

# Signature Shortfalls Knock Multiple Candidates Off Illinois Ballot

By Catrina Barker | The Center Square  
The Illinois State Board of Elections certified the March 2026 primary ballot this week, removing several candidates for governor and U.S. Senate after upholding petition challenges.

One of the key rulings was the board's unanimous decision to remove Republican gubernatorial candidate Greg Moore after finding he fell short of legal requirements, submitting only 3,297 valid signatures, and failing to name a lieutenant governor on his nomination papers.

"The election code requires a joint petition, including a candidate for governor and lieutenant governor, and a minimum of 5,000 signatures," Illinois State Board of Elections general counsel Marni Malowitz said during the Wednesday hearing.

Moore challenged the signature count and said a running mate was not required, but the board rejected his argument and removed him from the ballot.

Another Republican gubernatorial hopeful, Joseph Severino, was also tossed for lacking enough valid signatures, further narrowing the GOP field. Severino's attorney argued the objector improperly alleged thousands of "not genuine" signatures without reviewing them, calling it a dangerous precedent. However, elections board staff said the objections were valid and noted that even if some challenges were overturned, the candidate still fell short of the required total.

Christine Svenson represented Terry Newsome, the objector of Severino's nominating papers.

"At the end of the day they're short," Newsome's attorney told the board.

The board ultimately accepted the hearing officer's recommendation and denied Severino certification.

Remaining on the GOP gubernatorial ballot is Darren Bailey, Ted Dabrowski, James Mendrick and Rick Heidner.

Dabrowski, in a news conference, had framed the governor's race as a referendum on Gov. J.B.

Pritzker's economic record. "We're a bottom five state," Dabrowski said. "If we were a thriving state, we'd have less crime, more growth, more population growth and more investment. This is really an indictment on Pritzker."

Bailey explained in a recent news conference his campaign is focused on uniting voters and addressing Illinois-specific issues.

"This does not revolve around President Trump," Bailey said. "I want the people of Illinois to truly understand that. We've got our own unique problems and situations, and it's time that we stop this political divisiveness."

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Patricia Tillman will be removed from the ballot. She filed around 3,400 valid signatures. 5,000 were required.

U.S. Senate Democratic candidates Adam Delgado, Jump Shepherd, and Anthony Williams were removed from the ballot for failing to meet signature or filing requirements, while Republican CaSandra Claiborne was disqualified after submitting only 2,976 signatures, well below the 5,000 needed.

"The candidate [Claiborne] failed to produce any evidence or testimony supporting her position that she had filed more signatures," Malowitz said. "With this finding, the candidate may not be certified to the March 2026 general primary ballot."

Lamar Chapman challenged U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi's candidacy, alleging he is not a citizen. Krishnamoorthi, D-Schaumburg, was born in India and his family moved to Peoria as a child.

"The candidate filed a motion to strike and dismiss the objector's petition, attaching a certificate of citizenship and a U.S. passport," Malowitz said in a December 2025 hearing.

Democrats will have 10 candidates in the U.S. Senate primary, Republicans six.

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Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love."

- Charles M. Schulz

# Keeping Food Safe Amidst Food Insecurity

Food insecurity continues to be a major issue in the United States, and the recent lapse in SNAP benefits has worsened struggles for many families. When low-income households face even a brief break in assistance, they often have to make impossible choices between groceries, rent, utilities, and other essentials. While wanting to help is commendable, it's important to prioritize food safety. To keep food safe during these difficult times, consider the following guidelines:

## Avoid donating homemade and home-canned food

Cooking for others may feel enjoyable, but there are food safety rules and regulations that must be followed to prevent someone from contracting a foodborne illness. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, anyone providing food to the public, regardless of whether a fee is charged, is subject to the Illinois Food Code and local requirements. Leaving perishable foods on a doorstep for neighbors

to take or transporting potentially hazardous foods to a shelter or congregating site can put vulnerable individuals at risk. Those relying on charitable food systems often face higher risks of severe illness due to chronic health conditions, age, or other factors.

## Work with food donation programs and choose non-perishable items

Instead of cooking at home, consider donating non-perishable items like canned fruits and vegetables, dry pasta, and dried herbs and spices to food drives, food pantries, and little free pantries. Reach out to local shelters, soup kitchens, and community centers to see if they accept food donations.

## Check items carefully before donating

Do not donate items with open or torn packaging. If canned items are bulging, leaking, or heavily dented, they should be discarded. Do not donate expired infant for-

mula. In most cases, it's acceptable to donate food packages and canned items after the date on the label, since these dates indicate quality, not safety.

## Consider monetary donations or volunteering

Donating money to food banks or food pantries is a safe and effective way to support food security. It also allows them to buy in bulk at lower prices and get exactly what they need. Volunteering benefits both the community and the individual, offering personal benefits such as increased physical activity, stronger social bonds, and improved mental health.

Many community food pantries and charitable programs have experienced increased demand, and they rely on community volunteers to help. Food assistance resources and locations for donations or volunteering can be found at [go.illinois.edu/findfoodil](http://go.illinois.edu/findfoodil). Additional information and Illinois Extension resources are available at [go.illinois.edu/FoodAccessNeeds](http://go.illinois.edu/FoodAccessNeeds).

# Marshall Co. Court News

(From Toluca Front Page)  
\$450, 90 days supervision.

Colton Anthony Lunn 11/23/25 by Henry, "dog running at large" 1/13/26 fine \$250.

Chaya J. Gilbert 11/15/25 by County Traffic "operate uninsured mtr vehicle" and "regis expiration/1st & 2nd; disregard stop sign" 1/14/26 fine \$301.

Tyler M. Stephen 11/24/25 "driving 21-25 mph above limit and operate uninsured mtr vehicle" 1/13/26 fine \$276.

Tiffany A. Kozuba 12/19/25 by County Traffic "operate uninsured

mtr vehicle; disregard stop sign" 1/13/26 fine \$276.

Sandeep Bajaj 1/4/26 by County traffic "driving 21-25 mph above limit" 1/14/26 fine \$164.

## LAND TRANSFERS

Grantor: Tim Traver Tr. Grantee: Lewis J. Martin Jr. Tr. Section 27, Township 29N, Range 1E, Govt lot: --SW, Notes E40A of W 100A, Trust Deed.

Grantor: Melissa Ahearn, Troy Ahearn, Keri M. Petsche, Nicholas A. Petsche. Grantee: Elizabeth M. Knapp, Ryan M. Knapp. Lake Wildwood Development Lot

1693. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Carolyn Alleman. Grantee: Kimrey D. Alleman Est. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 69. Quit Claim Deed.


Grantor: Ronald G. Lance, Tarry L. Lance. Grantee: Alex J. Chalkey. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 135. Warranty Deed.

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to honor the life of  
**Bob Summitt**  
**January 24, 2026**  
**1:00pm-4:00pm**  
Summitt Photography Studio  
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Henry, IL 61537


The family will be hosting an opportunity to share your favorite Bob stories at 2:00pm






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**Lake Wildwood Craft Fair**  
**Lake Wildwood Lodge**  
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10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**OPEN GATE**  
Featuring local vendors with a variety of unique items!

