

**Elizabeth Davis-Kavelman's FINAL February 21, 2025, Position Letter 5, Letter to the Editor in
"Where They Stand" Section of the Lincoln Daily News.com**

Good day, Citizens and Businessowners of Lincoln, IL:

The following is a condensed version of my Press Release published in August, 2024, announcing my candidacy for a third, four-year term as Mayor of the City of Lincoln, IL:

Davis-Kavelman was elected two terms from 2001 through 2009 as Mayor, having been elected to the Logan County Board for two-and-one-half years prior to taking office as Lincoln's Mayor.

Davis-Kavelman cites her reasons for getting back into the political ring as a need to help her City work towards implementing a more efficient, professional, fair, safe, and quality community for its Citizens.

City Fiscal stability, including the Employees' Pension Funds deficit. Monies need to be tracked better and each Alderperson, the Mayor, and City Treasurer will receive a monthly electronic update of the current budget to utilize in their own committees, as well as to monitor the City's spending from month to month. The city is required to have a balanced budget every fiscal year, and reinstating this monthly report to the City Council will allow more efficiency and maximum transparency for everyone.

With the entire City Council Alderwomen and Aldermen, set up a ten-year Work Plan to focus on improving more streets, alleys, sidewalks, and sewer infrastructures each year. This Plan includes completing the Fifth Street Road Project, of which Beth has three-decades of experience with the project since 1996, in various capacities, with both the City Council and Logan County Board. Let us get this important roadway project completed!

Work on continued grant writing for sewer, streets, and other important City needs, such as the American Rescue Plan Act grant funds Beth secured for the City prior to leaving her City Administrator position in April, 2021.

Increase Economic Development within our City and projects with the Logan County Board. Work closely with the Lincoln/ Logan County Tourism Bureau and host more Annual Events and Festivals, such as the ten-day Lincoln Sesquicentennial (150 years anniversary) held in 2003 where all the County Municipalities were invited to participate demonstrating their individual histories and Communities' attributes within the County. Work on expanding trade missions and economic growth opportunities for our City/County. Work closely with the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC) and the Logan County Board and other surrounding Cities to increase our commerce to lower our Citizens' tax base.

Bring back Honesty, Integrity, and Respect for the Office and our City Council, and increase the interaction between the City Council and our Citizens and Business Owners.

Follow the City Ordinances and work with the Department Heads in areas requiring clarification and/or improvement; and strictly follow "Robert's Rules of Order" in City Council Meetings.

Re-establish the Aldermanic Form of Government, which was administered fairly and effectively for all the City Council, Staff, Citizens, and Business Owners During Beth's administration and for decades prior. The City Council will have eight (8) Committees, with each Alderperson serving as a Committee Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Committee Member of two (2) City Committees.

Continue working on improving blighted areas within Lincoln and allow Owners of those Commercial Properties to apply for a Lincoln Economic Development Grant Commission (LEDGC) grant of \$7,500.00 to assist with the expenses of improving their buildings' structures. I created this Grant and its application and rules while serving as City Administrator in 2020, and the grant has been working well so far; many Businesses have improved their properties.

Ensure a Mayor Pro-tempore change once each year effective the first day of May – to give all the City Alderpersons a chance to be appointed to the position.

Curtail the selective enforcement and decisions by the current Mayor to expend taxpayers' monies without a documented City Council vote of the Alderpersons.

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In following our City of Lincoln, IL's Forefathers established ordinance that the City embrace an Aldermanic Form of Government -- whereby the Alderpersons control the City, and the Mayor's duty is to preside over the City Council Meetings

and break a tie vote if required. Let's bring our City back to a transparent, open, and friendly body of government where all our Alderpersons are allowed to utilize their powers as elected or appointed to their positions, and require full participation in all City Council meetings, Committee Meetings, and Workshop Meetings, with full transparency to the Citizens the City Council represents. Returning to an Aldermanic form of government, there will be improved responsiveness to the Citizens and decrease the micro-management/autocratic government style currently in place.

Let's bring Lincoln back to what it used to be and reinstate pride for our wonderful City. I am saying this because of my extensive municipal, state, and federal government experience. I began my affiliation with City Government:

--Contractual, part-time City Council Recorder in June of 1982 to Nov. 30, 1998.

