2014 VOTER GUIDE
ILLINOIS

Yalla VOTE

ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE
INTRODUCTION

As the world changes drastically around us, it is more important than ever to make our voices heard at the polls on November 4th.

The hope inspired by the revolutions that swept across the Arab world four years ago has turned into a desperate and urgent fear of violent extremists threatening the entire region. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict saw yet another cycle of failed negotiations coupled with tragedy and violence; now a just resolution appears further away than it has been in decades. The wars in Iraq and Syria continue to tear apart whole societies and fundamentally redefine the role of the global community.

At home, our government has yet to achieve the right balance between protecting our national security and preserving our civil liberties. We have seen countless accounts of alarming, intrusive surveillance programs targeting our community that violate our constitutionally guaranteed rights as equal citizens. Hard won momentum pushing forward immigration reform stalled and another session of congress will end without enacting much needed reform of our immigration system.

The coming election will have to address all these questions and more, and your vote will shape the direction of this country for decades to come. Our community has been a part of the national conversation on these issues and it is critical that we get to the ballot box in November. We have compiled this Voter Guide to help you educate yourself before going to the polls. It contains important information about the voting process in your state and contact information for parties and candidates.

As our community of nearly 4 million Arab Americans continues to grow both in size and in political prominence, we remain focused and committed to the empowerment of our community and the betterment of our nation. For many, that begins at the ballot box. Use this guide, share it, and Yalla Vote!
Overview

Illinois boasts one of the fastest growing Arab American populations in the country, which according to the latest Census stands at 85,000. However we estimate that due to undercounting, Illinois boasts a vibrant Arab American numbering over 300,000. This November, all Illinois voters will go to the polls to elect one representative to the United States Senate, all representatives in the United States House of Representatives, and the next state Governor.

As November draws near, new voter ID laws passed in 2011 will continue to be in effect. The latest of which reduced the time for returning voter registration forms from seven to two business days by first-class mail or by personal delivery within seven days. While not a drastic measure, it is important to note.

In the historically Democratic state, the focus is on the gubernatorial elections where residents have become disenchanted with current Democratic Governor Pat Quinn. The Illinois governorship has a history of corruption and scandal. The previous governor, Rod Blagojevich, was impeached and sentenced to a 14-year prison sentence for corruption, including soliciting bribes for political appointments. He was succeeded by the current Governor and Democratic candidate Pat Quinn. Pat Quinn is not without scandal, and is presently under investigation for patronage hiring and his botched $55 million dollar anti-violence program. The Republican challenger Bruce Rauner is ahead in the polls, but is under scrutiny for using highly questionable methods to lower his income tax rate. He has broken the record for self-funding in an Illinois gubernatorial race, having put up $6 million of his own money for his campaign. Rauner has led the polls since January.

The incumbent United States Senator Dick Durbin (D) is unlikely to be toppled by Republican challenger Jim Oberweis. Durbin has served as senator since 1996 and is currently the Senate Majority Whip. Long active on civil rights issues, Durbin led the effort to include crimes motivated by prejudice against Arab Americans, Hindus and Sikhs on the FBI's hate crimes reporting form. Senator Durbin has also been a strong advocate on Arab American issues regarding civil liberties and immigration. In January, Durbin convened a landmark hearing on the Syrian refugee crisis, which shed light on the tragically low numbers of Syrian refugees the U.S. is taking in.

With the exception of a few close calls, the elections for the United States House of Representatives favor the incumbents. The toss-up races are in Districts 10, 12, 13 and 17. District 10's incumbent Democrat Brad Schneider will face former Republican representative Bob Dold. Dold represented District 10 from 2011-2013. This race has been ranked by Roll Call as the seventh most likely flip for 2014 House rematches. In District 12, incumbent and freshman Democrat William Enyart faces Republican challenger and state representative Mike Bost. Enyart faces an uphill battle in the district, where President Obama and Governor Quinn are unpopular.

