



**Saturday, June 15, 2013**  
**Evening Speaker Bios**

### **Emily Spangler, Co-Director ProgressWomen**

Emily Spangler is the co-director of ProgressWomen, a website that promotes feminism and progressive politics with State Rep. Stacey Newman (D-MO). A 15 year old high school sophomore, she is President of her school's GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), participates on the speech team and plays the French Horn in band. She is also enrolled in accelerated classes in school. At age 13, Emily created MoreWomen2012, which was a Twitter account that connected Democratic women nationwide. She is a progressive Democrat, a feminist, and an advocate for young women and their involvement in politics.

### **The Honorable Thomas Cullerton, State Senator**

State Senator Tom Cullerton is a husband, father, veteran, and hard-working public servant. Before being elected to the state Senate, Senator Cullerton was the Village President of Villa Park where he was a champion of sound fiscal policies and protecting working families. During his tenure, Villa Park experienced job creation, balanced budgets, and fully funded their pension liability. In addition to government service, Senator Cullerton served in the Army from 1991-1993 in the infantry. Tom will use this experience to better the lives of the citizens in the 23rd District and entire State.

Senator Cullerton has been involved in many civic organizations including, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, Citizen Police Academy and he Villa Park Chamber of Commerce. He has also coached several of his son's sports teams, one of which won the Farm League World Series.

Senator Cullerton's committee assignments are Appropriations II; Labor And Commerce; Local Government; State Government & Veterans Affairs; Transportation.

### **The Honorable Lisa Madigan, Attorney General**

Lisa Madigan's public service record is one of many "firsts." The first woman elected to serve as Attorney General of Illinois, Madigan is now the senior most female Attorney General in the

country. She is also the first Illinois Attorney General to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court in nearly three decades.

Since taking office in 2003, Attorney General Madigan has established herself as a national leader through her aggressive actions to protect consumers, safeguard communities, ensure access to affordable, quality healthcare, and fight for open, honest government.

As the state's legal officer, Attorney General Madigan has repeatedly stood up to utility companies that unjustly overbilled customers and engaged in unfair business practices; led the crackdown against the production, sale and use of methamphetamine and synthetic drugs in Illinois; championed tougher sanctions against sexual predators; launched a statewide initiative to remove violent criminals from nursing homes; and pushed for sunshine laws that have increased people's access to all levels of government, including a hard-fought effort to amend and strengthen the state's Freedom of Information Act.

Among the many awards and honors received for her principled service to the people of Illinois, Madigan has been given the Better Business Bureau's Torchbearer Award, the Neighborhood Housing Services' Community Advocate Award, the Anti-Defamation League's Bernard Nath Award, the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, and she has been recognized as an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow.

Inspired by the belief that one person can make a difference, a lesson she learned from the late U.S. Senator Paul Simon, Madigan has spent most of her career in public service. Before seeking her law degree, she taught algebra and English to underprivileged Zulu girls in South Africa and developed an innovative after-school and weekend program to keep kids away from gangs and drugs in the Austin and Logan Square communities of Chicago.

Madigan was engaged in private law practice until her election to the Illinois State Senate in 1998. Convinced that she could do more for the people of Illinois as the state's chief legal advocate, she ran for Attorney General in 2002. Attorney General Madigan was overwhelmingly re-elected in 2006 and 2010.

Madigan is a graduate of Georgetown University and Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She resides in Chicago with her husband Pat Byrnes and their two daughters.

## **Rebecca Sive, Keynote Speaker**

Rebecca is the author of the forthcoming book (August 2013) *Every Day is Election Day: A Woman's Guide to Winning Any Office, from the PTA to the White House*, a practical and inspirational guide for women at all stages of life who want to achieve public leadership and be influential voices on public policy.

The book is the basis for Rebecca's speeches and workshops that shows women how to surmount public barriers, conquer private fears, and run winning campaigns—with joy, humor, confidence, and no apologies.

In a no-nonsense, woman-to-woman style, the book offers advice and strategies for women's daily lives as advocates, candidates, powerbrokers, and publicly-engaged corporate and philanthropic leaders.

A past member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission, Rebecca has been a corporate executive; a leader of many public-interest organizations, including NARAL: Pro-Choice America; an adviser to other women leaders, including some whose stories her book shares; and among organizers of women's issues agendas for presidents Carter, Clinton and Obama.

Rebecca began her professional career at the American Jewish Committee, founded one of the nation's first women's centers, and has served as a foundation director and officer. Developing and leading programs to increase women's visibility and influence, her unwavering goal is to advance women's economic security and reproductive autonomy, so that all women may achieve their professional goals and dreams of public leadership.

In recognition of her leadership, Rebecca has received many awards, including distinguished achievement awards from her undergraduate alma mater, Carleton College, and the University of Illinois, (from which she received an M.A. in American History), the United Negro College Fund, Jaycees of Chicago, and the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago. She is listed in *Feminists Who Changed America*, University of Illinois Press (2006).

*Every Day is Election Day* provides tips for realizing the power of sisterhood; bankrolling oneself; creating an inimitable brand; making local victories national; overcoming negativity; and getting men to accept a take-charge personality.

In it, Rebecca shares the true-life stories, secrets of success, and frank suggestions of women who have led, run, and won. These women include: U.S. senators Mary Landrieu and Debbie Stabenow; Melanne Verveer, first U.S. ambassador at-large for Global Women's Issues; Cecile Richards, president, Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Frances Beinecke, president, Natural Resources Defense Council; Jan Schakowsky, U.S. Representative; Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General; Toni Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners; Barbara Flynn Currie, Majority Leader, Illinois House of Representatives; Shelby Knox, feminist activist; and many others.