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A redistricted DiCicco battles Burzichelli, Riley in Third District

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On a rundown street corner in Millville, Cumberland County Republicans and police officers applauded when Assemblyman Domenick DiCicco stepped up to talk about his proposal to have inmates returned to their home counties after serving their sentences.

Cumberland County is home to three state prisons, and DiCicco and other advocates of the plan voiced concern that inmates not originally from the county were staying in the area after being released - and many were committing more crimes.

DiCicco said at Tuesday's news conference that when Freeholder Sam Fiocchi came to him to talk about the problem, "I said, 'Wow, look at this, South Jersey is getting the shaft again.' "

Yet how many more South Jersey causes DiCicco, a first-term Republican, can pursue through legislation is in question.

When a redistricting panel redrew legislative boundaries earlier in the year to favor incumbents in the Democratic-controlled Legislature, it shifted DiCicco from the Fourth District to the more Democratic Third District of Senate President Stephen Sweeney.

Republicans had talked about DiCicco's challenging Democratic Sen. Fred Madden in the Fourth, but now on Nov. 8, he faces Democratic Assembly members John Burzichelli, a legislator since 2002, and Celeste Riley, a legislator since 2009.

A recent poll commissioned by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy found Burzichelli and candidates of the same party in a district often share a campaign manager, DiCicco has his own, Villare has another, and Senate candidate Michael Mulligan has none. obs because we kind of just didn't n

He also brushed off chatter about his house in Franklin Township being up for sale, saying he was trying to downsize to another home in the same area.

If reelected, DiCicco said, his top priority would be to make a 2010 law capping property tax hikes at 2 percent a part of the New Jersey Constitution to ensure that legislators don't water down the

legislators voted against the measure and Christie vetoed it, saying more tax increases would hurt the state.

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