

REPUBLICAN MAIN STREET PARTNERSHIP



2010, Issue 1

Activities of the Republican Main Street Partnership PAC

Thanks to the generous contributions of many individuals like you, the Republican Main Street Partnership PAC has established itself as one of the major forces in helping Republican candidates. RMSP PAC ranks as one of the top groups in fundraising and has a strong track record in using your contributions to support effective Republican candidates.

Recent news articles have been critical of some PACs that contribute very little of their funds directly to candidates. Stories show PACs spending almost all of their contributions on non-candidate related expenditures, such as overhead or consulting fees. When a PAC gives less than 5% of its money to candidates, donors rightly ask, "Where is my money going?"

The Republican Main Street Partnership is proud that it donates a large portion of its funds directly to candidates. The money you contribute is used to help centrist candidates win elections across the country. What follows is an overview of the candidates supported by the RMSP PAC in 2009. We thank you for your generous support!

2009 House Candidates Supported by RMSP PAC

Some of the largest contributions made by RMSP PAC have gone to candidates in open House seats. Many political experts believe that the election of 2010 will see a large number of open House seats, and that the balance of power may shift significantly if Republicans win more of these open seats.

In New Hampshire's 2nd CD, former Rep. Charlie Bass received \$5,000 in a race that political analyst Charlie Cook calls a toss-up. Incumbent Rep. Paul Hodes is running for the Senate.

RMSP PAC also contributed \$5,000 to US Attorney Pat Meehan, running in Pennsylvania's 7th CD. This district, consisting of the Philadelphia suburbs, is currently represented by Democrat Rep. Joe Sestak, who is running for the Senate. Local political analyst Jeff Jubiliner calls Meehan, "a very strong candidate to reclaim that traditionally held Republican seat before Sestak beat Curt Weldon a couple of years ago." He says "the district is very much a swing district and having a candidate of Pat Meehan's stature bodes very well for Republicans to pick up that seat in 2010." Jubiliner highly doubts Meehan will face a contested GOP primary, believing that Meehan is such a strong candidate and is so well-liked by many Republicans, it should be expected that local party leadership will line up behind him.

First-term Democrats have the potential to be particularly vulnerable in 2010. Many appear to have been elected on the coattails of President Obama, and will not have this advantage in 2010.

State Rep. Scott Bruun, running for Oregon's 5th District, received \$5,000 from RMSP PAC. The Oregonian's first take on the race included the comment that, "Without the Barack Obama surge of 2008, (incumbent Rep. Kurt) Schrader could face a tougher year in 2010, particularly if the economy is a negative for Democrats."

In the race for Congress in the 16th District of Ohio, businessman Jim Renacci received \$5,000 for his effort to unseat first term Rep. John Boccieri. This seat, formerly held by Rep. Ralph Regula, centers around Canton, in the northeastern part of the state. Key Republican county party chairmen recently wrote an open letter to the voters of the 16th District, calling Renacci the "best candidate," citing "his preparation, personal resources and contact network throughout the district."

For his 2010 rematch with Rep. Mary Joe Kilroy, RMSP donated \$5,000 to Steve Stivers. In 2008 Stivers lost by less than 3,000 votes – less than 1%. Political experts said that third party candidates hurt Stivers in 2008.

RMSP PAC continues to give significant support to many incumbents, to ensure that they remain a strong voice in the House of Representatives. These Members are the core of independent thinkers in the House and take a leadership role on many key issues.

Rep. Judy Biggert received \$6,000 from RMSP PAC as she faces a potentially strong challenge in President Obama's home state of Illinois. First elected in 1998, Rep. Biggert is a key Member of the Financial Services, and Education and the Workforce Committees.

