression, could spend millions upon millions of dollars on ads directly advocating the defeat of candidates who want to prevent future economic disaster by imposing new financial services regulations," Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold explains on his website, [http://feingold.senate.gov/issues\\_citizensunited\\_facts.html](http://feingold.senate.gov/issues_citizensunited_facts.html).

President Obama called the *Citizens United* ruling "a major victory for Big Oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies and the other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voices of Americans."

In a passionate, 90-page dissent joined by Justices Steven Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Sonia Sotomayor, Justice John Paul Stevens wrote: "The Court's ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to

reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution." The dissent also predicts the ruling will "cripple the ability of ordinary citizens, Congress, and the states to adopt even limited measures to protect against corporate domination of the electoral process."

Members of Congress are also expressing outrage at the Court's decision: "The Supreme Court stabbed Democracy last week," Florida Congressman Alan Grayson said. "If we do nothing, I think you can kiss your country goodbye."

Clearly, Grayson has no intention of doing nothing. Even before the Court announced its cataclysmic decision, Grayson began circulating a petition. It's still circulating; you can sign it here: [http://salsa.mydccc.org/o/30019/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=4](http://salsa.mydccc.org/o/30019/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=4). Grayson has also filed seven bills aimed at limiting the impact of the Court's decision. He filed the first five before the decision was announced.

Senator Russ Feingold was also quick to express outrage, not only at the damage to American democracy implicit in the Court's decision but also at the way in which the Court ignored time-honored legal principles in arriving at its intensely partisan decision. The President and other members of Congress have also expressed grave concern about the power over the outcome of U.S. elections the Court ruling potentially gives to foreign corporations and governments.

We in the Illinois 10th Congressional District will be counting on Giannoulias and Seals to work with the President, and other principled members of Congress like Feingold and Grayson, in standing up, speaking out, and fighting to uphold fair elections and Democracy in America.

## Bills Filed by Congressman Alan Grayson

To Limit The Effect of the Supreme Court Decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*

*The Business Should Mind Its Own Business Act (H.R. 4431)*: Proposes a 500 percent excise tax on corporate contributions to political committees and on corporate expenditures on political advocacy campaigns.

*The Public Company Responsibility Act (H.R. 4435)*: Prevents companies making political contributions and expenditures from trading their stock on national exchanges.

*The End Political Kickbacks Act (H.R. 4434)*: Prevents for-profit corporations that receive money from the government from making political contributions and limits the amount that employees of those companies can contribute.

*The Corporate Propaganda Sunshine Act (H.R. 4432)*: Requires publicly-traded companies to disclose in SEC filings money used for the purpose of influencing public opinion, rather than to promote their products and services.

*The Ending Corporate Collusion Act (H.R. 4433)*: Applies antitrust law to industry PACs.

*America is for Americans Act (H.R. 4510)*: Bans all political contributions from foreign companies or domestic companies with any foreign owners.

*Pick Your Poison Act (H.R. 4511)*: Requires corporations to choose between using lobbyists or campaign propaganda to influence the political process.

# Some Good News for Cook County

by Jennifer Bishop Jenkins

Jennifer Bishop Jenkins is a Democratic candidate for the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

The February 2 primary was certainly a mixed bag for Cook County voters. Low voter turnout helped a lot of incumbents retain their seats, many of whom have been more a part of Cook County's problems than the solutions. But there was also some very good news: Toni Preckwinkle won the primary, almost certainly making her the next Cook County Board President, given that 75 percent of Cook County traditionally votes Democrat. She won decisive majorities in both the city and the suburbs, appealing to a broad range of voters weary of the old Cook County ways. Preckwinkle's victory bodes well for all 5.5 million Cook County residents, many of whom also reside in the 10th Congressional District. She is an independent reformer who is smart and pragmatic, hard-working, and dedicated to eliminating some of Cook County's most serious problems.

