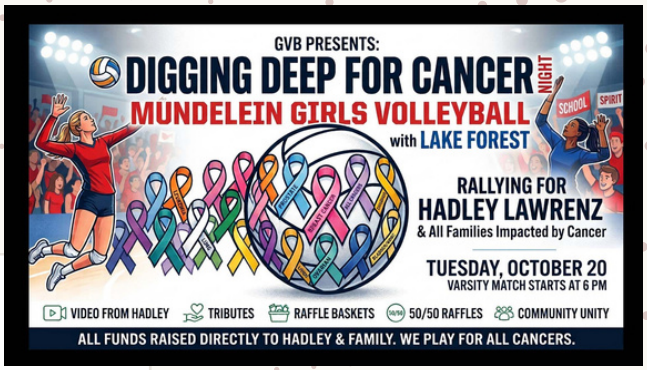
MHS • EST 1961

WHAT'S HAPPENING, MUSTANGS?

Weekly News For Students By Students

WEEK OF 10/19 - 10/23

SCHOOL-WIDE
ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



TUESDAY 10/20

GVB CANCER AWARENESS NIGHT

Tuesday, October 20th Come join the Girls Volleyball Program for our annual cancer awareness night full of raffles, unity, and fun

THURSDAY 10/22

CAREER EXPO EVENT

Thursday, October 22th in the **Main Gym, period 3-6**
Come learn about exciting opportunities from professionals in varying fields.

Friday 10/23

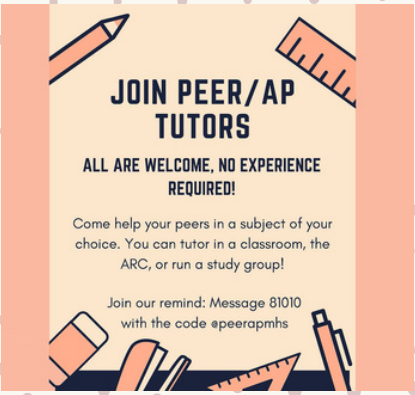
ATTENTION FREMONT GRADUATES

Friday, October 23th in the **DMR.**
Fremont Middle School graduates: please join administrators from FMS to talk about your time in middle school. Pizza lunch will be provided. Check your email for more

THIS WEEK

PEER/AP TUTORS

THIS WEEK, join Peer/AP Tutors to help fellow students in a subject of your choice. Message 81010 with the code **@peerapmhs**



Want to share info about your event?
Scan the code!

MHS ATHLETICS HOME GAMES

Tuesday 10/20

- **GVB CANCER AWARENESS NIGHT.** Fresh/jV2/JV @5:00. Varsity @ 6:00

MUNDELEIN HIGH SCHOOL 2026-2027

THE MUSTANG

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 3 MUNDELEIN, IL

SULLIVAN AND ISSEL VIE FOR OPEN LAKE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT 10 SEAT

By Maddie Thomas
Reporter

Voters in Lake County's District 10 will choose between Democrat, Nicki Sullivan, and Republican, Jeffery C. Issel, in the November 3, 2026, general election. The candidates are competing for a seat left open by Jessica Vealitzek, who has served on the board since 2018 and is not seeking reelection.

The election comes as residents face questions about affordability, local development, and infrastructure. Both candidates live in Mundelein, but their paths into local politics are what set them apart.

Sullivan, the Democratic candidate, has a background in community advocacy and school board service. According to published reporting by the Pioneer Press, she served on the Diamond Lake School District 76 board for seven years before resigning earlier this year to focus on her campaign. She advocates for infrastructure improvements and responsible development.

Sullivan has identified transportation and environmental protection among her priorities. Her campaign emphasizes investments in roads, sidewalks, bike trailspedestrian crossings, and public transportation. She also supports long-term growth planning that considers infrastructure needs and the natural environment, including clean water protection and flood prevention.

Issel, the Republican candidate, has a professional background in logistics, operations, and purchasing. He serves as a precinct committeeman for Fremont Township and is vice chairman of the Fremont Township Republicans.

His involvement in local politics increased following the 2024 Mundelein High School District 120 referendum. Issel opposed the referendum, which was ultimately approved, and raised concerns about its financial implications for taxpayers. His experience in operations and purchasing provides a different professional background from Sullivan's school board service.

The Lake County Board consists of 19 members, each representing a legislative district. The board has policymaking and legislative authority and approves the budget that funds the county government. Its decisions can affect county services, spending, and other issues relevant to residents.

