



Good morning, everyone.

Today marks a pivotal moment as I stand with Congressman Danny K. Davis. Both he and I are committed to our current roles until January 2027. Our partnership is robust and critical as we advocate for the people of the 7th Congressional District, which includes much of the 8th Legislative District, which I am now proud to represent.

I am deeply thankful, and I gratefully accept, the endorsement of Congressman Davis, a true champion of our communities. Your support, Congressman, is not just an honor - it's a strong affirmation of our shared mission to uplift and empower the people we serve.

While we now confront challenges that remind us of our country's past, our democracy endures. As a social studies teacher, I taught my students about the significance of civil rights, human rights, and human dignity. History has taught us the necessity of standing resolutely against threats to these foundational values.

Today, we face a concerning rollback of the hard-won victories that have strengthened our communities. Essential resources—including Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, SNAP benefits, childcare support, violence prevention programs, and funding for higher education—are all under attack. In addition, we see efforts to weaken the 14th Amendment, voter rights, and even the core of human dignity.

We also face a severe shortage of affordable housing and rising costs of living. These rising costs profoundly affect families across our district. As a small business owner and a realtor, I see the effects of rising costs every day. We must address these urgent issues, listen carefully to the voices of the people of the 7th Congressional District, and ensure that everyone feels valued and included.

To everyone in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District - I am here to stand up for you and fight with you!

Let us unite against the Republican onslaught targeting people experiencing homelessness and those struggling with addiction. It is unacceptable that some seek to criminalize individuals rather than provide the essential supports and resources they urgently need. We must dismantle the cycle of permanent punishment within our justice system, and offer individuals an even better second chance to reintegrate into society as proud, contributing Americans.

I will collaborate with Republicans, as I have done in Springfield, and with Democratic and Republican congressional representatives from Illinois, wherever we can find common ground. Meaningful progress

requires cooperation, and I am dedicated to reaching across the aisle to forge real solutions. Together, we can cultivate a community that embodies compassion, justice, and opportunity for all.

Furthermore, we need to rapidly increase funding for HIV initiatives and drug treatment programs. This effort goes beyond just providing money; it's about protecting essential services that many individuals depend on. We must end the American War on Drugs, which has depleted taxpayer resources and harmed families and communities. This crisis affects our families, friends, and neighborhoods every day.

I am prepared to collaborate with all stakeholders — families, businesses, hospitals, nonprofits, and advocates within the 7th Congressional District—to build a more vibrant community. By working together, we can craft policies that genuinely meet our shared needs.

My nearly 19 years of experience as a state representative have equipped me with the expertise to advocate effectively for our community. I have learned that authentic leadership involves building relationships and fostering open dialogue. It's about understanding our challenges and crafting solutions together.

I will use my extensive experience and the relationships that I've built in Springfield—including with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor of Illinois—to push for more federal funds to return to our state. This is vital for easing the tax burden on Illinois taxpayers. Together, we will change Illinois from a federal donor state—where our tax dollars leave our communities—into one where our tax dollars support and uplift our residents.

This campaign isn't just about securing your vote; it's about standing firmly against the "Make America Hate Again" agenda and the policies promoted by many Republicans. We will boldly defend and expand civil rights, human rights, and the dignity of every person in our state.

With your trust, I will uphold our shared values, defend our rights, and work tirelessly to ensure every community member feels empowered and heard. I am ready to listen and fight for the people of the 7th Congressional District!

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State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

Candidate for Illinois 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

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