

By MICHAEL C. BAILEY  
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It's official: State Representative Jeffrey D. Perry (R – Sandwich) will this year seek to become Congressman Jeffrey D. Perry.

“The decision has been made...I will not be running for re-election for state representative, and starting today I am a candidate for Congress in the 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district,” Rep. Perry told radio talk show host Edward Lambert Tuesday morning during a live interview aired on WXTK-FM. “I feel at peace with it. It feels right.”

The district, currently represented by Congressman William D. Delahunt (D), includes the Cape and the Islands, and several communities along the South Shore in Plymouth and Norfolk Counties.

“The issues I care deeply about, that are in my heart are in Washington DC,” Rep. Perry said, listing some of his priority issues: government reform, immigration, supporting the military and veterans, job creation, and curbing wasteful spending. “We have some serious problems. Washington is broken, so it's time for new people to step up.”

Within hours of the announcement, Rep. Perry launched a new campaign website at [www.jeffperryforcongress.com](http://www.jeffperryforcongress.com) and announced his official campaign kick-off event on Friday, March 5 at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis.

Rep. Perry had been exploring the possibility of a Congressional run since early last year. Word of Rep. Perry's possible candidacy leaked to the media last week and he confirmed a formal announcement would come by this Tuesday, stating he was not going to make his decision “a drawn-out process. People deserve to know whether I'm running.”

Supporters got an early hint that Rep. Perry would run for Congress when his campaign returned donations made at his annual “Jokes With Jeff” fundraiser in Hyannis last week.

A self-described “self-imposed term limits guy,” Rep. Perry said that if he won the election, he would serve only four or five terms in office.

Rep. Perry spent the week on a “media tour” to various local and Boston media outlets to introduce himself and discuss his candidacy in preparation for what he said would be an aggressive campaign, which would feature fundraisers and visibility events in many communities within the district.

With Rep. Perry leaving the Legislature regardless of the outcome of the Congressional race, there could be a surge of candidates seeking to replace him in the fifth Barnstable district.

One man is already planning to run for the seat: Republican F. Randal Hunt of Sandwich, a two-term member of that town's board of selectmen and, notably, Rep. Perry's campaign treasurer. Mr. Hunt told the Enterprise last week he would run to succeed Rep. Perry once the latter's candidacy in the Congressional race was confirmed, and on Tuesday Mr. Hunt confirmed that he would be making a formal candidacy announcement “in a couple of days.”

He said he first has to file the appropriate paperwork with the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance to accept campaign donations, and to transfer any assets from his account as a selectman candidate to the state representative campaign account.

Rep. Perry, who was first elected to the state Legislature in 2002, represents the Fifth Barnstable District, which encompasses all of Sandwich and precincts in Barnstable, Bourne, and Mashpee. He currently serves as the ranking member of the Joint Committees on Ethics, Education, and Public Safety and Homeland Security; and he sits on the House Committees on Ways and Means and on State Administration.

Outside of his legislative responsibilities Rep. Perry is a licensed attorney and a partner in the law firm of Flannigan and Perry P.C.; and an adjunct professor at Cape Cod Community College, where he teaches courses in Criminal Evidence and American Government.

He is a former Wareham police officer and the former owner of Sandwich Variety Store. He is married to Lisa Perry, and the couple has one adult son and two grandchildren.

Rep. Perry is currently facing two opponents in the primaries: Ray Kasperowicz of Cohasset, whose government experience is limited to nine years on that town's sewer commission; and Donald A. Hussey of Hingham, who once ran unsuccessfully for governor's councilor of the fourth district.

Joseph D. Malone of Scituate, a former two-term Massachusetts state treasurer and candidate in the 1998 gubernatorial race, and State Senator Robert L. Hedlund (R – Weymouth) have expressed an interest in running but have not yet made formal commitments. Mr. Malone expects to make a formal announcement within the month.

Rep. Perry said he has already reached out to all four men as a courtesy.

Peter D. White of Mashpee this week also announced his candidacy for the seat. Mr. White ran against Rep. Delahunt in 2006 and, as the third member of a three-way race that also involved Republican Jeffrey K. Beatty, he received five percent of the vote.

Rep. Delahunt has yet to formally announce a re-election bid.

The last Republican to represent Cape Cod in Congress was the late Hastings Keith of Brockton, who represented the now-defunct 12th district—to which Cape Cod belonged at the time—until 1973. The last Republican to hold the 10th district seat was Margaret M. Heckler, who served from 1967 to 1983, when redistricting shifted Ms. Heckler into the fourth district.