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## **Buhrmaster picks up Albany County GOP endorsement**

The Business Review (Albany)

The Republican Party in another Capital Region county has thrown its support behind Scotia businessman and congressional candidate James Buhrmaster.

Buhrmaster, 62, is president of **Buhrmaster Energy Group** in Scotia. He is one of two Republicans running to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Michael McNulty (D-Green Island) this November.

On Wednesday, Buhrmaster announced that he had received the support of the Albany County Republican Party. Two days earlier, he announced that he had the backing of the Schenectady County Republican Party.

"He's the only candidate in the race with experience in both local government and business. He's the only candidate who's actually cut taxes and created jobs," said Peter Kermani, chairman of Albany County's Republican Committee.

The other Republican in the race is Steven Vasquez, co-founder and chief technology officer of ReQuest, a Ballston Spa company that makes high-end home entertainment systems.

The two will square off in the primary elections in early September.

Vasquez said he is not concerned about Buhrmaster's recent endorsements.

"It's way too early. The real indication won't be until we get closer to the primary [in September] as to who the people feel their best representative will be," Vasquez said. "The voters have yet to get to know any of us yet."

Buhrmaster is in his second term on the Schenectady County Legislature, and he is a former president of the county's chamber of commerce.

Last month, another businessman became the first candidate to drop out of the crowded race.

Gary Mittleman, a Democrat and founding chief executive of Latham-based fuel cell developer **Plug Power Inc.** (Nasdaq: PLUG), said he was starting a foundation called One

Dream One Earth, "instead of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of my money on campaigns."

There are at least seven Democrats seeking to fill McNulty's seat. And that doesn't include Paul Tonko, the former state Assemblyman who stepped down late last month as head of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

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