Tenth most likely to flip is District 17, where incumbent Democrat Cheri Bustos faces Republican Bobby Schilling. Much like the race in District 10, Schilling represented District 17 for two years from 2011-2013 and is running to retake his former seat. District 13 is up for grabs as Republican incumbent and freshman representative Rodney Davis faces challenger Anne Callis and the Democratic Party's aspirations to flip the district. In the last elections, Davis faced a new district landscape after redistricting, but still managed to win the seat.

Election Information

Elections

General Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014.
Polls OPEN at 6 AM and CLOSE at 7 PM.

Resource: Illinois State Board of Elections
100 W. Randolph, Suite 14-100
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 814-6440
http://www.elections.il.gov

Deadlines

Voter Registration: October 7, 2014
Early Voting
Opens: October 20, 2014
Closes: November 1, 2014

Applications for Absentee Ballot must be received by the Election Authority by: October 30, 2014
In person applications for Absentee Ballot must be made by: November 3, 2014

Register to Vote

If you register by mail on an internet form or a federal registration form and do not have a driver’s license or social security number, and the register form is submitted by mail, and you have never registered to vote in the jurisdiction you are now registering in, then you must send, with this application, either (i) a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or (ii) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. If you do not provide the information required above, then you will be required to provide election officials with either (i) or (ii) described above the first time you vote at a voting place or by absentee ballot.

Absentee Voting

Any registered Illinois voter may request and vote an absentee ballot without specifying a reason for the absence from the polling place on Election Day. You may apply for an absentee ballot by mail, online, or in person at your county polling center. The online application can be found at: http://www.elections.il.gov/votinginformation/absenteevoting.aspx.
Election Information

Absentee voting deadlines are as follows:
- All requests by mail must be received by the Election Authority by October 30, 2014
- All in-person absentee requests must be made by November 3, 2014.
- Absentee ballots must be postmarked by midnight on November 3, 2014.

Early Voting
Illinois allows voters to vote early without providing any reason. Early voting can occur starting the twenty-second day before the election up to and including the fifth day before the election. October 20th through November 1, 2014.

Election authorities across the state will announce the locations of early voting centers. In almost all cases, the early voting centers will be different from the voter’s regular polling place. Contact your County Election Officials for information about location and times.

Information for People with Felony Convictions
Illinois residents are not eligible to vote if they have been convicted of any crime in Illinois, another state, or any federal court, and are serving a sentence of confinement in any penal institution. Confinement includes persons granted a furlough or admitted to a work release program, but does not include situations in which a person is convicted and imprisoned but released on parole.

AT THE POLL
Identification Required to Vote
Generally no identification is required to vote at the polls. However, if a voter registered to vote by mail and did not provide the required identification with the mail-in registration application, then he/she must submit one of the following at the polling place: a current and valid photo identification, utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document.

When voting during the early voting period, voters must provide either an Illinois driver’s license, non-driver identification card issued by the Illinois Secretary of State, or another government-issued identification document containing the applicant’s photograph.

Campaigning and the Polls
On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or in behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or referendum within a radius of 75 feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach, except as provided in section. The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the 75 foot distance from such entrance.

Working at the Polls
Poll Watchers
Any citizen may go to a polling place and observe. The poll watcher watches to see if any violations of the election laws occur. If such a violation occurs, the poll watcher is to inform the election board of the violation. The election board consists of the poll workers. Uniformed law enforcement officers are not allowed to be poll watchers. Poll watchers are responsible for supplying any necessities or materials needed while at the polls, i.e. chairs, tables, writing materials, etc. They cannot use the poll workers’ supplies.

The poll watcher may not interfere with or impede the conduct of any election. He/she should come no closer to the official table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary. Unless there is an observation of questionable nature, the poll watcher is not permitted to speak to the election board or voter.

Things poll watchers may do:
1. The first poll watcher of the Election Day has the right to see that the ballot box is empty before the first ballot is cast.
2. A poll watcher may observe the distribution of the ballot to the voter and after the voter has voted the depositing of ballot into the ballot box.
3. If the poll watcher observes what he thinks might be a violation, he/she may question a voter’s privilege by stating his/her case to the election board. Remember, the election board consists of the poll workers at that precinct.
4. The poll watcher may observe the closing procedures when the polls close. A poll watcher is not allowed to talk to any person in the polling place except when questioning a procedure.