District 10 includes Indian Creek and portions of Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich, Long Grove, Mundelein, and Vernon Hills. The district's next representative will take office following an election that could shape the county's approach to development, infrastructure, and spending.

YOUR VOTE, YOUR FUTURE: MEET THE SENATE CANDIDATES

By Isabella Valencia
Reporter

Voting is never mandatory, but it's an important way people can get involved in helping make positive changes for their communities. With the November midterm elections coming up, many Mundelein High School students will be eligible to vote for the first time. Even those who can't yet vote can benefit from learning about the candidates running for office in their area. Politics affect everyone; being informed is vital. What does a senator do, and how does it affect students?

There are countless ways senators affect students of all ages; they control federal education funding, regulate student loans, pass laws on campus safety and technology, and contribute to shaping college athletics. Aside from school-related acts, the Senate also plays a significant role in the federal government. Its responsibilities include voting on legislation, confirming presidential nominees, and approving treaties with foreign countries. These powers give senators an important voice in shaping national policies.

Juliana Stratton, Democrat.
Image Source: Juliana Stratton Campaign Website, 2026. Accessed via: https://www.julianastratton.com/

Juliana Stratton, Democrat

Stratton currently serves as the 48th Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. Her portfolio includes both statutory responsibilities and independent priorities. Before entering public service, Lieutenant Governor Stratton dedicated her career to uniting communities and redefining how the law impacts vulnerable communities. Her political priorities include raising the minimum wage, protecting reproductive rights, banning assault weapons, and investing in education. Stratton claims that the governor can be a partner to the people, and not a roadblock.

Education: Graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism in 1979. (2) Earned her Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law in 1992.

Voting is never mandatory, but it's an important way people can get involved in helping make positive changes for their communities.

Don Tracy, Republican.
Image Source: Don Tracy Campaign Website, 2026. Accessed via: https://dontracyforil.com/about/

Whitfield Harrington Jr., American Center Party.
Image Source: Whitfield Harrington Jr. Campaign Website, 2026. Accessed via: https://whit4ilsenate.com/

Don Tracy, Republican

Don Tracy is an American Lawyer, Republican politician, and business owner. He previously served as chairman of the Illinois Gaming Board. Before getting involved in politics, Tracy worked for his family's business, raised his family, and fought for working families as an attorney. He prioritizes lowering the cost of living and championing common-sense solutions to make life more affordable and communities safer.

Education: (1) Western Illinois University for undergraduate studies. (2) Arizona State University for Bachelor in science in general business administration. (3) University of Memphis Law School for Juris Doctor Degree.

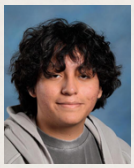
Whitfield Harrington Jr., America Center Party

Whitfield Harrington Jr. is a pastor, author, musician, minister, and small business owner. Prior to getting involved with politics, Harrington Jr. was most commonly known as a Pastor working religiously. His main goals now are to renovate the American dream and lower the cost of living using effective strategies, like cutting spending in certain areas.

Education: (1) Delta State University to receive his bachelor's degree.

Currently, the election is set for November 3rd, 2026. In this election, voters will elect candidates to six-year terms, which will expire on January 3, 2033.

EDUCATION, TAXES, AND THE ECONOMY: INSIDE ILLINOIS' GOVERNOR'S RACE



By Axel Avelar
Reporter

Voting is an important action new adults can take, as election outcomes can affect their lives for years to come. In the 2026 election, Democratic Governor JB Pritzker is running against Republican candidate Darren Bailey. The governor can influence where the state budget, education funding, taxes, and public safety are allocated, as well as college affordability. These decisions can influence students' financial opportunities and future careers.

JB Pritzker, Democrat.
Image Source: Governon JB Campaign Website, 2026.
Accessed via: jbpritzker.com

JB Pritzker, Democrat

JB Pritzker is our current governor and has focused on funding for education, the affordability of college, and expanding opportunities for financial aid. According to his campaign, his administration has increased support for public schools, vocational training, and different college scholarships. Voting for Pritzker may be beneficial to those who plan to attend college after graduation. Pritzker is also supporting raising the minimum wage as well as expanding access to healthcare.

