

Betting on Kalousek



What exactly Jiří Pospíšil of TOP 09 was trying to achieve by offering ex-Finance Min. Miroslav Kalousek a chance to [run for the Senate next year in Prague 2](#) isn't clear, but the timing of it - just a few days before the government's budget-consolidation package is announced - makes it look like a Machiavellian move. Kalousek has been toying with the idea of founding a [new political party](#) with emphasis on budgetary responsibility, but he has become a sort of rebel without a cause ever since TOP 09, [STAN](#) and the Pirates took up the same theme in earnest. An offer to run for the Senate sounds like an honor, but it's probably more a way to blunt any move Kalousek might make against TOP 09. Other than budget responsibility, Kalousek's only real political theme left is his rather furtive effort at a [realignment of tax rates for gambling/gaming to favor lotteries](#). If he does decide to return to politics as a TOP 09 Senate candidate or as head of a new party, it could become his Achilles heel.

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