ROSE-HULMAN

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Election 2006

Election Reports and Predictions November 2006

The following are reports on critical House and Senate elections written by the students of Professor Casey's American Politics and Government (SL 261). These are the unedited reports as submitted by the students, so they are fully responsible for the content. Reports are organized by student groups.

Group 1

Ben Schrodt
Joel Strayer

Pennsylvania – 10th
Florida – 13th
Iowa – 1st
Maryland – Senate

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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PA -- 10th	**Projection**

Don Sherwood (R)*

Chris Carney (D)

* means incumbent

District Type: Rural
Cities: Carbondale, Sunbury
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 93% Dem: 0%
President: Bush: 60% Kerry: 40%
Demographics –
Population: 646,534
Under 18: 23.5% Over 65: 16.6%
Married: 59%
Non-Hispanic White: 95%
Black: 2%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 2% Non-English
Speaking: 5.0%
Median Household Income: $35,996
Owner Occupied Housing: 75.7%
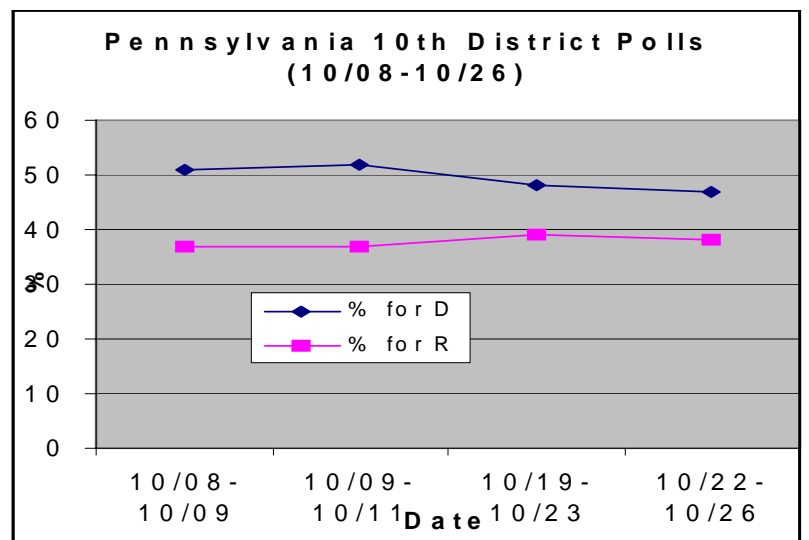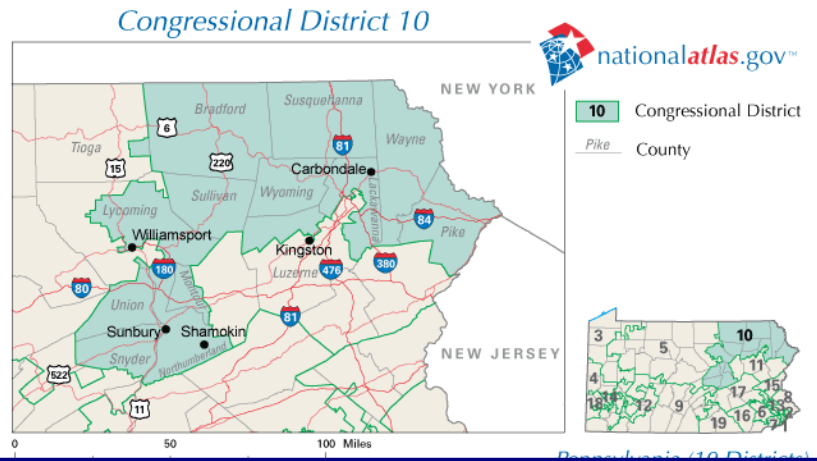Income above $200K: 1.2%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 53%
Blue Collar: 32% Service 15.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 17%
Graduate Education: 6.5%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 10

NEW YORK

nationalatlas.gov™

10 Congressional District

Pike County

NEW JERSEY

Bradford Susquehanna
Tioga Wayne
Carbondale
Lycoming Sullivan Wyoming
Williamsport Kingston
Luzerne Pike
Union
Sunbury Shamokin
Snyder Northumberland

0   50   100 Miles

Pennsylvania 10th District Polls (10/08-10/26)

| Date | 10/08-10/09 | 10/09-10/11 | 10/19-10/23 | 10/22-10/26 |

% for D
% for R

The Money Race (data through 10/27/06):
SHERWOOD
Receipts: $1,843,528
Expenditures: $1,771,970

Source: http://www.politicalmoneyline.com
CARNEY
Receipts: $1,164,155
Expenditures: $927,404

The Candidates:

Don Sherwood: Incumbent Sherwood is a local to his area, having gone to Lackawanna Trail High School and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Dartmouth College. He is running for his 5th term in the House of Representatives, where he first took seat on November 3, 1998, succeeding Joseph McDade. Sherwood has served on committees such as the Armed Services Committee, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the Resources committee all before his first election. Sherwood served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds and in Panama. Since in office he has raised millions of dollars for environmental reclamation, water and sewer structures, forestry programs, highways airports, and bus systems. In Medicare reform, he has helped secure an additional $76 million in reimbursements and $6.5 million to modernize local hospitals.

Chris Carney: Carney grew up in rural Iowa and graduated from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. He doubled majored in U.S. Diplomatic History and Environmental Science, where he worked his way through college as an EMT. He received is graduate degree at the University of Wyoming. Having served as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserves, Carne was active in operations such as Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Southern Watch. His experience allowed for him to become a Senior Terrorism and Intelligence Advisor at the Pentagon where coordinated counterterrorism activities in the Middle East. He is now an Associate Professor at Penn State where he teaches U.S. Foreign Policy, American Government, and U.S. Security Policy.

The Campaign:

Don Sherwood: Sherwood started out by beating his component Kathy Scott in the primary with 56% of the vote. He has fought for the past 7 years on raising minimum wage while opposing the automatic Congressional pay raise. The increase in minimum wage will raise the already low average annual income of his district and his consistent vote against congressional pay raises will allow for that money to go elsewhere other than the pockets of your elected officials. Sherwood is asking Carney to return the $66,000 that John Kerry had raised for Carney. His reason is if Carney does not return it, Carney supports Kerry's insult on our troops. Yet Carneys filings show that he only received about $24000 from Kerry despite Kerry's website says otherwise. Now Carney has the Federal Election Commission requesting information on his improper campaign financing reports.
Chris Carney: Using his previous experience in the military and in the pentagon to gain confidence in his plans for "real" homeland security, border security and immigration. He also has plans for protecting Social Security, tax relief, and embowering small businesses. As a teacher, Carney strongly supports an effective education reform.

Analysis:

In this race Carney has been leading for quite some time through the campaign. Around October 20, Carney's approval in the polls decreased slightly while Sherwood's approval seemed to have about an equal gain at the same time. Sherwood has closed the gap slightly, but it may not be enough to help. Sherwood's tactic to pin Carney's acceptance of Kerry's money as an approval of Kerry's statement against our troops has worked in a sense that a portion of the undecided vote will most likely swing in favor of Sherwood. But Sherwood faces other difficulty, in his very conservative district, a woman whom Sherwood has been having an affair with has filed a $5.5 million assault charge lawsuit against him. President Bush has noticed Sherwood's loss in the polls and gave him a boost by appearing with Sherwood on October 21. But Carney still lead the polls by 9% after that visit.

Predicted Result:

This race has come down to the very end where the incumbent had more money, and has spent more money than his democratic opponent. But due to decrease in republican approval and the assault charges against Sherwood, Carney has a strong enough lead that regardless of Kerry's remark, Carney should win this Race for the Pennsylvania 10th district.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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FL – 13th   Projection

Vern Buchanan

Christine Jennings

Congressional District 13 — nationalatlas.gov
13 Congressional District
Desoto County
Florida (25 Districts)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Sarasota
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 45%
President: Bush: 56% Kerry: 43%
Demographics –
Population: 639,295
Under 18: 18% Over 65: 29%
Married: 59.8%
Non-Hispanic White: 86%
Black: 4% Hispanic: 8% Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 9.5% Non-English
Speaking: 12.1%
Median Household Income: $40,187
Owner Occupied Housing: 78.0%
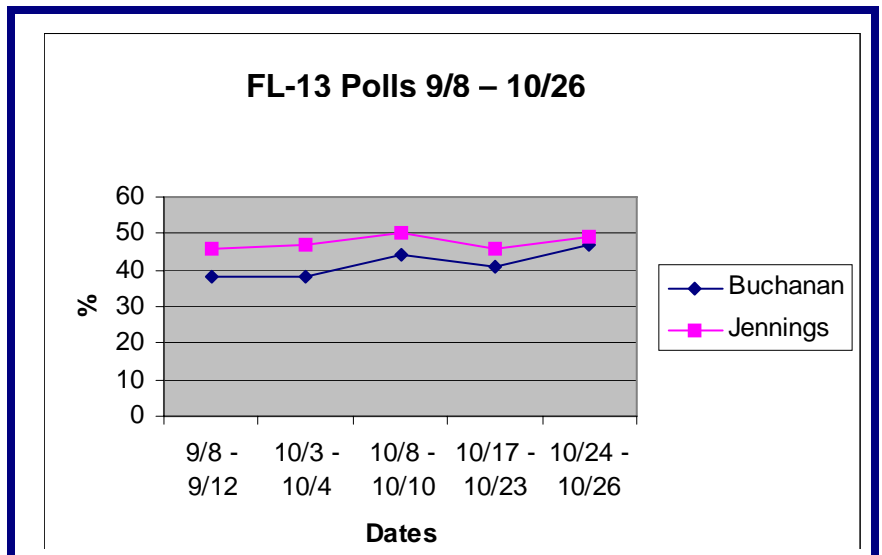Income above $200K: 2.8%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 58.5%
Blue Collar: 23.5 Service 17.9%
Bachelor's Degree: 24%
Graduate Education: 8.7%
Source: CQ Politics

FL-13 Polls 9/8 – 10/26

The Money Race (data through 11/4/06):
BUCHANAN
Receipts: $6,063,716
Expenditures: $5,945,515

Source: *[source(s) of you financial data]*
JENNINGS
Receipts: $2,050,748
Expenditures: $1,873,857

The Candidates:

   Vern Buchanan and Christine Jennings have similar stories. Buchanan started his own car dealership and has created over 1000 jobs and donated millions to charities. Jennings started as a bank teller right after high school and ascended to Bank President. Both candidates feel that their life of the American dream will help them when they get to Washington. Jennings plans to use her bank skills to balance the budget. Buchanan cites his business background as experience to balance the budget and create and protect American jobs.

The Campaign:

Both candidates are emphasizing the importance of a balanced budget and different ethics for congress. Although, almost all of Jennings' TV adds address these issues and almost nothing else. Buchanan claims that she is hiding her views on issues such as immigration to allow illegal immigrants amnesty within the United States. Both candidates want to protect social security for Florida seniors, seeing that the percentage of citizens over 65 is more than twice the national average at 29%. Buchanan has 3 times as much money as Jennings does, largely out of his own pocket. Buchanan has a much stronger campaign than the narrow message of Jennings.

Analysis:

In analyzing this race a few facts popped out at me that will have an effect on this election. One of them is that Jennings does not have a college degree. After high school she went straight to work as a bank teller and never went to college but was promoted to Bank President anyway. Buchanan has an MBA from the University of Detroit. Is she makes it to Washington, she will already be 3 or 4 steps behind the other Representatives in advanced areas of law and politics.

Buchanan has three times more money than Jennings does. This advantage will be multiplied in a tight race like this. Buchanan's ability to campaign more and have fundraisers that First Lady Laura Bush and governor Jeb Bush can attend will definitely catch the attention of the voters in Florida's 13th district.

The incumbent of this district, Katherine Harris, is running for the Senate seat up for grabs this election. If she were to run again, she would likely be reelected, in that she won by a ten percent margin last time. This Republican support will likely come forth again.

Florida has been the state in the center of the corruption in Congress issue with Mark Foley. Buchanan, not an incumbent, has campaigned that he will be an honest congressman and continually cites his charitable donations in his TV adds. Buchanan has actively cited his differences with Mark Foley but has still maintained his conservative values that will draw the older voters.

Predicted Result:

This seat will remain in Republican control with Vern Buchanan winning a tight race. The history of this district, Buchanan dominating the money race, and Jennings not having a college degree, tell me that Buchanan will win this seat by a close margin.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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IA – 1st   Projection

Mike Whalen (R)

Bruce Braley (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Dubuque, Davenport
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 43%
President: Bush: 46% Kerry: 53%
Demographics –
Population: 585.302
Under 18: 25.3% Over 65: 14.5%
Married: 56.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 92%
Black: 4% Hispanic: 2% Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 2.3% Non-English
Speaking: 4.8%
Median Household Income: $38, 727
Owner Occupied Housing: 72.6%
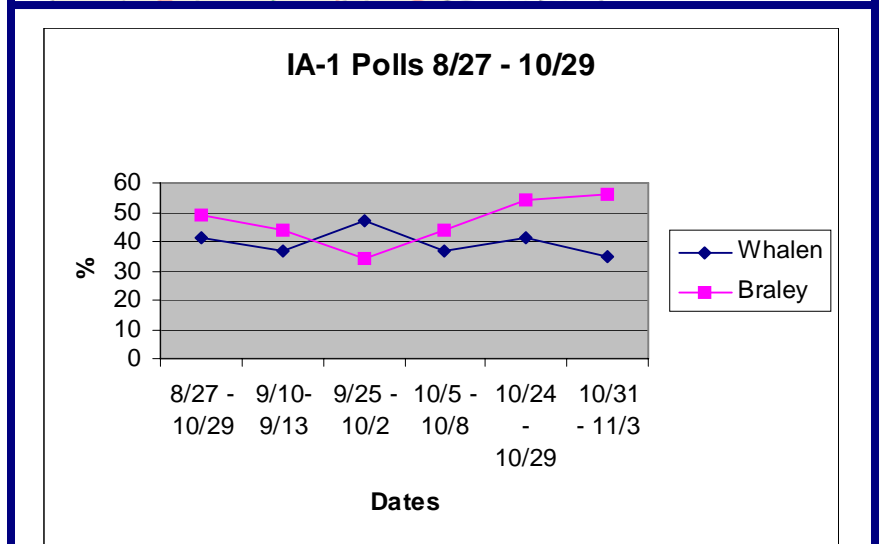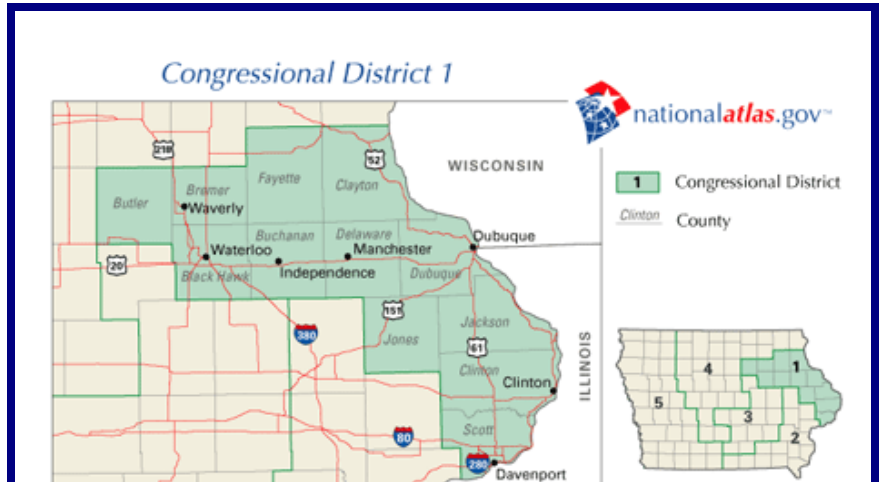Income above $200K: 1.2%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 55.7%
Blue Collar: 29.2% Service 15.2%
Bachelor's Degree: 20%
Graduate Education: 6.5%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 1

national*atlas*.gov

☐ 1 Congressional District
Clinton County

IA-1 Polls 8/27 - 10/29

The Money Race (data through 11/4/06):
BRALEY
Receipts: $1,944,548
Expenditures: $1,601,735

Source: WashingtonPost.com
Whalen
Receipts: $2,004,565
Expenditures: $1,690,984

The Candidates:

   Bruce Braley is a trial lawyer specializing in medical malpractice suits. Braley was born in Iowa and has never left getting his Bachelors from Iowa State and his law degree from Iowa. Mike Whalen owns a restaurant chain in Iowa and is also married. Whalen has a Bachelors degree from Illinois and his masters from Harvard. Braley says that his past in defending the American people will help him in Washington.   Whalen claims that his experience in business will help the economy.

The Campaign:

Both Braley and Whalen are leading negative campaigns against their opponent. Whalen's main concern with Braley is that his history of cases against medical malpractice has driven up health care prices and that Braley is "Suing, not doing." Braley is attacking Whalen's claims that he wants to secure and create jobs in America. Braley is telling voters that Whalen is not concerned with Iowa jobs because he moved his restaurant's headquarters out of Iowa into Illinois. Braley is also connecting Whalen with George Bush in this era of dislike of the administration and the voters seem to agree that a change is necessary.

Analysis:

Braley has been ahead in every poll except for one since August and he has been pulling farther and farther ahead since the beginning of October. The district voted for Kerry and Gore in the past two Presidential elections but for the GOP incumbent Jim Nussle. With Jim Nussle running for Governor, the electorate will be looking for a change in their representative.

The campaign ran by Braley was much better than the one ran by Whalen. Braley's message and attacks against Whalen were much better than those of Whalen. The only thing that Whalen is claiming with his "suing, not doing" campaign is that Bruce Braley is a good lawyer. Voters are responding to Braley's claims that Whalen moved jobs out of Iowa and his loyalty to the Republican party.

Predicted Result:

Democrat Bruce Braley will win this election by a substantial margin. He is leading by almost 20 points in the latest poll and his campaign has won over voters throughout autumn. In this Democratic district, Braley has played into the voters hands and Whalen has fallen victim of the Democratic anger against the GOP.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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MD -- Senate   Projection

Michael Steele (R)

Ben Cardin (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Baltimore, Annapolis
Election History (2004)
President: Bush: 43.0% Kerry: 56.0%
Demographics –
Population: 5,600,388
Under 18: 25.6% Over 65: 11.3%
Married: 57.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 62.1%
Black: 27.7% Asian: 4%
Hispanic: 4.3% American Indian: 0.3%
Median Household Income: $52,868
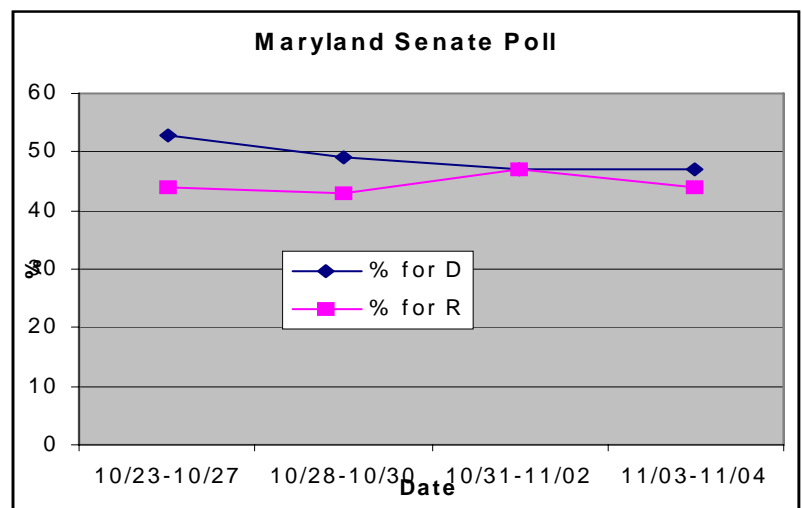Median Household Income Rank:3rd
Unemployment: 4.3%
State Offices-Gov: Robert Ehrlich, R
State House Control: Democratic
State Senate Control: Democratic
U.S. Senate Delegation: 2-0D
Source: CQ Politics

Maryland Senate Poll

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
STEELE
Receipts: $7,152,209
Expenditures: $6,249,753

Source: http://www.politicalmoneyline.com
CARDIN
Receipts: $7,626,812
Expenditures: $6,063,121

The Candidates:

Michael Steele: Native to Maryland, Steele was born at Andrews Air Force base in Prince George's County. Raised in Washington D.C., he is no stranger to our crime problems. He earned his bachelor's degree in Internal Relations at Johns Hopkins University and obtained his law degree at Georgetown University Law Center. Upon becoming Governor of Maryland, Steele became the first statewide elected African American in Maryland. While in office, he has worked alongside the police force to lower the high crime rates and has fought to improve access to better performing schools. He has also helped small and minority business by redefining the state's goals and commitments toward such businesses. He has gained the confident vote of the black population and is favored by the small business owners.

Ben Cardin: A third generation Marylander, Cardin is more than aware of Maryland and its needs. As family oriented man, he has spent his life strengthening communities through community service. He has served as a member of the House of Delegates, Chief Police Magistrate and as an Associate Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. He was one of the youngest Speakers of the House in Maryland history, he held that position for eight years. In those eight years he reformed the state's

ethics laws, made the tax system fairer and passed legislation that made school funding equitable. He has opposed President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security, and has voted against the war in Iraq. He believes that education should be a top priority. And to directly affect Maryland, he has been determined in cleaning up the state, especially the Chesapeake Bay, a pride of the state and its seafood enthusiasts.

The Campaign:

Michael Steele: Steele is fighting his way uphill in this race as he is in a rather democratic favored state. But he has not let that put a damper in his drive to win, he is pushing for energy relief in Maryland and protection of the environment and ecosystem. He has recognized the crime problems and drug issues within Washington D.C. and has set an agenda to reform the living standards. He is doing his best to earn the black and older vote with his promotion in ethical standard and by listening to the veterans and keeping America's promise to them.

Ben Cardin: Hoping to be the successor of Paul Sarbanes, Cardin has headed his campaign with a lot of the same main issues as Steele. He believes that educating children is a top priority and that there is a need for new ethics laws along with improved environmental status. But Cardin has set a strong stand point in that the Social Security plan should not be privatized and that Medicare should be strengthened so that prescriptions can become more affordable and that patients rights should be protected more strictly (all gaining support from the older voters).

Analysis:

In this race Cardin is not leading by nearly as much as the democrats running for senate have in the past. Steele has made himself known in the democratic state to the point where Cardin is pushing hard in the end to keep his small lead in the polls. They both have pushed hard for both the black and the senior voters, but Cardin has pushed harder for the senior vote which is where he has his slight lead. Steele has closed the gap recently to a six point lead favoring Cardin. But Steele only has about 12% of the black vote, should that go to 20% or even as high as 25%, Cardin will lose his lead. Again this is a very close race where the slightest mistake can change the result completely. Kerry may have hurt Cardin in this election with his remark against our troops. Such a remark may swing the vote down 1% of Cardin to another 1% to Steele. That small swing could lose the election for Cardin. Cardin only sits at a 3 point lead, a dangerously small margin for this late in the election.

Predicted Result:

In this race, it is so close that this will come down to the last second and who favors who. But at a 3 point lead as of November 3, Cardin will win this as long as he keeps his black and elder vote. He also has the favor of being in a Democratic state to give him a slight edge in the home stretch.

Group 2

Dennis Barker
Stephen Brannon
Cory Salem

Arizona – 8th
Georgia – 8th
Iowa – 3rd
New Jersey – 7th
South Carolina – 5th
Minnesota – Senate
Virginia – Senate

AZ -- 8ᵗʰ   Projection

Randy Graf (R)

Gabrielle Giffords (D)

Congressional District 8

nationalatlas.gov™

8 Congressional District
Cochise County

Arizona (8 Districts)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Tucson
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 60% Dem: 36%
President: Bush: 53% Kerry: 46%
Demographics –
Population: 641,329
Under 18: 22.9% Over 65: 16.8%
Married: 56.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 74%
Black: 3%   Hispanic: 18% Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 8.8% Non-English
Speaking: 18.3%
Median Household Income: $40,656
Owner Occupied Housing: 67.1%
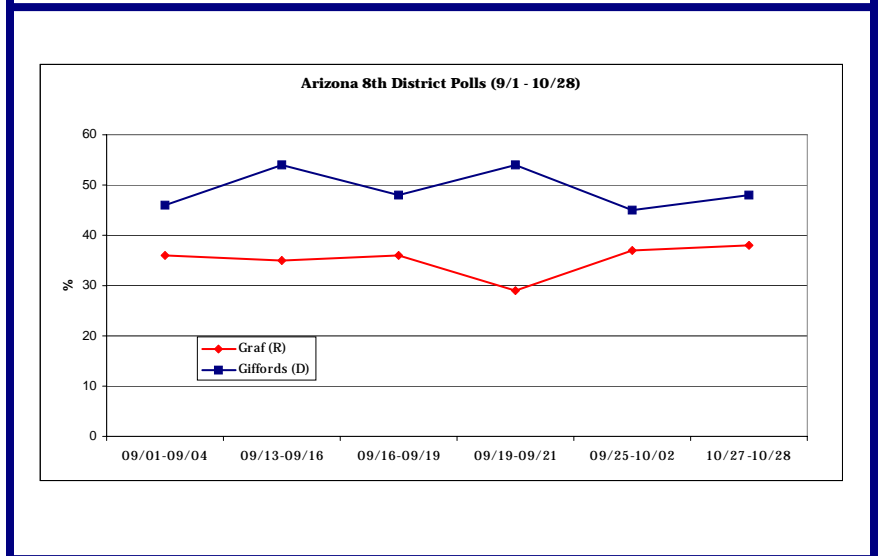Income above $200K: 2.1%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 66.7%
Blue Collar: 16.1% Service 16.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 31%
Graduate Education: 12.2%
Source: CQ Politics

Arizona 8th District Polls (9/1 - 10/28)

Graf (R)
Giffords (D)

The Money Race (data through 11/05/06):
GRAF
Receipts: $984,298
Expenditures: $779,687

Source: Center of Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org)
GIFFORDS
Receipts: $2,184,911
Expenditures: $1,771,546

The Candidates:

Randy Graf (R) ran for the Arizona Legislature in 2000. He won and served two terms in the state House. He served as the House Majority Whip and American Legislative Exchange Council State Chairman during his second term from 2003-2004. During his time in office, he addressed issues such as Second Amendment protection, illegal immigration, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and was given an A+ ranking from the National Rifle Association. Graf then ran in the 2004 Republican primary and lost to Jim Kolbe, a ten-term United States Representative to the House. Graf was voted the friend of the taxpayer four years in a row.

Gabrielle Giffords (D), who used to be a Republican, became a Democrat in 2000 and successfully ran that year for a seat in the Arizona House, where she served one term. She was the first woman ever to be elected into the Arizona State Senate. Giffords worked on legislation to expand health care coverage for Arizona families, created and attracted high wage jobs to Arizona, and helped to protect Arizona's environment and wildlife. She was a member of the Appropriations, Commerce, and

Economic Development and Finance Committees. In December of 2005, she resigned to pursue this congressional seat which was vacated by Rep. Jim Kolbe after eleven terms in office.

The Campaign:

Randy Graf is focused strongly against all illegal immigration and wants all illegal immigrants to return to their respective home countries. The issue of immigration acts as the basis of his message to the public. The local newspaper for the district completely supports Graf's opponent, Gabrielle Giffords. The newspaper criticizes Graf for calling Giffords an extreme liberal. The newspaper contends that she is actually moderate and feels Graf's statements are unfair and untrue. Recently, the GOP cancelled advertising on Graf's behalf due to his substantial loss in current polls.

Gabrielle Giffords considers herself a moderate Democrat. She wants Congress to balance the budget and trim national debt. She supports raising the minimum wage and wants to hire more teachers nationwide, emphasizing the education of math and science. She wants to improve health care and public safety. Giffords says one thing that differentiates her from her opponent is that her opponent only focuses on immigration and border security, while she supports comprehensive immigration and border reform. She also wants to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq as soon as possible.

Analysis:

The Arizona eighth district pits Democratic candidate Gabrielle Giffords against Republican candidate Randy Graf. As one of Arizona's ex-state senators, Giffords has extensive political experience, much more than her opponent. Arizona's eighth seat is open after Republican Representative Jim Kolbe retired after twenty-two years of service to the district. In addition, Kolbe refused to endorse Graf, the district's 2006 Republican candidate. It also seems that the GOP has abandoned the race in this district and has, in essence, conceded to Giffords. According to an October 13 publication by the Washington Post online, the GOP cancelled Graf's TV ads to use the money in campaigns in other districts. The local newspaper, the San Pedro Valley News-Sun, says that Graf's ad campaigns are misleading and unfair. For that reason, the News-Sun fully endorses Gabrielle Giffords. Also, it seems that the GOP's lack of support of Graf really hurt his chances at the candidacy.

Predicted Result:

We believe that Gabrielle Giffords will win Arizona's eighth district. Polls show that she has been winning the popular opinion since September. Also, the money race shows that Giffords has a little more than one and a half times the amount of money on hand that Graf does. For these reasons coupled with speculation that the GOP has abandoned Graf, we think that Giffords will win the election and consequently Arizona's eighth district seat.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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GA – 8th   Projection

Michael Collins (R)

Jim Marshall (D)*

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Atlanta, Columbus, Macon
Election History (2004)* old GA-3
House: GOP: 63% Dem: 37%
President: Bush: 61% Kerry: 39%
Demographics –
Population: 629,700
Under 18: 27% Over 65: 9%
Married: 63.2%
Non-Hispanic White: 76%
Black: 19%   Hispanic: 2% Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 3.2% Non-English
Speaking: 5.2%
Median Household Income: $52,406
Owner Occupied Housing: 81.0%
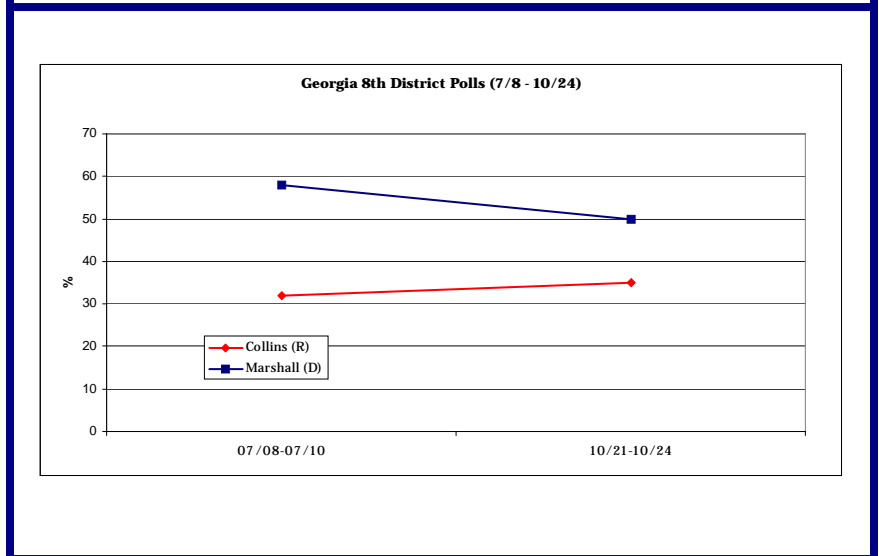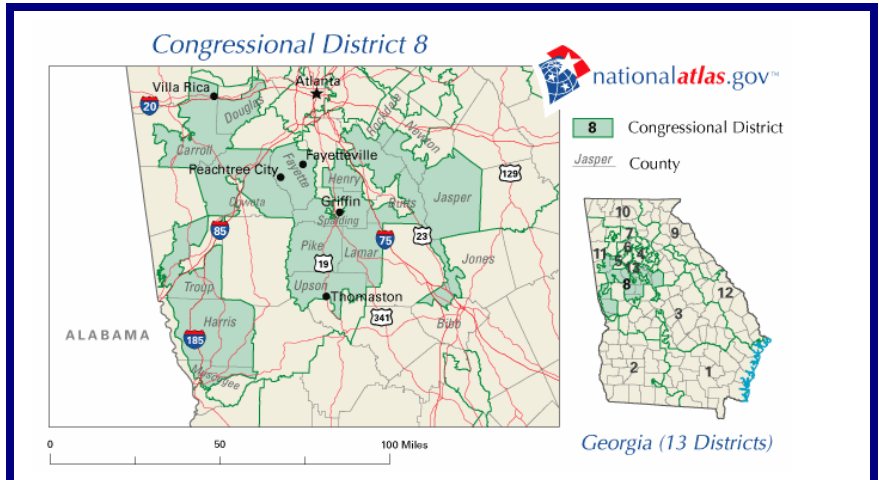Income above $200K: 2.3%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 60.7%
Blue Collar: 27.7% Service 11.6%
Bachelor's Degree: 23%
Graduate Education: 8.0%
Source: CQ Politics, W. Post

Congressional District 8
nationalatlas.gov™
8 Congressional District
Jasper County
Georgia (13 Districts)

Georgia 8th District Polls (7/8 - 10/24)

The Money Race (data through 11/05/06):
COLLINS
Receipts: $1,523,921
Expenditures: $1,038,834

Source: Center of Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org)
MARSHALL
Receipts: $1,494,122
Expenditures: $694,454

The Candidates:

Jim Marshall (D) is seeking re-election in the Georgia eighth. He is the son and grandson of U.S. Army Generals, and is a member of the Army Ranger Hall of Fame. He served in Vietnam as an Airborne-Ranger reconnaissance platoon sergeant. He has received many military awards, including two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. Jim is an expert in banking, commercial housing, and business law. He served as the mayor of Macon in 1995. During his service, he received high marks for fiscal management, addressing substandard housing, and improving race relations. Instead of seeking re-election in 1999, he chose to run for his first congressional campaign in 2000. He lost, and ran for his first congressional campaign in 2000. He lost again, but finally won the seat two years later, when his opponent decided to run for Senate.

Mac Collins (R) served from 1992 to 2004 in the U.S. House. He also served as the Butts County Commissioner and a State Senator. Collins served on the Transportation, Budget, Intelligence, and Subcommittees such as Terrorism and Homeland Security, Human Intelligence, Analysis, Counterintelligence, Technical and Tactical Intelligence, Ways and Means, Social Security, and Select

Revenue. He served as the Deputy Majority Whip and the Region 10 Representative to the GOP Steering Committee.

The Campaign:

Jim Marshall was honored by veterans for campaigning to end the Disable Veterans Tax. He is an expert on military matters and has visited troops in Afghanistan and Iraq numerous times. He is extremely pro-active in his efforts to protect and enlarge the missions of Georgia's military bases. Marshall's website claims he works hard to reflect the values and advance the interests of our Nation.

Mac Collins is an experienced public servant who is deeply concerned about the economy, the budget, immigration, winning the war in Iraq, caring for the soldiers and the civilians who support them, and keeping Georgia Agriculture competitive in the future market. With his common sense, he knows he can help the people of Georgia's new eighth district secure a brighter future. Collins claims that the values of the working families, small-business people, and farmers are not currently being fairly represented in the House of Representatives. The creation of the district has given Collins the opportunity to run for the House.

Analysis:

In Georgia's eighth district, Democratic incumbent Jim Marshall and Republican candidate Mac Collins race to see who will win the most votes. In 2005, Georgia's legislature created new congressional boundaries that converted Georgia's "old" third district to the eighth district. In the "old" district in 2004, however, Marshall defeated challenger Calder Clay 63 percent to 37 percent. The most recent poll shows Marshall ahead of the Republican challenger by 16 percent. According to the Rubicon, the reason why Georgia underwent redistricting was so to try to give Georgia a Republican advantage by gerrymandering the districts to be more likely to vote in Republican candidates. They may have succeeded; old statistics show that in 2004, citizens of the new eighth district voted in favor of George Bush over John Kerry, 61 percent to 39 percent.

Predicted Result:

Redistricting aside, we think that the Democratic incumbent Jim Marshall will win the seat. The most recently conducted polls show that Marshall is leading Collins. In addition, Marshall has almost twice the amount of money on hand that Collins does, leaving more opportunity for last-minute advertising. We also took into account that the incumbent has a much better chance of being reelected than ousted out of his position.

