

# REPUBLICAN MAIN STREET PARTNERSHIP



2010, Issue 2

## **Favorable Recent Polling Data**

In a recent edition of the Capitol Hill newspaper the Politico, Republican pollster Tony Fabrizio released results of a new national poll that gives Republicans a six-point lead among likely voters in a generic House race match-up, 40 percent to 34 percent. Independents now favor Republicans by 16 points, 38 percent to 22 percent. Many voters seem simply fed up, with 62 percent of respondents agreeing with the statement, "Congress is on the wrong track and we should send them home until after the upcoming election to prevent them from doing the country permanent harm."

## **Nevada**

Emergency room physician Dr. Joe Heck recently announced his candidacy for Nevada's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He will face incumbent Rep. Dina Titus. In his announcement, Heck described his reason for running as the need to "take action now to put our country back on a responsible track and to end the out of control deficit spending and government-takeover policies that are literally bankrupting this nation's economy and future."

Dr. Heck brings the real world experience necessary to be an effective, commonsense leader in Congress. Dr. Heck is a Colonel in the Army Reserves who has served tours of duty in support of operations in Bosnia, homeland security, and, most recently, in Iraq. As an emergency room physician Dr. Heck is on the front lines of our healthcare crisis each day and battling the issues plaguing our nation's healthcare system.

The Las Vegas Sun, in a recent story that focused on the impact home foreclosures have had on the Las Vegas area, indicated that it could hurt the election chances of Rep. Titus. Referring to the election in 2008, the article concluded, "Just as that foreclosure wave, and the tragedy that came after it, swept Titus into office, it could just as likely sweep her out. She faces a tough likely challenger in former state Sen. Joe Heck, a physician and Army Reserve colonel."

## **New Hampshire**

Former Congressman Charlie Bass recently announced his candidacy for the Second District seat he previously held. Current incumbent Rep. Paul Hodes is running for the Senate. In his announcement statement, Bass said he will campaign on a platform of fiscal conservatism,

strong national security and checking the unchecked power of Democrats in Washington. Bass represented New Hampshire in Congress from 1994 to 2006.

According to the Concord Monitor, Ann McLane Kuster, a Democratic candidate for the same seat, attacked Bass for his past record in Congress. Bass responded that there is a "big difference between experienced leadership and a Washington insider." Bass said his experience makes him capable of leading "from day one." He said he had voted against his party at times - for example, voting to remove House Majority Leader Tom DeLay after his indictment.

Bass also defended his credentials as a fiscal conservative. As an eight-year member of the House Budget Committee, Bass frequently voted in favor of earmark reductions and cuts in appropriations, he said. He said Republicans had for years tried to reduce discretionary and entitlement spending, until the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, forced the country to spend money to respond and to create the Department of Homeland Security. To avoid economic collapse, Bass said, Republicans did not raise taxes. They did, he said, "pass tough votes attempting to put a lid on spending."

Bass said the most important issue is determining how to cut spending and deal with the country's debt. "Including stimulus (money), spending increased this year by 57 percent," Bass said, citing numbers from the minority office of the House Budget Committee. "These are shocking numbers." Bass said the stimulus bill "did little to stimulate job growth - but plenty to stimulate the size of federal government."

Dante Scala, associate professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire, said Bass will likely benefit from name recognition among primary voters and from support from the Republican establishment. Another Republican candidate, Jennifer Horn will likely seek support from the more ideological groups, Scala said. Bass's challenge will be to appeal to the right wing of the Republican Party during the primary while not giving up the center entirely before the general election.

## Ohio

Time magazine recently included Republican candidate for Congress Steve Stivers in their list of candidates as, "Republican Surprise: 10 more Scott Browns." They describe the race in Ohio's 15th District as "the site of close battles in the past two election cycles, and this year should be no different." In 2008, Democrat Mary Jo Kilroy defeated Stivers by slightly more than 2,000 votes.

Time notes that this time Stivers has promises of heavier backing from House minority leader John Boehner and the Republican Party — and an attitude. "When you've been shot at by real bullets, negative political attacks just don't matter," says Stivers, who has served in the Ohio National Guard since 1985, including a stint in Iraq, and is now a lieutenant colonel.

An active Ohio state senator from 2003 to 2008, Stivers pushed legislation on tort reform, expanding health care coverage, cutting taxes and freezing college-tuition rates. For her part, Kilroy has consistently voted along party lines in the House. Time concludes, "If public outrage

over government spending persists, she stands little chance of winning in a district that has recently provided tiny margins of victory and in which she was the first congressional Democrat since 1966.”

In Ohio’s 16<sup>th</sup> District, Jim Renacci faces incumbent Democrat John Boccieri. A 27 year resident of the district, Renacci has a long involvement in the healthcare industry, forming LTC Management Services in 1985, which owned and operated nursing home facilities throughout Ohio. In 2003, Renacci formed a financial consulting company that, in addition to taking ownership of several businesses, also provided consulting services to numerous troubled businesses throughout the region.

From 1999-2002, Renacci served two terms as President of Wadsworth’s City Council and then served as Mayor of Wadsworth from 2004-2008. During his time as Mayor, Renacci brought his vast business experience to his role in government, converting the city’s multi-million dollar deficit into a surplus and balancing Wadsworth’s \$80 million budget—all without raising taxes. Over the course of his career in both the public and private sector, Renacci has created over 1,500 jobs in the area and has established a strong record as a sound steward of the economy.

Since entering the race to represent Ohio’s 16<sup>th</sup> district in Congress, Renacci’s campaign has witnessed a groundswell of support both across the district and on a national level. On January 12, 2010, the National Republican Congressional Committee named Jim a “Contender” in its “Young Guns” program, declaring him one of the top 14 challenger candidates in the country.

## **Pennsylvania**

RMSF supported candidate Patrick Meehan continues to campaign strongly for the 7<sup>th</sup> District seat currently held by Democratic Rep. Joe Sestak, who is running for the Senate. According to the Upland Daily Times, Meehan made a favorable impression on a group of veterans during a recent meeting. As a District Attorney, Meehan successfully won refunds for veterans who had been misled about insurance coverage and prosecuted cases involving fraudulent military contracts. At the meeting Meehan told the veterans, “Whenever there was work that we could do that reflected on veterans, I took a special sense of responsibility.”

Time magazine also included Meehan in their list of candidates as, “Republican Surprise: 10 More Scott Browns.” Time says, “Pat Meehan presents himself as if he were a character from a crime show — a tough, GOP establishment candidate who made his name as a Bush appointee in the position of U.S. Attorney for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. There he targeted terrorism, gangs and the cronyism culture of Philadelphia government, a plus in Pennsylvania's 7th District, which has had only three Democratic Congressmen since 1900.”