



THE HOUSE INSIDER

TO Friends of DCCC
FROM Brian Wolff, Executive Director, DCCC
DATE July 8, 2008

Executive Summary

*** BREAKING NEWS***

“Bush Impersonator Headlines Democratic Ad” - [New York Times, June 30, 2008](#)

“Democrats target GOP incumbents over gas prices” – [AP, June 30, 2008](#)

Click here to hear our radio ad www.dccc.org/independence.

It has been an exciting several months for Democrats. After a spirited contest, Senator Barack Obama has emerged as our Party’s Presidential nominee. He has been a tremendous voice for change and a New Direction away from the Bush-McCain policies that have hurt so many middle class families. Senator Hillary Clinton ran a historic campaign that has only made Democrats stronger heading into the fall. We are incredibly proud of the barriers Senator Clinton broke and the resiliency she displayed. Just two weeks ago, House Democrats had the pleasure of hearing Senator Clinton speak to our Caucus. It was truly an exciting experience.

As we approach Labor Day and the traditional start of the fall elections, Senator Clinton will be an important voice for the Democratic Party and will continue to be a tremendous leader in the Senate. What is abundantly clear is both Senators Obama and Clinton attracted millions of new voters to the Democratic Party, a development that will have a very positive impact on our House races. With Senator Obama as our nominee, House Democrats have a powerful partner – especially with Independent voters, a critical voting bloc that is increasingly voting Democratic.

Just as significant are the three special election wins House Democrats posted this past spring. For the first time in more than 30 years, we have picked up three Republican seats in special elections. These stunning victories in districts President Bush easily won in 2000 and 2004 sent a political lightning bolt across America and House Republicans reeling. For the Republicans, these defeats reveal a Party fundamentally disconnected with the economic concerns of middle class families.

To make up for poor candidate recruitment, the NRCC has partnered with shadowy outside groups to spend millions on attack ads, many tying our candidates to Senator Obama and Speaker Pelosi. This strategy failed in the most recent Special Elections. More troubling for the GOP is that their presumptive presidential nominee, Senator John McCain, campaigned in IL-14 and MS-01 to no effect. It is clear that Democrats will have opportunities all across America to strengthen our Majority; in fact, we have more opportunities than we can currently afford.

* * *

These successes underscore Chairman Van Hollen's early belief that growing our Majority required us to shape our own political environment and not allow outside factors control our destiny. Protecting nearly 40 Democratic House Members in the shadow of a Presidential contest is a challenge that Democrats haven't faced in years. Just as daunting, Democrats are confronting history – normally after a wave election, the winning party loses seats. Addressing these many challenges required weaving together what worked in '06 with new, aggressive tactics.

Our first priority remains protecting our Majority. That starts with strengthening our Frontline Members. Many of our Frontline Members have won important legislative victories for their districts. They have also posted very strong fundraising figures in response to the aggressive goals we set for them. The overwhelming majority of our Frontline Members have out-raised their Republican opponents and have more cash on hand. Just as noteworthy, their successes have triggered widespread Republican recruitment failures, leaving the GOP without strong candidates in more than a dozen open seats and Frontline Democratic districts.

Simultaneously, we began an early and aggressive recruiting strategy. Our initial goal was to target 35 GOP seats – at this point, thanks to the efforts of our Recruitment Committee, we have strong candidates in more than 50 Republican districts. This was accomplished by expanding the battleground to include districts that are normally safe for the GOP. We also implemented an aggressive plan to discourage Republicans from running for reelection.

For example, we ran radio ads targeting Republican Representatives Jim Saxton, Mike Ferguson, and Jim Walsh. We paired our aggressive media strategy with the recruitment of strong Democratic challengers and as result all three of these Republican Members subsequently retired.

House Democrats will continue turning up the heat on Republicans and will stay on the offense all the way up to Election Day. In fact, we just completed our latest ad campaign – this time we used a Bush impersonator to highlight House Republicans’ ties to Big Oil special interests and their long record of blocking efforts to reduce gas prices. The multimedia ad campaign ran in 13 districts and kept Republicans on the defense for the whole week. On America’s most pressing challenges, all Senator John McCain and House Republicans have to offer is a third Bush term. Democrats are united and committed to winning the White House and ensuring Senator Obama has a strong Democratic majority in the House and Senate to bring about the change Americans are eager for.

Thank you for your continued support.