--Elected County-wide Logan County Board Member Dec. 1, 1998 to April, 2001.

--Elected Mayor to the City of Lincoln May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2009. (Serving the last four and one-half years as a Full-time Mayor for \$12,000.00/year. Why do you ask that I would work under the poverty level four and-one-half years?

Answer: I love my City and believe in its people and our community's potential!

--Served as City Administrator July 16, 2018 through April 30, 2021.

--Now running for re-election for Mayor of Lincoln effective May 1, 2025.

MY EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND CREDENTIALS:

EDUCATION

State of Illinois, Certified Remote Online Notary (RON) Signing Agent, March, 2024 to Present

National Notary Association, Certified IL Notary Signing Agent (NSA), November 3, 2021 to Present

State of Illinois Certified IL Assessing Officer (CIAO) –Supervisor of Assessments Designation

John A. Logan College – Carterville, Illinois

Nationally Registered Health Information Technologist (RHIT) (Seven Domains) – RHIT, #210595

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Health Information Technology (HIT)

US Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, Marion, Illinois – Medical and legal coursework, two medical practicums

Hospital and Southern IL Healthcare, Herrin, IL

Hospital and Southern IL Healthcare Cancer Registrar's Office, Cancer Institute, Carterville, IL

JALC Medical Billing and Coding Certificate

Illinois Real Estate Academy, Springfield, Illinois

Former IL Licensed Real Estate Broker, License #475.119083

John A. Logan College – Carterville, Illinois

Associate of Applied Science Degree (two courses remained when the program ended) in Real-time Judicial Court Reporting Program, and attained Real-time Captioning Scopist certificate

University of Illinois at Springfield – Springfield, Illinois

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Legal Studies, Political Studies (minor)

American Bar Association Accredited Legal Assistant, Paralegal certificate

Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration (hours completed)

Lincoln University/College – Lincoln, Illinois

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Secretarial Science and Business/Psychology

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Certified Electronic Reporter (CER), Designation #1018, Digital Professional Court Reporter

- Certified Professional Secretary (CPS)/Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) (Six Domains, now known as: Certified Administrative Professional)
- Florida Professional Reporter (FPR), Designation #742
- Registered Health Information Technologist (RHIT) (now Six Domains: Data Content, Structure, and Information Governance; Access, Disclosure, Privacy, and Security; Data Analytics and Use; Revenue Cycle Management; Compliance; and Leadership), Registration #210595
- NCRA Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), passed written knowledge portion
- NVRA Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR), passed written knowledge portion
- Realtime voice writing court reporting via Dragon Speech Professional Individual 15 & Total Eclipse & Case CATalyst professional court reporting CAT software for legal & medical transcript production.
- Trained via Voice Writing Solutions, Inc., Diane Gaffoglio, CVR, CVR-CM, RBC, RCP, RVR
- Trained via Realtime Voice Academy, Inc., Dessa Van Schuyver, CCR-GA
- Illinois Remote Online Notary, and Illinois Notary Public, #935859; My Commission Expires 07.21.2025 (This includes two times passed national background checks), have \$100,000.00 errors and omissions coverage and hold a \$30,000.00 notary bond.
- National Notary Association (NNA) Notary Signing Agent, November 3, 2021 to Present

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

State of Illinois, Springfield and Lincoln, Illinois – 26½ years' full-time career

Executive 2/Social Security Liaison & SSDI-SSI Coord. (full-time), IL Dept. of Human Services, Ofc. of Rehab. Services

- SSA Reimbursement Liaison; Manager of the SSDI-SSI Office where my team and I brought in over \$40 million in reimbursement to assist IL's individuals w/disabilities attain substantial employment; led the US for 4 consecutive quarters in total number of cases reimbursed & dollars reimbursed by an individual state agency
- Wrote white papers on supportive employment for the Illinois Office of the Governor
- Testified for US Congressional Record, Denver, CO for supportive employment & individuals with disabilities
- Served on Governor's steering committee taskforce for One-Stop Shopping among state and federal agencies to assist with digital data interfacing, optimum services and savings to our citizens and taxpayers
- Served on the agency's Illinois Gift Ban Act Committee dealing with Ethics Focus and employee compliance

