



empowering civic engagement



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When Nurses Run, Communities Win

In our last blog, we shared the foundation of Nurses4Nurses: when nurses lead, communities thrive. This movement is about more than elections; it's about transforming policy by putting those who understand healthcare at the front of decision-making. In this issue, we explore why nurses should support each other at the ballot box, what unique strengths nurses bring when elected, and how you can take part in advancing healthcare in Illinois.

Why Should Nurses Support Other Nurses Running for Elected Office?

Every day, nurses advocate for their patients at the bedside. But too often, the voices of those who understand care delivery best are absent where laws and budgets are made. By electing nurses, we amplify a profession grounded in compassion, science, and practical problem-solving. Supporting a nurse candidate is supporting a healthier, more equitable Illinois.

What Do Nurses Bring to the Table?

Nurses translate real-world healthcare challenges into actionable policy. Their strengths include:

- **Patient-Centered Perspective** – Nurses understand what policies mean for real people and families.
- **System-Level Knowledge** – Nurses know how care is coordinated, where gaps exist, and what changes will make the system work better.
- **Collaborative Leadership** – Nurses are skilled at building teams and working across differences to achieve solutions.
- **Trust and Integrity** – Consistently ranked among the most trusted professionals, nurses bring credibility and authenticity to public service.

When nurses are elected, communities gain leaders who put people over politics.

Changing Healthcare in Illinois

Illinois faces urgent issues in access to care, behavioral health, nursing workforce shortages, and affordability. By supporting nurses running for office, we strengthen the policymaking

process with the expertise and lived experience of those who deliver care every day. Nurses in elected positions can:

- Drive legislation that protects patients and communities.
- Ensure healthcare funding addresses both urban and rural needs.
- Shape policies that invest in the future of nursing and healthcare delivery.

Spotlight: Nurses Running for Office in Illinois

Illinois nurses are stepping up to serve at every level of government. Their campaigns require more than encouragement! They need resources to compete effectively. Financial contributions are vitally important to ensure these nurse leaders can reach voters and win.

- **Danielle Penman – State Senate, 33rd District**
Danielle's campaign is rooted in strengthening access to healthcare and fostering community support. **Learn more and contribute** <https://daniellepenman.com/>
- **Lauren Underwood – U.S. Congress, 14th District**
Congresswoman Underwood has championed healthcare and maternal health at the national level. **Learn more and contribute** <https://underwoodforcongress.com/>
- **Karen Battaglia, DNP, RN, CEN, TCRN, TNS – State Senate, 32nd District**
Dr. Battaglia brings years of frontline and leadership experience in trauma and emergency nursing to her campaign. **Learn more and contribute** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579219937887>
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/karen-battaglia-1>
- **Jaclyn Rodriguez, MSN, RN – Lake County Board**
Rodriguez is dedicated to bringing healthcare insight and community engagement to local government. **Learn more and contribute** -
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579268593006#>
- **Jennifer Levin, BSN, TCRN, TNS, PHRN – State Representative, 51st District**
Levin is a trauma nurse leader who will fight for safer, healthier communities at the state level. **Learn more and contribute** <https://jennylevin.com/>

How You Can Support Nurse Candidates

Supporting nurse candidates isn't just about cheering them on; it's about providing them with the resources they need to **WIN**. Campaigns are powered by people like us, and every dollar counts. Here's how you can make the biggest impact:

- **Donate First** – Financial contributions are the lifeblood of any campaign. Even small amounts add up to critical funding for voter outreach, advertising, and grassroots organizing.
- **Volunteer Your Time** – Knock on doors, make calls, write postcards, or host a house gathering. Campaigns run on people power as much as funding.

- **Spread the Word** – Share their campaigns on social media, talk to colleagues, friends, and family, and encourage others to support nurses running for office.
- **Stay Engaged** – Follow the Nurses4Nurses page <https://www.il-nurses.com/nurses4nurses/> for updates and opportunities to help candidates across Illinois.

The Time Is Now

When nurses win, communities win. Nurses4Nurses is more than a campaign; it's a movement to reshape healthcare policy in Illinois. Together, we can elect leaders who know what care looks like in real life and will fight to make it better for every Illinoisan.