

John C. Ackerman

Tazewell County Board

Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service

October 1st, 2011

***** Press Release *****

2012 Election Campaign

Today I want to announce that in the 2012 elections I will be seeking re-election to my current position of Tazewell County Board Member for District Three. While I have received strong support and encouragement to campaign for Tazewell County Board Chairman, in the end that position at this time would be a step backwards and away from accomplishing the work I have tried to finish.

For the past several months, it has been widely known that I have been working with a committee I selected to help me decide which office I should campaign for in 2012; Tazewell County Board Chairman or my current office of Tazewell County Board Member. This wonderful group of individuals have been very helpful in helping me look at both positions objectively and bring to the forefront all of the positive and negative possibilities of both positions. I want to thank the many individuals that helped me through this process.

One of the best pieces of advice came from one of my local mayors who contacted me to let me know I had his complete support to campaign for either position, but he would rather see me run for re-election at this time mainly because he would like to see the important steps we have taken to increase intergovernmental and constituent communication within the district continue. He stated that he thought I may be able to do this as Tazewell County Chairman, but that he knows I could do it as a representative of District Three because of what we have accomplished over the past four years.

In 2008 I asked the voters of Tazewell County to entrust in me the ability to represent them on the Tazewell County Board. As they had done before in 2002, the voters of the county elected me once more with the highest level of support. In the 2008 campaign I made a commitment to; A) be an advocate for Tazewell County Farmers and Outdoorsmen, B) be an advocate for Conservative beliefs and values, and C) be a supporter of contiguous, planned community growth. For the 2012 campaign, I want to re-commit to you this strong, successfully proven philosophy.

Furthermore, I have tried to represent all parts of this vast district for the past four years. In 2012, with the changes to the Tazewell County Board Districts due to the redistricting process, a District Three County Board Member in Tazewell County will represent more citizens (over 45,000), more than any other County, Township or Municipality Elected Representative in the Tri-County Area with the exception of only the five At-Large Peoria City Council Members. They will represent the 6th largest amount of constituents of any County Board Member in the State of Illinois. Finally, they will be elected to represent both Urban and Rural populations. I believe I have properly managed representing such large responsibility and have continually worked to make myself more available to the constituents that have entrusted me with this responsibility.

Going forward in 2012, we have work to accomplish as far as;

- A) building long term plans, of which we currently have very few and is one of our most serious shortcomings in Tazewell County
- B) changing some ordinances, mainly regaining the citizens full rights to have their voices heard on ZBA issues and further increases to the personal policies to reduce legal lawsuits and risk
- C) continuing to build stronger intergovernmental ties within Tazewell County.

In the end, while the position of County Board Chairman looks like a great opportunity, it would do very little and could potentially hurt my chances to continue to accomplish my goals for the taxpayers of Tazewell County. I believe it would be better at this time to continue to work with my fellow County Board Members to accomplish our goals rather than try and lead this group. With the success I have found over the past four years, it is my desire to continue to build on this success.

Please continue to turn to my website (www.JohnCAckerman.com) throughout this election for the latest information concerning my reelection campaign as well as continued coverage of the top issues facing the Tazewell County Board. As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to represent you on the Tazewell County Board. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

John C. Ackerman
(309) 635-7624
www.JohnCAckerman.com