GOP attorney Hawley to run for Missouri attorney general

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. - Republican attorney and University of Missouri School of Law associate professor Josh Hawley announced plans Thursday to run for state attorney general.

The 35-year-old from Columbia said in an online video that he's running on a conservative platform and planned to "stand up for the Constitution, to stand up for our liberties and stand up for the values of Missourians" if he's elected. Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster has said he plans to run for Missouri governor in 2016.
Hawley faces a likely primary with Republican state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, another Columbia lawyer. Democrats Sen. Scott Sifton of Affton and St. Louis County Assessor Jake Zimmerman also are running for attorney general.

Hawley, who has never before run for elected office, touted himself as a political outsider.

"If you want a schmoozer and a back-slapper, then elect another politician to be attorney general," Hawley said in an interview with The Associated Press in advance of his official announcement. "But if you want someone who has the expertise to stand up in the Supreme Court of the United States and defend our liberties and defend our values, then elect a constitutional lawyer."

Schaefer, who previously worked as assistant state attorney general and special prosecutor, in a Thursday statement cited his record prosecuting criminals.

"I know that conservatives in Missouri will demand an attorney general who doesn't need training wheels," Schaefer said. "I will be ready from day one."

Schaefer also already has about $1.38 million to spend on a campaign. Hawley starts with nothing.

Hawley previously served as a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. He also was part of a team of about 15 lawyers in a U.S. Supreme Court case in which Hobby Lobby and other businesses challenged a federal requirement to provide insurance coverage for contraceptives for employees. The high court ultimately ruled that corporations can hold religious objections that allow them to opt of the birth control requirement of the Affordable Care Act enacted under President Barack Obama.

Attorney General Chris Koster's spokeswoman Nanci Gonder said while most death penalty cases are appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the attorney general rarely argues other cases in the high court. She said she recalls Koster representing the state in only one such case since he was elected in 2008.

The attorney general's office focuses on consumer protection cases, represents the state in criminal appeals such as death penalty cases and defends state laws and agencies against lawsuits. The attorney general also can enforce Missouri's open meetings and records law and can sue or take other action to protect the state's rights.
MU Law professor announces bid for Missouri Attorney General


Updated: Jul 23, 2015 11:20 PM


COLUMBIA - A University of Missouri law professor and former U.S. Supreme Court clerk announced his campaign for Missouri Attorney General Thursday.

Josh Hawley, of Boone County, sent a video announcement to supporters across the state.

"In legislatures and agencies at every level of government, radical liberals are passing laws and regulations that attack every constitutional freedom we cherish," Hawley said. "We have to beat them at the Supreme Court."

Hawley is a native of Lexington, Missouri, and a graduate of both Stanford University and Yale Law School.

He was a co-counsel for Hobby Lobby in the Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores Inc. Supreme Court ruling, in which the court ruled Hobby Lobby had the right to claim a religious exception from the contraceptives mandate of the Affordable Care Act.

Hawley is a conservative and recently has spoken out against the Supreme Court's gay marriage ruling.

"This summer we watched as the Supreme Court took America further from its founding principles and you know the liberals will only keep pushing," Hawley said. "As Missouri's top lawyer, I will push back."

Hawley's campaign said this is his first campaign for elected office.

Hawley authors Op-Eds for the Wall Street Journal and USA Today.
Missouri in stalemate over aid to undocumented students

By Koran Addo

Undocumented immigrants planning to attend one of Missouri’s community and technical colleges in the fall got some good news Thursday when the state announced they are still eligible to receive taxpayer-funded scholarships.

Not so lucky are their peers at four-year schools who are still reeling from a rule change passed by Missouri lawmakers that unexpectedly increased their tuition. Earlier this month, about 30 days before classes start, students learned their tuition was going to be significantly higher, more than double in some cases.

The disparity in treatment between undocumented two-year students and undocumented four-year students comes down to how state officials are choosing to interpret legislation aimed at excluding so-called DACA students from state aid.

DACA students are those who are brought to the U.S. as young children and are undocumented through no fault of their own. They are legally allowed to live, work and study in the U.S. under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA.

