



Presents

The Democratic Party Builder Award

Clem Balanoff

Influenced by his parents, Clem grew up in an activist family. At the age of 10, in 1963, he went to Washington, DC to march with Dr. King. His first campaign involvement started about the same time when he organized a bike parade in support of a local candidate for Chicago Alderman on Chicago's Southeast side. To this day, Clem's career continues to grow from the same passion for progressive causes.

Later Clem would become the Democratic Committeeman of the 10th Ward, and State Representative from the 35th District. He served as Director of Elections for Cook County and was the longtime chief of Staff for Cook County Clerk David Orr.

Throughout his life Clem has been active in campaigns. He served as political director for the Chuy Garcia for Chicago mayoral campaign and was the Illinois State Director of the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign. He has deep ties to African American, Latino and progressive communities across the state. Currently he serves as Chair of Our Revolution-Illinois and is the political director of the Amalgamated Transit Union, International.