

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 84TH DISTRICT

STEPHANIE KIFOWIT



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Happy Women's History Month!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

May you always have walls for the winds, a roof for the rain, a drink beside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you and all your heart might need.

I wish you and your family a wonderful weekend. As you will read in my Springfield update below, I am honored to be working with Comptroller Mendoza. She is working with the members of the General Assembly to ensure that our our first responders who suffers from the long-term devastating health effects of COVID - of which her brother is unfortunately in this category.



I was also honored and humbled to have been recognized by Treasurer Mike Frerichs for Women's History Month for Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official for all my work advocating for the Veterans in Illinois. Unfortunately the ceremony was held in Chicago while I was in Springfield for session. I would like to thank my good friend Kristina for accepting the award on my behalf. I'll connect with the Treasurer in Springfield to receive it at a later date.

This week I also met with fire fighters from Aurora, Naperville and Oswego to hear their views on legislation. In addition, I was honored to recognize the amazing career of Major General Boyd on the IL House Floor. Major General Boyd also resides in the 84th District. Here is a wonderful picture of how busy my office was on Wednesday, when Adjutant General of the IL National Guard Major General Neely arrived with Major General Boyd and his command staff and met the dedicated fire fighters of the City of Aurora.



If you are ever in Springfield please let me know and I'll be happy to welcome you into my office.

This week I had several meetings about fixing our pension systems and I am dedicated to working towards a fiscally responsible solution for our funding and unfunded liability pension issues. Finally, I am so excited to see that Illinois has had our EIGHTH credit upgrade!!! We have not had so many upgrades in decades. Next week is deadline week to get our bills out of the IL House and onto the IL Senate, and for the Senate to send their bills to the IL House.

Finally, the VA has changed its mission statement - [you can read it here.](#)

Hope you have a wonderful weekend!



P.S. Please reach out to our office if you need assistance at (630)-585-1308 or send me an email.

This weeks Springfield update

The Illinois House of Representatives has been in session almost every day since the 103rd General Assembly began, and we will continue on that pace all the way up until adjournment on May 19th.



Last week the Personnel & Pensions Committee, which I chair, unanimously voted ten bills out of committee. One of those bills, which I proudly co-sponsor, is HB 3162, a bill to cover first responders severely stricken by COVID in the days before vaccines were available. All ten bills will now move to the floor for amendments and full House consideration.

I have co-sponsored of over 35 and chief sponsored 25 House bills this session, many of which have already been voted on by their respective committees and moved to the house floor. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on fine-tuning these and other pieces of legislation during the coming weeks, and will be highlighting that progress in my newsletters over the next couple months.

On Monday, March 13, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into law the **Paid Leave for ALL Workers Act**. The law will guarantee workers accrue paid time off, up to 40 hours or five workdays per year for full-time employees, making Illinois the third state in the nation to guarantee paid time off for any reason. I was incredibly proud to help move this bill through the House of Representatives, and its codification into state law is a monumental moment for Illinois and our country.

On Tuesday, we recognized **Equal Pay Day** to highlight the continuing gap between men's and women's wages. This date, March 14, measures how far into the next year women, who earn 82 cents for every dollar a man earns, must work to earn what men earned in the previous year alone. In 2021 we amended the **Illinois Equal Pay Act** to increase wage transparency by allowing employees to request anonymized pay rate data that employers are required to report to the Illinois Department of Labor. Experts agree that increasing pay transparency can be a game changer in detecting discriminatory pay patterns and closing the wage gap.

The Future is Looking Bright!

On Tuesday, Moody's Investor Service [upgraded](#) Illinois bonds to A3, the second major rating agency to return Illinois' credit to the 'A' category.

I serve as your State Representative with experience as a former financial advisor who is committed to ensuring that the State of Illinois has a balanced and responsible budget.

Because of this determination, and working with my fellow legislators, for the first time in over 20 years Illinois has received not one but eight (8) credit upgrades, two in this year alone!



Leading the Effort to Create Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Day in Illinois

I have introduced [legislation](#) to mark June 27 annually as **Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Day**.

Our state holidays underscore our values here in Illinois. As we continue to understand post-traumatic stress injuries better, it's more and more clear that we need to make this health care issue a priority. Read the full press release [here](#).



Funding Opportunity: \$52 Million Towards Preventing Veteran Suicide



News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2023

VA to award \$52.5 million in grants to local organizations working to prevent Veteran suicide

Addressing the alarmingly high rate of Veteran death by suicide has been one of my top priorities as a public servant. I am very excited to see the VA investing in local organizations dedicated to this cause.

Grants will be awarded to organizations that provide or coordinate suicide

prevention services for eligible individuals at risk of suicide and their families that qualify. Applications are due by **May 19, 2023**. For more information go to mentalhealth.va.gov

\$1.2 Million in State Grants Awarded to Local Park Districts

The Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space.