No poll watcher may wear anything advertising a candidacy or promoting for or against an issue. Poll watchers are official observers only. They may observe the conduct of the election before, during and after the polls close. The election board is the sole authority in the polling place on Election Day. No person, except the board, may handle or touch election supplies and materials. If the poll watcher feels that a violation has taken place during an election, the poll watcher must notify the election board. Electioneering, campaigning or solicitation within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling room is prohibited.

State Contact Information

Illinois State Democratic Party
Chairman: Michael Madigan
P.O. Box 518
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 546-7404
www.ildems.com
contact@ildems.com

Illinois State Republican Party
Chairman: Tim Schneider
P.O. Box 64897
Chicago, IL 60664
(312) 201-9000
www.weareillinois.org
info@ilgop.org
**Illinois State Gubernatorial Race**

**Candidate Profile**

### Pat Quinn (D) Incumbent

*Running mate: Paul Vallas*

676 N. Lasalle St., Suite 340  
Chicago, IL, 60654  
(312) 654-8888  
info@quinnforillinois.com  
www.quinnforillinois.com

Quinn has served as the Governor of Illinois since 2009, when Rod Blagojevich was impeached for corruption. Quinn was Lieutenant Governor under Blagojevich, and was Treasurer of Illinois from 1991-1995. He was born in Hinsdale, Illinois, and graduated with a law degree from Northwestern University School of Law. He has two sons. Paul Vallas has led a career in education policy, serving as the superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools and the Recovery School District of Louisiana. He was also CEO of Chicago Public Schools from 1995-2001.

According to his website, Quinn stands for:

- Creating jobs and building infrastructure, creating an environment to encourage investors
- Environmental sustainability, a green economy, tough regulations on hydraulic fracturing, and renewable energy investment
- Supporting Illinois veterans by expanding healthcare, signing the Hiring Veterans Tax Credit, championing the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund
- Pro-choice legislation and sex education classes in public schools that teach about contraception
- Supporting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, “Obamacare”
- Reducing state spending
- Pension reform
- Yearly property tax refunds
- Doubling Earned Income Tax Credits
- Investing an additional $6 billion in education over the next five years

### Bruce Rauner (R)

*Running mate: Evelyn Sanguinetti*

P.O. Box 617513  
Chicago, IL, 60661  
(312) 583-0704  
info@joinbruce.com  
www.brucerauner.com

Bruce Rauner is the Republican candidate for Illinois Governor. He was born in Chicago and grew up in Deerfield, IL. He graduated from Dartmouth and went on to earn his MBA from Harvard University. He worked his way up in a private equity firm, GTCR, until he became the Chairman. He retired in 2012. He is married and has six children. Running with him, Evelyn Sanguinetti is a first generation American, with a father from Ecuador and a Cuban mother. She is a lawyer and an Adjunct Professor of Law at The John Marshall Law School, where she earned her law degree. She is married with three children.

According to his website, he wants to:

- Reform the workers’ compensation system to make Illinois competitive with neighboring states
- Get rid of the Quinn-Madigan tax hikes and replace them with comprehensive overhaul of the tax code that is fair to all taxpayers
- Audit every dime of government spending
- Reform the pension system so we can spend more money on priorities like education, roads, and public safety. To do this, he wants to:
  - Ensure pay and benefits do not rise faster than the rate of inflation
  - Estimate the ability of government employees to receive massive pay raises before they retire just to increase their pension
  - Cap the current system and move towards a defined contribution system
- Ensure your property taxes never go up if the value of your home decreases.
- Push for term limits so that no Governor can serve more than 8 years
- Allow state workers to choose whether they want to join a government employees union, instead of being forced to do so
- Re-prioritize education spending so that more money goes into teachers and classroom technology
Richard Durbin (D) Incumbent

Richard “Dick” Durbin is the incumbent Democratic senator representing Illinois. He has been in office since 1997, and has served as the Majority Whip since 2007. He was born in East St. Louis and went on to graduate from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and Georgetown University Law Center.

