

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **Illinois Veterans for Change Statement on President Trump's Military Action in Venezuela**

**Chicago, IL - January 5, 2026** - *Illinois Veterans for Change* (ILV4C) firmly condemns the Military Action in Venezuela under President Trump, which is in violation of the U.S. Constitution and international law.

“President Trump's unauthorized military action in Venezuela, lacking Congressional approval and long-term planning, violated the U.S. Constitution. The administration's secrecy regarding the action, its justification, and plans for occupation, leadership, and oil management demands accountability. The action seems intended to divert attention from the Epstein file release and start a war for oil, risking American lives.” said Miguel Valente, Executive Director of Illinois Veterans for Change and Candidate for Sangamon County Board, District 18.

“Trump’s actions today signal to the world that the U.S. has withdrawn from the rules-based international order as the framework for relations between countries and Trump has instead subscribed America to a system of power through dominance. We are the villains now.” - Said Dan Tully, Candidate for the Illinois 8th U.S. Congressional District.

“Maduro is an illegitimate, corrupt authoritarian, but that doesn’t justify actions taken without transparency or a sound legal basis. We may be tempted to celebrate his removal, but history shows what comes next can be far more dangerous. This risks destabilizing the region, increasing migration north, and raising costs for American families.” - Said Sam Polan, Candidate for the Illinois 9th U.S. Congressional District.

“As a service member, I am heartbroken and outraged by the escalation of violence in Venezuela. War should never be waged for oil, political distraction, or personal preservation of power. Innocent civilians always bear the cost, while working-class service members are sent into harm’s way without transparency or accountability. I swore an oath to the Constitution, not to endless wars driven by greed or secrecy. We must choose diplomacy, human rights, and congressional oversight over reckless military action.” - Said Demi Palecek, Candidate for Illinois State House, 13th District.

“We will not permit this President to involve us in another endless war, especially while the spineless Republican leadership in Congress avoids and disregards this constitutional obligation, as they have so many times before.” Said Jessica Montsinger, Treasurer of Illinois Veterans for Change & Disabled U.S. Veteran.

Endorsed Candidates for the 2026 General Primary:

- Stephanie Kifowit for Illinois Comptroller
- Dan Tully for Illinois 8th U.S. Congressional District
- Sam Polan for Illinois 9th U.S. Congressional District
- Demi Palecek for Illinois State House, 13th District
- Jennifer Banek for Illinois Democratic Party State Central Committeewoman, District 10

- Kevin Lamm for Illinois Democratic Party State Central Committeeman, District 16
- Nicholas Cade for Cook County Commissioner, District 8
- Jesse Gutierrez for DuPage County Board, District 6
- Esiah Campos for Lake County Board, District 16
- Austin May for McHenry County Board, District 5
- Miguel Valente for Sangamon County Board, District 18
- Sabrina Kelley for Vermilion County Board, District 6
- Mickensy Ellis-White for Vermilion County Board, District 7

Illinois Veterans for Change is a **statewide political action committee composed of Democratic veterans** committed to expanding veteran representation in elected office across Illinois. The organization builds community through networking events, strengthens capacity by funding and training veteran candidates, and amplifies veteran voices to defend democracy and promote progressive leadership. Veterans must be represented at every level of government: U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Statewide Office, Illinois General Assembly, and Local offices. We proudly endorse a slate of candidates for the 2026 Democratic Primary, as veterans' service demonstrates a commitment to the U.S. Constitution and protecting rights and liberties.

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