
Posted on Sat, Dec. 02, 2006

Official resigns for job

Kansas House member will lead a nonprofit statewide health agency.

By SARA STITES
The Kansas City Star



O'Malley

Northeast Johnson County legislator Ed O'Malley will resign his seat and move to Wichita to lead a new nonprofit organization.

He will be the first president and CEO of the Kansas Leadership Center, opening in January. Its aim is to convene statewide leaders to address health and wellness issues and train them to help their respective communities and organizations.

The center will be funded by the Kansas Health Foundation.

O'Malley, a 31-year-old Republican from Roeland Park, has represented District 24 in the Kansas House of Representatives since 2003. He was elected to another term in November.

At the time of the election, O'Malley said, he thought the Legislature was in his foreseeable future. But when the leadership opportunity arose, he said, he couldn't pass it up.

As a lawmaker, O'Malley said, he has worked hard for Kansas, and he hopes the new position will allow him to continue the effort on a broader scale.

"This allows an individual like myself to continue trying to make Kansas a better place without all the political headaches," he said.

Marni Vliet, president of the Kansas Health Foundation, said O'Malley would be charged with laying the groundwork for the fledging leadership center.

"He has such caring about the people of this state," Vliet said. "I believe it's his life work."

O'Malley currently is director of business development for Shred-it of Lenexa.

After receiving an official resignation letter, the chairman of the Johnson County Republican Party has 21 days to call a convention of precinct committee leaders, who will choose the next representative.

O'Malley said he intends to submit his resignation within the week and hopes his replacement can be sworn in before lawmakers convene Jan. 8.

To contact Sara Stites, call (816) 234-7741 or send e-mail to [sstites@kcstar.com](mailto:ssites@kcstar.com).