

The District 15 PUBLIC SERVANT

A FREE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT 15.

★ COUNTY BOARD MEMBER NICK CAMLIN ★

Winter 2013-14 Edition ~ Available on the Internet: www.NickCamlin.com

IMPORTANT CHANGES

We are close to ending another year that I hope brought you many blessings and few disappointments; but a new year always brings new hope and renewal. I will continue to keep my eyes on the big picture by directing my efforts to solutions that will make Rock Island County a leader and model for growth and development in northwestern Illinois.

Over the summer I bought a house at 2044 33rd Street, Rock Island. It's close to where I work at



Washington Junior High School, so I have been able to walk to and from school every day. I was happy to buy locally for my new furnishings and lots of household items!

The house and neighborhood fit me well—if you see me out, stop and say “hi”!

Additionally, over the summer, I took on new responsibilities as the Town Clerk of South Rock Island Township, on which I elaborate more in this newsletter. No doubt you've also heard about many of the challenges facing Rock Island County, and I've been hard at work trying to find sensible solutions. I also talk more about those topics in this newsletter.

Some of you who have been reading my newsletters probably will notice some changes. This new package and look is inspired new Postal Service standards. I used to print each copy, fold and seal them with helpful family and friends, and take them to the post office. Unfortunately it's no longer that simple, but I kind of like the new look & quality—I hope you do too.

Moving forward, I am committed to keeping you informed by mailing newsletters like this, but for the most up-to-date and easy-to-access information, you should visit my website: www.NickCamlin.com. Also please follow me on Twitter @NickCamlin.

BEST WISHES TO ALL THIS SEASON!

With Thanksgiving now over, and many other holidays fast approaching, I hope you and your family are able to enjoy your blessings. I wish you all the best in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Nick Camlin



SERVING AS TOWN CLERK

In April, I was elected the Town Clerk of South Rock Island Township. The role of Town Clerk is primarily administrative and recordkeeping, while the role of County Board member is primarily policy- and legislative-oriented. In the future, the two levels of government may work cooperatively on endeavors that will provide better services to our residents.

One thing is certain: every one of us here is a citizen of both a Township and the County of Rock Island, and experience at both levels makes me a better servant to you. I am working to make sure that Township business is transparent and easily accessible. Visit the Township web page at: www.sritownship.net.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY RX DISCOUNT CARD

The County is pleased to offer all its residents a free Prescription Discount Card that you can use to receive savings on drugs not covered by insurance plans. On average, users have saved 38% on their prescription costs. The card can also be used for pet medications.

This card is free and can be used at numerous local pharmacies, including HyVee, CVS, and Walgreens. You can print your card by logging onto www.coast2coastrx.com/counties/il/rockisland/ or by calling Shelly Chapman in the County Board office at 309-558-3600.



RE-ELECTION TIME ALREADY

In November I completed my petitions to run for the Democratic nomination for County Board District 15. Just four years ago I began running and campaigning the first time for County Board, and again running in 2012 after the completion of a two-year term. I am now serving another two-year term that ends in November of 2014, when the election will be for a four-year term.

I really take a lot of satisfaction in serving the people and doing the work of the County Board, though many times the challenges are vexing. I'll never give up working hard and I'll always try to make our government better; that's what I said I'd do four years ago, and if it pleases the good voters of District 15, that's what I'd like to still be doing four years from now. I hope I can count on your support!



PLAN AHEAD TO VOTE-BY-MAIL

The Primary Election is scheduled for March 18, 2014, and you can cast your ballot by mail as early as mid-February. For the last few election cycles, I have cast my ballot by mail because it's easy and convenient. Below is my Tweet from when I sent back my ballot for the 2012 Election, three weeks before Election Day.

Usually, two days after I send the County Clerk's Office my signed application to vote-by-mail, I receive my ballot, including a postage-paid return envelope. After I've completed my ballot and sealed it up in the envelope, I set it out for the postal worker to take. It's that easy! You may also call the County Clerk's Office to double check that they've received your ballot. I've avoided the lines and long wait at my Election Day polling station, and instead voted on my time in the comfort of my home.

Compared to other places where authorities are trying to make it harder for people to vote, we are fortunate that Rock Island County Clerk Karen Kinney has been working to make it easier and more accessible for people to exercise their right to vote!



Tweet from
@NickCamlin
Oct. 16, 2012

twitter.com/nickcamlin

**VOTE
BY
MAIL**

MAJOR ISSUES: HOPE CREEK, COURTHOUSE, PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

Hope Creek: The County owns & operates a non-for-profit nursing home. It is in financial trouble because the cost of treating Medicaid patients is nearly \$10,000 more per day than what the County is reimbursed by Illinois State. I think the voters should decide on a way to support the cost of needy seniors on Medicaid in order for us to keep the nursing home as a fixture of our County, as it has been for many years.

Courthouse: Our Courthouse was neglected in the 1950s, when others in charge of the County Board decided not to properly fix the roof. Now it is an old & inefficient building that is sub-standard in conditions for working and conducting business. These problems were started long before I was born, but today I find myself having to take responsibility for fixing it. Soon, voters may be asked to approve \$70 million in bonds to finance a new Courthouse and renovation of the County Office Building. Hopefully we can find new life and usefulness for the current historic Courthouse.

Public Safety 0.25% Sales Tax: Despite my and Sheriff Jeff Boyd's opposition, the County Board adopted a referendum asking voters to approve an additional 0.25% sales tax for funding operations of the Sheriff's Department. This new sales tax could total around \$3.5 million in new revenue. I would favor a more comprehensive plan that does not negatively impact our local businesses.

I try to learn as much as I can about these topics and I closely examine all sides of the issues before I take a final vote—*ultimately it's about the big picture*. If you've got legitimate questions about these issues, please contact me via my website. I'd be glad to share with you in a fair and balanced way. We may not agree on all of the issues, but I'll always be honest with you.