Like Toni, I am also a former high school government and social studies teacher. In my run for the Cook County Board, 14th District, I am focused on streamlining and reforming Cook County government with smart leadership and best practices. Another promising reformer is small business owner Patrick Maher who won his Democratic primary to be the candidate to replace incumbent Republican Commissioner Elizabeth Gorman in the 17th District. Gorman faces public questions about her personal finances. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia defeated noted Stroger supporter Commissioner Joseph Moreno, and ran on a reform platform. State Rep. John Fritchey won his primary race to replace retiring Forrest Claypool on the Board. If all of us win in the fall, Toni Preckwinkle should have a governing Reform majority, something truly to be hopeful about. Good Democratic voter turnout in November will be essential for that to happen.



Tenth Dems Vice-Chair John Hmurovic and candidate Jennifer Bishop Jenkins review the agenda for the post-primary celebration.

Cook County is as big as the 17th largest state, and is bigger than most countries in the world. It has a \$3 billion budget and oversees the second largest local unit of government in the nation. We have the largest unified court system in the nation and the largest single site jail, housing an average 10,000 inmates a day. There are, no

## The Primary Thing *continued from page 2*

others. I turned to someone nearby and said that I was feeling that it was a "sad night in Mudville," a reference to the famous poem, "Casey at the Bat."

If I felt stunned, you can now imagine how Hoffman must have felt—devastated. But, then and there, Hoffman was able to suppress any such feelings and give a gracious speech that looked forward to the general election. He told us, "I called Alexi Giannoulias, and I congratulated him on his victory. And I offered him my full support. And I know he will have all of your support, as well."

My candidate was a first-time candidate, and I hope he thinks about running again for public office soon, so I can volunteer for him again. But right now, a couple of weeks after the primary, I'm ready to join my candidate in looking forward to the general election.

As individuals, we have a choice—to sit on our hands and do nothing, or pitch in to help Democrats maintain control of the Congress. By giving of their time and energy in the political arena, our volunteers are shaping history, and at the same time, they are becoming part of history. They set an example for their children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors, that there is more than one way to serve our country, and it IS our country.

We mustn't lose sight of the overriding objective in the coming election. It is important to Illinois and our nation that the Democrats retain that U.S. Senate seat vacated by Obama. For one thing, 60 votes are necessary to prevent a filibuster in the Senate. We now have 57 Democratic votes since Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) won the special election to fill Ted Kennedy's seat. To achieve these 60 votes, the Democrats must now convince three senators, Republicans or Independents, to vote with the Democrats. If the Illinois seat goes to the Republicans, it will be much more difficult to get the 60 votes to prevent a filibuster, and every important Democratic bill could be eviscerated beyond recognition or killed.

My candidate didn't win the nomination, but another good Democrat did. The Democratic voters of Illinois chose Alexi Giannoulias as their candidate. It is important now for all Democrats to close ranks and support Giannoulias to be sure that Mark Kirk doesn't win that seat. If Kirk wins that Senate seat, it could be a real disaster for Main Street, for you and me.

During the primary season, I was inspired by my candidate. As the general election season approaches, I am taking my candidate's election night words to heart: He congratulated Alexi Giannoulias and offered him his full support.

Can the rest of us do any less? United, we can achieve our goal of electing representatives who share our core values as Democrats.

It hurts when you lose, but when I volunteer, I never feel that the effort was wasted.



Tenth Dems volunteer Betsy Weisbach poses with other young Democratic activists.

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**At the mike...**

1. Buffalo Grove Mayor Elliott Hartstein with Jennifer Bishop Jenkins, mistress of ceremonies and candidate for Cook County Board, looking on
2. State Representative Karen May
3. Laura Tomsky, candidate for Lake County Board
4. State Representative Mark Walker
5. Mark Levitt, candidate for Circuit Court Judge, Lake County
6. Wadsworth Mayor Glenn Ryback
7. Kay Hooglund, candidate for Lake County Board
8. State Representative Julie Hamos
9. Dan Seals, Candidate for Congress, 10th Congressional District
10. Elliot Richardson, congressional primary candidate and Tenth Dems volunteer



# A Good Man Is Hard to Find

by Ron Levitsky

As usual, not many eligible voters cast their ballots in the recent primary. Most of those who did will wait for their next civic duty—voting in the November general election. Some will work for candidates whom they believe will serve our community, state, and nation well. But, like the Marines, there are a few good men and women whose political activism is not determined by the election clock but rather by their own sense of civic responsibility.

