



Date: Friday, June 18, 2010

Jilka concludes meet & greet tour; visits all 69 counties in the "Big First"

WASHINGTON, Kan. – Democratic Congressional Candidate Alan Jilka achieved a milestone in his bid for Congress Thursday night when he visited Washington County.

Jilka has visited each of the 69 counties in the "Big First" district.

"I wanted Washington County to be the final stop in my meet and greet tour because I intend to serve my district in our nation's capital," Jilka said. "What could be more appropriate than going from Washington, Kansas to Washington, D.C.?"

Jilka visited up to six cities per day, stopping in local restaurants, Co-ops and coffee shops across the state.

"Traveling to every county in the district has been an invaluable experience," Jilka said. "I am thankful to everyone who took the time to stop in, share their experiences and concerns, and have a cup of coffee with me.

"Getting to talk with everyday Kansans and hearing their concerns helps me to focus on the issues nearest to the heart of rural Kansas."

Jilka said residents voiced a variety of concerns as he visited with them.

"People are concerned about keeping their jobs and being able to keep taxes from climbing out of control," he said. "Farmers and ranchers also want to preserve their livelihood and be able to pass along their family farm to future generations."

Jilka, the unopposed Democrat for the First District of Kansas, brings 12 years of experience as a Salina City Commissioner to his campaign. He is only one of two people in the history of Salina to serve three

separate times as the Mayor of Salina.

His successful tenure as Mayor and on the City Commission was highlighted by an unprecedented number of major capital improvement projects for the community and small business.

He led the drive to restore the Fox Theatre in downtown Salina, renamed the Stiefel Theatre, and secured \$750,000 in public funding for the project, now a major part of Salina's cultural arts scene.

Jilka oversaw the largest capital improvement project in the city's history, the \$20.3 million railroad overpass, and garnered state funding for 65% of the cost.

While on the Commission he also successfully campaigned for the building of The Kenwood Cove Aquatic Park, which opened a few weeks ago. He also worked with the First District's Republican Congressional Delegation on efforts to remediate environmental contamination from the city's former Air Force Base.

In addition, Jilka's leadership on local drainage improvements ended perennial flooding problems in South Salina.

For additional information about Jilka, please visit his Web site: jilkaforcongress.com or call 785-833-2022.

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