

## State Representative Mark Beaubien

*I met Representative Beaubien at a fundraiser about a year ago. Nervous and feeling out of my league, but with conviction, I approached him about my concerns in Island Lake and my strong desire for a recall vote in Illinois. The interaction was amiable as he immediately exhibited traits such as integrity and strong character. He was soft-spoken, yet polite, approachable, and open. With that, I introduce to you, our State Representative, Mark Beaubien.*

Mark Beaubien, upon graduating with a BA and a JD from Northwestern began his career in Palatine as an associate for the Law Firm of Aribert F. Wild. He then moved on to become a partner at Beaubien & Asher Attorneys, Palatine. And finally, he found his home in Banking and since 1986 has been a Chairman and/or Vice chairman for two local banks. Married for over 40 years to his wife Dee, they have two sons and four grandchildren.

Mark began his political career like so many; he started as a Precinct committeeman. Over time, he moved his way up to a member of the Lake County Board, Cuba Twp supervisor, and then to his current elected seat, 52<sup>nd</sup> district seat in the General Assembly, Illinois House, and Assistant Republican Leader.

Mark is an active member of our community and has served our community in many different aspects over the years. Here's a short list of some of his contributions: served as the Board of Director and/Chairman of the Buehler YMCA from '71 to '93; Board of Director of Northwest Community Hospital, a member of John Evans Club, Northwestern University; Barrington Area Community Center Task Force; Barrington Area Seniors Task Force; Founders' Committee, Ela Area YMCA; Member, Lake County and Illinois State Bar Associations; Northwestern University Committee on Athletics and Recreation.

Representative Beaubien is no stranger to Island Lake. He has been active and influential in our community for years. He helped Island Lake obtain grants for many Island Lake projects, including the Veterans Park and Beach House.

**The following is the interview, verbatim.**



**1. You have 12 years experience as the Illinois House representative and assistant Republican leader before that. What do you feel are your greatest accomplishments?**

We need to point out that I have been Assistant Republican Leader for the past six years. These years did not precede my experience as a representative. I feel my greatest accomplishments are:

#1: Primary Seat Belt Legislation—I was the chief sponsor and fought for over 6 years, along with Sen. John Cullerton, to pass this legislation in 2003. Since the bill was signed into law in July, 2003, seat belt use in Illinois has risen from 76% to over 88%, and the highway death rate has dropped to the level it was in 1941. The legislation has saved countless lives and prevented serious injuries. #2: Legislation that created a School Finance Authority for Round Lake School District 116: Passed over 8 years ago, the legislation created a panel of local and regional participants to provide financial oversight for a school district that was threatened by bankruptcy. The Finance Authority, working with the elected school board, has returned the district to financial health. #3: HB 5088, passed in 2008 and signed into law by the governor, is the Public Safety Pension Reform Bill. An agreed bill between the Illinois Municipal League and the Police and Fire Pension Boards, the legislation addresses one of the biggest fiscal crises facing both the state and municipal governments: the rapidly growing cost of funding pension benefits for public safety employees. The bill provides that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability will issue a financial analysis of the cost to municipalities of all future police and fire pension legislation. There are also important annual publication and transparency requirements to inform taxpayers about the fiscal status of their local police and fire pension funds. As in the past, one of my biggest priorities and concerns in state government has been the increasing costs of all of our pension funds. This bill is an important start in pension reform, and I was proud to have brought all sides together in this effort.

Obviously, there's much more than politics to my life. My greatest accomplishments are my family (my wife, Dee, and I have been married for 44 years), my sons, Mark and Bob, and our grandchildren, Annie, Bobby, Ella, and Mark Joseph. I've also spent many years giving back to my community both in my profession as a lawyer and banker and to the community by serving as a youth football and baseball coach for many years, being on the board of the Buehler YMCA (as board chair twice), the founder's committee for the Foglia YMCA, multiple other boards and volunteer events. I've been fortunate to be able to give back as well to all of the communities in my district.

