



**EQUALITY  
ILLINOIS**

## **Equality Illinois Political Action Committee**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 28, 2014**

#### **EQUALITY ILLINOIS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ENDORSES IN STATEWIDE PRIMARY RACES**

CHICAGO – The Equality Illinois Political Action Committee (PAC) today issued its endorsements for candidates running for statewide office in Democratic and Republican primaries in the March 18, 2014, primary election. All the endorsed statewide candidates have strong records supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues, particularly regarding the freedom to marry.

"In the last couple of weeks we have witnessed disturbing efforts by some legislators to reopen the debate over the freedom to marry. In making these endorsements we are cognizant that we must remain vigilant that our statewide officials continue to be voices of inclusion and equality throughout Illinois," said Jeremy Gottschalk, President of the Equality Illinois PAC Board of Directors. "These endorsed candidates have demonstrated their ongoing support for LGBT issues, including the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act."

The Equality Illinois Political Action Committee is the only statewide PAC focused on LGBT issues. Our endorsements are important assets for candidates, as the support comes from the political action arm of Equality Illinois, the state's oldest, largest, and most respected LGBT advocacy organization.

"As we make these statewide endorsements for candidates in both parties, it is disappointing that not one of the four Republican candidates for governor—especially those who worked with us in the past—supports the freedom to marry," Gottschalk said. "All four are reading from the same worn-out script that should be ancient history in Illinois by now."

#### **EQUALITY ILLINOIS PAC ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN STATEWIDE PRIMARIES:**

**For Governor:**

Pat Quinn (Democrat)

**For Attorney General:**

Lisa Madigan (Democrat)

**For Secretary of State:**

Jesse White (Democrat)

**For Treasurer:**

Michael Frerichs (Democrat); Tom Cross (Republican)

**For Comptroller:**

Sheila Simon (Democrat); Judy Baar Topinka (Republican)

"I am proud that our statewide endorsements, just like our base of support and Illinois itself, are strongly bipartisan," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois. "Every single LGBT equality bill has passed with bipartisan support and no one has lost an election because of their vote in favor of LGBT equality. Our

statewide election results are clear proof that voters make decisions based on sensible policies, not on partisan labels."

Endorsements were based on answers to Equality Illinois PAC's endorsement questionnaire, personal interviews, community input, and, where applicable, incumbent candidates' voting records on important LGBT issues.

The first round of Equality Illinois PAC endorsements, made two weeks ago, focused on legislative allies who supported the freedom to marry. Those endorsements are here: <http://tinyurl.com/EQILPAC2014PRIMARY1>.

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