

Saturday

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primaryprimer

RACE FOR THE 9TH DISTRICT

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A look at the candidates running for 9th District Representative

Bob Onder

Republican | Medical doctor, 13th District state



representative Personal: 46. Married to Allison Onder. They have six children younger than 12.

Campaign Web

Site: bobonder.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in biology and economics from Washington University, 1983; medical degree from Washington University, 1987; juris doctorate from Saint Louis University Law School, 1993.
Background: A licensed attorney in the state of Missouri, has served on the board of Missouri Right to Life, the Catholic Medical Association and the Center for Bioethics and Culture, has served as president and chairman of the board of Missourians Against Human Cloning in 2006, member of the St. Gianna Catholic Church.

While Rep. Bob Onder, R-Lake St. Louis, has been in the state legislature for only two years, he said he has become a leader on issues he thinks are most important, namely immigration and opposition to abortion. For example, Onder introduced a bill, which was just signed into law by Gov. Matt Blunt, that establishes penalties for illegal immigration that Onder calls the most stringent in the country.

"I think what I probably bring to the job that my primary opponents don't is a record of really conservative leadership," he said. "I've actually led the fight on a number of issues."

One of the things he hopes to do is continue 9th District U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof's fight to lower the death tax. In fact, he said he looks up to Hulshof in many ways and that if elected he would have some "big shoes to fill."

Although he has experience, Onder emphasized that he is not a career politician. He is both a practicing medical doctor and a licensed attorney in Missouri, which he said has been very useful during his time in the legislature.

Even before he became a lawmaker, Onder had experience in the background, helping with campaigns. Eventually, he said, he felt the call to public service and answered it.

"At some point I decided I had a unique background as well as a unique set of skills that really would allow me to be effective in some of these issues I care about," he said.

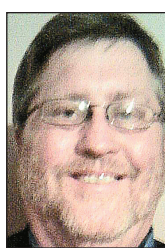
Onder and his wife, Allison, have six children younger than 12. He said his family, which is his "favorite topic in the whole world," is an athletic family, including being avid deer and wild turkey hunters.

He also said Allison is one of his heroes.

"Without Allison, there's no question," he said. "I couldn't be doing what I'm doing."

Dan Bishir

Republican | Retired building inspector and plans examiner



Personal: 55. Married to Marcy Bishir. They have three grown children and four grandchildren, ages 8 months to 17 years.

Campaign Web Site:

Site: danbishirforusrep.net
Education: Graduated from Mornence High School in 1971; attended three years of college at Eastern Illinois University and Kankakee Community College between 1971 and 1976.
Background: Served as a coach and on boards for Little League baseball, junior football, YMCA soccer and baseball; Christian Junior high and high school girls basketball, track and strengthening conditioning coach; member of the non-denominational Christian Church on the Rock.

Dan Bishir is the self-proclaimed "underdog" of the race. In fact, if you visit his campaign Web site, you'll be treated to the music from "Rocky."
Bishir has no political background but has spent the past 13 years working for the city of St. Peters. He said he decided to run for office because he had spent so much time talking about how to change the state of the country that he thought it was time to do something about it.

"I love that a guy like me from a small town who was not raised to become a politician can run for this incredibly important office," he said.

Bishir said he doesn't campaign like the other candidates. Sometimes he gets sucked into the idea that he should be going to events, but what he tries to focus on is talking to individual people and spreading his message.

That message, he said, is that he is a "common-sense servant." While the other candidates say it will take time to fix problems such as the economy, he said he will fix them immediately.

He also has other out-of-the-box ideas. One is that he would like to start an American Foreign Legion, which would allow citizens of other countries to come and participate in a United States military organization. The foreign legion would also participate in construction projects.

Bishir has some experience with foreign countries, specifically Central America. He has twice traveled there as a volunteer to build infrastructure, such as schools.

A trip to Guatemala opened his eyes to the devastating poverty that exists in other parts of the world. He recalled traveling on a bus and watching one passenger toss out a chicken bone, only to have a middle-aged man run to the street, pick it up and start chewing on it. Bishir and the other people on the bus got out and gave their food to the people outside.

Experiences such as that, he said, gave him a much deeper appreciation of the United States.

Bishir also believes that being "out of the political machine" will help him in the election. But even as an underdog, he exudes confidence.

