

Carona plans to seek another Texas Senate term, not run for Dallas mayor

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Sen. [John Carona](#), R-Dallas, said he won't run for Dallas mayor in the next election and instead plans to seek a sixth term in the Texas Senate.

He said he had not discussed his plans with Dallas [Mayor Tom Leppert](#) and does not know whether the mayor will seek a second term next year.

"I suspect he may not know himself," Carona said. "He has made no secret he would like to serve in the [U.S. Senate](#)."

But Carona said anyone hoping to win that seat is likely to have an opponent – Sen. [Kay Bailey Hutchison](#), R-Texas.

"Anyone who presumes that KBH is serving out her last term, well, they should not presume that as a fact," he said Thursday. "Only KBH herself knows whether she is serving her last term or whether she'll run for re-election yet again. And as for me, I predict she will seek re-election."

Carona said his place is in the Senate.

"I have always had an interest in coming back to Dallas and serving the city," he said. "But right now, my focus is truly on serving in the Legislature. I absolutely intend to run for re-election."

Elected first to the Texas House in 1990, Carona had been chairman of the Senate transportation committee since 2006, and he made himself a force on an issue that for many years had been among the Legislature's most contentious.

But Carona said he fears that transportation will be pushed to the back burner in 2011, and he wanted a larger role.

He said he expects the business and commerce committee, which he will now lead, to be among the "two or three most important" in the 2011 session.

Beyond that, Carona said he sees himself as a pragmatic conservative, something he said too few of his more ideological colleagues can say.

"Right now the state is in such a period of transition, and its politics have become so polarizing, that I truly believe the Senate can be benefited by members who take a

conservative but pragmatic approach," he said. "I am proud to be conservative in my views, but I believe the essence of politics is compromise."