Henry David Thoreau understood this when he wrote that in a republic like ours one should “cast your whole vote not a strip of paper merely, but your whole influence.” Some, like Thoreau, have used civil disobedience. Others, like Angelina and Sarah Grimke, daughters of a South Carolinian slave owner, courageously spoke publicly of the horrors of slavery during an era when women were generally seen but not heard. Or others, like Saul Alinsky, who spent his life organizing labor and local communities. Or like some of our own neighbors who have demonstrated against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, against nuclear arms, or for a healthcare bill that would truly benefit the American people rather than the insurance industry.

Although often ridiculed by their contemporaries, or worse—consider what happened in 1964 to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner in Neshoba County, Mississippi—these people are generally hailed after their deaths for their courage and good works. What then makes them such a tiny minority? Or, looking at it the other way, why aren't more of us, who share the same beliefs, willing to take action?

Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, offered one suggestion based on her own life (found in Chapter 4 of *Twenty Years at Hull House*). She believed that young women like herself who had the benefits of education and culture had lost by the very nature of their privileged life “that simple and almost automatic response to the human appeal.” She said about her own life after college, “I am simply smothered and sickened with advantage. It's like eating a sweet dessert the first thing in the morning.” Upon witnessing desperate poverty in England and the United States, she was disabused of the notion, stated by one of H.G. Wells' characters, “that somewhere in Church and State are a body of authoritative people who will put things right as soon as they really know what is wrong.” Interestingly, Addams founded Hull House not only to benefit the poor, but also to help give young, middle class women the opportunity to take action and put into effect some of what they had learned. Quoting Tolstoy, she warned against allowing “the snare of preparation” to lull us into never making that leap from thought to action.

Although I don't agree with all his political actions, Lee Goodman is one of my local heroes who models this behavior on a regular basis. A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to chat over coffee.

A graduate of New Trier High School and Northwestern University Law School, Lee practiced law for the Cook County prosecutors' office, for a large insurance company, and for himself. He currently publishes continuing education courses for attorneys and is a professional mediator, which he describes as “wonderful discipline for an opinionated person.” He didn't get involved much in politics or causes until the advent of the Iraq War in October 2002.

The war was a turning point in his life. Lee helped to found the Northbrook Peace Committee by hosting a neighborhood meeting. “If you give people an opportunity to talk about an issue, they might. Otherwise, they can become confused and angry.” His group organized the first political march in Northbrook's history. Although the Northbrook police were nervous regarding what to expect, the march wasn't well attended. However, those who participated felt a great sense of empowerment. “We showed ourselves that we could do these things.”

Afterwards, Lee attended one of Congressman Mark Kirk's public meetings. When a staff member invited the public to write questions on a whiteboard in the front of the room, Lee wrote in big letters, “No More Lies.” Not surprisingly, Kirk stopped having these meetings for several years.

Lee helped to create an area in downtown Northbrook dedicated as a public forum for free speech. His group used it to protest the war, displaying a “coffin” with the words, “War Equals Death.” Later, Highland Park created a similar public forum for its residents.

According to Lee, in the 2004 Congressional race many Democrats believed it was pointless to run against Kirk, whose moderate persona was popular within the 10th District. Even though he understood that in all likelihood he would lose, Lee stepped up and

accepted our party's nomination. He campaigned vigorously on the necessity of stopping the war and reforming healthcare. When I said his platform was ahead of its time, he replied, “Any politician who listens to the people is ahead of his time.”

Besides opposing the war, Lee became a community activist. When, as a response to 9/11, the Coast Guard planned to carry on machine gun practice in Lake Michigan, Lee worked with a coalition of anti-military activists like himself, charter boat owners, those who enjoyed sailing, and environmentalists. They met with Senator Dick Durbin and prevented the Coast Guard from carrying out its plan.