Exactly how to treat DACA students has become a nationwide issue, but in Missouri, the debate has essentially left colleges and their students in limbo.

If schools read the law literally and extend benefits to undocumented students they run the risk of angering legislators who have warned that there could be repercussions.

The issue has played out in the form of two bills passed by the Legislature. The first one denied DACA students access to the state’s A+ scholarship which covers tuition for community and technical college students.

Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed that bill, saying that it “flies in the face of what we believe as Americans,” and that it doesn’t value hard work or personal responsibility.

The second bill was the state budget bill where lawmakers inserted a rule into the introduction that says colleges and universities must charge DACA students the highest rate of tuition available — either the out-of-state or the international rate.

Much of the conflict revolves around the budget bill. State law suggests that language included in the introduction, but not the meat of a bill, is not legally enforceable.

Based on that reading of the law, the state’s Commissioner of Higher Education, David R. Russell, sent schools a memo Thursday informing them that undocumented students shouldn’t be denied tuition or scholarship benefits.
State officials say they anticipate that community colleges in the near future will start submitting requests for A+ Scholarship dollars. Nixon’s veto, they said, gives two-year schools the confidence to continue offering the benefits.

But the picture is muddier for four-year schools.

That’s because also on Thursday, House Budget Committee Vice Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, cautioned schools not to go against the will of the Legislature.

Fitzpatrick called it overly generous to extend benefits to DACA students considering that some American-born students, including those that are home-schooled, are not eligible for certain scholarships.

“I think that schools probably recognize that it’s the Legislature that writes the budget,” Fitzpatrick said. “They obviously will have a decision to make.”

So far, that warning seems to be doing the trick among four-year schools.

A number of schools did not return requests for comment on Thursday, but the ones who did, including the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said they will not extend tuition benefits or state scholarships to such students.

What it means is that students who were expecting to pay $9,500 in tuition, suddenly saw their bill increase to $25,000.

UMSL, however, has found a workaround for some of its undocumented students. Chancellor Thomas George announced this week that the university will use private funds from its endowment over the next two years to make up the difference.

But that only applies to current UMSL students. Incoming students are still out of luck.

One of them is Vien Cheung, 25, who signed a contract in March expecting to attend UMSL’s clinical psychology Ph.D. program on a full-ride scholarship.

Instead, Cheung, whose parents brought her to the U.S. from Hong Kong when she was 3, will have to find a way to come up with $36,000 a year to attend UMSL.

“I was devastated when I found out,” she said. “I pay taxes; I am an American in every way except on paper.”

Mumps cases confirmed in Missouri — 5 things you don't need to know but might want to

Jul 24, 2015, 6:59am CDT Updated Jul 24, 2015, 7:05am CDT

Angela Mueller

1. Five cases of mumps have been confirmed among University of Missouri students in Columbia, and two more cases are suspected in Boone County. The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public
Health and Human Services is working with MU’s Student Health Center to find any other potential cases.

2. Danny Meyer is moving his popular Union Square Cafe In New York. Meyer, a St. Louis native, said rising rent prompted the decision to move the restaurant to Park Avenue South and 19th Street.

3. New York Giants offensive lineman Geoff Schwartz told CBS Sports that he thinks putting an NFL team in Los Angeles is a bad idea. A native of Southern California, Schwartz said players may not want to deal with the traffic, taxes and high cost of living that come with being in L.A. "I wouldn't want to play there, and I simply don't think the city needs a team," he said.

4. KTVI (Channel 2) reporter Anthoney Kiekow is leaving the station to take a job at KXAS in Dallas. Today will be his last day at KTVI.

5. A graduate of Washington University School of Medicine has been named to head the cancer center at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis. Dr. Charles W.M. Roberts will serve as executive vice president and director of the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center. He will also serve as a member of the department of oncology and hold the Lillian R. Cannon Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Endowed Chair.

