

By Administrator

Wednesday, 05 February 2014 12:37 - Last Updated Wednesday, 05 February 2014 12:41

RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - He placed second in the American Idol singing competition a few years ago, but Raleigh native Clay Aiken is hoping for a first-place finish in the 2014 election cycle. Aiken, a Democrat from Raleigh, officially announced his candidacy for the 2nd District seat in Congress via a video posted to the website www.clayaiken.com.

Republican Renee Ellmers currently holds the seat. Aiken is seeking the Democratic Party's nomination to challenge Ellmers, but he must first beat out fellow Democrat Keith Crisco, who used to work for Gov. Beverly Perdue. Another candidate, Houston Barnes, has pulled out of the primary and endorsed Aiken.

While he is a novice candidate, Aiken is not new to politics. In 2012 he campaigned against Amendment One, which amended the North Carolina Constitution by defining marriage as specifically between one man and one woman. The Amendment passed overwhelmingly, with more than 60 percent support, and is now law.

Ellmers faces a challenge in the GOP primary. Talk show host Frank Roche says Ellmers isn't sufficiently conservative. Ellmers was elected to the job in 2010 as a member of the Tea Party. She was re-elected in 2012.