

Good afternoon.

And Welcome to the first day.

Intro Guests

My name is Robert Abboud, and I want to be your next representative in the United States Congress.

This is not something I was **born** to do, although public service has **always** been a passion.

This is not something I ever **planned** to do, although contributing to my community and my country has **always** been a critical part of my life.

This is not something I **expected** I would **need** to do.

Of course, like you, I thought that the people we send to serve us in Washington would do a **better** job than they have.

But **not** all of them **do**.

When people ask me **why** I'm running, I say I've grown **tired** of watching the news and **throwing** things at my TV. I have grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and I **cannot** in good conscience leave them

- a **crushing** \$9 trillion debt,
- fueled by an economy that has **lost** its strategic manufacturing base,
- fueled by a **misdirected** military action that costs \$12 billion a **month**.

And I **cannot** leave my grandchildren with a global climate **threatened** by **ignorance** and **greed**.

The **serious challenges** we face need **thoughtful approaches**, if the nation, and the world, and the communities, we leave to our grandchildren are what we **wish** for them to **have**.

I'm running for Congress to help **put our country *back on track***.

I want my grandchildren to **know** that the **people who lead** the **smartest, strongest, richest** nation can **actually deal** with the biggest challenges that face us, **not** just engage in “bumper sticker politics.”

I’m running for Congress because I am a firm believer that **debt** is the **greatest threat** to our future. Thomas Jefferson said:

"I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest of dangers. To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt."

Smart words then; smart words today

I’m running for Congress for **my** grandchildren and for **yours...**

- for our **country...**
- for our **community...**
- for my **neighbors** and my **friends,**
- for **Democrats** and **Republicans** and **independents**
- and **EVERY** person in this district.

Times have changed. And it’s **time** for a **change.**

I am the President of the Village of Barrington Hills, located just down I-90 from this spot. And I see **daily** what **effective, responsive** government can do to help our communities **work** and **feel** the way we **want**, and to make the **lives** of the people living there **safer** and more **satisfying**.

Because Barrington Hills sits in four separate counties, I work **regularly** with many regional governments -- from other city and village bodies, to county boards, to the legislature in Springfield.

And I've come to realize that **government** can be

- **energetic,**
- **forward-thinking,**
- **caring,**
- **thoughtful,**
- **responsive**
- **and *effective*.**

And from the people I've worked with, I've seen what **good public servants** can accomplish.

Some of them are with us today.

I am a nuclear engineer by training, and, perhaps more than most people, I am **not satisfied** with **simple answers**, or **walking away** because a problem **seems** too hard to solve.

Especially where the lives of **real people** – our **friends**, our **family**, our **neighbors** – are concerned.

From talking to men and women all over this district,
from Rockton to Rockford to Rochelle,
from Crystal Lake to Mount Carrol,
from Genoa to Galena,
I've come to learn which qualities people value when it comes
time to vote.

I certainly know what **I** want.

- I want my representative in congress to be a **leader**.
And so do you.
- I want my representative in congress to be a **learner**.
And so do you
- I want my representative in congress to be a **listener**.
And so do you.

But my current congressman is **not** a leader -- If he wanted to **lead**, he wouldn't be such a **consistent follower** of **failed policy**.

- A **follower** of the **politics of the past**.
- A **follower** of **big business**,
- **big money**
- And **big shots** who think **they** can decide the direction of the country without listening to **us**.

We deserve better.

My congressman is **not** a **leader...** and he is **not** a **learner**. By now -- after 15 years on the job -- you would think that he would have learned how to write and pass more than **six** bills.

We deserve better.

Our congressman is **not** a **leader...** **not** a **learner...** **and** not a **listener**.

People in this country, people in this district, have been pleading

- **ever** more frequently,
- **ever** more loudly and
- **ever** more urgently

To get our troops out of a protracted civil war where we are wasting 12 billion dollars and losing dozens of precious American lives each month.

Our congressman doesn't listen.

If we are not being **heard**, we are not being **served**.

People in this district **cry out** for **stable, well-paying** jobs.

But our congressman **supports failed policies** like CAFTA and NAFTA that have made our country **less** competitive sending our **good jobs** overseas.

Are YOU being heard?

You have **hollered** about the **massive** taxes you pay to support the **staggering** national debt created by our congressman's support of failed **economic** policies, which have left our country in debt to countries like Japan, China, and Iran.

Are *YOU* being heard?

You have **complained bitterly** about the **huge** deficit run up over the years, due to failed policies supported by our congressman, leaving this country in **mind-boggling** debt to countries like China.

Are *YOU* being heard?

You've been **loud and clear** about the public education you want your children to receive.

Yet our congressman supports **ineffective policies** like No Child Left Behind.

Are *YOU* being heard?

You've **howled** about a healthcare system that has become a living nightmare for thousands of middle class families right here in our district, in many cases **driven to poverty** in order to **stay alive**.

Are YOU being heard?

You've **screamed** about gasoline prices that clip a **bigger** and **bigger** chunk out of your paychecks, while oil companies make **record** profits and our **debt to foreign governments** grows **exponentially**.

Are YOU being heard?

And you've **wept** seeing our **best and brightest** -- brothers and sisters, sons and daughters -- put in harm's way due to failed policy **rubber stamped** by our congressman.

Are you being heard? Are you being served?

More importantly are the **men** and **women** facing **death** and **danger daily** being served as **courageously** as **they** serve us?

Our America has the ability to be a nation **respected** around the world, not only for its **awesome** military power, but for its

- role as a **global leader** in commerce and technology,
- as an **example** of a **democracy** that works,
- and as a country of **compassion and concern** for the **planetary problems** that face **all** the world's citizens.

Our America can be

- **energetic,**
- **forward-thinking,**
- **caring,**
- **thoughtful,**
- **responsive**
- **and effective,**
- and can **protect** its people from dangers of all kinds.

Our America can **plan** and **invest** for future generations to live **more secure** and **satisfying lives** if we make the **right choices** of **leadership**.

Does it take a nuclear engineer to figure out that there **has to be** a **better way** to answer your most **urgent** concerns?

Well, I'm a nuclear engineer, and even *I* can't figure out why this congressman hasn't been able to **listen** to the people who **want more than anything to get our country back on track.**

The people of Dekalb & Carrol Counties know we can do better.
The people of JoDaviess & Whiteside Counties know we can do better.

The people of Stephenson & Ogle Counties know we can do better.

The people of McHenry & Boone Counties know we can do better.

The people of Winnebago County know we can do better.

And they want a new choice.

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Robert Abboud, and I ask to be your choice...

- your choice for more responsive government,
- your choice for more energetic action
- and your choice for more effective representation as your next United States Congressman.

Thank you all and have a great day!