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*In Quest For U.S. Senate Seat*  
**Boyd Chooses to Be Independent**

Will Boyd, Jr., has decided to withdraw as a Democratic candidate for the United States Senate, but that doesn't mean he still doesn't want the position.

Boyd announced earlier this week that he was submitting a "withdrawal of candidacy" notice and requested that his name not be printed on the official ballot as a candidate in the primary election.

That withdrawal notice also stated "I will begin campaigning as an independent candidate for the general election held in November of 2010."

Boyd announced in mid-October his plans to be a Senate candidate. He filed his petitions with the Illinois State Board of Elections at 4:59 p.m. on November 2, one minute before the filing period ended.

That was followed by two objections being filed with the State Board of Elections, challenging the signatures on the petitions. Boyd said he has been in hearings and objection meetings often since then.

A minimum of 5,000 registered voter signatures were required.

He reported that the objections were not the real reason why he was withdrawing as a Democratic candidate, because he was still on the Democratic ballot. Boyd reported his supporters feel he can be a positive voice as an independent.

He added that if the election board would have taken him off the ballot, he still would have proceeded as a write-in candidate. With the withdrawal notice, the objections will no longer exist.

The Greenville man will have to obtain 25,000 signatures to be placed on the November ballot as an independent candidate.

Boyd said his goals remain the same. He will run as "pro-life" candidate. He wants to restore trust in state and national government, and he believes job creation is essential.

Boyd will be seeking the U.S. Senate seat now held by Roland Burris. Burris has decided not to seek election to the position, after being appointed to it earlier this year after Barack Obama moved from Illinois senator to president of the United States.

Boyd was sworn in as Greenville's first African American city councilman in May of this year, being elected by Greenville voters to a four-year term.