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David begins campaign for Binghamton mayoral post Republican candidate vows to run clean race against Ryan



BY JOHN HILL • JOHNHILL@GANNETT.COM • STAFF WRITER • FEBRUARY 27, 2009

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BINGHAMTON - Richard C. David pledged Thursday to run a clean campaign in his bid to become mayor of Binghamton.



JOHN HILL / Staff Photo

Rich David announces his mayoral campaign Thursday. (Buy this photo)

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David, the former deputy mayor, said he would run a positive campaign that would "not focus on the mistakes of Matt Ryan and his administration," but would "focus on how Rich David will improve this city and make Binghamton a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Though it's been known for weeks, David formally announced his candidacy on Thursday during a fundraiser at Terra Cotta, the downtown catering business he recently purchased.

Mayor Matthew T. Ryan faces his first re-election campaign this year, after winning a hotly contested three-way race in 2005.

"We look forward to a good campaign about the issues," Ryan said in a telephone interview after David's speech. "We plan to talk about how much we've done with being left so little."

David, 32, the public affairs officer at Broome Community College, said the city needs to focus on core services like public safety, sanitation, snow removal, code enforcement and street repairs. Those services need to be provided at a lower cost, he said.

"Quite simply, we need to reduce expenses and do more with less," David said. "Inaction is not an option and we can no longer avoid making tough decisions because they might be unpopular."

Debra Preston, Broome County Republican Committee chairwoman, said David's address struck a different tone than Ryan's a night earlier in his State of the City speech. While Ryan spent much of his speech talking about the past, David talked about the future, Preston said.

The 2005 mayoral race was marked by mud-slinging and was considered by many to be the one of most negative local races in recent memory.

Ryan said Republicans promised a clean campaign in 2005, as well. The Broome County Republican Committee, not chaired by Preston at the time, acknowledged sending out negative mailers that attacked Ryan for choosing a career as a public defender.

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