

# REPUBLICAN MAIN STREET PARTNERSHIP



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## **Member Profile -- Congressman Erik Paulsen (MN-3)**

Congressman Erik Paulsen is in his first term representing the Northwest, West and outhwest suburbs of Minneapolis. Paulsen serves on the House Committee on Financial Services.

Rep. Paulsen received his B.A. in mathematics from St. Olaf College and has 16 years of business experience, including working as a business analyst at Target Corporation. His business experience has enabled him to become an influential voice on the Financial Services Committee, and one of his goals is to be an active participant in producing a long-term fiscal plan for the United States. Rep. Paulsen has also become a champion in eliminating government waste and joined the Sunset Caucus, stating that “For too long, politicians have merely paid lip service to these issues. This caucus will push for action when it comes to eliminating government waste.”

During his tenure in the Minnesota House, Rep. Paulsen earned a reputation as a leading watchdog for taxpayers and a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility. He teamed with Governor Pawlenty to eliminate a \$4.5 billion state budget deficit without raising taxes.

Rep. Paulsen began his career working as a legislative assistant in Washington for his predecessor, Congressman Jim Ramstad, and later served as the director of Ramstad's Minnesota office. Prior to his election to Congress in 2008, Paulsen served 14 years in the Minnesota Legislature and was the House Majority Leader from 2003 to 2007.

In previous years, Rep. Paulsen has received several important recognitions, including Legislator of the Year awards from the Association of Metropolitan School Districts and the Suburban Transit Association. He was also named Outstanding Legislator by the Minnesota School Boards Association and received the Nature Conservancy's Government Relations Award for environmental leadership.

Rep. Paulsen recently won some positive press in Minnesota for his use of the new Twitter technology to keep his constituents informed of his views and activities. The Minnesota Sun published a story praising Paulsen's work on Twitter, casting the freshman lawmaker as more in touch with his constituents through the microblogging site. “We can learn about his policies and activities in Washington, which Paulsen said is important to him,” said the paper. “Perhaps more important to constituents is that Paulsen wants to be accessible to the 3rd District.” The Capitol Hill newspaper, The Hill reported that “as Twitter remains a force of

debate in political and popular culture over whether or not it's a passing fad, or a useful tool with staying power, positive press like the Minnesota Sun's could prove to be a strong incentive for lawmakers like Paulsen to stay on Twitter."

### **Member Profile -- Congressman Ed Whitfield (KY-1)**

Congressman Ed Whitfield was elected in 1994 and was re-elected again in 2008 with 64% of the vote. Whitfield had previously served one term in the Kentucky House of Representatives as a Democrat (1974-1975), but then switched parties in the Reagan Revolution. A native of Hopkinsville, Kentucky he earned a Bachelor's and Law Degrees from the University of Kentucky. He also studied at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where he now serves on the Board of Governors. Rep. Whitfield served as a 1st Lieutenant in the 100th Division of the U.S. Army Reserves.

Rep. Whitfield is a senior member on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, holding assignments on its Subcommittees on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection; Energy & Environment; and Health. He has placed himself as a key legislator working behind the scenes on the energy and health issues. He is an ardent supporter of clean coal technology as part of a widespread approach to reduce energy costs. As early as March of this year, Rep. Whitfield has been outspoken on health care reform saying, "We should be focusing on market-based reforms that modernize our regulatory structure and empower doctors and patients with information and options."

In a congressional hearing on June 24, 2009 with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Congressman Whitfield made it clear his intention to ensure comprehensive healthcare reform legislation improves access to quality, affordable services without saddling future generations under a mountain of debt. Also that week the House of Representatives adopted Rep. Whitfield's amendment to promote the use of new and alternative therapies to aid soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act.

Most recently, Rep. Whitfield urged caution in creating a new Federal agency to regulate the financial services industry. In a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, Whitfield said, "We are all concerned over the ongoing financial crisis and committed to helping our constituents get through these difficult times while preventing future problems. However, I do not believe the creation of a new government agency that simply creates another layer of federal bureaucracy, costing taxpayers millions of dollars, is the best solution. It is essential we fully understand the impact this proposal will have on consumers and the institutions charged with protecting them and their finances."

During his career, Whitfield counts his top legislative accomplishments as helping to create the first Medicare Prescription drug benefit plan for seniors; creating the Health Compensation Program at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which has paid over \$315,000,000 in compensation to 3,139 employees and their survivors; and advocating for the humane treatment of animals.

## **Member Profile -- Congressman Leonard Lance (NJ-7)**

Congressman Leonard Lance represents New Jersey's 7<sup>th</sup> district in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was elected to the House in 2008, first defeating six other primary contenders, and then beating Democratic State Senator Linda Stender in a hard-fought general election. Prior to his successful run for the House, Rep. Lance was a member of the New Jersey state assembly for seventeen years.

Rep. Lance received a J.D. from Vanderbilt University and an M.P.A from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton. He currently sits on the Financial Services Committee, which oversees the banking, insurance, and real estate industries, and is a vocal voice for the inclusion of moderates in the Republican Party.

As an article in [The Hill](#) recently reported, "Freshman Rep. Leonard Lance (R-N.J.) is in the middle of one of the biggest debates in the Republican Party — whether it should adhere to a purer ideology or take a big-tent approach to politics. Lance is a fiscal conservative and social centrist who emphasizes his environmental record — the big-tent approach that pure conservatives love to hate. But Lance is using his beliefs to advocate a position conservatives can support — getting more Republicans elected to Congress, particularly in the Northeast, which is traditionally a Democratic stronghold."

Rep. Lance, though a freshman, has already become an active and important member of the House. He has been a strong supporter of the environment, helping to pass the recent climate change bill. He has also aided the crafting of a health care reform bill that would offer an attractive alternative to the bill favored by Senate Democrats.

Rep. Lance recently was honored by one of the nation's leading non-partisan senior advocacy groups for his strong support to eliminate the federal death tax. 60 Plus Association President Jim Martin presented Lance with the group's prestigious Benjamin Franklin Award for his support to repeal the terrible "death" tax. "I am very proud to receive this distinguished award for my efforts on behalf of New Jersey taxpayers," said Lance. "New Jersey taxpayers know far too much about high taxes because our residents pay one of the highest tax burdens in the nation. I fully support eliminating the federal death tax so that working families can keep more of their hard earned money and so they can pass their money onto their family – not the government – at the time of their death."

Rep. Lance has cosponsored the "Protecting Senior's Nest Egg Act," legislation which suspends the IRS requirement that forces retirees to make minimum withdrawals from their retirement accounts. "In today's economy, it is vital to protect the financial security of older Americans," Lance concluded.