

GOP endorses Cawley for lieutenant governor

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Seven candidates sought the GOP endorsement.

Bucks County Commissioner Jim Cawley has received the endorsement of the state Republican Party in his bid for lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania.

Cawley, 40, a county commissioner since 2005, was one of seven candidates seeking the GOP endorsement for president of the state Senate.

Many see the post as largely ceremonial. But Cawley said he would use the position to reduce waste in Harrisburg and, if elected, would also head the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council.

"One of the things I would like to do is institute a committee focused on ways to improve services and cut costs," Cawley said.

"We'd go department by department and make them accountable for every dollar they are appropriated to receive in the state budget."

"I think we'd find a lot of waste, fraud and abuse," Cawley added.

At Saturday's GOP meeting, the committee also endorsed Tom Corbett for governor and Pat Toomey for U.S. Senate.

Former Gov. Mark Schweiker - a fellow Bucks County native who was once lieutenant governor - has campaigned in support of Cawley since January. Cawley said he would resign from his county position if elected to the state government.

The other six candidates seeking the endorsement were: Chet Beiler of Lancaster County, Jean Craig Pepper of Erie County, Joe Watkins of Philadelphia, Nick DiFrancesco, a Dauphin County commissioner, Steve Johnson of York County and Russ Diamond of Lebanon County, who founded of PA Clean Sweep.

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