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## STAMFORD

## Libertarian wants to debate Shays, Farrell on Iraq

By Mark Ginocchio  
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Saying he is the only congressional candidate who unconditionally opposed invading Iraq, Greenwich hedge-fund founder and Libertarian Phil Maymin challenged his major-party opponents to debate his proposal for a specific troop withdrawal date.

Maymin, who officially entered the 4th Congressional District race last week, said U.S. troops should be removed from Iraq by July 4 next year or Congress should declare war.

*Greenwich man says the major-party candidates are too alike*

He invited U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Bridgeport, a staunch supporter of the war, and Democrat Diane Farrell, who is against the Bush administration's handling of the war but will not endorse a specific withdrawal date, to debate the issue Tuesday at Greenwich Town Hall.

"Iraq is the perfect issue for all of the candidates to debate," Maymin said in a telephone interview yesterday.

"That is why I'm calling on this very focused debate."

Neither major-party candidate has responded directly to Maymin, though both camps indicated yesterday they are open to talking about Iraq with anyone who is invited to participate in debates scheduled later this year.

"We've been trying to debate Congressman Shays for almost a year," said Farrell's campaign manager, Adam

Wood. "We're looking forward to those debates and we're glad to debate whoever the sponsors decide to invite."

Shays' campaign manager, Michael Sohn, said there are many debates scheduled in the fall and "we look forward to debating our opponents then."

Maymin said it is important for voters to hear his opinions on the Iraq war because Shays and Farrell have similar positions.

**Exit strategy**

■ The U.S. military should spend the next six months "rooting out the remaining terrorists" and then return control of the country to the Iraqi government, Libertarian Phil Maymin said.

Shays supported a unilateral invasion, while Farrell said she would have backed the war only if the United Na

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## Debate

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tions and NATO endorsed it, Maymin said.

Farrell yesterday also renewed her call for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation and said his replacement should offer a full exit strategy from Iraq within 30 days.

That strategy must include bringing the warring factions to the table to work out a political solution, she said. It could include a timetable for "phased withdrawal," but she would not

support a "date-specific" withdrawal until stability has been restored in the country, Farrell said.

Shays has said Farrell's "political solution" is the same position he's taken since the war began three years ago.

Maymin said setting a withdrawal date would not "embolden the terrorists" or indicate that the United States is leaving Iraq in chaos.

"That is something said based on fear," Maymin said. "There's always a threat of an insurgency

somewhere. That does not mean we have to stay there forever. . . . We will be helping the Iraqis."

The U.S. military should spend the next six months "rooting out the remaining terrorists" and then return control of the country to

the Iraqi government, he said.

If the country finds it is necessary to stay in Iraq past his deadline, "then Congress always has the option to declare war," Maymin said. "Congress has always had the option."