

# Redistricting shakes up would-be politico's plans

By Susan DeMaggio staff writer

He was all set to take on Bill Brownfield.

And then came redistricting.

So Republican attorney Ron Chapman, 35, hasn't decided whether to run for U.S. Congress from the new 11th District (includes Birmingham and the Bloomfields west) or the new 12th District (includes Troy-Royal Oak-Southfield east).

"I'll officially announce my candidacy for Congress on Friday, March 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills," he said. "I am not running against any other candidate as much as I am running against Congress itself. I'm tired of the perks, pork and paralysis. It's time for a change."

If Chapman runs in the 12th District and wins that primary, he faces stiff opposition in the general election from an incumbent Democrat either Sander Levin or Dennis Hertel.

If he runs from the 11th District, he must add his name to a primary list which now boasts 18-term congressman Broomfield, R-Birmingham, and state Sen. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

Chapman is president of Chapman & Associates, a law firm in Troy. He lives in Bloomfield Hills with his wife, Lisa, a real estate broker with

Weir, Manuel, Snyder and Ranke. The couple has a school-age son and daughter.

"I DO NOT VIEW my candidacy as a contest against an incumbent or an individual," he said. "The time has come to look hard at the political strictly called Congress. They have not represented the people. They have taken not given. I'm tired of that. I want a change. And what better way than to offer myself as the appropriate candidate to get the job done."

Chapman said he would sacrifice a "dynamic law practice, precious time with my family, a good income, and be away from the community I love" to serve his constituents as their representative in Washington.

If elected, he plans to rent an apartment in D.C. during the week and fly home on weekends. He would keep this up for the next eight years, after which he would no longer seek office. He supports term limitation.

"I say, if eight years was good enough for Washington, Lincoln, Reagan and Bush, it's good enough for me," he said with a grin.

"I would like to hold weekly town hall meetings in my district to stay in touch with the concerns and needs of the community," he said. "I would like to get on the radio a couple of times a month and have listeners call in for question and answer sessions. I would go to Washington with



Ron Chapman

the agenda of focusing on the sole issues of concern to my constituents.

"I AM THE average person walking around in my district," he continued. "I am surrounded by everyday life as a businessman, taxpayer, husband, father and homeowner. I understand the problems of the day."

Chapman said he has three planks in his platform:

- More jobs/less taxes.
- Eliminate government waste and the deficit.
- Abandon pork, perks and paralysis.

He said he would work to balance the budget by cutting out the \$180 billion identified as waste by the Bush administration, trimming the defense budget by hiring out the defense of Europe and Asia, and otherwise effectively streamlining the government.

Chapman does not support national health insurance, but instead suggests "alternative pilot health programs" be tested out in different parts of the country. He supports a tax credit for persons with no health insurance.

"Government has busted the backs of business," he said. "The offshoot of this has been a reduction of jobs. I support unfettered access to absolute free trade which I believe will lead business to create new products and new jobs."

Chapman grew up in Dearborn and served on the Dearborn Board of Education from 1983-85. He said he believes American schools are second to none, but that the educational system has broken apart in many respects because "so has the American family."

"WHAT WE CAN do to help American families," he argued, "is give American families back their jobs."

Chapman claims a broad base of community support, hints at support from Oakland County's Republican Committee, (he was Wayne County Executive Bill Lucas' chief of staff in 1986-87) and said he has the financial means to sustain a tough, aggressive campaign.

"I also plan to call out the executives in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area who are willing without compensation, to sit down to straight-talking nuts and bolts brain sessions. I will not become one of those pompous, conceited people who once they get to Washington, think they know everything. If there's one thing I learned from my father, it's to know what I don't know."

Chapman's father and grandfather worked for the Ford Motor Company.

Chapman's campaign will operate from headquarters in the Troy Place, 643-8067.

## Ex-hostage to address WSU-based peace group

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Detroit Council for World Affairs, Wayne State University, will host Alan Steen, former hostage in Lebanon and journalism professor at Albion College on Saturday, April 4.

Steen will discuss "Press Cover-

age and Captivity" at the 1991 Max Mark Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m. in the Fairlane Manor Conference and Banquet Center, 19000 Hubbard Drive, between Southfield and Evergreen, Dearborn.

For more information, call 577-3453.

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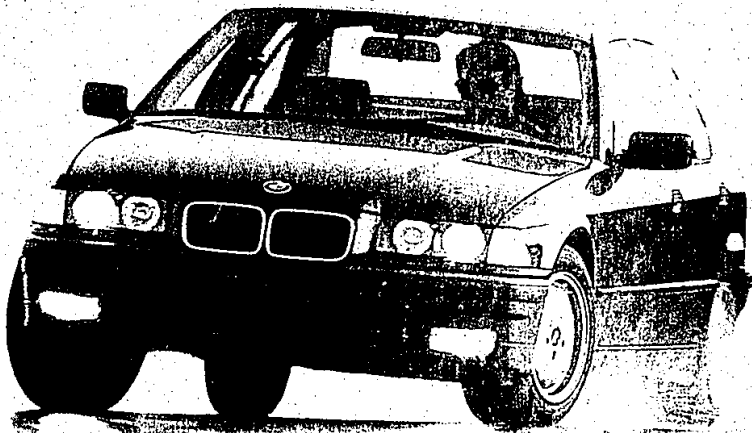
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