

Capital Gazette

Kurt Riegel running in Annapolis' Ward 2 again



Annapolis City Democratic Alderman candidate for Ward 2 Kurt Riegel at The Capital Gazette in Annapolis

(By Matthew Cole / Baltimore Sun Media Group)



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Ward 2 resident Kurt Riegel is taking up the election mantle again.

Riegel has filed to run for the Annapolis City Council, setting up a potential rematch between the former Annapolis Environmental Commission member and Alderman Fred Paone, a Republican who has not yet committed to run for re-election.

The two squared off in 2013, with Paone winning another term by 43 votes, a 3-percent margin of victory with about 1,500 votes cast, according to election data.

"I'm still the same guy with the same priorities," Riegel said. "I can do a better job; I bring an energy and a forward orientation that will serve the city well."

Riegel is planning a campaign launch later this year. Legislative proposals related to his campaign will be announced later in the election year, he said.

There will be multiple pillars to his campaign including "business vitality," a re-examination of the city fee structure and protecting the environment.

It is a priority to get businesses into areas such as Annapolis Street in West Annapolis, which Riegel said is not doing as well as it should.

"There are spaces that have been vacant for some time," he said.

Riegel also raised concerns the city isn't doing enough to protect Weems and College creeks, and pledged to ensure stormwater management money is directed at projects that clean creeks throughout Annapolis.

Another focus will be increasing outdoor art and other "things that will just make this a more fun and lively place," he said.

Some might remember Riegel as the Annapolis Environmental Commission member who ran afoul of Mayor Mike Pantelides in 2015 when he wouldn't sign an ethics compliance form.

Riegel disagreed with some phrasing on the form, calling it "unlawful" and redundant under the city Oath of Office. So he tweaked the language he disagreed with, then signed the form and gave it to the city.

That didn't go over well the Annapolis Ethics Commission, which recommended Riegel be removed from his post. Pantelides obliged.

Riegel said the incident is proof he is willing to stand up for what he believes.

The primary election is on Sept. 19 with the general election following on Nov. 7.

The deadline for candidates wishing to file for election is July 31. There are six candidates running for council with two candidates in Ward 1, one in Ward 2, as well as two candidates in both Ward 6 and 7.

Three candidates are running for mayor so far.