

The Greenville Advocate  
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*City Councilman Circulating Petitions*  
**Boyd Eyes U.S. Senate Seat**

A Greenville man has announced he will be a candidate in the February primary election for the Democratic nomination to the United States Senate.

A little more than four weeks ago, Will Boyd launched an exploratory effort to determine the feasibility of seeking election to the position. Boyd 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 is in the initial phases of the election process. The collection of signatures on petitions is underway throughout the state. A minimum of 5,000 registered voter signatures is required, and no more than 10,000 signatures are needed.

Boyd was in the Greenville community on Saturday morning, visiting residents and seeking signatures.

Candidate petitions are to be filled from October 26 through November 2.

Boyd was sworn in as Greenville's first African American city councilman on May 12 of this year. He was elected by Greenville voters to a four-year term.

"Feeling called to serve in a greater capacity," Boyd has decided to seek the U.S. Senate seat, now held by Roland Burris. Burris has indicated he will not 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 advised he is running on the Democratic ticket as a "pro-lifer" and most important he "seeks to restore trust in both state and national government offices."

A native of South Carolina, Boyd is the oldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Willie E. Boyd, Sr. of Darlington, S.C.

In addition to serving on the Greenville City Council, Dr. Boyd is a husband, father, pastor, bishop, college dean and instructor.

He 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.

Boyd has issued a list of his priorities on many of the important issues facing Illinois and United States residents. They include:

**Jobs and Economy**

- Stimulate economic development, beginning with the creation of more private sector jobs and support job-creation programs.
- Incentivize small businesses looking to compete internationally.

- Allow withdrawals from retirement funds with lesser penalties.
- Support the president's proposal for 90 day bans on home foreclosures
- Provide assistance to community-based development organizations which create jobs in areas where economic development is nearly non-existent.
- Support a consumer's "Credit Bill of Rights."
- Promote equality of pay for women's rights.
- Support economic expansion through tax-rate reductions

### **Foreign Policy**

- Reduce troop levels in Iraq and increase troop levels in Afghanistan.

### **Immigration and Homeland Security**

- Believes illegal immigrants should not displace American citizens nor should they burden the healthcare system.
- Believes border security should be improved, without the erection of walls.

### **Ethics Reform**

- Support social audits of government and non-governmental agencies for the purpose of combating unethical practices.

### **Healthcare**

- Create an affordable healthcare program
- Require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions
- Work to lower prescription drug costs.
- Improve and protect Medicaid.
- Provide healthcare options to unemployed.
- Promote medical malpractice reform
- Provide healthcare tax credits to small businesses providing insurance to employees.
- Believe a healthcare overhaul is not needed, but needs to be more regulated.

### **Education**

- Protect Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant funding.
- Believe there is a need for evaluation and assessment of the No Child Left Behind Program, and ensure programs such as No Child Left Behind are properly funded.
- Protected funding such as Perkins Loans and PELL grants.

### **Energy and Environment**

- End United States dependence on foreign oil.
- End importing of oil from corrupt countries.
- Create new "green" jobs.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Invest more money in renewable energy.

### **Abortion, Death Penalty**

- Believe all life is precious and begins at conception (pro-life).
- Do not believe man has the right to take another's life.