Five confirmed cases of mumps in Columbia

by Mark Slavit

Posted: 07.22.2015 at 9:44 PMUpdated: 07.23.2015 at 5:40 PM

Watch the story:

COLUMBIA, MO. -- UPDATE

Boone County health officials confirmed 5 of 7 suspected mumps cases.

All 5 confirmed cases are Mizzou students.

Boone County health officials said the 5 Mizzou students with confirmed cases of mumps are no longer infectious. They still want people in Boone County to take precautions. Health department officials identified 7 cases of mumps in Boone County on Wednesday. Mumps is a contagious viral illness that
often starts with fever, fatigue and body aches. It can take up to 2 weeks for symptoms to appear. Doctors said the best prevention is a vaccination.

Boone County Health Department spokeswoman Andrea Waner said, “Make sure you are up to date on your MMR vaccine. Vaccines are still your best protection from vaccine preventable diseases.”

University of Missouri officials told KRCG they are helping Boone County health officials notify people, including Mizzou students and visitors, who may have come in contact with people displaying symptoms of mumps. Boone County health officials are still waiting for confirmation of the 2 remaining suspected cases of mumps.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials said mumps is no longer common in the United States since routine vaccination programs began, though outbreaks do occur.

Click here for more information on mumps.

ORIGINAL STORY

Health officials in Boone County says seven suspected cases of mumps have been reported in the Columbia area.

In a press release issued on Thursday, the Columbia/Boone County Health Department says five cases have now been confirmed.

The laboratory confirmed all five are University of Missouri students.

The University of Missouri said in a release Wednesday that the university is helping health officials notify people, including University of Missouri students and visitors, who may have come in contact with people displaying symptoms of mumps.

Mumps, a contagious viral illness, often starts with fever, fatigue and body aches.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says mumps is no longer common in the United States since routine vaccination programs began, though outbreaks do occur.

Columbia reports 7 suspected mumps cases
COLUMBIA, Mo. - We’re following a developing situation on the university of Missouri campus. At least five students have confirmed cases of the mumps. And all five had previously been vaccinated against the virus. Two other students are being monitored for the mumps.

The Boone County Health Department is working to find out if the students knew one another. Health officials say even if you get both doses of the mumps vaccine, there’s still a 12 percent chance you can get sick.

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=98d0507b-3b74-4d71-8bdf-c483aba9e984

Health department confirms five University of Missouri students have mumps

Lab tests confirm five of seven suspected mumps cases

Jessica Quick, Meteorologist & Digital Content Director, jessicaq@kmiz.com


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The Columbia/Boone County Health Department says five suspected cases of mumps are now confirmed.

ABC 17 News checked back with the department Thursday. Officials confirmed lab tests had come back positive for five suspected cases. The health department says all five of the confirmed cases are MU students.

This comes one day after the health department said it had identified seven suspected cases of mumps in the Columbia area.
The health department said all five students were vaccinated. According to the CDC, a person who has been vaccinated can still contract the virus, but the symptoms are not typically as severe as they are in someone who has not been vaccinated.

The University of Missouri issued a statement Wednesday saying it is helping spread the word to students and campus visitors who may have come in contact with people displaying symptoms.

Symptoms include fatigue, fever, swollen salivary glands, rash, and jaw pain and can last a few weeks.

Once exposed, it can take between 12 to 25 days for symptoms to appear.

The CDC recommends people make sure they are up to date on their MMR vaccine and let your doctor know if you think you or someone in your family may have mumps.

For more information on mumps, click here.

Boone County Health Department confirms five cases of mumps

Posted: Jul 23, 2015 3:30 PM by Amy Money, KOMU 8 Reporter

Updated: Jul 23, 2015 9:36 PM

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=37a81a89-13ea-4444-831c-8e4b15465c16

COLUMBIA - The Boone County Health Department said Thursday all five University of Missouri students with confirmed cases of mumps had previously had both recommended vaccinations for the virus.
A spokesperson for the Boone County Health Department said five cases had been confirmed and two more cases are laboratory pending, with test results expected by the end of the week.

Andrea Waner said the health department is still investigating whether the students knew one another and how the virus was contracted.

Waner also said the mumps vaccine isn't 100 percent effective.

