

# Slattery Officially Kicks Off U.S. Senate Campaign

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Gas prices, the economy and the war in Iraq show that Washington needs new blood, Jim Slattery said Tuesday, formally launching a bid to unseat U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts.

Slattery, a Democrat who represented Kansas' 2nd Congressional District for 12 years, said Roberts, a two-term Republican, shares the blame for the handling of the war and out-of-control spending. He noted that Roberts "went to Washington before Neil Armstrong landed on the moon."

"Each of us has the power to make our community better and the duty to try," he told an audience in Topeka.

"The U.S. Senate is simply not getting the job done."

After his speech in Topeka, Slattery made appearances in Overland Park, Kansas City, Kan., and Wichita.

Roberts welcomed Slattery into the fray by unleashing a statewide radio advertisement calling Slattery a "real liberal" and "a Washington lobbyist Gucci loafers and all."

"Voters have a clear choice between Pat Roberts, Enhanced Coverage Linking Pat Roberts, -Search using: Biographies Plus News News, Most Recent 60 Days

who has dedicated his life to helping Kansans, and Jim Slattery, who stopped working for Kansas years ago," Roberts spokeswoman Ashley McManus said.

Democrat Greg Orman dropped out of the race in February. One other Democrat is running - Lee Jones, 56, an Overland Park railroad engineer.

Slattery, 59, was born in Good Intent, Kan., in Atchison County. He served in the Kansas Legislature before winning a U.S. House seat in 1982.

He left Congress in 1994 after an unsuccessful bid for governor. Since then, he's worked as a Washington lobbyist and lawyer. He and his wife recently moved to Topeka.

Roberts, 72, of Dodge City, worked as a reporter and congressional staffer before being elected to the U.S. House in 1980. Elected to the Senate in 1996, he served for four years as chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Slattery acknowledged that he has a tough campaign ahead. Kansas hasn't elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate since 1932.

"The Democrats only have a handful of politicians in the state with enough name recognition to have a chance of beating him (Roberts)," said Bob Beatty, a Washburn University political scientist.