

REPUBLICAN MAIN STREET PARTNERSHIP

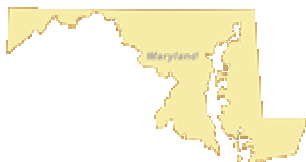
Political
Action
Committee

January 2008 -- Looking Back on 2007 and Forward to 2008

As we flip the calendar from 2007 to 2008, we look back on 2007 as a year of rebuilding. While our Party suffered significant losses in 2006, the Republican Main Street PAC made good progress this year in building its coffers for the challenges we face this year. Thank you very much for all your help!

The presidential race will certainly be the major political focus in the coming months. But several congressional primaries will take place in the first half of the year, and key Senate races will begin to take shape. Our PAC will play a critical role in helping fund the Members of Congress that face strong challenges.

Maryland



Rep. Wayne Gilchrist continues to be locked in a tight multi-candidate primary, but has received significant support from both within his district and prominent national Republican leaders. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich recently appeared with Gilchrist in his district to offer his personal endorsement and headline a fundraising event. Speaker Gingrich is widely hailed as the architect and leader of the 1994 Republican congressional victory, charting the course for Republican control of Congress for the first time in more than a generation.

Gilchrist has been endorsed by many local elected officials, with Anne Arundel county Executive John Leopold saying, "Wayne Gilchrist has a reputation of integrity and he's a person of conscience who makes decisions on what he believes is in the best interest of our nation. That's why I am proud to support him." Queen Anne's County Del. Richard Sossi, a Vietnam War veteran like Gilchrist, noted that they disagree on some issues, but said "I don't have to agree with someone 100 percent. He has served this district very well." Former U.S. Rep. Marjorie Holt said, "We've got one of the greatest Congressmen in Washington. It would be shortsighted if we didn't recognize the superb job he's doing." Many local officials, pointing out that Gilchrist's opponent is from Baltimore County, express concern about electing a candidate from the Western Shore to represent an area dominated by the Eastern Shore.

Many politicians send holiday greeting cards, but one newspaper columnist seemed to be offended at the “political” nature of the Christmas card sent out by Gilcrest’s opponent, State Senator Andy Harris. Calling it an “attack Christmas Card,” Delmarva Daily News columnist Joe Gidjunis went on to chide Gilchrist’s opponent, saying, “Harris, send us Christmas cards that wish for only a Merry Christmas. Get the politics out. The rest of the year is one thing, but don't politicize this holiday. It feels icky having this card at my desk knowing it’s trying to get my vote and put down the incumbent at the same time while wishing me a happy new year.”

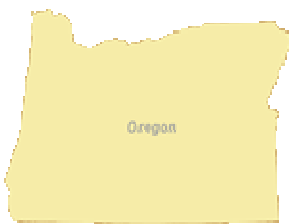
New York



Political commentators have begun to speculate on how the Presidential tickets could help or hurt candidates for Congress in several states, particularly New York and Illinois. The web site Real Clear Politics notes that in New York several competitive races could be affected. “Suppose Hillary Clinton is nominated by the Democrats and Rudy Giuliani is not the winner on the GOP side: What effect will Clinton's likely large margin in New York have on the two Republicans in marginal districts, Randy Kuhl and James Walsh?

Rep. Randy Kuhl is expected to face the same opponent as in 2006, Eric Massa, who has already received a major campaign contribution from Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s PAC. In addition, outside political groups were active in Kuhl’s district late in 2007, running issue advertisements critical of the Congressman.

Oregon



Senator Gordon Smith is given the edge for his reelection efforts by the conservative publication National Review. They conclude that “second-term GOP senator Gordon Smith won’t feel safe until he crosses the finish line, but right now he’s a favorite to beat Jeff Merkley, who is the Democratic Speaker of Oregon’s House.”

Smith continues to draw praise for the bipartisan manner in which he has served. Noting the cooperative efforts of Smith and Democratic Senator Ron Wyden, Seattle Post Intelligencer columnist Joel Connelly calls Smith “one of the Senate's most independent-

minded Republicans. He broke with the Bush administration on the Iraq war, wants to include gays in hate crimes legislation, and has opposed oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.” Smith and Wyden often hold joint town meetings and have collaborated on such legislation as pending additions to the Mount Hood Wilderness Area.

David Steves, in the Eugene Oregon Register-Guard, praises the bipartisan efforts of Senator Smith. He notes that on many issues, the “unified front of the Democratic Wyden and the Republican Smith has become as common as December rain in Oregon. But it’s been enough of a phenomenon nationally to attract national media coverage and to annoy partisans who expect their leaders to be properly hostile toward one another.

While Senator Wyden for months has been helping with introductions and fundraising for whoever the Democratic nominee might be to challenge Smith — just as Smith did two years ago when Wyden was up for re-election, Wyden has held to the two lawmakers’ long-standing pledge that neither one would go negative against the other. And Wyden has continued to appear publicly with his Republican counterpart — whether touring storm-damaged Northwestern Oregon or sharing the stage in Portland at an Oregon business summit.

Many Democrats have criticized Wyden for working with Smith, and are calling for him to be more partisan. Smith said he understands the kind of pressure that’s brought to bear in an election cycle. “They put enormous pressure on Ron, just as my side puts enormous pressure on me, to do less together,” Smith said. “But the losers in that pressure point are the people of Oregon.”

Senator Smith continues his efforts in Congress on his several key legislative issues. At a gathering in Oregon he said, “I am a lawmaker. Cut taxes and keep them low and fight the war on terror. That is where Congress should keep its focus.” At another event in his home state he addressed the Oregon Leadership Summit, a group he helped start to bring together business leaders, community leaders and government officials to discuss the state of Oregon’s economy and chart a course to maintain and grow Oregon’s role as a leader in the global marketplace. Senator Smith received a warm welcome from the more than 1,000 people in attendance, and in his remarks, highlighted the importance that natural resources and agriculture play in our state’s economy, as well as the need to find common ground on the issue of health care to reduce the number of uninsured and keep health care costs affordable.

Gordon Smith has represented Oregon in the United States Senate since 1997. He has earned a reputation for independence and effectiveness, working with both Republicans and Democrats to do what is right for Oregon.

Republican Main Street Partnership PAC

Thank you for your past support of Main Street Partnership PAC! Your contributions have enabled us to assist many fine candidates in winning election to Congress. With your support we hope to continue our success in 2008!

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