"One dose of the vaccine is 78 percent effective and two does are about 88 percent effective," Waner said. "You have 100 people in a room and 88 are protected and 12 people have less protection to it when they were vaccinated."

Most children receive the first dose after their first birthday and the second before kindergarten. Missouri requires children who wish to attend school to have both.

However, students can get waivers for the vaccines for religious or medical reasons.

Right now, the CDC doesn't recommend a third vaccine.

"Historically speaking, the immunity you receive from the vaccine is life long," Waner said. "So, the two doses you receive early on covers you for your entire life span."

She said she's worked at the Boone County Health Department for two year and hasn't ever seen a mumps cluster this large in the area.

"We are trying to be very proactive in the way we are communicating with the public about what to look for," Waner said.

Dr. Michael Cooperstock, with University Health Systems, said cases of the mumps are usually not isolated.

"Mumps behaves in a funny way," Cooperstock said. "It does occur in clusters, at least that's when we really recognize it."

Cooperstock said some symptoms of mumps begins with those similar to a cold.

"You can't tell it's mumps until you get gland swelling," Cooperstock said.

He said there is no direct treatment other than giving patients fluids and waiting it out.

Cooperstock said mumps is rarely a serious condition and for most people it runs it's course in a few days.
The five MU students with confirmed cases of the mumps were previously given both recommended doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, according to the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health on Thursday.

Mumps was confirmed in five MU students on Thursday morning and is suspected in two more, said spokeswoman Andrea Waner of the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Service.

Waner said the two suspected cases are still in the hands of the department laboratory.

“We would be hoping to get the results by the end of the week, but it may not be until Monday,” she said.

The students range in age from 20 to 23, according to a release from the department. No more information was immediately available about them Thursday afternoon.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the first vaccination is about 78 percent effective, and the recommended second vaccination is near 88 percent effective.

Waner said children typically receive their first dose at age 1, and then receive the second dose around kindergarten.

“Keep in mind that no vaccine is 100 percent effective, but it’s still your best line of protection,” said Waner.
According to previous Missourian reporting:

Mumps, which can cause permanent damage, has not killed anyone in the U.S. since at least 2006, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

MU is assisting the health department in notifying students, prospective students and any campus visitors who may have come in contact with the seven patients.

The health department is actively seeking reports of anyone displaying mumps symptoms, even among those who have been vaccinated.

Mumps spreads through saliva and mucus. It infects and swells the parotid glands, one of three sets of glands around the jaw that produce saliva, according to Mayo Clinic. The illness can last for weeks. It usually takes two to four weeks before patients begin to show symptoms, which include fever, body aches, headaches, fatigue, swelling of the salivary glands or pain with chewing and swallowing. Complications can lead to swelling throughout the body, and in rare cases it can cause permanent hearing loss or miscarriage.

Although mumps is no longer common in the U.S., a few hundred to thousands of mumps cases are still reported from year to year. Several small outbreaks occurred on college campuses in California, Virginia and Maryland from 2011 to 2013, according to the CDC. So far this year, 162 mumps cases have been identified nationwide.

To prevent mumps, the health department suggests people stay up to date on their measles, mumps and rubella vaccine; cover their mouth while coughing or sneezing; and wash hands frequently with soap. Patients with symptoms of mumps should stay home for five days.
UPDATED: Suspected outbreak of mumps in Columbia

By Marilyn Haigh | July 23, 2015, 12:37 p.m.

Update: Laboratory testing confirmed five of the seven suspected cases of mumps according to an email sent Thursday afternoon from the Office of the Provost. Results from the two other suspected cases are pending.

Seven suspected cases of mumps have been identified in the Columbia area, according to a MU News Bureau statement.

Mumps is a contagious disease caused by a virus that spreads through saliva or mucus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common symptoms of mumps include puffy cheeks and swollen jaw, fever, headache and tiredness.

The individuals with symptoms of mumps are between the ages of 20 and 23, according to a health alert from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. According to the alert, health officials are awaiting laboratory test results before confirming an outbreak.

