

REPUBLICAN MAIN STREET PARTNERSHIP

Political
Action
Committee



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As the 2010 election heads into the final weeks, the Republican Main Street Partnership PAC continues its strong push to elect common sense Republicans to the House, Senate and Governorships. RMSP-PAC supported candidates are well-positioned for victory, but critical funds are still needed to provide key candidates with the money needed to put them over the top.

Conditions are very favorable for Republican candidates at this time. The summaries below provide a short background of the overall landscape and some key races.

The vast majority of our funds go directly to support candidates in key races that could produce majorities in the House and Senate. Your contribution of \$100, \$500 or whatever you can afford will be put to good use. Please use the response form on the last page to send your contribution. Thank you for your continued support.

Overview

A recent Gallup poll showed that Republicans maintain a substantial advantage over Democrats among likely voters in the generic ballot for Congress -- in both lower- and higher-turnout scenarios -- fueled in part by the GOP's strong showing among independents. Among likely voters, and assuming a higher turnout (which generally favors Democrats), Republicans lead 53%-41%. A lower turnout model gives Republicans a 56%-39% lead in the generic ballot.

In addition to turnout, independents' voting intentions are a critical determinant of the midterm election outcome -- particularly relevant given that more than 90% of Democrats and 90% of Republicans say they will vote for their party's candidate in the elections. At this point, independents tilt strongly toward the Republican candidate in their district, helping shift the race in the GOP's direction.

A CBS News poll now finds Republicans holding an eight point lead over Democrats in the generic congressional ballot, 45%-37%. CBS notes that, "While Democrats have lately been making widespread efforts to diminish the so-called 'enthusiasm gap' between Republican and Democratic voters, the poll indicates that the gap has in fact expanded. Sixty percent of Republicans said they were more enthusiastic than usual about voting this year, while only 40% of Democrats said the same. Last month, 47% of Democrats and 58% of Republicans said they were more excited than usual to vote."

Congressional Quarterly uses the polling data to make projections on the November elections. They predict “Democrats will take a pounding when frustrated (and in some cases unemployed) voters go to the polls. Public opinion polls show a majority of Americans are unhappy with the present course of the country and are impatient for a reversal in the economy’s long, downward slide.

The question now is how bad it will get for Democrats. In their most optimistic scenario for Republicans, they “report” on a November 2nd Republican victory as follows: “Driven by voter discontent amid a still-sagging economy, Republicans charged into majorities in the House and Senate in a historic midterm that made 1994 look modest. In one night, Republicans erased five years of electoral losses.

Republicans are poised to gain a dozen Senate seats and perhaps as many as 70 House seats, giving the GOP close to double what they needed for a majority. Right up to Election Day, Democrats thought their party base would rally behind Democratic incumbents and that voters in the middle would remain skeptical of a tea-flavored GOP. But Independents voted against Democratic candidates by a measure of almost 2-to-1 in competitive races, and Republicans and tea party conservatives united to unseat the Democratic establishment.”

The recent polling data has caused the national Republican and Democratic Campaign Committees to shift their campaign spending priorities. According to National Journal, “the Democrats have reduced its ad reservations for the second to last week of the campaign - Oct. 19 to Oct. 29 - in eight districts, seven of which are held by Democrats. In a few of the districts, Democratic sources insist that the changes were made from a position of strength. But in most, the reductions are a sign that Democrats are facing increasingly long odds.”

At the same time, the New York Times reports that “Republicans have made new investments in at least 10 House races across the country. The developments resembled pieces being moved on a giant chess board, with Republicans trying to keep Democrats on the defensive in as many places as possible, while outside groups provided substantial reinforcements for Republicans”

New Hampshire

Recent polling by the University of New Hampshire for WMUR showed former **Congressman Charlie Bass** and his Democratic opponent, Ann McLane Kuster in nearly a dead heat, with Bass up by 5 percentage points. In their recent debate, Bass and Kuster presented starkly different views Friday of how to spur job development in New Hampshire's 2nd District.

Bass called for minimizing government's role in business, but Kuster complained that deregulation under Republican leadership when Bass was in Congress had led to the banking crisis and Gulf oil spill. In addition, Bass said Democrats are taking the country to the brink of economic disaster with expensive deficit-producing stimulus bills. "They went about trying to solve the problems which were real in the wrong way," said Bass, a former six-term congressman from the district.

New York

Congressional Quarterly reports that the Republican Party plans to go all out to try reclaiming the 19th District seat, which Democrat John Hall won in 2006 over Republican incumbent Sue Kelly, then easily carried in 2008 over an over-matched Republican challenger.

Retired Ophthalmologist **Nan Hayworth** easily won the Sept. 14 Republican primary that determined who would challenge Hall in the general election. Hayworth has proven herself to be a solid campaigner and very strong fundraiser, keeping pace with incumbent Hall. Despite being a celebrity in his former life — a songwriter and front man for the band Orleans — Hall has kept a fairly low profile in Congress. He's slightly to the left of his Hudson Valley constituency overall, and how much trouble he's actually in could have a lot to do with the national and state political environment, that favors the Republicans.

In New York's 24th Congressional District, formerly held by Congressman Sherry Boehlert, Congressional Quarterly raises serious questions about the chances of current Congressman Mike Arcuri. They note that he ran "an almost flawless campaign in 2006 against a very tough opponent, putting a long-held Republican district into the Democratic column. Then in 2008, he's caught napping by Republican businessman **Richard Hanna**, an appealing guy who entered the race late, and nearly loses the seat."

Arcuri continues to win the money race, but not by a huge amount. And while Arcuri's vote against the health care bill could be seen as prudent given the swing nature of the central New York district, it infuriated labor leaders and liberal groups. Democratic leaders are nervous about this race, with good reason. Hanna lost last time by 4 percentage points, despite waiting until spring of that year to launch his campaign against Arcuri, then a first-term Democrat. For the midterm election, conditions couldn't be more favorable to a Republican challenger.

Republican prospects also appear strong in New York's 29th Congressional District, previously represented by Congressman Amo Houghton. The currently open seat was held by Democrat Eric Massa, who resigned earlier this year. The Republican nominee is former Corning Mayor **Tom Reed**, who was already planning to challenge Massa.

The 29th has a strong Republican voting tradition. And even as Massa gave the Democrats a rare congressional victory there, the district's voters continue to resist the state's evolution into a Democratic stronghold in presidential elections. John McCain outpaced Barack Obama by 2 percentage points, and just four years earlier, the 29th favored President George W. Bush by 14 points at the top of the Republican ticket.

Ohio

Ohio's 15th District, centered around the state capitol of Columbus, sees a rematch between Congresswoman Mary Jo Kilroy and former **State Sen. Steve Stivers**. Their race in 2008 resulted in an extraordinarily close result that took weeks to confirm Kilroy as the victor. What advantages from incumbency Kilroy accrues could be offset by a smaller and older turnout this fall.