**2. I have long been a proponent of election recall for Illinois. The Illinois election recall bill—in one form or another—has volleyed between House and Senate. It gained momentum this past spring when many legislators and voters were looking for a way to recall our unpopular Governor. You voted for the election recall bill. Why do you think it has failed to pass? What will it take for Illinois to pass an election recall law?**

The bill did not pass both houses because of the relationship between Senate President Jones and the Governor. Nor will there be any action on it until power positions change. While I did vote for the bill, I continue to have reservations about legislation that is focused primarily on an unpopular governor. Our representative democracy is based on elections and officials being given a chance to do their jobs. Recall may make lawmakers focus on concerns or fear of being recalled instead of what is best for their district and the state. If there were to be a constitutional convention, the recall provision could be considered. That probably has more chance than the current legislation getting called in the Senate.

**3. The current presidential election is as historical as much as it is exciting. A key factor is the ability to bring change to Washington. Do you fear voters may overlook you because you are an incumbent? Are Illinois voters also looking for change in Springfield?**

No, I don't believe voters will focus just on a call for change and assume that all incumbents should be thrown out of office. I have worked long and hard for my district, and I believe constituents will recognize that. In addition, what we should look at is that we do need change in Springfield—but not by throwing out all incumbents. Instead, we should look at the fact that the past six years of one party rule (not my party) has produced overwhelming gridlock. Changing the minority party to the majority party is now the only hope for change. I believe that voters are intelligent folks who recognize those legislators who are trying to end the gridlock in Springfield. I am one of them.

**4. Your opponent, Rich Garling has said about you: “for all intents and purposes, he really doesn't do anything.” I realize that's a hollow statement, but do you have any reaction to his accusation that you have done nothing for your district?**

It's really hard to begin to answer this question because of all of the things I have done for the district and how very long it would take me to list them all. I believe that residents from Island Lake and from all over the district know better. Just for starters, let's look at the facts for Island Lake alone: My member initiative grants for Island Lake include \$75,000 for improvements to Veterans Park; \$95,000 for improvements to the water system, and \$300,000 for the water main extension on Route 176. This year, Nunda Township received \$100,000 for infrastructure improvements, and Wauconda Township also received \$100,000 for infrastructure improvements. Both of these grants will benefit Island Lake. I've also helped to secure Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant dollars to acquire the 190 acres of the Reiland property in Nunda Township, a link to the recreational resources of Moraine Hills State Park. As an Assistant Republican Leader and Chief Budget Negotiator for the House Republicans, I am in a position to do much for Island Lake and for the entire district. This year, every township in the district received grants for infrastructure. My endorsements from all of the major newspapers over the years indicate that I have accomplished a great deal. I am also endorsed each year, including this one, by organizations like the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Illinois Association of Realtors, the Illinois Bankers Association, who said “Mark Beaubien has been an effective protector of depositors. He was instrumental in stopping millions of dollars in proposed new bank-related taxes. Depositors couldn't have a better legislator than Mark Beaubien.” Other organizations endorsing my candidacy this year are the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, the Township Officials of Illinois, the Illinois Farm Bureau, and the Illinois Municipal League, who is honoring me with the 2008 Friends of Municipalities Award for HB5808 (mentioned above). It's hard for me to imagine all of these endorsements for someone who doesn't do anything.

**5. Last year, when asked by Algonquin to support the Route 31 expansion, Garling didn't think Island Lake should support a community that isn't supporting Island Lake. He insinuated that if they won't help us, why we should help him. How would you have responded to Algonquin's reach out?**

It seems that Rich Garling responded in his role as Island Lake Trustee. Since I am a State Representative, it is unlikely that I would be involved in that local issue. If Island Lake trustees and Algonquin trustees asked me and Representative Tryon to become involved, we would certainly have sought to see if we could be of assistance if a state issue were involved.

**6. You are a republican, yet you voted for a recent abortion bill that, had it passed, would have allowed minors to undergo an abortion without parental knowledge or consent. That's not a usual conservative take. Are there other major issues where you differ in stance than your party?**

The bill for which I did vote was for parental notification, but it would have extended notification rights to grandparents, aunts/uncles, clergy and counselors. My votes are not determined by party but rather for the human rights the legislation protects.

