

Dale W. Schultz
State Senator

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Schultz Won't Seek Another Term

"There's simply more to life than being senator"

(Richland Center) After serving almost 32 years in the state legislature, 22 as state Senator from the 17th District, Dale Schultz announced last night he will not stand for reelection in 2014.

The Richland Center Republican said he took all the comments from his constituents, as well as folks from around the state, to heart before making the final decision.

"I want everyone to know, I listened and was deeply touched by their kind words," Schultz said. "After much soul searching, prayer, and talking with family and close friends, I realized something. As wonderful and rewarding as the journey has been, there's simply more to life than being senator."

Schultz said democracy thrives when new blood is injected into the system, and it's time for someone else to pick up the cause. Although, he says, he's not retiring from public life.

"I'm not being put out to pasture, but you may find me in the pasture more often," Schultz said. "I still want to be involved, but I don't think you have to have 'S-E-N' in front of your name to make a difference.

Schultz said despite how some may view him, serving the interests and the collective hopes, needs and desires of those he represents has been his goal since first being elected in 1982.

Schultz says he's become deeply frustrated and saddened at what the legislature has become with good and thoughtful people falling into a trap.

“It’s a trap of wanting to do good but being coerced and convinced that the only way to accomplished that is to conform with outside pressures and agendas,” Schultz said. “As a result of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision allowing unlimited special interest monies to be injected into campaigns, compromise has given way to partisan conformity, and that’s not something in which I’m willing to participate.”

Looking back, Schultz said he’s been blessed to work with wonderful people while being a part of some rewarding successes including the creation of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway and WisconsinEye.

“The Lower Wisconsin Riverway is a great example of Teddy Roosevelt style Republicanism at its best,” Schultz said. “We had folks from the conservation community as well as business and ag all come together to help preserve this natural treasure for generations.”

“I’ve always believed government works best when the public is not only involved but in full view of what those in government are doing,” Schultz said. “WisconsinEye gave us a state version of C-Span which allows for citizens across the state to get an unfiltered view of what goes on and holds us as legislators accountable.”

Schultz said those who make the mistake of thinking he’s prepared to ride off into the sunset should think again. After releasing his Four for ’14 legislative agenda two weeks ago, Schultz will crisscross his district this week holding office hours and is preparing to launch another major push with Democrat Senator Tim Cullen on redistricting reform.

“I believe in my gut the only way to truly reform our representative democracy is to change the way we conduct redistricting,” Schultz said. “It’s ludicrous for legislators to choose their voters instead of voters choosing their legislators, and Senator Cullen and I are just ornery enough to keep making our colleagues uncomfortable until we see real change on behalf of the folks we represent.”

Schultz said he would not endorse fellow Republican state Representative Howard Marklein to succeed him in the senate.

“Howard made it clear in his announcement challenging me that his top two reasons for doing so were my votes on Act 10 and mining,” Schultz said. “It’s pretty difficult to support someone who’s so out of step with the views of my constituents on major issues they care deeply about.”

Beyond this year, Schultz said he’s keeping his options open.

“I’m an old Wisconsin Basketball guy,” Schultz said. “My friend, Coach Bo Ryan is fond of reminding his players the most important game is the next one. I’m just excited to see who’s got next.”