

# The Iowa Republican

News for Republicans, by Republicans

## Rod Blum, Announces Campaign for Congress in 1st CD

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Rod Blum, the Chairman and C.E.O. of Digital Canal Inc, initially considered running against Congressman Bruce Braley in 2010. Blum didn't run that year, but is announcing that he will join Ben Lange and Steve Rathje for the quest for the Republican nomination in 2012.

Blum told TheIowaRepublican.com, "What is motivating me to run is that I believe the basic tenets that made this country great are under attack by the current Congress and White House. Tenets such as personal responsibility, government and individual accountability, free markets (capitalism), high work ethic, strong family values, a belief in the sanctity of life and an overarching belief in American exceptionalism."

Blum has strong eastern Iowa roots. He graduated from Dubuque Senior High School in 1973, earned a bachelor's degree from Loras College (Finance) in 1977, and received a Masters in Business Administration from Dubuque University in 1989. In 1989, Blum was one of the initial employees of Dubuque-based Eagle Point Software. In just five years, Eagle Point Software went public on NASDAQ and had 325 employees. In 2000, Digital Canal was created as a result of a leveraged buyout of Eagle Point Software. Digital Canal is a leading provider of home building and structural engineering software. Blum was also named the Iowa Entrepreneur of the Year in 1994.

While Blum has never run for elected office before, he has been making his political views known in eastern Iowa since 2001 as the Dubuque Telegraph Herald's conservative columnist. Blum's writings for the Telegraph Herald will be helpful for a couple of reasons. First, having a regular column in the local newspaper helps build credibility and name ID. Secondly, writing a political column means that he has well thought out positions on many of the issues facing our country today, something many first time candidates lack.

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Rod Blum

Education

1973 Dubuque Senior High School

1977 Loras College – Bachelors Degree; Finance Major (magna cum laude)

1989 University of Dubuque – Masters in Business Admin – Marketing (4.0 GPA)  
Professional

1978 – 1988 CyCare Systems Inc. (McKesson HBOC)

Various Marketing & Admin Positions

CyCare was a NYSE public company and a leader in  
medical data processing and systems

1989 – 2000 Eagle Point Software Inc.

Chairman and C.E.O. and major shareholder

Joined the company as the 5th employee. Five years later we went  
public on NASDAQ and had 325 employees. Eagle Point is a  
leader in the CAD Civil Engineering and Surveying marketplaces

2000 – Present Digital Canal Inc.

Chairman and C.E.O. and major shareholder

Digital Canal is the result of a leveraged buyout of Eagle Point Software. Digital Canal is a  
leading provider of home building and structural engineering software

2006 – Present Salto de Fede

Majority partner in land development/home building partnership

Personal

1994 Iowa Entrepreneur of the Year

1995 – 1997 Chairman, Dubuque Country GOP

National Delegate to the 1996 GOP National Convention

2001 – 2005 Head Sophomore Basketball Coach, Dubuque Senior High School

2001 – Present Conservative columnist – Dubuque Telegraph Herald

2010 – Present Student Pilot

My wife Karen and I are Episcopalian and have five wonderful children and one teenager who  
lives with us since becoming an orphan