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**CONGRESSWOMAN SCHAKOWSKY ENDORSES GILLESPIE IN STATE
SENATE RACE**

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS- Today, U.S. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-9) announced her endorsement of [Ann Gillespie for State Senate](#) (SD27) in the March 2018 Democratic Primary Election.

“Ann is a demonstrated leader who will fight for working families, a strong state economy that benefits all Illinoisans, world class public schools that guarantee our next generation is ready for the future, and affordable and comprehensive health care services,” said Schakowsky.

“Ann understands what hard work is and she’s a born fighter. Growing up, Ann’s father was seriously injured in an accident that changed her family forever—wiping out their life savings, losing their house, and forcing them to live paycheck-to-paycheck. Ann and her sisters were able to earn college degrees because at that time there was a social safety net in place to help working families pull themselves out of hard times. Ann’s expertise and lifetime of hard work resulted in her becoming one of the few women in executive level

“Ann has also demonstrated a real commitment to the community through her volunteer work with La Rabida Children’s Hospital, the American Lung Association, Northwest Suburban United Way Women’s Leadership Council, the Girl Scouts, and as a Cook County election judge and deputy voter registrar.

“Ann understands that to shore up Illinois’s economy after nearly three years with Governor Rauner holding the state hostage with no budget we need to fight to retain jobs in Illinois and fight to attract new businesses. She has already demonstrated her commitment to jobs and the economy in her professional life. She worked for a large pharmacy company where she encouraged her company to keep over 500 jobs right here in Illinois instead of moving a large mail order facility to Texas. Despite huge incentives from Texas, she chose to keep the facility in Mount Prospect because she saw the value in our community.

“Ann is also committed to fighting for working class families; she fought hard as a community organizer, advocating that the Arlington Heights Trustees not opt out of the Cook County Minimum Wage Increase/Earned Paid Sick Leave ordinances. She understands that, at a time when many social service programs are being slashed at the state and federal levels, it would be disastrous to not guarantee a living wage for working families.

“We need a woman like Ann who is tough, fair, measured, and able to work through the complex issues that face all Illinoisans. We need someone who can stand up to Governor Rauner and his GOP pawns in the State Senate who were willing to play politics with education funding at the beginning of this school year, needlessly holding hostage millions of Illinois school children to gain cheap political points.

“It is time to make Illinois whole again and stop Rauner’s war on working families, public education, and the most vulnerable in our society. Ann Gillespie is the most qualified person in Senate District 27 to go to Springfield to stand up for working families. Ann’s educational, professional, and community organizing experience would make a welcome addition in Springfield. I wholeheartedly endorse Ann Gillespie and encourage voters to support her in the March 2018 Democratic Primary Election,” concluded Schakowsky.

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Paid for by Citizens for Ann Gillespie. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

Citizens for Ann Gillespie

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