



the COOK-WITTER REPORT

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The Primary – The Results Are In

Members of the State Board of Elections met in Chicago on April 8, 2002 to certify the results from the March 19 General Primary Election. Also on the agenda was a coin toss conducted by State Board of Elections Chair Elaine Roupas, to resolve a tie in the number of votes cast in the Democratic race for the House 78th District between Deborah L. Graham and Dorothy M. Reid, who each garnered 6934 votes. Two other Democrats were also in the race, but no Republicans. The coin toss marks the first time a tie has occurred in the Primary results between candidates, at least since the inception of the State Board of Elections in 1974. However, a coin toss was necessary one other time in 1990 after a recount produced a tie between candidates Penny Pullen and Rosemary Mulligan. An Eisenhower silver dollar broke the tie in this instance, the coin chosen because both candidates were Republican.

Reid and Graham, as well as their lawyers were invited to witness the 1964 Kennedy half-dollar being tossed Monday morning in Chicago, in which Reid was declared the winner. Graham has already filed for a discovery recount, which entails a manual examination of one-quarter

of ballots in precincts of her choosing. In another close race, the official canvass shows William Delgado beating Jose Alvarez by a mere 24 votes in the House 3rd District race; a recount has already been filed. Candidates have until April 15th to file for a recount. These races will most likely not be settled any time soon, and may even involve the courts eventually.

Only seven incumbents were not able to retain a seat in the primary. They include: Representative Howard Kenner (D-24), Representative Harold Murphy (D-30), Representative Robert Ryan, Jr. (D-79), Representative Gwenn Klingler (R-100), Senator Thomas J. Walsh (R-22), Senator Judith A. Myers (R-53), and Senator William F. Mahar (R-19). In contested races, ten incumbent Democratic House members and nine incumbent Republican representatives defeated their opponents. On the Senate side of contested races, six incumbent Democrats and four incumbent Republicans beat their Primary opponents. Having triumphed in the Primary contest, the winners must now gear up to face the next set of opponents of the opposing political parties for the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2002.



The following charts reflect the differences in the types of races fielded in this past Primary and the Primary ten years ago, the last time the legislative maps were changed.

2002 Primary Battles

	Senate (59)				House (118)							
	Democrats		Republicans		Senate Totals		Democrats		Republicans		House Totals	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Contested	10	17.0%	9	15.3%	19	16.1%	23	19.5%	21	17.8%	44	18.6%
Uncontested	33	55.9%	24	40.6%	57	48.3%	66	55.9%	60	50.8%	126	53.4%
No Candidates	16	27.1%	26	44.1%	42	35.6%	29	24.6%	37	31.4%	66	28.0%
Total	59	100%	59	100%	118	100%	118	100%	118	100%	236	100%

1992 Primary Battles

	Senate (59)				House (118)							
	Democrats		Republicans		Senate Totals		Democrats		Republicans		House Totals	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Contested	18	30.5%	12	20.3%	30	25.4%	40	33.9%	44	37.3%	84	35.6%
Uncontested	25	42.4%	29	49.2%	54	45.8%	52	44.1%	47	39.8%	99	41.9%
No Candidates	16	27.1%	18	30.5%	34	28.8%	26	22.0%	27	22.9%	53	22.5%
Total	59	100%	59	100%	118	100%	118	100%	118	100%	236	100%

Corrections: The March Cook-Witter Report incorrectly listed Jay D. Williams as a Republican candidate in the race for the House 118th District. In that same race, Darla J. Partridge should have been listed as a Republican write-in candidate. In the Senate 18th District, Democrat Mary Nolan was initially omitted from the list of candidates. After a court challenge, she was reinstated as a candidate against Democrat Edward D. Maloney. Michael G. Weiler was incorrectly listed as a Democrat candidate running in the House 12th District race. Weiler will run as a Republican candidate against the Democrat incumbent Sara Feigenholtz.