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INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

IA – 3rd   Projection

Jeff Lamberti (R)

Leonard Boswell (D)*

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Des Moines
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 45% Dem: 55%
President: Bush: 50% Kerry: 50%
Demographics –
Population: 585,305
Under 18: 25.6% Over 65: 13.3%
Married: 58.4%
Non-Hispanic White: 90%
Black: 3%   Hispanic: 3% Asian: 2%
Foreign Born: 4.3% Non-English
Speaking: 7.1%
Median Household Income: $43,176
Owner Occupied Housing: 71.5%
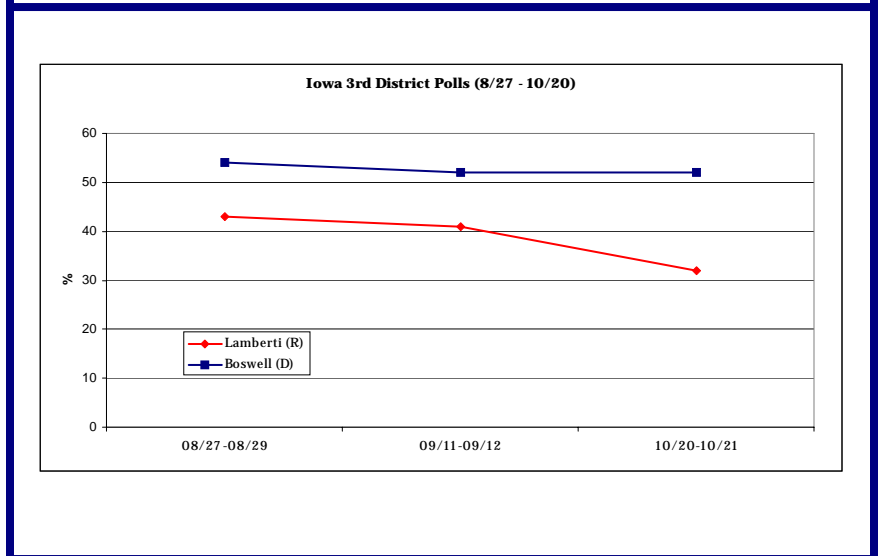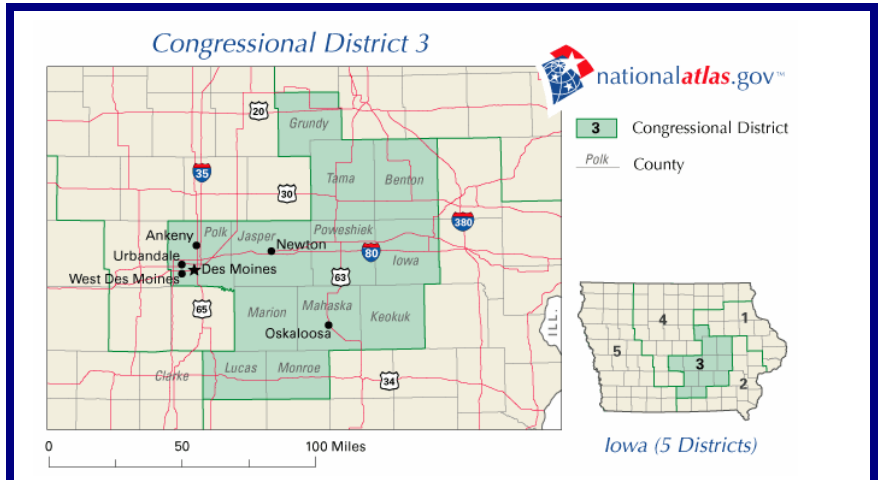Income above $200K: 1.7%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 62.0%
Blue Collar: 24.0% Service 14.0%
Bachelor's Degree: 25%
Graduate Education: 7.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 3

national**atlas**.gov™

3 Congressional District
Polk County

Iowa (5 Districts)

Iowa 3rd District Polls (8/27 - 10/20)

Lamberti (R)
Boswell (D)

08/27-08/29   09/11-09/12   10/20-10/21

The Money Race (data through 11/05/06):
LAMBERTI
Receipts: $1,514,552
Expenditures: $985,278

Source: Center of Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org)
BOSWELL
Receipts: $1,761,563
Expenditures: $1,535,492

The Candidates:

Leonard Boswell (D) is running for re-election in the Iowa's third district. He was elected into the state Senate in 1984 and served until 1996, when he was elected into the United States House of Representatives. He participated in bringing about the first balanced federal budget in nearly three decades. By redistricting, he announced that he would move to Des Moines to run for the third district in 2002. Leonard serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and in 2001, he was named a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He has an extensive military background consisting of twenty years in the U.S. Army, with an ending rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He has received two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, the Soldier's Medal, and numerous other awards.

Jeff Lamberti (R) served two terms in the Iowa House. He is a member of the National Rifle Association and Ducks Unlimited. Jeff is a small business owner, a member of the Iowa and Polk County Bar Association, Valley Bank Metro Board, and Polk City Chamber of Commerce. He is involved in his community as a board member in the Ankeny Community School District, Youth

Emergency Service and Shelter, Polk County Health Services, the Neveln Community Resource Center, and the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council. Jeff was named the national 2004 Outstanding Advocate. He is currently serving his second term in the Iowa Senate, where he is co-president.

The Campaign:

Leonard Boswell is viewed as a conservative Democrat. He wants to provide tax relief to working families, supports education reform, has been instrumental in crafting aviation security legislation, and continues to fight for keeping Iowa's small businesses and rural communities vital. Boswell also wants to increase crime prevention. He claims to fight for senior citizens, education, health care, and fiscal responsibility and says he will continue to do so if he gets reelected to the House position.

Jeff Lamberti has a record of accomplishment and a record of leadership. He is viewed as a fiscal conservative. He helped pass Iowa's largest income tax reduction, eliminated the inheritance tax for direct descendants, and created a tax credit for Iowa businesses for each new full-time job they create. Lamberti says he has a good chance of winning this race because of Boswell's bad health. Effectiveness and trade are key issues in his campaign. Lamberti opposes the privatization of Social Security and opposes any reduction in Social Security benefits. He also is against an increase in the retirement age. Lamberti is against placing any addition tax burden on working Americans.

Analysis:

Although Democratic incumbent Leonard Boswell leads the race by about 20 percent (according to the most recent polls), the GOP still has not given up Iowa's third seat. They still see it as a potential pickup, and as such are sending typical GOP supporters like Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and First Lady Laura Bush to help Republican challenger Jeff Lamberti. In the 2004 elections, citizens of the district voted for Bush by 50 percent to Kerry's 49 percent, but at the same time voted for Boswell over then challenger Stan Thompson 55 percent to 45 percent. We interpreted this to mean that the district is not overly Republican or Democratic and that party relations will probably not play a huge role in the citizen's decision. The fact that Boswell is the incumbent and that the citizens are generally happy with the way he has been doing in Congress will play a major role. The citizens of Iowa's third will likely not see any reason to vote Boswell out of office.

Predicted Result:

Most of the information we have been able to find indicates that Boswell will win the election in Iowa's third district. First, Boswell is the incumbent and as such is statistically less likely to lose the election. Second, and most important, polls tracking voter opinion since the end of August show Boswell consistently ahead of Lamberti. The latest poll information we have been able to find shows Boswell leading by 20 percent.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
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NJ – 7th	**Projection**

Michael Ferguson (R)*

Linda Stender (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Woodbridge Township
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 57% Dem: 42%
President: Bush: 53% Kerry: 46%
Demographics –
Population: 647,257
Under 18: 25% Over 65: 13%
Married: 62.4%
Non-Hispanic White: 79%
Black: 4% Hispanic: 7% Asian: 8%
Foreign Born: 16.4% Non-English
Speaking: 21.6%
Median Household Income: $74,823
Owner Occupied Housing: 79%
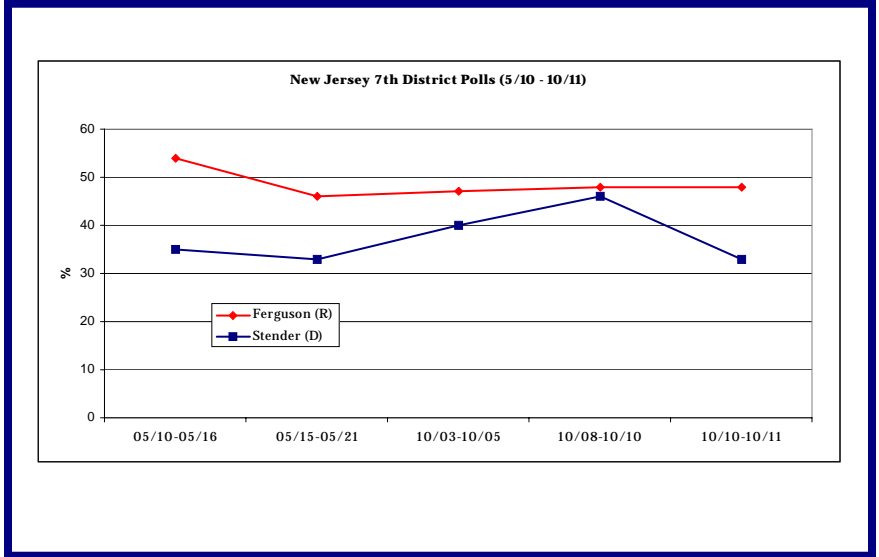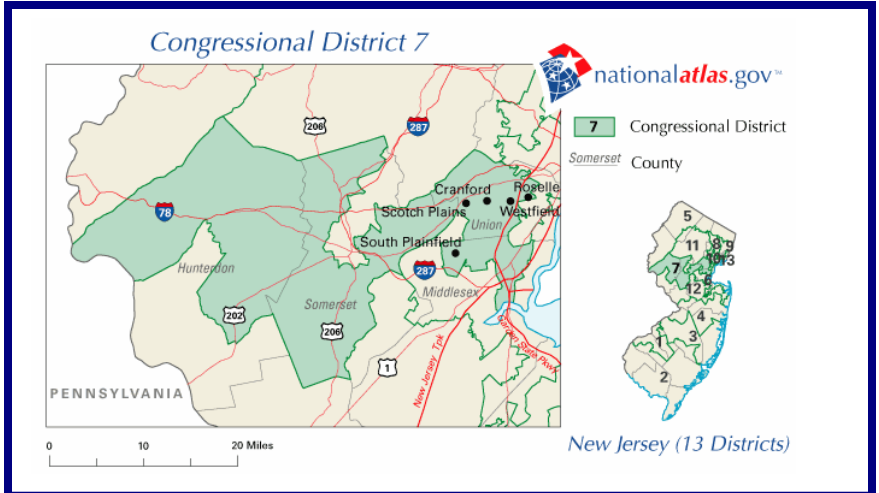Income above $200K: 8.1%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 74.5%
Blue Collar: 15.9% Service 9.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 42%
Graduate Education: 16.6%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 7

nationalatlas.gov

7 Congressional District
Somerset County

New Jersey (13 Districts)

New Jersey 7th District Polls (5/10 - 10/11)

Ferguson (R)
Stender (D)

05/10-05/16   05/15-05/21   10/03-10/05   10/08-10/10   10/10-10/11

The Money Race (data through 11/05/06):	**Source:** Center of Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org)
FERGUSON	STENDER
Receipts: $2,549,135	Receipts: $1,368,825
Expenditures: $2,060,457	Expenditures: $1,073,152

The Candidates:

Mike Ferguson (R) is running for re-election into the New Jersey 7th. He serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has wide jurisdiction over health care, telecommunications and energy, and industries that employ hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents. He serves in subcommittees on the Commerce Committee such as Health, Telecommunications and Internet, Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the Oversight and Investigations subcommittees. Before serving on the House, he was an educator, teaching Western civilization and coaching basketball. Teaching inspired him to institute his "Substitute Civics Teacher Program," where he regularly visits schools within the seventh district schools to discuss civics and public service with students ranging from kindergarten to college. He was elected into the U.S. House in November 2000.

Linda Stender (D) is a life-member of the community in this district. She was elected to the Fanwood Borough Council, became mayor, and made sweeping changes so that the government put the people first. She has helped build one of the safest counties in the state, a great parks system, and a county

hospital that truly responds to the needs of our senior citizens. She serves on committees such as Vice President of Transportation and Public Works, Health and Senior Services, and Tourism and Gaming. She has been proven to be an effective vote-getter on the local, county, and state levels.

The Campaign:

Mike Ferguson is a moderate Republican. He is pro-life, he focuses on reducing taxes, improving homeland security to protect our families, and defending the values that have made America strong. Wants a new HMO reform law to protect patients and he favors merit pay for teachers. He backs the GOP on tax cuts and private investment of Social Security taxes. Ferguson is strongly against abortion. The local newspaper in his district believes he is an acceptable representative in Congress, but with the current state of the nation, they are not persuaded that he is the representative we need today. Ferguson's campaign is focused almost solely on the "Stender is a spender" theme. This phrase is very questionable due to the fact that it comes from cases dating back to the 1980's.

Linda Stender has been a leader in calling for property tax reform and for funding stem cell research to find cures for illnesses such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, and cancer. She claims she will help set a new direction for the country. She will work to change the culture of Washington so that it works for the citizens. The local newspaper says that Stender has an impressive background in local government. They say that her record is far more impressive than Ferguson's. Her views contrast Ferguson's on women's rights. She is a part of the growing Democratic chorus calling for withdrawal of troops from Iraq within a year.

Analysis:

Republican incumbent Mike Ferguson and Democratic challenger Linda Stender vie for New Jersey's seventh seat. The polls consistently show Ferguson is the preferred candidate over Stender, the most recently published one giving Ferguson almost a 20 percent advantage. In addition, Ferguson has raised and spent more money on his campaign than his contender. Previous numbers show that in 2004, the district voted for Bush over Kerry 53 percent to 47 percent, and voted for Ferguson over his then challenger Steve Brozak 57 percent to 42 percent. It is shown that the citizens in the seventh district support Ferguson.

Predicted Result:

We decided that the seat will probably be won by the incumbent, Mike Ferguson. Previous results show that the members of New Jersey's seventh district wholly support Ferguson. Also, he has spent more time and money on advertising his campaign than his Democratic component. Based on precedent and effort, Ferguson we believe that Ferguson will win the seat.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

SC – 5th   Projection

Ralph Norman (R)

John Spratt (D)*

District Type: Rural
Cities: Rock Hill
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 37% Dem: 63%
President: Bush: 57% Kerry: 42%
Demographics –
Population: 668,668
Under 18: 26.3% Over 65: 11.9%
Married: 55%
Non-Hispanic White: 64%
Black: 32% Hispanic: 2% Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 2% Non-English
Speaking: 3.9%
Median Household Income: $35,416
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.6%
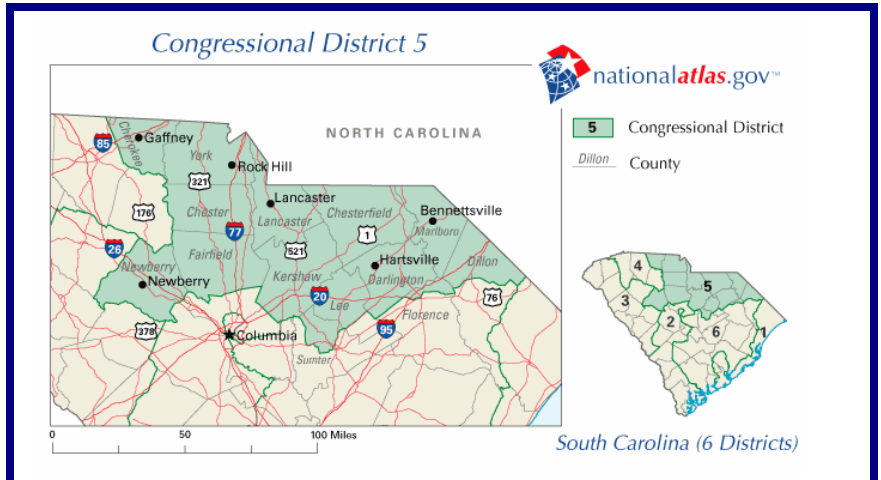Income above $200K: 1.1%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 48%
Blue Collar: 38.3% Service 13.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 15%
Graduate Education: 4.9%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 5

nationalatlas.gov™

NORTH CAROLINA

5 Congressional District

Dillon County

South Carolina (6 Districts)

South Carolina 5th District Polls (10/9 - 10/25)

Norman (R)
Spratt(D)

10/9-10/11   10/17-10/25   10/29-1031
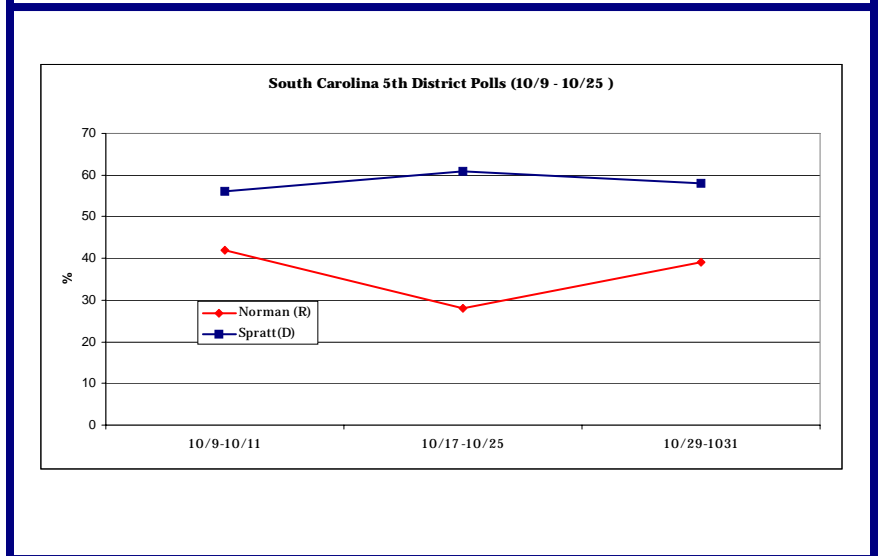
The Money Race (data through 11/05/06):
NORMAN
Receipts: $1,288,488
Expenditures: $833,599

Source: Center of Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org)
SPRATT
Receipts: $2,136,029
Expenditures: $2,236,435

The Candidates:

John Spratt (D) is running for re-election in South Carolina's fifth, elected into the U.S. House in 1982. He was the president of the student body both in high school and college. Spratt served in the U.S. Army from 1969 t0 1971 and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He then came back home and served as the county and school district attorney, president of the Bank of Fort Mill, and owner of a farm and small insurance agency. In his community, he served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way, and a chairman of the Board of Divine Saviour Hospital. Since the start of his service in Congress in 1982, he is a ranking Democrat on the Budget Committee, a negotiator of the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997, a holder of a chair in the Armed Services Committee, and is the Assistant to the Democratic Leader in the House.

Ralph Norman (R) is a lifelong resident of this district. He runs a family real estate business which was founded in 1948 by his father and has greatly expanded over the years and is now one of the foremost real estate and development companies in South Carolina. Ralph has a strong work ethic

combined with a desire always to help other people succeed. He is highly involved in his community and has served in the following offices: President of the Rotary Club, Board of Realtors, Home Builders, and Salvation Army; Chairman of the board at Piedmont Hospital, National Bank of York County, and C&S Bank; Board of Directors at the American Red Cross, Winthrop Eagle Club, YMCA, United Way, SC Bank and Trust Corporate Board, Chamber of Commerce, Rock Hill National Bank, Presbyterian College, and the Medical University of South Carolina. It is fair to say that if you have lived in this area for quite some time, you have heard of Norman.

The Campaign:

John Spratt is a moderate with experience in military and budget issues. He supports women's right to abortion and the death penalty. He opposes Bush's plan to overhaul Social Security, calling it too expensive. *The State* calls him "a bridge-builder who can reach across party lines." *National Journal* placed him on their cover, calling him "a stand-out in Congress." In *Washington* magazine, a survey resulted in John being classified as a "Workhorse" and "House Member I'd Like to See Win the Presidency in 2008." John has helped lead efforts to call attention to the Bush Administration's fiscal problems.

Ralph Norman opposes abortion and gay marriage. He is a supporter of gun rights and proudly notes that he has a concealed carry weapon. He supports immigration and tort reform and opposes a government healthcare system. Norman links his opponent Spratt with liberals like House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Senator Ted Kennedy, saying their views don't reflect South Carolina values.

Analysis:

After seeing the lack of coverage for the house races in South Carolina, let alone in the 5th district, most feel that the state's influence on this year's election will be minimal. The incumbent candidate, John Spratt, is known for his great knowledge of the current happenings of the House, especially in federal spending and Social Security. His Republican opponent, Ralph Norman, can not compete at Spratt's level.

Since it is known that Norman does not match-up with Spratt, Norman has been trying to win voters over by using hot-button topics to distance himself from Spratt. He also brings attention that there is a good chance that the House might be handed to the Democrats and is trying to convince conservative voters to come out to the polls.

Vice-President Chaney made an appearance with Norman at Charlestown Air Force base in late October. The next day, President Bush made an appearance in South Carolina. Neither claimed to be campaigning for any Republican candidate from south Carolina because they believe the Republicans will do quite well in this southern state.

Predicted Result:

There is a reason that this race has not been publicized; it is because there is no battle here. John Spratt will win re-election on November 7. It is traditionally hard for someone to beat an incumbent, and Ralph Norman just does not have the experience and political knowledge to overcome Spratt. Spratt has also been consistently higher in the polls than Norman. If there was a chance Norman could win, then this district would be more in the news because it would be a seat that would change from Democratic to Republican, which will be a rarity in this year's election.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

MN – Senate   Projection

Mark Kennedy (R)

Amy Klobuchar (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Minneapolis
Election History (2004)
President: Bush: 48% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 5,132,799
Under 18: 24.3% Over 65: 12.1%
Married: 57.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 89.9%
Black: 4.1% Hispanic: 3.5% Asian: 3.4%
Foreign Born: 5.3% Non-English Speaking: 8.5%
Median Household Income: $50,750
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.6%
Income above $200K: 1.1%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 62.3%
Blue Collar: 23.3% Gray Collar: 14.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 27.4%
Graduate Education: N/A
Source: US Census, W. Post, RCP

RCP Poll Average: Minnesota Senate Race
Kennedy (R) 40.3%   Klobuchar (D) 53.0%
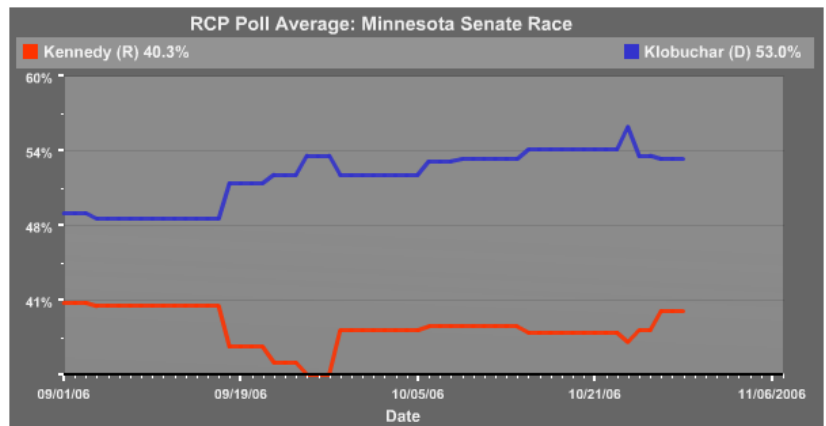
The Money Race (data through 11/05/06):
KENNEDY
Receipts: $8,614,396
Expenditures: $6,646,622

Source: Center of Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org)
KLOBUCHAR
Receipts: $7,922,161
Expenditures: $5,690,331

The Candidates:

Mark Kennedy (R) has a family history of serving in Minnesota for the last century, starting with his great-grandfather, a Swift County Commissioner in the 1980's. He is a certified public accountant with an MBA.   After a 20-year business career, he helped run four of America's most respected companies, beginning with Minnesota's very own Pillsbury. It was his accounting firm that helped to unravel the Enron scandal. Since he began serving in Congress in 2000, he has been a strong, independent voice for Minnesota, helping to solve issues by leading bi-partisan efforts. He has served three terms.

Amy Klobuchar (D) currently serves as Hennepin County's chief prosecutor. She manages an office of nearly 400 employees, including 160 lawyers. Her office currently serves more than 1.1 million residents, almost a quarter of the state's population. She was the valedictorian of her high school class and graduated magna cum laude from college. She has served in community organizations such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Campfire, and PACER. In 1996, she received the "40 Under 40" award from CityBusiness as one of Minnesota's leading young business and community leaders. She was also

named "Lawyer of the Year" in 2001 by *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine.

The Campaign:

Mark Kennedy has established solid conservative credentials and has been a solid supporter of tax relief for hard working families by eliminating the marriage penalty and doubling the per child tax credit, which has sparked an economic revival and has created millions of jobs. Mark also supports the war in Iraq, free trade, gun rights, and favors banning gay marriage. As a pro-life activist, he opposes abortion.

Amy Klobuchar is a tough-on-crime prosecutor and a moderate. She is against calls for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq and instead calls for a repeal of the Bush tax cuts for wealthy Americans. She is steadfast on preserving the guarantee of Social Security, honoring our veterans, promoting homegrown resources, opening the door to opportunity, pushing for universal health care, getting a fair deal for farmers and rural communities, and ethics reform. The local newspaper stated that Klobuchar would have to work hard to lose this election. It said Klobuchar has had a commanding lead over Kennedy for quite some time now. Klobuchar says she will fight on behalf of the people she serves.

Analysis:

In the early going, this open Senate seat, created by the vacating Mark Dayton (D), looked to be a great chance for the Republicans to pick up seat. Dayton was nicknamed "the Blunder" by Time magazine for all the screw-ups while in office. The Republicans have a strong candidate, Kennedy, but he has not been able to win the hearts of voters. Now it is almost obvious that this will go to Klobuchar (D). This is a vary anti-Bush state, so much so that Kennedy has ran multiple television adds that are trying to distance him from President Bush. He claims to cross party lines, but he will not change his views on the war in Iraq.

Klobuchar (D) is using her record as Hennepin County chief prosecutor to push her into office. Since her becoming prosecutor, her county's crime rate has fallen quicker than the state-wide trend as well as having a 92% adult conviction rate. The only negative that the Kennedy campaign is using against her is the spike in violent crime in Minneapolis. The crime spike does not seem to affect the voters as much as their dislike towards the Bush administration.

The only wide-card that might swing voters to Kennedy is an unreleased Klobuchar ad towards Kennedy that resulted in the firing of her communications director. Klobuchar handed the case to the FBI immediately and seems to have had no effect on her campaign.

Predicted Result:

This race seems to be a sure bet come November 7. One look at the polls show how one sided this race has become. Kennedy(R) has just never had enough support to prove otherwise even after Dayton (D) stepped down. He has tried to distance himself from his party to fight the state's dislike towards Bush, but Klobushar has commanding lead in the polls. It almost seems she can do no wrong. Minneapolis has had a spike in violent crime while she was the county prosecutor, but she has been able to win the views of the voters. Even with the potential of a scandal, the polls show her with a 13 point lead. This Senate seat will remain in the hands of the democrats.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

VA – Senate   Projection

George Allen (R)*

James Webb (D)

Cities: Richmond, Virginia Beach
Election History (2004)
President: Bush: 54% Kerry: 45%
Demographics –
Population: 7,567,465
Under 18: 24.2% Over 65: 11.4%
Married: N/A
Non-Hispanic White: 73.8%
Black: 19.9% Hispanic: 5.7% Asian: 4.4%
Foreign Born: 8.1% Non-English Speaking: 11.1%
Median Household Income: $50,028
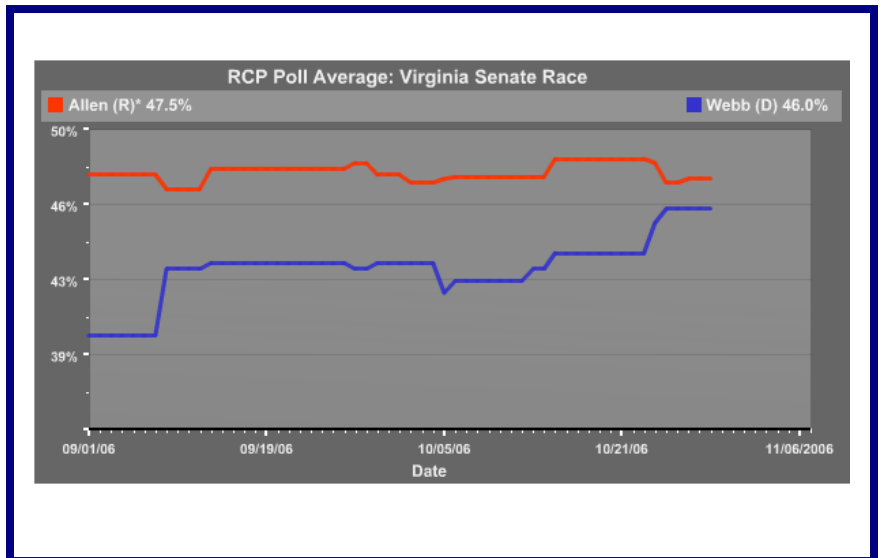Owner Occupied Housing: 68.1%
Income above $200K: N/A
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 63.7%
Blue Collar: 22.1% Service: 14.2%
Bachelor's Degree: 29.5%
Graduate Education: N/A
Source: US Census, W. Post, RCP

The Money Race (data through 11/05/06):
ALLEN
Receipts: $8,614,396
Expenditures: $6,646,622

Source: Center of Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org)
WEBB
Receipts: $7,922,161
Expenditures: $5,690,311

The Candidates:

George Allen (R) is running for re-election in this district. He ran for office for his first time in 1979, where he lost the fight for a seat in the House of Delegates. In 1983, he tried again, reigning victorious. He served in the House for nine years before gaining a seat in Congress in a 1991 special election. He then lost that seat two years later. He ran for governor in 1993, becoming the first Republican governor in Virginia in 12 years. He is a member of the Committees of Commerce, Science and Transportation, Foreign Relations, Energy and Natural Resources, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. In 2002, George was elected unanimously as the Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, where under his leadership the GOP gained four seats in the U.S. Senate in 2004.

Jim Webb (D) graduated first in his class of 243 at the Marine Corps Officer's Basic School. After returning from service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two Bronze Star Medals, and two Purple Hearts. He is the author of six best-selling novels. He served in the U.S. Congress as counsel to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs from 1977 to 1981.

The Campaign:

George Allen claims that his top priority is to advocate and support policies that create more jobs, investment, and improve America's competitiveness. He is focused on winning the war on terror. He supports the right on assault weapons and gay marriage. He wants to improve homeland security. George is pushing towards increasing America's energy independence in order to help reduce soaring gas prices. He is strongly against illegal immigration. The American Conservative Union gave him a perfect 100 for his 2005 voting record. In a local newspaper, he demonstrated that he is very outspoken by using harsh racial slur towards his opponent's campaign, causing the race for the seat to become much closer.

Jim Webb is focusing on four major themes this election. He wants to refocus America's foreign and defense policies in a way that truly protects our national interests and seeks harmony where they are not threatened. Jim wishes to repair the country's basic infrastructure, reinstitute notions of true fairness in American society, and to restore the Constitutional role of the Congress as an equal partner, reining in the power of the Presidency.

Analysis:

This will be a key Senate race to watch, which may not have been the case a few weeks ago. If you look at the lass polls taken, Webb (D) has gained about 5 percentage points in the about a week's time. Because of this, the Senate seat has creped up to be one of the most venerable Senate seats for the Republicans. The polls might correctly show the magnitude of the change, but is does show a trend that favors the Democrats come election day.

If you look at the money race, Allen have about a half million more dollars than Webb, but has spent about one million more than Webb. This might show that Allen is under great pressure from Webb, and that the incumbent of this seat might not win re-election.

The last week of both candidates' campaigns has turned into a very heated name calling event. Both sides are trying to uncover controversy about the other in the worst light possible rather than displaying their views on the issues at hand. Allen has been the more aggressive candidate with his advertising, where Webb is refusing to participate in this 'character' attacks.

Webb has change from Republican to Democrat because of his views on the war in Iraq. In a country that is questioning our reasons for being in Iraq, this move will more likely help Webb.

Predicted Result:

The Senate race in Virginia will go down to the wire. Allen is the incumbent and had been leading in the polls, but with the resent negative advertising and that he is spending more money that Webb makes it seem that he is starting to get desperate. He is beginning to realize that he might lose his bid for re-election and the polls show it. Webb has stood his ground and might be able to squeeze the vote in his favor. He has wanted to focus more on the issues rather than participate in negative advertising. Look for the Democrats to win a close Senate seat in Virginia.

Group 3

Andrew Ernst
Seth Hunter
Chad Whitaker

Georgia – 12th
New Mexico – 1st
Ohio – 15th
Pennsylvania – 6th
Texas – 17th
Missouri – Senate

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

GA -- 12th	Projection

Max Burns (R)

John Barrow (D)*   ✔

Congressional District 12

nationalatlas.gov™

12 Congressional District
Jenkins County

Georgia (13 Districts)

District Type: Urban
Cities: Athens, most of Augusta and Athens
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 48% Dem: 52%
President: Bush: 46% Kerry: 53%
Demographics –
Population: 629,735
Under 18: 25.3%   Over 65: 10.7%
Married: 44.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 52%
Black: 42%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 3.7% Non-English
Speaking: 7%
Median Household Income: $31,108
Owner Occupied Housing: 58.4%
Income above $200K: 1.3%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 53.6%
Blue Collar: 29% Service 17.8%
Bachelor's Degree: 19%
Graduate Education: 7.3%

7-09-06 through 10-26-06 (*all I could find, no axis or legend, Democratic candidate in Blue, Republican in Red)
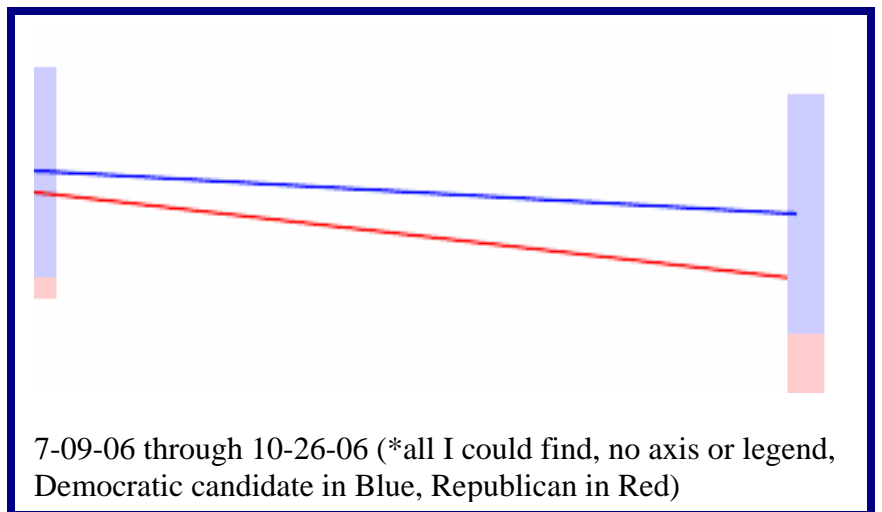
The Money Race (data through 10/20/06):
BARROW
Receipts: $2,056,723
Expenditures: $990,771

Source: www.nytimes.com
BURNS
Receipts: $1,898,444
Expenditures: $1,305,486

The Candidates:

   John Barrow is the Democratic Incumbent in this district race. Barrow is described as an effective and independent thinker. In what is considered a highly conservative area of Georgia, he still claimed victory in 2004. During his term in office, Barrow has attacked companies who have deliberately inflated gas and oil prices, voted to authorize $28 million for boarder security, and tried to increase minimum wage. He is also the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Rural enterprise, Agriculture, and Technology, which is considered to be a rare honor for a freshman Member of Congress.
   The Republican candidate running against him is Max Burns. Burns was a member of the 108th Congress, and served on the Committee of Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Transportation and Infrastructure. In his tenure of office, Burns signed and approved legislation to help protect Georgia farmers, provide tax cuts for the elderly, greater control of children's medication, and programs which call for greater math and science programs in school. Max Burns was born and raised in Georgia's 12th district, which gives him a lot of grass roots credentials. He is also a member of the Republican party, which gives him a national advantage.

The Campaign:

Max Burns is mainly trying to work his grassroots credentials to gain him leverage in this campaign. Burns claims to be able represent the ideology and values of Georgia's 12th district better than anyone because he has lived and actively participated as a member of the community, and also someone who has represented the district already once before. Burns it seems is trying to win favor by portraying himself as a 'middle of the road' candidate, even though he holds a firm stance on his opinion of the main issues. For example, Burns is opposed to gay marriage rights, but is sympathetic towards the gay community, even calling it the civil rights issue of our time. Burns paints his opponent as someone who 'flip flops' on issues, for instance speaking at a gay pride rally but opposes gay marriage. It seems that his techniques are not working though, because most of his accusations seem to pick apart at the fine detail, not his opponents true message.

