

PRESS RELEASE

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2017
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April 2nd,

Grassroots Republicans Favor Kurtz to Take on Kind in 2018

3rd District Republicans Plan for the Future after Sweeping Victories in 2016

Fountain City, WI – Republicans from across the eighteen counties of Wisconsin’s 3rd Congressional District gathered in Fountain City on Saturday to celebrate 2016’s successes and to plan for the 2018 election cycle. The largely rural district has attracted attention as a potential Republican pickup, even garnering mentions in prominent national news outlets, following strong performances by GOP candidates up and down the ticket last fall.

Though no Republican has officially announced that they will run in 2018, a three way straw poll at the caucus made it clear that the party’s grassroots favor Tony Kurtz, a 20 year Army Veteran and farmer who mounted a challenge for the seat in 2014. Kurtz won the poll with over 93% of the vote – a tally of 82-5-1.

“2016 really opened a lot of eyes,” said 3rd District Republican Chairman Brian Westrate. “President Trump and Senator Johnson won the district, and we held all Republican legislative seats. On top of that, the people chose to elect Senator Patrick Testin of Stevens Point and Representative Trieg Pronschinske of Mondovi instead of long-time Democratic incumbents. Ron Kind could very well be the next career politician to be rejected in the third.”

Should Kurtz choose to enter the race, he would be the first challenger to take on Kind twice, a prospect that intrigues Westrate.

“Tony Kurtz certainly has a lot of support, and I know that a lot of people would like to see him run,” said Westrate. “The 3rd is a big district, and Tony’s knowledge of the area and the bonds that he’s built with the grassroots would certainly be assets to him should he choose to run.”

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