"I truly believe I'm going to win the August primary," he said.

Danie Moore

Republican | Retired high school teacher, 20th District state



representative Personal: 62. Married to Lisle Moore Jr. They have two grown children and seven grandchildren.

Campaign Web

Site: daniemoore.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in secondary education to teach high school English and French from Central Methodist College, now Central Methodist University, in 1968.
Background: Member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Fulton Rotary Club, VFW Post 2657 Auxiliary, Fulton Breakfast Optimists, Callaway County Farm Bureau, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, Callaway County Chamber of Commerce, Kingdom of Callaway Retired Teachers, National Order of Women Legislators, National Association of Sportsman Legislators, the National Rifle Association and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; serves on the boards of the Fulton Area Development Corporation, the Callaway County Red Cross, the Missouri Literacy Association, Prevent Child Abuse Missouri, the Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission; vice-chairwoman of the Missouri Children's Services Commission.

Danie Moore attributes her patriotism to her "French war bride" mother, who instilled in Moore the value of American freedoms.

Moore spent a summer in France at age 12. Although she loves France and calls it a "beautiful country," she said that when she learned that the French legal system considers a person guilty until proven innocent, she realized how good United States citizens have it.

"Even though we're not perfect, we're the best country in the world," she said.

It wasn't until college that Moore became a Republican. Although her parents raised her as a Democrat, she looked over the platform of both parties and realized the views instilled in her are more closely aligned with the Republican Party. In a few years, she said, her parents were voting Republican along with her.

Moore, a state representative from one of the most staunchly Democratic counties in Missouri, Callaway, said the thing that most drew her to the Republican Party is its stance on national security.

"I guess I've been called a hawk all my life," she said. "Peace through strength is the best policy."

Still, conservatism is more important to Moore than adhering to party lines, she said. She prides herself on getting along with her "conservative Democrat friends."

She said she has worked across the aisle on various committees. She chaired the House Public Safety and Corrections Committee and served on the House Budget Committee, where she said she learned to make "surgical" budget cuts, something she would advocate for on a federal level.

She and her husband, Lisle Moore, also own an indoor shooting range that she said has helped her learn what business owners go through.

"I believe that's one of the best educational experiences I could have as far as being a state representative," she said, "when you build a business from scratch and deal with all of the issues that all business owners deal with."

Brock Olivo

Republican | Full-time candidate



Personal: 31. Married to Samuela Olivo.
Campaign Web Site: brockolivo.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in English, creative writing

and literature from MU, 2001; master's degree in marketing and communications from the Universita di Bologna in Italy in 2007.

Background: Helped found Olivo Consulting, a small consulting group that fostered relations between U.S. and Italian businesses, worked three years as programs manager for the National Italian American Foundation in the Culture and Education Department in Washington, D.C., former Missouri Tigers running back and professional football player with the NFL's Detroit Lions.

Volunteers and speaks with high school football teams and volunteers as a speaker and coach at football camps.

Brock Olivo is not a career politician. In fact, he isn't a politician at all. He voted for the first time in April. But the former football player said that of all the candidates, he best represents the people of the 9th District.

"I'm not part of the establishment and proud of it," he said. Olivo said the most important thing in a campaign like this is to listen to the "boots on the ground." So he has made a concerted effort to go out and listen to the concerns of the 9th District's residents. He said he would carry that style to Congress, where he would strive to hear about and experience such things as the war in Iraq and agriculture from the eyes of those there, be it soldiers or farmers or anyone else.

Originally from Hermann, Olivo spent much of his formative years working on a farm. He said he learned the values of hard work and dedication there. After high school, he went on to play football as a running back at MU and later with the NFL's Detroit Lions. He said that experience taught him what it's like to be in the public eye and take responsibility for his actions.

After the NFL, Olivo moved to Washington, D.C., then eventually to Italy with his Italian wife, Samuela, where he helped found a consulting firm and attended graduate school. The two moved back to Missouri in hopes of starting a family, which Olivo said they will start "working on" as soon as the election is over.

Olivo describes himself as a "dynamic guy" who can carry the National Rifle Association. On top of being the tourism director until he resigned to campaign, he was a state legislator for six years and served on various committees and ran unsuccessfully for state treasurer in 2004.

He thinks he has the broadest base of experience and knowledge of all the candidates, reflecting the diversity of the 9th District.