Clerk Stenographer 3, Secretary 1 and 2; Accountant Supervisor (full-time), Executive Secretary 3,

Administrative Assistant 1 and 2, and Executive 1 and 2 (full-time), Executive 2/Budget Analyst (all full-time)

IL Dept. of Mental Health & Dev. Disabilities, IL Dept. of Rehabilitation Services, Fiscal Operations Bureau, Accounting Division; Budget Division; IL Dept. of Transportation, Office of Public Affairs; IL Dept. of Corrections, Business Ofc., & IL Dept. of Human Services, Ofc. of Rehabilitation Services, Budget Division

Illinois Lobbyist, ID #8333, CY 2018, for IL; President and Founder of IL Verbatim Reporters Association (ILVRA)

City of Lincoln, Illinois

City Administrator, 07.16.2018 – 04.30.2021 (full-time)

- Chief Executive with multiple duties managing day-to-day operations; reported to Mayor and City Alderpersons, Economic Development Coordinator; worked w/City and County, LEAD Group, Vendors, and Citizens to promote economic growth and assist our Residents and Businessowners; Creator & Charter Member of the Lincoln Economic Development Grant Commission (LEDGC)
- Grant writing and coordination w/\$3.8 million in COVID received and pending grant dollars as of 04.30.2021
- City's Fifth Street Road Coordinator; closed 17 of 18 remaining land parcels for 2-year-old Street/Road Project

City Mayor, 2001-2009 (part-time paid but full-time active)

- Chief Executive Officer - served as such full-time for 5½ years as City Mayor and City Administrator
- Board Member, Logan County Economic Development Council (eight years), President three years
- Board Member for 10½ years, Logan County Regional Planning Commission (8 years + 2½ years on Logan County Board) and co-author of the Logan County Comprehensive Plan still in effect.
- Created the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, Minorities, Seniors, Veterans, and Youth.

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- Established the City of Lincoln Historic Homes and Buildings Commission – held historic home tours and created the bronze oval plaque Citizens and Businessowners could place on their historic structures.
- Created the Sesquicentennial Committee for our ten-day celebration and worked in harmony with all our established County-wide Committees, local Businessowners, and Vendors.
- Created the Lincoln Heritage Days Event for annual festivities in the downtown streets and parks, utilizing the remaining funds from the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Celebration.
- In 2008, worked on the “1858 Abraham Lincoln’s Last Speech on Lincoln, IL’s Courthouse Steps Re-enactment” in Conjunction with Illinois’ “Looking for Lincoln” Program and City of Lincoln’s “Main Street Lincoln” Committee and Painting dedication.

City Council Recorder, 1982-1998 (part-time, 16½ years)

Illinois Real Estate Broker, License #475.119083

County of Logan, Illinois

Zoning Officer, Economic Development Director, County Broadband Grant Writer, Zoning Board of Appeals Executive Director, and County Enterprise Zone Administrator, 03.16.2022 - 07.31.2023

Logan County Regional Planning Commission Member, Served 10½ Years -- while Mayor of Lincoln eight years and two and-one-half years as a Logan County Board Member. Co-author of the still effective *Logan County Comprehensive Plan*.

Elected Logan County Board Member, 1998-2001 (part-time)

CURRENT EXPERIENCE

- **Certified Notary Signing Agent/Loan Signer & Paralegal Services; 11.03.2021 – Present (freelance LLC)**
- **Illinois Remote Online Notary (RON) (freelance LLC)**
- **Legal Assistant/Paralegal - an ABA-Accredited Paralegal (freelance)**
- **Certified Electronic Court Reporter (CER), Voice Writing Court Reporter,**
- **Certified Illinois Assessing Officer (CIAO), (for Supervisor of Assessments)**
- **Registered Health Information Technologist (RHIT),**
- **General, Legal, and Medical Transcriptionist (freelance LLC)**
- **Computer-Aided Transcription (CAT) Real-time Scopist/Editor, and Proofreader (freelance LLC)**