MU requires that all students born after Dec. 31, 1956, be vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella. State law also requires that students living in on-campus housing have the meningococcal vaccine, which is aimed at preventing meningitis. Missouri parents and guardians have the right to chose not to vaccinate their child as long as a Religious Immunization Exemption has been approved, according to the MU Immunizations office.

MU is working with the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services to notify anyone who might have come in contact with the virus. On Wednesday afternoon, the health alert was sent out to students, prospective students and recent visitors to campus.
August: Briefly in the News

July 24, 2015  BY Matthew Patston
*overall story condensed to contain only news that pertains to MU

MU Health Care begins expanding orthopedic center

University of Missouri Health Care began construction on a four-story, $40 million expansion to the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute.

Already the largest orthopedic care center in the region, the expansion will take the building’s square footage from 114,000 to nearly 200,000. The first three floors will be dedicated to patient care, and the fourth floor will be dedicated to research.

The project also includes accessibility improvements: the building’s main entrance will switch from the north side to the east side of the building, and a sidewalk will be installed from the building to the Virginia Avenue parking garage. Other renovations include dozens of patient rooms, five more operating rooms, an expanded restaurant and added coffee kiosk.

Currently, the institute employs 400 staff, including 34 physicians. MU Health expects the expansion to be complete in 2017.

MU Retirees give nearly $2.5 million

The MU Retirees Association raised $2.49 million for the university and presented a check to MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin at a retiree’s luncheon on campus.

The MURA has more than 800 former staff and faculty as members, and 350 attended the luncheon. Loftin thanked the group for its contributions to the university through donations, volunteerism and attendance at school functions, calling the group “the most engaged group of retirees I’ve ever seen.”
Two retirees were honored as faculty and staff retirees of the year: George Kennedy, who retired as managing editor of the Columbia Missourian in 2001, and Susan Turner, who retired from the School of Medicine Department of Child Health in 2001.

BONSAI soft skills program graduates first class of MU grad students

Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders for Science, a program developed by BONSAI, Monsanto Co. and the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, graduated its first class of MU students.

PTLS trains doctoral and postdoctoral CAFNR students to develop soft skills: interpersonal and leadership qualities that complement hard technical proficiency and make students more appealing to employers. The three groups are finalizing next year’s PTLS student class.

New sexual harassment allegations prompt Senate to renew investigation of LeVota

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY • Another female intern’s allegations of inappropriate behavior by Democratic Sen. Paul LeVota has prompted a Republican Senate leader to demand further investigation and the Democratic governor to question LeVota’s ability to continue in office.

Just a day after the Senate released a report outlining the sexual harassment allegations filed against LeVota by a University of Central Missouri intern, Senate President Pro Tem Tom Dempsey, R-St. Charles, tasked the Senate Committee on Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics with looking them over again.

“Let’s let the investigation process work, (but) certainly I’m very troubled by what I’ve seen so far,” Dempsey told the Post-Dispatch.

So is Gov. Jay Nixon, who said in a statement Thursday that the allegations against LeVota “raise serious questions about his ability to continue to serve his constituents.”

LeVota, who serves on the rules and ethics committee, will be removed from the committee, and Senate Minority Leader Joe Keaveny, D-St. Louis, said he will take LeVota’s place.

LeVota, 47, who lives with his wife and two daughters in Independence, Mo., could not be reached for comment.
The report released Wednesday by the Senate outlines contradicting accounts of events leading up to the departure in March of two University of Central Missouri interns from the senator’s office.

In April, the university informed the Senate it was conducting a Title IX investigation. The following month, the Senate hired St. Louis-based attorney Jim Nowogrocki, who is a partner at the same law firm as Keaveny, to assist with a “workplace harassment complaint.”

Nowogrocki’s report did not draw conclusions but provided details concerning allegations that LeVota sent the intern inappropriate text messages, propositioned her for sex and then treated her poorly when she rejected him. LeVota vehemently denied her allegations, both in the report and in a statement released Wednesday.