This year represents the largest round of OSLAD grants in the 36-year history of the cost-sharing program.



Awarded: \$600,000

Development: Farmington Lakes Park

Project Highlights

- Expanding access & amenities
- Proposed boardwalk system
- Kayak/canoe launch
- Wood fishing pier & overlook
- Shelter, game tables, baggo game stations, and bike repair station
- New aquatic plants, shoreline plants, and outcroppings
- Extend the asphalt bike path to create a full loop around the lake

[More Information Here](#)

Awarded: \$600,000

Development: Montgomery's Blackberry Crossing West Park

Project Highlights

- ADA accessible playground
- Four pickleball courts
- Two multipurpose athletic fields
- Concrete game plaza
- 0.7-mile asphalt path
- Bike racks
- Pollinator habitat

[More Information Here](#)

Illinois Severe Weather Preparedness Week

March 6 was Severe Weather Preparedness Week. To help be prepared for severe weather events, make sure you are signed up for emergency alerts. Check out the graphics and links below, provided by the National Weather Service for more information.

Weather.gov

Weather.gov



Getting a warning could save YOUR LIFE



6 WAYS to receive a warning



New Exhibit Honoring Women In The Military Now Opened In Aurora

The Aurora Grand Army of the Republic Military Museum is honoring the long legacy of women in the Armed Forces and Women's History Month with the launch of its newest exhibit: Hidden Warriors – The History of Women in the Military.

Hidden Warriors showcases the role of women, many from Aurora, in the U.S. military from the American Revolution to the present day and highlights the many challenges women have faced and overcome, including discrimination and prejudice, as they served their country with distinction and bravery.

The Hidden Warriors exhibit will run from March 3 through September 30 at the Grand Army of the Republic Military Museum, 23 E. Downer Place, in downtown Aurora.

[Click Here for more information](#)

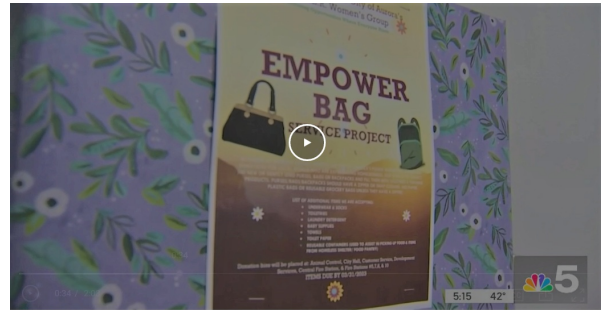


Collection Drive Supports Aurora Women in Need

Purpose: A month-long Women's History Month campaign to help women in need.

Items Being Collected:

- purses
- backpacks
- toiletries
- feminine hygiene products
- socks
- other basic necessities for women experiencing homelessness



Where: Donations can be dropped off in [collections bins across the city](#)

**EMPOWER BAG
COLLECTION DRIVE**

In recognition of Women's History Month, the City of Aurora's **P.O.W.E.R. WOMEN Employee Resource Group** is hosting a collection drive to provide unhoused women in our community purses and backpacks filled with toiletries, feminine products, and basic necessities.

Support the initiative by helping to collect . . .

100 NEW OR GENTLY USED PURSES AND BACKPACKS*
.. and new toiletries, feminine hygiene products, undergarments, socks, towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, baby supplies and small reusable containers.

Donations can be dropped through March 31 in collections bins at the following locations:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Aurora City Hall | 44 E. Downer Place
Aurora Animal Care & Control | 600 River St.
Customer Service Center | 3770 McCoy Drive
Development Services Center | 77 S. Broadway

7 Days a Week
Aurora Police Department | 1200 E. Indian Trail Rd.
Aurora Central Fire Station | 75 N. Broadway Ave.
Aurora Fire Station #5 | 730 Hill Ave.
Aurora Fire Station #7 | 824 Kenilworth Pl.
Aurora Fire Station #8 | 3770 McCoy Dr.
Aurora Fire Station #10 | 2390 W. Illinois Ave.

A service initiative of **P.O.W.E.R.**
(P)resenting (O)pportunities (W)here (E)veryone (R)ises

*Purses, backpacks and bags should have a zipper or snap closure

Oswego - Teen Support Group

Is there a teen in your life that may benefit from a safe space to talk and explore mental

health concerns? **The National Alliance on Mental Illness is bringing a [Teen Support Group](#) to Kendall County with Graceful Therapy. Beginning **Monday, March 20.****

This 6-series weekly peer support group is offered free of charge. SPACE IS LIMITED! Questions? Email saragray@namikdk.org.



