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**Tuesday, February 21, 2012**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication  
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## Bill Black endorses Josh Harms for representative seat

A long-time politician gave a shot in the arm to a young hopeful for the new Illinois 106th district.

Bill Black, former state representative and current Danville City Council member, endorsed Republican candidate Josh Harms Thursday at Hoopeston City Hall.

Black listed some of the problems facing Illinois, including gerrymandering for political gain, legislative scholarships, a poor business climate that resulted in Caterpillar expanding in Georgia, state pensions and corruption and said Harms would work to solve them.

Calling Harms "a young person who has a strong moral compass," Black said Harms "is not going to back

down. He's not going to be co-opted by the 'go along to get along' crowd."

Harms then thanked Black for his service, telling those assembled that the first time he was old enough to vote, he voted for Black. "I hope if I'm elected, I can be the public servant he always was," Harms said.

Harms' top priority is jobs and said if elected, he will work to get rid of the "crushing corporate tax rate. Government can't grow these jobs but the private sector can," he said.

Balancing the state budget is also important, although  
 See SEAT on other side

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[hoopestonhospital.org](http://hoopestonhospital.org)



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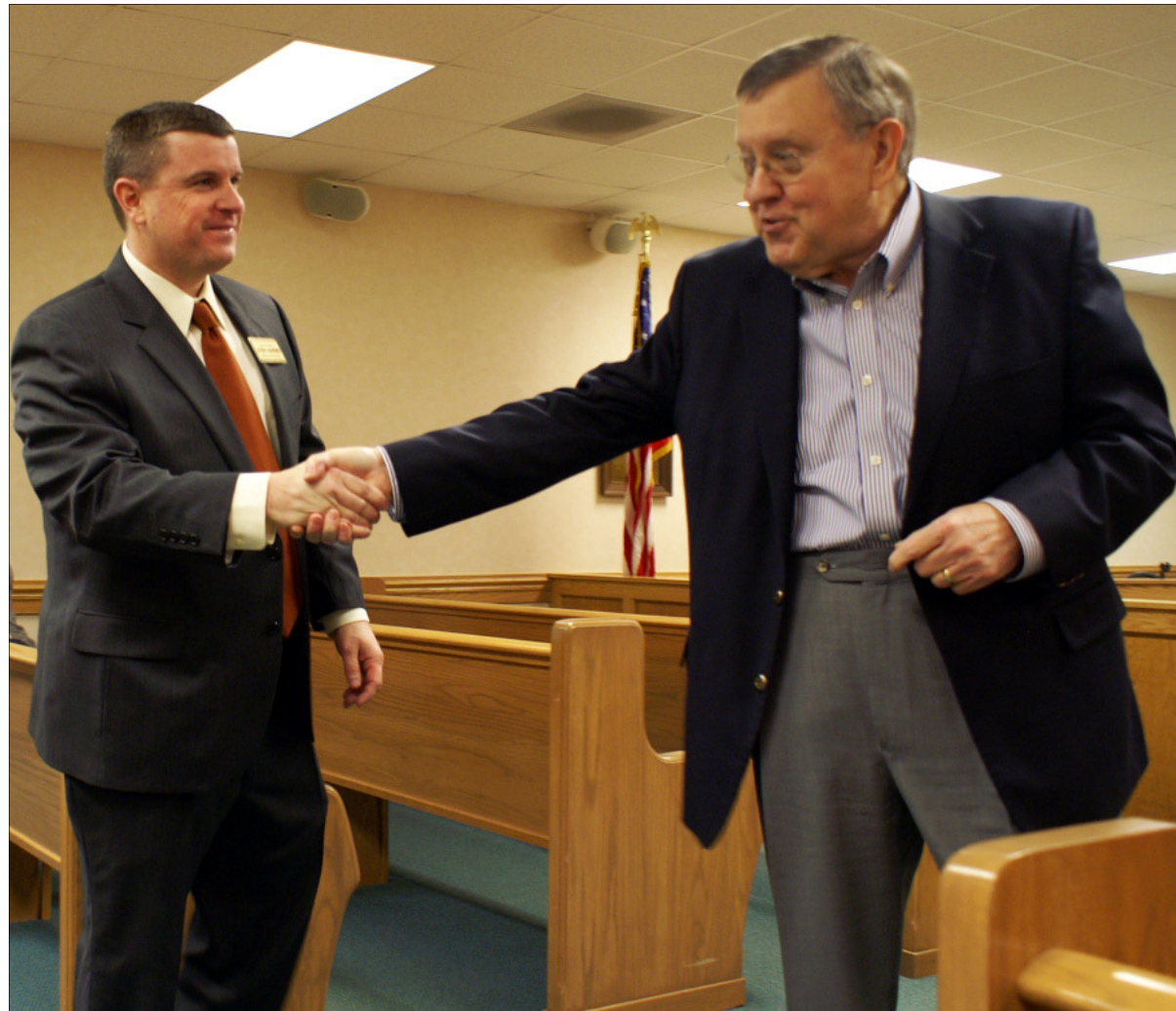
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Former state Rep. Bill Black, right, endorses Republican Josh Harms for the 106th district at an event Thursday at Hoopeston City Hall.

### *Seat* continued from other side

Harms does not favor across-the-board cuts, instead preferring targeted cuts.

Harms would like to see reforms in welfare and Medicaid, revamping the programs less profitable to recipients than working would be.

The candidate called himself “a firm believer in civil liberties” who will work to protect the unborn and who opposes new gun laws. “They just don’t

work,” he said.

Harms, 36, and his wife, Rebecca, live in Watseka. They have two children, Paul, six, and Molly, three. A teacher, Harms worked in Rossville before beginning his current position with the Iroquois County Special Education Association.

More information on Harms and his campaign may be found at [electjoshharms.com](http://electjoshharms.com).

## Police News



John Paul Smith, 47, of Indianapolis, Ind., was arrested at 4:04 p.m. Sunday in the 200 block of East Main. Wanted on an Effingham County warrant for failure to appear/DUI, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

## Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 7:02 p.m. to the 800 block of East Elm for visible smoke in the upstairs of the home. The smoke was cleared; no injuries were reported.

## Weather



Showers likely today. High 46. Tonight, cloudy. Low 34. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 51, low 32

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

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Experienced floral designer needed at Welcome Home Gifts, Hoopeston. Part time. Call (815) 528-0743

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has an opening for the following positions:

- Part-time Personal Aide at Maple. Position hours are 12- 3 p.m. and start date is as soon as possible.

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