

## ELECTIONS

MARCH/APRIL 2009



GREATER  
O'HARE  
ASSOCIATION

Sponsored by:

## GOA GOES TO SPRINGFIELD

The annual Greater O'Hare Association Legislative Days in Springfield is confirmed for April 28-29, 2009. The purpose of the Legislative Days is to educate state officials about the Greater O'Hare Association community, and to lobby for state action to help address local issues and concerns. This year's events are building on the success of last years, which brought the specific concerns of the community directly to elected representatives and influential government appointees.

The Government Affairs Committee is working to develop the 2009 legislative and state agency agenda topics and issues that will be presented in Springfield. If there is an

issue of interest, please contact the committee to ensure it will be added to the agenda.

For those delegates with limited time, the main events are scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 when business leaders will enjoy a reception with legislators and guests that evening. The remainder of the two day event will be reserved for visiting state officials and committee hearings. The Greater O'Hare Association Legislative Days will be headquartered at the Hilton Springfield, seven blocks from the Capitol.

This year's legislative days is planned and executed by the Government Affairs Team. If you are interested in volunteering to help

with the planning of future events, please contact Shirlanne Lemm at 630-773-2944 or via email [slemm@greater-ohare.com](mailto:slemm@greater-ohare.com).

The itinerary for Greater O'Hare Association Legislative Days 2009 is summarized below:

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009**

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Evening in Springfield Reception, Hilton Springfield, Rendezvous Room

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009**

9:00 am - 10:30 am Issue Briefing, Stratton Building A-1

10:30 am Appointments with elected officials, committee hearings, and legislative session

## Government Affairs Team



April 28 - 29 2009

## Legislative Days in Springfield

Don't miss this vital opportunity to meet with elected officials and protect the rights of the business community!

**April 7, 2009**

General Election  
5th Congressional District  
Statewide Consolidated  
General Election

**April 8, 2009**

Congressman Roskam  
Luncheon

**April 28 - 29 2009**

Greater O'Hare Association  
Legislative Days in  
Springfield

GOVERNMENT  
AFFAIRS TEAM:

Greater O'Hare Association  
Government Affairs Team is  
focused on educating and  
activating the business com-  
munity.

Through our dual mission of  
educating and activating we  
can unify our voice to be  
heard by legislators and com-  
munity leaders.

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## SPECIAL ELECTION 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mike Quigley, the Chicago Democrat who is a clear favorite in the April 7 special election in Illinois, is a self-described "policy wonk." In fact, the veteran Cook County commissioner has nowhere near the high profile of the man he is running to succeed in the 5th Congressional District: Rahm Emanuel, who vacated the seat to become President Obama's chief of staff.

Quigley is running against conservative Republican Rosanna Pulido, an activist opponent of illegal immigration, and liberal Green Party nominee Matt Reichel, an anti-war activist. But given the strong pro-Democratic proclivities of voters in the North Side district, Quigley's election was all but assured when he outran 11 Democratic rivals in a special primary election held March 3.

Obama, a fellow Chicagoan from the city's South Side, took 73 percent of the 5th District vote as the 2008 Democratic nominee for president, according to a CQ Politics analysis. Emanuel won 74 percent in his House race on the same ballot.

Emanuel succeed Blagojevich in

2002, he was selected to head the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee after only one term and led the party's national campaign in its successful push to capture control of the House in the 2006 election. He then chaired the House Democratic Caucus in his third term, which also turned out to be his final one.

There was much speculation that Emanuel's ultimate goal was to be Speaker of the House, and some people were surprised that he stepped off that track by accepting Obama's invitation to be his White House chief of staff.

In this light, political observers will be watching to see how Quigley defines himself in office, and how he fills the shoes of his larger-than-life predecessors.

He is forward-thinking enough, though, to assure voters that he plans to file petitions by the candidate filing deadline in November to run for a full term in 2010.

Leading up to the primary, Quigley worked to distinguish himself from his rivals as a "true reformer," someone unafraid to ruffle the

feathers of the political establishment — from powerful Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to Todd Stroger, president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. This is one badge Quigley touts proudly, though he demurred, "I've been given more labels in my life than I've given myself."

Along these lines, Quigley said he plans to post every campaign contribution on his Web site, no matter the amount, and refuses to accept money from lobbyists in the pharmaceutical, oil, gas, and tobacco industries.

"Reinventing, streamlining, restructuring, reforming . . . this is my bread and butter," said Quigley. "I want to get things done. Let me be one of the watchdogs here for transparency and accountability."

From CQ Politics, Emma Dumain

[www.cqpolitics.com](http://www.cqpolitics.com)





## ROMNEY IN CHICAGO FOR RUTHERFORD

Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney talked about President Barack Obama's job performance and Chicago's chances for the Olympics during a stop in Illinois Tuesday to stump for a prospective state treasurer candidate.