Other local actions have achieved mixed success. His group failed to prevent the Northbrook Village Board from accepting a World War II howitzer from the American Legion for display on the front lawn of city hall. When neighbors complained regarding two houses in Northbrook rented to people coming out of alcohol rehabilitation, Lee and others helped these people remain. However, unsure of the village's position, he calls this a “temporary victory.” When some synagogues invited what he terms as “bigots” to speak to their congregations, Lee was among a diverse group, including members of the local Muslim community, who peacefully distributed leaflets emphasizing the need to respect all faiths. Although some congregants reacted strongly against the leafleting, others were appreciative, and there were no more speakers of this type.

Next on Lee's agenda is opposition to the Northbrook Village Council's consideration of limiting the time during which one can display lawn signs. As he puts it, “Why does the government want to limit people's speech?” Is it because some people fear that things will change? Will the next restriction deal with what books one can read in the library?

Lee's energy and commitment are both daunting and inspiring. When I asked why he does all this, he gave a simple yet profound answer.



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vote, which was 26 percentage points higher than runner-up Terry O'Brien. In 10th District precincts, she received 69 percent, which was 46 percentage points ahead of runner-up O'Brien. Unless there is a pre-election shocker (always a possibility in Illinois and Cook County politics), Preckwinkle should be an easy winner in heavily Democratic Cook County this November.

### Governor/Lieutenant Governor

The road to victory in November will be tougher for Governor Pat Quinn, especially with the Blagojevich trial in the headlines in the weeks before the election, but there were promising signs in the primary. Quinn proved that he could withstand the kind of harsh campaign ads run by challenger Dan Hynes, who came close, but failed to wrest away a majority of 10th District voters, just as he failed to do statewide. Quinn won statewide, 50.4 percent to 49.6 percent. In 10th District precincts, he won 52 percent to 48 percent. In the fall, he has the advantage of running against conservative Republican State Senator Bill Brady, who emerged the winner in a very close race against the more moderate Kirk Dillard. If voters see Brady as too conservative, it should help Quinn in this difficult year for Democrats. Republican voters in 10th District precincts are historically more moderate than Republicans in other parts of the state, and they showed little enthusiasm for Brady. He could do no better than finish sixth out of the seven Republican candidates, getting just 5 percent of 10th District Republican votes.

The (only) good news about the messy post-election publicity involving Democratic Lieutenant Governor primary winner Scott Lee Cohen is that it came out and was resolved in February—nine months before election day. Voters in the 10th District preferred State Senator Terry Link of Waukegan for Lieutenant Governor, a 10th District native, but Cohen was a strong runner-up, finishing about 200 votes behind Link. Cohen ran six percentage points better in the 10th than he did statewide, winning Moraine, West Deerfield, Northfield, and Palatine Townships, and barely losing New Trier and Wheeling Townships.

### U.S. Congress

The challenge for Dan Seals in 2010 may be overcoming the problem he had in 2008 and winning a majority of the voters of Moraine, New Trier, Northfield, and West Deerfield Townships. These townships often go Democratic, and all four were among his strongest when Seals ran for Congress in 2006. In the February primary, as in 2008, voters in these four townships showed less support for Seals than for his opponents.

In every other township in the district, Seals won. It was enough to give him 48 percent of the total vote, compared to 47 percent for Hamos, and 5 percent for Elliot Richardson.

Even in a bad year for Democrats, Seals supporters have reason for

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*Tenth Dems savor primary victories and plan for more victories in November.*

# Listen. Learn. Repeat.

*by Mark L. Levitt*

Mark Levitt is the Democratic candidate for the 4th Subcircuit judgeship in Lake County.

A little more than three months ago, I announced my candidacy for the newly created position of Circuit Court Judge for the 4th Subcircuit of the 19th Judicial Circuit, in southeast Lake County. A



*Judicial candidate Mark Levitt greets potential primary voters at the Deerfield train station.*

newcomer to politics, I had a lot to learn about campaigning. As an Assistant Public Defender, I've spent my days in courtrooms. As a father of four kids, I've spent my nights and "free" time on the fields or in the schools, coaching and managing countless soccer and baseball teams, and serving as a school board member and as an active volunteer. I had no political connections among my family or close friends and, therefore, little exposure to the details of running a political campaign.

