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Arcuri Faces 2008 Re-Match

By Emily Cadei | January 20, 2010 12:31 PM | Permalink | Comments (0)

Businessman **Richard Hanna** is taking another shot at unseating Rep. **Michael Arcuri** (D-N.Y.).

In a statement on his Web site, Hanna writes, "I am running as an Independent minded, pragmatic American who believes that it is government's responsibility to clear the way for individuals to solve problems, to foster all those productive economic and educational elements that create jobs and opportunity."

The statement also said Hanna intends to "have an official campaign kickoff in the coming weeks."

Republicans have been working to lure Hanna, who lost the 2008 race to Arcuri 52 to 48 percent, into the 2010 race for months. But except for a mid-November press release criticizing Arcuri's vote on the House health care bill, he had remained silent on the political front.

His entry into the race give Republicans a legitimate challenger for the 24th district seat, which had been in Republican hands for more than 60 years until Arcuri's 2006 open-seat win.

The central New York district, which includes the towns of Utica and Rome, voted narrowly for Barack Obama (D) in the 2008 presidential race but went for President George W. Bush (R) by 6 percentage points in 2004.

UPDATE: The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee repoded to Hanna's entry into the race by highlighting his ties to "rightwing extremist group," the CATO Institute, a libertarian-leaning Washington think tank. "Hanna's out of touch principles remain at odds with the best interest of Upstate New Yorkers and as a result, he shouldn't expect this second campaign to end any differently than his first," the DCCC said in a release.

CQ Politics rates the general election contest **Leans Democrat**.

To follow all the 2010 House races, check out the **CQ Politics election map**).

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