

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY Justin P. Oberman

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My family has a long and rich history of public service. It is a legacy I have worked to uphold throughout my private and public sector career, and as a member of President-elect Obama's Homeland Security Advisory Committee. It is in that spirit that I am running to represent Illinois' 5th Congressional District.

We are all frustrated with the ineffectiveness of Washington politics and with the corruption and incompetence of our local leaders. From Springfield to Cook County and the Chicago City Council, not much gets done except for backroom political deals put politicians' greed before the people's needs.

I'm running for Congress because I have a record of working closely with people of varying backgrounds and perspectives to develop lasting solutions to the most critical and complex problems in the nation and the world.

As a senior federal homeland security official, I ran an office with more than 125 employees and was responsible for an annual budget of \$150 million. I understand how Congress makes policy, exerts oversight and allocates funds, how our national security and intelligence agencies work, and how interest groups make their voices heard. I will use this experience at a time when Congress must be effective.

Like my neighbors, I am deeply concerned about the state of our economy. I founded a firm that helps small companies grow and am seeing my clients suffer in the current economic downturn. This expertise will best serve the residents of the 5th District, many of whom are experiencing similar financial hardships in these troubling times.

I was raised in a household that puts a premium on public service, ethics, and integrity. My father was an independent alderman in Chicago, fighting waste, fraud, and abuse on behalf of working men and women across the city. My mother leads a non-profit organization that develops curricula for public schools to teach about the perils of racism and genocide. They are examples to me of how dedicated individuals can improve our communities.

I will be guided by those values as a Congressman and look forward to the honor of serving the people of the 5th District.

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