VOLUNTEERISM – Current and Past

- Current President and Founder of the Re-chartered Logan County Republican Women Club
- Illinois Verbatim Reporters Association (ILVRA), President (*present*)
- Illinois Municipal League, Legislative Committee Member (five years)
- St. Jude’s, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society of IL, March of Dimes, IL Chapter
- Lincoln Area YMCA Soccer Coach, 7½ years
- Lincoln University (Lincoln College)’s First Women’s Soccer Coach
- Three Terms President of Logan County Republican Women, and Currently President and Founder of Rechartered Club
- President of the former We’re Investing Now (WIN) Investment Group, Springfield, IL
- Co-Coordinator for US President George W. Bush’s Whistle Stop Amtrak Rally in Lincoln, IL
- Elected two terms as East Lincoln 2 Precinct Committeeperson
- Elected District 4, Logan County Board Member in 2022
- Past Member of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital Healthy Community Collaborative Board
- Past Member of the Heartland Community College Advisory Board
- Three Consecutive Years President of the Logan County Economic Development Council
- Paralegal Member of the American Bar Association
- Member of the Lincoln Woman’s Club
- Member of the Lincoln K of C’s Women’s Auxiliary
- Former Member of Carrier Mills, IL’s American Legion Auxiliary
- Member of the Lincoln Elks Lodge

Projects the Lincoln City Council, Logan County Board, and I brought to Lincoln during my two terms as Mayor:

- SYSCO
- Two (2) Dollar General Stores
- Dollar Tree Store and its building complex
- Clothing Stores
- Further Woodlawn Road development to the west with new cross streets for increased business expansion
- Russell Stover candy store
- Hampton Inn
- \$750,000.00 US grant to improve our City's Sewerage Treatment Plant operations
- Retail Stores
- Initial Start of Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital
- Worked on Establishing the Logan County Paramedics Association While on the Logan County Board
- Many Other Projects – All completed with the hard work and cooperation of our Community
- Lincoln Sesquicentennial (150th Year Anniversary) ten-day
- Lincoln Heritage Days Annual Event (created with remaining Lincoln Sesquicentennial Celebration funds in 2003) and held through 2009.
- Established the 4th of July Children's Parade and Fun time with Volunteers, Lincoln Park District, and City and Community Coordination
- Music Entertainment with Festivals Held on the City Streets and in Parks
- Created the City's Information Technology (IT) Committee and sat on that committee.
- Grant Writer for the County-wide Broadband Project and sat on that committee.
- Initiator of the extended One and One-half Mile City of Lincoln Radius for Anticipated Future Economic Growth.

PERSONAL

- Beth is the daughter of the late Grant William Young Johnson of Atlanta, IL, and Mildred Elizabeth Wiggers-Johnson of Hartsburg, IL. Beth is married to Thomas S. Kavelman of Hartsburg, IL, and have three adult children and three adult step-children, and 11 grandchildren. (We are very proud of all of them!)
- Beth is a member of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Lincoln.

PERSONAL NOTE: I want to complete/finalize, as soon as possible, the city's portion of the long-standing Fifth Street Road Project planned with the Logan County Board in 1996 to meet the County's implemented reconstruction portion. (I worked on the Fifth Street Road Project, in various capacities, from its inception while Lincoln City Council Recorder in 1996, to serving as an elected County Board Member for two-and-one-half (2½) years in 1998-2001, Mayor of Lincoln for eight (8) years (2001-2009), and City Administrator for two-and-one-half (2½) years 2018-2021. When I left the position of City Administrator in 2021, I had one more property of the 18 remaining properties to obtain easements from our residents to begin commencement of the city's portion of the road. It is now 2025 and most of the secured easements have expired due to inaction/no follow-up by the current City Council. IDOT Grant monies could or are probably lost and the City of Lincoln may be restricted in its ability to obtain future grants for other, much-needed projects. I am committed to seeing this long-overdue project completed for our Citizens' and Businessowners' needs for continued economic development. Together, let's work to move our City back in shape with peace and prosperity for all!

Please re-elect Beth Davis-Kavelman for a third, four-year term beginning May 1, 2025, so together we can have respect returned to our Alderpersons in the important roles they play in our city, open the lines of honest communication and restore transparency at City Hall, and return our City Council to a democracy rather than continue its current autocratic state. My goal is to make Lincoln, IL affordable and a desirable city in which to live and rear our Children. Please call or email me if you have any questions or comments. God Bless You and our City. Thank you!

ELIZABETH ANN DAVIS-KAVELMAN
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