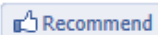



Mulcahey our pick for state Senate

RRSTAR.COM

Posted Oct 29, 2008 @ 07:17 PM



 Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



Marty Mulcahey has an action plan for northwest Illinois that goes beyond rhetoric and good sound bites. Because he has specific ideas, we endorse Mulcahey in his bid to become state senator in the 45th District.

Mulcahey, a Democrat, points to four items that would create jobs and make Illinois more competitive.

Two of his goals are in line with long-held views by this Editorial Board: Expand U.S. 20 from Freeport to Galena and bring Amtrak service to the region.

Mulcahey sees the expansion of U.S. 20 not only as an economic engine for Freeport and Galena, but for communities such as Rockford. The expansion would help create a transportation corridor that would benefit Rockford's efforts to develop its airport as the third Chicagoland airport.

He said he's talked about Amtrak with state Sen. Jeff Schoenberg of Evanston. Schoenberg was a key player in legislation that increased funding for Amtrak, allowing it to double service from Chicago to Quincy.

Mulcahey is a proponent of developing the fiber-optic ring that runs through northwest Illinois. That service would be much more advanced than the broadband service that residents have in their homes. It would offer the kind of real-time information that business, industry, medicine and research require for day-to-day needs. He says the project would be affordable at between \$2 million and \$3 million.

He also points to the Savanna Army Depot, which was closed in 2000, as an important location for an international designation for shipping on the Upper Mississippi River.

The initiatives Mulcahey advocates will create high-paying jobs Illinoisans need and deserve.

His opponent, state Sen Tim Bivins, was appointed to the position in March to replace Todd Sieben when he retired.

Bivins, a Republican, is thoughtful and studies issues, but he does not have the aggressive agenda Mulcahey has. With specifics and a promising plan, Mulcahey has earned your vote Tuesday.

Copyright 2008 Rockford Register Star. Some rights reserved