



## March Update

This month starts the 2006 primary election season and a number of RMSP endorsed candidates are running in close primaries, tough general election, or in many cases, both. This edition of our PAC update provides current information on four of our top candidates, along with an opportunity for you to support these candidates or other candidates of your choosing.

All four of the featured candidates demonstrate the thoughtful, hard-working profile of Republican Main Street Partnership members. We urge you to make a contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or as much as you can afford. The limit for individual contributions to candidates is \$2,100 per election. The last page of this newsletter contains a listing of the campaign committee names, and the information necessary to make your donation to help their efforts.

The Republican Main Street PAC's goal is to "Grow Our Party" by electing centrist Republicans across the country. With the assistance of thousands like you we have grown from a small fund, able to help just a few candidates, to the largest centrist Republican political organization in existence today.

In the last election cycle we contributed more than \$1.5 million to 12 candidates. Eleven of those candidates were successful, and as a direct result, centrists Republicans increased their numbers in the current Congress.

RMSP PAC hopes to more than double our efforts in 2006. Political experts expect this election cycle to be challenging for many Republicans. A significant percentage of Main Street incumbents come from "blue" states and districts, and in addition to the primary, face large number of independents and Democrats in the general election. These Members have demonstrated their electability in the past, and their political independence shows them to be strong candidates. Their election will be critical to the Republican goal of preserving our majorities in the House and Senate.

The four featured candidates in this edition are already in the throes of a tough campaign and need our help. We hope you will give each your careful consideration and support.

### **California 50 – Brian Bilbray for Congress**

#### **California**



Former Congressman Brian Bilbray is running in an April 11<sup>th</sup> primary to replace recently resigned Congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham. Republican Main Street PAC has endorsed and contributed to Bilbray, who we believe has an excellent opportunity to return to the ranks of the Republican Main Street membership in the House.

This special election has attracted a laundry list of candidates, including 14 Republicans. One of Bilbray’s opponents has loaned his campaign \$750,000, allowing him to buy radio and television commercials in the Los Angeles media market. Other challengers currently hold or formally held elected office.

In California’s unique method of conducting special elections, candidates from all parties appear on the same ballot, with an outright winner declared only if a candidate receives more than 50% of the vote. Achieving this margin is unlikely, and a runoff among the top candidates from each party will take place in June. Since this is a special election to fill the seat for the remainder of 2006, another primary will also be held in June to determine candidates for the fall general election. Thus, assuming Bilbray gets the most Republican votes in April, he still faces three more elections in the next seven months. Due to these unique circumstances, his need for campaign funds is critical.

The Bilbray campaign has been extremely active in the closing weeks before the April primary, recently winning the endorsement of the National Border Patrol Council, a group that represent over 100,000 border patrol agents and employees nationwide. The group called Bilbray, “The only candidate in this race who can help fix our broken immigration system.” Immigration and border security are key issues in this southern California district, and Bilbray recently signed a pledge to support a package of homeland security bills sponsored by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). “I challenge all of the candidates in this race to join me in signing this pledge to strengthen border security, enhance interior enforcement measures, remove incentives for illegal immigration and support our border patrol agents,” said Bilbray.

### **Idaho 1 – Sheila Sorenson for Congress**

#### **Idaho**



The incumbent Congressman in this district, Butch Otter, is running for Governor, leaving seven Republicans to contest the May 23<sup>rd</sup> primary. Sheila Sorenson, a former State Senator, has been endorsed by the Republican Main Street Partnership PAC.

This district includes the city of Boise and the northwestern parts of the state. Strongly Republican, a victory in the primary is tantamount to an election win in the fall.

A recent analysis of votes in the Idaho legislature demonstrates Sorensen's strong record on education. Of the 26 votes reviewed, Sorensen showed strong support for initiatives such as improving reading instruction, providing funding for the education of deaf and blind students, and improving education technology in our public schools. "Education was one of the most important issues I addressed during my nine terms in the legislature. I'm proud of my pro-education voting record. As Idaho's next Congresswoman, education will continue to be a top issue," said Sorensen.

The same emphasis on education cannot be said about most of her opponents, one of whom, Bill Sali, voted "no" on 26 bills designed to improve education in Idaho. Sali has the most consistent record of opposing education initiatives of any member of the Idaho legislature. He voted against bills that provided funding for the Idaho Promise Scholarship program – a scholarship program designed to encourage Idaho students to do well in high school, graduate, and continue their education at an Idaho college or university. Sali also voted against requiring criminal background checks for certain staff members of day care centers, voted no to funding small business development centers, and voted against improving reading and technology instruction.

Randy Stapilus, a Boise political writer, praised Sorensen for her moderate credentials. In a preview of the primary contest he said Sorensen, "has assets, including long legislative experience (and high regard in many quarters for knowledge, expertise and ethics) and experience both as a candidate and party worker: Her party chits are as solid as anyone's. She also would clearly be the most appealing candidate on this list to non-conservatives." Stapilus went on with a review of the race, saying, "The overall structure of the race isn't bad for her right now - so *many* more conservative candidates to choose from, and so much will depend on exactly how they define themselves. The endorsement from Representative Mike Simpson has, it is true, only limited direct value, but provides valuable issues cover. She has been working as hard as anyone, is getting well organized rapidly and is putting substantial money of her own into the race to prime the pump. Watch closely how much that priming results in external fundraising - a real indication of how much faith others have in her campaign."

### **Michigan 7 – Joe Schwarz for Congress**



**Michigan** This rural western Michigan Congressional District is strongly Republican, but incumbent Congressman Joe Schwarz again faces a strong primary contest. Schwarz narrowly won a multi-candidate primary in 2004, but this year faces a single opponent in the August 8<sup>th</sup> primary.

