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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **STEVE MCCLURE FORMS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE FOR ILLINOIS SENATE** *McClure begins 30-day listening tour across the district*

SPRINGFIELD—Sangamon County Assistant State’s Attorney Steve McClure is actively considering a run for the 50<sup>th</sup> District Illinois Senate seat in 2016. McClure, a Republican, filed papers with the Illinois State Board of Elections creating an exploratory committee that will allow him to begin fully exploring a candidacy.

“I was born and raised in the district, I am a life-long voting Republican, I pay my taxes, work hard, and I want this area to reach its potential,” said McClure. “This can only happen if the 50<sup>th</sup> District has trusted and reliable conservative leadership. There are currently too many roadblocks for local businesses, and not enough opportunities for our citizens to seek economic advancement. Many of our roads, bridges, and schools are in terrible condition. I want to be sure that the 50<sup>th</sup> Senate District seat is occupied by a person that will show up to work each day, represent the people, and make sure that we get our fair share of the resources that the state of Illinois has to offer.”

McClure has spent the last several months attending Republican events and informally speaking with Republican leaders across the district. McClure will be taking a leave of absence from his position in the Sangamon County State’s Attorney’s Office so that he can enter into a more intense period of consideration of a potential candidacy. For the next 30 days, McClure will significantly increase his events and meetings across the district to meet the residents and hear their concerns. McClure will then look to make a final determination well in advance of the March 2016 Primary Election.

“I have several ideas to bring about positive changes, but I would like to open up a dialogue with voters and Republican leaders in the nine counties that make up the district to see what ideas they have. That is why I will spend the next few weeks traveling the area to better understand the needs and priorities of our residents, and to see whether or not they want new leadership.”

## **About Steve McClure**

Steve McClure was born and raised in Springfield, Illinois with a long family history in public service. Both of his parents worked in Illinois state government, and his grandfathers served in the military. At Springfield High School, Steve excelled both as a student and as a record-setting athlete. Steve was co-captain of the wrestling team and, as a senior, broke the school's single-season record for his weight class, having twenty-six wins and only four losses. Steve also learned the value of working hard in maintenance during the summer at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

In four short years at Arizona State University, Steve obtained two bachelor's degrees - one in history and the other in political science. He was also elected vice chairman of the Arizona College Republicans. At the University of Illinois in Springfield, Steve earned his master's degree in political studies while simultaneously working as a legislative intern on the appropriations staff for the Illinois Senate Republicans. Steve's expertise was in analyzing budgets and appropriations. Steve obtained his law degree at Valparaiso University School of Law in Indiana where he served as president of the Law School Republicans.

Upon passing the bar, Steve accepted a position as an assistant state's attorney in the Sangamon County Juvenile Division. As a juvenile prosecutor, he was dedicated to protecting children from abusive parents, rehabilitating delinquent youth, and unwavering on getting assistance to children with chronic absences. His leadership skills were recognized, and he soon became chief of the division.

Steve's prosecution skills were then needed in the Sangamon County Felony Division. As a felony attorney, Steve has prosecuted those attempting to take financial advantage of senior citizens, and has served as a member of the Lincoln Land Adult Fatality Review Team that investigates the abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults that have passed away. Steve will be taking a leave of absence from the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office to explore the possibility of running for the Illinois Senate.

Steve has long been inspired by the service of his parents and the great Republican leaders in Illinois, and in the United States, that were in office during his childhood. His time analyzing budgets in the Illinois Senate during the administration of Governor Rod Blagojevich caused him to have serious concerns about the mismanagement and waste of taxpayer funds. Steve also has grave concerns about the shortcomings of the current juvenile and felony systems in place that have not been effective enough in keeping the state safer, saving the taxpayers money, and allowing people to transform their lives.

Steve is a lifelong conservative Republican who is pro-life, supportive of traditional family values, and a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. Steve is looking forward to spending time listening to the people of the 50<sup>th</sup> Senate District to determine if there is a desire for new leadership. Steve appreciates the support, wisdom, and dedication of the members of his exploratory committee. The initial list of nine

exploratory committee members is being released today, and there will be a number of additional members named in the coming weeks.

### **Exploratory Committee**

*Chairman:* George Laubner - Former banker who spent over 30 years in the central Illinois banking community, most recently as head of the investment and trust department at Marine Bank.

Mark Clayton - Chatham native with banking and financial experience who serves the community as a Chatham Trustee.

Connie "Coco" DiCenso - Small business owner and entrepreneur who owns and operates Café Coco, and was the former Director of Communications and Fund Development for SPARC.

Nancy Finley-Ealey - A member of law enforcement for fourteen years, and currently a detective with the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office.

Mark Frech - Carrollton native and former Director of the Illinois Department of Conservation, and current Executive Vice President and Secretary of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association.

Tim Mann - A member of law enforcement for 19 years who has served in New Berlin, South Jacksonville, and was the Chief of Police for Ashland. He is also the owner of Executive Limousine, which operates in Jacksonville and Springfield.

Scott Mills - Has worked in both state and federal government. Scott has held positions with the University of Illinois, the Social Security Administration, and currently works at the Office of the Illinois Comptroller.

Susan Mogerman - Former Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and former Chief Operating Officer of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Val Yazell - Former retail business owner and small business consultant.

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