

# Two Illinois House races are contested

## Illinois House 45th District



### Who is Marti Deuter?

A Democrat, Deuter has served on the Elmhurst City Council for 11 years and has been in a council leadership position since 2015. She is associate director of program partnerships at Bridge Communities, a nonprofit that supports

families experiencing homelessness. She previously worked for the city of Chicago on housing policy for eight years. She has a masters' degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's in social work from Ohio University.

### Why is she running?

As a policymaker with extensive local government experience and a passion for public service, she wants to use her diverse skill set to serve the people of the district. She plans to gather input from as many stakeholders as possible and bring people together to help create meaningful change and improve constituents' lives.

### Most important issue

Addressing the high cost of living — for taxes, health care, child care, housing, higher education

### Steps to address it

State needs to expand economic opportunities and grow its economy to ease the burden on residents. Illinois has opportunities for growth in many fields and access to well-funded public schools and training programs will help individuals.

### Other top priorities

- access to reproductive health care and protecting women's right to choose
- gun violence prevention, including recent legislation to ban military-style assault rifles, magazines and rapid-fire modifications and new laws for safe gun storage



### Who is Dennis Reboletti?

The Republican is a practicing attorney at his own firm. He is the Addison Township supervisor, a former state representative, former township trustee and former Elmhurst alderman. He also is president

of the Addison Township 501(C)(3). He has a bachelor's in political science from Eastern Illinois University and a JD from Valparaiso University.

### Why is he running?

To provide the hope of prosperity and promise of opportunity for his children and grandchildren that he did growing up. His experience as an attorney, small business owner and elected official will allow him to hit the ground running and immediately change lives of constituents for the better. He promises to be an independent and mainstream voice and offer real representation, not another rubber stamp.

### Most important issue

The high cost of living and the economy

### Steps to address it

Make the state live within its means with zero-based budgeting. Stop wasteful spending and prioritize investments in education, public safety and infrastructure. Cut red tape for job creators so businesses thrive and stay in the state. Oppose the progressive income tax.

### Other top priorities

- have government work for residents
- make college more affordable
- restore the Local Government Distributive Fund
- eliminate unfunded mandates

## Illinois House 82nd District



### Who is Suzanne Akhras?

The Democrat is the founder and co-executive director of the nonprofit Syrian Community Network. She is board chair for the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants and serves on the Council of Leaders of DuPage

Federation on Human Services Reform. She has established a food pantry and neighborhood watch program in her community. She has a master's degree in organizational leadership from Lewis University and completed the nonprofit management and executive education program at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

### Why is she running?

As a district resident for almost 20 years, she wants to give back and focus on her experience of bringing people together to develop solutions to make the world a better place. Her next step is to move from advocacy to policy, using her experience and abilities to build coalitions, access funding, manage budgets and find solutions to complicated issues.

### Most important issue

The Illinois transit fiscal cliff and Tier 2 pensions

### Steps to address it

Fair governance and transparency on part of state and federal government will be needed to find a solution to the transit fiscal cliff, which is a complex financial issue. A better solution needs to be found to Tier 2 pensions, which require more years of work and have fewer benefits than Tier 1.

### Other top priorities

- improving the state's economic status
- ensuring women's access to reproductive health care
- securing and expanding mental health resources
- advocating for community safety initiatives
- reducing gun violence



### Who is Nicole La Ha?

The Republican has been serving as a state representative since December 2023. She is a former Homer Glen village trustee and former press secretary for then-Senate Minority Leader Dan McConchie. As Mrs. America in 2022,

she worked closely with Victoria's Voice Foundation to raise drug addiction awareness, prevention and education nationwide and advocate for inclusive and accessible communities. In 2021 she co-founded the village of Homer Glen's Ability Awareness Committee. She attended Eastern Illinois University, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and UIC College of Dentistry/Kennedy King College.

### Why is she running?

As the mom of a daughter with cerebral palsy who wants to change public policy to ensure every child can thrive, she believes a mom's voice is important in Springfield. She understands the power of honest leadership, relentless advocacy and bipartisan cooperation.

### Most important issue

Rising prices that are cutting into families' incomes, driving opportunities out of the state and making the American dream harder to realize

### Steps to address it

Eliminate the grocery tax, remove regulations that hinder business growth and expand economic opportunities to increase supply of services and goods and bring down costs. She also supports lower property taxes so families can afford to stay in their home or buy a first home.

### Other top priorities

- lowering taxes to encourage work and investment
- eliminating government overreach and unnecessary mandates
- fighting human trafficking
- improving public safety
- creating jobs

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