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For the Illinois House

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The Tribune begins endorsements today in contested primary races for the Illinois House.

2nd District (Southwest Side): Democratic Rep. Edward Acevedo is a political insider whose career was boosted by the scandal-plagued Hispanic Democratic Organization. Our endorsement goes to Josip "Joe" Trutin, a local school council member and longtime community activist who would push for honest government.

4th District (Northwest Side): Community-minded Rep. Cynthia Soto is endorsed over Jose Massas.

5th District (North, South Sides): Democratic Rep. Ken Dunkin was one of the last defenders of Rod Blagojevich. He skipped out on the vote to impeach the disgraced governor. Voters don't have to put up with that. David Schroeder, a lawyer and veteran political activist, would support a reform agenda for Springfield and honestly represent his district. He is endorsed. Attorney Gwen Drake also is running.

9th District (West Side): We've endorsed state Rep. Art Turner in his bid for lieutenant governor, and here we endorse his son, Art Turner Jr., in the Democratic primary for his House seat. Turner is a smart, well-prepared young man. He believes the state needs to stabilize the pension system by raising contributions from current and future employees. He says we need to streamline state and city regulations to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses. Turner is endorsed.

10th District (West Side): Democratic Rep. Annazette Collins was fined in 2008 for blatantly ignoring the law and not reporting for three years how much campaign money she had raised and spent. She complied only after a civic group complained and the State Board of Elections finally took notice. Time for a change. Our endorsement goes to Jonathan Goldman, a public interest advocate who would support transparent, citizen-led government.

11th District (North Side): Rep. John Fritchey is running for the Cook County Board and three impressive Democrats are vying to succeed him. We're going with Ann Williams, a former assistant attorney general and legislative staff attorney. Williams will push for sales and property tax relief. She would also like more transparency for tax increment financing districts. Attorneys Ed Mullen and Dan Farley are also running.

18th District (North Side, north suburbs): Five Democrats are vying to replace Rep. Julie

Hamos, who is running for Congress. Edmund Moran, an attorney with long experience on the Evanston City Council is endorsed. He's most likely to demand spending discipline and stronger ethics in state government. He would also support creative ideas in public education.

Illinois House endorsements continue on Friday.

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