
TOM CROSS
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

November 30, 2006

Dear

On Election Day, voters across the nation called out for change. Yet in Illinois, they seemed to say they want more of the same—a Democrat administration clouded by state and federal investigations and a Democrat controlled-legislature that has driven Illinois into its deepest level of debt in history.

Why? Every politician and pundit will have their own analysis, but I believe one of the major reasons is because Republicans did not offer voters a clear message when it came to ethics and honest government. Nationwide, exit polls show that 41% of voters based their votes on corruption in government.

To earn voters trust, Republicans need to lead by example. It's not good enough to simply say we are better, we must demonstrate a commitment to better government.

That's why last week House Republicans introduced legislation that would provide the members of the Republican State Central Committee with the ability, if they so choose, to remove Illinois' Republican National Committeeman. I do not like bringing our inner-party issues under the great glare of the General Assembly, however in this instance I felt there was no other option.

Our current Republican National Committeeman Bob Kjellander is an extremely controversial figure. As a lobbyist, Mr. Kjellander has been involved in business dealings that have brought attention and unwanted interest onto Illinois' Republican Party. Mr. Kjellander has been in the spotlight because of his business dealings—including those with Gov. Blagojevich's administration—have cast a cloud over the Republican Party and have further blurred the line between public-service and self-service.

In 2005, I asked Mr. Kjellander to resign because I felt his work as a lobbyist created an inherent conflict of interest with his duties as a Republican National Committeeman. Today, I feel even stronger that Mr. Kjellander should step down as our Republican National Committeeman. I believe it is time for a change and I believe it is time to take bold steps to demonstrate our commitment to putting principles above politics.

This is just a start of what we need to do to rebuild Illinois' Republican Party. We will earn not only the voters trust, but re-energize our party faithful by making a real commitment to honest, principled leadership. By working together, we can get Illinois and our party, back on track.

Thank you for your continued support and all the work you do on behalf of our party. If you have any questions, please call me directly at 815-609-0099.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cross".

Tom Cross
House Republican Leader