

ORANGE MAYOR HAWKINS KICKS OFF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

BY DHIREN SHAH

On Friday January 6, 2012 Orange Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. organized his campaign kickoff for his re-election bid. Orange's election will be on May 8, 2012.



In 2008, Hawkins won the election in a close contest. Many citizens were talking about his non-residency as the prime issue and his non-experience as another issue. This time, his opponents do not have these arguments to bring against him. However, other mayoral contenders are looking to bring up other issues.

He will be facing Dwight Warren, the only candidate with a slate of fellow council contenders, Councilman Edward Marable, Jr. and Janice Morell. In my opinion, the more candidates in the competition, the easier it will be for Hawkins. As per the information received, Dwight Warren will announce his candidacy on January 15, 2012.

Hawkins has received support from key local area political leaders, including Senator and former Governor Richard Codey, Congressman Donald Payne, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser, Irvington

"Results not Promises."

Mayor Wayne Smith, NJ Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, Assemblyman Thomas Giblin, Freeholder Carol Clark and many other area politicians.

East Orange Mayor Bowser said that there are four types of people in the world: One who makes things happen, one who watches things happen, one who waits for things to happen, and one who says "What happened?" He called Hawkins in the first category.

It was a full house - standing room only - event at Libretti's restaurant. The slogan for Hawkins campaign is "Results not Promises."

The election is about the people. It is the check and balance of politicians for the people. It is very hard to make a judgment on just one event. I can say that Hawkins does have strong political support. However, the citizens of Orange will decide who will be the next mayor in the next election. The council and mayoral hopefuls will pick up the ballot from the city clerk's office and have to file petitions for approval before March 8, 2012.

Former assemblyman Willis Edward III is the consultant for Dwight Warren. Hawkins was a newcomer in the last election, and Warren will be a newcomer in this election after his announcement. It will be interesting to see how the political machines can impact the majority of the people.

Local Talk wishes each candidate the best of luck in the upcoming election.