

Russell running for 51st seat

By Hillary Dickerson
Editor

SAUK CITY
— Shullsburg native Nathan Russell has always been fascinated by the political process. Now that he's a father, with three little girls of his own, the future holds new meaning, especially when it comes to education, health care and job creation.



Nathan Russell

It's with the latter in mind that Russell filed to run for the 51st Assembly District seat in the upcoming November election. The district, which encompasses Lafayette and Iowa counties, the southern portion of Sauk and three townships in Richland County, is currently represented by Dodgeville Democrat Steve Hilgenberg.

"I really am a firm believer we need a different person to advocate for the whole district," said

Russell, see p. 15

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Russell files as candidate for 51st

Russell from front

Russell Monday afternoon. Russell believes he would bring to the table the unique experience of living the majority of his life in Lafayette County and now residing with his wife, Jennifer, and daughters, Reagan, Madison and Taylor, in Sauk City.

The district is unique, Russell continued, and he believes it should be a priority for the person representing the area to draw on the unique points and work for change.

"We're sick and tired of people promising things," explained Russell, noting the promises that often go unanswered while leaving district residents frustrated with the process in general.

As representative for the

area in Madison, Russell said he would fight for the best interests of his constituents. "I understand the problems that area residents face on a daily basis because we continue to face them within our growing family," said Russell. "It is essential that we have representation that will make sure these concerns are addressed by the state Legislature."

After the 2006 election and the partisanship that really "racketed up," he saw it as his time to lead the district in a different direction. Although everyone can talk about change, Russell said, it's entirely different to actually bring it about.

"It is easy to see that the status quo in Madison has not changed despite promises that it would," Russell related. "We have dealt with

partisan bickering and lack of progress on vital issues for too long. Only a fresh voice, willing to answer only to the voters, will be able to help shake up the status quo. I will be that fresh voice who will fight for the issues that impact us every day: health care, education and job creation."

Russell's roots in the district, and Lafayette County in particular, run deep.

The son of Bruce and Sandy Russell, rural Shullsburg, his family has owned and operated their family farm for over 150 years.

"The values and common-sense approach that I learned growing up on my family's dairy farm will allow me to help tone down the partisanship that has engulfed the

capital and find real solutions for Wisconsin," said Russell.

A graduate of Shullsburg High School and UW-Madison with a degree in agricultural economics, Russell is currently finishing his law degree as he works at an area credit union as an agricultural lender.

A teacher and former school board member, Russell served as an FFA advisor for the top chapter in the nation during the two years he and his family lived in Minnesota.

Russell was named Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Excellence in Agriculture Award winner and was the past president of the Wisconsin FFA Association.

He is a member of the United Methodist Church and Wisconsin Farm Bureau.