



NEWS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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Collier Announces State Senate Run *Top Initiative is to Reduce Ohio's Tax Burden*

(Mount Vernon) - Former State Representative Thom Collier (R-Mount Vernon) today announced his candidacy for the 19th State Senate District. The 19th Senate District is being vacated by Senate President Bill Harris due to term limits.

In making his decision to seek the 19th State Senate seat, Representative Thom Collier said, "After thoughtful prayer, encouragement and support from friends and discussions with my family, I have decided to run for the State Senate.

"I am running for the State Senate to serve. Ohio is losing jobs and people at an alarming rate. I cannot stand on the sidelines and watch as Ohio loses companies and people to states with a better business climate. Term-limits have created a great need for experienced leaders who can tackle the difficult challenges facing our state.

"We are losing an incredibly effective State Senator in Bill Harris. Senator Harris is one of the most honorable public servants I have ever worked with. His leadership will be missed.

"I was blessed to serve over 8 years in the Ohio House. During my time in the House, I introduced legislation to eliminate Ohio's income tax. When I entered the legislature Ohio had one of the most unfriendly business climates in the nation, we made significant strides in the right direction, but there is still a lot of work left to do. Residents are fleeing south to states like Texas, Florida, and Tennessee that do not have an income tax. Unfortunately we were not able to get this monumental reform passed and I want to go the Senate and work extremely hard to eliminate this job killing tax.

"While there are many important issues facing state government, perhaps none is more important right now than jobs. The unemployment rate in Ohio recently surpassed a staggering 11%. This is why I have chosen to announce my candidacy here at an Ohio business. However, if things keep going the way they are going in Ohio, manufacturing companies and their jobs will continue to disappear.

"I have a three-point plan on how we can get Ohio back on track:

1. "Create a businesses-friendly climate that attracts businesses and families and encourages companies already located here to stay here.
2. "Make state government more efficient and more accountable. Families are learning to live within their means, and government should do the same.
3. "Improve our education system to better prepare our children for the challenges they will face in the future. One way we can do this is by giving parents have more educational options if their children are stuck in failing public schools.

"I have had the great honor of serving citizens first as a member of the Mount Vernon City Council and then as the State Representative from the 90th House District. I want to continue to work for the citizens of this region and make this the best place in Ohio to live, work and raise a family." Collier added.

Serving as a state representative for 8 years, Thom built an impressive conservative record. Thom was given the Watchdog of the Treasury Award by the United Conservatives of Ohio and was instrumental in shaping a tax reform package that eliminated the corporate franchise tax, tangible personal property tax, and cut the income tax of every Ohioan by 21 percent.

Thom and his wife, Diane, have been married 17 years and have two daughters, Cathern, 15, and Natoli, 10. Thom is a deacon in his church and for 27 years has been a self-employed businessman.

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Paid for by the Committee to elect Thom Collier, Kelly Schermerhorn, Treasurer,
607 East High Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050