Fortunately, I found great mentors who were very generous with their time and their words of wisdom. Many members of the Tenth Dems shared their extensive and valuable political insight: what works and why, what's critical and what's trivial. My team and I learned to wade



*Levitt and primary rivals Dwayne Douglas and Chris Kennedy demonstrate post-primary unity at Flatlanders.*

through vast amounts of data and information and to listen carefully to those with experience.

Being immersed in the political process was challenging but tremendously rewarding. Personally connecting with voters was the highlight of my campaign experience. I also enjoyed getting to know the other judicial candidates on the campaign trail. I have great respect for their many and varied accomplishments and value the friendships we developed.

Moving toward November, I know there's more hard work ahead. I look forward, again, to gaining insight from members of the Tenth Dems, so we can add another Democrat to the bench in Lake County.



*Laura Tomsky, Democratic candidate for Lake County Clerk, enjoys a relaxing moment at Flatlanders with Congressional candidate Dan Seals.*

doubt, serious challenges ahead.

Cook County is rife with patronage jobs. One study suggests that 15 cents of every dollar goes to support jobs for the politically connected. Eliminating this practice alone could bring significant budget relief in these trying times. We campaigned on eliminating most of the patronage jobs Stroger controlled. Ironically, my 12-year incumbent Republican opponent has largely supported the Stroger patronage machine, year after year.

We have campaigned on eliminating the Stroger sales tax. We have also been campaigning on a zero-based budgeting strategy that would require each budget item be justified as a vital necessity with each new budget cycle. I believe this annual forced budgetary discipline will help enable the consolidation of departments and downsizing that former Commissioner, now Congressman, Mike Quigley proposed in his landmark "Reinventing Cook County" study. This proposal has sat unheeded and unimplemented for years. (Download it on the "Issues" page of my website [www.jenniferbishopjenkins.com](http://www.jenniferbishopjenkins.com).) Redundant tax collecting agencies such as Recorder of Deeds, Assessor, Board of Review, etc., should combine into one agency. Eliminate the unnecessary and scandal-plagued suburban Regional Office of Education. Combine Sheriff's police and Forest Preserve District Police. And the list goes on.

Along with Toni Preckwinkle, I am running to be part of a group of Cook County officials (think Forrest Claypool, Mike Quigley and his replacement, Bridget Gainer, and Larry Suffredin) that has been responsible for most of the significant changes for the better in Cook County government. Larry Suffredin, for example, developed and pushed through the successful new independent Health Systems Board, already responsible for saving taxpayers millions of dollars. We need more such independent Democratic reformers on the Cook County Board. Theirs are the voices that make the difference and actually get things done.



*On primary day, a forest of yard signs greeted voters on the approach to their polling place.*



## 2010 Will Be Challenging *continued from page 6*

optimism. This district is now more Democratic than Republican. That was demonstrated again by voter turnout; roughly 52,500 Democrats voted in the congressional primary, compared to 45,000 Republicans. It is reasonable to expect that most Hamos and Richardson voters will turn out for Seals in the fall.

Two more positive portents for Seals. After two runs for Congress, Seals has better name recognition than his relatively unknown Republican opponent. And, in a district with a high percentage of moderate Independents, Seals will be running against the most conservative nominee chosen by 10th District Republicans in over 30 years.

### U.S. Senate

The biggest challenge for Democrats in 2010 may be to hold onto the U.S. Senate seat now occupied by Roland Burris. State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias won the Democratic nomination with about 39 percent of the vote to 34 percent for David Hoffman. Chicago voters are expected to support Giannoulias in the fall, and downstate voters will likely vote Republican. The key may be suburban voters, and that is where the Democrats may have a problem. Hoffman was a landslide winner in the 10th District, an entirely suburban district, getting 60 percent of the vote here to just 29 percent for Giannoulias.