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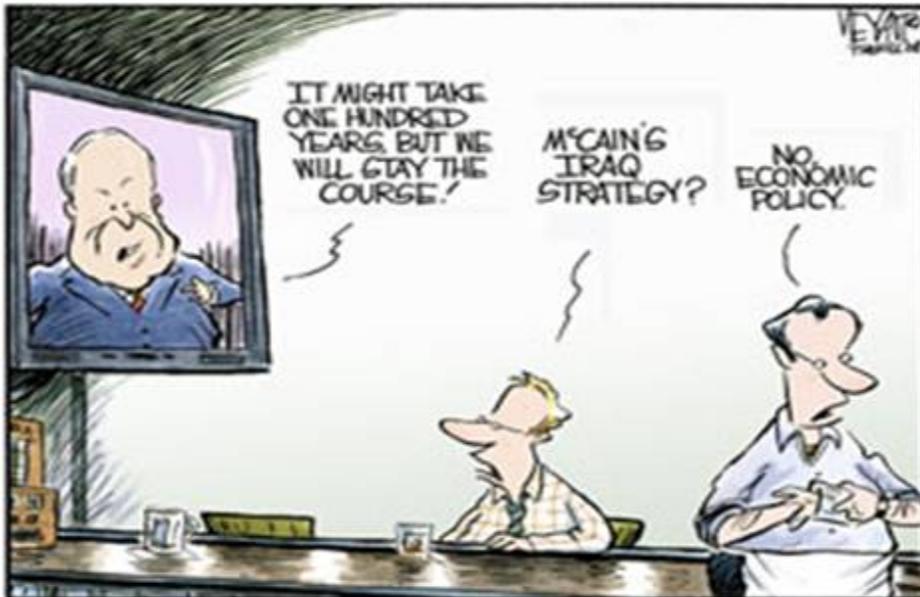
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DCCC Announces Third Round of Red to Blue

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee announced the next round of candidates who earned a spot in the DCCC's highly competitive Red to Blue program. These 15 candidates qualified for the third round of the Red to Blue program by surpassing demanding fundraising goals and skillfully demonstrating to voters that they stand for change and will represent new priorities when elected to Congress. The DCCC also released a list of 20 emerging races, where Democratic candidates are running strong campaigns that are generating excitement in their districts.

“The candidates for change being named to the DCCC Red to Blue program are running strong campaigns and are committed to making things easier for middle class families in their districts,” said Chris Van Hollen, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. “With less than five months to make their case for change to voters in their districts, the Red to Blue program will give these candidates the financial and structural edge to be even more competitive in November.”

Chairman Van Hollen joined Red to Blue co-chairs Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Artur Davis (D-AL), and Bruce Braley (D-IA) to announce 15 candidates who qualified for the Red to Blue program:

Ethan Berkowitz (AK-AL)

Paul Carmouche (LA-04)

Gerry Connolly (VA-11)

Joe Garcia (FL-25)

Martin Heinrich (NM-01)

Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-01)

Frank Kratovil (MD-01)

Bob Lord (AZ-03)

Betsy Markey (CO-04)

Raul Martinez (FL-21)

Mike McMahon (NY-13)

Glenn Nye (VA-02)

Jon Powers (NY-26)

Harry Teague (NM-02)

Dina Titus (NV-03)

Reflecting Democrats' expanding playing field this cycle, there are now 37 candidates on the Red to Blue program. The Red to Blue program highlights top Democratic campaigns across the country and offers them financial, communications, and strategic support. The program will introduce Democratic supporters to new, competitive candidates in order to help expand the fundraising base for these campaigns.

Red to Blue was a proven success in the 2006 cycle. In 2006, the Red to Blue program raised nearly \$22.6 million for 56 campaigns with an average of \$404,000 per campaign. Red to Blue was also responsible for solidifying the structure of dozens of campaigns and making a real difference for Democrats across America.

The DCCC also announced 20 emerging races. In each of these races, Democratic candidates have generated excitement in their districts for their campaigns for change:

Sam Bennett (PA-15)	Jill Morgenthaler (IL-06)
David Boswell (KY-02)	Tom Perriello (VA-05)
Colleen Callahan (IL-18)	Bob Roggio (PA-06)
Kathy Dahlkemper (PA-03)	Steve Sarvi (MN-02)
Jill Derby (NV-02)	Dennis Shulman (NJ-05)
John Dicks (FL-09)	Josh Segall (AL-03)
Judy Feder (VA-10)	Michael Skelly (TX-07)
Nick Leibham (CA-50)	Annette Taddeo (FL-18)
Dan Johnson (NC-10)	El Tinklenberg (MN-06)
Mike Montagano (IN-03)	Vic Wulsin (OH-02)

As these campaigns continue to develop and demonstrate increasing strength, candidates will have an opportunity to qualify for the Red to Blue program.

