

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, November 15, 2018

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**Rock Island County Democrats Elect New Chair Tonight -  
Derek Jones elected Chair, Succeeds Doug House**

The Rock Island County Democratic Central Committee tonight elected Derek Jones to serve as the new party chair, following last Sunday's announcement from Doug House that he would be stepping down from the post he had held since 2012.

Jones, who received unanimous support from the party's central committee at tonight's meeting, paid tribute to outgoing Chair Doug House as soon as the vote was announced. "I want to thank Doug House for not only being an outstanding party leader and friend, but for being a mentor of mine over the past several years," said Jones.

Jones, a graduate of Western Illinois University, Black Hawk College and Rockridge High School, also thanked U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos and State Rep. Mike Halpin for early support in his bid to become chair.

"I am very honored, and excited, to assume this new responsibility," said Jones, who started volunteering for the Rock Island County Democratic Party and its candidates back in 2004. "This county has strong tradition of maintaining a strong party infrastructure capable of electoral success. We worked hard to create a Blue Wave in 2018 and that will continue to be our goal moving ahead into 2019 and 2020."

"This has been a great ride and we've enjoyed solid electoral success," said House. "The major goals that I set out to accomplish, including building a stronger party infrastructure throughout Rock Island County, have been accomplished. I am confident that Derek Jones has the energy, enthusiasm and experience to help move our county toward greater success," said House.

Jones, who was a district scheduler for former U.S. Rep. Phil Hare and an intern for the late U.S. Rep. Lane Evans, said one of his first goals will be to assemble a core group of local Democratic Party leaders to launch a new effort to recruit and train qualified, new candidates who want to run for office.

