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Al Hofeld, in his own words

To the Editor:

On Sunday, Oct. 21, I formally announced that I am running for state senate in the 13th Legislative District and explained the reasons why. You can view the speech at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0x1ZH2ql6Y>. I came to Hyde Park in 1990, as a graduate student at the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. My grandmother graduated from Hyde Park High School in the 1920s.

For almost 20 years, I've been advocating and achieving justice for people on the South Side — for the homeless, those with HIV/AIDS, public housing residents, innocent men on death row and men (allegedly) tortured by Jon Burge. After graduating from Northwestern law school, I organized the South Side Community Federal Credit Union, a direct alternative to financial predators. Now, I bring — and win — cases for fraud and racial discrimination against predatory mortgage lenders and Wall Street banks. I've brought successful class actions against the CTA, the Illinois Department of Public Aid and corporations such as Countrywide Home Loans.

I'm running simply because my passion for justice, my conscience, has taken me to this point. I want to fight for every child in every community to have quality health care, education, housing and a peaceful neighborhood for a good start in life. I have detailed proposals to create jobs, to stem the foreclosure crisis, to make funding for public education equitable, to expand health care for all, to reduce violence in our neighborhoods and help save our young men. And I will fight for each of the badly needed political and ethics reforms recommended by the Governor's Illinois Reform Commission. If elected, I volunteer to forego annual salary increases, reduce my state salary and work days without pay to share in the sacrifices others were required to make to balance the state budget and weather the recession.

I believe Sen. Raoul has done his best, but it's not the best that can be done. We will articulate why during the campaign. Raoul was not former state Sen. Obama's chosen successor for this seat; state Rep. Will Burns (D-26) was. Raoul was appointed by committeemen. He did not have a democratic challenger in 2006.

Our campaign office is at 1013 E. 43rd St. Phone is 548-4000. Our web address is alhofeldjr.com. Please join us.

Al Hofeld Jr.