###

Latest Round of Red to Blue

AK-AL Ethan Berkowitz

Ethan Berkowitz served in the Alaska State House from 1996-2006 and was the Democratic Leader from 1998-2006. He is a former State Prosecutor who has also spent time in the Antarctic wilderness as a field assistant and guide. Several recent polls show Berkowitz leading Representative Don Young.



VA-11 Gerry Connolly

Gerry Connolly was elected Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2003 and, prior to that, served nine years as the Providence District Supervisor. As Chairman of the ten-member Board, Connolly oversees a budget of \$4.5 billion and is well known throughout Fairfax County for his strong leadership skills. Connolly worked as an aide on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 10 years, served as the Vice President for SRI International, and currently serves as Director of Community Relations for SAIC.



CO-04 Betsy Markey

Betsy Markey is a successful entrepreneur who has founded, run, and grown high-tech and retail businesses. A former Regional Director for the Fourth District for Senator Ken Salazar, Betsy understands the issues that are important to people in Colorado. Markey has also worked for the State Department, where she held a top secret security clearance, and served as the President of the Board of Directors of a Colorado food bank. Markey's experience as a small business owner will prove to be a significant asset in this election.





LA-04 Paul Carmouche

Paul Carmouche has served as the District Attorney for Caddo Parish, Louisiana since 1978. In his nearly thirty years of public service, Carmouche has taken thousands of violent criminals off the streets and led the fight for a new crime lab for North Louisiana.

Carmouche is running in the open seat left vacant by Republican Jim McCrery's retirement, and has gotten off to a strong start as Republicans face a crowded primary field.



NM-01 Martin Heinrich

As an Albuquerque City Councilman, Martin Heinrich fought for and won an increase in the minimum wage and spearheaded numerous measures to reduce crime and promote economic development. Also a Natural Resources Trustee in the State of New Mexico, Heinrich has a strong record of working to protect New Mexico's environment and promote energy efficiency.

AZ-01 Ann Kirkpatrick

Ann Kirkpatrick was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2004 and was the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee. Kirkpatrick has an extensive record of service to Arizona including serving as a Deputy County Attorney, City Attorney for Sedona, a Probate Commissioner Pro Tem and a member of the Flagstaff Water Commission. In the Arizona House of Representatives, Kirkpatrick has been a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility, long-term economic growth in rural Arizona, and investments in education.





MD-01 Frank Kratovil

Frank Kratovil is currently serving in his second term as State's Attorney for Queen Anne's County and is the immediate past President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association. In 2006, he was Co-Chairman of the Public Safety Work Group for Governor O'Malley's Transition Team and was also Co-Chairman of the Public Safety Committee for Attorney General Doug Gansler's Transition Team. Kratovil has served as a prosecutor in Maryland since graduating from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1994.



FL-21 Raul Martinez

Raul Martinez served as Mayor of Hialeah for 24 years and has a record of getting things done for the people of South Florida on issues like affordable housing and health care. He is known for turning around his Miami suburb during his two decades as mayor, and is beloved throughout the community. Martinez is presenting Lincoln Diaz-Balart with the first competitive race he has ever had to run, and has already shown he will be a serious competitor, raising more than \$616,000 in his first few months.

NY-13 Mike McMahon

We have a historic opportunity to turn New York City's last Republican Congressional seat Democratic and with a top tier recruit in Mike McMahon. This is a top pick-up opportunity for Democrats this cycle. Mike McMahon has been a New York City Council member for over five years. He is Chairman of the city's Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Committee and has fought hard to maintain the city's recycling program. Mike is also a family man with two children; he is a lector in his church and very involved in the Staten Island community.



NM-02 Harry Teague

Harry Teague began working in an oil field when he was 17 for just \$1.50 an hour. He now owns his own business that employs over 250 people in Southern New Mexico. Harry was a member of the majority-Republican Lea County Commission for 8 years, serving as Chairman for 3 ½ years. He also served as a Board member for the Lea County Fair and Rodeo and for the Boys and Girls Club of Hobbs. In addition, Harry helped start the Big Brother Big Sister program in Lea County.