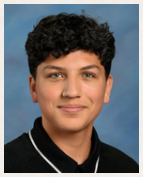
Darren Bailey, Republican.
Image Source: Darren Bailey Campaign Website, 2026.
Accessed via: https://baileyforillinois.com/contact-us/

Darren Bailey. Republican

Darren Bailey, the republican candidate, has emphasized lowering taxes, reducing government spending, and granting local school districts and parents more control over education. Bailey is arguing that Illinois families are currently facing high living costs, and the state should take greater action to reduce unnecessary spending. Bailey also wants to know whether the current approach to education and educational funding is improving students' outcomes.

Young adults who are eligible to vote should take advantage of studying these candidates and casting their vote for who they think would best represent their community.

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE RACE: MEET THE CANDIDATES



By Levi Mondragon
Managing Editor

With elections coming up on November 3rd, it's important for eligible students and staff to stay informed about the candidates running for office. We have two major-party candidates running for the Secretary of State position: Alexi Giannoulias (D) and Diane M. Harris (R). But what does the Secretary of State do? In Illinois, they are in charge of driver's licenses, vehicle services, business registration, and, as the carrier of the Great Seal, they certify all official acts by the governor.

Alexi Giannoulias (D) lives in Chicago, Illinois, and he is our current secretary of state. He previously worked as the State Treasurer from 2007 to 2011. Between his political roles, Giannoulias worked in banking, taught at Northwestern University, and served as Chairman of the Illinois Community College Board. He was the only Democrat running for SOS and advanced from the primaries on March 17

of this year. Prior to entering politics, he founded and was CEO of Annoula Ventures.

Education: Alexi Giannoulias graduated from Tulane University with a Bachelor's degree in Economics after previously attending Boston University, where he played D1 basketball. He later returned to Chicago to earn his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the DePaul University College of Law.

Diane M. Harris (R) is a conservative republican born and raised in the Midwest, advocating for increased access to DMV services for all citizens. She worked in the energy sector at ComEd for 32 years, where she represented workers. Harris owns her own ladies' dress shop in Joliet and is also a substitute teacher in District 204, where she stays connected to the youth.

Education: Diane Harris graduated from Joliet Junior College with an Associate's degree after attending local public schools in Will County. She later went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the University of Phoenix.

It is important for those who can vote to do so and make sure their voice is heard.

Alexi Giannoulias is the current Secretary of State.
Image Source: Alexi Giannoulias Campaign Website, 2026. Accessed via: https://alexiforus.com/about/

GETTING TO KNOW STATE COMPETITOR CARSON KOENIGSKNECHT

By Mackenzie Patterson
News Editor

Q#1: How did it feel when you found out you were going to state?
A#1: "It felt amazing, and it really felt like I accomplished something amazing and a lifelong goal of mine. It also felt really good because it was my last chance, and I played amazing that day."

Carson Koenigsknecht
Image Source: mundeleinhighschool Instagram, October 2026. Accessed via: https://www.instagram.com/p/DeKPGmKkRLw/

Q#2: How did you prepare for the tournament?
A#2: "I prepared by playing multiple rounds of golf in the days leading up to state and treated them like a real tournament. I also took plenty of time to stretch and warm up at the course the day of the rounds."

Q#3: How would you describe your season leading up to state?
A#3: "I felt like I had a very good start to the season for 18-hole tournaments, but then I kind of got in a little slump towards the middle to the end of the season. I played my best golf when the post-season started, especially during regionals and sectionals. I was also very proud of my 9-hole scores for the entire season."

Q#4: What is something that golf has taught you that you can use outside of golf?
A#4: "Golf has taught me that one mistake doesn't ruin things. Having multiple mistakes is what can hurt you. Golf has also taught me that you need to take your time with things and really think things through before just going for it. It has also taught me how to measure risk vs. reward."

Q#5: How do you stay focused when a shot doesn't go the way you want?
A#5: "I remember it is just one stroke off from your total score, and if you stay calm, you can limit the damage from one bad shot and get right back on track."

Q#6: What do you enjoy most about playing golf?
A#6: "I enjoy being able to meet new people almost every round and getting to know them. Golf has put me in contact with so many people, and it really helps me learn how to talk to new people and get to know them. I also enjoy how it is a sport that is solely you against your competitors. You can't play defense or anything, so it makes you really focus on yourself and makes you earn wins."

"Golf has also taught me that you need to take your time with things and really think things through before just going for it. It has also taught me how to measure risk vs. reward."

-Carson Koenigsknecht

This issue was revised and edited by **Shayla Agarwal**, Copy Editor.

This issue was formatted and approved by **Ms. Barbara Alvarez**, Journalism Club Sponsor