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Blaine Luetkemeyer

Republican | Small business owner, former director of the



Missouri Division of Tourism, former 115th District state representative, livestock farmer

Personal: 56. Married to Jackie Luetkemeyer. They have three grown children and one grandchild.

Campaign Web Site:

Site: blaineforcongress.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in business administration from Lincoln University, graduated with honors in 1974.

Background: Member of the Knights of Columbus, the Eldon Chamber of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, the National Rifle Association and St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Blaine Luetkemeyer loves his granddaughter, Riley. Even when he is in a parade, he takes the time to pick her up, talk to her and make sure she is safe from the sun.

The former director of the Missouri Division of Tourism said he considers his family so important that he waited until his youngest child was a senior in high school before he got involved in politics. He cites his three children as his personal idols, just as President Ronald Reagan is his political idol.

"The way they have handled situations with regards to principle and fairness and maturity and professionalism and keeping focus on family is very inspirational," he said.

His family, along with friends, other volunteers and supporters, also help with his campaign.

During a parade, Luetkemeyer runs up and down the street to make sure he talks to all or most of the people on the street. He said they like to see him sweat.

"You have to shake their hands," he said. "It makes them feel important. And it should be because they are important, which is why you go and shake their hands."

He tries to make small talk and joke with them because he wants them to know that politicians aren't scary and that he doesn't take himself too seriously.

Luetkemeyer said he considers himself an ordinary guy. He owns a 160-acre farm and Luetkemeyer Insurance Agency in St. Elizabeth. He also has a "100 percent pro-life" voting record and an A-rating from the National Rifle Association. On top of being the tourism director until he resigned to campaign, he was a state legislator for six years and served on various committees and ran unsuccessfully for state treasurer in 2004.

He thinks he has the broadest base of experience and knowledge of all the candidates, reflecting the diversity of the 9th District.

A run-down of the 10 candidates running for 9th District Representative.

Among them are five Republicans, four Democrats, and one Libertarian.

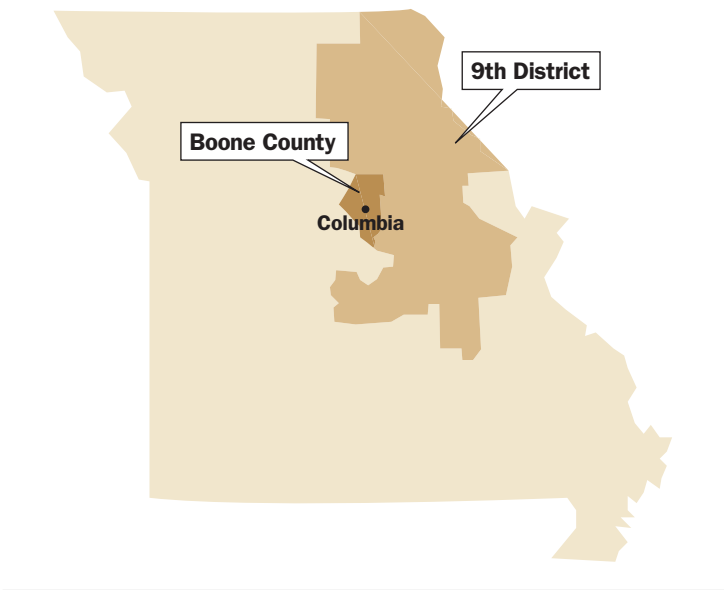
Republican Candidates Democrat & Libertarian Candidates
By ROSEANN MORING By CATHERINE MCCOMB
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

THE JOB

Missouri's 9th District representative is responsible for introducing, discussing and voting on federal legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district covers all or portions of 25 counties. U.S. representatives serve two-year terms and must be over 25 years of age. They are paid annual salaries of \$169,300, with the exceptions of the speaker of the House, who gets \$217,400, and the majority and minority leaders, who get \$188,100 each.

9th U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Along with Boone County, the 9th U.S. House District includes Adair, Audrain, Callaway, Camden, Clark, Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Knox, Lewis, Macon, Maries, Marion, Miller, Monroe, Montgomery, Osage, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, Scotland, Shelby, St. Charles and Warren counties.



Source: NATIONALATLAS.GOV

MEREDITH PURCELL/MISSOURIAN

Steve Gaw

Democrat | Attorney



Personal: 51. Married to Fannie Gaw. They have a 6-year-old daughter.