**7. There are many important issues to voters in Illinois this election, but I think the main concern of voters is the economy. What are you doing to stimulate the Illinois economy?**

As we are all aware, many of our serious economic issues are national and not just focused on Illinois, but our Illinois economy can improve if conditions improve for business in this state. Illinois is now close to the bottom in states that provide a friendly business climate. We hear regularly from small business owners, insurance companies, manufacturers and other business entities about this hostile business climate. Legislators must fight against any additional burdens on our business community. If jobs leave, then the economy in our local communities will continue to suffer.

**8. Economy goes hand in hand with jobs. What are you doing to keep and/or attract jobs in Northern Illinois?**

Since the governor's inauguration, there has been a consistent attack on Illinois business, large and small, and a subsequent loss of jobs in Illinois. I do not support increasing taxes on business and would point out that the democratic majority in the legislature might be wise to share this view. If they do not, business will continue to leave Illinois, and new business will not come to Illinois. Passing a capital bill would go a long way to increase jobs in Illinois, but the deadlock in Springfield continues to keep that from happening. I, along with House Republicans, continue to push for a capital bill, but its revenue stream must be realistic.

**9. Your opponent, Rich Garling, is campaigning for improved infrastructure. I have reviewed your proposed State Road improvements and am glad to see a reconfiguration of Rte 31 & 176—hopefully the intersection will become safer. Heavily traveled Route 176 goes through Island Lake, and is one of the only routes that connect the west to the east. Are there any talks to widen Rte 176 or build a bypass—similar to the Route 22 bypass in Lake Zurich?**

The concept of a bypass similar to Route 22 in Lake Zurich is intriguing. The discussions on the Route 22 Bypass have been a twenty-plus year project. Should Island Lake residents want a bypass, I would do everything I could to begin the process. I would also caution that there are few funds now for any new highway improvements. If a capital bill is passed, and if the citizens of the area have consensus about such a project, I would certainly support efforts to begin talks.

**10. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety is pushing lawmakers to enact even tougher laws for teen drivers; going as far as suggesting that the legal driving age be raised to 17 years of age, possibly 18 because of the high incidents of fatal crashes involving teenage drivers. What is your stance on this issue?**

One of my long time concerns has been highway safety—the primary seat belt law is an example—and I have also been supportive of recent changes in driver education, rules for beginning drivers, etc. I believe that we will see legislation prohibiting texting and other electronics while driving, and I will support that. Raising the driving age would not eliminate the problems of a first-time driver. I have and will continue to support tough laws for beginning drivers, whatever their age.

**11. If Chicago wins the bid to be the 2016 Olympics host city, how will that impact your district?**

We already have contentious issues over the location of the equestrian facilities in my district in Lake County. I'm sure other controversies will develop. Such issues generally are local. I try to be involved in local issues only if state regulations are involved and I can assist people in the district in accessing help or clarification of regulations from the state.

**12. You have always run positive, non-smear campaigns. But your opponent who has been negative towards you was an elected official only a few months when he announced his candidacy. According to What's Happening in Island Lake, Garling has no accomplishments to speak of as Trustee of Island Lake and he is a member of a much debated and controversial administration under Tom Hyde. Under Garling's tenure, the Village of Island Lake is facing a \$457,000 deficit, record number of personal lawsuits and as reported in the paper, multiple grand jury investigations into the actions of the Mayor, Tom Hyde. With experience and accomplishments playing a large role in the national elections, how do you inform voters of the shortcomings of your challenger?**

As most residents of my district know, I have never conducted a negative campaign. Nor will I begin to do that now. I run on my record and expect that my opponents will do the same. I do believe that experience matters a great deal, but I also believe voters are fully capable of evaluating a candidate's experience and qualifications for this position. My record and my experience are important reasons for my reelection.

**13. In Island Lake, the Northern Moraine Sanitary District is suing to de-annex from the village. Has the Village administration contacted you for your help in resolving disputes that lead to their move to de-annex? If you were asked, would you offer assistance?**

No, I have not been contacted. If I am asked, and it is an appropriate state issue, I would offer any help I could.

