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Mauro campaigns in Iowa County

■ Iowa Secretary of State discusses plans to save money on elections

By NICK NARIGON

Iowa Secretary of State Michael Mauro stopped by Iowa County Tuesday, July 13, with hopes of educating the public about what his office does, as well as making the rounds for his re-election campaign.



MICHAEL MAURO

Mauro, Des Moines, was the Polk County Auditor for 12 years prior to being elected secretary of state in 2006. During a meeting with a reporter in Marengo, he said Iowans have misconceptions about the duties of the secretary of state.

"Our mission and our goal is to educate the public about the secretary of state office," he said. "I feel I have a duty and responsibility to do that."

Mauro, a Democrat, is running against Republican candidate Matt Schultz in the Nov. 2 general election.

Mauro said the secretary of state office serves two main purposes.

Most visibly, the secretary of state oversees the

state's elections division. The secretary of state serves as an informational resource to Iowa's 99 county auditors and assures the state complies with election legislation such as the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act.

Secondly, Mauro said his office is in charge of the business service division for the State of Iowa, overseeing the records center for businesses in Iowa. Among its key responsibilities are the registration and authorization of domestic and foreign entities to transact business in Iowa, filing secured transaction liens under the uniform commercial code and to commission Iowa Notaries Public.

Mauro said in the last four years he implemented the online business center that allows business to be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mauro said he has also implemented measures to improve the integrity of elections, as well as save money for the state.

Under Mauro, the office established a uniform voting system for all 99 counties. As a result, bipartisan legislation was passed to ensure all future elections will have

a verified paper trail.

He said he also worked with the legislature to allow citizens the ability to register to vote on Election Day.

During the 2008 general election, Mauro said Iowa had the fifth highest percentage turnout in the nation and had the highest rate of young voter participation. The Secretary of State's office also was noted to have the top elections Web site in the country during the 2008 election season. He said the state also ranked first in a study focusing on the ease of voting for members of the military living overseas.

"The state of Iowa has a very engaged electorate and has some of the most refined voters in the country," Mauro said.

As for saving taxpayer money, Mauro said he worked to consolidate city, school and special elections and establish the ability for county auditors to use vote centers in these types of elections. He said this will lead to \$1 million in savings.

In addition, he said the voter registration database is now conducted in-house, rather than contracted out, which will save \$300,000 to \$500,000.



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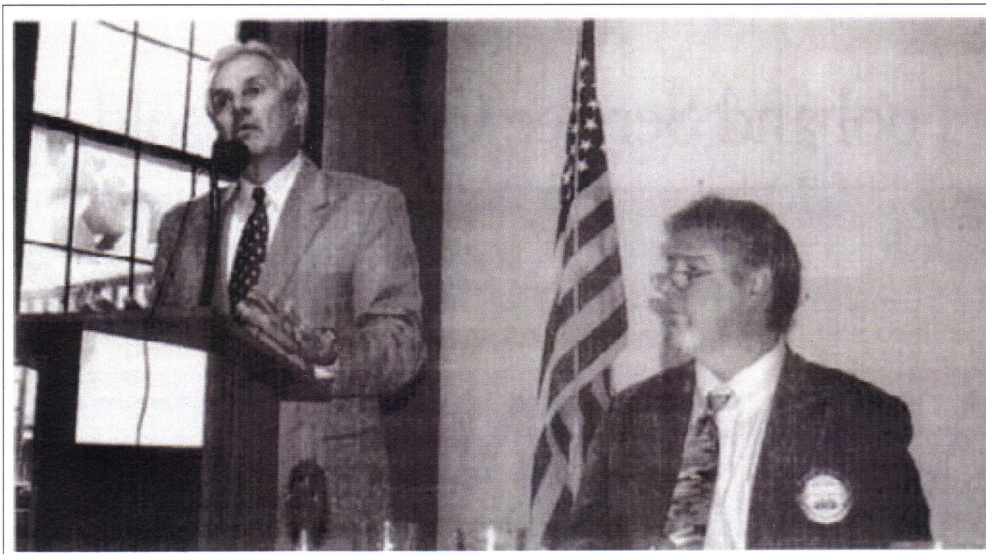
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■ Politics

Secretary of State Mauro visits Rotary

By Daily News Staff

Iowa Secretary of State Michael Mauro was in Newton Tuesday speaking to the weekly meeting of the Newton Rotary Club. Mauro spoke of the dual nature of his office, providing business services through the Online Business Center, as well as the elections division, with the goal of making the voting process easier, more uniform and more accessible to all citizens.

Mauro is up for re-election this year, running against Republican candidate Matt Schultz.



Michael Mauro (left) speaks at the Rotary meeting on Tuesday while Rotary president Terry Rickers (right) listens.

John Jennings/
Daily News