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JOAN McCARTHY LASONDE STATEMENT ON PRIMARY ELECTION NIGHT

WINNETKA, Illinois — Joan McCarthy Lasonde made the following statement this evening upon the closing of the polls to accept her party's nomination for Congress in Illinois' Ninth District:

"Today was gratifying. Even though the result was not in doubt, I am humbled by the number of people who cast their vote for me today. Ever since I launched my run in November, I have met countless supporters and volunteers who have honored me with their time, their help, their money, and their well-wishes and prayers. I wish that I could properly thank each one.

"Tonight marks the beginning of the general election season. Exactly 34 weeks from today, we will return to the polls, and voters of the Ninth Congressional District will have the opportunity to elect a new voice to represent them. Jan Schakowsky has held this seat for more than 17 years, using her position to promote an extreme and partisan agenda employing some of the nastiest tactics.

"I look forward to a high-energy campaign in which I will advance a constructive agenda addressing issues like unemployment and underemployment, the new set of problems in health care caused by Obamacare, national security, our relationship with allies like Israel, and solutions to change the status quo in education which has particularly failed minority and low-income students for generations.

"This race is not a referendum on the Presidential race; I'd remind Mrs. Schakowsky that voters in the Ninth District will have already cast their votes for President when they get to their choice for Ninth District Congresswoman.

"This District is very diverse in terms of demographics and in thought. The ninth contains large areas of very conservative precincts, very liberal precincts, and many politically moderate precincts. The District includes some of the region's leaders in industry and commerce, academia, and public affairs. It includes working poor dreaming not of slightly improved government benefits but of personal prosperity. It includes traditional middle class families worried that their children's standard of living will not equal their own.

"I look forward to making my case across the Ninth District that I have an agenda that will provide more opportunity and hope for them. I look forward to a vigorous race."

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