
With new baby daughter arrived in August, Dan Epstein to bow out of TX19 Congressional Race

 DAN EPSTEIN FOR WEST TEXAS -CD 19 · THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

Epstein: “And as much as I love and am committed to the people of West Texas, I have realized that I cannot be the kind of father that I want to be for my baby daughter if I continue as a candidate in this race.”

(Lubbock, TX). Last April, Dan Epstein declared his candidacy to be the 2018 Democratic nominee for the Texas 19th Congressional District. After almost eight months of hard work on the campaign trail, he has decided to withdraw his name from consideration. Dan & his wife Jasmine welcomed their first child, a baby girl, in late August. With no provision for paid leave from either of their jobs at Texas Tech, Dan has decided that his commitments to his wife and family will not allow him to continue investing the time that it would take to run the type of serious Democratic campaign he had promised. So he will wind up the campaign in the coming weeks, and throw his support to other Democratic candidates in this and other

local races.

Full statement:

“For about eight months now, I have been hard at work on the campaign trail, and it has been an amazing experience. I have met so many wonderful people, and caught up with so many old friends. I've walked so many blocks, knocked so many doors, worked with my campaign team to register so many voters, and traveled to so many great places in the district. I could think of no better job to seek than representing the people of West Texas in Congress, to stand up for the values of justice and equality against the plutocratic Trump-Republican machine that dominates our country today.

However, a job is not the most important thing in life.

For about eight weeks now, I have been a father to a wonderful little girl, and nothing could be more joyful for me and Jasmine than this arrival of our first child. But being a parent in America today it can be tough to stay on top of everything. Neither my nor Jasmine's occupations at Texas Tech University provide any paid maternity or parental leave. And as much as I love and am committed to the people of West Texas, I have realized that I cannot be the kind of father that I want to be for my baby daughter if I continue as a candidate in this race.

Moreover, Jasmine's career is at a critical stage: the PhD program which brought us to Lubbock in the first place. As she and I work to flourish in our two careers and to raise our young daughter, we've realized that running for Congress, with its significant demands on all our time, is the extra variable that makes the equation impossible to balance.

Thus, although we have mounted an impressive campaign, and we've accomplished a great deal in preparing new voters to participate in the political process, I will be winding down my campaign, and will withdraw my name from consideration in the Democratic primary next spring. I will be as helpful as I can and put in as much as time as I can fit to help other Democrats running in this and other races locally, so that we can finally strike a real blow for justice and representation in West Texas. Thank you all for all of your support, and please join me in supporting these other local candidates.”