



Northwest Suburban Retired Teachers Unit 90 of the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association

Endorsements from the Northwest Suburban IRTA Legislative Brunch 2014

We had over 110 in attendance at the Inverness Golf Club for our legislative brunch. We heard from Republican State Senator Matt Murphy, Republican State Representatives Tom Morrison and David Harris, and also Democrat State Representative Michelle Mussman. Murphy and Mussman both voted in favor of SB1 to reduce our pension benefits because they felt the state cannot afford the increasing cost of our pensions. While Morrison and Harris both voted no on SB1, their concerns were that the measures proposed would not solve the state's problem of ever growing payments. We also had the opportunity to hear from Republican challenger Ramiro Juarez, who is running against Representative Fred Crespo, who voted for SB1, and did not appear for our meeting. Juarez is a elementary teacher in U46. He believes that SB1 is unconstitutional, and that the Illinois Supreme Court will rule as such. Mussman's opponent, Republican Jim Moynihan, told us he would have voted against SB1 because it was wrong to take away benefits that had been promised to retirees and that any solution going forward had to have the agreement of all those involved before he would vote for it. All of those seeking office accepted that the problem of pension costs today was primarily the result of the state's failure to make its full payments for many years into the pension funds. All of the legislators and the candidates, as well, were concerned that any attempt by the state to shift part of the cost of pensions to the school districts would require an increase in property taxes and they all were opposed to that happening. And they all agreed that they would vote no on proposed legislation to shift the little state funding received by our local school districts to more needy districts elsewhere in the state.

The executive board of our unit met at the conclusion of the brunch and considered each of the legislators and candidates.

Romiro Juarez running against Fred Crespo in the 44th was endorsed by our state organization IRTAPAC and we voted to endorse **Juarez** as well. He needs our support.

Jim Moynihan is opposing Michelle Mussman of the 56th District and he was also endorsed by IRTAPAC. We agreed that **Moynihan** deserved our endorsement and support.

We want to thank all of those that were at the brunch. The room was full and the legislators and candidates could see that we are serious and motivated in protecting our interests. Remember to vote for those on November 6 that will vote for you. That is not being selfish. You earned your pension and are entitled to receive what you were promised. Even if you do not live in the 44th and 56th districts you can ask friends and family that do to vote for Juarez and Moynihan.

The pension you protect is your own and you will live on it for the rest of you life.

Executive Board Northwest Suburban Unit 90 The cost of this mailing was covered not by dues but our political fund.