Barrow has the incumbent advantage, and is trying to sell himself by his accomplishments in Congress mentioned in the previous sections, and also as someone who is deeply concerned about the War in Iraq. His most recent television commercial talks up his commitment to veterans, boasts how he voted for full funding for our presence in Iraq and Afghanistan. Barrow is depicting his opponent as a hypocrite, accusing Barrow of unethical campaigning, a few weeks before Burns used the same technique as well. These tactics seem to be similar to Burns nit-picking style, and are not really issue related. Most of the local coverage seems to support the idea that Burns' tactics are proving more effective, because they are more abrasive, and focus more on Barrow's stance on the issues, not his personality.

Analysis:

In the national context, Burns might appear to have a slight advantage. In the last month President Bush stopped in the district to show his support for Burns. This is something the President doesn't typically do, and that it could have significance in Burns' campaign, because the President's popularity is higher in Georgia's 12th district that in other parts of the nation. Barrow is at another disadvantage this time running, because the district has been re-drawn and no longer includes Barrow's hometown of Athens. On big national issues, Burns takes a far right position. He is in favor of harsh penalties of illegal immigrants and supports increased boarder control. In an area where a larger percentage voted for Kerry in the last election, a far right campaign could be a big mistake.

Barrow, the incumbent, is effectively using his time in office for proof of how he will tackle big national issues. Barrow has taken advantage of the current inflated gas prices by how he has attacked big companies for intentionally inflating gas and oil prices. On immigration, Barrows feels that we should first secure our boarders, and then enforce existing laws. He is also against amnesty. This could prove positive for Barrow because his view is more liberal, and might appeal to this district. On the war in Iraq, Barrows is against immediate withdrawal, or establishing some sort of arbitrary timeline for withdrawal. Barrow does not say if he thinks we should remain in Iraq until victory is accomplished.

It is not easy to predict how the candidates' positions on national issues will effect the upcoming election. Things look bad for the members' Presidential party, especially for those running in districts with a Democratic majority. Max Burns is especially vulnerable in this race because his campaign is basically a mirror of the Presidents ideas on national issues.

Predicted Result:

I predict that Barrow will win this election, but it will be a close call. Max Burns seems to be an independent thinker, even though of his largely conservative views. He will prove to be a good opponent because of his grassroots campaigning methods. I feel that Barrow will win, because he has the advantage of being an incumbent, and being able to pull out legislation to prove that he has effectively voiced the concerns of his constituents is an effective tool to have. Also, I feel that because of how the Republican party is currently viewed along with the fact that this district leans Democratic will help Barrow take the win in this election.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

NM – 1st	Projection
Heather Wilson (R)*	✓
Patricia Madrid (D)	

District Type: Urban
Cities: Albuquerque, North Valley
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 54% Dem: 46%
President: Bush: 48% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 606,400
Under 18: 25.8% Over 65: 11.4%
Married: 50.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 49%
Black: 2%   Asian: 2%
Foreign Born: 8.6% Non-English
Speaking: 30%
Median Household Income: $38, 413
Owner Occupied Housing: 65.4%
Income above $200K: 1.7%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 65.2%
Blue Collar: 19% Service 15.8%
Bachelor's Degree: 29%
Graduate Education: 12.6%
Source: CQ Politics
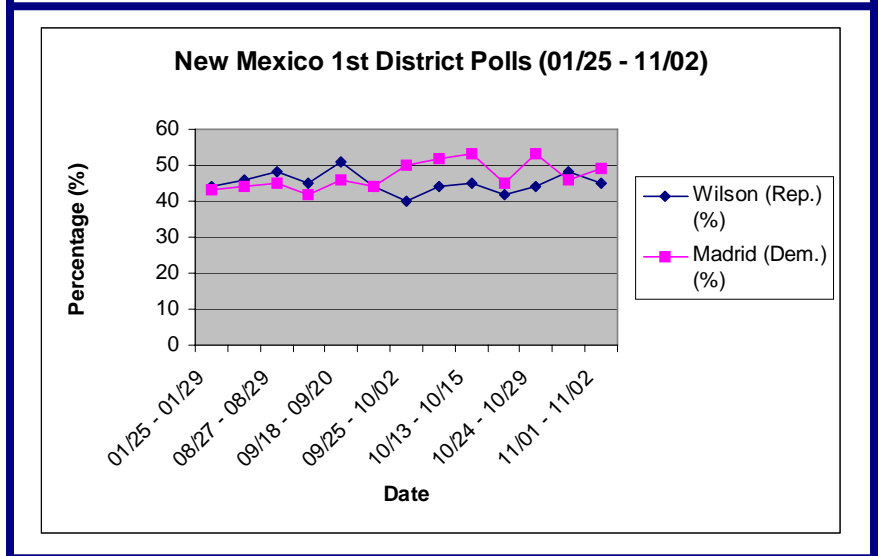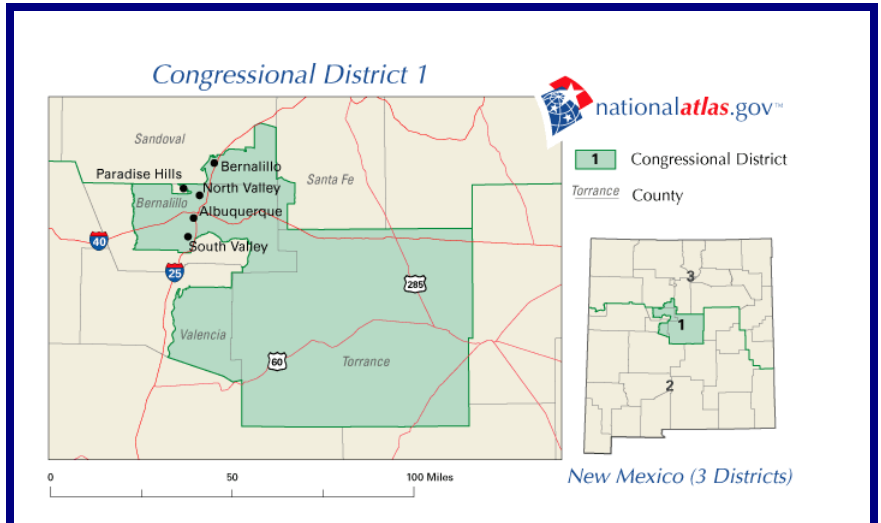
Congressional District 1

nationalatlas.gov™

1 Congressional District
Torrance County

New Mexico (3 Districts)

New Mexico 1st District Polls (01/25 - 11/02)

Wilson (Rep.) (%)
Madrid (Dem.) (%)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):	Source: *Real Clear Politics*
WILSON	MADRID
Receipts: $4,314,611	Receipts: $2,909,778
Expenditures: $3,681,162	Expenditures: $2,491,936

The Candidates:

Heather Wilson, born in N.H., is a former U.S. Air Force captain and the only female veteran in Congress. Wilson obtained a bachelors degree in international politics from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1982. Wilson served on the National Security Council staff as the director for European Defense Policy and Arms Control from 1989 to 1991, and was the owner and founder of Keystone International business consulting. In 1995, she became New Mexico's secretary of Children, Youth and Families, until she was elected to Congress in 1998 by a large majority. Wilson prides herself on being an independent Republican, and is married with 3 children. Patricia Madrid, born in Las Cruces, New Mexico, graduated from law school at the University of New Mexico in 1973. Madrid served as a state district judge from 1979 to 1984. She was the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor in 1994, becoming the running mate of then governor Bruce King in his unsuccessful bid for re-election. Madrid was elected attorney general in 1998, and was re-elected four years later. Madrid, a Roman Catholic, is married with one son, is of Hispanic heritage, and is supported by both the state and national Democratic party.

The Campaign:

Heather Wilson is running on the values of independence, honesty and effectiveness. Wilson promises to "work for New Mexico," and is attacking Madrid by pointing out Madrid's tendency of "ducking" debates, although they have debated publicly once, and also Madrid's record as attorney general, including Wilson's claim that Madrid let a child predator walk. Meanwhile, Madrid is running on the principle that she will "stand up for the interests of working men and women and will promote stronger and safer communities and more prosperous and fair state and nation for everyone." More importantly, Madrid is advocating CHANGE. Madrid has attacked Wilson by illuminating Wilson's rhetoric versus record on security, Wilson's consistent support of President Bush, and Wilson's record on the war in Iraq. At the local level, coverage has been split between the two candidates fairly evenly. For the most part, coverage has focused on the closeness of the House race whether the election will be based on local or national issues, Wilson's self-declared victory in the election's only debate, Madrid dodging debates, and the revolt in the House of a bill that would alter policies governing federal intelligence-gathering programs introduced by Wilson. In a particular article, in late August, the Albuquerque Tribune wrote that Madrid may have already lost the race because she has allowed Wilson to characterize her as being lax in her investigation of indicted state treasurer Robert Vigil. Whether this is true or not, the politics of it have been devastating for Madrid.

Analysis:

In terms of the national context of this New Mexico election, Republican Wilson has attempted to distance herself from President Bush and many other aspects of the Republican party. For example, Wilson is running on the very principle of being an independent voice in Congress, with a mind of her own. However, in the last two elections, Wilson has won by 10% and 9% over her opponents, and in this years election, the district is razor tight. Therefore, Republican dissatisfaction is obviously playing a key role. Likewise, Madrid is following the Democratic strategy of attacking the Republicans, but not really disclosing her strategies specifically if she were to win the election. Madrid also has the benefit of being from Hispanic origin, which may be very beneficial considering that 43% of residence in New Mexico's 1st district are Hispanic. Unfortunately for Madrid, voters will not look kindly upon her unwillingness to debate Wilson. In the one debate that occurred, Wilson was the clear victor, mainly because Madrid failed to disclose a valid plan if she were to win. Another wildcard would be Wilson's failure to pass a bill in the House of Representatives concerning federal intelligence-gathering programs, mainly because a majority of both GOP and Democratic Congressmen disapproved. Although this failure does show Wilson's independent voice, it can never be beneficial when so many of your own party members disagree with you. Then again, Wilson may be attempting to distance herself from the Republican party even more.

Predicted Result:

After analyzing the two candidates, the demographics of the district, the campaigns, and the local coverage, I have concluded that the incumbent Heather Wilson will win the election in New Mexico's 1st District. Although Democrats outnumber Republicans, the GOP has held the congressional seat for its entire existence, which has been nearly forty years. No incumbent has ever been defeated, not even in the big Democratic elections of 1974 and 1982. Furthermore, Wilson has distanced herself from the Republicans enough to avoid the anti-Republican movement that seems to be sweeping the nation. Furthermore, Wilson has been able to win the money race, and let's not forget the Republicans knack for getting voters to the polls on election day. Also, because Madrid has "ducked" debates, and been overwhelmed in the one debate that did occur, she is just not a strong enough candidate to overtake Wilson. Although this race could potential go either way, I believe Wilson will pull it out.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OH – 15th	**Projection**

Deborah Pryce (R)*

Mary Jo Kilroy (D)

District Type: Urban
Cities: Western Columbus
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 60% Dem: 40%
President: Bush: 50% Kerry: 49%
Demographics –
Population: 630,730
Under 18: 23.4% Over 65: 10%
Married: 49.1%
Non-Hispanic White: 85%
Black: 7%   Asian: 3%
Foreign Born: 5.7% Non-English
Speaking: 9%
Median Household Income: $43,885
Owner Occupied Housing: 59.1%
Income above $200K: 1.6%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 66.3%
Blue Collar: 20% Service 13.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 32%
Graduate Education: 11.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 15

national**atlas**.gov™

| 15 | Congressional District |
| Union | County |

Ohio (18 Districts)

Ohio 15
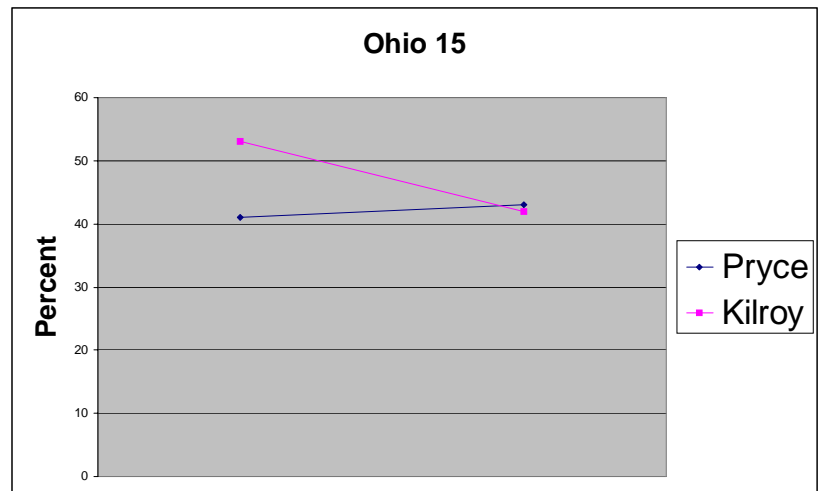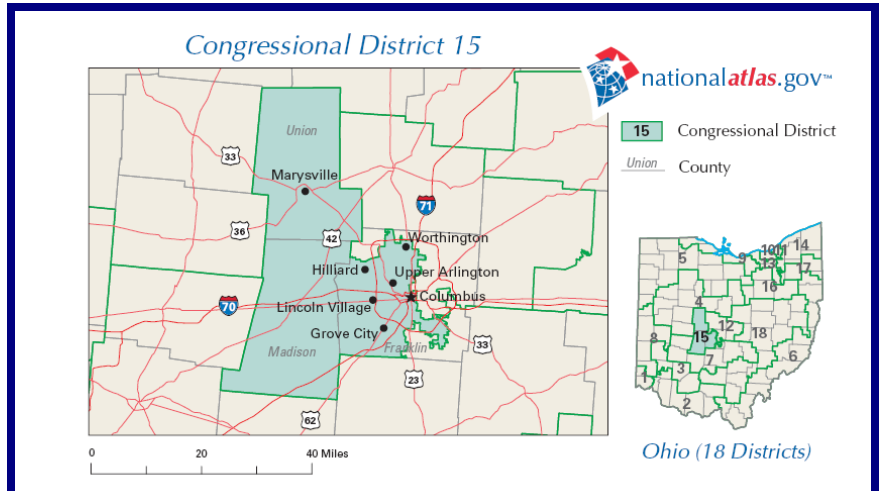
- Pryce
- Kilroy

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
PRYCE

Receipts: $2,189,469

Expenditures: $859,475

Source: *Real Clear Politics*
KILROY

Receipts: $1,047,657

Expenditures: $272,187

The Candidates:

Mary Jo Kilroy is a democrat from Columbus Ohio. She served on the Columbus board of education before challenging the 7 year incumbent.

Deborah Pryce is a conservative republican who was the former Franklin County prosecutor and judge.

The Campaign:

Kilroy is trying to link Pryce with George Bush and many of the problems that Americans, specifically Ohio natives have with the Bush administration. Pryce is trying to highlight mistakes by Kilroy from when she worked on the board of education for Columbus.

Analysis:

In a district that is very republican, many people are shocked to see the incumbent Pryce in trouble. Kilroy is putting in a huge fight trying to nationalize the race. The Ohio State campus newsletter is now pushing for Pryce. Also, Republicans have always been able to mobilize their base in Ohio well, so I think this will give them an advantage.

Predicted Result:

I can honestly say that I think Pryce has an advantage in this election. With party mobilization being huge in this race, I think Republicans hold a distinct advantage. Also, even with the school newpaper throwing their support to the incumbent, I don't believe that the college student body will be motivated to get out and vote. With no president to try to remove from office, this district will go republican.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
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PA -- 6th   Projection

Jim Gerlach (R)*

Lois Murphy (D)

Congressional District 6

nationalatlas.gov™

6 Congressional District
Chester County

Pennsylvania (19 Districts)

District Type: Southeast
Cities: Philadelphia suburbs, Reading
Partially
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 53% Dem: 45%
President: Bush: 62% Kerry: 38%
Demographics –
Population: 646,221
Under 18: 25% Over 65: 14%
Married: 58.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 86%
Black: 7%   Asian: 2%
Foreign Born: 5.0% Non-English
Speaking: 9.0%
Median Household Income: $55, 661
Owner Occupied Housing: 74%
Income above $200K: 5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 68.1%
Blue Collar: 20.3% Service 11.6%
Bachelor's Degree: 34%
Graduate Education: 13.5%

PA 6
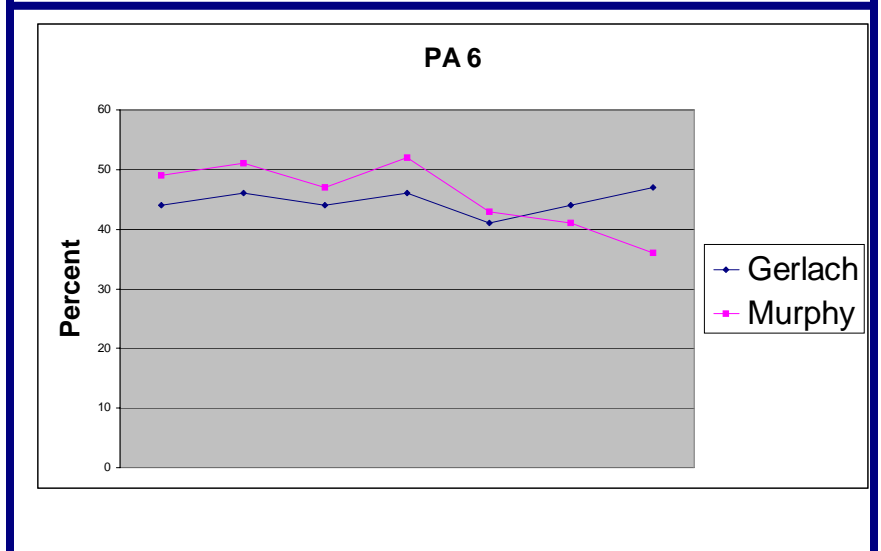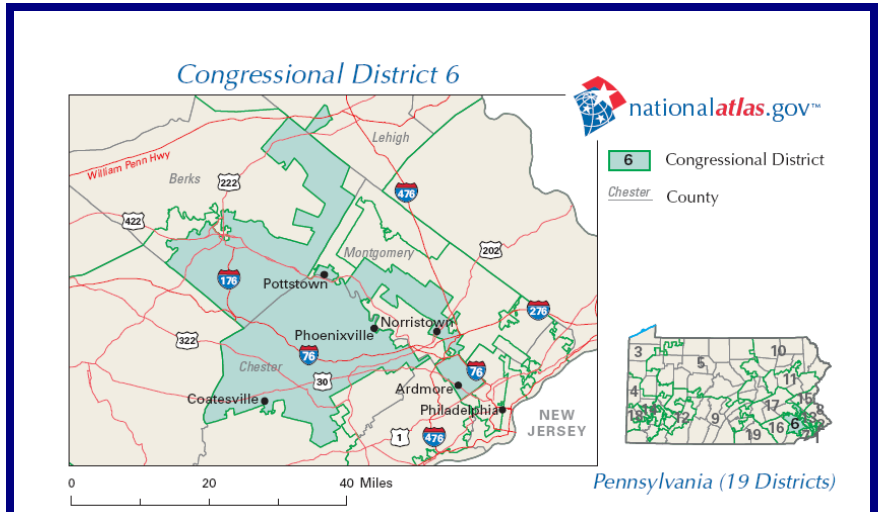
The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
GERLACH

Receipts: $2,236,293

Expenditures: $1,083,217

Source: *Real Clear Politics*
ELLSWORTH

Receipts: $2,068,584

Expenditures: $702,390

The Candidates:

Jim Gerlach first won his seat in congress in 2002. Before that he was in the Pennsylvania house and
senate.
Lois Murphy worked for the U.S. court of appeals circuit 2 for a bit after graduating from graduate
school.

The Campaign:

Lois Murphy is running a campaign that is showing her as a down to earth liberal mother that wants
the best for all people. She is linking Gerlach to the Bush administration and the many problems with
scandals that house republicans are running into.

Gerlach is running a campaign that is showing his strengths. He has gotten some "pork" for his district
and is trying to run on that.

Analysis:

Gerlach has underestimated Murphy even with her close run two years ago. With the general anti-bush feelings Gerlach has lost a lot of his advantage.
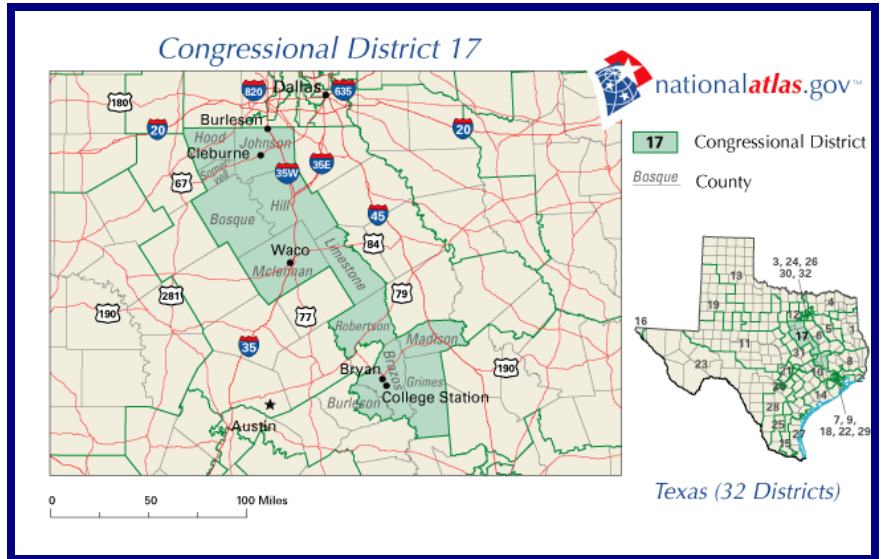
Predicted Result:

I think Gerlach has met his match. With as close as the last race was, along with how split this district is in most general elections, I think its going to go to Murphy easily.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TX -- 17th	Projection

Van Taylor (R)

Chet Edwards (D)*

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Waco, College Station, Bryan
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 47% Dem: 51%
President: Bush: 69% Kerry: 30%
Demographics –
Population: 651,620
Under 18: 25.4%   Over 65: 11.8%
Married: 55.5%
Non-Hispanic White: 71%
Black: 10%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 6.5% Non-English
Speaking: 14.9%
Median Household Income: $35,253
Owner Occupied Housing: 64.5%
Income above $200K: 1.5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 57.2%
Blue Collar: 27.3% Service 15.6%
Bachelor's Degree: 20%
Graduate Education: 7.7%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 17

nationalatlas.gov™

17 Congressional District
Bosque County

Texas (32 Districts)

Not Available

The Money Race (data through 10/20/06):
EDWARDS
Receipts: $2,803,237
Expenditures: $1,663,156

Source: www.nytimes.com
TAYLOR
Receipts: $1,987, 367
Expenditures: $1,884,827

The Candidates:

The Democratic incumbent, Chet Edwards, has represented Texas in the House of Representatives for the past fifteen years. Chet Edwards has a history of working hard for increased funding for college loans, affordable housing, and has opposed tax cuts. He is recognized someone who cares about the environment and is considered one of the most passionate defenders of religious liberty in Congress. In the most recent 2004 election, Edwards ran in a district with only 36.2% Democratic Performance District, and was able to win, pulling together 400,000 new constituents due to his grass roots campaigning techniques. He is very much an independent thinker, and appeals to Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

The challenger, Republican Van Taylor, is a businessman with no previous political experience. He has served America in the Marines, and has fought in Iraq. He is a graduate of Harvard and has started and successfully runs his own business. He is supportive of lowering taxes to help citizens gain greater control of their lives.   Texas is typically a Republican state, so Taylor is supported by both State and National Political Parties.

The Campaign:

Chet Edwards is selling himself as someone who has good ideas, and actually puts them into action. He uses grassroots campaigning techniques that help him gain support from both major parties. Edwards has spent abundant time in the district, getting to know his constituents on a first-name basis, and helping local citizens' access important federal government programs. Edwards hasn't used a lot of smear or mudslinging methods. He seems to simply be playing on the fact that his challenger is relatively unknown. One person was quoted to say that they wouldn't even recognize Taylor if they saw him. This seems to be a vital factor in voting, because not many people are likely to vote for someone they don't even remotely know. Edward's main goal is to serve as an effective voice for citizens of his area in Congress on day to day issues such as jobs, quality schools, affordable healthcare, and safe neighborhoods. Recent polls prove that his campaigning techniques are working.

Van Taylor is trying to portray himself as someone who has a tremendous amount of support for the military, and for the current war in Iraq. As someone who has served the nation as a Marine, Taylor appeals to those currently in the military, as well as the veterans. Taylor supports the traditional family, is against abortion, and wants to fight to protect our second amendment rights. Taylor has recently accused Edwards of tax evasion. This accusation seems to not carry much weight because it concerns unpaid taxes from thirty years ago when Edwards was director of a seafood company. When Edwards became aware of the accusation, he ensured that the debt was paid off promptly. Van Taylor seems to be using cheap shots to make his opponent look bad.

Analysis:

On national issues, Taylor takes a highly conservative stance. Taylor fully supports the war on terror, and does not agree with staged withdrawal. He feels can and should beat them on their territory, not ours. Taylor also disagrees with granting amnesty towards illegal immigrants and wants to call for greater boarder security.

Edwards takes a similar stance on hot national issues. He is against amnesty and opposes withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Because Edwards takes a fairly conservative stance on these issues, and can back his position by the work he has done in Congress, most of the Republicans that might be attracted to voting for Taylor are at a high risk for voting for Edwards.

Because of the similarities in both the candidates' stances on nationally related issues, it is hard to predict how national trends will affect this election. Most of the nation disapproves of Bush, especially his position on the war in Iraq, so in most states a candidate who does not support staged withdrawal would not get much voter support. However, in this district of Texas, 70% of whose population voted for Bush in the last election, the fact that both candidates back Bush's position might not work against them. Again, Edwards may have the advantage because he has proven in Congress how he will work towards representing the largely conservative ideology that most of the citizens of the 17th district in Texas hold.

Predicted Result:

I predict that Edwards will take the win in this election. He has served this district for many years, proving that he is an effective voice for the citizens of the 17th district in Texas. He well known by many and his grassroots campaigning style has proven to be effective tool in gaining large voter support. Basically Edwards has the home field advantage in this election, and that, combined with his middle of the road, by partisan approach to politics is what will lead to his victory in this election. In addition, I feel that because Van Taylor has not even lived in the district for more than a year, and he is relatively young and unknown, he has no real chance to win. He has no real experience in politics, and his mudslinging techniques makes me believe that he would not take a mature approach to politics, and would not be effective and listening to the concerns of his constituents.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MO -- SENATE   Projection

Jim Talent (R)*

Claire McCaskill (D)

District Type: Entire State
Cities: Kansas City, St. Louis
Election History (2004)
Senate (2002): GOP: 50% Dem: 49%
President: Bush: 53% Kerry: 46%
Demographics –
Population: 5,595,211
Under 18: 24.1% Over 65: 13.5%
Married: 55.5%
Non-Hispanic White: 83.1%
Black: 11.2%   Asian: 1.1%
Foreign Born: 2.7% Non-English
Speaking: 5.1%
Median Household Income: $37, 934
Owner Occupied Housing: 70.3%
Income above $200K: 1.6%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 58.3%
Blue Collar: 26.0% Service 15.1%
Bachelor's Degree: 21.6%
Graduate Education: 7.6%
Source: Real Clear/CQ Politics

Missouri Senate Polls (01/02 - 11/03)
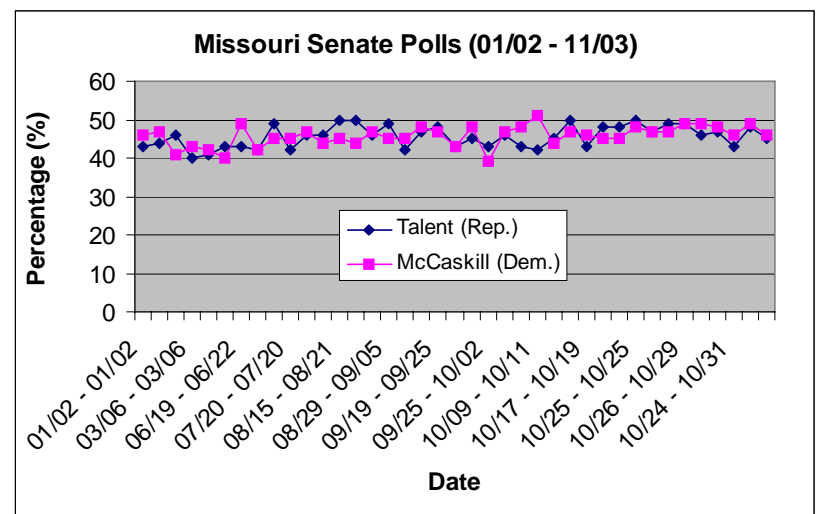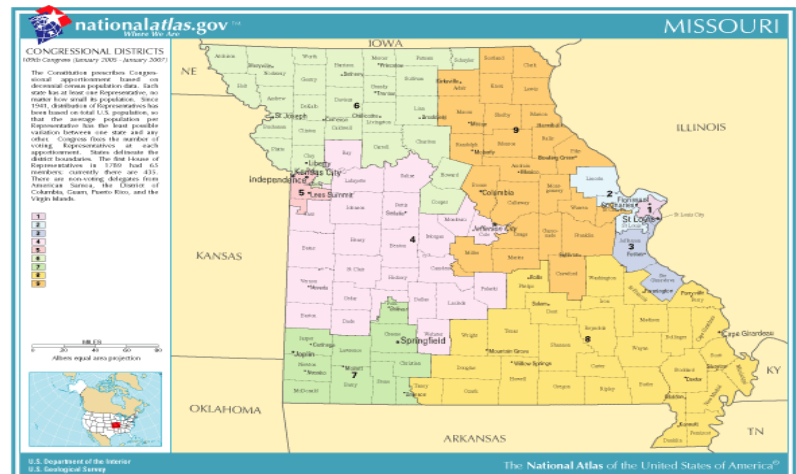
The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
TALENT
Receipts: $12,403,944
Expenditures: $10,044,810

Source: *Real Clear Politics*
McCASKILL
Receipts: $9,124,019
Expenditures: $8,475,845

The Candidates:

Jim Talent was born and raised in Des Peres, MO and graduated from the University of Chicago Law School. Talent clerked for Judge Posner of the U.S. Court of Appeals from 1982 to 1983. He was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1984, where he served for eight years, and was chosen as the Minority leader in 1988. In 1992, he was elected to Congress from Missouri's 2nd district, where he served another eight years, and where he co-authored the Welfare Reform bill and served on the House Armed Services Committee. In 2002, Talent was elected to the U.S. Senate, winning by 1%. Talent is Protestant, married, has three children, and although he claims to be more of an independent, his record shows he is a loyal Republican. Claire McCaskill was born in Rolla, MO and graduated law school from the University of Missouri. McCaskill clerked for the Missouri Court of Appeals and in 1982 won a seat in the State Legislature. In 1993, McCaskill became the first women Jackson County prosecutor, a position she held until she became the Missouri Auditor in 1999, a position she still holds today. McCaskill, a Roman-Catholic, is married with seven children, and is supported by both the state and national party.

The Campaign:

Republican Jim Talent is running on the principle of being a "workhorse" in a national chamber full of "show horses." Talent has been receiving campaign benefits, both monetarily and physically, from the Republican National Committee, Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, President Bush, and fellow Republican Missouri Senator Christopher Bond. Together, they are attempting to illuminate the Missouri Senate race as on with national implications. Because Missouri has become so important to the outcome of the control of the Senate, a majority of Talent's campaign has gone towards preventing Democrats from controlling Congress, and how a vote for Talent goes beyond voting for a single Senator. Also, Talent has appealed to conservative Missourians by claiming McCaskill to be too liberal. Meanwhile, Democrat Claire McCaskill is championing the principle of being a Senator on OUR side, and bringing real change and accountability to Washington. McCaskill has received campaign benefits from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and well as help from former President Clinton, and realizes that the campaign is not so much about persuasion, but more about motivation (who will get their supporters out on election day). McCaskill has been advocating CHANGE throughout her campaign, and has attacked Republicans in areas ranging from the war in Iraq to agriculture and energy. In the state media coverage, both McCaskill and Talent seem to have to been equally represented. Most coverage has been to distinguish the two candidates on the various viewpoints, and also focused on the tightness of the election. This race seems to be more about Republicans versus Democrats, rather than Talent versus McCaskill.

Analysis:

This race has been back and forth the entire campaign. The most recent polls show a slight edge for McCaskill and she has moved back out in front in the latest RCP Poll Average by 1.4%. In the last two statewide elections that Talent had ran in, his opponents garnered 49%, in 2000 and 2002. Therefore, one would think that in a Democratic year like 2006, this percentage would rise. Missouri is a relatively conservative state, and Talent, an incumbent Republican, has allowed endorsements from both President Bush and the rest of the Republican party. While many Republican candidates have attempted to distance themselves from many aspects of the Republican party, Talent has done just the opposite. This will either make or break him. Meanwhile, McCaskill as almost all other Democrats have done, is basing her campaign on CHANGE, and removing the Republican incumbent from office. In terms of wildcards, obviously Senator John Kerry's insulting remarks about U.S. troops in Iraq have not helped McCaskill, and Michael J. Fox's endorsement of McCaskill while on medication and national television did not benefit McCaskill either. But by far the biggest wildcard in the Missouri Senate race has come from stem cell research. A stem-cell ballot initiative could tip the election, with Talent opposing the amendment, and McCaskill favoring it. As of right now, the anti-amendment forces seem to have the momentum.

Predicted Result:

After analyzing the two candidates, the state demographics, the campaigns, and the media coverage, I have concluded that incumbent Jim Talent will win the Senatorial election in Missouri. Plain and simple, Talent, with the help of his fellow Republicans, will get more supporters out to vote. Talent has the GOP's 72-hour program in his back pocket that Republicans hope is worth perhaps two to three percentage points on election day. Democrat McCaskill can just not challenge this. Although the timing is right for McCaskill, seeing as how her attempted governor campaign has left her with an excellent voter base and name recognition, and the anti-Republican sentiment sweeping the nation, Missouri will be too tough of an opponent to defeat Talent.

Group 4

Joshua Coe
Joseph Preston
Joshua Williford

Washington – 8th
Texas – 22nd
Nevada – 3rd
Kentucky – 3rd
Illinois – 6th
Colorado – 7th
Montana -- Senate

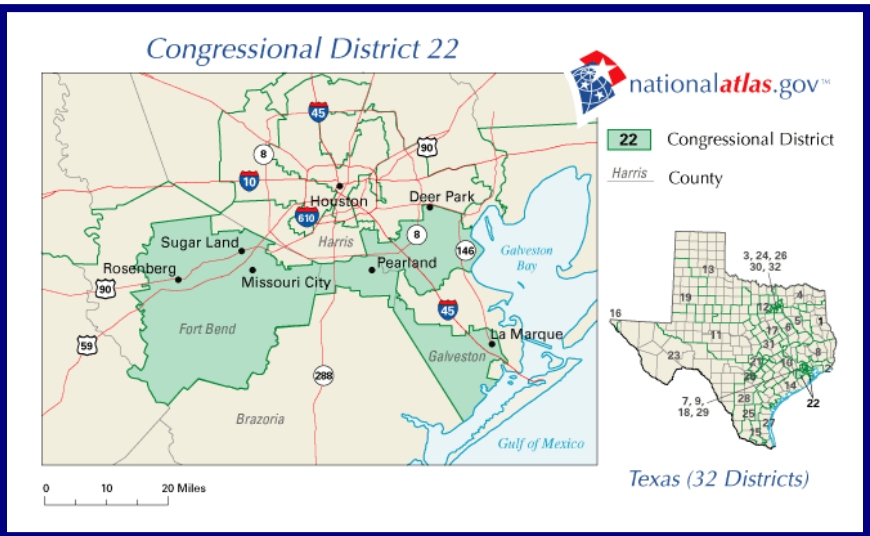# Election 2006 Campaign Project

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TX – 22nd	Projection
Shelley Sekula-Gibbs (R)	
Nick Lampson (D)	✓

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Southeast Houston and Suburbs
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 41%
President: Bush: 64% Kerry: 35%
Demographics –
Population: 651,619
Under 18: 29% Over 65: 7%
Married: 62.3%
Non-Hispanic White: 61%
Black: 9%   Asian: 8%   Hispanic: 20%
Foreign Born: 14% Non-English
Speaking: 25.5%
Median Household Income: $57,932
Owner Occupied Housing: 72.0%
Income above $200K: 3.1%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 69.1%
Blue Collar: 20% Service 10.9%
Bachelor's Degree: 32%
Graduate Education: 10.7%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 22

national atlas.gov

22 Congressional District
Harris County

Texas (32 Districts)

I was unable to find any polling data that would be useful for making a graph. Real Clear Politics actually commented on the lack of polling data for this district.