NV-03 Dina Titus

Dina Titus has dedicated her entire professional life to education and public service. She has taught American and Nevada government at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for 30 years. She has also represented the people of Senate District 7 in the Nevada Legislature since 1988, serving as the Democratic Minority Leader from 1993 – May 2008. As the Democratic nominee for Governor in 2006, Titus won the 3rd Congressional district.



NY-26 Jon Powers

Jon Powers is a former captain in the United States Army and an Iraq war veteran who served with the Army's 1st Armored Division in Baghdad and Najaf. Following the announcement that Congressman Tom Reynolds planned to retire, this district became an even stronger pick-up opportunity for Democrats given its Democratic tendencies. With Jon Powers' strength in leadership, commitment to his Western New York roots and his personal fight to responsibly bring our troops home from Iraq we are confident he will succeed.



AZ-03 Bob Lord

Bob Lord has been a resident, attorney, husband, father and leader in Arizona's Third Congressional District since 1987. For twenty years he has been closely involved in his community. He served for six years as a Commissioner on the Scottsdale Airport Advisory Commission. Bob also has served on the boards of the Scottsdale Bar Association, the Valley Citizens League, and the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix.



FL-25 Joe Garcia

In 2000, Joe Garcia became the Executive Director of the Cuban American National Foundation, the country's leading advocacy group for democracy in Cuba. Garcia became a national figure for the cause of freedom in Cuba and was a frequent guest on national media outlets such as CNN, Fox News, Univision, NPR and MSNBC. In 2006, Garcia was elected Chairman of the Miami-Dade Democratic Party, a post he held until resigning to run for Congress early this year.



VA-02 Glenn Nye

Glenn Nye has an extensive military background and comes from a family with deep Virginia roots and a strong history of service to our country. Glenn Nye has experience in Iraq, advising the US Agency for International Development (USAID), where he worked closely with military colleagues to create employment for over 70,000 Iraqis.



DCCC Launches Independence Day Radio Ad Campaign

Chairman Chris Van Hollen announced that the DCCC is launching the “Independence from Big Oil” campaign and will run radio ads against 13 House Republicans who stand with George Bush and Big Oil while America’s middle class families are being squeezed by the highest gas prices in history. The radio ads were recorded by a comedian impersonating President Bush.

“We will be going district-by-district to hold House Republicans accountable for helping President Bush give tax breaks to profitable Big Oil companies and doing nothing to help hardworking middle class Americans who are paying more than \$4.00 per gallon at the pump,” said Chairman Chris Van Hollen. “This Independence Day, the American people deserve to be liberated from the Big Oil policies of President Bush and the rubber stamp House Republicans.”

Van Hollen highlighted that the radio ads were recorded by a Bush impersonator, “President Bush's Big Oil energy policies delivered high gas prices to the American people, so who better to deliver our message than someone who sounds just like him?”

In addition to the “Independence from Big Oil” radio ads, the DCCC will be doing web videos and e-mails in targeted districts. The radio ads began airing during drive time the week of June 30th. The initial ad buy is for one week. The ads will run in the following 13 districts:

- Brian Bilbray (CA-50)
- Charlie Dent (PA-15)
- Thelma Drake (VA-02)
- Shelley Moore Capito (WV-02)
- Steve Chabot (OH-01)
- Phil English (PA-03)
- Scott Garrett (NJ-05)
- Jim Gerlach (PA-06)
- Virgil Goode (VA-05)
- Robin Hayes (NC-08)
- Patrick McHenry (NC-10)
- Peter Roskam (IL-06)
- Jean Schmidt (OH-02)

The ad can be heard at www.dccc.org/independence. The text of the ad follows:

“Phone Call” – 60 seconds

(Sound of phone ringing. After rings, ANSWERING MACHINE picks up):

“Hi. You’ve reached the office of Congressman Patrick McHenry. Please leave a message at the sound of the beep and we’ll get back to you as soon as possible.

(“PRESIDENT BUSH” leaves message):

“Pattie...“W” here.

“Wanted to thank you for continuing to support the Big Oil Energy Agenda.

“Preciate you voting to keep giving billions in tax breaks to the big oil companies.

