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Rep. Tim Johnson announces initiative to cut government

CHAMPAIGN—In the face of mounting anger over Washington spending and gridlock, U.S. Rep. Timothy V. Johnson today announced a ground-breaking new initiative to build a more responsive and far less costly Congress.

The Citizen Legislators Act could save up to \$2 billion a year by cutting the days representatives spend in session, cutting their salaries in half, cutting their office budgets in half and allowing them to work jobs outside of public office.

"We go to Washington three weeks a month and butt heads over how to spend the taxpayers' money," Johnson said. "We are paid generous salaries to accomplish very little. Our country is beyond broke, and we have earned every ounce of disapproval the public has shown us.

"The Citizen Legislator Act may not be a perfect instrument in the eyes of Washington insiders, but it is a beginning step in righting the ship," Johnson said.

Specifically, the bill:

- Limits days in session to five per month or 60 business days per session.
- Halves the salary of Representatives and Senators.
- Permits members to have jobs outside of Congress so long as they do not derive their income as a result of the privilege of their office, such as speaking tours, lobbying and consulting.
- Cuts member office allowances, committee and leadership budgets in half.
- Prohibits any grandfathering out of the new salary requirements.
- Cuts member salaries an additional 10 percent for

every five business days Congress exceeds 60 business days in a session.

Johnson said that in addition to saving time and forcing Congress to conduct itself with greater efficiency, these kinds of changes, while dramatic, would encourage a better quality of candidate for office.

"In the course of relentless growth in the bureaucracies of Washington, D.C., the idea of citizen legislators has become obsolete. We have a workforce of more than 30,000 people doing nothing but serving the legislative branch. We have become a privileged class, pampered and coddled on the taxpayers' dime. The quaint notion of government by the people and for the people has faded into an anachronism.

"I believe we can attract a more diverse pool of candidates if we allow them to be able to work their jobs. Farmers, teachers, small business people, doctors and dentists – together – create a mixture of

See JOHNSON on other side

21st Sweetheart Banquet set

Hoopeston Area High School Student Council is sponsoring the 21st annual Senior Citizen Sweetheart Banquet on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The event will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the high school gym. The event features a complete dinner, as well as entertainment provided by high school students.

Any Hoopeston Area or Rossville senior citizen interested in attending is asked to call 283-6668 and leave their name(s) and how many will be attending in their party. This needs to be done on or before February 3 so that food may be ordered for the dinner.

For more information, call 283-6668.

Larkin's Barber Shop
 117 E. Attica St. (on alley)
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 (217) 772-1440
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 Sat. 7 a.m.-noon



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 Prices have been steadily dropping, time to cash out before they drop lower!

Winter Open House
Wednesday, Jan. 25 4-6 p.m.
 Visit us for a free cup of soup and a tour of the area's only Supportive Living Community.
 Donate 2 cans of soup - to restock a local Food Pantry - and be registered to win a \$100 gift card!
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Letters to the Editor



Fiction

A Christmas Homecoming by Anne Perry
House of Secrets by Tracie Peterson (Inspirational)
Bad Moon by Todd Ritter (Mystery)
New York to Dallas by J.D. Robb (Large Print)
Pretty Bad Things by C.J. Skuse (Youth)
The Phantom Limb by William Sleator and Ann Monticone (Youth)
Wife-in-Law by Haywood Smith
The Best of Me by Nicholas Sparks (Regular and Large Print)
Black Thunder: an Ella Clah novel by Aimee and David Thurlo (Mystery)

What You Wish For: Stories and Poems for Darfur (Youth)

Dandelion Summer by Lisa Wingate (Large Print)
Son of Stone: A Stone Barrington Novel by Stuart Woods (Large Print)


Non-Fiction

Moonwalking with Einstein: the Art and Science of Remembering Everything by Joshua Foer

Obituaries

REDMOND - Daniel H. Redmond, 66, of Rankin, formerly of Burbank, died Saturday, Jan.14, 2012, at home. Arrangements are incomplete at Wolfe Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Hoopeston.

Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 12 p.m. Sunday to 302 W. Penn. Apt. 6 for a report of a stove fire. No damage or injuries were reported.

Johnson continued from other side


backgrounds and talents that will serve the American people well.

“We can continue to spout sound bites about how the other party isn’t getting things done, or we can take definitive action to show the American people that our campaign promises are not empty, that we truly are representatives of the people. I think the general public thinks many members of Congress think of themselves as a ruling class, an anointed elite that shares little of their daily worries and fears.

“Daniel Webster admonished us long ago of this when he said, ‘There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.’

“I am no one’s master. I seek only the approval of those who have chosen me to represent them.”

Weather



Rain/snow likely today. High 36. Tonight, blustery. Low 13. Tomorrow, sunny. High 28, low 22.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

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Clean, quiet 2 BR, 1 bath apt. 723 W. Orange. \$385/month + utilities. Security deposit and application required. Available Now. Mike 312-371-8585

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HOUSES FOR RENT

2 BR duplex. Stove, fridge provided. No pets. Deposit, references required. \$400/mo. Call (217) 304-6547 for application.

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VEHICLES FOR SALE

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