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
SEKULA-GIBBS
Receipts: 840,707
Expenditures: 677,454

Source: *RealClearPolitics.com*
LAMPSON
Receipts: 3,387,122
Expenditures: 2,277,693

The Candidates:

Shelly Sekula-Gibbs is a 5th generation Texan who has lived in the 22nd District for over 20 years. She is a dermatologist and a teacher who worked herself through school. She is a successful businesswoman and a mother. She is currently serving her third term as an At Large member of the Houston City council. Dr. Sekula-Gibbs is a conservative Republican with a strong record of leadership, reform, and integrity.

Nick Lampson is a 3rd generation Texan whose family has lived in Texas nearly 100 years. He is one of six children and lost his father when he was 12 years old. He is a retired teacher. He is married to his wife, Susan, and they have two grown children and three grandchildren. He served

as the popular voter registrar and tax assessor–collector in Jefferson County for nearly 20 years. In 1996 he was elected to the first of four terms in the U.S. Congress.

The Campaign:

Shelly Sekula-Gibbs has run her campaign based on nine key issues. She is a strong believer in securing America's borders. She wants to push for a reform on immigration without amnesty. She believes in protecting life and the family. She plans to guard against restrictions on the right to bear arms. She also wants to replace the federal income tax with a fair tax and reduce the debt while increasing jobs. She also wants to preserve Ellington Field for local and national defense. She supports NASA and the Johnson Space Center. She wants to create a regional research and biotechnology hub. She also plans to eliminate frivolous law suits and provide affordable health insurance.

Nick Lampson has eleven issues listed on his website. He plans to protect farm families by supporting legislation that provides them with aid. He also is committed to fighting illegal immigration and getting the borders under control. He also wants to make sure that the information Congress is given is accurate so they can make the best decisions for national defense. He supports the No Child Left Behind Act. He wants to cut the national debt. He supports affordable health care and passing legislation to help seniors with medical costs. He plans to increase Homeland Security by increasing Border patrol and improving border technology. He is a strong supporter of the space program. He plans on helping small businesses succeed. He wants to build transportation infrastructure for the future. He supports veterans and believes the government should assist them.

Analysis:

Shelly Sekula-Gibbs is a write in candidate. She seems to be running a fairly clean campaign. I did not find that she bashed her opponent very much. Her website is very informational and lays out her positions on most of the key issues. The biggest obstacle that she has to overcome is getting people to write her in. There are links on nearly ever page of her website explaining how to write her in. Her campaign is focused on educating voters on the write in process and getting them to the polls. Recently, President Bush made a visit to the 22nd district and told voters to "bring your pencil" to write her in.

Nick Lampson is actually on the ballot. His website contains a lot of pages bashing his opponent. He also bashes the President for visiting the district. Most of his website is committed to giving information about him and his views on the issues. He is not running as a steadfast liberal. He claims to lean towards the conservative side on some of the issues. Although his tactics for winning the election are very different than his opponents, it appears to be working for him.

Predicted Result:

My prediction for this election is that Nick Lampson will win by a small margin. Even though this is a close race, I believe that because Shelly Sekula-Gibbs is a write in candidate she will have difficulty winning this election. Both candidate have run good campaigns and have done a good job of getting their message out there and known. I am a little turned off by Nick Lampson due to the level of bashing he resorted to in his campaign, but I still have to predict is victory.
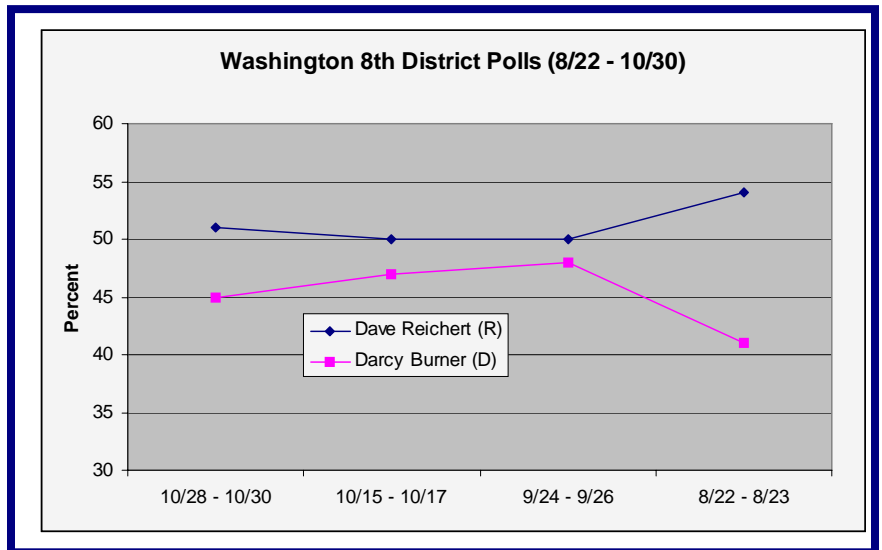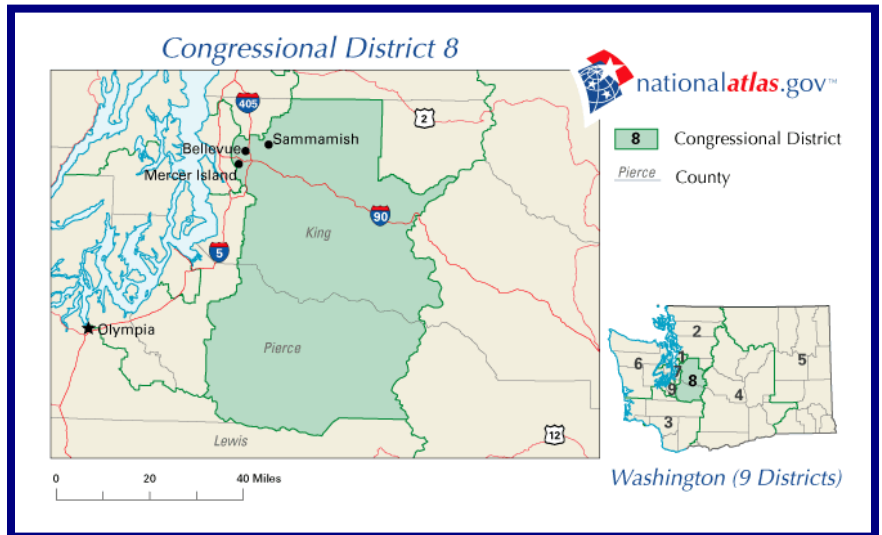
Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
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WA -- 8th	Projection
Dave Reichert (R)*	✓
Darcy Burner (D)	

District Type: Suburban
Cities: East Seattle suburbs, Bellevue
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 52% Dem: 47%
President: Bush: 48% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 654,905
Under 18: 28% Over 65: 9%
Married: 62.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 82%
Black: 2% Asian: 8% Hispanic: 4%
Foreign Born: 11.6% Non-English
Speaking: 13.6%
Median Household Income: $63,854
Owner Occupied Housing: 76.0%
Income above $200K: 5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 68.6%
Blue Collar: 20.0% Service 11.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 37%
Graduate Education: 12%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 8
nationalatlas.gov
8 Congressional District
Pierce County
Washington (9 Districts)

Washington 8th District Polls (8/22 - 10/30)
Dave Reichert (R)
Darcy Burner (D)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
REICHERT
Receipts: 2,668,348
Expenditures: 1,865,162

Source: *RealClearPolitics.com*
BURNER
Receipts: 2,413,070
Expenditures: 1,701,434

The Candidates:

Darcy Burner is the daughter of an Air force veteran and a public school teacher. She grew up in military towns and attended public schools. She worked hard in school and earned National Merit Scholarship. She attended Harvard where she majored in computer science and economics. After college she had a successful career at Microsoft. She was eager to start a family and had a son, Henry. She left Microsoft to spend the time necessary to be elected to the United States Congress.

Dave Reichert was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He is the oldest of seven children. His family moved to Washington in 1951 living first in Renton and than in Kent where he attended Kent Meridian High School. He graduated from Concordia Lutheran College in Oregon. He has three grown children and six grandchildren. He is an experienced politician, having over 30 years of law

enforcement experience including eight years as Sheriff. He is the incumbent after being elected to Congress in 2004.

The Campaign:

Darcy Burner supports the troops in Iraq. She believes that it is time that the government figures out the necessary steps to bring them home. She believes in protecting Social Security and private pensions and is against Privatization. She wants to roll back the tax breaks and subsidies Congress gave to big oil companies. She is for stem cell research. She plans to fight to make healthcare more affordable for working families. She believes in improving out education system with smaller class sizes and by making it easier for families to send their children to college. She is opposed to lobbyists. She believes in no more secret meetings, no gifts, no lobbyist funded travel, with no exceptions. She is also for protecting the environment.

Dave Reichert is strong on law enforcement. He wants to increase college access and affordability. He wants to wean America off of foreign oil and focus on developing renewable forms of energy. He believes in protecting natural treasures for future generations. He plans to protect provisions important to Children's Hospital. He works to increase the safety and security of the community. He believes security is too important for partisan politics. He believes in stopping genocide. He wants to strengthen our borders and allow those who are here undocumented to "get right" with the government and register. He believes it is not up to Congress to decide when to pull troops out of Iraq. It is up to the military commanders in the field. He voted to extend tax cuts and the sales tax deduction. He believes in solving Social Security in a bi-partisan way.

Analysis:

Darcy Burner is running for her first office. Her campaign is built on righting the wrongs of the current Congress. She has raised over three million dollars for her campaign and has gathered a great deal of support. She is clear on her opinions and believes she can make a difference in Washington. There is a page on her website where it compares her views with those of her opponent and it is quite negative towards him. Other than that she seems to be running a clean campaign. She is counting on the general dissatisfaction with the current Congress and the President to boost her support and land her a position in Congress.

Dave Reichert is sitting comfortable as the incumbent in this race. He is an experienced politician running against an inexperienced challenger. On the front page of his website is a link to his current ad where he emphasizes on his opponents lack of political experience. The ad also portrays his opponent as a puppet of the democrats. He is clear on his opinions and focuses on his history in politics and in law enforcement as the reason to reelect him. He has been endorsed by three major newspapers and is confident that he will gain reelection.

Predicted Result:

I predict that Dave Reichert will be reelected as the Washington 8th district representative. He is a traditional politician and has an edge on his opponent because of her lack of experience. Darcy Burner has run a good campaign but I do not think that it is enough to make people overlook her obvious lack of political history. While I personally do not like attack ads, I believe that the one ran by Dave Reichert reflects upon the opinion of the voters of the 8th district. I think that they will want someone with experience representing them.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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KY – 3rd	Projection

Anne Northup (R)*

John Yarmuth (D)

District Type: Suburban
City: Louisville
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 60% Dem: 38%
President: Bush: 49% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 674,032
Under 18: 24% Over 65: 14%
Married: 50%
Non-Hispanic White: 76%
Black: 19%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 3.5% Non-English
Speaking: 5.5%
Median Household Income: $39,468
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.0%
Income above $200K: 1.1%
Workforce/Education:
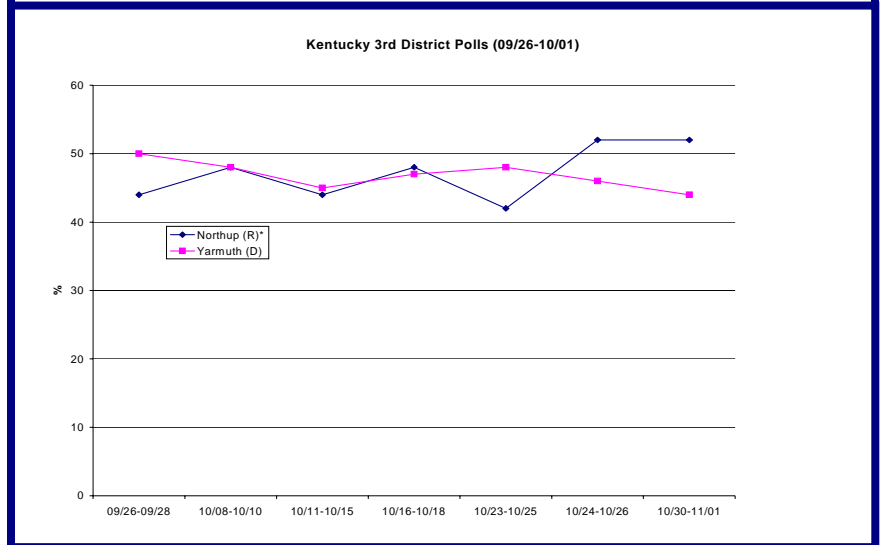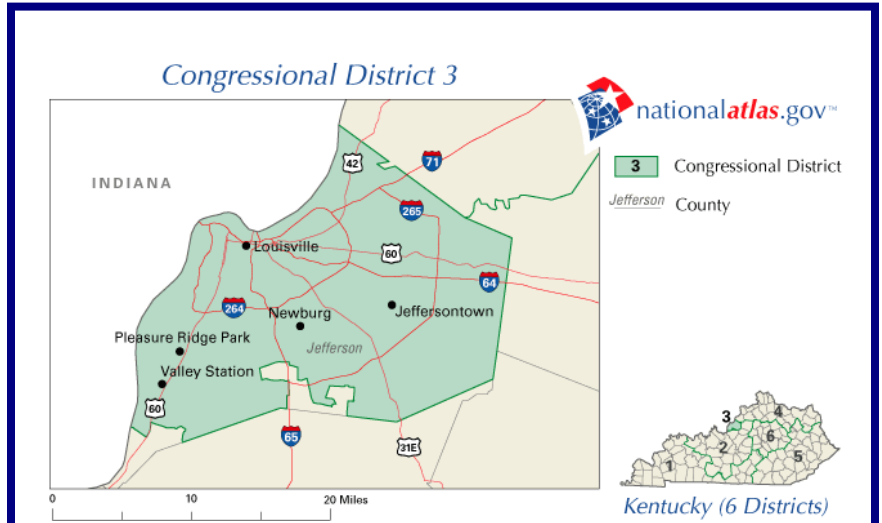White Collar: 51.9%
Blue Collar: 32.5% Service 15.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 16%
Graduate Education: 6.3%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 3

national**atlas**.gov™

| 3 | Congressional District |

Jefferson County

INDIANA

Louisville

Newburg

Jefferson

Pleasure Ridge Park

Valley Station

Jeffersontown

Kentucky (6 Districts)

Kentucky 3rd District Polls (09/26-10/01)

- Northup (R)*
- Yarmuth (D)

The Money Race (data through 11/06/06):
NORTHUP
Receipts: $2,976,705
Expenditures: $2,115,105

Source: New York Times Online Edition
YARMUTH
Receipts: $1,682,278
Expenditures: $1,512,847

The Candidates:

Anne Northup is the Republican incumbent in the district. She began her political career in the Kentucky General Assembly as a representative for the 32nd district from 1987-1996. During her term in the general assembly, she fought for education reform and to decrease the amount of teen smokers. She is a family woman with a husband and six children. In the 2004 House election, she received and overwhelming majority of the votes at 60%. She seems to be loyal to her party and to her own convictions. She has many awards and the support of many interest groups in the 3rd Congressional district.

As far as holding an office, John Yarmuth is a novice, but he is no stranger to politics. As a Yale college graduate in American Studies, he served as an aid to Senator Marlow Cook. He is an avid writer,

editing and writing for such publications as: Louisville Eccentric Observer, Louisville Today Magazine, City Paper, and Kentucky Golfer. He also could be found on the radio waves. Debating with John Ziegler on important political issues.

The Campaign:

Anne Northup's campaign is based on local issues and making John Yarmuth look like a fool. She is showing voters through her ads the progress she has already made in Congress for Louisville by getting various federal funds. These federal funds are being used to construct new bridges, expand park trails, add to the existing airport, and various other projects. She also talks about national issues she plans to tackle in Congress such as prescription drug coverage and healthcare. About half of her adds show how John Yarmuth is a walking oxymoron. She even paid for a website called The Yarmuth Record (http://www.theyarmuthrecord.com/). On this website she shows the obvious contradictions in John Yarmuths campaign and his actions. She is using her extensive financial resources to attract voters to her campaign and bash John Yarmuth's campaign. Although this seems like a underhanded and dirty campaign the recent polls have her in the lead.

John Yarmuth is running a campaign that promises a change in the direction of the country. He wants to promote these changes on a local level first and then on the national level. He wants to keep companies in America and stop illegal immigration so that every American has a job. He wants to pull out of Iraq and focus solely on homeland security. He wants to reform healthcare and prescription drug assistance programs so that the major drug companies are not the only beneficiaries. He wants to raise the minimum wage for American workers. He also feels that we should cut the gas tax and stop giving federal money to oil companies. Yarmuth also claims that Anne Northup and President Bush are taking the country in the wrong direction and that he is the person who can effect change in Washington. According to the polls the voters think otherwise.

Analysis:

From the campaigns that the candidates are running, it seems that the people of Kentucky's 3rd district are very concerned with local issues. Both candidates are making promises to improve the lives of the people in Louisville, such as raising the minimum wage, stopping illegal immigration, and reforming healthcare and eduction. National issues such as the war in Iraq are not playing a vital role in their campaigns. John Yarmuth is trying to use Anne Northup's support of President Bush against her, but the polls show that the people favor her. Anne Northup is the trusted incumbent and has already delivered so much to the Louisville area it is hard to make her look bad. The national issues in my opinion will play only a little role in who the voters support. The Republican Congressional scandals will not change many voter's opinion of Anne Northup. The John Kerry joke does not help any Democratic candidate, but it will have little affect on John Yarmuth's campaign. The voters of Louisville seem to be impressed by the candidate who addresses their needs on a local level and the national level is only a supplement.

Predicted Result:

From my research and analysis, Anne Northup will be the winner of this election. She is the trusted incumbent and has already delivered millions of dollars to the 3rd district. Her campaign is doing a great job of making John Yarmuth look like a liar. She has made John Yarmuth run a race against himself. Also her larger amount of support and money will put her over the top on election day. In a district where local issues seem to be the dominant concern, Anne Northup is the candidate who will be victorious in the election.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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NV – 3rd	Projection
Jon C. Porter (R)*	☑
Tessa Hafen (D)	

Congressional District 3

nationalatlas.gov™

3 Congressional District
Clark County

Nevada (3 Districts)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: East Las Vegas, Boulder City
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 53% Dem: 45%
President: Bush: 62% Kerry: 38%
Demographics –
Population: 666,082
Under 18: 24% Over 65: 12%
Married: 55.3%
Non-Hispanic White: 69%
Black: 5% Hispanic: 16% Asian: 6%
Foreign Born: 14.1% Non-English
Speaking: 20.9%
Median Household Income: $50,749
Owner Occupied Housing: 67%
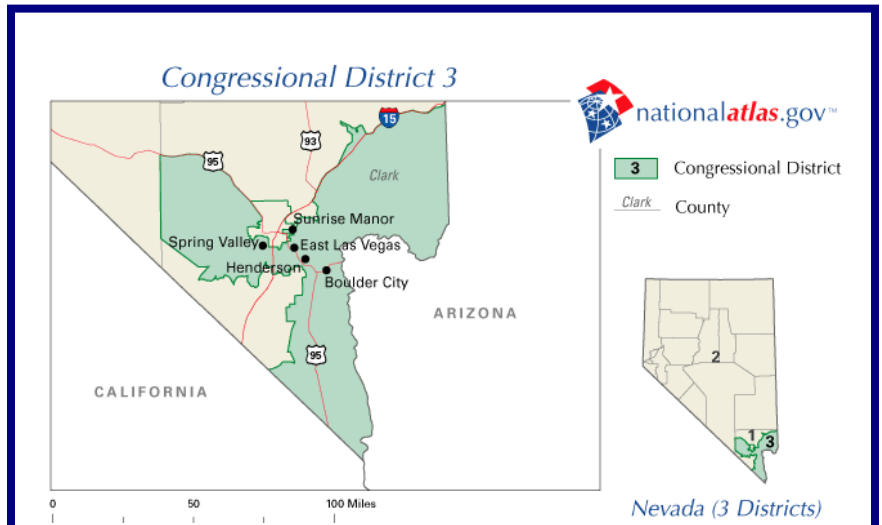Income above $200K: 2.6%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 56.8%
Blue Collar: 18.5% Service 24.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 20%
Graduate Education: 6.9%
Source: CQ Politics

Nevada 3rd District Polls (08/27-10/30)
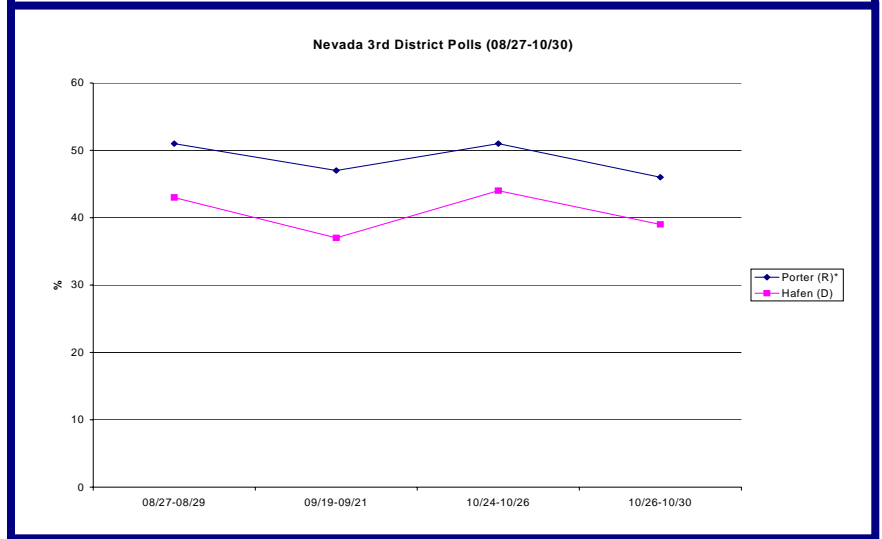
Porter (R)*
Hafen (D)

The Money Race (data through 11/06/06):
PORTER
Receipts: $2,713,011
Expenditures: $2,720,320

Source: New York Times Online Edition
HAFEN
Receipts: $1,125,210
Expenditures: $1,258,115

The Candidates:

Jon Porter started his political career in 1983 as a city councilman for Boulder City. He then became the mayor of the city before moving on to the Nevada State Senate. He served as a state senator for eight years. During that time he promoted education reform, prescription drug benefits for seniors, and the preservation of Nevada's environment. He became the representative of the new 3rd district in 2003. In the last election he had a small majority with 54% of the vote.

Tessa Hafen got her start in politics working under senior Nevada senator Harry Reid. She was promoted in his staff until she became his press secretary and advisor. She worked in this capacity for eight years advising in such areas as health care, energy, education, prescription drugs, and Homeland Security for the people of Nevada and the nation. She is a substitute teacher in her local district who

has not held any major offices.

The Campaign:

The Porter campaign is being run on a few major issues as follows: expand and improve educational opportunities for students, protecting communities and preserving natural resources, secure important funds for transportation and infrastructure needs, and strengthen national security. He is very proud of his positions in the House such as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His only campaign ad on the site focuses on education and taking predators out of vicinity of school children. Most of these promises are directed towards the people of Nevada, but probably will affect the rest of the nation if successful. In his ads he does not try to bring down his opponent at all. He seems to be running a clean campaign. From the poll data the people of the district seem to be in favor of another term with Jon Porter.

On the other hand, Tessa Hafen seems to be running her campaign differently. She is running on many of the same platforms as Jon Porter, but has a few extra points such as energy independence, retirement security, and honest leadership. She also seems to point to Jon Porter's support of President Bush in most of her ads. She wants to make Porter's voting in Congress look bad, but the people of the district seem to think otherwise. She also claims that Jon Porter is running sleezy and deceitful campaign ads. I could not find any my research, yet the idea is feasible.

Analysis:

From the analysis of the campaigns it seems that education is major issue for the 3rd district. Jon Porter is major advocate of taking predators away from schools and is a supporter of education reform. Tessa Hafen is a substitute teacher and is well aware of the needs of the local school system. Both candidates seem to address the issue very well on their websites. The environment is also another concern to the voters. The new nuclear waste disposal site, Yucca Mountain, is in that district and the people are concerned about the effects of such a facility in their community. Healthcare seems to also interest the voters. Tessa Hafen is more concerned with mudslinging at Jon Porter than addressing the issues in her ads. In almost five ads she directly targets Jon Porter's support of President Bush. She also mentions Foley in one of her ads. The handling of the war in Iraq is another major point that Tessa Hafen is trying to sell to voters. She is trying to use the Republican handling of government against him, but according to the polls he is the favorite to win the election.

Predicted Result:

My prediction for the race is Jon Porter. He is the distinguished incumbent and has delivered on some of his promises such as education reform already. Tessa Hafen is running on many of the same platforms as Jon Porter, but will not have as much clout in the House as Porter. So why would the voters elect someone running on the virtually the same platform with less experience holding an office? It only makes sense to re-elect Jon Porter for the 3rd district representative.
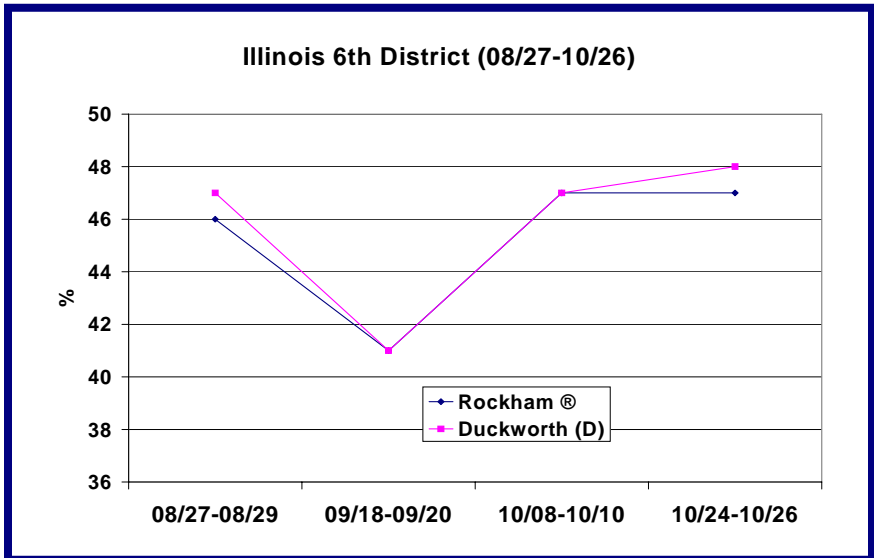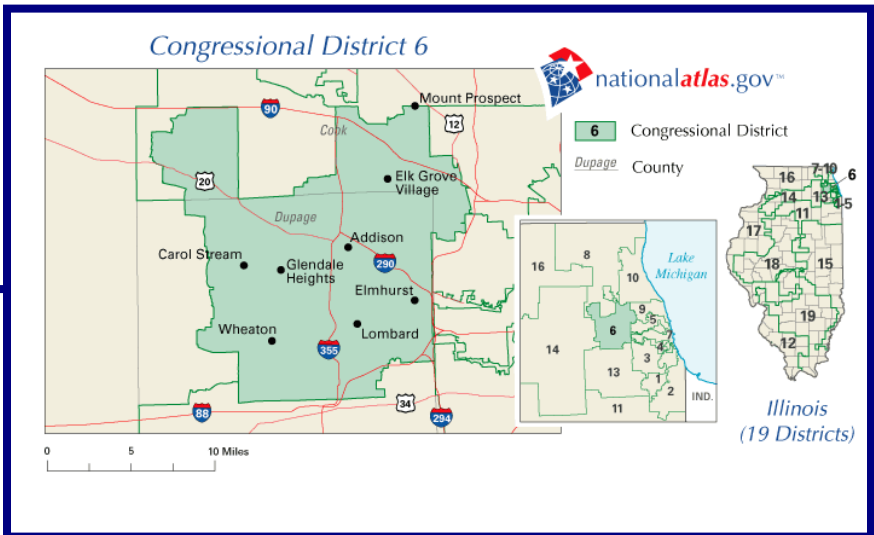
Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

IL -- 6th	Projection

Peter Roskam (R)* ✓

Tammy Duckworth (D)

[* means incumbent; remove appropriate check mark for winner]

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Lombard, near Chicago
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 56% Dem: 44%
President: Bush: 53% Kerry: 46%
Demographics –
Population: 653,647
Under 18: 26% Over 65: 10%
Married: 59.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 75%
Black: 3%   Asian: 8% Hispanic: 12%
Foreign Born: 18.8% Non-English
Speaking: 25.4%
Median Household Income: $62,640
Owner Occupied Housing: 76%
Income above $200K: 3.8%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 69.5%
Blue Collar: 20.2% Service 10.2%
Bachelor's Degree: 35%
Graduate Education: 11.2%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 6

nationalatlas.gov

6 Congressional District
Dupage County

Illinois (19 Districts)

Illinois 6th District (08/27-10/26)

Legend:
- Rockham ®
- Duckworth (D)

X-axis: 08/27-08/29, 09/18-09/20, 10/08-10/10, 10/24-10/26

The Money Race (data through 11/06/06):
ROSKAM
Receipts: $2,888,932
Expenditures: $2,412,356

Source: *[source(s) of you financial data]*
DUCKWORTH
Receipts: $3,269,173
Expenditures: $2,787,199

The Candidates:

Tammy Duckworth was born in Thailand and grew up in Southeast Asia. Her father was employed by the United Nations. She went to college in Hawii, and then proceeded to join ROTC in Washington D.C. after which she was placed in Illinois after becoming a helicopter pilot. Duckworth was deployed to Iraq during which time she used her skills as a helicopter pilot. Unfortunately, during combat, Duckworth's helicopter was struck by a missile and went down, but Duckworth was able to keep the helicopter from spiraling out of control before passing out only to wake up with the realization that she had lost both of her legs. After a long recovery, Duckworth decided she still wanted to serve her country, so she decided she would become an Congresswoman.

Peter Roskam was raised in the sixth district of Illinois. Early in his life, Roskam was introduced to the idea of being in politics. Since then, he has pursued his goals of becoming a politician. He attended college at the University of Illinois and IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. After college, Roskam worked for Henry Hyde and Tom DeLay. Roskam has two daughters and two sons by his wife whom he met during his time working for DeLay. In '93, Roskam was elected into office as a member of the Illinois House. In '00, he was elected into the Illinois Senate where he was the Republican whip and Floor Leader.

The Campaign:

Duckworth wants to completely change the taxing system to return it to that of Bill Clinton's version in the 90's. Duckworth is also for line-item vetos so that Congress can cut frivolous spending. She is for amnesty for illegal immigrants and also wants to strengthen the borders of America to prevent the number of illegal immigrants from growing. She is for alternative fuel sources and tax exemptions for those fuel sources. She is in favor of staying in Iraq, she feels we cannot back out now after we have already started. She is also for increasing money for secondary education.

Roskam wants to create major tax cuts for working families. He also wants to cut discretionary spending by one percent as soon as possible. Roskam is for securing the borders of the United States and is against amnesty for illegal immigrants arguing that they are responsible for almost $45 million in taxes, Medicare, and Social Security benefits. He also wants to reform lawsuits so that it is fair to patients, consumers, and physicians. Roskam also supports the environment including recycling programs that he has started himself.

Analysis:

Duckworth has been very even with Roskam throughout the campaign, if not above him in the polls. This is her first run for any office, although her military experience, along with her father's employment by the United Nations helps her in the background area. She has made a great run and brought out not only many Democrats, but a lot of Independents, and some turnover Republicans as well. The only problem for Duckworth will be voter turnout, with turnout, the election will be rather close. She has made good use of her previous activity in the military, especially on her website, where you are greeted with a picture of her flying a helicopter. Duckworth has done everything she can to win this election, spending over twice as much money as her opponent as of a week ago.

Roskam has also ran a very successful campaign. Although behind a little in the polls, Roskam also spend under a million dollars as of last week. Roskam's campaign is clean compared to most other races, his website mentions Duckworth very little, and there is almost no mudslinging. Although not the incumbent, Roskam is taking the place of the incumbent, and the district has voted Republican in the last two elections. Some people may be getting tired of the Republican party and want change, but it would appear that the Illinois 6th still has a large number of people who are quite alright with the Republican party. Roskam has also spent $1.5 million within the last week on his campaign. This last minute effort, to leave a lasting impression on the voters before the election may or may not work. In either case, Roskam has a little edge in that he has just bought a lot of ads, is the incumbent replacement, and has experience.

Predicted Result:

I believe that Roskam will win the election. Although Duckworth has been ahead in the polls, the margin is only slight. Roskam also has a major advantage as this is Duckworth's first run for public office whereas he has been in and won many elections before.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

CO -- 7th   Projection

Rick O'Donnell (R)*

Ed Perlmutter (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Aurora, surrounds Denver
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 43%
President: Bush: 48% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 614,465
Under 18: 25% Over 65: 10%
Married: 52.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 69%
Black: 6%   Asian: 3% Hispanic: 20%
Foreign Born: 11.6% Non-English
Speaking: 18.1%
Median Household Income: $46,149
Owner Occupied Housing: 63%
Income above $200K: 1.4%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 62.6%
Blue Collar: 32.5% Service 24.0%
Bachelor's Degree: 26%
Graduate Education: 8.2%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 7

Colorado 7th District Polls (08/18-10/26)
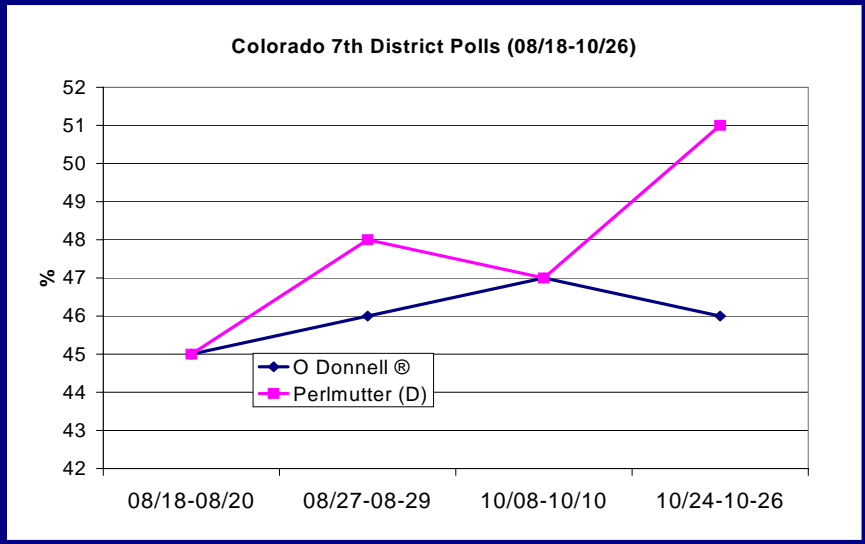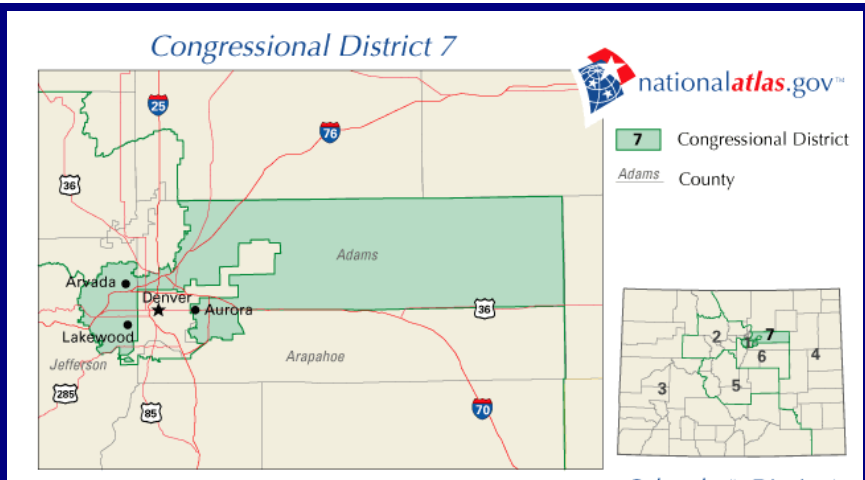
The Money Race (data through 10/26/06):
O'DONNELL
Receipts: $2,366,110
Expenditures: $1,591,698

Source: *[source(s) of you financial data]*
PERLMUTTER
Receipts: $2,111,733
Expenditures: $1,723,292

The Candidates:

Ed Perlmutter is the Democratic candidate for the Colorado's 7th District House. Perlmutter was born in Jefferson County, Colorado and has lived there for the entirety of his life. After high school, Perlmutter paid his way through law school working as a construction worker. He is the proud father of three daughters. In 2000, Perlmutter was elected to the Senate and now he seeks office in the House.

