

## Bernard Schoenburg: Ald. Edwards has 'had enough' of statewide run

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Springfield Ward 1 Ald. FRANK EDWARDS' statewide ride is over.

"I'm no longer a candidate for governor," he told me Wednesday.

This isn't a big surprise. Edwards, a former Springfield fire chief who is in his second four-year term as alderman, was quite the long shot beginning last spring, when he launched a Web site as a possible candidate for governor.

But Edwards, who bought a used firetruck and embellished it with his "Had Enough?" slogan, says it's been fun.

Just last weekend, he said, he had a great time cooking fish in Bond County.

"I really had a great experience working with a lot of people," he said.

While he knew his travels would take a lot of time, Edwards said he didn't count on controversies over high-speed rail upgrades on the Third Street corridor and city budget problems. He said he's been concentrating on those issues and thinks he needs to devote time to his current office.

"You can't do two good jobs at one time," he said.

Edwards and his wife, CINDA, also own Springfield Auto Body.

While his gubernatorial Web site has gone dark, he said, he received about 1,000 requests for "Had Enough?" bumper stickers. His campaign probably cost less than \$10,000, he said, including \$5,000 for the firetruck. Campaign signs are being removed from the truck, which could still be used for parades or to loan out to groups for events such as homecoming celebrations, Edwards said.

Edwards has been talked about in the past as a possible candidate for mayor. He said his future political moves are not yet decided.

"You never know what will happen," Edwards said.

### Forum at UIS

Several remaining candidates for governor are slated to participate in a forum from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Brookens Auditorium at the University of Illinois Springfield. The College Republicans at UIS and the Illinois College Republican Foundation are hosting the event, which is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served afterward.

Among candidates planning to attend are state Sens. KIRK DILLARD and BILL BRADY, DuPage County Board Chairman BOB SCHILLERSTROM, businessman ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI and political activist DAN PROFT.

KELSEY QUINN, secretary of UIS College Republicans, said board members of her organization and audience members will be able to ask the candidates questions.

### Backtracking

State Treasurer ALEXI GIANNOULIAS, who is running for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, got ahead of himself when talking about endorsements this week.

"I'm very proud that I've been endorsed by every county in the state of Illinois — every Democratic organization from every county in the state," he told reporters in Springfield.

He said he was talking about an endorsement from the Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association, which he did receive. But he also claimed, when asked, that each individual county group, including Sangamon County Democrats, had endorsed him.

Wrong.

"We haven't endorsed anybody for anything," said JIM MOODY, Sangamon County Democratic chairman. "We probably will not make endorsements for any of the primary races. That's just my guess."

"He misspoke on the exact characterization," said TOM BOWEN, deputy campaign manager for Giannoulis. Bowen said several county organizations are not making endorsements in the race. He did say that Giannoulis claims to have endorsements from people who represent at least some of the territory in each of the state's counties.

Other Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate are CHERYLE JACKSON, who has been head of the Chicago Urban League and formerly was top spokeswoman for then-Gov. ROD BLAGOJEVICH; former city of Chicago inspector general DAVID HOFFMAN; and JACOB MEISTER, a Chicago lawyer whose name could become better known if he spends all the money he's putting into the effort.

KAREN CRAVEN of Oak Lawn, formerly a Springfield spokeswoman for Comptroller DAN HYNES and the State Board of Education, is now a spokeswoman for Meister. She said Meister is reporting \$1,057,000 raised in the third quarter, including a \$1 million loan to himself and a \$30,000 donation to himself. He did raise the other \$27,000 from other people.

Meister has practiced law in Chicago for nearly 20 years. Craven described Meister as "an independent Democrat ... who happens to be gay."

"He's already put his mark on the campaign by entering it," she said.

Both Giannoulas and Hoffman have come out in favor of legalized gay marriage.

Bowen said Meister's entrance into the race had nothing to do with Giannoulas' position on the issue.

"Alexi had meetings on the topic in May of this year, and his position paper was formalized weeks before anyone in the state even knew who Mr. Meister was," Bowen said.

"Cheryle supports the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act," said Jackson spokesman BOB KETTLEWELL of federal legislation that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman and allows states not to recognize same-sex marriages from other states. "Her position is that the federal government shouldn't dictate this matter to the states. She supports civil unions as the way to expand and ensure civil rights for gay and lesbian partners."

#### **Barnes here for Schock**

Fox News contributor FRED BARNES is headlining re-election campaign kickoff events on Monday for U.S. Rep. AARON SCHOCK, R-Peoria.

Included is a \$125-per-person luncheon at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The event begins with a reception at 11:30 a.m. The program at noon.

A \$250-a-person dinner will be held later at the Peoria home of HARRY and KATHY PUTERBAUGH.

Barnes is executive editor of The Weekly Standard magazine.

#### **Best wishes**

Best wishes for a quick recovery for KEITH TAYLOR, chief of staff to Comptroller Hynes. Taylor had an emergency appendectomy Friday at Memorial Medical Center.

He was recuperating at home as of Wednesday.

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