



Michele
Corirossi

Daily Chronicle questionnaire: Michele Corirossi

Election primary: 69th District State Representative (Republican)

Age: 49

Bio: Has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a minor in political science from Rockford College; has a law degree from NIU College of Law; married to Circuit Judge Ron White and has one daughter, Michaela; been part of a family business that was in Rockford for over 40 years; member of the Foundation Board of Crusader Community Health; board member for La Voz Latina.

Why are you seeking the office?

I am seeking this office because I believe that my business background coupled with my legal knowledge will help bring jobs to our state and help existing jobs stay in our state. I believe the State of Illinois needs to become more business friendly to attract new businesses and sustain and grow existing businesses. District 69 has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. We need to get our labor back to work. The cost of doing business in Illinois is too high.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates in this primary?

I believe I stand out from the other candidates because of my extensive business experience coupled with my law degree. I know first hand how to keep a business going and create jobs. Government needs to be run like a business. I have spent time working on various campaigns. I have spent a year-and-a-half in Springfield. I have attended the House of Representatives, been on the floor of the Senate and sat in on numerous committee meetings. I know what is not working in Springfield, and I believe my business skills of negotiation and mediation are needed to unite those representing the people in Springfield.

How would you fix the state's budget crisis?

We cannot cut our way out of this budget crisis. We need to add revenue to help with this deficit. That is why the State of Illinois needs to attract new businesses. We would then be creating jobs, and we would be receiving business taxes, income and sales tax from getting more of our citizens working. I also believe we should open up gambling more in the state. We should put up more gambling casinos not necessarily having to be on a waterway. Job creation, new businesses and gambling should help bring in more revenue. Also, Medicaid needs an overhaul, and we need some type of two-tiered pension reform. I believe all those things done will help us get to a balanced budget in the future.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to allow the recall of a governor by citizen initiative?

I would not support a constitutional amendment to allow the recall of a governor by citizen initiative, but I would support an amendment that could recall the governor by an appointed board. Then it would be brought to the House for a vote. Then only by a supermajority can the governor be recalled.

What is the biggest issue facing the 69th District and how would you address it in Springfield?

The biggest issue facing the 69th District is unemployment. The way to remedy that is to make Illinois more business friendly by reducing the workman's compensation, unemployment tax, a regulatory system that costs too much and the business tax itself. We cannot afford to keep losing business to Indiana and other states. We need an incentive for business to use our local labor. These are the things I want to address first in Springfield.