The Schwarz campaign is already in high gear, having secured numerous key endorsements. The Republicans for Environmental Protection recently endorsed Schwarz saying that he has been "a powerful voice of conscience and reason who understands the energy and natural resource challenges facing America." The group went on to praise

him, saying, "Dr. Schwarz has proved to be a faithful steward of clean and responsible government. He fought efforts to gum up critical budget and defense legislation with unrelated pet projects, such as the Alaska delegation's parochial gambit to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling." Republicans for Environmental Protection is dedicated to restoring the GOP's great conservation tradition and protecting the achievements of conservation-minded Republicans such as President Theodore Roosevelt.

Political writer Sarah Kellogg recently described some examples of how Congressman Schwarz is standing up to the Republican leadership in the House and demonstrating his political independence. She wrote, "In the world of hardball politics, it's rare to see a member of Congress stand up to party leadership. It's practically unknown for a freshman. But Michigan Republican Rep. John "Joe" Schwarz did when he signed onto a letter with 50 GOP colleagues last month asking Republican Leader Tom Delay of Texas to resign his leadership post. The letter went out on a Friday and by that Sunday Delay had stepped down as majority leader to clear his name of money-laundering charges in a Texas court."

The article went on to quote Craig Ruff, an analyst at Lansing's Public Sector Consultants as saying, "He can't abide unethical behavior. He also doesn't live in fear, so that gives him a leg up on other politicians."

Tim Walberg, Schwarz's opponent, is running a strong campaign, but mostly with conservative, out-of-state money. In his year end contributions report he itemized contributions of \$160,000, nearly all from individuals living outside of Michigan. Schwarz, on the other hand, listed over \$220,000 in itemized individual contributions, the vast majority from his local communities of Battle Creek and Lansing.

## **Pennsylvania 6 – Jim Gerlach for Congress**

### **Pennsylvania**



Rated by all political experts as one of the top "battleground" districts, Congressman Jim Gerlach faces a rematch with his 2004 opponent, Lois Murphy. Gerlach won by only 2% last election in this Philadelphia suburban district. A 12-year veteran of the Pennsylvania legislature, Gerlach was first elected to Congress in 2002. An active Republican Main Street Member, Gerlach's legislative priorities include increasing access to affordable health care, reducing the impact of suburban sprawl, improving regional transportation infrastructure, conserving environmental treasures, and stimulating economic growth.

Pennsylvania will have hard fought races for Governor and Senator at the top of the ticket, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District has always been viewed as a competitive seat. Democratic Presidential nominee Kerry won the district in 2004 by 51%, and experts continue to anticipate heavy Democratic turnout in this area. Gerlach, however,

has proved to be a strong campaigner, and is the type of centrist candidate that can win in this district.

Gerlach recently won praise from the Norristown Times Herald for his legislation to promote increased fuel economy and the use of alternative fuels. The Gerlach legislation, entitled the “Future Fuels Act,” would increase the production of alternative fueled vehicles, provide more information to consumers about the fuel savings of tires, and promote the use of mileage-based charges for automobile insurance. The Times Herald said, “The obvious outcome of such legislation would be a healthier environment but it would also greatly reduce our dependency on foreign oil.”

Gerlach recently joined fellow Republican Main Street Member Chris Shays in sponsoring ethics reform legislation that would create a new Office of Public Integrity. This independent, non-partisan office would investigate allegations of ethics violations and be a strong watchdog over congressional activities.

The ethics issue seems to have caught Gerlach’s opponent, Lois Murphy, in a bit of a bind. A story on the CQPolitics.com web site notes that the ethics reform package Murphy claimed to author closely mirrors one proposed two months ago by a Democratic candidate in California. Murphy’s campaign spokesman did not deny that their ethics plan was plagiarized, but simply called the Gerlach charge “over-heated.”



South Carolina PAC Fundraiser



You are invited to attend a fundraiser to be held May 12-15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Sanctuary Resort near Charleston, South Carolina. This promises to be an exciting and enjoyable weekend, and we hope you will lend your support.

We expect ten or more Members of Congress to join us at this event, which will feature policy discussions and an opportunity to listen to and exchange ideas with Main Street Members who play a key role in budget, tax, environment, education and other key legislative issues.

A contribution of \$3,000 will reserve your place for the weekend. This will include participation in all events for you and a guest. Individuals will be responsible for their hotel and incidental costs. Please call us at 202-682-3139 to reserve a place or for additional information.



**YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT RMSP PAC WITH A CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATE(S). I'M ENCLOSING AS LARGE A CONTRIBUTION AS I CAN RIGHT NOW TO HELP.**

**I WANT TO SUPPORT:**

- BRIAN BILBRAY FOR CONGRESS**
- SHEILA SORENSEN FOR CONGRESS**
- JOE SCHWARZ FOR CONGRESS**
- JIM GERLACH FOR CONGRESS**
- UNDESIGNATED - USE MY CONTRIBUTION FOR ANY CANDIDATE**

**ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR:**

\$2,000  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  OTHER

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:  
ANY OF THE COMMITTEES NAMES ABOVE, OR  
REPUBLICAN MAIN STREET PARTNERSHIP PAC**

***\*\*RMSP PAC WILL IMMEDIATELY FORWARD YOUR CHECKS TO THE\*\*  
DESIGNATED CANDIDATES.***

**INDIVIDUALS MAY CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$5,000 PER YEAR TO RMSP PAC,  
AND \$2,100 PER ELECTION TO CANDIDATES.**

**FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES POLITICAL COMMITTEES TO USE THEIR BEST  
EFFORTS TO COLLECT AND REPORT NAME, MAILING ADDRESS,  
OCCUPATION, AND NAME OF EMPLOYER FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**EMPLOYER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**OCCUPATION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

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