

## **Punt supports Alloway**

### **Public Opinion Online**

By JIM HOOK

Senior writer

State Sen. Terry Punt, R-Waynesboro, is putting his support behind Richard Alloway.

A week after being hospitalized for congestive heart failure, Punt met with Alloway on Saturday, to express his support to Alloway's campaign committee.

"He can do the job on the first day," Punt said. "He understands the process. He worked for me for five years. I will help Rich in any way I can."

Three other Republicans submitted petitions by Tuesday to appear on ballots in the Republican Primary on April 22 for the 33rd Senatorial District seat -- businessman Bob Curley of Washington Township, Franklin County Republican Party Chairman Jim Taylor and former state Senate staffer and former president of the Adams County Economic Development Corp., Catherine A. Cresswell.

Punt said he will finish the 10 months remaining in his term. The longest serving senator from the 33rd District, Punt announced last month he would not seek another term for health reasons and to spend more time with his family.

"I was all set to run again, then I got my (health) test results," he said. "Last weekend showed me I made a right decision."

Punt spent Feb. 2 and 3 in the hospital after calling 911 for congestive heart failure, he said.

"I got that taken care of," Punt said. "I will be working up to my last day."

Punt said his support for Alloway is not an endorsement. He declined to differentiate between support and endorse.

"I've never endorsed a candidate," Punt said. "If I believe in a candidate strongly enough, I will support them. I want to see a good person do a good job for the district. I believe Rich Alloway is the person."

Other candidates were not surprised by Punt's announcement of support.

Taylor had announced his intention to run before Punt announced his intention to retire.

"I challenged him and I was fairly critical without naming him," Taylor said. "I cited the pay raise and people who stay in office for many years. My whole appeal to voters is contrary to Terry Punt's.

I expected him to get someone to run against me, someone who would basically be (his) clone."

"Terry Punt told me he was going to support Alloway a couple of weeks ago," Curley said. "I don't know if it's good or bad. I entered the race to give the voters a choice. It isn't often a seat opens up.

There's such a short time frame not a lot of people can respond that quickly to get in the race, so I got in the race. I didn't expect to be endorsed by Terry Punt or the Republican Party.

The only endorsement that matters to me is the endorsement of the people, which will be decided April 22."

Alloway said he was humbled by his former boss's faith in him.

"I'm thrilled to have Terry's support because he believes I'm the best candidate to fill the job," Alloway said. "I don't know how you can measure (Punt's) support. It's a huge plus for me."

"Terry had a lot of people working for him and supporting him," Alloway said. "Certainly to have Terry come out and say he supports me shows them if he has confidence in me, they should have confidence in me as well."

Alloway resigned his elected position of magisterial district judge to run for senator.