

NEWS RELEASE

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**Judy Baker declares candidacy
for 25th Missouri House district**

COLUMBIA – Columbia business owner Judy Baker announced today that she plans to file for the Democratic Party nomination for the 25th district of the Missouri House of Representatives.

Baker, 43, owner of the consulting firm Cura Healthsystem Solutions, brings a diverse background in business, health care, education and community involvement to the race. She said that, if elected, she will advocate for improved health care for children and to strengthen the state's elementary, secondary and higher education efforts.

“As a parent and as someone who is involved in many facets of the community, I am committed to improving health care and educational opportunities for our children and youth,” Baker said. “Those are priorities almost all of us can agree upon and I am eager to put my diverse experience to work on the challenges facing Missourians.”

Baker said her 20-year career in health-care administration has emphasized strategic planning, problem solving and team building, qualities that will allow her to work with fellow legislators to identify realistic solutions to meet common goals in difficult economic times.

Before founding Cura Healthsystem Solutions in 2002, Baker was an administrator for MU Health Care, serving as interim executive director of MU's University Physicians practice plan and as director of operations at Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City. On a part-time basis, she continues to teach managerial economics at Columbia College and consults and serves as administrative director for A Call To Serve International, a not-for-profit, humanitarian organization, dedicated to building partnerships that benefit the country of Georgia.

Baker said she first felt a call to public service as a child and received a balanced political

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grounding from her father, Dr. Norman Wall, a military physician who advocated fiscal responsibility, and her mother, Beverly Briggs Wall, a supporter of environmental stewardship and gun control. A self-described moderate, Baker said she expects her open and reasoned approach to issues will increase her appeal across party lines.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in educational psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1981, Baker attended Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where she earned a master of divinity in 1986. She completed a master's degree through MU's Health Services Management Executive Program in 2002.

She and her husband, Dr. John D. Baker, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, have three children: Sarah, 17, a junior at Rock Bridge High School; Lauren, 15, a freshman at Jefferson Junior High; and David, 11, a sixth-grader at Gentry Middle School.