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McKenna forms exploratory committee for Indiana Secretary of State run in 2010

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA-- Thomas F. McKenna today signaled a run for the Democratic Party nomination for the office of Indiana Secretary of State in the November 2010 election.

“Unfettered access to the ballot - long the bedrock of our democracy - is under attack,” McKenna said. “My years of public service have shown me the importance of civic engagement in the democratic process, and they’ve prepared me to fight for this fundamental right on behalf of the citizens of Indiana.”

McKenna was the executive director of the Indiana Department of Commerce for five years under then Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, after serving one year as the lieutenant governor’s executive assistant for operations. Later during his eight years in the O’Bannon and Kernan administrations, he served as Lt. Gov. Kernan’s chief of staff, then as Gov. Kernan’s deputy chief of staff for policy.

His public service also includes two years as a member of the five-person Indiana Parole Board, and two years as an administrative law judge for the Indiana Department of Labor.

Most recently, McKenna was vice president of labor relations for AK Steel Corporation (West Chester, Ohio). His business experience includes five years in human resources and labor relations for the Midwest Steel division of National Steel (Portage), six years in marketing and tenant support for Browning Investments (Carmel), and one year as vice president of Executive Assets Corp. (Indianapolis).

McKenna’s experience in private law practice includes one year as managing partner for the law firm of Bamberger and Feibleman (Indianapolis), and five years as a member of the firm of Kenefick, Brennan & Gilmore (Michigan City), during which time he also served for one year as deputy prosecuting attorney for LaPorte County.

A native of Madison, Indiana, McKenna earned B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He currently serves on the board of trustees of Martin University (Indianapolis) and is a former member of the board of trustees of the University of Southern Indiana (Evansville). He resides in Carmel.