Rick O'Donnell is the Republican candidate for the Colorado's 7th District House. O'Donnell was born and raised in the Colorado 7th District.   Born with dyslexia, O'Donnell has overcome the odds and lived a normal life. He volunteers his time generously at various places such as homeless shelters and reading to children with dyslexia. He has been in charge of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, overseeing all the public colleges and universities. He has also been in charge of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. O'Donnell is replacing the Republican incumbent.

The Campaign:

Ed Perlmutter seems to be on the Republican's side when he says that he feels we have to stay in Iraq until we get the job done. He is in support of Republican John Murtha's Resolution. He is also greatly in favor of increasing the environmental standards and protecting the wilderness. He believes in finding new, reusable energy sources to solve our current energy problem which he plans on offsetting in the meantime by raising efficiency standards of vehicles. Perlmutter says that illegal immigration Is a problem for the United States and it should be solved by increasing security along the borders. He also believes that we should have a path to citizenship for those here who are already paying taxes and working. He is also in favor of pro-choice.

Rick O'Donnell sees the war in Iraq as a fight that we must finish. He wants out as much as anyone, but says we have a responsibility to finish the job that we started, no matter how wrong everything may seem looking back. He is for lower healthcare costs, and the allowing of small businesses to collaborate to reduce the cost of healthcare for employees. He says America's dependence on fossil fuels, especially foreign oil, has become a major problem to us and the environment. He is in support of new, cleaner, reusable energy sources. O'Donnell is in great support of stem cell research and the new discoveries it could bring. He has a tough stance on immigration. He believes in allowing a path for citizenship, one which involves rejecting a person's home country in favor of America and requires the person to learn English. O'Donnell wants to keep the tax breaks already set up under the current Bush administration.

Analysis:

Ed Perlmutter is running for office to try to once again represent Colorado in Congress, but this time as a House member. He has done an effective job of getting the people on his side and convincing everyone that he will bring change from what they have now. Although there has been the typical political campaign mud slinging, it seems to be not near as bad as some other races across the country. On his website, he mentions his opponent on the first page as an essay that you can read, written by his opponent, and on another page where he counters all the attacks his opponent has made on him.

Rick O'Donnell has tried his best win this election, although it would seem that party association will be the end of him. A district that is usually Republican, although they voted in favor of Kerry in the last election, has turned on O'Donnell has the Republicans are being accused of being the cause of everything going wrong in the country.

Predicted Result:

I believe that Perlmutter will win the election. He has started to pull ahead in the polls and O'Donnell does not have a treasure chest of money that he could throw into ads that Perlmutter will be unable to counteract. Perlmutter has seemingly convinced the people that they need change and he will be that change. While O'Donnell has ran a very good campaign, the fact that he is Republican, and through party association, he has pretty much lost the race.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

Montana   Projection

Conrad Burns (R)*

Jon Tester (D)

Election History (2004)
President: Bush: 59.1% Kerry: 38.6%
Demographics –
Population: 935,670
Under 18: 25.5% Over 65: 13.4%
Non-Hispanic White: 89.5%
Black: 0.3%   Asian: 0.5%   American
Indian: 6%
Median Household Income: $33,024
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 58.6%
Blue Collar: 22% Gray Collar 19.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 16%
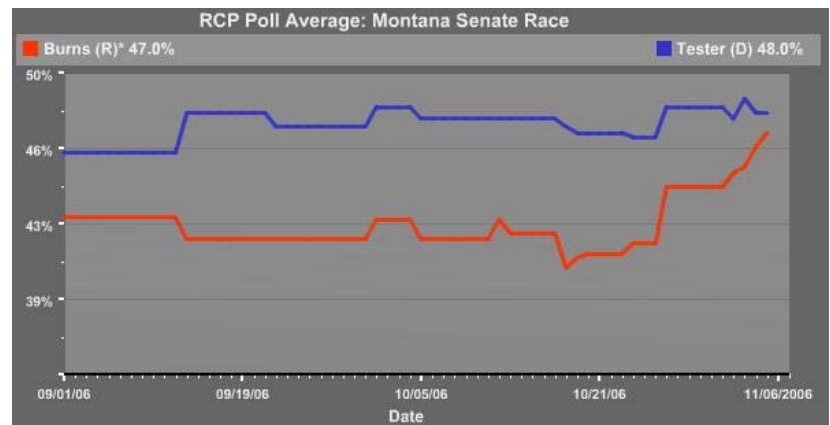Graduate Education: 6.3%
State Offices:
Gov.: Brian Schweitzer, D
State House Control: Tied
State Senate Control: Democratic
U.S. Senate Delegation: 1-1
Source: CQ Politics and Real Clear
Politics

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
BURNS
Receipts: 7,022,831
Expenditures: 6,057,680

Source: *RealClearPolitics.com*
TESTER
Receipts: 4,302,249
Expenditures: 3,798,401

The Candidates:

Conrad Burns is the longest-serving Republican Senator in Montana history. He was born on a farm in 1935 and has been an advocate for rural life in America his entire life. In 1968 he was named the first manager of the Northern International Livestock Expo (NILE) in Billings. He founded the Northern Ag Network in 1975 and sold it in 1986. He used the money from the sale to run for Yellowstone County Commissioner. He became the second Republican Senator in Montana's history in 1988 when he defeated John Melcher.

Jon Tester was born in Havre, Montana in 1956. He was raised on the same family land that his grandfather homesteaded in 1916 outside of Big Sandy. He served for five years as chairman of the Big Sandy Board of Trustees and participated in many other organizations as well. He has started moving toward organic farming on his family farm. He has served in the Montana Senate as minority whip, minority leader, and President.

The Campaign:

Conrad Burns is passionate about Montana agriculture. He believes in making sure Montana can continue to produce quality goods in a competitive market. He supports our troops and wants to bring them home while ensuring the future of a stable, free Iraq. He believes that government should be used to referee the marketplace to ensure equal opportunity. He is against abortion and believes that life begins at conception. He believes that education is the most important issue in paving the way for the future of America. He is dedicated to a long-term plan for affordable and available energy for the U.S. He is against gun control. He wants to make health care more affordable for Montana citizens. He believes in securing out northern border. He does not believe in granting amnesty to illegal immigrants. He works to simplify the tax code.

Jon Tester understands the importance of agriculture to Montana's economy. He will stand up for ranchers and farmers in the Senate. He wants to work to balance the budget. He supports campaign finance reform and banning lobbyist gifts, meals, and travel. He believes in abortion. He is a supporter of protecting Montana's natural resources. He will fight to ensure that every child in America receives a quality education. He wants to help make college more affordable for Montana's citizens. He will fight to end America's foreign oil addiction. He is against gun control. He wants to make health care affordable in Montana. He wants to secure ports and borders to keep out terror threats, illegal drugs, and illegal immigrants. He supports out troops and believes in a plan to bring them home. He is against privatization of social security. He plans to lower taxes.

Analysis:

Conrad Burns is running a strong reelection campaign. He is behind in the polls but is making a late surge. There is some connection between Burns and a convicted lobbyist that has hurt him. He has been clear on the issues and has promised to continue to represent Montana as he previously has. Agriculture is a key issue in Montana and Burns has a very strong background of being supportive of Montana's agriculture community. Bush made a visit to Montana and urged voters to vote for Republican candidates. He is counting on his past record in the Senate to persuade voters to reelect him.

Jon Tester is attempting to move from the Montana Senate to the United States Senate. He has a strong record of supporting Montana's farmers and ranchers, proving him a worthy representative. He is steadfast on the issues and has a history of coming through on his promises in the Montana Senate. It was claimed by his opponent that Tester would raise taxes but the governor or Montana bet his dog that he wouldn't. He has been getting a lot of positive press coverage and is looking strong going into election week.

Predicted Result:

This race really is a toss up. Polls show the candidates are neck and neck going into election week. Just from reading about this election and getting a feel for the candidates I'm going to predict that Jon Tester wins a seat in the Senate in a very close election. I think he is running a better campaign and has an excellent record in the Montana Senate. I think voters will see what he accomplished at the state level and assume that he will produce the same results at the national level. I was very impressed with the way both candidates ran their campaign. They focused on the issues and did not really resort to bashing the other candidate very much. I expected them to be more cutthroat in such a close race.

Group 5

Justin Hutchings
Joel Derby
George Scott

Connecticut – 02
Illinois – 08
Kentucky – 04
New York – 24
Texas – 23
New Jersey -- Senate

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CT – 2nd	Projection

Rob Simmons (R)*
Joe Courtney (D)

District Type: Rural
Cities: Norwich
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 54% Dem: 46%
President: Bush: 44% Kerry: 54%
Demographics –
Population: 681,113
Under 18: 24% Over 65: 12%
Married: 57.4%
Non-Hispanic White: 89%
Black: 3%   Asian: 2%
Foreign Born: 5.1%
Non-English Speaking: 9.8%
Median Household Income: $54,498
Owner Occupied Housing: 72%
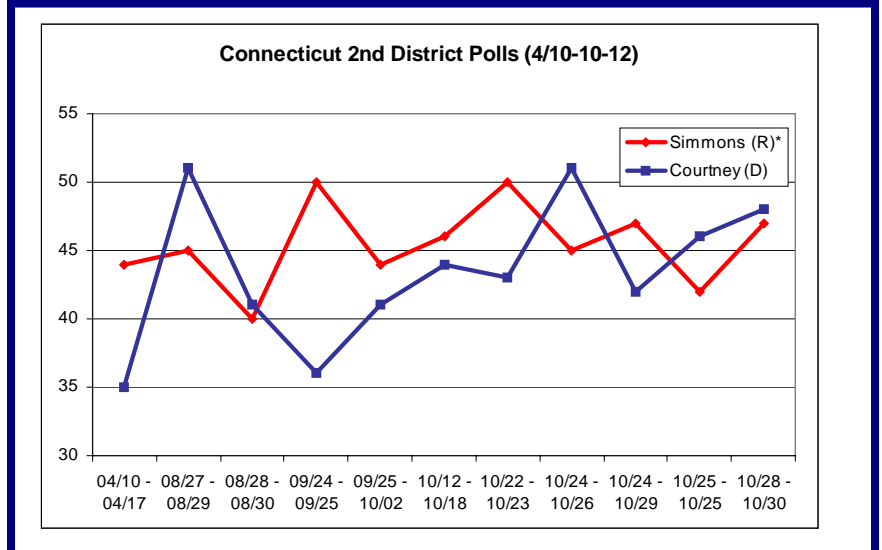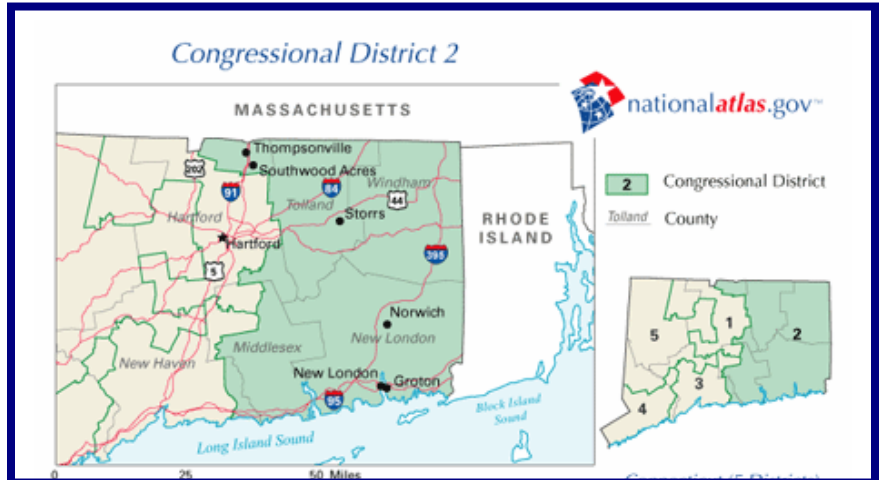Income above $200K: 2.5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 62.9%
Blue Collar: 21.3% Service 15.8%
Bachelor's Degree: 29%
Graduate Education: 12.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Connecticut 2nd District Polls (4/10-10-12)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):	Source: *Political Money Line*
SIMMONS	COURTNEY
Receipts: $2,750,806	Receipts: $2,012,685
Expenditures: $1,911,502	Expenditures: $1,898,331

The Candidates:

Rob Simmons is the Republican incumbent in the Connecticut 2nd district. He has been in office since 2001. In elections defending his seat Simmons has managed a 54-46 win in both the 2002 and the 2004 elections. His 2002 opponent was current opponent Joe Courtney.

In terms of voting record, Simmons is typically identified as a moderate Republican. He is closer associated with fellow Vietnam veteran John McCain than President Bush and is endorsed by, among others, Planned Parenthood and Republicans for Environmental Protection.

Joe Courtney is the Democratic challenger for this district. He ran in 2002 for the same seat against the current incumbent and lost by 4 points. Previously, he ran a failed bid for Lieutenant Governor in 1998 and served as a State Representative from 1987 to 1994.

Joe Courtney has received endorsements from many local newspapers, the New York Times, both Connecticut Senators, several members of the State Legislature, and many labor unions including the Connecticut AFL-CIO.

The Campaign:

Rob Simmons is trying to sell himself on his independence from his party. His website cites Congressional Quarterly's assessment that he was the 3rd most independent Republican in congress. He voted in favor of the House immigration bill. He is pro-choice. He even helped pass pro-environment legislation protecting Long Island Sound.

Perhaps one of his most notable achievements was his work in keeping the New London Submarine Base open.

Joe Courtney has so far focused less on what he will do and focused more on why Rob Simmons should be voted out. While Simmons has pointed to his independence, Courtney has pointed to votes and actions where he has sided with the Bush Administration.

   "AFL-CIO says that Simmons has voted against labor 81%"

   "Simmons voted to slash environmental cleanup funding"

As for Iraq, Courtney suggests that we learn from Bosnia and Kosovo and letting the Iraqis build a rule of law to enable their democracy.

Analysis:

The National Context for this election is decidedly anti-incumbent, anti-Bush and anti-Republican. Particularly in Connecticut's 2nd, support for Bush has been among the lowest in the country. If Courtney can pin any of this sentiment on Simmons, then he can win. Polls have so far shown this election as being neck and neck.

Still, Simmons has been rated as one of the most independent Republicans in Congress. Courtney has had to focus on many votes that seem more in line with the Bush agenda than the Connecticut agenda. His own webpage offers little information about what he would like to do when he gets to Congress. Most statements are punctuated with "The Simmons Record:" – cue the dingy pictures and the announcer.

Most analysts, including the local papers are calling the race a toss-up. Statistically, this race is a dead heat by all polling indications. The only group willing to call a "lean" is Real Clear Politics which currently has this marked as leaning Republican.

Predicted Result:

This race is incredibly close. I was looking for some grand clue or wildcard that could make this decision easier, but there wasn't one. I ended up settling on rain as my wildcard factor. Weather.com predicts than New London, CT will see rain showers on Tuesday. I believe this will hamper the votes of the Republican loyal, particularly the elderly. Coupled with the anti-Bush sentiment, I believe it will be hard for any moderates and impossible for Democrats to vote for Simmons.

As such, I believe that **Joe Courtney (D)** will win this election by a very small margin. I'd count on a request for a recount.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

New Jersey	Projection

Tom Kean, Jr. (R)

Bob Menendez (D)*

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Newark, Atlantic City
Election History (2004)
Senate: GOP:44 Dems: 54
President: Bush: 46.2% Kerry: 52.9%
Demographics –
Population: 8,717,925
Under 18: 24.8% Over 65: 13.2%
Married: 54.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 66%
Black:13% Asian:5.7% Hispanic:13.3%
Foreign Born: 17.5%
Non-English Speaking: 25.5%
Median Household Income: $54,498
Owner Occupied Housing: 55.5%
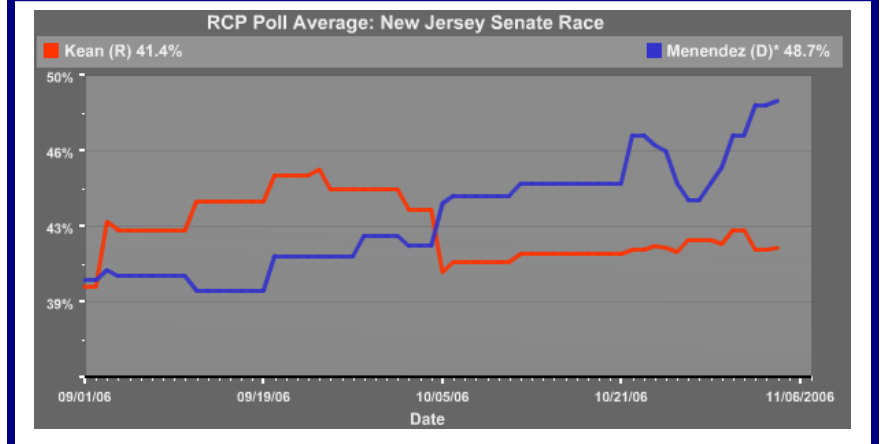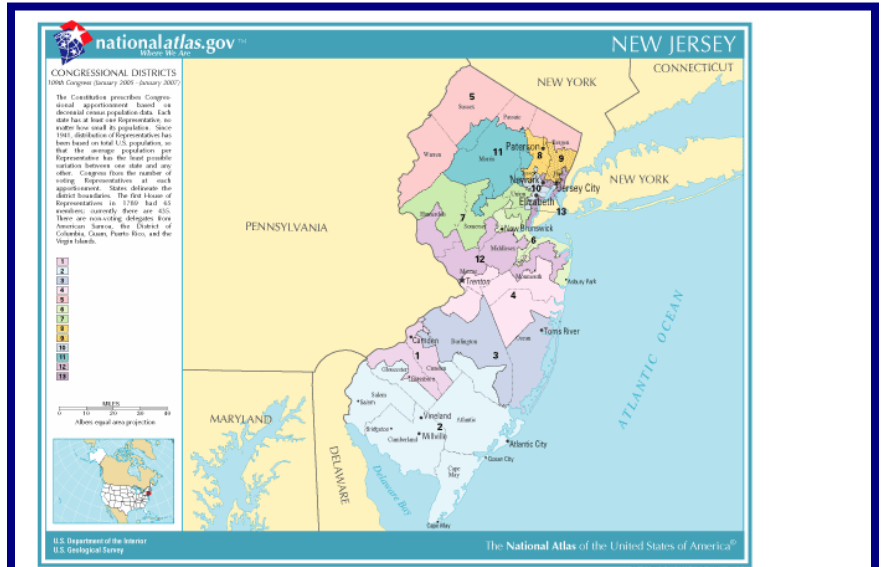Income above $200K: 4.3%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 66.5%
Blue Collar: 19.8% Service 13.6%
Bachelor's Degree: 18.8%
Graduate Education: 11%
Source: Census.gov/CQ Politics

RCP Poll Average: New Jersey Senate Race
Kean (R) 41.4%   Menendez (D)* 48.7%

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):	Source: *Political Money Line*
MENENDEZ	KEAN
Receipts: $10,818,725	Receipts: $7,017,136
Expenditures: $9,347,623	Expenditures: $5,326,797

The Candidates:

Bob Menendez is defending this seat for the first year. He previously served in the House for the New Jersey 13th District from 1993 until 2006 when he was appointed by Jon Corzine. As a member of the House, he was elected Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Menendez's parents were both Cuban immigrants that came to the US in the 1950s. This gives him solid appeal to the heavy Hispanic and immigrant populations in New Jersey.

In August 2006, two Republicans brought forth evidence of unethical dealings with a Federally funded non-profit organization.

Tom Kean, Jr. is a current State Senator for New Jersey. His father was the Governor of New Jersey from '82-90, and more recently served as chairman of the 9/11 commission. The Junior Tom gained his seat in the lower NJ House by appointment in 2001 and was reelected later that year. In 2003 he was appointed to the State senate, and later reelected to remain in that seat. He has served as Minority Whip since 2004.

The Campaign:

Menendez has concentrated mainly on tying Kean to the Bush Administration. While Kean has the benefit of his very popular father, he can't help the strong anti-Republican, anti-Bush sentiment in his home state.

One ad focuses on how Menendez testified against a corrupt political machine in New Jersey some 25 years ago. "He even wore a bullet proof vest."

The Menendez campaign even found information showing that Kean was talking to convicted felons for mud to sling.

Kean's campaign hinges on painting Menendez as a corrupt politician. This strategy was working through August and some of September, but as October came, the issue began losing traction. He has also concentrated on looking liberal enough for New Jersey. He has called for the resignation of Rumsfeld, is pro-choice, and is in favor of gun control and stem cell research. Appealing to the conservative base, he favors lower taxes, no change in the minimum wage, free trade, privatization of social security and opposes same-sex marriage.

Kean has been endorsed by John McCain as an independent and experienced voice for the Senate.

He is also endorsed by 3 local papers.

Analysis:

Corruption was to be the nail in Bob Menendez's coffin this election, but the corruption of the Republicans coupled with the anti-Bush sentiment of New Jersey seem to have marginalized this issue as election day approaches.

Kean's only brief experience in the State Senate, coupled with New Jersey's heavy anti-Bush feelings have not played well for him. Running against an incumbent with some Bush-like policies is definitely a hard sell. "[Kean] has neither the charisma nor the political clarity of his much-beloved father... If Kean Jr. had spent the past months defining who he was rather than who he wasn't, the answer might be different" (The Record).

Predicted Result:

A few weeks ago, this looked like a toss up, but I believe I'm going to have to side with Real Clear Politics and others in saying incumbent **Bob Menendez (D)** will win this race. Kean is a relative newcomer to New Jersey politics (having only won two elections) and his family ties haven't proven sufficient to counter the anti-Bush sentiment in his state.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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IL -- 8th   Projection

Dave McSweeney (R)

Melissa Bean (D)*

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Schaumburg
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 48% Dem: 52%
President: Bush: 55% Kerry: 44%
Demographics –
Population: 653,647
Under 18: 28% Over 65: 8%
Married: 61.3%
Non-Hispanic White: 79%
Black: 3%   Asian: 6%
Foreign Born: 13.8% Non-English
Speaking: 19.2%
Median Household Income: $62,762
Owner Occupied Housing: 78%
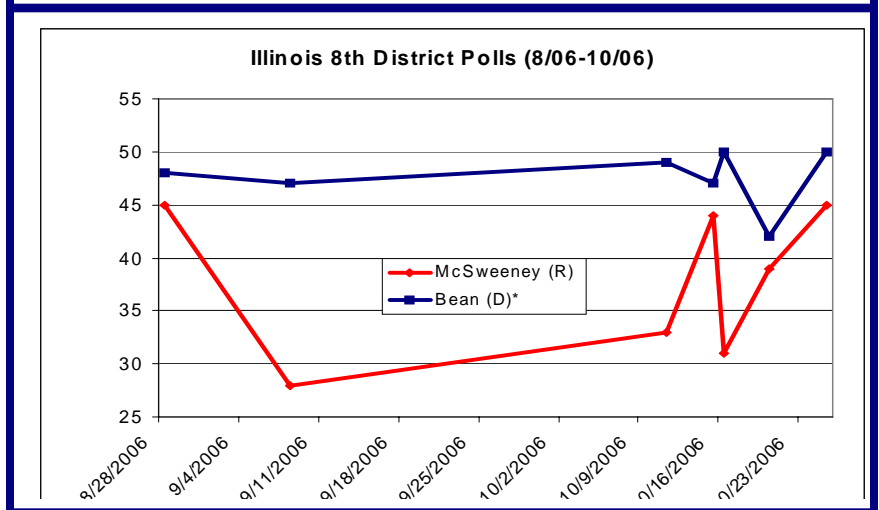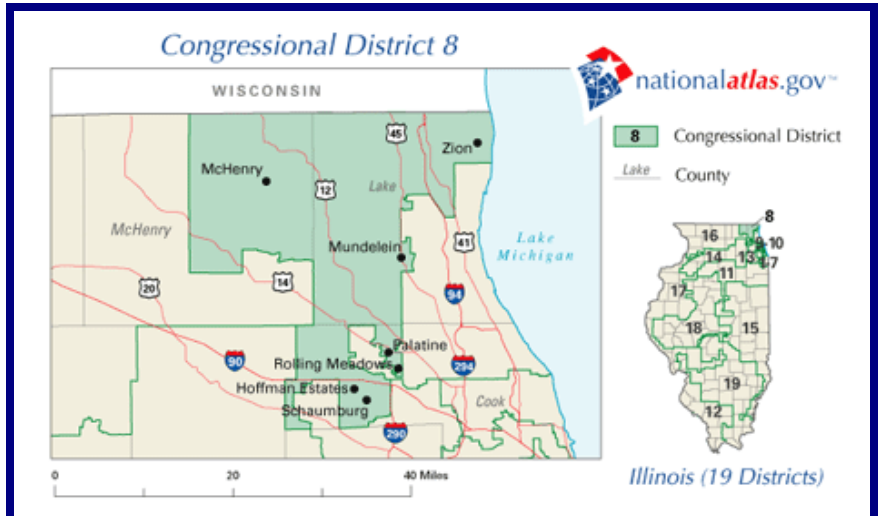Income above $200K: 4%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 67.3%
Blue Collar: 21.9% Service 10.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 32%
Graduate Education: 10.5%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 8

nationalatlas.gov™

Illinois (19 Districts)

Illinois 8th District Polls (8/06-10/06)

McSweeney (R)
Bean (D)*

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
McSWEENEY
Receipts: $4,242,870
Expenditures: $3,771,045

Source: *http://www.politicalmoneyline.com*
BEAN
Receipts: $3,740,264
Expenditures: $3,576,893

The Candidates:

Dave McSweeney, the Republican challenger, is 41 years old, with a BA in economics and a MBA from Duke University. He was an investment banker until recently. McSweeney attempted to get the Republican Party nomination for the district in 1998, but lost by a large margin. He is ultra-conservative in his social views. He has acknowledged that faith shapes his political beliefs.

Melissa Bean, the Democratic incumbent, is 44 years old, with a bachelor's degree from Roosevelt University. She is married and has two children. Bean is the president of a major consulting firm. She first ran for Congress in 2002, but lost to the 33-year incumbent as expected, but managed to acquire 43% of the vote. In 2004, she ran again against the incumbent and won by a small margin. It was the first time in 69 years that a Democrat represented the district.

The Campaign:

McSweeney is running an issue based campaign, which may hurt him in the end, as he is on the far right of the political spectrum. He has gone as far to state that he would support a total ban on abortion. Recently he has started attacking his opponent with negative ads after she began a series of negative ads.

Bean has focused her campaign on the fiscal and environmental issues, rather than the social issues, which her opponent seems to be stressing. Her campaign issues are protecting the middle class, helping small businesses, and protecting the environment.

Analysis:

The 8th district in Illinois is considered the most conservative district in the Chicagoland area, and is one of the more conservative districts in all of Illinois. Melissa Bean beat out the incumbent of 33 years in 2004 even though the district voted for Bush. In this race, it will all come down to whoever can mobilize their base constituency.

McSweeney is depending on the evangelical Christian conservatives to come out and support him, as he has alienated the moderate voters with his ultra-conservative views. The Illinois Republican Party hesitated to support McSweeney. The Chicago Times reported that the Illinois Republican Party wanted a candidate that wasn't so socially conservative as it does not agree with the overall consensus of Illinois. Mike Ditka is one of his largest individual contributors.

Melissa Bean is running a very bland campaign, which doesn't explicitly state her stance on the issues. Both candidates have spent about the same amount so far, but McSweeney has been using much of his own money, whereas Bean has many more individual and PAC supporters. Bean is a far more moderate candidate and will likely take the swing-voters as McSweeney is too far to the right. The only thing that Bean has to worry about is the third-party candidate stealing her voters, as the third-party candidate is running on an anti-war platform. Bean has been consistently in the lead in the polls.

Predicted Result:

Incumbent **Melissa Bean (D)** will win by a far greater margin than the polls show. The results will probably be in the mid 50 percent range for Bean, and the high 30 percent range for McSweeney.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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KY -- 4th   Projection

Geoff Davis (R)*

Ken Lucas (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Schaumburg
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 54% Dem: 44%
President: Bush: 63% Kerry: 36%
Demographics –
Population: 673,588
Under 18: 26% Over 65: 12%
Married: 59%
Non-Hispanic White: 95%
Black: 2%   Asian: 0%
Foreign Born: 1.4% Non-English
Speaking: 3.2%
Median Household Income: $40,150
Owner Occupied Housing: 73%
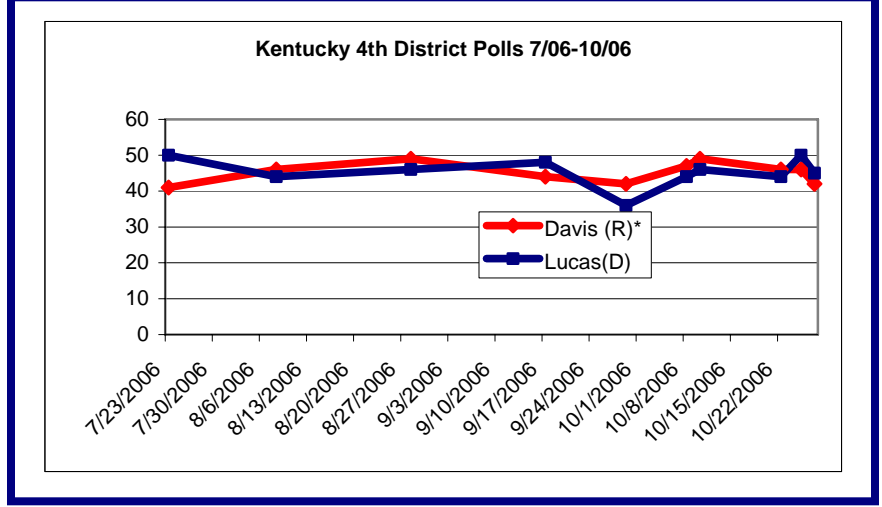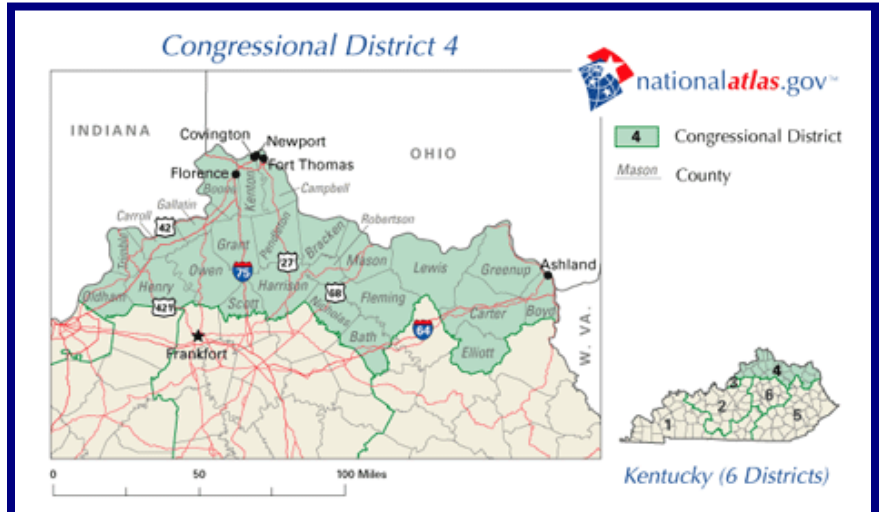Income above $200K: 1.6%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 56%
Blue Collar: 30.3% Service 13.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 17%
Graduate Education: 6.4%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 4

nationalatlas.gov

4 Congressional District
Mason County

Kentucky (6 Districts)

Kentucky 4th District Polls 7/06-10/06

Davis (R)*
Lucas(D)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
DAVIS
Receipts: $3,860,624
Expenditures: $2,675,562

Source: *http://www.politicalmoneyline.com*
LUCAS
Receipts: $1,289,584
Expenditures: $1,052,786

The Candidates:

Geoff Davis, the Republican incumbent, is 48 years old, and attended the United States Military Academy. He served with the U.S. Army Rangers in the Middle East during the 1980s. Davis was born in Canada. Prior to being a representative, he was a manufacturing consultant. Davis lost to Lucas in 2002, but tried again in 2004 when Lucas decided not to seek reelection.

Ken Lucas, the Democratic challenger, is 73 years old, with a MBA from Xavier University. He served in the Air Force for 12 years. He was a certified financial planner. He had plenty of civil service in Boone County. Lucas won the congressional seat in 1998, which was a surprise as it was the first Democrat to hold the seat in 32 years. He won reelection in 2000 and 2002, but did not run for reelection in 2004 because of a promise only to serve 3 terms. He was one of the most conservative Democrats in the 108th Congress. Lucas is married with 5 children.

The Campaign:

The campaign of Geoff Davis is based on the hope that Kentuckians will believe him when he states that the "Democratic Agenda" will threaten their "Kentucky Values." He is also committed to reducing taxes in Kentucky and is 100% pro-life

Local and national Democratic leaders coerced Lucas into running for the seat he vacated only 2 years ago. Lucas has slammed Davis in the press for being too loyal to the Republican leadership. Lucas has also accused Davis of not doing anything to distance himself from the recent scandals in Congress.

Analysis:

In terms of money, the incumbent, Geoff Davis, has the clear advantage, but in terms of how the polls are looking, it's a dead heat. The lead in the polls has never been much more than the standard margin of error. Both candidates have good name recognition as Davis is the incumbent, and Lucas was the incumbent.

In the most recent debate, it was full of accusations and denials. With so much national attention, the race has gotten quite nasty. Negative ads are commonplace in the district. The 4th district has more Democrat registered voters, but the district has a history of electing Republicans.

Since the Republican Party has such a stake in winning this race as there are so many seats that have a good chance of being lost. President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and First Lady Laura Bush have all attend events on Davis' behalf. The national Republican Party has flooded the district with 1.5 million mailers.

Lucas has been painting Davis as a Republican lemming. And in turn saying that because follows so closely to the party line that any voters frustrated with the administration should be frustrated with him.

Predicted Result:

I believe that **Ken Lucas (D)** is going to win this race by a very tight margin. Both candidates are conservative, which is necessary to win in this district; both have had experience in Congress. What the decision ultimately came down to is the close ties to Bush's Whitehouse will probably hurt Davis as Bush's approval ratings are in the gutter.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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NY -- 24th   Projection

Ray Meier (R)

Mike Arcuri (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Utica, Rome, Auburn
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 57% Dem: 34%
President: Bush: 52% Kerry: 46%
Demographics –
Population: 654,361
Under 18: 24.4% Over 65: 15.1%
Married: 53.0%
Non-Hispanic White: 92%
Black: 3% Asian: 1% Hispanic: 2.0%
Foreign Born: 3.6% Non-English
Speaking: 6.9%
Median Household Income: $36, 082
Owner Occupied Housing: 70.0%
Income above $200K: 0.9%
Workforce/Education:
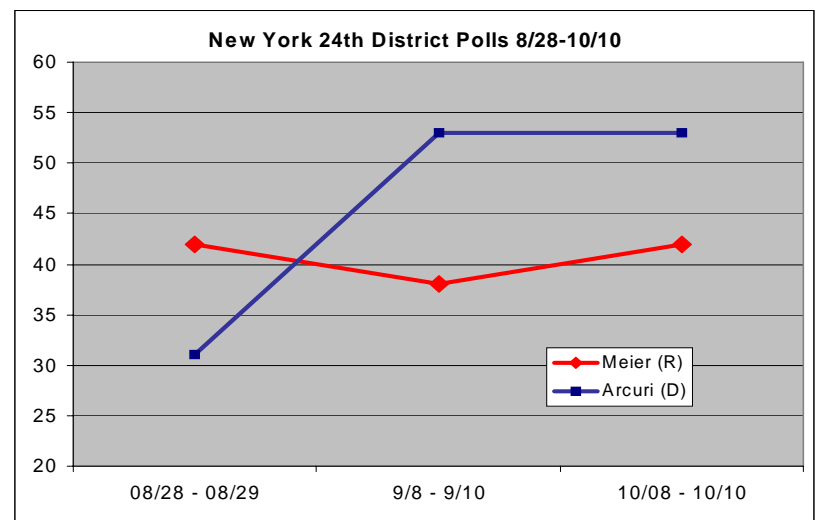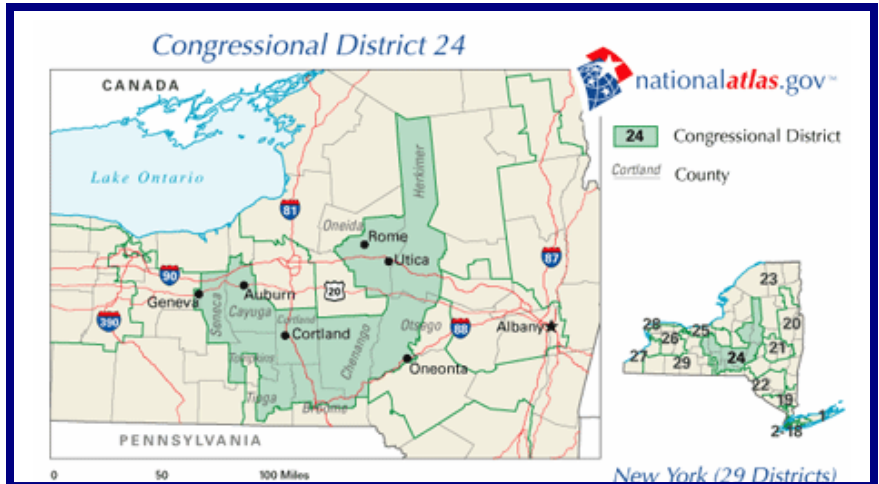White Collar: 57.3%
Blue Collar: 25.4% Service 17.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 29%
Graduate Education: 12.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 24 — nationalatlas.gov™
New York (29 Districts)

New York 24th District Polls 8/28-10/10

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
MEIER
Receipts: $1,276,792
Expenditures: $1,028,629

Source: politicalmoneyline.com
ARCURI
Receipts: $1,660,480
Expenditures:$1,347,247

The Candidates:

Ray Meier is a 5 term state senator who is running for Congress for the first time. He is a 54 year old Catholic who is married with two children. He holds degrees in political science and law from Syracuse University. In his 10 years as state senator and 6 more years as a county executive, Meier has a great record as a fiscal conservative. He proposed 6 straight balanced budgets as county executive and posted net gains for the county of $25 million over 6 years. In the senate he has worked to cut taxes and provide veterans and veterans groups with more support. He was instrumental in initiating several bipartisan Medicaid and Welfare reforms.

