

## Political Update

By Nina Albano Vidmer

A life-long resident of Elmhurst, State Representative Dennis Reboletti has devoted his life to serving the community. "I grew up in a blue-collar union background; my father was a union printer. I think that's where the onset of my interest of politics occurred as I witnessed how it affected my own family."

After his unsuccessful bid for state senate in 2004, Rep. Reboletti regrouped and successfully won the State Representative 46<sup>th</sup> District seat in 2006. As the district's first freshman State Representative in over 30 years, Reboletti quickly caught the attention of house leadership and was assigned to the prestigious Transportation and Motor Vehicles, Mass Transit, and Judiciary II (Criminal Law) Committees.

Reboletti is adamant that the interests of his constituents are properly represented in Springfield. "Probably the most important issue to the people of my district is property taxes. The education system is heavily reliant on that," says Reboletti. He is also very interested in the expansion of O'Hare Airport and how it would affect his district in terms of property taxes.

Reboletti has also sponsored a bill that would require the governor or Tollway Board to have legislative approval prior to privatizing the tollway system. With I 294 and I 355 within its borders, residents could face expensive tolls if private business decided to raise rates without considering the affect on residents. "Business in my district could be forced to move to other municipalities or out of state," says Reboletti. The bill is currently in committee.

Prior to his election to the Illinois House of Representatives, Reboletti was a career prosecutor. Upon his graduation from law school, Reboletti was appointed an assistant attorney general under then-Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan and was responsible for defending the Illinois Department of Corrections from inmate lawsuits. He later served as an assistant state's attorney for eight years prosecuting violent criminals as a member of his office's Organized Crime Unit and earned membership in Illinois' elite Capital Litigation Trial Bar. While a prosecutor, Reboletti also educated prospective law enforcement officers as an adjunct instructor in Triton Community College's Criminal Justice Department.

Reboletti is a 1986 graduate of York Community High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at Eastern Illinois University in 1990. After serving as a deputy Addison Township assessor, Reboletti decided to attend law school and was admitted to Valparaiso University College of Law. In the spring of 1997, while still in his third year of law school, Reboletti launched a write-in campaign and was elected as a 2nd Ward Alderman in the City of Elmhurst later serving as vice chairman of the Development, Planning, and Zoning Committee. In 2000, Reboletti was appointed as a trustee to the Addison Township Board and was elected and reelected in 2001 and 2005. As a township trustee, Reboletti served as chairman of the Finance Committee and also of the Airport Issues Committee and was the board's senior trustee upon his election to the House of Representatives.

Reboletti attends Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst and is a member of the Addison, Elmhurst, and Wood Dale Chambers of Commerce. He is a member of the Addison and York Township Republican Committeeman's Organizations as well as the Justinian Society of Lawyers, and enjoys spending time with his 5-year old son, Zachary.

Rep. Reblotti's father is Italian-American and mother was Serbian and Polish. His great grandparents hail from Potenza, Italy and immigrated to the United States at the turn of the century.

This column is written by Nina Albano Vidmer, executive director of the Italian American Political Coalition. To submit information, please fax to 708-401-0360 by the first of each month for consideration in the following month's issue.