Schillerstrom Seeks Only Four Years

January 7, 2010 by Kevin Lee
Filed under Elections, Featured Stories, State News

Leave a Comment

By Kristi Eaton 212-960-1332

SPRINGFIELD — One of the Republicans running in the crowded field for governor plans for just one term if elected governor of the state of Illinois.

Bob Schillerstrom, who is finishing his third term as DuPage County Board Chairman, said the state leader needs to focus more on change than getting re-elected in the future.

“There has to be a dramatic line drawn in the sand and somebody has to go down there and say, ‘you know politics be damned, I’m going to do what’s right for the people of Illinois and not worry about the political repercussions,’” the Naperville resident said during a press call Thursday.

He said he only needs four years to do the work that needs to be done.

“I can change the philosophy and the approach down there in one term,” he added. “And I know we that we can go in the right direction and make substantial progress in one term.”

Illinois is facing a 13-billion dollar budget deficit, and the General Assembly has been mired in gridlock for years.

University of Illinois professor Kent Redfield said that’s why it will likely take more than four years to fix the problems in Springfield.

Redfield said it’s a “gimmick” for Schillerstrom to push for a single term. And the professor said it’s “not effective from a management perspective.”

Schillerstrom supports term limits for all lawmakers and statewide office holders, and said he has no interest in becoming a fixture in state government.

“I made that commitment because I believe that Illinois taxpayers, particularly during these difficult times and with our recent history, deserve to know their next governor is focused on getting the state back on track and not getting re-elected,” he said.

If elected, the gubernatorial candidate said he would pass term limits for elected officials across state government and bring the issue to voters for Constitutional Amendment. Specifically, he supports limiting Illinois House members to six terms, State Senate members to four terms and statewide office holders to two terms.

Redfield said the next governor is likely going to have to undertake massive changes in both state government and the politics of Illinois. He said that it’s not “realistic” to expect to accomplish that in just a single term in the governor’s office.

Tags: Bob Schillerstrom, Campaign 2010, Elections, Kent Redfield, term limits