

## *January Adventure Sports Outdoors Column*

### **Remember Change**

Okay, the elections are over and I will say that the results of this past election season were not what I wanted. I am happy to report that I won my seat on the Tazewell County Board and for those of you living in the county, I thank each and every one of you for your support. I will work hard to merit the support and trust you have shown in me. Our congressional district herein Central Illinois continued its long tradition of Republican representation with the election of Aaron Schock. But beyond that, we lost further ground in the US Senate and US House as far as Republican representation and we lost the White House. With that said, let's review what was learned and what positive can come out of this year's election.

Change was the winning word. The Democrats rallied around the message that Republicans have been in charge of Washington too long with nothing to show for it. Across the country, they pointed to the Republicans in charge and the economy and demanded it is time for a change. And it worked.

Now, I think we need to except that we lost this election and agree with them it is time for a change here in Illinois. The Democrats have run Springfield for the past decade and is Illinois any better off for it? All we see and hear is the constant fighting of the Democrats to see who is the top dog today. They have the Illinois House, the Illinois Senate, the Governor's Mansion (even though no one lives there) and every other State elected position.

As they fight, they could care less if the States economy is in disarray. They could care less if businesses are leaving the State. All they care about is who appears to be the Democrat at the top of the pile, even if that pile is the decimated economy they have created. A few months ago, the governor was asked about his 13% approval rating and he blamed it on Washington,DC. and the national economy. He discussed the fact that if he were to run for a third term, he was confident he could win. Why is he blaming the national government for the economy in his State? What has he and his party done to fix the problem? If you are in charge of the State, why would you point to someone else and blame them for the mess you and your party have created?

The 2008 elections are behind us, but the message started, the lessons learned, the demand of Change of leadership should not end. It is time for a Change in leadership in Springfield. In the upcoming months, I ask that you study and support candidates like my good friend Senator Bill Brady from McLean County. Senator Brady has announced he is going to run for Governor. He has been a very good friend and supporter of outdoorsmen in Springfield for a number of years. He is a downstate, common sense, tell-it-as-it-is conservative Republican that would live in Springfield and work for the betterment of the State.

Senator Bill Brady has led the way in efforts to restore integrity to state government, to improve the state's job climate, and to use taxpayers' dollars for the good of all Illinois citizens. Senator Brady was a leader in the effort last year to defeat the Blagojevich tax increases, the largest state tax increase ever

proposed in the history of this nation. He is a primary sponsor of legislation – that the President of the Senate refuses to call–to end pay-to-play politics in Illinois and he is sponsoring a Constitutional amendment that would give Illinois citizens the power to recall public officials.

The message of Change needs to be kept alive. The idea started in this election that if one party is perceived to be in control and the economy is worse than before, they need to go needs to continue. Look at Springfield and ask yourself “is the economy of the State of Illinois better today than it was a decade ago” and then vote the Democrats out of office and vote for hard working individuals like Senator Bill Brady.

John C. Ackerman  
Tazewell County Board Member  
(309) 635-7624