Campaign Web Site:

Site: gawforcongress.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in physics with high honors from Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University, 1978; law degree from MU in 1981.

Background: Former member and chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission. Elected to four terms as the 22nd District representative to the Missouri House and served as speaker for six years. Former Moberly city prosecutor.

Steve Gaw is full of surprises. His voice is a half-drawl, low and almost monotone — that is, until he takes the floor at the Audrain County Democrats meeting in Kirksville. He seems at home, seems to understand the power of crescendo, his speech building into a boom that rings from corner to corner. It's as if he's speaking to a group of thousands, not just the 20 or so who showed up for the meeting.

It's a little incongruous, this resounding voice coming from a lanky man with a boyish face. But looking at the faces of the crowd, there's no doubt: He's got charisma.

He's also got experience. Gaw's most recent position was as a member of the Missouri Public Service Commission, which is responsible for overseeing utilities and protecting consumers' interests. He held the position from March 2001 to September 2007, spending the last three of those years as the commission's chairman. Before that, he served four terms as state representative for Missouri's 22nd District, two of them as speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives.

Gaw has emphasized his rural roots throughout his campaign for the 9th District seat. He grew up on a small farm north of Moberly, attended kindergarten through sixth grade in a one-room schoolhouse and now lives on a farm in Callaway County. He said this life has instilled in him rural values — hard work, common sense and straight talk — that he'll take to Congress.

"That's something that I think is missing in Washington today," he said. "They need — they need — to be listening to the people in places like right here in the 9th District, people who know what it takes to work hard, to be honest with people and to use sense and to work together to try and solve problems."

Baker said that although she is also about working across party lines.

"I think the Democratic values are centered around a community coming together and seeing what we can do better together than what we do apart," she said.

Judy Baker

Democrat | State representative for Missouri's 25th District



Personal: 48. Married to John Baker. They have two daughters, ages 21 and 19, and a son, age 15.

Campaign Web Site:

Site: judybakerforcongress.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in educational psychology from MU, 1981; master's degree in divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1986; master's degree in health administration from MU, 2002.

Background: Founded health care consulting firm Cura Advantage, former operations director for Capital Region Medical Group. Former interim executive director for MU's University Physician's practice plan.

It's not hard to believe that Judy Baker was president of her high school's senior class. The daughter of a Navy doctor and a teacher, she moved a lot as a child and graduated from high school in Virginia. She said that constantly needing to make new friends taught her how to fit in anywhere.

"It's made me understand the outsider," she said. "It gave me a real sense of how to include people who come in new into a situation and don't have long-term relationships."

Despite their mobile lifestyle, Baker said her parents talked about Missouri as "the only place to really live."

"I don't think they actually put Missouri dirt underneath our house or anything, but I think they would want to," she said.

These days, her campaign for the 9th District seat has consumed much of her time. That's clear from the way she and her campaign manager finish each other's sentences over lunch at 9th Street Deli.

She's come a long way from senior class president. Baker is in her second term as Missouri's 25th District representative. In her campaign for the 9th District congressional seat, she's emphasized her experience in the health care field. She spent 18 years as a health care administrator and owns her own health care consulting firm, Cura Advantage.

"I have extensive experience in one of the biggest issues of our time, and that's our health care crisis," she said.

Aside from the legislature and the health care field, Baker also has ties to higher education as well as the religious community. She taught economics for six semesters at Columbia College, and her husband is a minister at a Baptist church.

Baker said that although she is also about working across party lines.

"I think the Democratic values are centered around a community coming together and seeing what we can do better together than what we do apart," she said.

Lyndon Bode

Democrat | Marion County presiding commissioner



Personal: 44. Married to Rachel Bode. They have two daughters, ages 7 months and 3 years.

Campaign Web Site:

Site: lyndonbodeforcongress.com
Education: Associate degree in political science and history from Hannibal LaGrange College, 1983; bachelor's degree in political science and history with honors from Culver-Stockton College, 1985.

Background: Elected to four terms as Marion County presiding commissioner, member and former president of County Commissioners Association of Missouri, secretary of Highway 36 Four County Transportation District, member and former chairman of Marion County Democratic Central Committee.

Lyndon Bode knows the value of a vote.

In his 1990 bid for presiding commissioner in Marion County, he lost in the primary by just seven votes.

