

[Back to regular view](#) • [Print this page](#)

Abboud leaning toward challenging Manzullo

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/446285,ba-abboud-062807-s1.article>)

June 28, 2007

By [TONY A. SOLANO](#) Staff Writer

Barrington Hills Village President Robert Abboud said he is "fairly certain" he will run for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Representative in the 16th District in 2008.

He has not officially filed for candidacy but said he has nearly completed assembling a campaign team and expects to make an official announcement in July.

"My focus right now is to interact with people within the constituency and find out what the major issues are," Abboud said. "There are all the large national and international issues and then there are a ton of smaller issues out there too."

Abboud, 50, would likely challenge incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo, who defeated Richard Auman handily in November 2006.

"I've gotten a great response from both Democrats and Republicans because I think everyone is pretty frustrated at this point," Abboud said.

He said his major concern is decreasing the national debt but also supports withdrawing troops from Iraq, health care reform and more strict immigration policies.

He isn't alone on withdrawing troops. Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Monday it was time to start bringing troops home.

"The military strategy we're using is failed policy," Abboud said. "The best way to support the troops is to not have them get blown up. Bring them home to their families."

Abboud believes the U.S. should withdraw as soon as possible and continue to provide diplomatic support to the new Iraqi government while working with other nations to maintain stability in the area. He said the situation in Iraq will not get better whether we withdrawal immediately or wait a few more months or years to withdrawal.

Abboud said the key to decreasing the national debt is not to raise taxes but to bring strategic manufacturing back to the United States and stop federal spending overseas.

He also feels that immigration is an issue that must be addressed by the federal government because local governments do not have the resources to police immigration.

"Immigration is a pretty simply issue," Abboud said. "You just have to enforce the law instead of allowing companies to hire illegal aliens."

He said there must be harsher penalties for companies that employ illegal aliens and the government must also come up with an informational system to make it easier for the companies to check citizenship. This would then force illegal aliens to go through the process of becoming citizens, he said.

Abboud also feels that the health care system is not user-friendly or economical and would like to work toward reforming it.

In addition, he said he would oppose a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and is pro-choice on abortion.

"The list of issues I have is a mile long, that's why I'm considering running," he said.

Abboud is a nuclear physicist and is the president, founder and co-owner of RGA Labs, Inc. He has lived in Barrington Hills since 1968 and served as village president since 2005.

"I don't believe that the majority of constituency in the 16th District is focused on pulling the party lever," he said. "I believe they are more interested in getting representation on the issues they're most concerned about."



© Copyright 2007 Sun-Times News Group | [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)