The apparent lack of enthusiasm for Giannoulias may be even more of a problem when compared to suburban Republican enthusiasm for Mark Kirk. The 10th District Congressman won 80 percent of the vote in his home district in a six-way race for the Republican nomination. Statewide, Kirk won 57 percent of the Republican vote. Of course, Kirk will be more popular in his home district, but he has worked hard to craft an image that appeals to suburban voters. Defeating him may be the toughest challenge Illinois Democrats face in November.

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## A Good Man *continued from page 5*

When you teach your children to act a certain way morally and ethically, "there's not much of a choice." When I asked what he personally took from his activism, he replied, "I enjoy it. Being active is lots of fun." And, he continued, "I always get emails thanking me for doing something."

Lee makes it sound easy. Of course, it is anything but. As he admits, "What bigger risk is there than to stand in front of your own community?" Indeed, it must be a great risk. Why else would so few of us do it? Perhaps we are caught in the snare of preparation.

All of us should be encouraged to spend as much of our time as possible, from now to November, working to get Democrats elected to office. Even though it is inevitable that some of them will disappoint, that some of these elected officials will do good for their constituents is also inevitable. We can't control someone else's integrity, morality, or libido. But what we can do, if we so choose, is to engage in community service in a way that makes our children proud. Or, at the very least, honor those who do.

Thank you, Lee.

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## Why Alexi Giannoulias *continued from page 2*

98,000 Illinois activists, members, and supporters to defeat Mark Kirk's Senate campaign."

[http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/elections/election-pr/pr11102009\\_moderatemarknomore.html](http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/elections/election-pr/pr11102009_moderatemarknomore.html)

Bottom line: "Planned Parenthood Illinois Action is pleased to support U.S. Senate candidate Alexi Giannoulias, who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to women's reproductive health issues," said

Steve Trombley, President and CEO of PPIA. "We stand behind candidates who stand up for the women and families of Illinois."

Alexi Giannoulias is strong on campaign finance issues. Alexi is the first U.S. Senate candidate in Illinois history to refuse money from corporate PACs and federal lobbyists. Alexi "profoundly disagrees" with the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC and noted that "Mark Kirk doesn't believe there is a problem. In his decade in Washington, he has taken more corporate PAC money than just about any other politician. He then voted their way on one reckless Bush economic policy after another. That is why he refused to disclose how he would have voted on the confirmation of Justice Sotomayor, and that's why he still won't speak about it even today. He cannot be trusted to be an advocate for working families or the middle class." <http://www.alexiforillinois.com/blog/giannoulias-statement-sctotus-ruling>

Alexi Giannoulias is strong on economic issues. Alexi recognizes that "in November 2010, voters of Illinois will be faced with a clear choice: go back to the reckless Bush-Cheney fiscal policies Mark Kirk supported that cost this state hundreds of thousands of jobs and created the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, or move forward to fundamentally change our economy and create the next generation of good jobs here in Illinois." <http://www.alexiforillinois.com/issues/economy>

Alexi Giannoulias is strong on gay rights issues. Alexi is the first U.S. Senate candidate in Illinois history to support marriage equality and the repeal of "Don't ask, don't tell." <http://www.alexiforillinois.com/issues/lgbt-rights> Contrast that with Mark Kirk. After leading people to believe that he supported gay rights, Kirk came out against gay marriage, in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act, and in favor of the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. <http://www.suntimes.com/news/brown/1750844,CST-NWS-brown03.article>

Alexi Giannoulias is strong on Israel. Alexi has an intellectual and emotional commitment to Israel. He believes that "[o]ur first commitment in the Middle East must be the security of Israel, our strongest ally in the region. Our governments are similarly based on beliefs in democracy and freedom—values that continue to be threatened by extremism and hate. The United States and Israel must remain unwavering partners in the shared struggle against terrorism and violence." <http://www.alexiforillinois.com/issues/foreign-policy> Alexi has also stated that he supports the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009 that recently passed the Senate.

As Tenth Dems, we have a special obligation to ensure that Mark Kirk's career in Congress ends in November. Let's help Alexi help Illinois.

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