The University of Central Missouri intern, Alissa Hembree, spoke Wednesday to the Kansas City Star about her experience in LeVota’s office, as did Taylor Hirth, a Levota intern from 2010.

Hirth, who had been a student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, told the Star that as an intern she too had received inappropriate text messages and was mistreated when she rejected Levota’s propositions five years ago. At the time, LeVota was House minority floor leader, the highest-ranking Democrat in the Legislature. LeVota told the Star that he denied Hirth’s allegations.

According to Hirth, one night in January 2010 LeVota insisted she come over for drinks at his home in Jefferson City and told her, among other things, she was a “smoking & funny & smart, all around cool chick.” He continued to badger her when she resisted and told him she didn’t drink alone with married men. He asked if her rule was “iron clad” and suggested she reconsider “if there is a loop hole,” according to a copy of the alleged text exchange she gave the newspaper.

The account was similar to Hembree’s allegations from earlier this year. Wednesday’s Senate report states that LeVota allegedly twice said, “If you want to sleep with me tonight, I won’t tell you no,” when he invited Hembree to sleep at his Jefferson City home in January following a lobbyist event where she had a couple of drinks. She rejected him, she said, and slept on the couch.

After rejecting LeVota’s advances, Hembree said she was shunned, removed from projects and called derogatory names by the senator.

She also said LeVota sent her text messages calling her “perfect and beautiful,” saying the two were “secret friends” and asking where she was and what she was doing outside work hours. She did not retain the messages, and LeVota denied the allegations but refused the investigator’s request to submit his phone for a forensic examination, “citing privacy concerns about personal information” on it, according to the report.

Additionally, Hembree said she cut her hair in February so she would appear less feminine and wouldn’t be treated differently because she is a woman. Before cutting her hair, she reported that LeVota would touch it and say “you have pretty hair.”

The allegations against LeVota come as the Capitol is reeling from attention on legislator behavior some have compared to fraternity-like, especially when it comes to treatment of female interns and other women. House Speaker John Diehl, R-Town and Country, resigned in May after sexually charged messages he shared with a 19-year-old intern from Missouri Southern State University became public. Missouri Southern is investigating that matter.

However, with no conclusions drawn in the Senate report made public Wednesday in the midst of the legislative recess, it looked like the discussion of alleged sexual harassment even may have blown over.

But Hirth’s account in the Star’s story prompted Dempsey to call for more investigation.

Given this information, Dempsey took the next step in investigating the allegations — enlisting the Senate Committee on Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics to look into it.
Senate policy is vague on how such issues are handled. The Senate Workplace Handbook stipulates that Dempsey or the committee handle disciplinary action involving senators, but the Senate rules do not outline a way for the committee to do that.

Senate Majority Leader Ron Richard, R-Joplin, is chairman of that committee. He currently is researching how such matters were handled in the past.

Though he believes a senator would need to file a resolution during session for the committee to look into the allegations, Dempsey said he believes the committee can move forward at any time.

Additionally, Dempsey said he thinks the committee can meet when the Legislature isn’t in session to do its investigation.

Dempsey does not have a definitive start date for the investigation and did not provide a time frame for its completion.

“I think it’s important to conduct the investigation in a comprehensive manner,” he said.

If the allegations are found to be true, Dempsey said he would ask for LeVota’s resignation. However, LeVota can’t be ousted unless the Senate votes to do so.

The state constitution does allow each chamber to punish its members for “disorderly conduct” and expel a member with a two-thirds majority vote — 23 in the Senate and 109 in the House.

Keaveny agreed with Dempsey. If all the allegations against LeVota are proved, Keaveny said he should resign. “Right now it looks ominous, but there’s no shred of proof,” Keaveny said.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., issued a statement with a stronger tone: “Two young women have come forward with serious allegations against Senator Paul LeVota, some of which have been corroborated by evidence of text messages. I believe Senator LeVota needs to seriously consider whether he can continue to serve.”

LeVota received a bachelor’s degree from what is now University of Central Missouri and was first elected to the House in 2002. He served as House minority floor leader from 2007 to 2010 and was elected to the Senate in 2012. His term is up next year.