According to his website, he stands for:

- An increase in the minimum wage to $10.10/hr
- An extension of unemployment insurance to help those still struggling to get back into the labor force
- Tax reform that eliminates subsidies for big oil and ends tax breaks for companies that move American jobs overseas
- Supporting home grown biofuels that can reduce our use of foreign oil, lessen greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen the economies of rural communities
- Providing active military and veterans with the equipment and services that they need
- Bipartisan cooperation to reduce wasteful spending and bring down the federal deficit
- Capping student loan rates and reducing the cost of a college education by $1,000 over the life of Illinois students and their families
- Fighting to preserve Medicare and Social Security for generations to come

Jim Oberweis (R)

Jim Oberweis is the Republican candidate for the US Senate. He is currently a member of the Illinois Senate. He previously ran for the US Senate, US House of Representatives, and Illinois Governor. He earned a B.A. from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He and his wife have five children, two step children, and sixteen grandchildren.

According to his website, he supports:

- Getting to the bottom of the IRS scandal
- Implementing term limits
- Protecting free speech
- Lowering energy costs for all Americans, and especially the poor
- Looking to North and South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Illinois for our energy needs
- Making the tax code simpler for everyone, with lower rates that will create more jobs.
- Empowering teachers and de-emphasizing federal control over education and encouraging school choice options that empower students and parents to find high-performing schools
- The right to bear arms, unless you have a mental health difficulty or are a convicted felon
- Constructing a guest worker program similar to the Rosario program where workers from Mexico would come to work and return home seasonally
- Pro-Life
### U.S. House of Representatives Races

#### U.S. House, IL 1st District
- **Incumbent**: Bobby Rush (D)
  - Address: 3534 South Calumet Avenue, Chicago, IL 60653
  - Phone: (321) 225-3444
  - Website: www.rush.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Jimmy Tillman II (R)
  - Address: 7420 South Vernon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60619

#### U.S. House, IL 2nd District
- **Incumbent**: Robin Kelly (D)
  - Address: 2419 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
  - Phone: (202) 225-0773
  - Website: www.robinKelly.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Eric Wallace (R)
  - Address: 2938 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, IL 60647
  - Phone: (708) 365-4843
  - Website: www.wallaceforillinois.com

#### U.S. House, IL 3rd District
- **Incumbent**: Daniel Lipinski (D)
  - Address: 1717 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515
  - Phone: (202) 225-5701
  - Website: www.lipinski.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Sharon Brannigan (R)
  - Address: 14269 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park, IL 60467
  - Phone: (708) 691-7818
  - Website: www.branniganforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, IL 4th District
- **Incumbent**: Luis Gutiérrez (D)
  - Address: 2408 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
  - Phone: (321) 225-8203
  - Website: www.gutierrez.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Hector Concepcion (R)
  - Address: 2938 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, IL 60647
  - Phone: (312) 508-2169
  - Website: www.concepcionforuscongress.com

#### U.S. House, IL 5th District
- **Incumbent**: Mike Quigley (D)
  - Address: 1124 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515
  - Phone: (202) 225-4061
  - Website: www.quigley.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Vince Kolber (R)
  - Address: 2245 North Magnolia, Chicago, IL 60614
  - Phone: (773) 850-1629
  - Website: www.wadeincongress.org

#### U.S. House, IL 6th District
- **Incumbent**: Peter Roskam (R)
  - Address: 227 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515
  - Phone: (202) 225-4561
  - Website: www.roskam.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Michael Mason (D)
  - Address: 65116 Country Drive, Naperville, IL 60540
  - Website: www.michaelmasonforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, IL 7th District
- **Incumbent**: Tammy Duckworth (D)
  - Address: 104 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515
  - Phone: (202) 225-3711
  - Website: www.duckworth.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Larry Kaifesh (R)
  - Address: 804 E Nerge Rd., Roselle, IL 60172
  - Phone: (847) 380-6915
  - Website: www.kaifesh4congress.com

