

Field Narrows in Race for Assembly Seat

Greene County Legislator Michael Camadine has decided to seek re-election to his current post rather than run for the state Assembly seat in the 127th District.

Camadine, R-Cairo, said the cost and time involved in running for the Assembly would have been too much.

"I have a lot of commitments," Camadine said of his decision not to run for the state seat.

Besides serving on the county Legislature, Camadine is on the board of directors of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County and the steering committee that's helping craft a countywide economic development plan. He also is chairman of Legislature's Education Committee, which is working with Columbia-Greene Community College to build a large conference center on the Greenport campus.

Besides economic development, Camadine said Greene County needs to address its ambulance needs, hopefully through an independent and unbiased task force.

And Camadine's hometown of Cairo "seems to be floundering without direction" and needs attention, he said.

Camadine said he's done a good job during his first three-year term as a legislator and has a solid record to run on. He also said he looks forward to continuing his partnership with fellow Legislator William Lawrence, R-Cairo, who also is seeking re-election.

Both Camadine and Lawrence received the endorsement of the Cairo Republican Committee on Thursday.

With Camadine out of the Assembly race, the remaining Republicans seeking the 127th District seat are Schoharie County Clerk Peter Lopez; Hunter attorney Mathew Tully; Ryan MacAlister, an attorney in the governor's counsel's office; and James Powers, a dairy farmer from Otsego County.

They are seeking to succeed Daniel Hooker, R-Saugerties, who has opted against seeking re-election because of his military obligations.

No Democrat has announced plans to run for the seat.

Camadine said he supports Lopez because he "knows the struggles of the citizens of the district."

Camadine also said he and Lopez share concerns about some of the same issues, such as the red tape that small business owners face in rural counties and the need for towns in the New York City watershed to determine their own destinies.

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