Mike Arcuri is the 46 year old Democratic nominee in his first Congressional race. Raised in Utica, NY, he majored in history and played rugby and varsity football at Albany College. After obtaining a law degree from New York Law School, he began practicing law in 1986 and was elected District Attorney of Oneida county, NY in 1993. As DA, Arcuri has tried to lead the fight against crime and for crime prevention. His office has handled one of the highest case loads in the country but also has one of the highest conviction rates in the state of New York at over 90%. Arcuri seeks to become the district's first Democratic representative in over 20 years.

The Campaign:

This campaign has been marked by a lot of the same type of negative advertising that we have seen around the country. The national Republican and Democratic parties have run ads impugning the integrity, honesty, and intelligence of the opposing candidate. One ad paid for by the Republican National Committee reveals that Arcuri once called a sex hotline and billed it to the taxpayers. It turns out, that phone number was two digits off from a New York legal hotline, and the charge of $1.25 for 1 minute was added to the hotel bill. Meier has stated that he had nothing to do with the national advertisement, but points out that Arcuri was the one calling sex lines. This kind of sleazy campaigning has been run by both sides. On a more positive front, the candidates are trying to run on their previous experience. Meier is touting his record in the New York senate and promoting his economic plans, including tax cuts for citizens, raising the minimum wage, and implementing more reforms of Medicare and Medicaid. Arcuri is singling out some of his accomplishments as District Attorney and using them as examples of his commitment to everyday citizens and families. Both candidates have had big name, national party members come stump on their behalf: Laura Bush and Dick Cheney have come to support Meier, and both Bill and Hilary Clinton have headlined fundraisers for Arcuri.

Analysis:

This race is a rather tricky one to call. The seat is being vacated by retiring 12 term Republican congressman Sherwood Boehlert, so there is no incumbent. Boehlert held pretty moderate positions on many issues. At times he voted with the Democrats on abortion, the Republicans on gun control, and both parties on various other issues. He has been called one of the last of the "Rockefeller Republicans." However, he was reelected 11 times despite facing sometimes significant opposition, especially in the Republican primary from more conservative candidates. This really illustrates the moderate/independent mindset of the district. The people of the district pride themselves on their independence. Although Meier is a little more conservative than Boehlert, he is still pretty moderate, and Boehlert gave Meier his recommendation.

When it comes to experience, Meier has much more relevant and quality experience in his years in the state senate. However, Arcuri is a younger, more vibrant candidate, and he represents a desire for change. Frankly, Arcuri appears to be a more personable candidate, and that minor advantage could prove to be the difference on election day.

The nitpicky, sleazy, negative ads run by the national parties have mainly served to cause voter discontent and encourage people to stay away from the polls. However, these ads seem to have hurt Meier's public image more than they have Arcuri's.

Meier appears to have been a fairly popular state senator who actually had good ideas and the drive to do something about them. If people remember that, he may do well.

The online predictions all list this race as a toss-up or as leaning Democratic.

The lack of polling numbers has been more than a little aggravating. I only have found 3 data points, and the most recent is from mid October. Although things could have significantly changed since then, that poll did have Arcuri with a substantial lead.

Predicted Result:

This race really could go either way. Senator Meier would probably be the better man for the job, but that doesn't really mean anything in an election. Supposedly, an internal poll taken a few days ago by the Arcuri campaign put Arcuri in the lead by 4 points. If I thought that number could be trusted, I'd go with Meiers for the win, trusting in his competency and the GOP's spectacular turnout machine. However, the only 'hard' data I've seen puts Arcuri in the lead by about 7 or 8 points, and although the Republicans are great at voter turnout, I don't think they are at their best in moderate, upstate New York. Taking everything into consideration, I'm going to have to say **Arcuri (D) wins it.** I base this conclusion on the polling numbers I've seen, Arcuri's high degree of voter appeal, momentum for a change in Congress, the more moderate leanings of the district, and other pundits' opinions. However, I would not be surprised at all if Meier manages to pull out the victory on election day. Really, this race should be quite close.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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TX – 23rd	Projection

Henry Bonilla (R)* ✓

Ciro Rodriguez (D)
Lukin Gilliand (D)
Albert Uresti (D)
Adrian DeLeon (D)
Augie Beltram (D)
Craig T. Stevens (I)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: San Antonio suburbs, part of Laredo, Del Rio
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 69% Dem: 29%
President: Bush: 64% Kerry: 35%
Demographics –
Population: 651,619
Under 18: 29.6% Over 65: 11.0%
Married: 61.1%
Non-Hispanic White: 41%
Black: 2% Asian: 1% Hispanic: 55.0%
Foreign Born: 15.8% Non-English
Speaking: 50.9%
Median Household Income: $38,081
Owner Occupied Housing: 70.4%
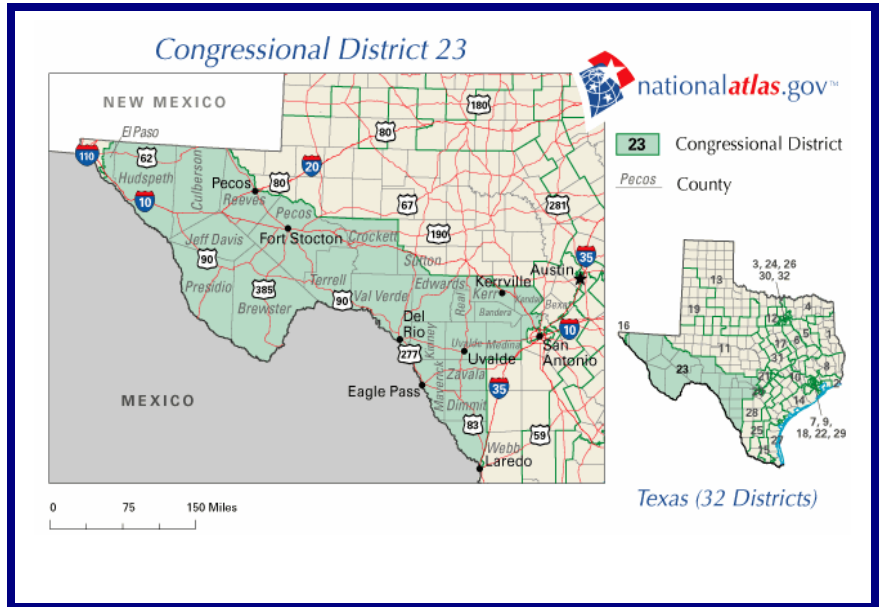Income above $200K: 2.5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 63.3%
Blue Collar: 21.4% Service 15.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 26.0%
Graduate Education: 9.9%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 23

national**atlas**.gov™

23 Congressional District
Pecos County

Texas (32 Districts)

No polling data available from:

RealClearPolitics
electoral-vote.com
CNN.com
MSNBC
New York Times
Washington Post

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
BONILLA
Receipts: $3,278,005
Expenditures: $2,556,036

Source: politicalmoneyline.com
RODRIGUEZ
Receipts: $866,348
Expenditures: $900,863

The Candidates:

Due to this race essentially being a primary, there are multiple candidates. Only the Republican, Bonilla, and the one Democrat, Rodriguez, really have a chance to represent the district. So additional information is only presented about them.

Henry Bonilla is a 52 year old former TV broadcaster from San Antonio. He began his political career in 1992 by upsetting the long term Democratic incumbent in a traditionally Democratic district. Since then he has been reelected 6 more times. Although he is technically	Ciro D. Rodriguez is the Democratic challenger with the best chance. His family moved to San Antonio from Mexico when he was 5. He is married and has one grown daughter. Rodriguez has served 4 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and has a large base of support

the incumbent of the district, it is different from the district that elected him last time. Bonilla has a pretty conservative voting record, even though his district has always had a slight Democratic lean. He is very popular in his home town of San Antonio, which is why he has managed to consistently win reelection.

around his current home of Laredo. Rodriguez has a pretty liberal stance on many issues. He wants to get out of Iraq very soon and see the government take a more active role in establishing cheaper health care. Even though he lost the Democratic primary this year, the court redistricting put him in the new 23rd, and he decided to run again.

The Campaign:

There hasn't been a good deal of publicity for this campaign due to the odd nature of the contest, but what there has been is close to party lines. Rodriguez is critical of Bonilla on health care, Iraq, and other issues, saying he is just a Bush lackey. Bonilla is proud of his record, especially on tax cuts for normal Texans, and he stresses his experience at the job. There is less name calling in this campaign than I have seen elsewhere.

Analysis:

The election in this district is under very unusual circumstances. Under pressure from former House Majority Leader Tom Delay, Texas undertook a redistricting/gerrymandering ploy in 2003. The new districts were drawn to maximize the Republicans' advantages and deny the Democrats as many seats as possible. In June, the Texas Supreme Court declared the new 23rd district unconstitutional, saying that it was drawn to minimize the vote of the Latino population near Laredo. The court then redrew several of the districts, including the 23rd and declared a special set of rules for the November election: the election is essentially a primary, and if no candidate gets over 50% of the vote, there will be a special runoff election between the top 2 vote getters later in the year.

By far, the biggest issue in this campaign is the new district lines, but there are several other things to consider as well. Because Rodriguez originally lost in the primary, he has not been campaigning all summer and fall, so he is less prepared than Bonilla. Bonilla has received nearly four times as much money as Rodriguez. Even though the new district includes a heavily Democratic area, that should not be enough to overcome the Republican slant it picked up in the routine decade redistricting.

Since both candidates are Hispanic, the large population of Hispanic residents are unlikely to vote for either one solely on race.

All these factors benefit Bonilla and point to him being the likely representative when all is said and done.

Predicted Result:

I do not think anyone will get the required 50% of the vote to win the district outright. The Democratic vote will be split between Rodriguez and Gilliand (among others), so they don't have a chance at 50%, and I don't think the district is Republican enough for Bonilla to pick up a full 50% on Nov. 7th. I think the notion that this is just a primary will keep people home, and limit the chances of any candidate receiving over 50%.

I think the top two vote getters will be Bonilla and Rodriguez, the two former representatives. If it does go to a runoff election, the results of the rest of the country could have a big influence on the race. But in the end, I think the massive war chest, the powers of incumbency, and the general Texas conservatism will allow **Henry Bonilla (R) to win** reelection again.

Group 6

Alex Fulk
Harry Gams
Kat Sorvig

New York– 20th
Connecticut– 4th
Pennsylvania– 7th
Ohio– 18th
Virginia– 2nd
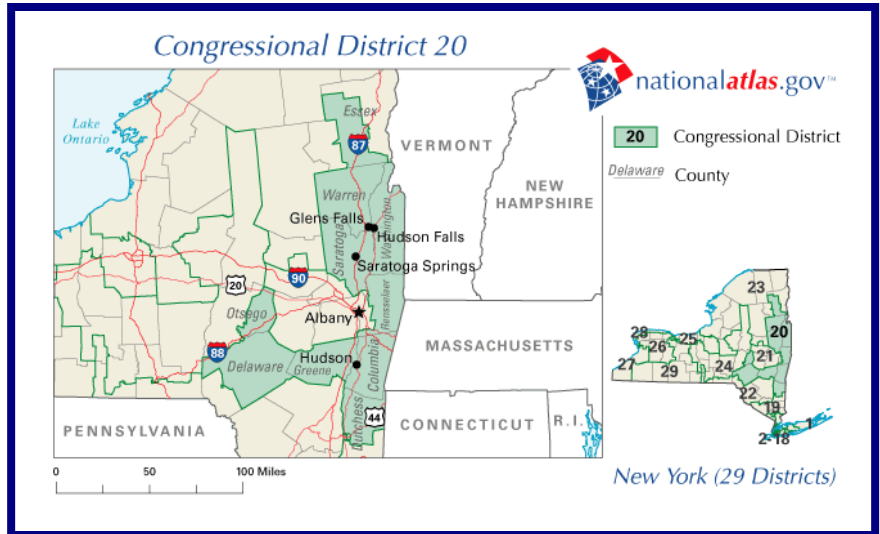Ohio– Senate

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NY -- 20th   Projection

John Sweeney (R)*

Kirsten Gillibrand (D)

Congressional District 20

nationalatlas.gov™

| 20 | Congressional District |
| *Delaware* | County |

New York (29 Districts)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Glens Falls, Saratoga Springs
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 66% Dem: 34%
President: Bush: 53% Kerry: 45%
Demographics –
Population: 654,360
Under 18: 24% Over 65: 14%
Married: 57.3%
Non-Hispanic White: 93%
Black: 2%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 3.7% Non-English
Speaking: 5.9%
Median Household Income: $44,239
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.0%
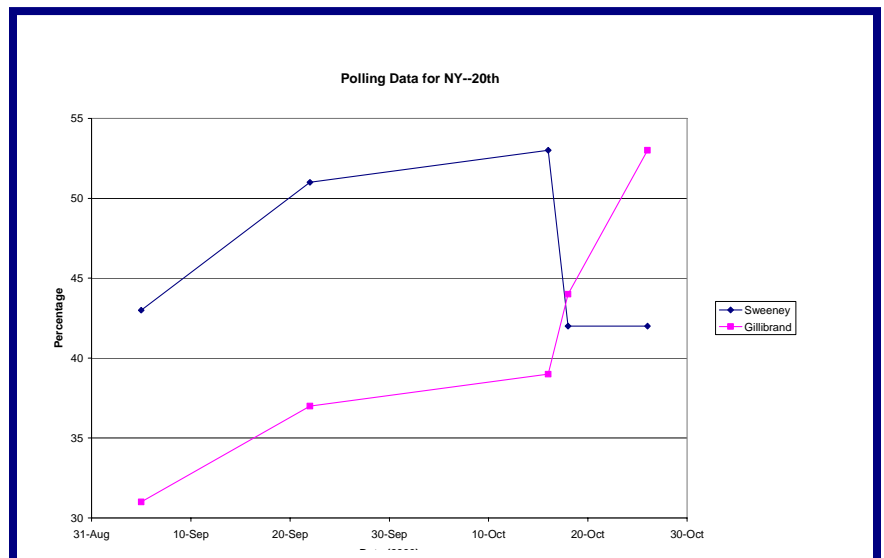Income above $200K: 1.7%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 61.1%
Blue Collar: 23.6% Service 15.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 25%
Graduate Education: 10.5%
Source: CQ Politics

Polling Data for NY--20th

The Money Race (data through 11/03/06):
SWEENEY
Receipts: $2,400,141
Expenditures: $2,255,032

Source: *nytimes.com*
GILLIBRAND
Receipts: $1,836,376
Expenditures: $1,339,747

The Candidates:

During the Clinton Administration, Gillibrand served as Special Counsel to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. She worked on HUD's Labor Initiative and its New Markets Initiative, on strengthening Davis-Bacon Act enforcement and on drafting new markets legislation for public and private investment in building infrastructure in lower income areas. As a partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner, one of the top law firms in the United States, Gillibrand works on a wide range of legal and policy-related issues. She is the Chair of the Women's Leadership Forum Network and is on the Boards of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the Brennan Center for Justice. Sweeney was the Executive Director & Chief Counsel of the New York Republican Party from 1992 to 1995, and New York State Commissioner of Labor under Governor George Pataki from 1995 to 1997. **Sweeney was elected to the House in 1998, winning with 55 percent of the vote over Democrat Jean Bordewich. In 200, Sweeney defeated Democrat Kenneth McCallion with 68% of the vote. He defeated Frank Stoppenbach in 2002 with 73% of the vote. He was re-elected in 2004 with 66% of the vote. Both candidates have support from their**

respective parties.

The Campaign:

Gillibrand has several ads that portray Sweeney as a corrupt congressman. One ad states he was found to be one of the twenty most corrupt congressmen and another is a video showing and explaining how he takes bribes from lobbyists, including a skiing trip in Utah. She is stressing an ethics reform. She believes that the president has consolidated too much power and there is a lack of oversight. On the war on Iraq, Gillibrand favors giving Iraqis a firm deadline on when American troops will leave, a stake in oil and other national revenues and minority and veto rights to the Sunnis, Shia and Kurds. Sweeney believes the administration's plan to for a centralized government in Iraq is not working and said he believes Iraq will need to be divided into three separate states. Gillibrand favors allowing Americans to buy into the Medicare system while Sweeney denounced her proposal as a move toward universal health care. Sweeney supports tax cuts and attributes current economic growth to tax breaks. In recent months he has tried to distance himself from his record of supporting the Bush Administration. Overall, the campaign has been characterized by negative ads and attacks on the other candidate's character.

Analysis:

Just days prior to the election, there was an alleged police report that in 2005 Mrs. Sweeney had called the police claiming that John Sweeney had grabbed her neck and pushed her around. Both of them are denying the incident occurred, but polls are indicating that there has been a significant decline in support for Sweeney.
Gillibrand wrote a letter to Sweeney asking him to have a debate regarding Iraq. No such debate occurred. He touted the "stay the course" theme and has said that he is willing to lose the election over the war. The majority of voters most likely believe that changes need to made, and Sweeney lost his chance to explain his rationale for supporting the current plan and also to force Gillibrand to publicly tell voters what her concrete plan would be for Iraq.
Electoral success in this district will largely be based upon turnout. There are more registered Republicans in the area, making mobilization of voters a key element to success for Gillibrand.

Predicted Result:

Due to the police report regarding the domestic violence being released so close to the election, it is likely that Gillibrand will benefit. Polls have indicated that it has had negative impact for Sweeney. Since the future course in Iraq is such an important election issue for most voters, refusing to debate with Gillibrand about the issue will not help his case. These factors will help to tip the balance in Gillibrand's favor.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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CT -- 4th   Projection

Christopher Shays
(R)*
Diane Farrell (D)
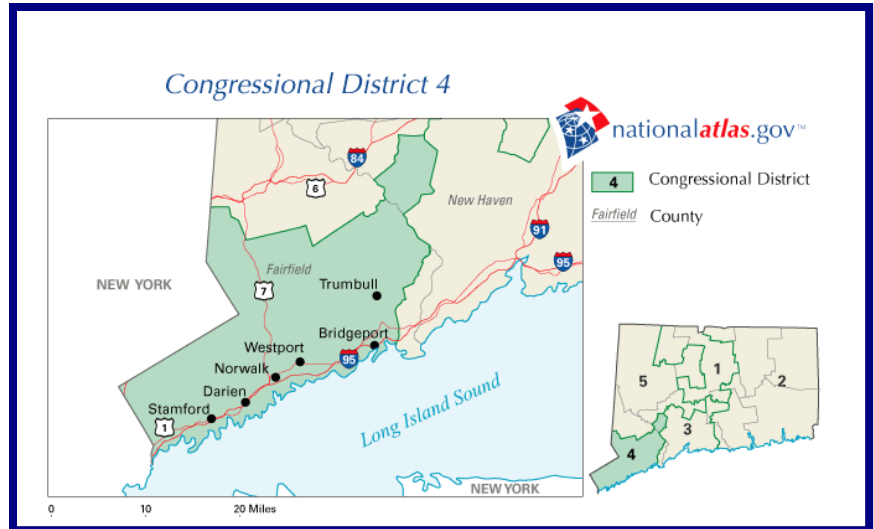
District Type: Suburban
Cities: Bridgeport, Stamford
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 52% Dem: 48%
President: Bush: 46% Kerry: 52%
Demographics –
Population: 681.113
Under 18: 26% Over 65: 13%
Married: 57%
Non-Hispanic White: 71%
Black: 11% Asian: 3%
Foreign Born: 17.2% Non-English
Speaking: 24.8%
Median Household Income: $66, 598
Owner Occupied Housing: 68%
Income above $200K: 12.7%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 71.8%
Blue Collar: 15.6% Service 12.6%
Bachelor's Degree: 42%
Graduate Education: 18.2%
Source: CQ Politics
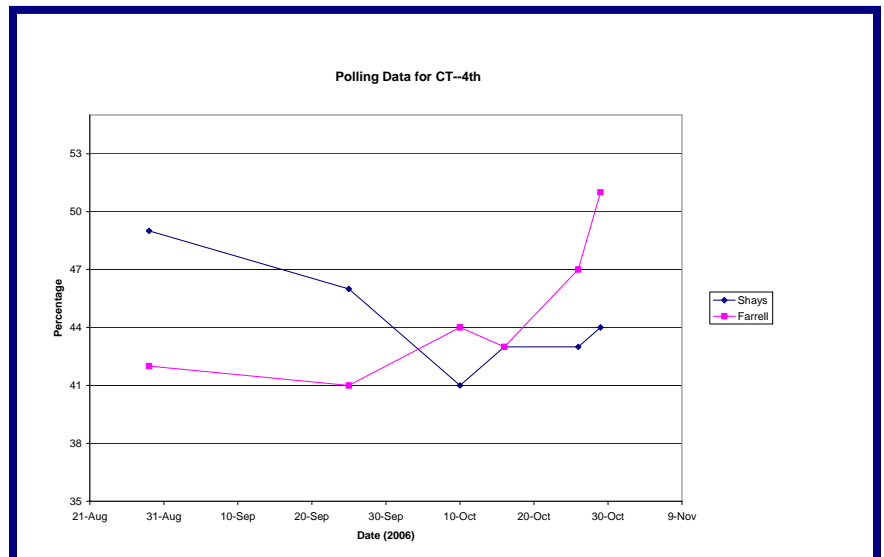
The Money Race (data through 11/03/06):
SHAYS
Receipts: $3,193,031
Expenditures: $1,621,910

Source: *nytimes.com*
FARRELL
Receipts: $2,485,506
Expenditures: $1,675,771

Congressional District 4

nationalatlas.gov™

4 Congressional District
Fairfield County

Polling Data for CT--4th

The Candidates:

Farrell served two terms as the First Selectwoman of the town of Westport Connecticut, a position equivalent to Mayor. Farrell was first elected in 1997 with 59% of the vote and was reelected, with 70% of the vote, in 2001. Under Farrell's administration, Westport invested in new schools and a new senior center. Farrell had previously run for Connecticut 4th's Congressional District Election in 2004 against incumbent Christopher Shays. She received 48% of the vote (51% in Westport), and lost by less than 5%.
Shays began his political career in the Connecticut House of Representatives where he served seven terms. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1987 in a special election to fill the vacant seat of Stewart McKinney. Shays won re-election from 1988 to 2004 with relative ease and comfortable margins. However, he lost by only five percentage points to Farrell in 2004. He refused to use negative television ads in the race. In the 109th Congress he serves as Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, he is Chairperson of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations. He is also a member of the Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees. He alienated several colleagues by the way he pushed for BCRA, however, he has also been one of the most vocal supporters of Bush's foreign policy.

The Campaign:

Coverage of this race has been extensive, largely due to the fact that there have been eleven debates between the candidates. Many local papers have endorsed one of the candidates, producing a bias in much of the reporting.

Farrell repeatedly and rhetorically asks voters if it has been good for the country when Shays has agreed with President Bush and the Republican majority. She has also repeatedly said that America cannot afford another two years in Washington without any checks or balances. She has taken the common "It's time for a change" theme. Shays characterizes her strategy as only criticizing and not offering any solutions. While Shays has been a vocal supporter of President Bush and the war in Iraq, he is clearly attempting to distance himself from the unpopularity of the president and overall discontent with congress by encouraging voters to focus on the individual. Overall, Farrell portrays it as a national referendum on the governing party while Shays calls it a referendum on his years of service and experience.

Analysis:

It is possible the GOP will abandon support for Shays if they feel they have a good chance to maintain the House. Shays has been, in many respects, a thorn in the GOP's side over the years. He alienated many colleagues by the way he pushed for the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act by implying that those who opposed it were corrupt. However, he has been one of the most vocal supporters of Bush's foreign policy. The debate on Iraq will most likely hurt Shays because the fourth district in Connecticut is one of the few in the nation that is actually shaping up as a direct referendum on the situation in Iraq. If Shays loses, it will be likely that the Iraq issue cost him the seat. Shays switched from staunch support to supporting a timetable, which made many question if he changed his view only . The issue of Iraq helped Lamont to win in primaries, making it clear that staunch support for the war and president would not be likely to garner more votes in the 4th district. It is possible that Shays lost some support when making remarks about Abu Ghraib. He claimed during a debate that it was not torture, but a sex ring. Considering that forty percent of the voters in this district have no party affiliation, the abrupt change in opinion on Iraq and the "sex ring" comment might be enough to convince independent voters who do not have a strong Republican leaning. Farrell wanted to plan a time to sit down with Shays and discuss their ideas regarding Iraq. Shays declined. This was most likely a huge mistake because Shays could have tried to illustrate to voters that she has no concrete plan (most likely his best bet for this issue) and he could have tried to explain his change in opinion on the issue so that it looked like it was more than a political ploy.

Predicted Result:

We predict that Diane Farrell will win. The last time these two candidates were running against each other, the margin between them was less than five percent. Given the Iraq issue, the off color remark about Abu Ghraib, the small percentage difference is likely to swing in Farrell's favor. In polls voters have indicated that the war in Iraq and the economy will be the two main issues they will base their vote upon. The refusal to meet with Farrell about Iraq will not help to convince voters that he is the best candidate to handle this important issue.

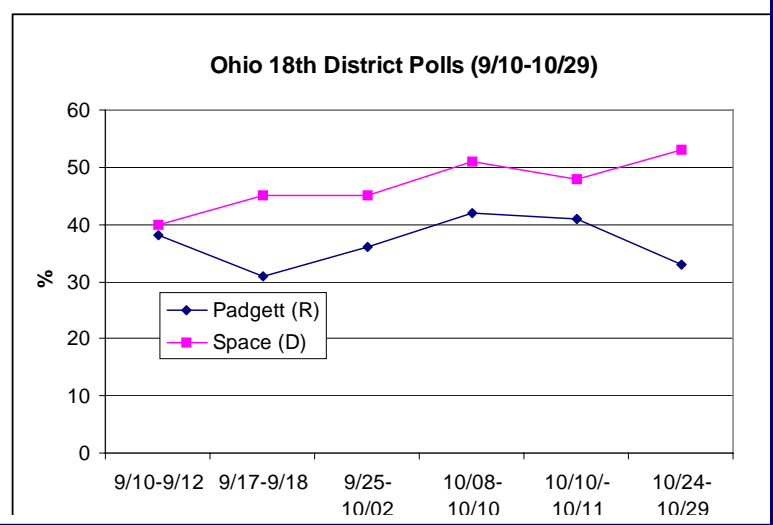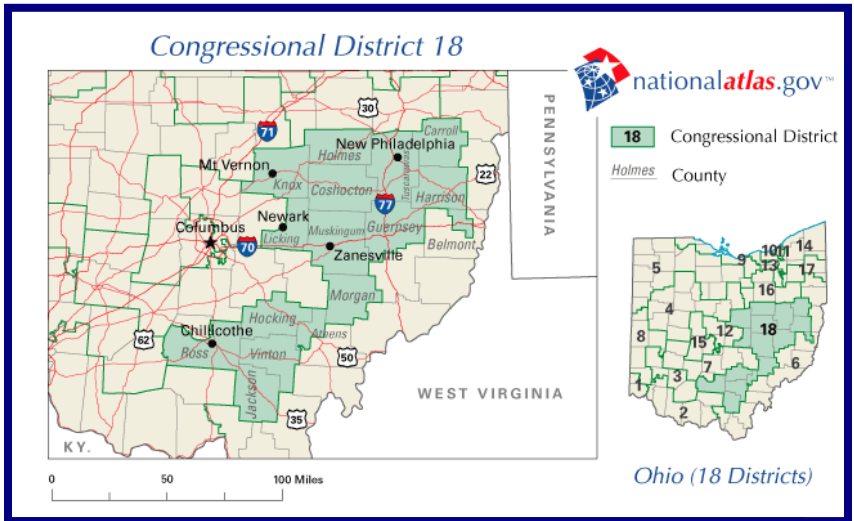# Election 2006 Campaign Project

OH – 18th   Projection

Joy Padgett (R)

Zack Space (D)

District Type: Rural
Cities: East Zanesville, Chillicothe
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 66% Dem: 34%
President: Bush: 57% Kerry: 42%
Demographics –
Population: 630,730
Under 18: 26.0% Over 65: 13.7%
Married: 59%
Non-Hispanic White: 96%
Black: 2%   Asian: 0%
Foreign Born: 1% Non-English
Speaking: 5.9%
Median Household Income: $34,462
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.3%
Income above $200K: 0.9%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 46%
Blue Collar: 38.3% Service 15.8%
Bachelor's Degree: 11%
Graduate Education: 4.0%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 18

nationalatlas.gov™

18 Congressional District
Holmes County

Ohio (18 Districts)

Ohio 18th District Polls (9/10-10/29)

- Padgett (R)
- Space (D)

The Money Race (data through 11/03/06):
SPACE
Receipts:$879,427
Expenditures:$732,749

Source: *New York Times*
PADGETT
Receipts:$518,073
Expenditures:$261,590

The Candidates:

   Zack Space (D) was born in the town of Dover, north of New Philadelphia. He practiced law with his father for twenty years after earning his degree. In 2001, he got elected as the Dover Law Director, and kept the seat in 2003 without a challenge. Having a son who has been diagnosed with diabetes, he an advocate of stem cell research. Space's main field is law. Along with himself, his father and wife are also lawyers, and he has about 20 years of experience. Space does not have political experience, however he is supported by the Democratic party, and is thought to have a good chance to win.

   Joy Padgett (R) is from the town of Coshocton, north of Zanesville. She worked as a school teacher for 20 years. In 1992, she got elected to the House, and served four terms until 1999. After her House term, she worked as the Director of Office of Appalachia, which she served until 2004. Following 2004, she got elected to the Senate. Having served in both the House and Sentate, she is a very experienced politician. Recently, the GOP pulled money out of her race, since they view this district as "impossible to win".

The Campaign:

The GOP candidate, Padgett, touts the theme of conservative values. She emphasizes lower taxes, less government involvement, Second Amendment rights, and is pro-life. The GOP hopes to appeal to the people of the 18th district of Ohio by presenting them with old conservative values. This may be a viable tactic due to voting trends that illustrate how, in the past, the people generally have favored conservative values in this district.

The Democratic candidate's campaign is mainly focused on the corruption in congress. Spade made a pledge that he will not accept any gifts, trips or meals from lobbyists in Washington. His campaign is about a changed and less corrupt Congress, which is meant to appeal to the voters who are sickened by the scandal by previous representative Bob Ney (R), and it may cause voters to associate the Republican Party in general with scandal.

Analysis:

Lately the people's distrust towards the GOP has increased significantly. Also the "sixth year itch" will be likely to bite GOP during this election.

In the mean time, the Democrats made several mistakes too. First, Kerry's misconstrued joke/slip of the tongue could give GOP candidates another edge to fight back. Second, recent drops in gas prices could bring some positive view towards the majority party in the House, the GOP.

But the most important issue regarding to the district of OH-18 is the corruption scandal of GOP incumbent Bob Ney (R). Ney was bribed by the infamous Jack Abramoff, and plead guilty to accepting these bribes. Until November 3rd, he did not resign from his seat. Thus it made GOP candidates look "irresponsible and corrupted". The replacement candidate, Joy Padgett (R), is a great professional. She has great political experience, and proved her skills by representing her district and Ohio in the House and Senate respectively. However, Padgett's work and reputation will not likely be enough to tip the balance back. The general distrust towards the GOP candidates in the state of Ohio, which is stronger in district 18 due to the direct connection to Bob Ney, is likely to give the Democrats a great advantage.

Space (D) does not have political experience, but this could also mean that he is not associated with the culture of political corruption, and will be viewed at someone who is more likely to bring about positive changes.

Predicted Result:

Zack Space (D) will win the Ohio-18 district. The polls are clearly showing he is favored and that most people are now favoring change, and support the idea of cleaner representative. The GOP does not spend much money on races they feel they are sure to win or sure to lose. The GOP gave up their fight in this district by pulling their party money out of Joy Padgett (R)'s campaign, feeling that she will mostly likely not be successful. The 18th district of Ohio has a history of favoring the GOP, however, the scandal involving Bob Ney was enough shock to change general opinion and preference.
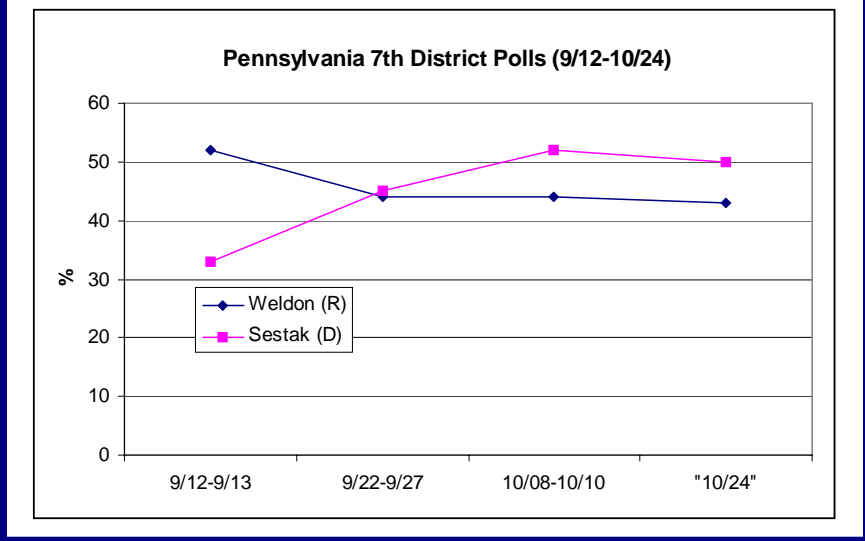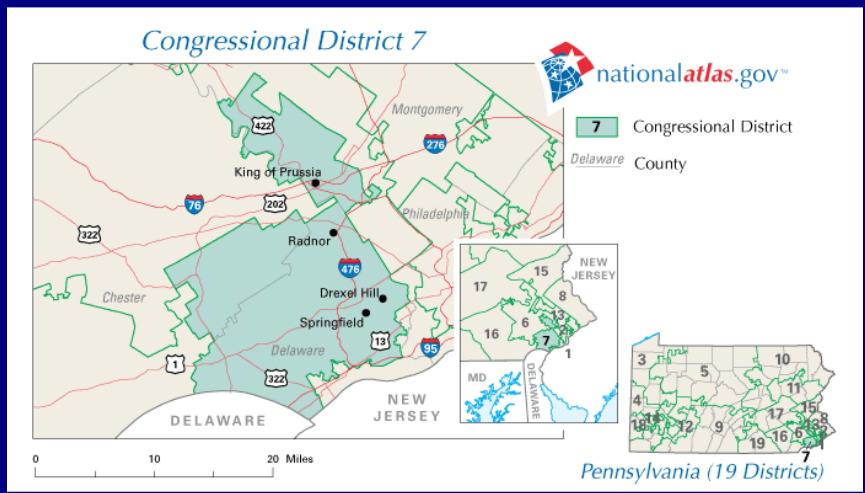
Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PA -- 7th	Projection

Curt Weldon (R)*

Joe Sestak (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Suburban Philadelphia – most of Delaware County
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 59% Dem: 40%
President: Bush: 47% Kerry: 53%
Demographics –
Population: 646,522(2000 census)
Under 18: 24% Over 65: 15%
Married: 55.9%
Non-Hispanic White: 88%
Black: 5% Asian: 4%
Foreign Born: 6.9% Non-English
Speaking: 9.3%
Median Household Income: $56,126
Owner Occupied Housing: 74%
Income above $200K: 4.2%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 72.6%
Blue Collar: 16.2% Service 11.2%
Bachelor's Degree: 36%
Graduate Education: 13.9%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 7

nationalatlas.gov™

7 Congressional District
Delaware County

Pennsylvania (19 Districts)

Pennsylvania 7th District Polls (9/12-10/24)

Legend: Weldon (R), Sestak (D)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):	**Source:** *RealClearPolitics*
WELDON	SESTAK
Receipts:$2,557,627	Receipts:$2,706,636
Expenditures:$2,569,844	Expenditures:$1,735,814

The Candidates:

   Curt Weldon (R) is a Glen Mills resident, currently serving his 10th term in the House of Representatives, where he was first elected in 1987.   Until now he ran nearly unopposed, and this year marks his first difficult race. He claims to be "from blue collar family". He has proven political experience from his many terms in congress and his experience as a mayor of Marcus Hook from 1977 to 1982.
   Joe Sestak (D) is from Springfield, PA. He does not have any political experience. However, he has a great deal of military experience. Sestak served in the Navy until January 2006, and earned the rank of Vice Admiral. He was deployed seven times in Europe, the Persian Gulf, and western/South Pacific. Sestak served as the Chief of Naval Operations, where he helped to develop the national military and security strategy. After 9/11 he worked as the first Director of the Navy

Operations Group (Deep Blue), where he dealt with policies on the War on Terrorism. Later he also worked in the Office of the President as the Director for Defense Policy, and continued his work as the Director of Assessment Division/Capability Analysis Group. His lack of political experience can be overcome because of his long tenure in the military.

