



Bob Schillerstrom

DuPage County Board Chairman

June 12, 2008

Dear Friend,

I am writing to everyone who attended our State Republican Convention last Saturday in the hope that I may clarify some issues and statements made by the Illinois Republican Party Chairman. It is disappointing I should have to write this letter, but the State Chairman flagrantly broke President Ronald Reagan's 11th commandment; *"Thou shall not speak ill about another Republican"*.

It is critical, with the Democratic presidential nominee being Illinois' native son, and the recent election losses of Republican state-wide and legislative candidates, that the leaders of our Party focus on unity, rather than divisiveness.

The Chairman inferred that Governor Thompson and I were not good Republicans. For 28 years, I have been a Republican precinct captain and for 13 of those years, I have been a leader in the DuPage County Republican Party. As an elected official for more than 20 years, I have spent my career adhering to the GOP principles of smaller government, disciplined spending and fiscal conservatism. Since the Party Chairman attacked my conservative credentials, I present the following facts, not to defend my record, but to offer a look into what fiscally responsible Republican leadership has been able to accomplish in DuPage County.

DuPage County, the largest of all the collar counties, has one of the lowest property tax levies of all the collar counties and DuPage County reduced its property tax levy for nine straight years, thereby saving taxpayers over \$600 million. Our Republican leadership did that while maintaining one of the lowest crime rates in the region, creating thousands of new jobs, reducing congestion and maintaining a high quality of life. We listen and respond to the needs of our constituents.

We steadfastly adhere to the Republican principle of not spending money we do not have. When times were tough, we reduced our overall budget from over \$700 million in 2003 to \$483 million in 2006. We don't spend money we don't have! We do not borrow for operations and we do not deficit spend.

The Civic Federation, a noted conservative budget watchdog group, has repeatedly endorsed the county's budget because it is fiscally responsible, balanced and has not relied on property tax increases.

P.O. Box 507
Wheaton, IL 60189



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A copy of our report will be available at the
DuPage County Clerk's Office in Wheaton.

'The Price of Government', cited DuPage County as having the lowest cost of government for comparable counties in the nation. We hold a AAA bond rating, a distinction less than 1% of the counties in our nation have earned.

Our ratio of employees to population is one of the lowest in the country. Our current headcount is lower than any County of similar size. DuPage County has one of the lowest operating budgets of peer counties in the US. Simply put, we are one of the leanest, most efficient, fiscally conservative counties in the United States; all accomplished under Republican leadership.

Additionally, as County Board Chairman, I established a sweeping new Ethics Ordinance, a new Ethics Commission, the position of Investigator General and revised procurement and purchasing policies which exceed standards set by the state. I continue to promote openness and transparency in government, making Freedom of Information requests, Committee minutes, financial reports, plans and budgets, as well as other County documents available on the web.

As a Party, we need to remind voters of what effective Republican leadership can do and we need to work together to elect Republicans at all levels of government. The productive, efficient government we run in DuPage County should be used by the Party Chairman as a contrast to Democratic controlled Cook County and State government.

Come November, our Party faces the toughest election since the Watergate debacle in 1974. We must come together or risk being Illinois' minority party for the next generation. We must speak out forcefully about the Democratic train wreck, and the ineffective Democratic leadership that has put Illinois in harm's way. This is the wrong time to be divisive. Remarks such as the Chairman made, are damaging to our Party and to our future.

If Republicans are going to govern, if we are going to win, if we are going to be effective in serving our constituents, shaping policy and sharing our values then we, as Republicans, must come together.

Strength comes through unity. Abraham Lincoln said that a 'house divided against itself cannot stand.' I would hope that the Chairman of our state party would realize that attacking fellow Republicans only weakens us and takes away from the real work at hand; winning elections. Let's come together, as Republicans, to restore the pride and dignity to our party and to our state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Schillerstrom', with a horizontal line underneath.

Bob Schillerstrom

P.S. I am always interested in hearing from my fellow Republicans, so if you have any questions or comments, please email me at bob@bobschillerstrom.com.