

## **REPUBLICAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

### **SB 600: Urgent RYP Member Alert! - Doug Ibendahl**

[www.ilryp.org](http://www.ilryp.org)

I know you get a lot of emails from me, telling you about this issue and that one, and often asking for your help. And with so much going on, we truly try to focus on just a few things we believe you will consider worthy of your time. I know how busy you are.

**But a major and potentially historic reform of our State Republican Party is now at a crucial stage in the Springfield Legislature - SB600.** In my opinion, this is the most important challenge yet for all of us to step-up on and support.

I say that because the return to greater Democracy, openness and accountability that the proposed bill would bring to our State Party, is crucial to fundamentally changing the culture of the organization and Republican politics in Illinois.

If passed and signed into law, SB600 will energize Republicans by removing a huge self-imposed handicap that a tiny few old players in our Party have used to protect their own self-interests and titles, at the expense of the Republican rank-and-file and the Republican Party.

**The debate over SB600 and direct elections is about whether we are going to keep a Garden Party culture focused nearly solely on self-preservation of a few - or whether we are going to have a real Republican Party in Illinois which is incentivized to grow, and where people actually want to volunteer.** It's about whether we are going to have an environment in Illinois where Republican principles and the natural energy and optimism of Republicans can flourish.

The Democrats control nearly every lever of power in Illinois right now. If Republicans don't offer a clean, credible, professional alternative - we'll never be able to get enough good people involved in GOP politics here to seriously advance ANY Republican issue. This corporate governance stuff DOES matter.

**This is about whether we are serious about having any chance of beating Blagojevich next year.** Without this change, I honestly don't know what our State Party's leaders or Gubernatorial candidate are going to tell voters come September, when George Ryan's Federal corruption trial puts the final torpedo into the listless ship our State Party now represents.

#### **CALL TO ACTION:**

**THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN SPRINGFIELD IS WINDING DOWN SOON.** Thanks to State Senator Chris Lauzen, SB600 passed the State Senate unanimously on April 14th. SB600 is now in the State House - and the old guard has now woken up and realized we could actually get this reform. We need to step up and help Senator Lauzen get this bill through the House.

Tremendous pressure is now coming from the George Ryan Wing to stop SB600 and the return to direct Democracy it would bring. Sadly, the roadblock isn't the Dems, it's going to be a few from our own Party. Not a big surprise. Right now State House members are hearing from the people who feel their titles and privileges are being threatened - the people who haven't been getting the job done.

**I urge you to email and/or call these Republican leaders and bill sponsors in the House and urge them to support direct elections of the State Central Committee by working to get SB600 passed in the House.**

**Rep. Angelo "Skip" Saviano; Rep. Terry Parke; Rep. Paul Froehlich; Rep. Sidney Mathias; Rep. Tom Cross**

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### **IT'S UP TO YOU!**

So even if you are one of those good Republicans who cares about issues, but doesn't usually care to get involved in "internal party stuff" - I urge you to step up on this one. Regardless of which Republican issues you care most about - this reform is crucial to providing the environment in Illinois where enough good people will even want to be involved to help advance your cause.

I know our RYP membership can help get this done. A lot of you younger folks have been the ones having to clean up corporate America after the accounting scandals of a few years ago. You understand and are coming of age in the post-corporate scandal environment. I know that many of you "get it" even if some of our old GOP leadership doesn't. Senator Lauzen gets it too. He's a CPA and MBA.

You might also consider copying Senator Lauzen - [chrislauzen@lauzen.com](mailto:chrislauzen@lauzen.com) - on whatever you send to the House leaders. Chris Lauzen is a good man and I know he will appreciate the documentation in case some rascal down in Springfield tries to say later that no Republicans cared about this.

Thanks again, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about any of this.