“Sure, gasoline is over four bucks a gallon and the oil companies are making record profits, but what’s good for Big Oil is good for America, right?

“I guess that’s why they call us the Grand OIL Party. Heh, heh, heh.

“Seriously, Patrick, I know I can always count on you.

“Gotta go. Bye now.”

(Sound of the phone hanging up. A new announcer speaks.)

ANNOUNCER:

“Call Patrick McHenry at 828-327-6100 and tell him to stop rewarding the oil companies and start standing up for hard working Americans.

“The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is responsible for the content of this advertising. Paid for by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, DCCC.org. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.”

###

We thought you would enjoy this memo that Chairman Van Hollen sent to his Democratic Colleagues on Senator Obama's strength with Independent Voters.

MEMO

TO: Democratic Colleagues
FR: DCCC Chairman Chris Van Hollen
RE: Independent Voters, Senator Obama, and House Democrats
DATE: June 13, 2008

Senator Barack Obama's proven ability to win Independent voters this year is a promising sign for House Democrats and a troubling one for House Republicans, heading into the fall campaign.

While this year's exciting contest between Senators Obama and Clinton drove record turnout among Democratic voters, exit polling showed that significant numbers of Independents also participated in Democratic primaries and caucuses. This continues a pattern that we saw in 2006 and provides further evidence that the Democratic message of change is clearly resonating far beyond the traditional Democratic base in 2008.

Independents in 2006

In 2006, Democratic House candidates made significant gains across key groups of voters en route to capturing the Majority in Congress. The largest gain came from Independents. In 2006, Democrats won 8% more of the Independent vote than we did in 2004. Democratic House candidates also expanded beyond the traditional urban base – winning 11 suburban districts, where large numbers of Independent voters live.

Senator Obama's Independent Appeal

Senator Obama's appeal among Independent voters was clearly illustrated throughout the 2008 primary contest. Out of a total of 38 states that exit polling was available for, Senator Obama won the Independent vote in 29 of those contests.

In presidential battlegrounds like New Mexico, Ohio, Missouri, and Virginia - states where multiple House seats are in play - Senator Obama won Independents by strong margins.

What should be even more unnerving for Republicans and John McCain is the fact that Independent voters overwhelmingly chose Democratic ballots in the 30 open primary contests occurring when both nominations were competitive.

For example, in New Hampshire, a state that knows Senator McCain very well, 37% of the electorate was Independent. By contrast, 44% of the Democratic Primary electorate was made up of Independents – a voting bloc Senator Obama won. In fact, based on exit polling, Senator Obama received substantially more Independent votes – 52,045 to 35,673 – than Senator McCain. This trend continued in the traditionally Republican state of South Carolina, another open primary, where Senator Obama won the Independent vote with approximately 51,405 compared to Senator McCain's 33,498.

Looking Ahead

Having Senator Obama at the top of the Democratic ticket in November will be a tremendous asset for Democratic House candidates. Senator Obama's message of change has already resonated with Independents in contests across the country this year, making him a powerful partner for House Democrats as we aggressively work to build on the gains we made with Independents in 2006.

###

Recapping the Three Special Election Wins

MS-01, LA-06, IL-14: Democrats' Mandate for Change

Voters in "one of the safest Republican areas in the nation" have delivered a mandate for change and for the first time in more than 30 years, Democrats have won three seats in special elections in one cycle— MS-01, LA-06, and IL-14. The American people have clearly rejected the special interest driven agenda of the Republican party.

President Bush easily won IL-14, LA-06, and MS-01. Republican losses in these three solidly red districts are simply catastrophic. The DCCC is targeting 50 districts this cycle with far better Democratic performances than IL-14, LA-06, and MS-01.

After losing IL-14 and LA-06, the Republicans pulled out all the stops to win MS-01:

- Vice President Dick Cheney, Governor Haley Barbour, former Governor Mike Huckabee, Senator Thad Cochran, former Senator Trent Lott, and Senator Roger Wicker all campaigned on Republican Greg Davis' behalf.
- President Bush, Laura Bush, and Senator McCain recorded automated calls that were sent to voters throughout the district.
- Republicans spent nearly 20 percent of their cash on hand on a reliably Republican district. The conservative group Freedom's Watch spent at least \$460,000. In total, Republicans have spent more than \$1.7 million on MS-01, a district President Bush twice won easily.