The Campaign:

Curt Weldon (R)'s campaign is focused on the issue of increased budget for firefighters and first responders, lower taxes, stimulating economy and business, increased support and funding for education, increased financial support for war veterans, and cheaper medications and care for seniors. We can see that he is standing firmly on the policies of the GOP, and has not changed his stance from his past 10 terms. Yet the GOP is pulling their support from Weldon, since they predict that this term, Weldon will not get his 11th term. They believe the issue of Iraq has damaged Weldon and made his opponent more suitable for the job.

Joe Sestak (D)'s campaign theme is the change. He is trying to appeal to the public, saying that they need a change from the same incumbent who's been in office for the last 20 years. Also, he is advocating a phased withdrawal of American troops from Iraq. At the same time, Sestak linked his opponent Weldon with the President Bush's policy, claiming that Weldon is reluctant to pull troops out of Iraq. This sensitive issue of Iraq gained tremendous support for Sestak. Along with money and the issue of Iraq, Sestak can give Weldon a considerable threat, unlike any that he has dealt with in the last 20 years.

Analysis:

Traditionally Pennsylvania's 7th district was pro-Republican. Yet during the last presidential election, this district cast its vote towards Kerry, which showed time of mixed support and end of the GOP guaranteed vote.

Weldon (R) stands for traditional values. He believes that people's support for the last 20 years will not let him down this year. People who are voting for Weldon are likely to be the people who want a stable community without any drastic change.

To take down the well experienced and supported incumbent Weldon (R), the challenger Sestak (D) uses his exceptional experience in the military, and mainly focuses on the issue of pulling troops out of Iraq. He managed to successfully portray Weldon (R) as the puppet of the President Bush, and promise the 7th district that he can bring a change. Sestak (D) is pro-choice, and supports stem cell research. At the same time, he is promising a middle class tax cut, while the burden of taxation will be shifted towards wealthier families. These changes, along with his plan to pull troops out of Iraq were introduced to the people through a well funded campaign, and because of this, the poll trends show that more and more people are supporting Sestak (D).
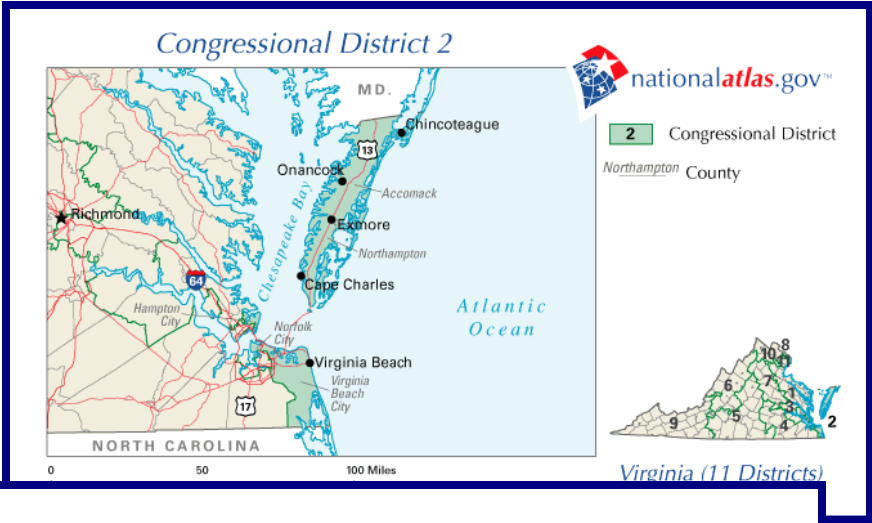
Predicted Result:

Joe Sestak (D) will wrest this district from the hands of the GOP for the first time in 20 years. It is clear that people demand change from the status quo. Sestak's promise for middle class tax cuts will appeal largely to the masses, due largely to the American misconception of "middle-class". Also, the issue of troops in Iraq and Sestak's long military experience was well delivered to the public, with large amounts of funding from the Democratic party.

Curt Weldon (R) did not have to deal with strong opponents for the last 20 years. With this challenge, he and his party could not really find a sharp edge to fight back. Rather, Weldon chose to stay back and rely on the old trends of the district's GOP voters.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

VA—2nd	Projection

Thelma Drake (R)*

Phil Kellam (D)

Congressional District 2

nationalatlas.gov™

☐ 2 Congressional District
Northampton County

Virginia (11 Districts)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 45%
President: Bush: 58% Kerry: 42%
Demographics –
Population: 643510
Under 18: 26.9% Over 65: 9.2%
Married: 57.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 67.7%
Black: 19.9%   Asian: 5.4%
Foreign Born: 6.6% Non-English
Speaking: 10.3%
Median Household Income: $50,257
Owner Occupied Housing: 65.6%
Income above $200K: 1.9%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 63%
Blue Collar: 21.7% Service 15.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 28.1%
Graduate Education: 8.6%

Poll	Date	Sample	Drake (R)*	Kellam (D)	Und	Spread
Reuters/Zogby	10/24 - 10/29	500 LV	51	43	3	Drake +8.0
RT Strategies/CD	10/24 - 10/26	989 LV	45	50	5	Kellam +5.0
Mason-Dixon	10/23 - 10/24	400 LV	46	44	10	Drake +2.0
RT Strategies/CD	10/08 - 10/10	982 LV	48	46	6	Drake +2.0

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
Drake
Receipts:2,121,261
Expenditures:1,534,439

Source: Political Money Line
Kellam
Receipts:1,303,676
Expenditures:1,157,049

The Candidates:

 Thelma Drake was elected on November 2, 2004 to represent the Second District of Virginia in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Second District includes all of the City of Virginia Beach, parts of the cities of Hampton and Norfolk, and Accomack and Northampton Counties.

Thelma Drake was appointed after elected to serve on the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Phil Kellam is a lifelong resident of Virginia beach. He was the son of a judge and therefore had a name for himself. He was first elected Virginia Beach's Commissioner of the Revenue in 1997. The office he holds to this date as he seeks to defeat Thelma Drake for Representative of the second district.

The Campaign:

The incumbent Thelma Drake pushes to hold companies more accountable for workers pensions, she supports defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. She is against gun control. She believes in a social security reform that will make sure young Americans have social security when the time comes to retire. She believes in lowering taxes, and she supports efforts to clean up Chesapeake Bay from pollution.

Phill Kellam is running on the platform of streamline democratic views. With a particular criticizing of Thelma Drakes views and her mainline views with the Republican party. He also supports a plan to end the extra registration of vehicles in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Analysis:

According to a critic of Drake and the GOP on the Virginia Pilot, voting out Representative Drake would be a small step toward national reform as one less Republican held seat would be one step closer to a Democratic held Congress that he then believes could investigate the Bush administration.

Nationally this race serves as an example of how the tides of the United States are turning. If Kellam a democrat, could defeat a favored Republican, it might foreshadow a larger tipping of the scales in favor of the democrats.

According to the Virginia Pilot, Drake has a slight favor to win but the results are too close to call. With their being a margin of error of +/- 5 points in the polls no clear winner can be predicted. The pilot believes that the race will be determined by the undecided voters, who if turn out normally vote for the challenger entering an election.

We found it interesting however, almost every user comment (feedback used to comment on an article) seemed to favor Kellam. Most claimed that Drake was but just a rubber stamp for the GOP and stated that Kellam would better represent the district.

Predicted Result:

We believe Republican incumbent Thelma Drake will hold off Democratic challenger Phil Kellam, reasons being; this district (VA-2) voted 58% to 42% in favor of President Bush. Also Representative Drake has managed to raise almost double the funds as Kellam, and she holds a slight advantage in the polls.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Ohio Senate   Projection

Mike DeWine (R)*

Sherrod Brown (D)
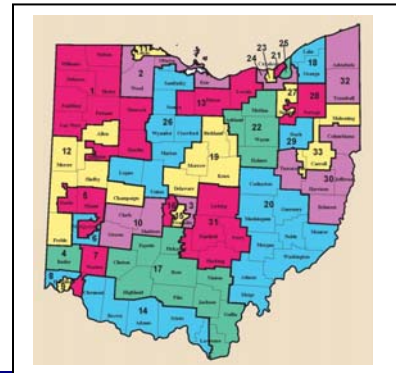
District Type: Mixed
Cities: Cincinnati, Mansfield, Lima, Toledo, Akron, Columbus
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: % Dem: %
President: Bush:51 % Kerry: 49%
Demographics –
Population: 11,464,042
Under 18: 25.4% Over 65: 13.3%
Married: %
Non-Hispanic White: 84%
Black: 11.4%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 1.2% Non-English
Speaking: 3.6%
Median Household Income: $40,956
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.0%
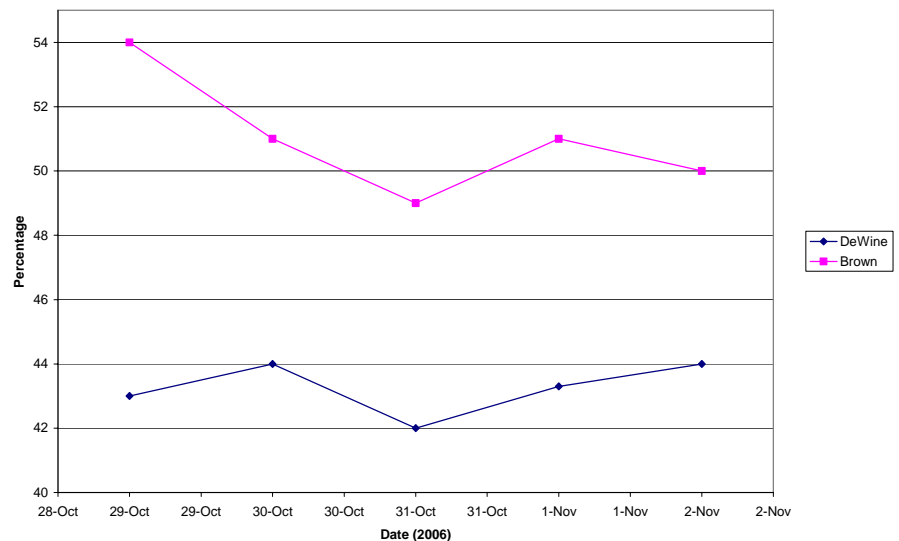Income above $200K: 1.1%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 57.3%
Blue Collar: 27.8% Service 15.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 28.1%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Polling Data for Ohio Senate Race

The Money Race (data through 10/18 /06):
DeWine
Receipts: 11,134,675
Expenditures: 10,426,534

Source: Political Money Line
Brown
Receipts: 7,689,115
Expenditures: 8,954,433

The Candidates:

Mike DeWine the incumbent Republican is seeking reelection. He was born January 5th 1947. Before becoming a United States senator, DeWine was a Ohio state senator. He also served as Ohio's 59th Lieutenant Governor. After becoming a Senator he has served on the Appropriations committee, Judiciary Committee, Health Education Labor and Pensions committee, and the Senate select Committee on Intelligence.

 The challenging democrat Sherrod Brown was raised in Mansfield, Ohio. He served two terms as Ohio's secretary of state. Before becoming Ohio's congressman from the 13th district, a position which he has held since 1992.

The Campaign:

Mike DeWine the incumbent is basing his campaign on his prior achievements and experience. On his website he points out his achievements of securing over a billion dollars for Ohio via his position on the appropriations committee, he also sponsored federal legislation forcing China to comply with International trade laws. He also states that he is for cutting taxes to stimulate the economy. In 2001 he passed legislation to make sure teachers qualified for their positions known as the Teacher Qualify Act. He is pro-life and has a 100% voting record of anti-abortion and anti fetus stem cell research. He directed 100 million dollars to Ohio fire departments for training and equipment, and helped increase funding by 1.3 billion dollars for better protected Humvees in Iraq.

Sherrod Brown supports an increase in the minimum wage. He went against his party to secure Ohio jobs from going oversees. He supports stem cell research, he supports strengthening borders against invaders, and would work toward a balanced budget amendment if elected.   Brown criticizes DeWine for giving more tax breaks to the wealthy and not as many to middle class families.

Analysis:

According to different articles pulled from cincypost.com and daytondailynews.com. At the local level Brown seems to have a better relationship with the working class. After a rally with the Goodyear rubber company workers several vowed to bring five people with them to the polls to show support for Brown. Dewine however, has also been rallying and is not concerned with his lack in the polls. It appears as though the race does have some national context as voters seem to be wanting to vote their pocketbooks, at least in Ohio as they condone bribery from the Bob Nay administration and support Brown who vows to fight for the middle class and health care reform.

Predicted Result:

We believe that challenger Sherrod Brown will defeat Republican incumbent Mike DeWine. Even though DeWine has doubled the funds raised than Brown has, Brown has held a solid lead built in the poles. Residents of Ohio might also be leery of Republican scandal left over from Bob Nay.

Group 7

Elizabeth Dieke
Jordan McClain
Adam Jones

Connecticut – 5th
Indiana – 2nd
Louisiana – 3rd
New York – 29th
Vermont – All
Pennsylvania -- Senate

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

IN – 2nd   Projection

Chris Chocola (R)*

Joe Donnelly (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: South Bend, Elkhart, Kokomo
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 45%
President: Bush: 56% Kerry: 43%
Demographics –
Population: 675,766
Under 18: 26.1% Over 65: 13.3%
Married: 55.4%
Non-Hispanic White: 84%
Black: 8%   Asian: 1% Hispanic: 5%
Foreign Born: 4.2% Non-English
Speaking: 7.9%
Median Household Income: $40,381
Owner Occupied Housing: 72.8%
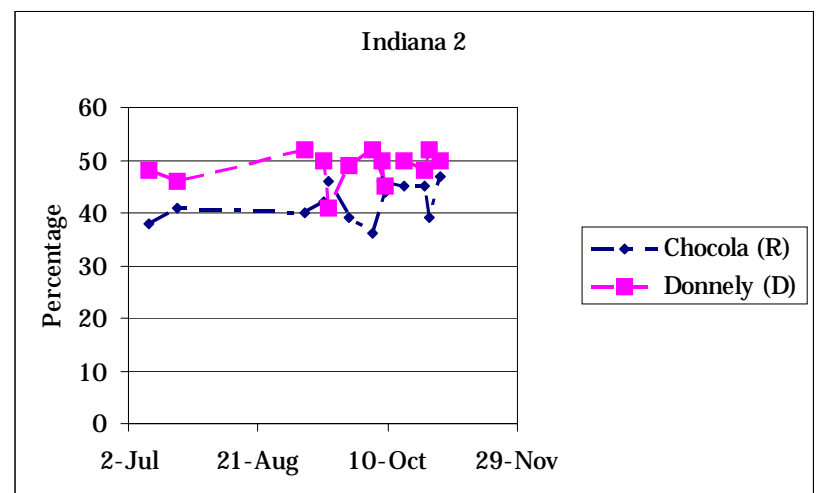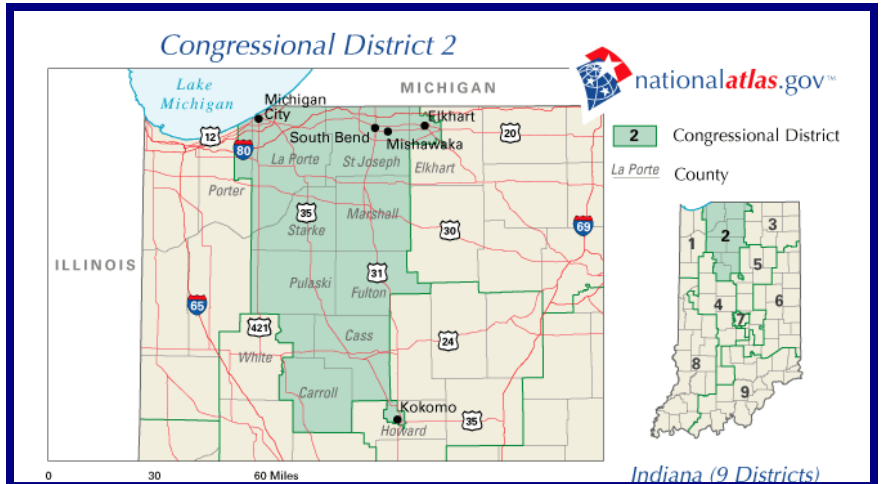Income above $200K: 1.2%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 50.7%
Blue Collar: 35.1% Service 14.2%
Bachelor's Degree: 17%
Graduate Education: 6.6%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 2

nationalatlas.gov™

2 Congressional District
La Porte County

Indiana (9 Districts)

Indiana 2

Legend: Chocola (R), Donnelly (D)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
CHOCOLA
Receipts: $2,955,623
Expenditures: $2,496,120

Source: CQ Politics
DONNELLY
Receipts: $1,333,572
Expenditures: $1,096,081

The Candidates:

Chris Chocola grew up in Michigan and went to Hillsdale College and Thomas Cooley Law School. He was first elected on November 5, 2002 to the 2nd district of Indiana. He was reelected in 2004. After he was elected for his first term, he was named Assistant Majority Whip and later appointed to the Ways and Means Committee and the High Committee by the Speaker of the House. During his time in office he introduced comprehensive budget reform legislation and co-founded the "Washington Waste Watchers," a working group designed to eliminate government waste, fraud, and abuse. He has hosted over 100 town hall meetings to hear the concerns of his constituents. His family is actively involved in the community and he sits on the Board of Directors of many organizations.

Joe Donnelly graduated from Notre Dame and then from Notre Dame Law School. He practiced law for 15 years then started his own business: Marking Solutions. He decided to run for office because he felt Congressmen were not living up to Hoosier values.   He was a member of the School Board for Mishawaka Marian High School from 1997-2001, serving as President during the 2000-2001 term. He has never held a government office.

The Campaign:

Republican incumbent Chris Chocola defeated Democratic challenger Joe Donnelly in the 2004 House race 54% to 45%. But this election the race is currently considered a toss-up. Chocola has a monetary advantage being the incumbent; however, Donnelly received a great boost to his campaign when the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee pledged their support. Chocola has been criticized for his attachment to pharmaceutical companies, big oil and defense contractors in ads funded by MoveOn.org. Donnelly has funded ads attacking Chocola for voting record on immigration. Chocola has responded with a series of ads criticizing Joe Donnelly for his stance on immigration and for money he has accepted from lobbyists and special interest groups. The two candidates share many of the same ideas on issues. They both say that they support more stringent immigration laws and that the other supports amnesty.

Analysis:

As the incumbent Chocola has more money and resources; however, he also must deal with the "stench" of Washington and Bush's falling popularity. Chocola has attempted to separate himself from Washington and Bush by running ads about his support of alternative energy and opposition to Bush's plan for immigration. He also is steering away from the Republican title because of Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels' unpopular actions. Joe Donnelly has only held two public offices (Indiana State Election Board and a local school board). His lack of experience could be a disadvantage; however, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's supports his campaign will most likely reassure Democratic voters who might have swung to the Republican side. In this conservative district both candidates name homeland security as their top priority. They both oppose abortion, support the right to bear arms, and promise to decrease the defecate. From their stances on the issues it is not really clear who is the Democrat and who is the Republican. But voters know that Chocola is a Republican and voters have seen the recent scandals and negative attention on the GOP. The question is whether this will influence their votes. While Donnelly has called for Hastert to step down in light of the Foley scandal, it will come down to whether voters in the 5th district are willing to take a chance on a new Representative to the House.

Predicted Result:

We predict that Joe Donnelly will win because he is rated higher in the polls and he is a fresh face in a time where people are tired the way things are.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PA – Senate   Projection

Rick Santorum (R)*

Robert Casey (D)

State: Pennsylvania
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 44.3% Dem: 48.9%
President: Bush: 48.5% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 12,429,616
Under 18: 23.8% Over 65: 15.6%
Married: 54.3%
Non-Hispanic White: 84.1%
Black: 9.8%   Asian: 1.8% Hispanic:
3.2% American Indian: .1%
 Foreign Born: 4.1% Non-English
Speaking: 8.4%
Median Household Income: $42,952
Owner Occupied Housing: 71.3%
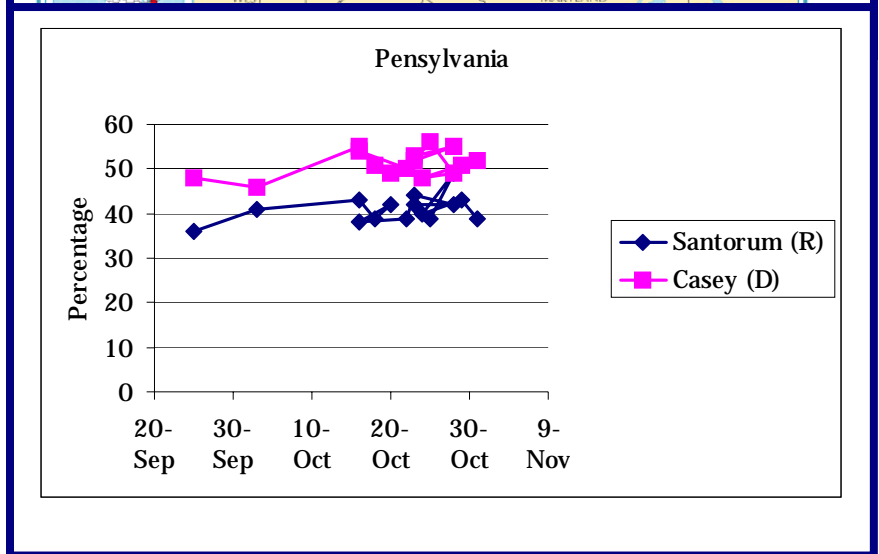Income above $200K: 1.9%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 59.5%
Blue Collar: 25.2% Service 15.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 22.4%
Graduate Education: 8.4%
Source: CQ Politics, Real Clear Pol., CensusBureau

Pensylvania

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
SANTORUM
Receipts: $22,478,293
Expenditures: $21,526,396

Source: CQ Politics
CASEY
Receipts: $16,348,820
Expenditures: $13,666,117

The Candidates:

Robert Casey is the Pennsylvania Democratic candidate for the Senate.   He served as Pennsylvania State Auditor General from 1996 to 2004 and is currently serving as the Pennsylvania State Treasurer. He is the son of the late Governor of Pennsylvania, Robert P. Casey. Casey's campaign focuses on creating jobs, restoring fiscal responsibility, lowering the cost of health care, improving education, safeguarding Social Security, protecting our environment, and strengthening homeland security.

Republican Rick Santorum has served as a Pennsylvania Senator since 1994, before which he served two terms in the House of Representatives. In 2000 Santorum was elected Conference Chairman, making him the third ranking Republican. He is running on a conservative platform including sanctity of marriage and alternative stem cell research. He has also worked in the past for congressional accountability and welfare reform.

The Campaign:

Rick Santorum paints Bob Casey as a person with no stand that will change positions when he thinks it is in his best interest and that he has been taking taxpayer money and investing it in companies tied to terrorist organizations. Whereas he is trying to portray that all his actions are for the people. This is backed up in that he visits all of the Pennsylvania counties every year. He all has been trying to send the message that he is going to and has fought corruption in congress. Most recent articles about Rick Santorum seem to have one thing in common, he is losing and has been grasping at anything he thinks can help him.

Bob Casey has tried to make himself seen as a necessary change needed to make things better. To go with this he says that he will ask the hard questions and demand truthful answers out of the administration. Basically what he is saying is that he will be responsible and that he will be committed to getting rid of corruption. He has also said that Democrats and Republicans should work together. In one of his commercials he criticized Rick Santorum for his desire to privatize social security and said that Santorum is supporting things that will hurt Pennsylvania. In the Philadelphia Daily News there was an article on how Casey "is running as the not-Santorum, even by his own admission" which they say is justification for his getting the job.

Analysis:

Rick Santorum is the incumbent and this helps him when running for reelection. He also has had more money to work with in his campaign. These things give him the advantage but on the national level Bush's unpopularity could reflect onto him especially since he has voted with Bush the majority of the time. Also against him is that he has taken a fairly strong stand for the War. Due to this Casey seems to be drawing heavily on the need for change and it seems to be working according to the polls. Another factor in the election could be Santorum's work on privatizing social security since most older people look poorly on and they are the most likely to vote. The voting history of Pennsylvania seems to be another good sign for Casey as more of the votes were cast for Kerry and the Democrats in 2004. Something that could hurt Casey is the fact that his finance chairman is under federal investigation for corruption.

Predicted Result:

Bob Casey is going to win this race because he has a double digit lead in the polls. He has more money left and in 2004 Pennsylvania had a slight majority in favor of Democrats. Finally helping Casey is Bush's unpopularity which is reflecting onto Santorum.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NY – 29th	Projection

Randy Kuhl (R)*

Eric Massa (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Elmira, Corning, Rochester
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 51% Dem: 41%
President: Bush: 56% Kerry: 42%
Demographics –
Population: 654,361
Under 18: 25% Over 65: 14%
Married: 56.4%
Non-Hispanic White: 93%
Black: 3%   Asian: 2%
Foreign Born: 4.2% Non-English
Speaking: 6.7%
Median Household Income: $41,875
Owner Occupied Housing: 74%
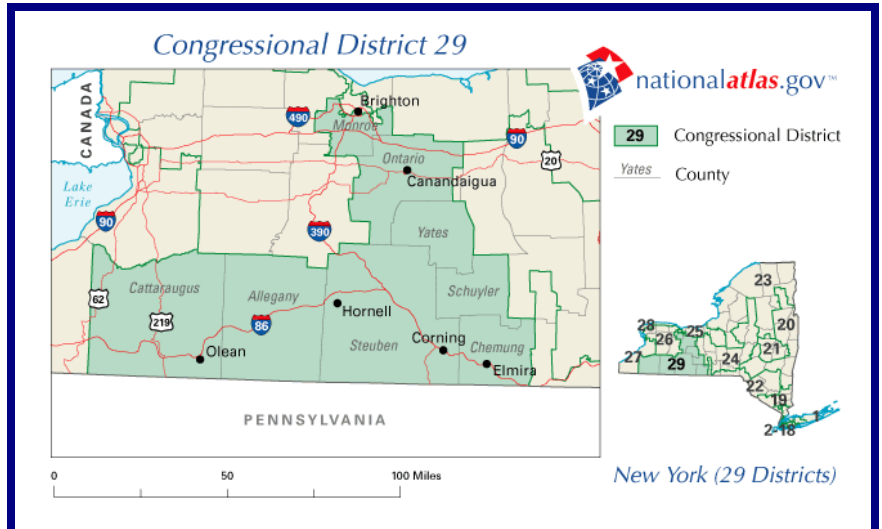Income above $200K: 2%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 61.3%
Blue Collar: 23.8% Service 14.9%
Bachelor's Degree: 26%
Graduate Education: 11.5%
Source: CQ Politics

Candidate	15-Oct
Randy Kuhl (R)	40%
Eric Massa (D)	52%

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
KUHL
Receipts: $1,285,450
Expenditures: $1,129,929

Source: CQ Politics
MASSA
Receipts: $1,140,213
Expenditures: $799,123

The Candidates:

Randy Kuhl received his Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law. He was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1980 and was elected to the State Senate in 1986. He served as Assistant Majority Leader for 9 years. He was elected to Congress for the first time 2004. By looking at his personal website he seems to be someone who has all of the right credentials of a congressman but unable to really relate to the people. He gives countless committees and organizations he's in but doesn't talk about his personal life, which doesn't show the people who he really is.

Eric Massa graduated from the US Naval Academy at Annapolis Maryland. He served in the Navy for 24 years until he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He survived cancer and then traveled the country speaking to other cancer patients.   He later worked in the Photonics division of Corning Inc. He was later offered a position as a Professional Staff Member to the House Armed Services Committee. He comes from a background of strong family values and a passion for things such as health care, lower taxes, and economic security from personal experience. He can better relate to the public because of his background though he doesn't have as good as credentials as some congressmen.

The Campaign:

Randy Kuhl is trying to get people to see him as the candidate with the most experience. His main focus is emphasizing the amount of money he has raised for the district. His ads talk about him providing money for education and transportation and being very effective in getting things accomplished. He supports pulling out of Iraq as soon as possible but also spending more money on our troops and their safety. He supports policies that are pro growth, pro jobs, and pro business. And he also supports everything that has been done with improving homeland security yet believes that more can be done.

Eric Massa is running on a campaign of cutting taxes, providing more jobs, investment in education, and getting rid of corruption in Congress. In his political ads he accuses Randy Kuhl of being ill informed and without moral courage concerning the War in Iraq. He uses his time in the navy to show the people that he has military experience. His main focus is healthcare and making it affordable to everyone. He believes that the War in Iraq is terribly off course and needs a change in those who decide that direction. He also believes that Donald Rumsfeld needs to resign immediately as Secretary of Defense.

Analysis:

Both the Elmira Star-Gazette and the Corning Leader (local New York papers) endorse Kuhl for the 29th district election. They praise the fact that he has brought in $250 million in federal spending to the district. However, the Elmira Star-Gazette did say they didn't like his stance on the War in Iraq and his policy of withdrawal but that it is a small compromise for everything else he has done. Those who support Randy Kuhl do so because they believe he has been a very effective congressman for their district.

The 29th District Veterans Form Group has thrown their support to Kuhl. However, Eric Massa, being a veteran himself, claims that he has the support of many veterans in the district. Massa also claimed to be endorsed by more way more groups and committees than Kuhl showed on his site. Unlike Randy Kuh, Eric Massa is credited as having the same stance on every issue as the status quo by the Candandaigua Daily Post and Messenger Post Newspapers. He is seen as a man who is passionate for what he believes and wants to accomplish.
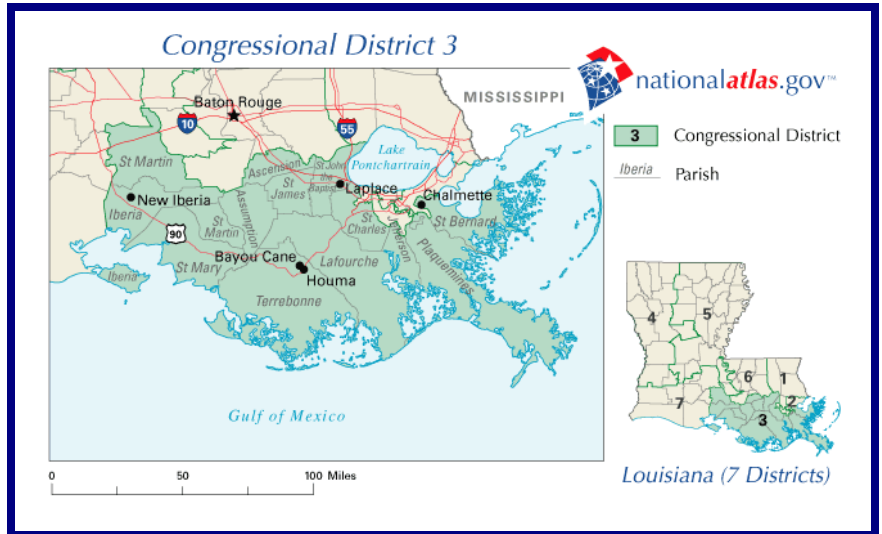
Predicted Result:

We believe that Eric Massa (D) is going to win the election in the 29th district of New York. The polls show him at a 12 percent lead over Randy Kuhl. He is very passionate about working for the people of New York and fighting for his district. He is endorsed by more people than Kuhl and is credited to having the same values as the majority.

<u>Election 2006 Campaign Project</u>

LA – 3rd	Projection

Craig Romero (R)

Charlie Melancon (D)*

District Type: Suburban
Cities: New Iberia, Houma
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 50% Dem: 50%
President: Bush: 58% Kerry: 41%
Demographics –
Population: 638,322
Under 18: 29% Over 65: 11%
Married: 54.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 70%
Black: 25% Asian: 1% Hispanic: 2%
Foreign Born: 1.8% Non-English
Speaking: 13.5%
Median Household Income: $34, 463
Owner Occupied Housing: 77%
Income above $200K: .9%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 50.3%
Blue Collar: 35.1% Service 14.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 11%
Graduate Education: 3.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 3

nationalatlas.gov™

3 Congressional District

Iberia Parish

Louisiana (7 Districts)

Candidate	5-Sep
Charlie Melancon (R)	55%
Craig Romero (D)	23%

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
MELANCON
Receipts: $2,528,642
Expenditures: $1,702,772

Source: CQ Politics
ROMERO
Receipts: $1,731,783
Expenditures: $1,620,400

The Candidates:

Craig Romero graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a major in history and political science. He has been a member of the Louisiana State Senate for thirteen years. Prior to serving in the Senate, he served eight years as the President of Iberia Parish Government.   In each office, he has been known as a strong advocate for the people he represents. He is in numerous committees and on top of that he is a farmer that raises cattle with his family. Romero is in support of tax cuts and strong family values and last year he was named an "Outstanding Family Advocate" for his work on family value issues. He personally helped get supplies to the hurricane victims after the storms.

Charlie Melancon graduated from the University of Southwest Louisiana with a degree in Agri-business. He served as Executive Director of the South Central Planning and Development Commissions. Afterwards he became a small businessman and served as a State Representative in the Louisiana Legislature from 1987-1993. After serving as a State Representative he spent 11 years as the President and General Manager of the American Sugar Cane League where he worked to protect

Louisiana's sugar industry. His top priorities are creating jobs, lowering the cost of health care, providing good education to children, and helping citizens recover from the hurricanes in which he personally helped the people by bringing supplies to them. Most recently he helped pass the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act which provided $9 to protect Louisiana's sinking coastline and to protect from future hurricanes. In 2004, when he was elected to the House he barely won by 569 votes.

The Campaign:

Charlie Melancon is considered a conservative Democrat. He is running on an experience campaign that is focused largely on the hurricane relief efforts. He showed strong criticism for the governments' slow and inadequate relief to hurricane victims and voted to pass OCS legislation that would provide Louisiana with $9 million to help restore the coastline. He also supports the troops in Iraq, tax cuts, and providing affordable and accessible health care. He accused Craig Romero for having multiple illegal negative political ads without punishment.

Craig Romero says he stands for conservatism, traditionalism, and strong family values. His campaign consists of protecting the Louisiana coast, lowering taxes, supporting the troops in Iraq, opposing gay rights and abortion, and fighting to protect the conservative majority of Louisiana. He depicts Charlie Melancon as ineffective and labels him as a congressman that doesn't represent Louisiana's values. He uses examples to show Melancon's ineffectiveness such as: Melancon did not pass a single bill his entire time in Congress, he received a score of power and effectiveness near the bottom of the entire Congress, and it took him 50 days to sign important legislation after the entire delegation had already signed. Romero charged Melancon of not representing Louisiana's values by stating that his very first vote in Congress was to make a California liberal the Speaker of the House when his values are the exact opposite of the Louisiana people.