**14. What is going to be Illinois' greatest challenge(s) over the next few years? And how are you preparing to handle those challenges?**

Illinois' greatest challenge well into the future is clearly budgetary. We face fixed costs that far outpace revenues in the current budget. Next year's budget, for example, is based on limited revenue growth, and we are anticipating over 2.7 billion in additional expenses that are not in the budget. If elected, this crisis will remain my most important priority. I am opposed to raising state income or sales taxes. Rather, I believe cuts can and should be made, specifically in non point-of-service areas of the six state agencies that expend the largest amount of general revenue funds. I believe we as legislators must confront our fiscal reality and stop making promises to fund programs that do not have their own revenue stream. We should be disciplined and resigned to zero-based budgeting which, again, does not affect point-of-service programs and will not impose additional burdens on the business community, burdens that will simply be passed on to us as taxpayers.

**15. How are you getting out to meet voters? Do you have any events planned? Where can supporters go to meet and talk with you about what's going on in their world? Where can supporters get campaign signs or buttons to show their support?**

I have only one fundraising event per year, and that took place in August of this year. I do walk precincts as it gets closer to election time, but I am available by phone at 847.381.1898, FAX is

847.381.0293. I also attend many area events and welcome the chance to meet and talk with residents of the district. If people want signs, they can contact me at the above number. I don't have buttons, pencils, shirts, nail files or any other campaign stuff. Again my record is the important information.

**16. Help me and the readers get to know your lighter side.**

• ***Tell me about your family including pets.***

My wife, Dee, and I have been married for 44 years. We have two sons, Mark, 41, and Bob, 40. Mark is married to Kelly, and they have one son, Mark Joseph. Bob is married to Mary, and they have three children: Annie, 9; Bobby, 7; and Ella, 2 ½. We have one cat, BC, who moved from our neighbor's barn because I fed her 10 years ago when she came to our door during a snowstorm. In the past, we've had many cats and one Newfoundland. We also have many "wild" pets: squirrels, deer, opossums, chipmunks, cardinals, and multiple frogs in our water garden.

• ***What do you do for fun?***

Hunt deer (crossbow/shotgun), turkey and upland birds; fish, golf, reading, travel, restoring our small oak woodland and gin—the card game! I also am renowned for a sense of humor and pranks.

• ***What was the last movie you saw?***

Diminished Capacity.

• ***What's your favorite restaurant or food or dessert?***

My favorite restaurant is my home. I eat in restaurants in Springfield far too much. I love any chocolate cake, ice cream or candy, but I don't eat desserts now-- I do admit to cheating occasionally.

**17. Any final thoughts you would like to share with voters?**

I'd only like to add that it has been my honor to represent the 52<sup>nd</sup> District. Over the years, I've grown to know many of the residents and have been able, along with my administrative assistant, Pat Tichnor, to assist them. I've also enjoyed many district events and have learned to know and like many, many people who are constituents. In spite of the logjam in Springfield, my commitment to the district has not changed. Nor has my commitment to fight attempts to raise taxes. I want to thank my Lake, McHenry and Cook County constituents for their encouragement and support. Although many of each area's concerns may vary, we all share the most important ones: assuring excellent schools, safe roads, fighting gridlock, protecting our environment and addressing the critical state of our Illinois economy. I believe I have been an effective legislator for our district. I have and will continue to vote for what is best for the citizens of our district and for Illinois. I also believe my Illinois House Republican leadership position and experience as budget negotiator are crucial to our district's best interests as we continue to face our budgetary crisis and fight attempts to raise our taxes. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require assistance in any way.

Mr. Beaubien, thank you for your time in answering these questions for the blog for the people, What's Happening in Island Lake. Constituents in Island Lake are some of the most informed folks and they appreciate candid and informative information, especially when it comes directly from a candidate. As promised, I will publish your answers verbatim with no commentary from me in the posting. I want to let the voters learn and decide.