

EXCLUSIVE: Brookfield Assemblyman Dale Kooyenga Seeking Republican Nomination to Oppose Tammy Baldwin

Republican State Assemblyman Dale Kooyenga is not only putting the word out that he is interested in the GOP nomination to oppose incumbent Democrat U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin next year, he is earnestly raising money in his quest. Kooyenga has a \$100 a pop fundraiser on Milwaukee's east side Monday night. It is unheard of for a funder with that kind of tag for a measly state rep. Kooyenga is raising the money to get himself in the game in the big leagues.

Kooyenga has big time competition. Sean Duffy, the congressman from northern Wisconsin who, along with his wife Rachel Campos-Duffy, are ubiquitous presences on Fox News Channel is interested in running as is Madison businessman Eric Hovde. Hovde lost a GOP primary in 2012 to Tommy Thompson for the same seat but built a lot of support in the race. Others are looking at the seat as well like State Senator Leah Vukmir. Governor Scott Walker, sources assure me, is not running.

Kooyenga comes from the right wing of the Republican caucus in the state assembly but lacks the name recognition, and money, of Duffy and Hovde. He will clearly try to position himself as the most conservative candidate in the race. And, as a member of the legislature's Joint Finance Committee, now is the perfect time to try to start raising money. He is not to be counted out.

Mark Belling
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