Budget Crisis Tops Spring Session Agenda

The state's budget woes continue to dominate the spring legislative session. Even as news that the United States is recovering from last year's recession, Illinois continues to feel the effects of the economic slow down. State revenues for the remainder of the fiscal year are considerably less than the projections made when the Governor proposed cuts to the FY 2002 spending plan. Illinois may now end the fiscal year with \$1.4 billion less revenue than had been expected. The FY 2002 budget was based on a projected \$900 million increase in revenues. According to State Comptroller Dan Hynes' office, and the General Assembly's Economic and Fiscal Commission, the state's revenues will drop year-to-year for the first time since 1955. In more simple terms, it has been nearly fifty years since the state ended a fiscal year with less revenue than the previous fiscal year. To make matters worse for lawmakers, the recently enacted Federal Economic Stimulus Package is estimated to cost Illinois about \$230 million in revenue due to reductions in federal taxes on which Illinois bases some state taxes.

The depth of the state's fiscal crisis became clearer with a statement by the Comptroller in early March. According to Comptroller Dan Hynes, outstanding bills awaiting payment from the General Revenue Fund have reached \$1.039 billion, the largest backlog ever faced by the state. This figure will grow unless revenues in-

crease significantly in the last quarter of the current fiscal year. Payments to such vendors as hospitals, group homes for the disabled, and daycare providers, as well as units of local government, are being held for up to four weeks. Previously, bills were paid within three days of receipt by the Comptroller's Office. This dismal news means that Governor Ryan and the General Assembly must take drastic measures beyond the cuts Ryan suggested in his February FY 2003 Budget and State of the State address. Possible targets for further reductions include closing or downsizing more prisons and state-operated mental health facilities, and closing some state parks. More layoffs of state workers are also expected.

Even though every seat in the General Assembly is up for election this year, tax increases, including a cigarette tax hike and increased taxes on riverboat casinos, are getting serious consideration as means of raising revenue and relieving some of the budgetary shortfall. Other possible revenue sources include decoupling the state's taxes from federal taxes as some states have already done. This would help solve the revenue problem caused by the Federal Economic Stimulus Package. The Senate, House, and Governor will continue to negotiate a budget deal as they head toward the May 17 scheduled adjournment of the General Assembly.



Other News

Governor George Ryan signed two executive orders on April 1, 2002, that will eliminate 31 boards and commissions and incorporate the Offices of Statewide Performance Review and Strategic Planning into the Bureau of the Budget. According to Governor Ryan, the executive orders reveal a continuing effort to streamline state government and reduce bureaucracy. The governor maintains that by incorporating the Offices of Statewide Performance Review and Strategic Planning, which he created in 1999, "we will be better able to measure the performance of state agencies and plan for their futures when it comes to budget making decisions." Two bills currently under consideration in the General Assembly would eliminate an additional 33 unnecessary boards and commissions. If passed, the legislation would bring to 92 the number of boards and

commissions eliminated under Governor Ryan's administration.

A New Historical Resource for Anyone Interested in the Capitol

Did you know that the original main entrance to the Capitol, which included 37 marble stairs (*See photo on following page.*), is the present 2nd floor office of Governor George Ryan, or that the site of this Capitol was once chosen for Abraham Lincoln's burial site, but as a result of Mrs. Lincoln's objections, Oak Ridge Cemetery was chosen instead? These tidbits and many other obscure or well-known facts regarding the folklore and architecture of the Capitol grounds can be found at a relatively new addition to the World-Wide-

Web at www.ilstatehouse.com. Steve Dyer, a Senate employee for nearly 20 years and Jim Donelan, who works for Township Officials of Illinois, have combined their efforts to gather information about the Capitol and display it for the public's benefit. Their fascination with the Capitol has a long history in itself going back to childhoods growing up in and around Springfield and to the days when Jim served as a 10-year-old honorary page. Dyer and Donelan met during Donelan's work as a page, but it was only in the last year or so they have decided to combine their passionate interest and respect for the Capitol into the creation of the Web site.

Initially they considered collaborating on a book about the Capitol, but decided on the Internet instead. They see the Web as a better outlet for updating and compiling information. The duo appreciates the Internet for its accessibility to so many people from students and history buffs to tourists. Donelan reasons, "Once a book is out there, it can't be revised." Their site is regularly maintained and updated as new information is found.

