

Messer has raised \$205K for 2010 race

Ex-lawmaker leads field of challengers for Burton's seat

By Maureen Groppe—Star Washington Bureau

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WASHINGTON -- Former state Rep. Luke Messer so far has raised more money than any of U.S. Rep. Dan Burton's other challengers, collecting \$205,283 this year for the 2010 primary.

That was more than four other potential candidates reported raising and not much less than the \$268,769 Burton took in during the first six months of the year, according to filings with the Federal Election Commission.

Burton, first elected in 1982, usually enjoys easy re-election in his heavily Republican district. But a primary challenge last year by John McGoff and a minor candidate held Burton to 52 percent of the vote. That attracted multiple serious challengers for 2010, although a crowded field could end up splitting the anti-Burton vote.

After Messer, the next biggest fundraisers were state Rep. Mike Murphy and businessman Brose McVey, both of whom raised about \$103,000. McGoff, a former Marion County coroner, has raised \$38,659 since deciding to challenge Burton again. McGoff's campaign is still carrying a \$50,000 personal loan he made for the 2008 race. Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi raised \$24,698 but has said he will run only if Burton decides not to.

Messer raised more money than Burton from individuals -- \$199,960 compared with \$176,036. Burton's fundraising total was higher because of \$63,252 he collected from political action committees, which typically favor incumbents. Messer raised no money from PACs. The other challengers likewise raised little or no money from PACs.

Burton relied more than his challengers on contributions from outside Indiana. Only \$1,850 of the \$53,889 Burton reported raising in the past three months in large-dollar contributions from individuals came from Hoosiers. One of his out-of-state contributions was from weight-loss maven Jenny Craig, who gave \$2,400.

Messer raised \$21,400 of his large contributions from individuals outside Indiana and \$167,900 from Hoosiers, including Republican National Committeeman Jim Bopp and former Eli Lilly and Co. chief executives Randall Tobias and Sidney Taurel. Names of contributors who give less than \$200 don't have to be disclosed.

Because of money left over from previous campaigns, Burton ended June with \$418,398, more than twice Messer's \$175,343.