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Brinkley runs for Congress By Sherry Greenfield

Staff Writer

State Sen. David R. Brinkley of New Market ended weeks of speculation this week by announcing that he is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives representing Maryland's 6th Congressional District.

Flanked by campaign signs and members of his exploratory committee, the moderate Republican who represents District 4 in the state Senate told reporters gathered Wednesday in front of Frederick City Hall that he has the experience to rein in government spending.

Brinkley, 52, said he is the right conservative to beat his fellow Republican Roscoe G. Bartlett of Buckeystown, who is running for an 11th term in office.

"Buying votes today with money borrowed from China is inexcusable," said Brinkley, who serves as the ranking minority member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. "And handing the bill to the future generations is shameful. It is worse than taking candy from a baby, it's stealing their future. Now is the time to stop digging a deeper hole in Washington."

Brinkley said Maryland's newly redrawn congressional district map, which splits Frederick County into Districts 6 and 8, is an abuse of power by Democratic leaders in the Maryland General Assembly.

"Gone [from District 6] is most of conservative Frederick County, all of Carroll and rural parts of Baltimore and Harford counties," he said. "The new congressional map literally cuts the western Maryland baby in half. As a state senator, I fought against this abuse of power, and I will continue that fight."

The new District 6 runs along the western boundary of Frederick County, to the western boundary of Montgomery County and down to the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495).

The new District 8, which is represented by Democratic Congressman Christopher Van Hollen Jr. of Kensington, stretches north out of Montgomery County to the Pennsylvania border. It connects the areas of Rockville, Silver Spring, Chevy Chase, Bethesda, Kensington and Takoma Park with the rural areas of Frederick County.

Brinkley lives in District 8, but said he is not worried that his residency will turn off voters. Federal law requires only that candidates for Congress live in the state they want to represent.

"I don't think it's going to be difficult at this point," he said. "I'm a single guy, I can pack up and go [live in District 6] if I have to."

Brinkley's political experience dates back to 1994, when he was elected to the House of Delegates representing both Carroll and Frederick counties. He served two terms in the House, before being elected to the Senate in 2002.

During his tenure in the General Assembly, Brinkley has served as the Senate minority leader (2007-2008) and the Senate minority whip (2010-2011).

Brinkley chairs the eight-member delegation to the General Assembly, a position he has held since 2007.

"David has proven to the state of Maryland that he has the necessary proven skills to be a leader in [Congress]," said Del. Kelly Schulz (R-Dist. 4A) of New Market, at the press conference. "I saw the level of respect he has from both sides of the aisle."

Schulz not only serves with Brinkley on the Frederick delegation, but she is a member of his exploratory committee.

Richard B. Weldon of Brunswick, a former delegate in Annapolis, threw his support behind Brinkley also by serving on the exploratory committee. "When I needed somebody to be here for me, David Brinkley was there," said Weldon, who is the city administrator for Brunswick.

"He is the true measure of a political leader."

Frederick City Mayor Randy McClement (R) also is on the exploratory committee. "David has been a dependable voice for Frederick in the General Assembly," he said. "...I fully support David on his quest."

Rounding out the five-member committee is Sen. Christopher B. Shank (R-Dist. 2) of Washington County and Del. LeRoy E. Myers Jr. (R-Dist. 1C) of Allegany and Washington counties.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be here today," Shank said. "I've known and worked with Sen. Brinkley for 15 years. He is a true conservative in Annapolis that gets things done."

Brinkley is a financial planner and a former rescue worker and firefighter with the New Market Volunteer Fire Company. He has two children. According to the Maryland State Board of Elections, as of Thursday the following candidates have filed to run in District 6: Charles Bailey (D) of Washington County; John Delaney (D) of Montgomery County; state Sen. Robert J. Garagiola (D-Dist. 15) of Germantown; Milad Pooran (D) of Frederick County; Bartlett; Robert Coblenz (R) of Washington County; Robin Ficker (R) of Montgomery County; Joseph T. Krystoforski (R) of Baltimore County; and Brandon Orman Rippeon (R) of Frederick County.

Former Montgomery County Councilwoman Duchy Trachtenberg (D), who previously said she would run, has withdrawn for health reasons.

Maryland GOP Chairman Alex A. Mooney of Frederick, a former state senator from District 3, also has formed an exploratory committee for a run at the seat.

The deadline to file for the April 3 primary is Wednesday.

sgreenfield@gazette.net