Quote of Note

“To underestimate the role of the DCCC in the wins is a mistake....By laying the recruitment and financial groundwork, the DCCC ensured it would be in position to strike when opportunity arose. As a result, the Democrats' House Majority is three seats larger today than it was after the 2006 election.”

- Washington Post, 5/14/08

The fact that MS-01 was a competitive race reflects the strength of Democratic candidate Travis Childers, the damage to the Republican brand, and the depth of the NRCC's problems this cycle.

Republican Attacks

Travis Childers had everything but the kitchen seat thrown at him by Greg Davis, the NRCC, and the shadowy outside group Freedom's Watch.

Republicans offer no solutions on the issues that Americans are most concerned about – good paying jobs, gas and grocery costs, and health care costs. Republicans desperately tried to nationalize this election by focusing their extensive negative advertising on Senator Obama and Speaker Pelosi. This tactic didn't work in IL-14, it didn't work in LA-06, and we learned following this victory it doesn't work in even higher Republican performing districts.

The Republican candidate even spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to tie Childers to Reverend Jeremiah Wright. Even former Speaker Newt Gingrich says this tactic won't work. "The Republican brand has been so badly damaged that if Republicans try to run an anti-Obama....campaign they are simply going to fail" [Human Events, 05/06/08].

The Bottom Line

After three consecutive special election defeats in districts President Bush won twice easily, it is abundantly clear the American people shut the door on the special interest driven agenda of the Republican Party.

Quote of Note

"There is panic in the Republican streets these days. GOP elected officials and strategists ranging from Reps. Tom Davis (Va.) and Tom Cole (Okla.) to former Speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.) and Karl Rove all think their party is in free fall and needs to change."

- Stu Rothenberg, 5/19/08

Open Seats

Republicans

<i>Member</i>	<i>Date Retired</i>
1. (CA-52) Duncan Hunter	March 20, 2007
2. (IL-18) Ray LaHood	July 27, 2007
3. (MS-03) Chip Pickering	August 16, 2007
4. (OH-15) Deborah Pryce	August 16, 2007
5. (AZ-01) Rick Renzi	August 23, 2007
6. (MN-03) Jim Ramstad	September 17, 2007
7. (IL-11) Jerry Weller	September 21, 2007
8. (AL-02) Terry Everett	September 26, 2007
9. (NM-01) Heather Wilson	October 5, 2007
10. (OH-16) Ralph Regula	October 12, 2007
11. (OH-07) David Hobson	October 14, 2007
12. (NM-02) Steve Pearce	October 17, 2007
13. (CO-06) Tom Tancredo	October 29, 2007
14. (NJ-03) Jim Saxton	November 9, 2007
15. (WY-AL) Barbara Cubin	November 10, 2007
16. (NJ-07) Michael Ferguson	November 19, 2007
17. (LA-04) Jim McCrery	December 7, 2007
18. (PA-05) John Peterson	January 3, 2008
19. (CA-04) John Doolittle	January 10, 2008
20. (NY-25) Jim Walsh	January 24, 2008
21. (FL-15) Dave Weldon	January 25, 2008
22. (MO-09) Kenny Hulshof	January 28, 2008
23. (KY-02) Ron Lewis	January 29, 2008
24. (VA-11) Tom Davis	January 30, 2008
25. (MD-01) Wayne Gilchrest	February 12, 2008
26. (NY-26) Tom Reynolds	March 20, 2008
27. (NY-13) Vito Fossella	May 20, 2008

Quote of Note

“The political atmosphere facing House Republicans this November is the worst since Watergate and is far more toxic than the fall of 2006, when we lost 30 seats (and our majority) and came within a couple of percentage points of losing another 15 seats.”

- Rep. Tom Davis, Politico,
5/14/08

Polling Update

Two recent polls show that the political environment remains strong for congressional Democrats. According to the Washington Post-ABC News poll, if the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, 52 percent would vote for the Democratic candidate while only 37 percent would vote for the Republican candidate. According to the same poll, 68 percent disapprove of the job President Bush is doing. [\[Click here to view full poll\]](#)

House of Representatives Head to Head

House Democratic Candidate: 52%
House Republican Candidate: 37%

Presidential Approval Ratings

Approve: 29%
Disapprove: 68%

According to a recent Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll, 76% of Americans blame President Bush, Big Oil, Speculators, and OPEC for high gas prices. [\[Click here to view full poll\]](#)



