



# Laborers' International Union of North America

## Midwest Regional Office

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### Primary Election Overview

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#### Pritzker & Madigan Big Winners

Democrat favorite and LiUNA-endorsed gubernatorial candidate **JB Pritzker (D-Chicago)** scored a decisive victory Tuesday night winning 98 of 102 counties on his way to collecting 45% of primary vote - 18.5% (or 236,000 votes) more than his closest challenger, **State Sen. Daniel Biss (D-Evanston)**. **Chris Kennedy (D-Kenilworth)**, who some thought to be surging in the election's final weeks, finished closely behind Biss with 24.3%. With 1.24 million votes counted so far, Democrat Primary turnout will be the highest for a governor's race since 2002.

Pritzker received huge vote percentages in downstate Illinois where internal polling leading up to the election projected him as receiving about half of the vote. That proved to be accurate with Pritzker receiving 53% of the downstate vote overall, with some counties giving him upwards of 70%. Biss won the counties home to the state's two largest universities, Champaign and McLean, and Kennedy won two counties with very small vote totals (Ford and Hardin). Pritzker won the rest, including a huge margin in Chicago and Cook County.

Republicans tried to make **House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago)** an issue for Primary voters, but the effort was rejected by Democrats. Madigan-backed candidates in contested races for state representative won all over the state. House Democrats may have further benefitted in several swing districts in that more conservative Republican challengers prevailed in the GOP primary. Lastly, in a more under-the-RADAR development, Madigan will not face any serious opposition for Democrat Party Chair due to the victories of all but one of the state central committee candidates allied with the Speaker.

#### Rauner Survives... Barely

Primary challenges to incumbent governors are not necessarily news. **Gov. Jim Edgar (R-Charleston)** had a token GOP opponent in his 1994 re-election bid and Democrats **Rod Blagojevich (D-Chicago)** and **Pat Quinn (D-Chicago)** had primaries in 2006 and 2014, respectively. But the results of those contests were never in doubt: Edgar received 75% of the vote, Blagojevich got 71% and Quinn 72%. Yesterday's primary for **Gov. Bruce Rauner (R-Winnetka)** was a completely different story.

Rauner is lucky to have fought off his opponent, ultra-conservative **State Rep. Jeanne Ives (R-Wheaton)**, defeating her by less than 3%, which amounts to fewer than 20,000 votes.

Ives won 38 counties, including four of the six surrounding Chicago. The further downstate the county, the more likely Rauner lost it. Rauner outspent Ives by more than 12 to one. As a result of her limited resources, she did not have the luxury of buying anywhere near the volume of t.v. ads that Rauner ran downstate – an area where her anti-abortion, anti-immigrant platform would be very favorably received. Ives, therefore, lost nearly every county between Springfield and Joliet. It seems highly likely that an additional \$1 million spent by Ives on Peoria/Bloomington and Springfield/Decatur/Champaign television stations could have defeated Bruce Rauner.

#### LiUNA-Backed Raoul Wins AG Nod

**State Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago)** won LiUNA's endorsement last month and the Democrat nod in a crowded

field to replace **Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D-Chicago)** last night.

Raoul bested former Gov. Pat Quinn by 35,000 votes by racking up large margins in Chicago and its suburban counties. He also won Champaign, DeKalb and two other counties downstate. The better-known Quinn, who has run in the Democrat primary statewide no fewer than eight times for five different offices, used his name recognition advantage to win 90 counties. Lake County resident **Nancy Roterling (D-Highland Park)** won that county and was the only other candidate to win a county, besting Raoul by 850 votes.

Attorney and former Miss America **Erika Harold (R-Champaign)** won the Republican nomination and will face-off against Raoul in November.

### **State House Results**

As mentioned above, candidates preferred by Speaker Madigan generally won yesterday. A notable exception was long-time **State Rep. Dan Burke (D-Chicago)** who lost to **Aaron Ortiz (D-Chicago)** in a district that is majority Latino.

JB Pritzker's running mate, **State Rep. Juliana Stratton (D-Chicago)**, had to give up her seat to run for Lt. governor. In 2016, Stratton defeated then-incumbent **State Rep. Ken Dunkin (D-Chicago)**, who sided with Rauner over the Democrats numerous times, including opposing legislation that would allow state employees to go to binding arbitration in the event of a stalemate at the bargaining table. Dunkin sought to regain his seat this year, but, thankfully, came in third place in a four-person race.

In another open seat vacated by a Lt. governor candidate, LiUNA supported **Maurice West (D-Rockford)** who won the nod from Winnebago County Democrats to replace **State Rep. Litesa Wallace (D-Rockford)** after she was selected to be Daniel Biss's running mate. West received 40% of the vote in a four-way race.

Union operating engineer **Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa)** received 57% of the vote in a two-person contest to win the right to face Republican flip-flopper **State Rep. Jerry Long (R-Streator)** in the General Election. Long would have been the final vote needed to override Rauner's veto of legislation prohibiting local Right to Work (for Less) laws. He supported the bill before Rauner convinced him to vote 'no'. Long is a Teamster.

On the Republican ballot, **House Minority Leader Jim Durkin (R-Burr Ridge)** easily fought off a challenger funded by ultra-conservative Dan Proft and Operating Engineers Local 150, receiving 67% of the vote.

Several GOP representatives who voted for the bi-partisan agreement that ended the state's two-year budget deadlock (and chose to run for re-election) had primary challenges. Most of them prevailed, including **Reps. Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro) and Norine Hammond (R-Macomb)**. Even though they flip-flopped on the budget deal, **Reps. CD Davidsmeyer (R-Jacksonville) and Charlie Meier (R-Highland)** had primaries and easily won. Only **Rep. David Reis (R-Olney)** was defeated after voting for (and then against) ending the impasse.

Lastly, the only state senator to lose a seat was **Ira Silverstein (D-Chicago)**, who engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a lobbyist. Though he was cleared of charges of sexual harassment, an independent investigator found his behavior to be unbecoming of a legislator. Silverstein lost big to SEIU official **Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago)**, 51%-30%.