

Charles Thomas, Sr.

For
LEE COUNTY BOARD
DISTRICT 4
LEE COUNTY, IL

My name is Charles "Charlie" Thomas. I grew up in Dixon. I have been married to my wife Vickie since 1978 and we have three children and two grandchildren, with two more due this spring. All but one live in the area.

High school was Dixon, graduating in 1974, then Sauk Valley College, then Western Illinois University on an Army ROTC Scholarship. Besides my subsequent military schooling, I earned a Masters Degree in Political Science/International Relations from Troy State (Alabama) University.

Upon returning to Dixon, I was on the City Council but was recalled to active Army duty in 2001 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in late 2006. I was appointed to the Lee County Board this past fall after the tragic loss of my good friend Hal Moroney. I am on the Solid Waste committee that oversees programs which include the solid waste (landfill), animal control, veterans affairs and the Regional Office of Education.

To define my political views, I relate most to being a Classical Liberal, "A political belief in which primary emphasis is placed on securing the freedom of the individual by limiting the power of the state. In its economic form, it advocates a respect for private property and free markets."<http://www.thenagain.info/webchron/glossary/ClassicalLiberalism.html>) Where government should only be as big as absolutely necessary and only do what is absolutely necessary. The Constitution is the guide. Too many times governments get involved with and concentrate on things, spending tax money on other than basic requirements which would include sewer and water, roads, etc., then have to ask for more money to take care of essential functions.

Below are my answers to questions recently posed by Sauk Valley Media to Lee County Board candidates:

- I believe that most of the County Board does what they believe is the right thing to do. They aren't professional politicians and they don't do the job for the pay, it's a job of service.*
- I believe that the Zoning Board is working hard on the regulations for wind farms. It is a difficult issue. Some of this is new ground and it is also a balancing act. I am concerned about adding burdens to the taxpayers of Lee County and want to make sure that they are not stuck with the expenses of decommissioning costs and want to make sure that we require some financial security upfront. There are a lot of opinions on setbacks and related issues and I want to make sure that all the data is reviewed before decisions are made. I also do not feel that specific noise regulations within the special use permits would be unreasonable.*

- *Lee County is facing some very big issues, especially considering the fact that costs are being pushed from the State level to the County level. It started with the Regional Superintendant's salaries and now the talk about downstate teacher pensions. I am concerned that this will end up impacting property taxes in Lee County which may drive people away. We need to look very hard at how we do things and make sure that essential services are provided in the most economical way possible.*
- *I believe it is up to the folks who negotiate contracts for County employees to determine the number of paid holidays. But I also recognize the fact that paid holidays for county employees are very generous compared to other employers. This may be a negotiating option for the County.*

If you have specific questions please e-mail me at cethomas@grics.net