Making News

Inside the Beltway

New York Times - Bush Impersonator Headlines Democratic Ad

June 30, 2008

“The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is setting its sights on unseating 13 House Republicans with a new radio ad featuring a faux President Bush...In the ad, the voice of Mr. Bush — recorded by an impersonator — thanks the Republican members of Congress for supporting “the Big Oil Energy Agenda.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

CNN - Congressional Democrats hire Bush impersonator

June 29, 2008

“House Democrats will use a President Bush impersonator in a new radio advertising campaign that seeks to link 13 incumbent Republicans to rising gas prices as the country heads into the Fourth of July holiday.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

AP - House GOP concludes they failed to sway voters

June 26, 2008

“House Republicans lost three recent elections when customary campaign themes failed to sway voters and their candidates could not overcome the "negative perception of the national party," according to an internal review that underscores the potential for widespread losses this fall.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

Las Vegas Sun - Adelson money is political baggage

June 19, 2008

“Nationally Sheldon Adelson has become a campaign issue for Democrats when his money finds its way into Republicans’ congressional races.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

Roll Call – NRCC’s Tough Road

June 17, 2008

“Outgunned financially and outmanned politically, the National Republican Congressional Committee is gearing up for a fall campaign of limited choices and hard decisions.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

New York Times - Obama’s Down-Ballot Effect

June 15, 2008

“With all the talk and worry about the potential “Obama effect” on races down the ticket, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee believes it has identified a very positive one – Senator Barack Obama runs strongly with independent voters.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

Around the Country

(OH-01 & OH-02) The Cincinnati Enquirer - DCCC targets 'Jeannie' and 'Chabie'

June 30, 2008

“The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee will be running these radio ads on WKRC and WLW against Reps. Steve Chabot and Jean Schmidt.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

(NC-08, NC-10) Charlotte Observer - Radio ads hit Hayes, McHenry on gas

June 30, 2008

“The national Democratic Party began broadcasting radio commercials this week that use high gas prices to criticize U.S. Reps. Robin Hayes and Patrick McHenry of North Carolina, along with 11 other Republicans nationwide...The ads, which feature a President Bush impersonator thanking the two lawmakers for oil company tax breaks, effectively place Hayes and McHenry in the top ranks of the Democratic Party's targets this year. Both face challenges from well-funded opponents.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

(CA-11) Tracy Press: Andal denies ties to leak

June 23, 2008

“Republican congressional candidate Dean Andal denied this week that he played any part in San Joaquin Delta College trustees’ alleged violation of open government laws.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

(MD-01) Baltimore Sun - National committee says Md. Democrat could win 1st District

June 19, 2008

“Emboldened by recent victories in districts across the country that had long been safe bets for Republicans, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee announced yesterday that it would throw its financial and staffing resources behind Maryland candidate Frank Kratovil Jr.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

(OH-02) Cincinnati Enquirer - Schmidt criticized for false drilling claims

June 17, 2008

“U.S. Rep. Jean Schmidt is being criticized for repeating false information about Chinese oil drilling in a speech on the House floor. In the June 5 speech, Schmidt said there is "drilling activity off of our country's coast," but not by U.S. companies, which are barred from drilling there. "Instead, the Chinese are drilling off the coast of Florida with their new energy partner, Cuba," Schmidt (R-District 2) said in a speech now forever preserved in the Congressional Record. Vice President Dick Cheney, who made a similar claim, has issued a statement acknowledging that the Chinese are not drilling in that area, and Florida GOP Sen. Mel Martinez called the rumor "simply false.””

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

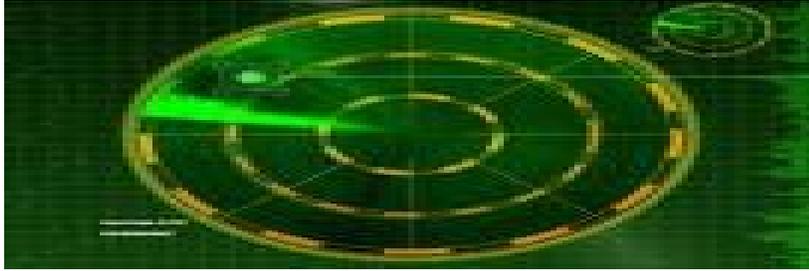
(PA-10) Wilkes-Barre Times Leader – Republicans Turn Out for Carney

June 17, 2008

“U.S Rep. Chris Carney proudly touts his voting record as being neither Democratic- nor Republican-leaning, instead voting in the best interest of the 10th Congressional District. On Monday, two dozen conservative Republicans and Democrats did the touting.”

