

# Blum decries government interference

Republican publicly announces his bid for the U.S. House of Representatives.

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Rod Blum considers himself an average American, one who is tired of how government is being run.

Blum publicly announced Monday his campaign to run for the U.S. House of Representatives seat held by Democrat Bruce Braley. The crowd of about 80 people at the Best Western Plus was enthusiastic as Blum delivered a speech and said he loves the U.S., "but I believe that under the leadership

of Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Bruce Braley, we have lost sight of those principles that made this the greatest country on the face of the Earth."

Blum, chairman and CEO of Digital Canal Software in Dubuque—a provider of home-building and structural-engineering software—highlighted his life, including having two parents who quit school in 10th grade, owning a software company that rapidly expanded and being a real estate developer who has had to struggle with government intervention.

"I believed in the American dream, and I did the things I was supposed to do, and I was rewarded," Blum said to the TH.



Rod Blum

**TH** run for congress  
Video of Blum making his first announcement last week at the TH, [THonline.com](http://THonline.com)

"We need to build our nation around the average citizen, not government."

Blum spoke to the crowd about his beliefs, including fiscal common sense, the power of individuals, allowing consumers to determine winners and losers in a free-market system and the sanctity of life.

Blum shared that growing up, his family did not have much money, and he often was told "no" when he asked for something.

"I didn't like to hear that answer, but my parents knew they couldn't spend more than they made," Blum said. "If my par-

ents, with their 10th-grade educations, could figure that out ... why can't Washington politicians?"

Cedar Rapids businessman Steve Rathje already has announced he'll seek the Republican nomination. Ben Lange, who narrowly lost to Braley in 2010, has formed an exploratory committee to consider another run. The newly redrawn district includes Cedar Rapids but not the Quad Cities, and includes Dubuque, Clayton, Delaware and Jackson counties.

Blum said one thing separates him from his primary and other opponents.

"I'm not going to change what I think to win an election," Blum said. "I would rather lose. What they see from me is going to be what they get in Washington."