

Randy White shares his views on Juvenile Sex Offender issues:

Juvenile Sex Offenders

As a Pastor, Police Chaplin and a person who cares about the community, I have worked extensively with juvenile sexual offenders and their victims, and as a county board member, I have dealt with the cost of paying for their incarceration and rehabilitation. I want to tell you very plainly that under current treatment plans, most of the offenders grow up to be adult sex offenders. This treatment is not effective and needs to change!

I believe there are two key reasons why we need change. One the approximate cost of treating the offenders in Hancock County alone in 2007 was \$121,000; small rural counties do not have that funding. Two, the current treatment has not been effective for rehabilitating juvenile sex offenders.

As a county board member I introduced HB291 which takes the cost of treating these offenders out of the county's budget and gives it back to the state where it belongs. Representative Rich Myers championed the bill; the Illinois House of Representatives unanimously approved the measure and sent it to the Senate where both Republicans and Democrats agreed unanimously. On September 27, 2007 the Governor vetoed the plan. Since then we have successfully been able to over ride that veto. Thus the Counties are no longer over budget.

This bill answers the question of who funds the treatment, but unfortunately it does not answer the need for changing treatment.

Because of this need for change, I have put together a plan to treat juvenile sex offenders and modeled it after a combination of some successful programs in the areas of drug abuse cases, teen court both in Illinois, and Heartland Ministry in Missouri. Comparing these programs' success rate of above 75% at 1/10th the cost, to treatment plans in the 7-8% range, it is obvious which plan should be implemented.

While I am not a licensed mental health professional, I have worked with many individuals as a pastor and Police Chaplin, and have seen firsthand plans that work. The problem is manifesting itself daily and the cost is out of control, not only in dollars, but in lives tragically affected. Estimates for 2006 were \$22,000.00 for the entire state! I was always told not to complain about a matter if I wasn't willing to do something about the problem. I want to be in the position to influence change in treatment, change in effectiveness and change in cost.

Be assured that weather I am elected or not, I will continually work to improve this area in the hope that innocent children can be saved from attack and molestation by other children.

My name is Pastor Randy White and I want to be your next Lt. Governor, so that I can put this and other cost saving effective plans in place. Please pass this on to your friends.