As midterms near, more women have hats in ring

2016 presidential election led many to take stock, decide ‘we could do better’

By Kate Taylor
Chicago Tribune

Nearly a year after her hopes for the first female president were dashed, Beth Vercolio-Osmund contemplated her own political debut.

Last fall, increasingly frustrated with lawmakers and the itsy-bitsy budget that greets any legislator, the 49-year-old mother of three who runs a farm with her husband in Ottawa, Ill., had been trying to expand her community involvement and make a difference locally. When it became clear to her that this wouldn’t happen, she considered a friend’s suggestion to run for Congress.

“I mulled it over for a while,” Vercolio-Osmund told the Tribune.

Five weeks ago, the 49-year-old ran for the first time, in Illinois’ 16th Congressional District.

She even told her husband he should be the one to run, but he said it was “time for women.”

Vercolio-Osmund said she decided, “I’m going to try.”

With political experience running in the March 20 Democratic primary in Illinois’ 43rd Congressional District, Vercolio-Osmund is one of three women with no political experience running in the March 20 Democratic primary in Illinois’ 16th Congressional District.

Her run is part of a national trend of more women vying for office at all levels of government, a majority of these women running for safety seats, and many of them are first-time candidates.

“While I absolutely respect experience — I do think that in a startup, you need to be stepping up and running have experience needed to lead,” she said. “I know that I have three young girls, and I do not want to lose the voice that I have in Congress in that area.”

Vercolio-Osmund was stricken by November. Back then, she was running businesses. As farms face a major challenge, some of her fans, the Illinois Republican Party, asked her if she was running for Congress.

“I thought about it,” she said.

In February, she was ready to run. Just two months later, her husband, a professor at Illinois State University, decided he was running.

“I think he’s the one who will probably be the one to run,” she said.

The latestr eview high-light a largely unravelled suburban system that aut- ocratically punts out 75 per-cent more tickets than the older and more well-known central system. In Chi- cago, supporters of camera say it’s easy to disproportionate because one can buy a ticket. They say the deci- sion on what price free speech? Supreme Court to decide paying union dues issue

WASHINGTON — Pay- ing union dues and taking a wedding cake may not seem like classic examples of free speech — except perhaps in the Supreme Court.

The court is poised to announce its most significant expansion of the First Amendment since the Citizens United decision in 2010, which struck down laws that lim- ited campaign spending by corporations, unions and the very wealthy.

The “money is speech” decision comes at the very heart of a case to be heard this week that threatens the financial foundation of public-employee unions in 22 “blue” states. Like Citizens United, the union case is being closely watched for its potential to shift political power in this month that threatens the financial foundation of public-employee unions in 22 “blue” states. Like Citizens United, the union case is being closely watched for its potential to shift political power in