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## **Campaign funds on short side**

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The first campaign finance reports filed by two political newcomers for the 32nd District Senate seat show very little money has been raised.

The two Republicans, Ed Mills and Mike Wilson, said their fundraising is picking up now for the race to get the seat held by Democrat Mike Reynolds. The reports were filed early this month at the conclusion of the last quarter.

Mills reported raising \$600 in cash and \$450 in-kind contributions.

"I just needed a little money to get my Web site up and running," Mills said. "I really didn't want to start fundraising until Oct. 1."

Wilson reported receiving a little more than \$3,000, including 17 unitemized contributions of \$1,085.

"Right now we are working on organizing some fundraisers," he said. "We have had several people who had said they would have them so we are getting together guest lists and confirming dates."

Both men have named their campaign managers and are getting other organizational committees in place.

Mills' manager is Timothy Gilliam, a senior political science major at Western Kentucky University. He has worked for U.S. Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign and other political campaigns and worked in U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie's office in Washington, D.C .

Wilson's campaign manager is Shane Noem, a WKU photojournalism major, who has interned on several political campaigns.

Mills is working on developing a social networking base, with more than 1,000 followers on Twitter.

"We have a Facebook campaign we are getting ready to launch," said Mills, who along with his sons started the Internet business, Hitcents. "We are really looking hard at social media, so when we start fundraising we are connected to people. We want people to hear what we have to say and to hear what the people have to say.

"I also am planning in November a focus group with some local economists from WKU who will help develop a long-term plan for the state," he said. "I don't just want to say I support education."

Wilson, the general manager of WCVK radio, said he also is formulating a campaign platform and strategy.

While he also has Facebook and Twitter accounts, Wilson said he is doing as much face-to-face meeting with people as he can.

"I am going to a lot of different things that are happening like the fire department events; I went to a movie screening and I'm going to a lot of chamber events," he said.

But Wilson said he also will utilize Facebook, which has become an important tool for many people.

"My whole family uses it and I have reconnected with a lot of old high school friends ... and others," he said. "But right now we are mostly concentrating on getting artwork completed for materials and that sort of thing, fundraising and just going out and meeting people."

Mills is planning an event Nov. 3 in Fountain Square Park at which other Republican candidates from around the state have been invited.

"We have at least 100 people confirmed," he said. "It will be more a time for the party."

The event is being dubbed Kickoff to Election 2010.