

Two Mull Run for Hooker Assembly Seat

Two Greene County residents have announced they will explore the possibility of running for the state Assembly seat in the 127th District on the Republican line in this year's election.

County Legislator Michael Camadine of Cairo and attorney Mathew Tully of Hunter have each said they are looking into whether to make a bid for the seat that will be vacated by Assemblyman Daniel Hooker, R-Saugerties. Hooker, a major in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, announced earlier this week he would not seek re-election due to his military obligations.

In a press release Thursday, Camadine said he plans to campaign because it is essential someone who understands how people live and work in the district run to represent it. He said parts of the district are rural and filled with small businesses, while others are on the verge of dynamic economic development.

The 127th Assembly District includes the Ulster County town of Saugerties, parts of Greene, Columbia, Delaware, Otsego and Chenango counties, and all of Schoharie County.

Camadine said he is an ordinary citizen who wants to serve his community. He added that his years of management experience will enable him to properly represent the business community of the district, which he characterized as sprawling and with diverse needs.

"The individual who is running for that district needs to be committed to providing the service that these communities need, as well as working along side with Sen. (James) Seward in pushing forth the district's agenda," Camadine said.

On Thursday, Tully said he is considering running for Hooker's seat and has spoken to five of the seven Republican chairmen representing counties in the assembly district. He said if the reaction is favorable, which it had been so far, he will launch an exploratory committee. Tully said he still needed to speak to the GOP chairmen of Schoharie and Otsego counties.

Through the exploratory committee, Tully said he would get a consensus of the Republican committee members in the district to see if they would support his campaign.

"If they are, then I would formally announce in April that I would like to be the next assemblyman for the 127th district," he said.

Tully, who is the founding partner of the law firm Tully, Rinkey & Associates, said he wants to serve his community, which has been good to him. A major in the Army National Guard, he added that as an attorney he has two of the qualities most needed in an assemblyman: the ability to draft laws and the ability to negotiate to get the bills passed.