



Alloway seeks Senate seat

By Lauren McLane The Record Herald

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CHAMBERSBURG - Exactly one week after resigning his position as magisterial district judge, Republican Richard "Rich" L. Alloway II officially announced his candidacy for the 33rd district state Senate seat.

The seat is currently held by Rep. Terry L. Punt, R-Waynesboro, who announced last week that he is retiring. Alloway, 39, vowed spend time "listening, learning and producing," but also "to make an immediate difference in Harrisburg."

Goals and plans

Alloway said he supports more openness and transparency in government. "That's how I ran my MDJ office and that's what I'll do in Harrisburg," he said. "There should be nothing to hide."

He also named health care as a concern. "We must produce a health care system that is not only accessible but affordable to Pennsylvania residents." He cited the concern he has for senior citizens who are forced to choose between life-saving drugs and food or heat.

He also said that Franklin and Adams counties need "to balance the needs of employers with the desires of employees," saying that people needed to be able not just to find jobs but to find "family-sustaining jobs."

He also addressed head-on the charge by fellow candidate Jim Taylor, a Mercersburg Republican, that he is a political insider.

"I've been painted as an insider, but that person is the current county (Republican) committee chairman, and he runs his own PAC (Political Action Committee). He will not relinquish his chair, so I ask you, 'Who's the insider?' I'm an insider of Franklin and Adams counties."

Alloway has lived his entire life in Franklin County. Taylor was born and raised in Philadelphia and then lived in northern Virginia for many years before moving to Franklin County in 2003.

Local support

More than 70 people crowded into Alloway's campaign headquarters at 62 S. Main St. to hear the announcement. Local VIPs present included newly elected county sheriff Dane Anthony, who is Alloway's campaign chair, county coroner Jeffrey Conner, clerk of courts William Vandrow and former county commissioner Warren Elliott.

Anthony said he was supporting Alloway because "I've known Rich for 25 years. He's been like a little brother to me. He's a good friend of the family. I have a sense of loyalty to Rich."

Alloway also has the backing of Punt, who has said he intends to actively support Alloway but will not endorse any one candidate.

Background

Alloway and his wife, Shannon, a respiratory therapist at Waynesboro Hospital, have been married since 2004. He graduated from Chambersburg Area Senior High School in 1986 and Shippensburg University in 1993. He worked for Punt for several years before deciding to attend law school. He graduated from Widener School of Law, Harrisburg, in 2002. He ran for the district judge's position in 2003 and took the bar the same year.

Other candidates

Alloway joins a field of four other candidates, three Republicans and one Democrat.

Republicans James Taylor III, of Mercersburg, Catherine A. Cresswell of Buchanan Valley and Robert "Bob" E. Curley of Waynesboro already have declared their intentions to run, as has Democrat Neil Clifford of New Oxford.