

## AP PoliSci Summer Assignment: Better Know a Candidate

Students,

Welcome to AP Political Science\*! We will be starting our year with a summer assignment, but one that involves no reading and very little writing. I just want you to start the year by *experiencing* politics in a way that you probably haven't before. This will also serve as your introduction to the upcoming Midterm elections, which will be the biggest political event\* of the coming school year.

Your task is to attend a campaign event for a politician who is on the ballot to represent you this fall. The politician must be seeking one of the following offices:

- **Governor of Illinois**
- **Senator from Illinois**
- **Congressperson representing YOUR district**

Use ballotpedia's [sample ballot lookup](#) to find out what congressional district you are in and who is running for each of these offices.

All of these positions are currently held by Democrats, but 2022 is looking like it'll be a very good year for Republicans, so I would not be surprised if they flipped one or two of the House seats around here. It would be more surprising for Pritzker (D) to lose the governorship, and it would be very surprising for Duckworth (D) to lose her senate seat.

Up until the primary elections on June 28th, there will be MANY candidates listed in each race. The primary election is to determine which candidate will represent each party in the general election, so after June 28th, we will know which ONE Republican and ONE Democratic candidate will be running in each of the races.

After looking up the candidates, it is up to you to find events to attend. Candidate facebook pages are probably your best bet. I will also post a few that I find on the schoology page. I encourage you to attend with classmates! There will be many campaign events leading up to the primaries, especially for Republican candidates and Democratic candidates in the district where I imagine most of you live (the Illinois 6th, where two current Democratic congresspeople have to run against each other). After the primaries, events may become sparser.

I am NOT asking you to campaign or volunteer for a candidate. I also will not assume that your political beliefs match that of the candidate whose event you choose to attend! Feel free to choose an event on the basis of convenience or free food.

*\*The actual AP test you will take is called AP U.S. Government and Politics. Montini chooses to call the class AP Political Science for reasons.*

*+At least, the biggest scheduled event. Stuff happens.*