Donelan and Dyer request that visitors to their site possessing any historical information, pictures or stories relating to the Capitol to come forward and contact them. So far, however, no Web site visitors have done so, but their guest book has elicited positive reactions to the site. In turn, Donelan and Dyer are willing to share pictures and all they learn with organizations like the Springfield Lincoln Library's Sangamon Valley Collection, the State Archives, and the State Historical Library. The team has discovered that pictures outside the Capitol are plentiful whereas interior pictures have proven to be quite rare and much sought after. Right now, they are also specifically seeking pictures of the doors and ornamental plasterwork.



Courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library. The picture and description of it can also be found at www.ilstatehouse.com.

Eventually, Jim and Steve would like to establish a private foundation dedicated to the Capitol building, one that could possibly purchase pictures to add to the collection. So even after Jim and Steve are no longer involved in the project, their work could continue. Additionally, an occasional newsletter may be in the works in the future.

***The Education of a Senator* by Everett M. Dirksen, University of Illinois Press.**

"A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking about real money." Words purportedly made famous by Senator Everett Dirksen of Pekin, Illinois seem so appropriate in light of the Governor Ryan's budget address a couple of months ago. The quote has always been attributed to Dirksen, whose likeness in statue form graces the Capitol grounds along Second Street. Extensive research by The Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin, including 12,500 pages of speech notes, speech transcript and statements documented in the *Congressional Record*, has yet to prove Dirksen as the source of this famous phrase, but that does not necessarily mean that he never uttered the words.

When discussing the quote with the curator at The Dirksen Congressional Center, he said "Dirksen rarely wrote a speech ahead of time, often spoke from cryptic notes, and he worked in a pre-video era, so it is possible that the comment was said and never recorded."

The Education of a Senator by Senator Dirksen, which lay unpublished until 1998, about 29 years after his death in September, 1969 offers a fascinating portrayal of the man who made famous the quote above as well as many other apt phrases relating to the political

process. Howard H. Baker, Jr., Dirksen's son-in-law and Senate colleague, wrote the foreword for Dirksen's work. In his personal and professional dealings with Dirksen, Baker noted that the trademark characteristics Dirksen always exhibited were an unshakable faith in people and an affection and respect for politicians on both sides of the aisle. These ideas come through in his book as Dirksen relates to the reader in a series of anecdotes. In recounting his experiences while campaigning, performing his congressional duties, or traveling, Dirksen intersperses his thoughts and views on politics with amusing or appropriate stories to support his ideas. With all of the real-life examples, the reader is barely aware that a lesson on politics and human nature is being offered.

Dirksen analyzes key moments in his life that helped shape his political philosophy, starting with events from childhood up through 1950, when he was elected to the United States Senate. He does not gloss over the charges laid against him by critics but confronts them. Chief among the critics' accusations was that he changed his position on issues frequently. He responds to that criticism with the assertion that legislators need to be flexible, need to have the courage to change opinions as new information is received about issues. Dirksen called on Illinois' greatest son for support of this idea with a quote from Lincoln's second annual message to Congress on December 1, 1862 "the dog-

mas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew." Negative aspects of political life are not sugarcoated either, e.g., dirty campaign tricks played; once, pamphlets falsely accusing Dirksen of being a KKK member were distributed in Bureau County on the eve of his first run for Congress. They cost him the election.

With this book, Senator Dirksen sought to show people the virtue of a career in public service. He had become concerned in the 1960s that young people no longer considered public service as a viable option. He received many letters asking about the life of a legislator, and in response, Dirksen offered a summary of what one should consider: liking and understanding people; patience; the ability to withstand pressure; the ability to accept defeat; the willingness to study intensively to become well-versed on legislation, court decisions, etc.; and needing the support of family and friends, among other things. This advice is applicable today. Whether you are Democrat, Republican, or independent, *The Education of a Senator*,

written in an approachable style, is a useful tool to help persons decide whether they want to pursue a career in public service and why it is a worthy and reputable career choice, despite the bad rap it receives sometimes.



This statue of Senator Dirksen, with his signature tousled hair, was designed by Carl Tolpo, and dedicated on September 16, 1976 in a ceremony conducted by former Governor William Stratton. At the base are marigolds (his favorite flower), an elephant, a donkey, and an oilcan. The latter three items attest to his famously innate ability to get Democrats and Republicans to work together to pass legislation. Photo courtesy of www.ilstatehouse.com.

