



LT. GOV. JARI ASKINS

January 2, 2009

Dear

I want you, as a long-time friend and supporter, to be among the first to know that I will soon become a candidate for Governor of Oklahoma! Plans are underway for a formal announcement this month, but before I make my candidacy official, please let me tell you why I have decided to run.

This was a decision made after months of fervent prayer, careful thought and many conversations with family and friends. Certainly, I want to be governor or I wouldn't be running, but that desire doesn't distinguish me from any other potential candidate. What I believe I offer that others may not, is unique experience and an ability to work with members of both parties to solve problems.

Looking back, we see great progress under the bipartisan leadership of Governor Brad Henry. Looking forward, we see the threat of repeating Oklahoma's unfortunate history of boom and bust without doing nearly enough to make sure state government operates conservatively and wisely in good times and bad.

Looking back, we have every reason to be proud of what we have accomplished as Oklahomans. Looking forward, we know there is so much more work to be done.

While we have made great progress in education, we cannot afford to rest. We need better schools and more college graduates. We need to make college more affordable, not less. Far too many Oklahoma children are without health care and going to bed hungry. There are tens of thousands while even one is too many.

These and many other challenges are what I have thought about as I have made my decision to run for governor. I don't pretend to have all the answers but be assured I have the energy and determination to find them by working with the best and brightest in both parties including you.

I am privileged and honored to have served Oklahoma as a Special District Judge, Chair of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board, Democratic Leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and now as Lt. Governor. I believe this experience in all three branches of government will serve Oklahoma well in the governor's office.

Please know that I enjoy serving as Lieutenant Governor and am grateful to the people of Oklahoma for having given me the opportunity. Rest assured I will continue to perform every responsibility of the office while I campaign part time.

There is no question that running for governor is a major challenge but it is one I look forward to meeting. It's an opportunity to meet more of the best people in our country, the people of Oklahoma. It's also an opportunity to learn more about the needs, hopes and dreams of our fellow Oklahomans.

Your friendship and support are vital to the success of this new campaign. As it moves forward, I will be sure to be in close contact. As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely,



Jari Askins
Lt. Governor
State of Oklahoma