

Kimball Won't Seek Mayoral Nomination

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After what he termed "six months of agonizing," Jamestown Fourth Ward Republican Councilman Richard A. Kimball Jr. announced today he will not seek the GOP nomination for mayor.

Kimball said that instead of running against incumbent Democrat Steven B. Carlson, who has announced he will seek another two-year term, he will seek the Republican nomination for councilman from his ward.

Kimball, the lone GOP member of the 12-member council, has spent 14 years with Jamestown Public Schools and presently is the system's academic supervisor for social studies from kindergarten through high school.

He said his school position was not a major influence in his decision not to run for mayor.

Kimball said he believes he can do the most for the party and the city by seeking the party's nomination to run again for the Fourth Ward council seat.

James E. Westman, city Republican Committee chairman, said he is "delighted" that Kimball will seek reelection to the council. Westman said he feels Kimball has "added a dimension of quality, independence and imagination to council, which I feel is sorely needed."

The chairman went on to say, "I am disappointed he will not head the ticket but remain optimistic that Republicans will make gains in Jamestown this year and shortly will be announcing the entire ticket."

Kimball said he basically views himself as a positive person and feels a lot of good things are going on in Jamestown. He said he wants to be where he feels he can contribute the most and presently he believes this is realized by providing some kind of balance on the council under the two-party system. The councilman said he feels that if by being there he can make the other members work a little harder he has accomplished something positive.

Kimball said there are times when he feels he has to criticize but he believes that Jamestown basically is a good community. He said that he researches issues and when they come before the council he is prepared to discuss them, possibly "forcing the administration to work that much harder."

"The one thing I want the administration to avoid is complacency," he commented.

Kimball said the city seems to be pursuing housing problems in "targeted areas" but responds to such problems in other areas on a complaint basis only. He said he believes the problem can be resolved but feels there is a need for continually examining the housing code.

Speaking his personal views, Kimball said, "If the administration is doing something well, I have and I will continue to praise it, but if I feel there are things it is a little lax about I feel I should speak up about them."

The Fourth Ward representative said he believes federal funds must be used carefully, with the city not becoming dependent on them if the amount of such aid is decreased. He said he feels such funds have been used wisely to date but he wants to make certain the city is prepared to face federal aid cutbacks and still maintain the present level of services.

Kimball said he feels the city's "track record" for federal funds is good, while of the opinion the most critical problem the city will face next year is the property tax issue.

He concluded, "I've enjoyed representing the people of the Fourth Ward on council."