Romney said he likes that Obama is being tough in Afghanistan and he applauded the president's get-tough talk to struggling auto-makers. But Romney was less enthusiastic about how the stimulus package has turned out and he called the Democratic president's budget talk "really quite alarming."

"So some things well, some things not so well and I think it's incumbent on us to say 'nice job' on the things he does well and to point out the places where we disagree," Romney said.

Romney was in Chicago Tuesday to raise money for state Sen. Dan Rutherford, his for-

mer Illinois campaign chairman and a Chenoa Republican who plans to announce in the coming weeks that he'll form an exploratory committee to look at a run for state treasurer.

Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, is re-emerging on the national scene after his unsuccessful bid for the GOP presidential nomination in 2008 and building toward another possible run in 2012.



While Romney said he's keeping a low-profile, he plans to be busy helping get Republicans elected in 2010. As for another White House bid, he said: "The horizon is just too far off to be able to estimate what I'll be doing."

Romney plans to be visible in Illinois, a state with no statewide elected Republican officials that's recovering from the corruption scandal surrounding former Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich. Rutherford said Romney planned to meet with state party officials while he was in town.

But Romney's visit wasn't all politics. The former Olympics chief, who rescued the scandal-plagued 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, also had some encouraging words about Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympics. "I think Chicago's going to get it," Romney said.

The International Olympic Committee will pick the host city in October and an evaluation team is due in town this week for an inspection tour. Chicago is a finalist along with Tokyo, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro.

*From AP & Daily Herald, www.dailyherald.com*

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM IN ACTION

### VOTER REGISTRATION

The Government Affairs Team is starting a Voter Registration program for members of the Greater O'Hare Association. Members of the committee are traveling to companies for a voter registration program. The inaugural registration drive will take place at Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village.

Today's businesses are strapped for cash, worried about the future, sick of gridlock politics, and not going to stand for it anymore. But rather than moan and groan, we're taking it into our own hands and demanding action.

### EARLY VOTING UNTIL APRIL 2, 2009

Will your property taxes go up or down in the next few years?

If faced with budget cuts, will your schools, town, park district or library trim the fat or will they eliminate programs you treasure?

Will more development or more open space characterize the neighborhood where you live? On Election Day, April 7th, that's up to you.

The local election might lack the glamour of last fall's Obama-McCain race, but it doesn't get any closer to home than this. In this tough economy, your local government leaders are making some tough decisions. They're spending your money. Voting is your best shot at influencing how those challenges are met.

Your local races might also lack the intensity and unending hype of the recent presidential campaign. That's why we're reminding you a week in advance of Election Day. We ask

### KEEPING UP WITH COBRA SEMINAR

Monday, April 8, 2009  
7:30 Registration  
8:00 to 9:30 am Presentation and Q&A

A one hour event will cover changes on the new economic stimulus package related to COBRA insurance coverage and the new federal subsidy for terminated employees. Specific topics of interest will include the out of pocket costs to employers to fund that subsidy, recoverability of those costs and potential penalties employers could face.

you to take a little time to learn about the candidates and issues in your town.

And if you can't make it to the polls next Tuesday, anyone can vote early through Thursday, April 2, at many suburban locations.

You can find early voting locations at [www.dailyherald.com](http://www.dailyherald.com). Select your county under the Election 2009 banner, then link to early voting information or to the Illinois State Board of Elections.

Our online Election 2009 guide also can help you choose a candidate. You'll find:

- Questionnaires completed by each of the candidates, in his or her own words.
- News articles written about election campaigns in your town.
- Which elections will appear on your ballot. Select your community for a list of races and referendums.

### EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT SEMINAR

Thursday, April 16, 2009  
7:30 to 9:00 am

We will be presenting a panel discussion on the recently re-introduced Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). You may have also heard this bill referred to as the "card check bill."

During the panel discussion we will review and analyze the impact of EFCA on the workplace and economics of businesses. For more information about this seminar, please contact Shirianne Lemm at 630-772-2844.

Nowhere is your vote more important. No Electoral College filters your choice of candidates in local elections. And the gap between winner and loser can be very small.

"These are the offices won and lost by a single vote," said McHenry County Clerk Katherine Schultz.

A few years ago, a tax increase referendum in Benjamin Elementary District 25 in West Chicago passed by a dozen or so votes. A mere 19 votes swung the Barrington mayoral election in 2001. It's quite common for a local election to be won by fewer than 100 votes.

This is your chance to really influence the future of your town and the spending of your taxes. Take the time to get informed. Then take the time to vote.

Daily Herald, [www.dailyherald.com](http://www.dailyherald.com)