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*Greenville Man One Of 16 Candidates*

**Boyd Files Senate Petitions In Last Minute**

It literally came down to the final minute for Will Boyd of Greenville to file his petitions as a candidate for the United States Senate.

With the clock showing 4:59 p.m., Boyd presented his petitions with signatures and filing papers to the Illinois State Board of Elections in Springfield, one minute before filing closed at 5 p.m. Monday.

The name Willie "Willie" Boyd, Jr. will not appear on the Democrat ballot in the February 2, 2010 primary election.

Boyd is not alone in his quest for the position currently held by Roland Burris. There are a total of 16 candidates for the U.S. Senate, seven Democrats, eight Republicans and one from the Green Party.

A minimum of 5,000 registered voter signatures was needed to file as a candidate.

Joining Boyd as Democrat candidates are Alexander Giannoulis of Chicago, David Hoffman of Chicago, Robert Marshall of Burr Ridge, Jacob Meister of Chicago, Corey Dabney of Aurora and Cheryle Jackson of Chicago.

Giannoulis is currently Illinois state treasurer.

The Republican candidates include John Arrington of Harvey, Mark Kirk of Highland Park, Donald Lowery of Golconda, Andy Martin of Chicago, Kathleen Thomas of Springfield, Robert Zadek of Rockford, Thomas Kuna of Jerseyville and Patrick J. Hughes of Hinsdale.

The Green Party candidate is LeAlan M. Jones of Chicago.

Burris, a Democrat, is not seeking election to the position he was appointed to earlier this year, to fill the vacancy caused when Barack Obama moved from Illinois senator to the job of president of the United States.

Boyd announced in mid-October that he was obtaining signatures to become a candidate for the United States Senate. He said that after much consideration and support from elected officials and citizens of Illinois, Michigan and South Carolina, he and his family decided to make the run.

He was sworn in as Greenville's first African American city councilman on May 12 of this year, winning election to a four-year term.

Boyd said he decided to seek the United States senate seat out of desire to serve in a greater capacity. He is running as a "pro-life" candidate and believes it is important to seek to restore trust in both state and national government offices.

Boyd and his wife, Vida, relocated to Illinois from South Carolina in the late 1990s. They are the parents of Will Boyd, III and Gabrielle.

Within three years of being in Illinois, Boyd founded Zion Ministries and planted Mt. Zion Temple of Deliverance and Praise in Greenville, where he still serves as the church's senior pastor.

In 2004, Boyd began teaching at Greenville College, where he now serves as the dean of student success and instructor of management.

Two years ago, Boyd was elevated to an archbishop in Africa and is now an international presiding bishop to bishops and pastors of more than 400 churches in Africa, Asia, The Caribbean, Europe and North America.