

SOCIAL WORKERS VOTE.

Your 2026 guide from the NASW Illinois PAC: who we endorsed for statewide office and the General Assembly.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCT 6

Last day to register by
mail (postmarked)

OCT 18

Last day to register
online

OCT 29

Deadline to apply to
vote by mail

NOV 3

Polls open 6 a.m. to 7
p.m. Same-day
registration at your
polling place

Early voting is open now through Nov. 2. Registering in person? Bring two IDs, one with your current address. Check your registration at **elections.il.gov**

TOP OF THE TICKET

We're endorsing in every statewide race. These are the leaders who will sign, enforce and fund the laws social workers fight for.

GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JB PRITZKER
for Governor



CHRISTIAN MITCHELL
for Lieutenant Governor

“ WHY WE ENDORSE

Governor Pritzker signed the WOPR Act, which bans AI from providing therapy in Illinois, and HB 1085, which makes private insurers pay more for mental health care. He has consistently worked to remove barriers to care and fund more mental health professionals. Governor Pritzker and Christian Mitchell deserve four more years.



ATTORNEY GENERAL

KWAME RAOUL

Illinois' Attorney General since 2019.

“ WHY WE ENDORSE

Attorney General Raoul has been Illinois' backstop against federal budget cuts and harsh policies out of Washington. He's gone to court again and again to protect the health care, services and civil rights our clients count on.



SECRETARY OF STATE

ALEXI GIANNOULIAS

Illinois' Secretary of State since 2023.



WHY WE ENDORSE

Secretary Giannoulias made sure people leaving jail and prison get a free state ID, which they need to land a job, housing and benefits. He also led the fight against library book bans.



COMPTROLLER

MARGARET CROKE

State representative for the 12th House District.



WHY WE ENDORSE

As Comptroller, Representative Croke will decide how fast Illinois pays the agencies where our members work. We're counting on her to make sure the people doing the state's hardest work never wait on a check.



TREASURER

MICHAEL FRERICHS

Illinois' Treasurer since 2015.



WHY WE ENDORSE

Treasurer Frerichs has been a strong advocate for social workers and our clients for more than a decade. He built Illinois ABLE for people with disabilities and Secure Choice for workers with no retirement plan.

STATE SENATE

Find your districts at elections.il.gov
SW Social worker or social work degree

SD 8

Ram Villivalam

SD 9

Patrick Hanley

SD 14

Emil Jones III

SD 17

Elgie R. Sims Jr.

SD 21

Laura Ellman

SD 25

Karina Villa

SW

SD 26

Nabeela Syed

SD 27

Carina Santa Maria

SW

SD 29

Julie A. Morrison

SD 36

Michael W. Halpin

SD 42

Jared Ploger

SD 48

Doris Turner

SD 57

Christopher Belt

YOUR VOTE IS A SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION.

Springfield sets Medicaid rates, child welfare caseloads, school mental health funding and the rules for your license. Vote, then bring three colleagues with you.

No statewide questions this year. Illinois has no statewide referendums on the November ballot, but check your sample ballot for local questions.

About our endorsements

This year the NASW Illinois PAC endorsed only in contested races. Many legislators who fight hard for social workers don't have an opponent in November, and they would have easily earned our endorsement. If a candidate isn't in this guide, that doesn't mean they aren't a champion for our profession.

STATE HOUSE

SW Social worker or social work degree

2	Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez
12	Paul Kendrick
13	Demerike "Demi" Palecek
17	Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz
18	Robyn Gabel
19	Lindsey LaPointe SW
21	Abdelnasser Rashid
25	Curtis J. Tarver II
35	Mary Gill
39	Will Guzzardi
41	Janet Yang Rohr
42	Margaret A. DeLarosa
44	Fred Crespo

45	Martha "Marti" Deuter SW
46	Diane Blair-Sherlock
49	Maura Hirschauer
51	Jenny Levin
52	Maria Peterson
53	Nicolle Grasse
54	Mary Beth Canty
56	Michelle Mussman
57	Tracy Katz Muhl
61	Joyce Mason
65	Ricky Rivard
66	Suzanne Ness
68	Dave Vella

69	Peter Janko
75	Caroline McCree
77	Norma Hernandez SW
78	Camille Lilly
79	Jackie Haas SW
81	Anne Stava
83	Matt Hanson
85	Dagmara "Dee" Avelar
97	Jessica Dixon Heitman
98	Natalie A. Manley
104	Mary Catherine Roberson
111	Rosetta "Rosie" Brown
112	Katie Stuart

JUDICIAL RETENTION Don't skip the judges.



In Cook County

Injustice Watch guide:
2026retention.injusticewatch.org



Outside Cook County

Illinois State Bar Association:
isba.org/judicial-elections

Also check ratings from specialty bar associations, such as the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and the LGBTQ+ Bar Association of Chicago.

FEDERAL RACES

Voting for Congress?

NASW PACE picks for U.S. House and Senate. Scan, or search "2026 PACE Endorsements" at socialworkers.org



SUPPORT THE PAC

Give to the NASW Illinois PAC

Scan to donate. Volunteer and learn more at naswil.org/naswilpac