NAMI KDK AND GRACEFUL THERAPY

TEEN SUPPORT GROUP

-  **3rd Monday of the month, beginning Monday, March 20**
-  **5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**
-  **113 Main St, Unit 203, Oswego, IL 60543**

In partnership with Graceful Therapy, NAMI KDK is proud to offer a peer support group free of charge for teens to explore mental health awareness and concerns. Co-led by a NAMI peer leader and Graceful Therapy Clinician, this series includes monthly sessions for 6 months at Graceful Therapy Oswego. We hope to provide a safe space for teens to learn about mental health and support each other in their circumstances.

 **NAMI**
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Graceful Therapy

NAMIKDK.ORG & GRACEFULTHERAPY.COM

For questions and resources contact NAMI KDK Executive Director Sara Gray at saragray@namikdk.org

For Students

My Office is Looking For Summer & Fall Interns! - [Apply Today](#)

We are always looking for energetic and professional students to intern in our District Office located in Aurora, IL throughout the school year and summer. Internship responsibilities include acting as a liaison between constituents and the State of Illinois, assisting community outreach programs and attending community meetings.

The Kendall County Internship Program - [More Information](#)

Qualified interns will work alongside Kendall County professionals on exciting projects benefiting our community while gaining hands on experience.

Michelle LaFrey Fregoso Scholarship -[More Information](#)

The Michelle LaFrey Fregoso Scholarship Program awards annual scholarships to high school seniors who reside in the Naperville Community School District 203 or Indian Prairie School District 204. The deadline to submit applications is **March 25**.

DCFS Scholarships for Current & Former Youth In Care -[More Info](#)

The Department of Children and Family Services is currently accepting applications for the 2023 DCFS Scholarship Program for current and former youth in care. The scholarship package includes a full tuition and mandatory fee waiver to any community college, university or college maintained by the state, a monthly grant payment, start-up grant and a medical card. Applications are due by **March 31**.

Application: [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

Secretary of State Mobile DMV Coming to Aurora on May 6th

I am hosting the Secretary of State's Mobile Driver Services Facility at the Fox Valley Mall on May 6th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Come get your license or ID renewed, plus other services!

SECRETARY OF STATE

Mobile Driver Services Facility

State Representative Stephanie Kifowit
Fox Valley Mall
195 Fox Valley Center Dr, Aurora, IL 60504
Mall Entrance #1
Northwest side of the mall by Macy's
Saturday May 6, 2023
10 AM – 2 PM

- Vision Screening
- Driver's License/State ID Card (Renewal, Replacement, Correction)
- License Plate Renewal Stickers
- Organ/Tissue Donor Registry
- Motor Voter Registration
- Seniors age 65 and older (no charge for state ID)
- Seniors age 75 and older must visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility to renew driver's license.
- Due to enhanced Security requirements, REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards must be processed at a Driver Services facility and are not available at mobile events.



To renew a current Illinois driver's license or ID card, a valid driver's license or ID card must be presented. To apply for a duplicate or corrected driver's license or ID card, two forms of identification must be presented. For information about acceptable forms of identification, please call 217-782-7044 or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

All payments must be made by check, credit card, debit card or money order. NO CASH ACCEPTED.



Alexi Giannoulias
Secretary of State

WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, April 1 - Downtown Oswego's Annual Bunny Hop - [Details Here](#)

Saturday, April 15 - Community Wide Service Day - [Details Here](#)

Saturday, May 13 - Aurora GreenFest returns after 3 years - [Details Here](#)

Early Voting is Now Open

Early voting is now open for the April 4 consolidated general election! Click the links

below to access sample ballots, early voting information, and polling locations and times.

[Kane County](#)
[Kendall County](#)
[DuPage County](#)
[Will County](#)



Facebook Live

I continue to host Monday Morning Coffee live via Facebook at 9:00am-10:00am where you can post your comments and questions.

I realize not everyone has Facebook. The good news is that you can still participate. If you would like to join us on Monday mornings, you can join in via ZOOM! Once connected via ZOOM, you'll be able to interact just as if you were on Facebook. Don't worry you will not be on live - your video feed and mic will be muted.

The ZOOM link will be emailed to everyone separately for Monday morning participation.

If you would like to join us, please email Michelle@ILDistrict84.com or call the office at 630.585.1308.

Join Representative Kifowit every
Monday morning for
#CoffeewithKiffy



9:00AM Monday
@ILDISTRICT84

START YOUR MONDAY
WITH A GOOD coffee



#coffeewithkiffy



FACEBOOK LIVE

If you missed my last Monday Morning Coffee, you can watch it here:



630.585.1308

stephanie.kifowit@att.net

Visit our Website

Twitter

Instagram

Facebook

State Representative Stephanie Kifowit | 1677 Montgomery Road, Suite 116, Aurora, IL 60504

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