

## Former state lawmaker announces run for Congress

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By Liz Nichols Fox59 12:30 p.m. EDT, May 24, 2011

Morristown, Ind.— Tuesday, former Indiana State Representative Luke Messer (R) announced his plans to run for U.S. Congress. Messer is running for Congressman Mike Pence's seat, to serve the 6th District. Pence (R) plans to vacate his seat in order to run for Indiana governor.

"Mike Pence is a great friend, and I believe he will make a great Governor," Messer said in a news release. "Mike will be a tough act to follow in Congress, but we will work hard over the next year to earn the opportunity. Like Mike, I will stand up for the U.S. Constitution, conservative limited government principles and a return to fiscal sanity in our federal government."

Messer served in the Indiana General Assembly from 2003 to 2006, representing Shelby and Bartholomew Counties. Messer touts his 100% rating from Indiana Right to Life, "A" rating from the NRA and his endorsement from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Messer is best known for authoring nationally recognized high school drop-out reform. He also served as Executive Director for the Indiana Republican Party from 2001-2005.

The 42-year-old is the current Executive Director of Hoosiers for Economic Growth.

Messer ran against Congressman Dan Burton (R-5th District) in the 2010 May Primary, losing by 2 percentage points. Redistricting has put Messer's home back in Indiana's 6th district. Messer grew up in Greensburg but now lives in Shelbyville with his wife, son and two daughters.

"Over the coming weeks and months, we'll travel the district meeting old friends and new, working to earn this opportunity to serve," Messer said in a news release. "We will build upon our grassroots team and work to earn the support of voters, activists, elected officials, and Party leaders. Together, we can continue the legacy of strong, conservative leadership for the 6th Congressional District and Hoosiers all across our state."