

Republican Horner to run against Nancy Navarro

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<http://www.thesentinel.com/mont/Horner>

David Horner wants everyone to run for Montgomery County Council, even if it means more competition for himself.

"I got at least three people signed up to run by the deadline," Horner said of the county's election board's closing date last Tuesday. Horner, a Republican, is running for the District 2 seat in November, now held by Councilwoman Nancy Navarro (D-Dist. 2). He and Navarro are the only two registered in the race.

"Our politicians in Montgomery County are totally out of touch with the rest of the people because most of them are simply professional politicians—we need people with real jobs to be in those positions," Horner said. He has lived in the area since 1972 following a career in the Air Force.

"If you look at Nancy Navarro, she spent over \$250,000 on her campaign for a position that would only be 7 months long," Horner said referring to the unexpected open seat following the deaths of councilwoman Marilyn Praisner in 2008 and then her replacement, husband Donald Praisner in 2009. Horner ran against Marilyn Praisner in 2006 spending just a few hundred dollars on his campaign.

"I think people who spend that kind of money has some conflict of interest or someone who wants her to rubber stamp something for them once in office," Horner said. He credits his humble beginnings in West Virginia with keeping him "in touch with the people."

"I went to a one-room schoolhouse with an outhouse and was one of just a handful to even go to college," Horner said, who now holds three engineering degrees and a degree in a business and accounting. "To say I'm a man of the people is an understatement."

Horner's campaign in a three-pronged message that he says promises change from the "rubber stamp politics" of the current council: reasonable government for spending, responsible government to make sure the needs of the residents are satisfied and a responsive government to keep the residents abreast of the council's decisions.

"We are rapidly approaching that point where people just won't be able to pay anymore in taxes," Horner said who cites the new energy tax as a major problem for residents. "We have older citizens in the county on fixed incomes who won't be able to use their AC and could be dying of heat stroke or freezing to death in the winter without being able to afford proper heating."

The energy tax was passed in May 19 was introduced by councilman Roger Berliner (D-Dist. 1) as a means to limit the area's carbon emissions, but Horner says the \$15 million pay-off was the real motivator and will be the real downfall of the community.

"We're sending a message not just to our residents but to the nation that we are not a business-friendly community and that is going to hurt us long-term," Horner said. Many small business owners spoke out against the tax in the council meetings leading up to the vote, some of them even saying the tax would bankrupt them. "We are looked at as a hostile environment that represents a narrow view of society."

For the outspoken candidate, no topic seemed to be off limits, including the county's public school system which Horner also called "out of touch" with the people.

"Our big problem with our schools is that they are not geared towards education but towards social services," Horner said referring to the rigorous community service requirements for MCPS students to graduate high school. "Conceptually it sounds like a good idea, but not every economic group can rise to the challenge in practice."

Horner has been a soccer coach for 15 years with Montgomery Soccer Inc. and father to two MCPS magnet students.

"I've coached kids in soccer who held a job to support their family-asking them to also complete a ton of hours outside that is too much," Horner said. "There seems to be a lot of decisions being made behind closed doors that don't have our best interests at heart-I think it's my job to shed some light on that."