[\[Click here to read full story\]](#)

The Radar Screen

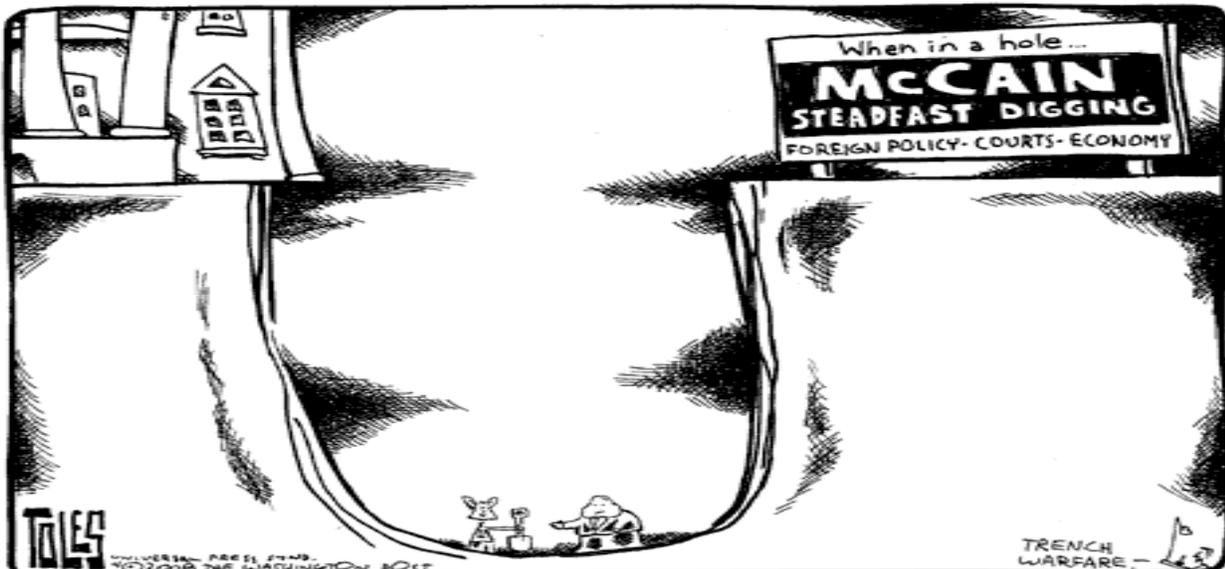


Upcoming Congressional Primaries

- Georgia: July 15th
- Oklahoma: July 29th
- Missouri: August 5th
- Michigan: August 5th
- Kansas: August 5th

Upcoming Congressional Filing Deadlines

- Wisconsin: July 8th
- Louisiana: July 11th
- Minnesota: July 15th
- New York: July 17
- Delaware: July 25th



7-21-08

Looking Ahead

We are now less than four months from Election Day and already the winds of change are blowing stronger than ever. Your support has put our party on the verge of beating history this year. Thanks to you, we pulled off three historic victories in IL-14, LA-06, and MS-01 – three districts that had been represented by Republicans for a combined 60 years. You have also enabled us to recruit strong candidates in more than 50 districts and force 30 Republican incumbents to retire. Our collective efforts have provided us with opportunities in districts once thought unwinnable to Democrats.

To continue this aggressive strategy and take advantage of this ever expanding map we will need significant financial resources. There are so many daunting challenges that lie on the horizon including a growing number of conservative 527s and an expanded national playing field with 75 seats in play. With so much at stake, now is not the time for Democrats to get complacent. Republicans understand that their positions on the economy, gas prices, and the Iraq war are very unpopular. Even more so, they see that the energy and excitement is with Democrats. Their only option is to divide America and play on people's fears. Their strategy will fail, but only if we continue to aggressively take the fight to them. With a strong partner in Senator Barack Obama running as our nominee, Democrats are poised to move America in a New Direction.

Keep a look out for future editions of the House Insider where you can read about important campaign updates, our talented Frontline Members, our strong candidates, and important news clips from across the country. We thank you again for your continued and critical support of the DCCC.