

TRY AS THEY MAYOR

In modern Philadelphia politics, no one has ever defeated an incumbent mayor seeking a second term. But there's no shortage of people who've tried. Here's a list of potential Nutter challengers next year:

Sam Katz: The businessman/entrepreneur has already run for mayor three times as a Republican, coming within 9,500 votes of beating John Street in 1999. He's now 61 and a registered Democrat, on the fence about taking another shot. Some people think he won't resist the urge to run again.



Tom Knox: The 69-year-old businessman poured about \$11 million of his own money into the 2007 Democratic primary and finished second with 71,731 votes, about 35,000 behind Nutter. He says he's interested in a 2011 race but won't run against Katz and is waiting to see what Katz does. "I haven't ruled it out," Knox says, "but there's no reason in the world to get people all excited and upset about it until you make up your mind."



Jonathan Saidel: The former city controller, 59, says he gets phone calls all the time from people who want him to run for mayor or another office. Four years ago, he was interested, but he doesn't seem to have the fire anymore. "I think being mayor of the city you grew up in is the greatest honor you could ever receive," he said yesterday. "But I'd be very surprised if I were a candidate for any office next year."



Bill Green: The first-term city councilman, 45, faces re-election for Council-at-large next year and says outright that he's not interested in running for mayor. But he sounds more like a candidate than anyone else. "I think the last three years have been extraordinarily disappointing," he said yesterday. "We have wasted an economic crisis and not accomplished any kind of substantive, transformative or even incremental change that has any meaning to the citizens of Philadelphia."



George Bochetto: The 58-year-old lawyer sought the Republican nomination for mayor in 1999 and raised \$500,000 before city Republican leaders chose Katz as their candidate. Asked yesterday if he'll be a candidate next year, Bochetto said: "I am thinking about it deeply. I am deeply concerned with the lack of leadership in the city, the lack of vision, the lack of economic development and stimulus. And I am deeply concerned that our mayor looks at the recession as a liability as opposed to an opportunity."



John Featherman: A Center City realty agent and Republican committeeman, Featherman, 46, is the only declared candidate for mayor, filing paperwork last June. He's allied with party dissidents, which means that even the Republican leadership doesn't want him.



Queena Bass: After three races for mayor since 1999, she says she's still angry about being ignored by the news media and is undecided about running again.

