

NEWS



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN FRITCHEY

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Rep. Fritchey Opts Not to Enter Mayoral Race

CHICAGO – State Representative John Fritchey (D-Chicago) today stated that he will not be a candidate for Mayor of the City of Chicago in the February, 2011 Municipal Election. Rep. Fritchey’s statement follows:

“Even before Mayor Daley’s stunning announcement, I have publicly and repeatedly stated that the people of Chicago deserve a full and vigorous debate on how best to shape the future of a city that is facing dilemmas ranging from rampant gun violence, to a perilous fiscal situation, to a struggling school system.

For months now, while other elected officials just pointed fingers, simply complained, or made excuses about the serious issues facing the City of Chicago, I have been proposing solutions. I have done so even though my elected position is as a state legislator because having grown up in our great city and having a passion for public service as I do, I want our city, and all of its residents, to thrive and be its best.

I have long said that I can think of no greater privilege than to serve as Chicago’s Mayor. The opportunity to wage a campaign for the office and present my ideas for leadership that would take into account the needs of the working men and women, families and businesses that make our city great would be an honor unlike any other.

In recent days, countless elected officials have been overwhelmed by everything from opportunity to ambition to ego in flirting with a similar goal. While many of them have consulted colleagues, supporters and contributors in order to assist them in reaching a decision, I looked inward. During my contemplation, I had to consider not just a six-month campaign, but the prospect of a serving in an office upon which millions of people will rely that its holder give his or her undivided attention in order to get our city back on its feet. At the same time, I reflected on what is my largest responsibility by far - to be the best father I can be to my 14-year-old daughter. While it is impossible to know what the future may hold, at this juncture in my life, I can see no means by which I would be able to simultaneously fulfill both responsibilities with the passion and attention that I believe they each deserve.

Additionally, almost exactly one year ago, I made an announcement and a commitment to work to represent my neighbors by serving on the Cook County Board via an election that has yet to even take place. I believe that it is the just and right thing to do to fulfill that commitment by bringing my record of independent, progressive leadership to a governmental entity that is faced with its own set of troublesome issues. I look forward to continuing my efforts to improve the lives of my constituents and to bringing those efforts closer to home.

The calls and offers of encouragement and support from people around our City, and from Chicagoans serving our military as far away as Guam, people who have expressed their belief in my record, my ability to bring people together, and desire to provide Chicagoans with an efficient, effective and transparent city government have been humbling and the message is not lost on me.

To be clear, I intend to stay steadfastly involved with the election of our next Mayor and am committed to working to elect the individual whom I believe shares my visions for our city in order to not only pull us from the mire in which we find ourselves, but to take us to new heights.

For now is not the time to simply say ‘yes we can’, but to say and believe ‘yes we will’.”

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