

## **Miller and Higgins win Primary Elections Races**

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Illinois State Dental Society member dentist and state representative Dr. David Miller won the Democratic primary election for state comptroller. It was a tight race, but Dr. Miller felt that his experience as a dentist and lawmaker was something that set him apart as a candidate.

“We had a great message—clearly health care and my experience as a dentist with an office in an underserved area in Chicago resonated with voters. We reached out all across the state, and a lot of what culminated in the victory was a result of my relationship with dental and legislative colleagues. When you win the close one, you need everything that you’ve put in motion to come together the day of the election in order to make the win happen. Ten years ago, I won by 50 votes—and in the recount the win was only 29 votes. I’m in a better position than I was 10 years ago, but my opponent ran a very good campaign, and I really had to be on my ‘A game.’”

As for his challenger in the general election, “Judy Baar Topinka is going to be a formidable opponent. We can’t take anything for granted. We’ll continue to build our bridges. Judy may be well known, but we have an important message. The state has to normalize payment cycles to medical providers. The access to care issue is directly affected by the state’s ability to make payments in a timely manner. We need a fiscally sound budget, and as a lawmaker who has been active on the budget committee and a business owner, I bring extensive experience in this arena.”

Ryan Higgins, son of former ISDS president Dr. Michael Higgins, won his bid in the primary race for representative of the 56<sup>th</sup> Legislative District by a landslide. The 28-year-old, who holds degrees from Dartmouth College and Duke University, is a medical attorney in Schaumburg who entered the race because he is frustrated with government spending and the lack of job creation. “I bring health care industry expertise, and I would like to pursue savings particularly in Medicaid spending. We must balance the budget and do more to create jobs.” He notes that he also wants to pursue measures to address Medicaid fraud in Illinois. “I am happy to have strong support of dental community because they represent the small business community and their issues are my issues.”

Both Dr. Miller and Mr. Higgins now move on to the general election in November.