Now he's running for Missouri's hotly contested 9th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I think it's going to be a close race between the four of us," he said, referring to his Democratic opponents. "And I just remind people every vote counts."

After his close but unsuccessful run in 1990, Bode regrouped and won the job in 1994. Now he's in his fourth term as presiding commissioner of Marion County. Even though he hasn't spent time in the state legislature, he said his experience as president of the Missouri Board of County Commissioners has taught him about cooperating with others to get things done. Also, he said he's in a good position to listen to voters.

"I've got new insight, and still currently as a county official, I have the hands-on or the local grass-roots input," he said. "My experience on the county level helps me know the basic needs of the people very well."

He said if he were elected, he would remain a "hands-on" representative.

Bode's views don't always mesh with those of the national Democratic Party: He opposes abortion rights and has signed a pledge to make English the nation's official language. But he said he still believes in Democratic values.

"The Democrat Party is the party of the people. We're here to represent the working people and just the people who can't help themselves," he said. "Part of government is to help those who can't help themselves — not give them everything but give them a helping hand to get back into society where they can be a part of the working force again."

Having two young daughters has only strengthened this belief, he said.

"I've had a great life," he said. "I've had a lot of good opportunities, and I want to see that same thing available for my kids and for kids all over the country."

Ken Jacob

Democrat | General counsel to State Auditor Susan Montee



Personal: 59. Married to Nancy Sublette. They have two grown children.

Campaign Web Site:

Site: kenjacobcongress.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in education from MU with certification to teach history and economics, 1971; master's degree in counseling from MU, 1976; master's degree in public administration from MU, 1986; law degree from MU School of Law, 1989; attended a three-week program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Background: Elected to two terms in the Missouri Senate in the 19th District and served as minority leader and assistant majority leader. Elected to seven terms in the 25th District seat in the Missouri House of Representatives. Elected to one term on the Columbia Board of Education.

Ken Jacob makes sure that competing against him is no easy task. Jacob has built himself a reputation as an aggressive legislator and formidable opponent in debates.

He calls himself "famously" for his long filibusters, one of which lasted more than 15 hours.

Jacob's debates in this year's campaign for the 9th District seat are never quiet. He rips into his opponents with force that observers seem to either love or hate.

But one-on-one and among friends, the forthright former senator is almost soft-spoken. He hesitates before answering questions, pausing to think before he speaks. His all-but-infamous, hit-'em-where-it-hurts approach is replaced by a courteous, relaxed attitude that allows him to almost fade into the background.

This must be the Jacob that studied education and counseling and worked as the executive director of a treatment center for troubled teens. Instead of intensity, he exudes calmness.

Until he starts talking politics. "I've served with thousands of people in public office," he said. "And I can tell you that it takes a certain personality type to be really effective. If that person doesn't really possess it, or ... if they have certain personality characteristics, they will not be effective."

Jacob said he has the quality that makes an effective legislator. He calls it will.

"I think that all, all people who are really effective in public office are driven, and there's some internal drive that propels them," he said. "And if they don't have that competitive will, they get lost in the huge herd of other legislators."

Perhaps it's a competitive spirit that fuels Jacob's fire. Whether it will burn hot enough to spark the support of 9th District voters this year is yet to be seen.

Tamara Millay

Libertarian | Researcher at Washington University's School



of Medicine
Personal: 41. She and her long-term partner, Tom Knapp, have two sons, ages 7 and 10.

Campaign Web

Site: tamaramillay.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in psychology from Webster University, 1990.

Background: Chairwoman in the St. Louis County Libertarian Central Committee, member of the Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars, elected as Greendale city marshal, chairwoman in the St. Louis County Libertarian Central Committee, ran for Missouri's 9th District seat in 2004.

Tamara Millay is the only Libertarian candidate in the race. A researcher in the psychiatry department at Washington University's School of Medicine, she speaks in even, measured tones.

She said that while it would be "fabulous" for a Libertarian to represent Missouri's 9th District in Congress, it's unlikely that she'll win in the general election. Still, she says her campaign is more interested in reaching out to voters who might feel like they're not represented by the major parties.

"The more important thing is that I'm able to get Libertarian answers out there to people so that they can understand they don't have to stick with the main two parties and that there are other parties who have better solutions to the problems that face everyone," she said.