



Hopeful: David Fink is the only Democratic candidate to announce his bid for the 9th District House seat, which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Local Dem gets national support

By PAT MURPHY
Staff Writer
pmurphy@ec.homecomm.net

He's a newcomer to elective politics. But West Bloomfield attorney David Fink is already being touted as a rising star by national Democrats.

Fink — along with five other announced candidates, including Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga — were introduced recently at a press conference in Washington, D.C., featuring House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-Missouri) and U.S. Rep. Nita Lowery (D-New York), who is chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

"These candidates represent our best chance of retaking (control) of the U.S. House," Kim Rubey, committee press spokesperson, said in a phone interview Tuesday. Democrats chose today for the announcement, she said, because the election is about a year away.

"These are some very strong

candidates," said Rubey, "and we're very pleased to have them on the Democratic ticket."

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee will actively support the candidates, said Rubey, which likely means money or other forms of assistance.

Fink is the only Democrat to thus far announce his candidacy in the newly redistricted 9th Congressional District. While the boundaries are subject to legal challenge, the 9th District includes Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Pontiac, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Troy and parts of Oakland,

Orion, Southfield, Waterford and West Bloomfield townships.

Roughly half of the district is currently represented in the U.S. House by Democrats Sander Levin and Dale Kildee. If Fink is the party nominee, as expected, he would likely run against U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills), the incumbent in what is now the 11th District. Knollenberg hasn't formally announced, but he is expected to seek re-election.

Fink said he is "flattered and delighted" by the attention and support. "But I'm also a little awed."

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