

News

Molinaro not ruling out run for Congress

Thursday, January 28, 2010

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STATE Assemblyman Marc Molinaro is being urged to run for Congress, but the man who once was a 19-year-old mayor isn't sure he's going to heed that call.

I'm inclined to continue taking on the challenges and the issues facing new York," said Molinaro, R-Red Hook. "That said, I wouldn't want to rule (a run for Congress) out of hand."

He said he would make a final determination within "a few weeks."

Molinaro said that over the past several weeks, he's been called on by party officials, civic and elected officials to consider running this fall for the 20th Congressional District seat currently held by Democrat Scott Murphy of Glens Falls. Molinaro declined to say who has asked him to consider running.

He said that while he is inclined to stay put, at least for the time being, "out of respect for them, and for my own sake, I am considering it."

"Six months ago, the concept of running for this office would have been a little bit foreign to me, but I'm giving this due diligence," he said.

Molinaro said a number of considerations will weigh on his decision, including his position within the state Assembly and the best interests of his family.

Molinaro is the father of two young children and is a newly appointed member of the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee.

"I'm really engaged in trying to address the problems facing the state of New York," he said. "I really have been delving in as a member of the Ways and Means Committee and becoming engaged in shining light on some of the problems facing the state and facing New Yorkers. I feel like I'm making an impact."

New York's 20th Congressional District stretches from Northern Dutchess to the Adirondacks. Murphy was elected in the district last year over Republican James Tedisco in a special election to succeed Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand. Gillibrand, D-Greenport, had been appointed by Gov. David Paterson to the U.S. Senate seat formerly held by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Molinaro, 34, first was elected to public office at age 18, when he became a member of the Tivoli Village Board. He was elected mayor of the Northern Dutchess village a year later.

He then became a Dutchess County legislator before being elected to the state Assembly's 103rd District seat in 2006 and 2008.

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