#### U.S. House, IL 8th District
- **Incumbent**: Robin Kelly (D)
  - Address: 2419 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
  - Phone: (202) 225-0773
  - Website: www.robinkelly.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Eric Wallace (R)
  - Address: 14269 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park, IL 60467
  - Phone: (708) 365-4843
  - Website: www.wallaceforillinois.com

## U.S. House of Representatives Races

### U.S. House, IL 9th District
**Incumbent**  
Janice Schakowsky  
(D)  
8417 Betty Terrace  
Niles IL 60714  
[www.schakowsky.house.gov](http://www.schakowsky.house.gov)

**Challenger**  
Susanne Atanus  
(R)  
326 S. Milwaukee Ave.,  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
(847) 380-7605  
[www.doldforcongress.com](http://www.doldforcongress.com)

### U.S. House, IL 10th District
**Incumbent**  
Brad Schneider  
(D)  
1224 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3515  
[www.foster.house.gov](http://www.foster.house.gov)

**Challenger**  
Darlene Senger  
(R)  
515 Chamberlain Ln., Unit 203  
Naperville, IL 60540  
(630) 429-3690  
[www.sengerforcongress.com](http://www.sengerforcongress.com)

### U.S. House, IL 11th District
**Incumbent**  
Bill Foster  
(D)  
1742 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5661  
[www.enyart.house.gov](http://www.enyart.house.gov)

**Challenger**  
Mike Bost  
(R)  
P.O. Box 1212  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 549-2678  
[www.bostforcongress.com](http://www.bostforcongress.com)

### U.S. House, IL 12th District
**Incumbent**  
William Enyart  
(D)  
2452 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5271  
[www.shimkus.house.gov](http://www.shimkus.house.gov)

**Challenger**  
Paula Bradshaw  
(Green Party)  
P.O. Box 30104  
Chicago, IL 60630  
[www.paula4congress.org](http://www.paula4congress.org)

### U.S. House, IL 13th District
**Incumbent**  
Rodney Davis  
(R)  
322 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2371  
[www.rodneydavis.house.gov](http://www.rodneydavis.house.gov)

**Challenger**  
Ann Callis  
(D)  
4682 Kings Way North  
Gurnee, IL 60031  
(847) 984-0619  
[www.callisforillinois.com](http://www.callisforillinois.com)

### U.S. House, IL 14th District
**Incumbent**  
Randal Hultgren  
(R)  
1742 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5661  
[www.hultgren.house.gov](http://www.hultgren.house.gov)

**Challenger**  
Dennis Anderson  
(D)  
480 CR 2500 N.  
Mahomet, IL 61853  
(217) 714-0688  

### U.S. House, IL 15th District
**Incumbent**  
John Shimkus  
(R)  
1722 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5271  
[www.shimkus.house.gov](http://www.shimkus.house.gov)

**Challenger**  
Eric Thorland  
(D)  
480 CR 2500 N.  
Mahomet, IL 61853  
(217) 714-0688  
[www.ericforillinois.com](http://www.ericforillinois.com)
# U.S. House of Representatives Races

## U.S. House, IL 16th District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incumbent</th>
<th>Challenger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Kinzinger (R)</td>
<td>Randall Olsen (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1221 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-3635</td>
<td>P.O. Box 66 Ottawa, IL 61350 (815) 713-7000</td>
</tr>
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## U.S. House, IL 17th District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incumbent</th>
<th>Challenger</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheri Bustos (D)</td>
<td>Bobby Schilling (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1009 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5905</td>
<td>367 Avenue of the Cities, Suite D East Moline, IL 61244 (309) 755-9200</td>
</tr>
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## U.S. House, IL 18th District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incumbent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Shock (R)</td>
<td>Darrel Miller (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>328 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-6201</td>
<td>18636 N 500 E Rd Danvers, IL 61732 (309) 963-4495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>