

# AL HOFELD, JR.

FOR STATE SENATE

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## AL HOFELD, JR. LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT STATE SENATE SEAT

On Sunday, October 11, 2009, Al Hofeld, Jr., candidate for the Illinois State Senate seat representing the 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, launched his election campaign on Chicago's south side. Surrounded by supporters, Mr. Hofeld laid out both his qualifications for office and his vision for the future of the 13<sup>th</sup> District. This seat was formerly held by now-U.S. President Barack Obama.

“For almost 20 years, I’ve lived and worked full-time with the poor, the homeless, those with HIV and AIDS, the innocent men on death row in Illinois, the men who were tortured by former police commander Jon Burge, county jail inmates who wanted their GED, public housing residents, and the honest families victimized by predatory mortgage lenders and facing foreclosure,” said Mr. Hofeld. “I’ve been able to accomplish a lot without ever holding elected office. But I learned a long time ago from people like Harold Washington and Leon Despres that, if you love people, if you have a true compassion, then you’re compelled to work for justice, and, if you want justice, you have to enter politics.”

Mr. Hofeld, a public interest litigation attorney, noted the unique nature of the Chicago's lakefront district and how he intends to bridge the socioeconomic gaps its geography creates.

“The District is a microcosm of America. It has the extremes of wealth and poverty; it has people black, white and, at the southern end, Latino; it has Millennium Park in the north and, in the south, schools that can't afford textbooks for their students; it is home to those concerned with property tax relief and good government reforms as well as those who don't have a job or enough food to eat,” said Mr. Hofeld. “I am uniquely suited for this particular District because I’ve been traversing these very different geographies and mindsets for years. “

While discussing his priorities, Mr. Hofeld told his supporters that his first priority is job creation.

“I want to hear from you, but it seems to me that one of our top priorities is creating jobs,” said Mr. Hofeld. “Chicago's official unemployment rate is 11.5 percent, for African-Americans, it's 15.4 percent; for teenagers, its 26 percent. Our campaign has proposals for legislation that will help create jobs. We'll release our plan in the coming weeks during the campaign.”

(More)

Mr. Hofeld also stressed the need for reform in Springfield and for public servants to make sacrifices at a time when so many of their constituents are being forced to tighten their belts.

“I support each and every one of the recommendations made by the Illinois Reform Commission, and I will push for the strongest versions of these reforms, including meaningful campaign finance reform to end the corrosive effect of money on our politics,” said Mr. Hofeld. “And I believe that, in tough economic times, in times of budget cuts, our elected leaders should set an example for all of us by sharing in the sacrifices they’re asking others to make by, at a bare minimum, forgoing annual salary increases and working days without pay, *especially* if they have legislated that others must do so. If elected, I will gladly make those sacrifices.”

Mr. Hofeld also noted his plan to dramatically reduce foreclosures in Illinois. He said, “The plan is modeled, in part, on my successful law practice. Our plan, the “Save the Illinois Family Home Now” plan, if enacted, would save tens of thousands of homes and would largely pay for itself in the second year. We’ll release the details soon.”

To view video or text of the campaign launch address, please visit [www.alhofeldjr.com](http://www.alhofeldjr.com). To volunteer or get more information about the campaign, please call the campaign headquarters, located at 1013 E. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in Chicago, at 773-548-4000.

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