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Sean Burrage seeks State Senate seat

Sean Burrage, a Claremore attorney and legislative director for David Boren when he served in the U.S. Senate, announced Wednesday that he is running for the Oklahoma State Senate in Mayes and Rogers counties.

The 37-year-old Democrat has been married 12 years to his wife, Carole, and they have two young sons.

Sean and Carole both graduated from OU and the School of Law there, and Carole served on the faculty at Rogers State University until last semester when she resigned to stay home with their children.

Stratton Taylor, a Claremore Democrat, currently holds the Senate District 2 seat being sought by Burrage. Taylor cannot seek reelection because of term limits.

Prosperous schools, health care solutions and strong economic climate are issues of focus for Burrage, who said he wants mostly to be a voice for middle-class families. His major concerns in Mayes County are MidAmerica Industrial Park, RSU and Thunderbird Academy.

"I'm going to do everything I can to help MidAmerica achieve its full potential and make sure its assets aren't raided by an outside interest," said Burrage.

"The Pryor campus of Rogers State University is at full capacity and we're risking a situation where students might be turned away because there is simply no room. We can't let that happen. We have to make sure RSU-Pryor has every opportunity to grow.

"Thunderbird Youth Academy provides a critical function. The military-style discipline is exactly what some kids need. I want to look at ways to expand the center," he said.

Burrage, who serves on the board of the University Hospitals Authority and Trust, which oversees the hospitals at OU Health Sciences Center, has a first-hand view of the health care system after his son, Carter, 1, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

"For the last 18 months my family has been on a very long journey through our health care system. So far we've been fortunate - we're still making it. But

many middle class families are one illness away from bankruptcy. Something has to change."

Burrage is volunteer president of Share the Spirit, a local charity that provides food baskets for families in need and sends kids to summer camp.

In 2001, this Little League baseball and soccer coach was selected as "Attorney of the Year" by Tri-County CASA for free representation of minor children in the juvenile court system.

Burrage's father is a federal judge, his mother is a former elementary school teacher now serving as a school principal.

When Sen. Boren left the U.S. Senate to become president at the University of Oklahoma, Burrage became special assistant to the OU president and director of state and federal relations.

"Sean is uniquely qualified to serve in the State Senate," said Boren. "I've never known anyone who worked harder, was more responsible, and care more about doing the right thing no matter what."



SEAN BURRAGE FAMILY