



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

## *Vote!*

**I**N JUST A MONTH, on November 3 (or before if you vote by mail or early vote) we will have the opportunity to vote for the candidate of our choice in the races for President and Vice President of the United States; U.S. Senate; Members of Congress; Members of the Illinois General Assembly; and a host of other county offices up for election.



If you are like me, the election can't come soon enough! I think we have all been hit with an avalanche of television commercials, radio ads, and mailers all trying to tell us why (or why we should not) vote for a particular candidate.

While the news media focuses most of its attention on the race for President and other federal offices, we cannot forget just how important our vote is in determining the winner in all of these races. While these races are vitally important, it may be that to us—at the township government level—candidates for the Illinois General Assembly are more important. This year, all 118 seats in the Illinois House of Representatives are up for election as well as a good number of seats in the State Senate.

Normally, every other year in October I would be writing to tell you that the Township Officials of Illinois Political Action Committee (TOIPAC) has made

endorsements for candidates for the Illinois General Assembly. However, this year is not “normal.” Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the TOIPAC committee decided that there simply wasn't enough information this year with voting records and on issues to be able to make endorsements. So, endorsements were not made.

Even though there were not official TOIPAC

endorsements made this year, I would remind all our members that you still have a job to do. I constantly remind our members at meetings that each of you have a localized and powerful political organization that is loyal to you. That loyalty to you and your township is a bargaining chip at your disposal when you talk with your legislators or candidates for the General Assembly.

Active support of pro-township candidates by TOI members is vital. Be sure to talk to the candidates in your area running for the General Assembly. Ask them their stand/view on township government. Let them know what you are doing in your township and how your res-

idents support you. All candidates are elected locally, one vote at a time, in each of Illinois' over 10,000 precincts. If we keep that in mind, then our status as active local officials are elevated even more.

Remember, our collective votes will make a difference on November 3!