Several California Members of Congress could be in close races in 2010. RMSP PAC has contributed \$4,000 to Rep. Mary Bono-Mack, who is likely to face Palm Springs Mayor Steve Pougnet. Rep. Bono-Mack won a special election to succeed her husband in 1998, and is a Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

RMSP PAC has given significant support to Republican Members of Congress in Michigan, including Reps. Dave Camp, Vern Ehlers, Thad McCotter, Candice Miller, and Fred Upton. Rep. Camp, the ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, has played a leading role in the debate on health care. Rep. Ehlers, who has served in Congress since 1993 and before that in the Michigan state legislature, has earned respect on both sides of the aisle for his strong work ethic and thoughtful approach to policy issues. As Chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, Rep. McCotter plays a key role in developing issue positions for House Republicans. Rep. Candice Miller, first elected to Congress in 2002, had previously been active in local politics for 20 years. One of the most senior Republicans in Congress, having been elected in 1986, Rep. Upton continues to demonstrate his leadership on key energy and telecommunications issues.

Rep. Shelly Moore-Capito received a contribution of \$5,000 from the RMSP PAC. Rep. Moore-Capito, representing West Virginia's 2nd District and first elected in 2000, plays an important role on the Committee on Financial Services. RMSP PAC also donated \$5,000 to Rep. Ed Whitfield, who represents Kentucky's 1st District. Rep. Whitfield, first elected in 1994, is a leading Member on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Pennsylvania continues to provide strong Republican leadership in the House and the RMSP PAC has made contributions to several key Members. Rep. Charlie Dent received \$6,000, and could face a strong Democratic opponent in Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan. Rep. Jim Gerlach, while first considering a run for Governor, has indicated he will run for re-election to his 6th District seat. RMSP has contributed \$5,000 to Gerlach, who remains an important voice among centrists in the House. Rep. Tim Murphy, representing the 18th District in Western Pennsylvania, received \$2,000 from the RMSP PAC.

Several Ohio Members received strong support from the RMSP PAC. Reps. Steve Austria, Steve LaTourette, Pat Tiberi and Mike Turner, continue to provide outstanding leadership in the House. Rep. Austria, a first-term Member from the Western Ohio 8th District, serves on the Budget and Homeland Security Committees. Rep. LaTourette, first elected in 1994, currently sits on the important Appropriations Committee. Rep. Tiberi, representing the Columbus suburbs, is a Member of the Ways and Means Committee. Rep. Turner, representing the Dayton area since being elected in 2002, serves on the Armed Services Committee.

Rep. Greg Walden, in his sixth term representing the 2nd CD of Oregon, received \$6,000 from the RMSP PAC. Rep. Walden received strong praise in his recent re-election campaign, with one newspaper saying, "Walden has been a tireless worker for the sprawling Second District, which covers more than 71,000 square miles, larger than any state east of the Mississippi River. Walden has been both effective in Congress and accessible at home."

2009 Senate Candidates Supported by RMSP PAC

Most political experts predict gains in the Senate for the Republican Party, and the RMSP PAC has given strong support to candidates in several States. Former Rep. Rob Simmons, running in Connecticut, is expected to face several other Republicans for the open seat vacated by Senator Chris Dodd. In Delaware, Rep. Mike Castle received \$4,500 from the RMSP PAC for his expected race against Attorney General Beau Biden, son of Vice President Joe Biden.

Rep. Roy Blunt received a contribution of \$5,000 for his campaign to succeed retiring Senator Kit Bond in Missouri. The expected Democratic candidate is Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, daughter of former Governor Mel Carnahan and former Senator Jean Carnahan. Senator Chuck Grassley, who was elected to the Senate in 1980, received \$5,000 from RMSP PAC. Senator Grassley plays a leading role in the Senate on health care and tax issues.

RMSP PAC has also contributed \$5,000 each to the Senate campaigns of incumbent Senators Richard Burr (NC) and John Cornyn (TX). Both will be key to building the Republican ranks in the Senate. In Illinois, RMSP PAC has contributed \$2,000 to Rep. Mark Kirk, who faces two other Republicans in a primary on February 2.