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### 2014 election: The race for the 26th Congressional District

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Republican U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess says his district will need his experience as an incumbent to handle top issues that include protecting the country's borders, adjusting the health care system and improving the job forecast.

He said he knows what he needs to do and, as a Lewisville obstetrician for more than 25 years, offers a needed perspective.

"It is more important than ever, for all Texans, that we have physicians in Congress," said Burgess, 63. "The impact that the ACA is also having and will have on job creation and the economy is devastating."

His sole challenger in the Nov. 4 election, Libertarian software engineer Mark Boler, disagrees.

Boler said it's time for new blood in Congress, particularly in the 26th Congressional District.

"I want to go in, get the federal government back to the Constitution and then come back home," said Boler, 54. "I will not vote (for) or sponsor laws that anyone else writes, especially large corporations or lobbyists."

The two will face off in District 26, which covers all of Denton County, part of Wise County and a patch of northern Tarrant County that includes Westlake, north Keller and far north Fort Worth.

At stake is a two-year term that pays \$174,000 a year.

The last day to register to vote in the election is Oct. 6. Early voting runs from Oct. 20-31.

#### Burgess

The obstetrician drew big headlines in 2002 after defeating Scott Arney, son of House Majority Leader and then-U.S. Rep. Dick Arney of Denton County, to represent this district.

He serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Rules Committee, is vice chair of the subcommittees on Health and Oversight and Investigations and is a member of the Subcommittee on Energy & Power.

He said his top three issues are jobs and spending, health care and protecting the country's borders.

He said he wants to keep fighting for a pro-growth, pro-job creation agenda. At the same time, he said health care remains his passion and he "will continue to battle the problems of Obamacare" and fight for reforms. He also said he opposes amnesty and creating a path to citizenship for anyone who illegally enters the country.

"I have lived in the district my entire life," he said. "I have raised a family here and I ran a medical practice here for 25 years. I have seen the effects of policy, both good and bad, on my friends and neighbors and carrying that experience with me to the United States Congress has been valuable."

He also said, "There is value in experience. I have served for the past 11 years and I have a record of

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keeping the care and concerns of my constituents, friends and neighbors in the front of my mind as any legislation comes through the Congress.”

Burgess raised more than \$150,000 for this race between April and June and has more than \$200,000 in cash on hand, according to July quarterly reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

**Boler**

This is the Oak Point man's third bid for public office.

He last ran for the same seat against Burgess in 2010 and 2012, each time drawing less than 4 percent of the vote.

“I feel like the current people in office are not doing a good job,” he said. “They vote for whatever their lobbyist(s) want, submit legislation that is written by those lobbyists and vote for loopholes in long established environmental law,” Boler said. “I also believe that the federal government is far too large and overreaching and passes far too many laws for a free country.”

Boler said the main issues in the race are getting the government out of the way of businessmen and women and entrepreneurs, restoring citizens' rights — particularly 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th amendment rights — and ensuring that government lives within its means and doesn't grow larger.

“I am running on a platform to restore the Constitution to the federal government, shrink its size and return the powers not specifically granted to it back to the states or to the people,” he said. “Government should protect the individual rights of the people and other than that, get out of the way and let people live free.

“If we keep voting for the lesser of two evils, we will still be getting evil.”

No reports from Boler are on record with the Federal Election Commission.

**A QUICK LOOK AT THE CANDIDATES**

**Michael Burgess, Republican**

Age: 63

Occupation: Member of the United States House of Representatives, 26th

Residence: Lewisville

How to contact: [contact@burgessforcongress.com](mailto:contact@burgessforcongress.com), 940-320-5020, Campaign Office, [www.burgessforcongress.com](http://www.burgessforcongress.com)

**Mark Boler, Libertarian**

Age: 54

Occupation: Computer software engineer

Residence: Oak Point

How to contact: Email is best, or phone - [mark@markboler.com](mailto:mark@markboler.com) or 972-896-0047

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