

Larsen admits to property tax problem as Lance marches to another victory in their home county

By Max Pizarro | April 9th, 2010

Lumped up in GOP county conventions over the past several weeks, Tewksbury businessman David Larsen prior to absorbing another loss to U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance (R-Clinton) last night, startled attendees of the Hunterdon County Republican Convention when he confessed to being behind in property tax payments.

"I wanted to let people know I'm being affected by this," said Larsen, who's running to the right of Lance but to date has been unable to get around two other long-shot, self-described conservative candidates running in the Republican Primary, who fared as well - or as poorly - as Larsen in county conventions.

"I've been paying toward the principal; I owe \$22,000 now (toward taxes on his Tewksbury residence), and the payment should be done in full," the candidate told *PolitickerNJ.com*. "I have been paying taxes but I own properties in New Jersey, and I got behind. ...Leonard Lance has been in the state legislature and state senate, and part of the problem is the politicians who are there and have been there for years."

Committed to putting \$300,000 of his own money into this 7th District Primary campaign, Larsen said the property tax blowback on his principal residence has jammed him up - but not enough to derail his campaign.

"The money toward my campaign is coming out of the sales of property - that's also what I'm using to pay my back taxes," he explained. "I got a little behind in real estate taxes. I've been paying double-digit interest. I pay close to \$40,000 in taxes each year. The places I was going to rent didn't rent, and properties where I intended to get the money didn't sell."

So it put him behind in paying his local property taxes.

"I have to be honest," Larsen said. "I wanted to get that out last night. I can really understand. People are hurting everywhere."

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