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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

JOHN KASS

Comb the election-year tangles out of your hair

“How do you know we’re getting close to the March 20 Illinois primaries?”

You know because of all the politics in your hair.

Candidates of both parties are constantly screaming at us on TV and social media, and now your hair is so past redemption that you probably want to shave it all off and go full Mr. Clean.

Don’t. Just use this column to comb out your hair and it will be just fine.

Is Republican state Rep. Jeanne Ives really a creature of Democratic boss Mike Madigan? Gov. Bruce Rauner says so on his commercials. So it must be true, right?

No.

A friend in Washington saw the Rauner ad against Ives and texted me, “So she’s a Madigan candidate?”

No, I told him. Absolutely not.

But when you have millions and millions to spend, like Rauner, you can say almost anything if you pay for it, and if media don’t call you out on it.

Ives, the conservative Republican from Wheaton who is challenging Rauner in the Republican primary for governor, is no Madigan toady. Or ally. Or minion.

The governor twisted her words from a debate the two had before the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. I was there. She crushed him in that one. Yet now Rauner is using that commercial to make it seem as if she were defending Madigan.

It was Rauner who used Madigan as a shield in that Tribune debate, constantly bringing up Madigan almost every time he was asked a question he didn’t like. And Ives mocked him for it, saying, “There he goes, attacking Madigan again,” and so on.

Rauner took her mockery and twisted it. They were her words. But he twisted them. And I don’t see him being called out on it.

The reason she’s in the race is simple. Rauner broke faith with his own Republican Party by signing two controversial pieces of legislation: House Bill 40, allowing for taxpayer-funded abortions, and a “sanctuary state” bill to protect immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally.

Illinois politicians for generations have operated with the belief that Illinois voters are stupid people who’ll believe anything they’re told. It’s the reason Boss Madigan — speaker of the Illinois House and chairman of the Illinois Democratic Party — has been running things for decades.”



www.IvesforIllinois.com