



Forward Illinois

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## Support for Bold Progressive Agenda Carried Candidates to Victory on Election Night

*Forward Illinois coalition contacted over 500,000 about shared agenda, vows to continue path forward is to take swift action for bold progressive agenda of protecting abortion rights, a \$15 minimum wage, Medicare for All, firearm restrictions, stronger environmental protections and more*

**CHICAGO** - A historic coalition of progressive organizations formed earlier this fall, including Sierra Club Illinois, SEIU, Planned Parenthood Illinois, Equality Illinois, Illinois Coalition Against Handgun Violence, Local 881 UFCW, and more are claiming support for their bold, progressive agenda led candidates up and down the ballot, incumbents and first-time candidates to win their races based on bold, progressive ideas for Illinois.

Coalition members deployed hundreds of volunteers who worked thousands of hours, contacting more than half a million Illinoisans about the urgency of enacting a bold agenda to move Illinois forward. This included advocating for a \$15 minimum wage, reproductive rights, a 100% clean energy future, and protections for immigrants, members of the LGBTQ community, and a fairer tax.

“Illinois voted today for a bold, inspiring agenda to move Illinois forward,” said **Kady McFadden, Deputy Director of Sierra Club Illinois**. “Candidates that took bold positions carried the day, and are now poised to move Illinois to a much brighter future that lifts up all our communities. We congratulate them, and are committed to advocating for this agenda alongside them as united progressives with the full force of our member-driven organizations.”

“Our coalition is committed to continue working together on behalf of this agenda, as we all are committed to ensuring a brighter future for Illinois,” said **Beniamino Capellupo, Executive Director, SEIU Illinois Council**. “We’re ready to roll up our sleeves and work with the new



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administration to enact these smart, forward-looking policies and we're ready to hold those policymakers who stand in the way of progress accountable."

A poll commissioned by Forward Illinois released earlier this fall showed that more than two-thirds of Illinoisans strongly favor a bold agenda that includes:

- A \$15/hour minimum and a guaranteed right to join or form a union free from employer interference.
- Guaranteed reproductive rights and health equity, to ensure access to a full range of reproductive health care including abortion.
- Environmental justice, with clean water for all and Illinois moving to 100% clean, renewable energy.
- Criminal justice reform that establishes humane conditions and is built with a restorative justice framework to find alternatives to prison and jail.
- Universal access to high-quality affordable health care, provided by moving toward Medicare for All.
- Ensure transgender children can access facilities and programming in schools that meet their needs, ensure their safety, and allow them to participate fully, fairly, and equally in school life.
- Ending deportations and providing a pathway to citizenship with access to health care, education and other supports for everyone in the US regardless of immigration status.
- Requiring gun stores to be certified to sell firearms in Illinois which could be revoked for selling illegal guns or failing to conduct background checks.
- Fully funding education in Illinois in every school district, while making sure higher education is affordable.
- Reforming the tax code so the wealthiest pay a higher share of the state's income taxes while the middle class and lower-income pay a smaller share

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*The Forward Illinois coalition includes Sierra Club Illinois, Planned Parenthood Illinois, SEIU, Equality Illinois, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Chicago Votes, Citizen Action/Illinois, and Local 881 UFCW.*