

Post-Tribune

Candidate drops out; Costas adds supporters

<http://www.post-trib.com/news/891309.costa.article>

April 12, 2008

By John Byrne Post-Tribune staff writer

The field of Republican hopefuls for attorney general continues to narrow, and Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas continues to garner support.

Indianapolis attorney Kyle Hupfer withdrew from consideration for the post Friday, and endorsed Costas.

"I'm confident Jon will make a terrific attorney general," said Hupfer, a former member of Mitch Daniels' cabinet.

Deputy Attorney General Greg Zoeller said Friday he plans to stay in the race to replace Attorney General Steve Carter, who announced in March he would not seek the Republican nomination for a third term.

The Republican candidate will be chosen at the party's state convention in June.

Costas insisted Friday he is still gauging interest in his potential candidacy.

He said he expects to make an announcement in the next several days, and added the GOP could be strengthened if more than one candidate remains interested in the nomination when the party convention convenes June 2.

"I respect Greg's decision to be a candidate for attorney general," Costas said. "Sometimes it generates more excitement within the party if there is opposition for a nomination going into the convention, and I know the party will unite behind whichever candidate is chosen."

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Todd Rokita pulled his name from among the hopefuls for attorney general and threw his support to Costas.

State Election Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler also considered running, but state Republican Party spokesman Jay Kenworthy said Friday it appeared Wheeler would not pursue the position.

Costas said Gov. Mitch Daniels is excited about his candidacy.

He said Friday he expects to talk with the governor again this weekend before officially announcing his intentions early next week.

Contact John Byrne at 648-3072 or jbyrne@post-trib.com. Comment on this story at www.post-trib.com.