



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

IN JUST A MONTH on November 6, we will have the opportunity to vote for the candidate of our choice in the race for Governor, State Constitutional Officers, and a host of other state and county officers up for election.

If you are like me, the election can't come soon enough. We have been hit with an avalanche of television commercials, radio ads, and mailers, all trying to tell us why (or why we shouldn't) vote for a particular candidate. It seems like this has been going on forever, but it really kicked into high gear after Labor Day.

While the news media focuses most of its attention on the race for Governor and other statewide offices, we cannot forget just how important our vote is in determining the winner in these races. While these races are important, it may be that to us at the township government level, candidates for the Illinois General Assembly are more important.

As in past election years, the Township Officials of Illinois Political Action Committee (TOIPAC) have made endorsements for the General Assembly offices for the 2018 election. The results of the Committee's endorsement process are published in this issue.

This year, all 118 seats in the Illinois House of Representatives are up for election as well as part of the seats in the State Senate. TOIPAC sent letters to all candidates. Non-incumbents were asked if they were interested in being endorsed. If they were interested, they were asked to respond to a few questions concerning issues that townships and township officials face.

On the other hand, incumbents were asked to contact us only if they were not interested in being endorsed and no incumbent made such a request. The voting records on key TOI issues were examined for incumbents and used as a gauge for determining support for township government of those incumbents seeking re-election. As mentioned earlier, TOIPAC met and eventually made the endorsements found in the issue.

I constantly remind our members at meetings that each of you has 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 while you talk to your legislators.

Active support of pro-township candidates by TOI members is vital. Be sure to talk to candidates in your area running for the General Assembly. Volunteer for the campaigns of the endorsed candidates and actively support them. All candidates are elected locally, one vote at a time, in each of Illinois' 10,115 precincts. If we keep that in mind, then our status as active local officials is elevated even more.

Remember, our collective votes will make a difference on November 6.

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