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## Republican Hanna to seek rematch with Utica Democrat Michael Arcuri for 24th Congressional District seat

By John Mariani / The Post-Standard

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Barneveld, NY -- Richard Hanna, the Oneida County businessman who unsuccessfully tried to unseat Rep. Michael Arcuri in 2008, intends to run against him again this year.

Hanna said he plans to file papers declaring his candidacy for the 24th congressional district seat with the Federal Election Commission and will seek the Republican, Conservative and Independence parties' endorsements. His campaign already has launched a **Web site**.

Hanna polled 120,880 votes on those lines in 2008, 9,919 fewer than Arcuri on the Democratic and Working Families ballots. Arcuri, D-Utica, was defending the seat he first won in 2006.

"We are fostering a political system that spends most of its time at war with itself ignoring its responsibilities to its citizens and the future," Hanna said in a prepared statement. "As we live through the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression every American's share of our multitrillion-dollar debt is over \$184,000. If we do not begin to act responsibly and with urgency we risk being the last generation to pass to our children the full promise of our upstate community and this nation."

The announcement came as the Republicans celebrated Scott Brown's victory in Massachusetts' special election to fill the seat of Democratic icon, the late U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

"Michael Arcuri should review the Massachusetts election results closely because it's clear that voters, especially independents, are motivated to stop the Obama-Pelosi big government agenda he supports," said Tory Mazzola, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "Frustrated by Arcuri's partisan record, Central New Yorkers want an independent voice in Congress that fights to create jobs, cut spending and lower taxes. Richard Hanna will provide that leadership and put people back to work."

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said Hanna's policies are out of touch with the best interests of the district and blasted his ties with the CATO Institute, which it labeled a "right wing extremist group."

"The fact that Hanna is touting his leadership role in a group that prides its commitment to unfair trade policies that send American jobs overseas is downright shameful," said Shripal Shah, speaking for the Democratic committee. "What Republicans like Richard Hanna fail to grasp is that these are exactly the kinds of George Bush policies that got our economy in this mess in the first place and now is the time to turn the page, not go back."

The **24th district** encompasses all or parts of 11 counties and includes Utica, Rome, Cortland and Auburn.

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Dennis Nett / The Post-Standard

Democratic incumbent Michael Arcuri listens to Republican challenger Richard Hanna at a Post-Standard editorial board meeting in 2008. The men appear destined for a rematch this year for the 24th Congressional District seat.