

## MIDDLETOWN

## Fitzpatrick quits race

*The former Bucks County congressman said his two week campaign for state representative is over because of a family medical issue.*

By JAMES MCGINNIS COURIER TIMES

Former congressman and Bucks County commissioner Michael Fitzpatrick dropped out of the race for state representative in the 142nd district Tuesday, citing an "emerging family medical issue."

The 44-year-old Republican was officially in the race against Democrat Chris King for only two weeks, announcing his candidacy on Jan. 22.

Fitzpatrick said he had hoped that the representative seat in Harrisburg would have allowed him to spend more time at home, with his wife, Kate, and their seven children. Now, they need him more than ever, he said.

"As much as I love public service, my priorities must be with my family right now," he said. "I will certainly maintain my involvement in the community, but the time that will be required of me at home over the next 12 months will prevent me from effectively campaigning."

Fitzpatrick lost his seat in Congress in 2006, following a tight race with Democrat Patrick Murphy. Some wanted Fitzpatrick to re-take his chair representing the 8th congressional district in Washington. Signs along State Road in Bensalem read "Mike Fitzpatrick: Now More than Ever!"

Before Fitzpatrick entered the race for state lawmaker, many hoped local fire Chief Frank Farry would enter the race on the Republican ticket. Farry is assistant township manager in Middletown and longtime fire chief Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company.

Farry would make an excellent candidate, Fitzpatrick said.

The Courier Times was unsuccessful in reaching Farry or King for comment late Tuesday.

The 142nd district covers Penndel, Hulmeville, Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, most of Middletown and Lower Southampton.

James McGinnis can be reached at 215-949-3248 or .



Michael Fitzpatrick