Analysis:

After receiving $1 million to fix up his property and remove debris, a lot of people are angry that he was given way too much money that could've helped out multiple people. In one add, Romero claimed to be the leader of the Hurricane Andrew recovery effort and some people are angry that he put himself in that position.
Since hurricane Katrina, politics aren't really on the minds of the Louisiana people. The main issue going into this election is the relief work and the responsiveness to provide help by the government. The people are less concerned right now on the candidate's stance on gay rights or tax cuts, than they are on knowing that they will be provided quick relief and help when the next hurricane hits. Depending on how well voters think Melancon did at trying to get relief to the people, they will vote for him or for a change and vote for Romero.

Predicted Result:

We believe that Charlie Melancon will win the election in the 3rd district of Louisiana. Polls show that he is largely favored by the public and since he is an incumbent, he already has an advantage. Because the recent hurricanes are going to be the biggest deciding factors in this race, Melancon's criticism of the nation's response to aid the people is also going to help his position with the people. They believe he is fighting for their best interests. Also, the district is already leaning Democratic which only help Melancon.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CT -- 5th   Projection

Nancy Johnson (R)*

Christopher Murphy
(D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Danbury, New Britain, Waterbury
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 60% Dem: 38%
President: Bush: 49% Kerry: 49%
Demographics –
Population: 681,113
Under 18: 25% Over 65: 14%
Married: 56.1%
Non-Hispanic White: 80%
Black: 5% Asian: 2% Hispanic: 11%
Foreign Born: 10.9% Non-English
Speaking: 19.9%
Median Household Income: $53,118
Owner Occupied Housing: 68%
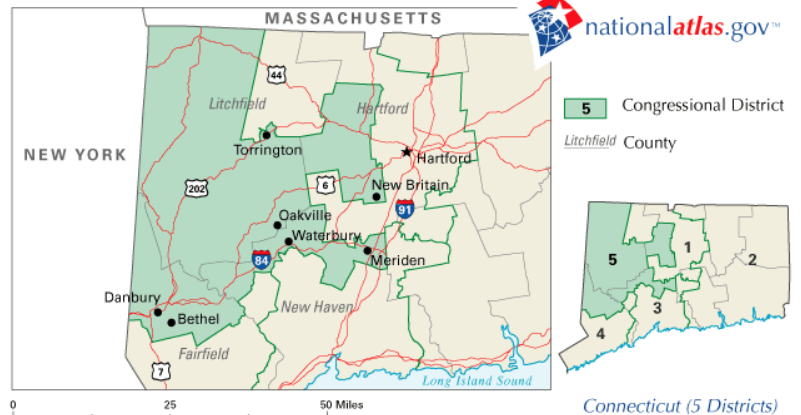Income above $200K: 4%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 62.9%
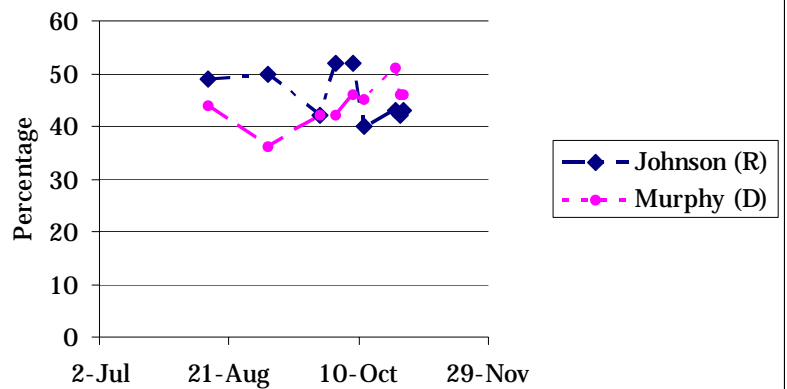Blue Collar: 22.6% Service 14.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 30%
Graduate Education: 12%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 5

MASSACHUSETTS

nationalatlas.gov™

NEW YORK

5 Congressional District
Litchfield County

Connecticut (5 Districts)

Connecticut 5

- - ◆ - - Johnson (R)
- - ● - - Murphy (D)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
JOHNSON
Receipts: $3,614,879
Expenditures: $4,354,501

Source: CQ Politics
MURPHY
Receipts: $2,196,278
Expenditures: $1,845,265

The Candidates:

Chris Murphy is the Democratic candidate for the 5th district of Connecticut. He is currently representing the 16th district in the Connecticut State Senate. Murphy is a Connecticut native educated at Williams College in Massachusetts for undergraduate and University of Connecticut Law School. One of Murphy's greatest achievements was reached in 2005 when he succeeded in passing Connecticut's stem cell investment act. He has also worked to pass legislation pertaining to auto emission standards, patient safety protections in hospitals, and increased federal funding for Connecticut nursing homes.

Republican Nancy Johnson has served in the House of Representatives since 1983. She is known as an independent Republican and is running for reelection in the 5th district on a platform of protecting the environment, improving health care, creating new jobs, reducing energy prices, ensuring quality education and strengthening our security at home and abroad. She is the chair of the Health Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee and she has worked in the past for health care reform and women's issues.

The Campaign:

The long standing incumbent Nancy Johnson has been very popular in the district in the past, winning the 2004 election with 60% of the vote. Chris Murphy is trying to overcome this by running a door to door campaign with the theme that it is time for change in Congress. He is running ads criticizing Johnson for the money she has received from pharmaceutical and oil companies as well as her support of Bush's Iraq policy. Johnson has responded with her own ads portraying Murphy as week when it comes to national security. She has also released many ads depicting herself as a caring friend to veterans and retirees. In April 2006 Johnson was target by the political action committee MoveOn.org which in a series of ads tried to tie Johnson with Jack Abramoff and Tom DeLay. Johnson responded with her own campaign which disputed the charges and attacked Murphy because he did not disavow the ads.

Analysis:

Nancy Johnson has an initial advantage in that she has held her seat for 23 years. She has been very popular in her district, but her support of Bush's Iraq policy coupled with President Bush's low approval ratings are not helping her popularity. The recent scandals in Washington could also prove harmful to Johnson because of her alleged ties to Abramoff and DeLay. In addition to this Johnson has received a great deal of money from pharmaceutical and oil companies (over 100,000 and 500,000 respectively). This fact might discourage votes from those not happy with her Medicare legislation and those upset with higher fuel prices.

Chris Murphy on the other hand is fighting an uphill battle against a long standing and very well funded foe. The 5th district is Connecticut's most conservative district; however, Murphy is portraying himself as an outsider committed to change in attempt to gain the votes of those tired of Washington politics.

Predicted Result:

We believe that Nancy Johnson will win because she is a long standing, reputable representative. This race will probably come down to party mobilization, which Republicans have championed in the past.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

VT – AL   Projection

Martha Rainville (R)

Peter Welch (D)

District Type: Rural
Cities: Vermont
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 24% Dem: 68%
President: Bush: 39% Kerry: 59%
Demographics –
Population: 608,827
Under 18: 24.2% Over 65: 12.7%
Married: 55%
Non-Hispanic White: 96%
Asian: 1%   Hispanic: 1%
Foreign Born: 4% Non-English
Speaking: 5.9%
Median Household Income: $40,856
Owner Occupied Housing: 70.6%
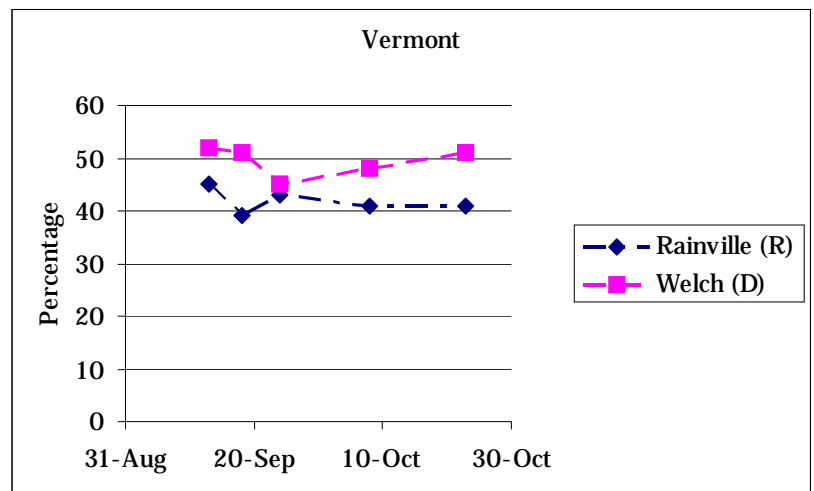Income above $200K: 1.5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 61%
Blue Collar: 24.6% Service 14.6%
Bachelor's Degree: 29%
Graduate Education: 11.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District: At large

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
RAINVILLE
Receipts: $914,552
Expenditures: $755,573

Source: CQ Politics
WELCH
Receipts: $1,862,494
Expenditures: $1,353,250

The Candidates:

Peter Welch is the Democratic candidate for Virginia's open seat in the House of Representatives. Welch has served in the Virginia Senate between the years 1981-88 and 2001 to present. Welch is currently serving as President Pro Term of the Senate, a position he also held during his first period in office. Welch is an advocate of health care reform and environmental protection. Before his career in politics Welch was a Robert F. Kennedy Fellow and was a partner in a Vermont law firm. Peter Welch is running for the House seat with the commitment of, "bringing people together to find real solutions to the difficult challenges we face and making government work for all citizens".

Major General Martha Rainville is the Virginia Republican candidate for the House of Representatives. Gen. Rainville has served since 1997 as Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard. This position involves the commanding of the 3,800 Vermont Army and Air National Guard members. Rainville has also served on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Medical Center in St. Albans, dealing with affordable, quality patient care. Rainville is running as an advocate of

national defense, controlling government spending, improving healthcare, creating new jobs, and creating a national energy policy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The Campaign:

Peter Welch's message like many Democrats seems to be that it is time for a change and that he would help this change. He has been criticizing Republicans for not making the president give a timetable for withdraw from Iraq and for not doing something when Bush "misled us into Iraq". He also makes a point of talking of the Bush tax cuts and how they are making things worse. One thing he has been saying needs to be done is for all Americans to have access to affordable health care. The Valley News a local newspaper endorses Welch for congress saying that while both candidates would be a good representative for Vermont that if Rainville won it would help Republicans keep control of congress and that if they still had control the leadership would just ignore her.

Martha Rainville's theme to her campaign is integrity and bringing it back to Washington. This includes not running negative campaigns against her opponents. Another thing she says is that we need to make sure our soldiers have everything they need to do their jobs and keep us safe.   She has also spoken of creating new jobs, helping Vermont farmers, fixing healthcare, and getting away from American dependence on foreign oil. She has opposed privatization of social security and out of state healthcare. In the Rutland Herald Tim Tuttle says that Rainville will not just be a "Rubber Stamp" for Bush and that "Welch should stop hitching a ride on Bernie Sanders' back and stand up on his own two feet."

Analysis:

Well first we look at some stats. The first thing we see is that Welch has twice as much money as Rainville does. Next we see that in 2004 Vermont voted heavily in favor of the Democrats. These all seem to favor Welch but he is not that far ahead in the polls. This could have to do with Rainville's emphasis on integrity. It makes her appear like a good choice especially after all of the scandals that have been going on recently. They both have said that healthcare needs to be fixed so this will probably be a null issue for getting votes. The anti-Bush sentiment should help Welch especially since he has been quite persistent in his criticisms of Bush and the Republican leadership. In the end I believe that this election rests on what the candidates get it focused on. Welch is trying to get it focused on Bush and his bad decisions. Rainville is trying to focus it on her integrity and that she will be the most responsible person for the job. Also in her favor is the fact of her experience in leadership while she was the Adjutant General for the Vermont National Guard.

Predicted Result:

Peter Welch is going to win because he has more money and Vermont leaned heavily Democrat in 2004. He also has an advantage in the polls. Finally Welch should be helped by the anti-Bush sentiment among the population.

Group 8

Cole Perry
Brittany Berthold
John Hollingshead

Florida – 16th
Indiana – 8th
Minnesota – 6th
Ohio – 1st
West Virginia – 1st
Rhode Island – Senate

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
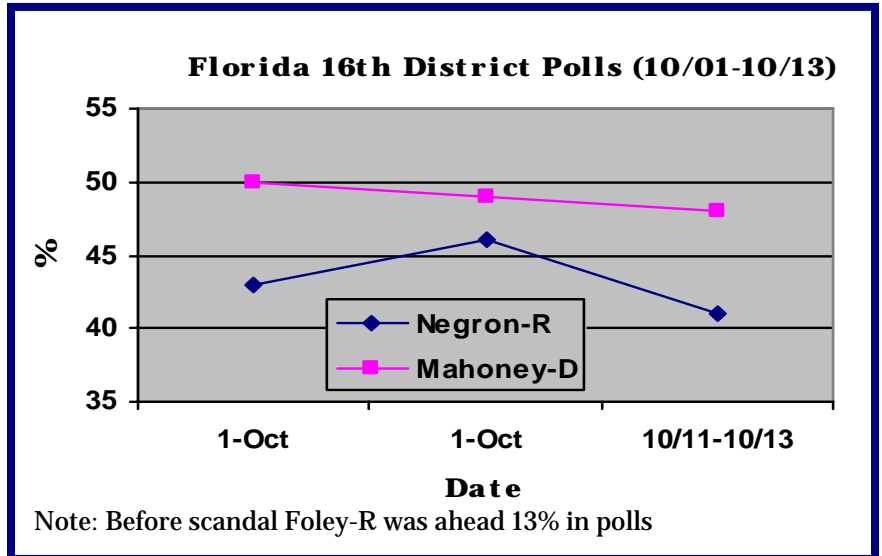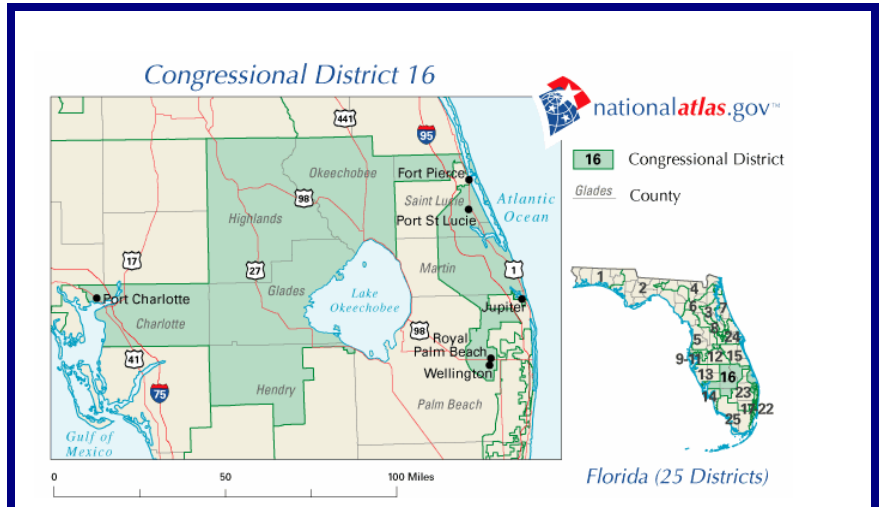INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

FL -- 16th   Projection

Joe Negron (R)

Tim Mahoney (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Port St. Lucie, parts of Port
Charlotte and Wellington
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 68% Dem: 32%
President: Bush: 55% Kerry: 45%
Demographics –
Population: 639,295
Under 18: 21% Over 65: 25%
Married: 62.3%
Non-Hispanic White: 82%
Black: 6% Hispanic: 10% Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 10.1% Non-English
Speaking: 13.8%
Median Household Income: $39, 408
Owner Occupied Housing: 82.0%
Income above $200K: 2.5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 57.5%
Blue Collar: 25.2% Service 17.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 20%
Graduate Education: 7.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 16

Florida (25 Districts)

Florida 16th District Polls (10/01-10/13)

Note: Before scandal Foley-R was ahead 13% in polls

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):   **Source:** CQ Politics
NEGRON   MAHONEY
Receipts:$364,361   Receipts:$1,780,983
Expenditures:$210,858   Expenditures:$1,646,008

The Candidates:

   Joe Negron is a Florida native with almost 20 years of legal, business, and professional experience. Negron is currently the State Representative for Dist. 82, serving Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie Counties and is chairmen of the Appropriations Committee. He attended Stetson University and later earned his law degree from Emory University. He is currently in private law practice. Negron has served as State Representative since 2000 where he chairs several committees. Negron has been married for 22 years to Rebecca and they have three children, David, Jonathan, and Becca.

   Tim Mahoney is a rancher and entrepreneur. He received his Bachelor's degree from West Virginia University and a Master's degree from George Washington University. Mahoney has over 25 years of experience in the computing and financial service industries. As a pioneer in the personal computer business, Tim is regarded as an expert in the commercialization of technology, its production and mass distribution on a global basis. As co-founder and Chairman of vFinance, Inc., he has helped grow dozens of small businesses. Mahoney is also the co-founder of CIE a think tank that works to

ensure America maintains its leadership position in innovation and entrepreneurship by assisting economists in measuring the impact of innovative entrepreneurship on the American economy. His wife is Terry and they have a daughter named Bailey.

The Campaign:

Joe Negron campaigning that he will oppose any and all efforts to increase taxes and work with other conservatives to eliminate pork spending and reduce the size of government. Negron believes that we should listen to the commanders on the ground as to how to best approach the challenges in Iraq and in other dangerous parts of the world. He will work to protect Social Security and ensure that seniors receive the benefits they were promised. Joe understands we must get skyrocketing property insurance under control. Negron will also work to reduce insurance costs for Florida homeowners.

Tim Mahoney is campaigning to end corruption in Washington and refocus our efforts on winning the War on terror and gaining peace in Iraq. Mahoney will also work to preserve Social Security, develop a competitive Prescription Drug plan, and prevent skyrocketing homeowners, health, and property tax rates. He would also like to offer better education for all children and invest in research to create new jobs and promote new businesses. Mahoney would also like to lower energy prices by investing in new sources of fossil fuels and alternative energy. He would also like to secure our borders and enforce immigration laws.

Analysis:

The unveiling of the Mark Foley scandal in which he sent inappropriate e-mails and sexually explicit instant messages to young men who had formerly served as congressional pages, has been the key to this race. Due to break of the scandal and Foley's resignation the race has been transformed from an almost guaranteed Republican victory to a race that is leaning Democratic.

Due to the timing of Foley's resignation Republicans are unable to switch his name on the ballot or provide a write-in candidate, so Republicans wishing to vote for the GOP nominee Joe Negron will have to actually vote for the disgraced Mark Foley. However, the First District Court of Appeal ruled that the GOP could put signs up at polling places telling voters that a vote for Foley is a vote for Negron, if they also say that a vote for the Democrat Mahoney is a vote for Mahoney. In order for the Republicans to have a legitimate chance of winning this race they will need to mobilize the party and make sure that voters understand that they are not actually voting for Foley.

The National Republican Congressional Committee has poured nearly $2 million into this race and popular Florida Governor Jeb Bush campaigning at his side Negron's side. The votes in recent history are on Joe Negron's side; President Bush won here comfortably in 2000 and 2004, and most of the district (its boundaries were redrawn in 2002) has not sent a Democrat to Congress since the 1970's.

According to the Cook Political Report this seat is one of the four most vulnerable Republican congressional seats in this election. Although the district has been solidly Republican in the past the electorate consists of significant percentage of Independent voters who currently favor Tim Mahoney by 30 percentage points, which should prove vital in the election.

Predicted Result:

Tim Mahoney will win this seat in a much closer race than originally predicted. Although the Republican Congressional Committee feels that Joe Negron still has a chance to win this race; there are too many factors to overcome due to the Mark Foley scandal and he will come up short. Tim Mahoney has been on the campaign trail for the last year as opposed to Negron's five weeks which should pay off on election day. Although there will be signs at election places stating that a vote for Foley is a vote for Negron; it is asking a lot from voters to cast their vote for a disgraced congressman.

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IN -- 8th   Projection

John Hostettler (R)*

Brad Ellsworth (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Evansville, Terre Haute
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 53% Dem: 45%
President: Bush: 62% Kerry: 38%
Demographics: -
Population: 675,546
Under 18: 24.3% Over 65: 14.4%
Married: 57.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 94%
Black: 4%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 1.2% Non-English
Speaking: 3.6%
Median Household Income: $36, 732
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.0%
Income above $200K: 1.1%
Workforce/Education:
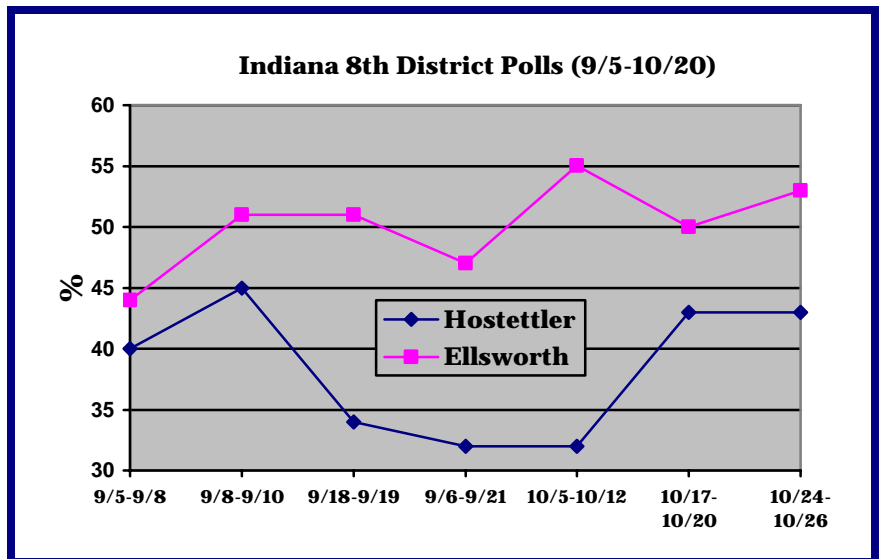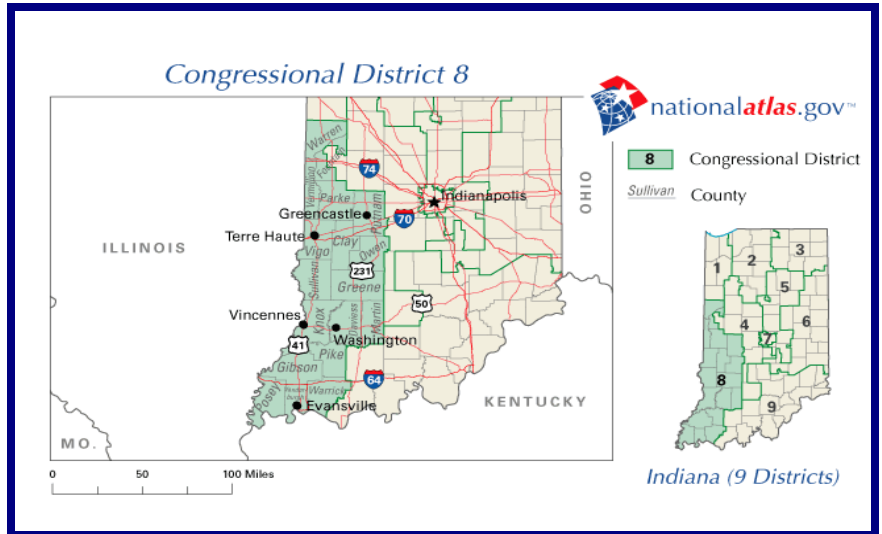White Collar: 51.9%
Blue Collar: 32.5% Service 15.7%
Bachelor's Degree: 16%
Graduate Education: 6.3%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 8
nationalatlas.gov™
8 Congressional District
Sullivan County
Indiana (9 Districts)

Indiana 8th District Polls (9/5-10/20)
— Hostettler
— Ellsworth

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):   **Source:** CQ Politics
HOSTETTLER   ELLSWORTH
Receipts:$509,026   Receipts:$1,577,181
Expenditures:$269,988   Expenditures:$1,528,334

The Candidates:

   John Hostettler is serving in his sixth term as the Congressman representing the 8th District of
Indiana. He grew up in rural Posey County near the Ohio and Wabash rivers. After graduating from
North Posey High School in 1979 he enrolled graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 1983. Prior to his service in Congress he was employed as a
Power Plant Performance Engineer with Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company. Before Hostettler
became a Congressman he devoted his time to his growing family, his job and his church. In 1994
Hostettler unseated Frank McCloskey, a six-term incumbent, primarily due to the help of an
impressive grass roots organization that included many other newcomers to the political process. In
running for office Hostettler called for a return to the Constitution as the nation's governing
document. He promised that if elected he would work toward balancing the budget, cutting taxes,
reforming welfare and strengthening national defense. Hostettler serves on the House Armed Services

Committee and the Judiciary Committee. In 1999, Hostettler was appointed vice-chairman of the Armed Services Research and Development Subcommittee for the 106th Congress. Hostettler was reappointed to serve as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee for Immigration, Border Security and Claims for the 109th Congress. He has also served as chairman of the Congressional Family Caucus and serves on the Republican Study Committee. Hostettler is married to his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth Ann Hamman. He has received honorary degrees from Oakland City University and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Brad Ellsworth has lived in the 8th district his entire life. He graduated from Harrison High School in 1976, from Indiana State University Evansville (now USI) in 1981, and received his Master's degree from Indiana State in Criminology. Brad Ellsworth has spent his entire adult life protecting the rights and lives of the people of Southwest Indiana. In 1982, Brad began a career in the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's office. Over the next 24 years, he held every merit rank, and was twice decorated for heroism in the line of duty. While serving in the Department, Brad instituted the first Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in the Evansville - Vanderburgh School Corporation. He later attended and graduated from the FBI National Academy. In 1998 Brad ran as a Democrat candidate for Sheriff and won in a landslide victory. He was unopposed running for a second term. As Sheriff, Brad has been a leader in the war on methamphetamine and started the states most comprehensive website to track and monitor sexual offenders. Brad has also worked hard to expand jail facilities in order to keep criminals behind bars. Brad is 47 years old and has been married for 23 years to his college sweetheart, Beth. They have a daughter, Andrea who is a sophomore at Indiana University. Brad has served as President of the Indiana Sheriff's Association and was named Outstanding Alumni by University of Southern Indiana.

The Campaign:

Hostettler is campaigning based on his support for our troops, defense of the 2nd amendment, assistance for taxpayers and business, and belief of traditional marriage. Hostettler does not run a typical modern day campaign. His campaign committee consists of his sister the office manger, a director of research, and two other staffers.

Ellsworth is emphasizing that he is a Sheriff, not a politician. He believes that Washington is letting us down because they do not listen to things we need as a community and as families. He feels that the corruption in Washington cannot be fixed until we replace the elected officials that are breaking the laws. Ellsworth is a supporter of our troops and will continue to support them until this war is won. On immigration Ellsworth believes that we must tighten our borders, enforce the laws we already have, and punish employers who break them. He is a strong supporter of protecting our families and believes that all children deserve the opportunity to grow up safe and secure. Ellsworth will also fight to strengthen Social Security and opposes privatization.

Analysis:

The Republican national party seems to have already conceded defeat in this race and is focusing its resources on other vulnerable seats. There have been negative campaign adds run towards Ellsworth stating that a vote for him will be a vote for Nancy Pelosi and mailings reminding voters of Hostettler being cited for having a gun in an airport over 2 years ago. Hostettler in the past has relied on the fondness people in the district have towards him and has been a consistent vote getter receiving between 52% of the votes 4 out of 5 years.

Predicted Result:

Brad Ellsworth will win the election in a very close race. Ellsworth is a very conservative Democrat who fits this district very well, and he should take away many Christian conservative votes from Hostettler's typical voting base. Ellsworth's Vanderburgh County voting base is much larger than that of Hostettler's Posey County and therefore will also greatly benefit Ellsworth.
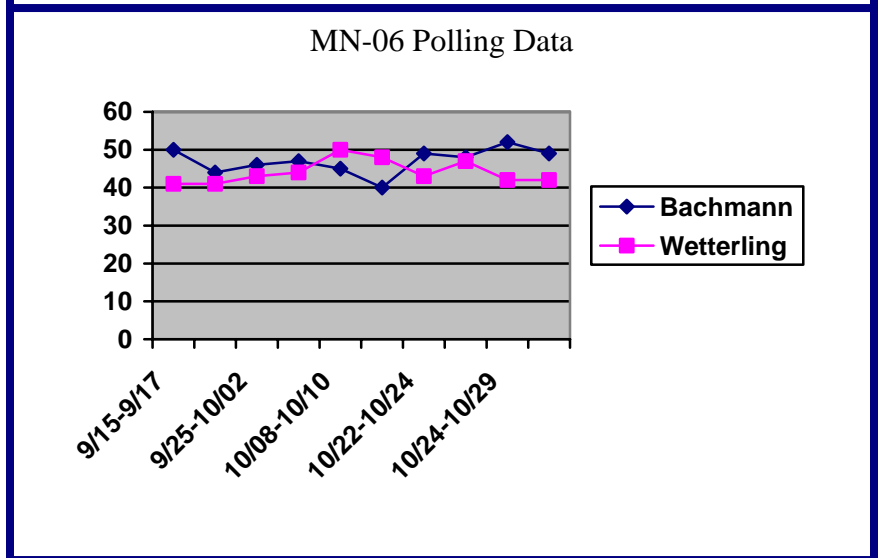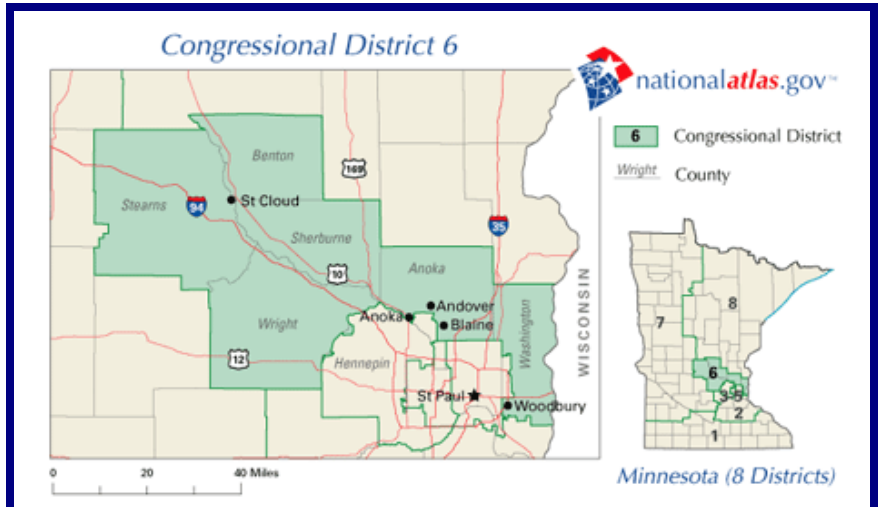
Election 2006 Campaign Project

MN -- 6th   Projection

Michele Bachmann(R)
Patty Wetterling (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: St. Cloud
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 54% Dem: 46%
President: Bush: 57% Kerry: 42%
Demographics –
Population: 614,935
Under 18: 29.0% Over 65: 8.0%
Married: 61.1%
Non-Hispanic White: 95%
Black: 1%   Asian: 1%   Hispanic: 1%
Foreign Born: 2.4% Non-English
Speaking: 4.9%
Median Household Income: $56, 862
Owner Occupied Housing: 83.0%
Income above $200K: 2.3%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 60.3%
Blue Collar: 27.4% Service 12.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 24%
Graduate Education: 7.1%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 6

nationalatlas.gov

6 Congressional District
Wright County

Minnesota (8 Districts)

MN-06 Polling Data

Bachmann
Wetterling

The Money Race (data through 11/03/06):   **Source:** New York Times
Bachmann   Wetterling
Receipts:$1,624,052   Receipts: $2,204,334
Expenditures:$921,490   Expenditures: $1,244,631

The Candidates:

Michele Bachmann: She is a six year veteran of the Minnesota State Senate where she has served on the Jobs, Energy and Community Committee; Education committee and the Tax committee. She doesn't have any other past political experience. Bachmann is not supported by the National Republican Party.
Patty Wetterling: She got involved in politics after he son was kidnapped. She helped pass child safety laws and Amber Alert. She ran for House in 2004 but lost to Kennedy 54 to 46.Patty Wetterling is not supported by the National Democratic Party

The Campaign:

Bachmann: Running a negative campaign with the basic message of "Standing Up for Minnesota". In which she states that Wetterling has a "Blame America first" policy. She also states that Wetterling is wrong of the issues of Immigration and Taxes. And in her ads she states that Wetterling is too extreme for Minnesota.

Wetterling: Runs a negative campaign with the message of "As a mother, Patty Wetterling changed the way we protect our children; as a congresswoman, she'll change the place that needs it most: Washington". She has expressed that she will put kids first. She states that Bachmann is too extreme. She has also bashed Mark Foley for his scandals.

In local News: The StarTribune printed an article in which Wetterling was accused of overstating facts about the Mark Foley scandal. In the article it states that Wetterling had said that members of congress admitted to a cover-up when no one has. Fox news also reported that the ideas on issues in this district couldn't be any more different.

Analysis:

Wild Cards for Republicans:
- Saddam Hussein is sentenced to death by hanging for crimes against humanity. This helps the Republicans with there constant push on the War on Terror.
- John Kerry and the bad joke- Massachusetts Senator John Kerry was trying to make a funny joke about president Bush when he completely killed it. This left many Democrats holding their breath so close to the election. Kerry later apologized.

Wild Cards for Democrats: It's a scandal gold mine for Democrats entering the 2006 Midterm election. The latest one being Mark Foley (Florida) who had unseemly contacts with male house pages. And let us not forget about the Lobbyist Jack Ambramoff scandal. Also here is a list of other Republicans who have fallen or are falling due to scandals:

Tom Delay(Texas), Robert Ney(Ohio), Curt Weldon(Pa), Don Sherwood(Pa),Rick Renzi (Ariz), Jon Porter(Nev), Richard Pombo(Cal), John Doolittle(Cal), Thomas Reynolds(NY), Deborah Pryce(Ohio),Sue Kelly(NY), and Heather Wilson(N.M.)

This helps the democrats because many voters feel that congress is already corrupt.

Predicted Result:

I believe that Bachmann will win. This is because she has had more experience in politics. She is a six year veteran of the Minnesota State Senate. So the voters know how she reacts in a political office. Not to mention that the district has voted more towards the republicans in the last couple of elections. Both Bush and Kennedy in 2004.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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OH – 1st	Projection

Steve Chabot (R)* ✔

John Cranley (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: Cincinnati
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 60% Dem: 40%
President: Bush: 59% Kerry: 49%
Demographics –
Population: 630,730
Under 18: 26.0% Over 65: 13.0%
Married: 47.0%
Hispanic:1% White: 69%
Black: 27%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 2.9% Non-English
Speaking: 5.2%
Median Household Income: $37, 414
Owner Occupied Housing: 58.0%
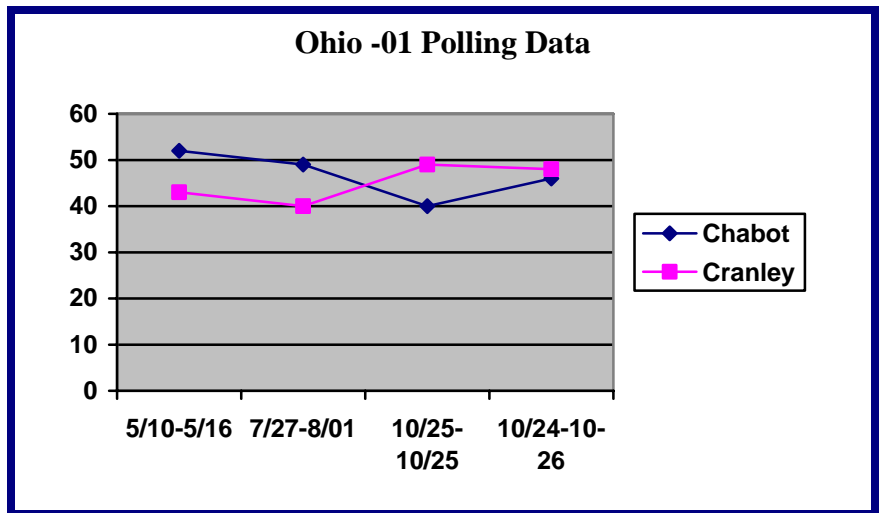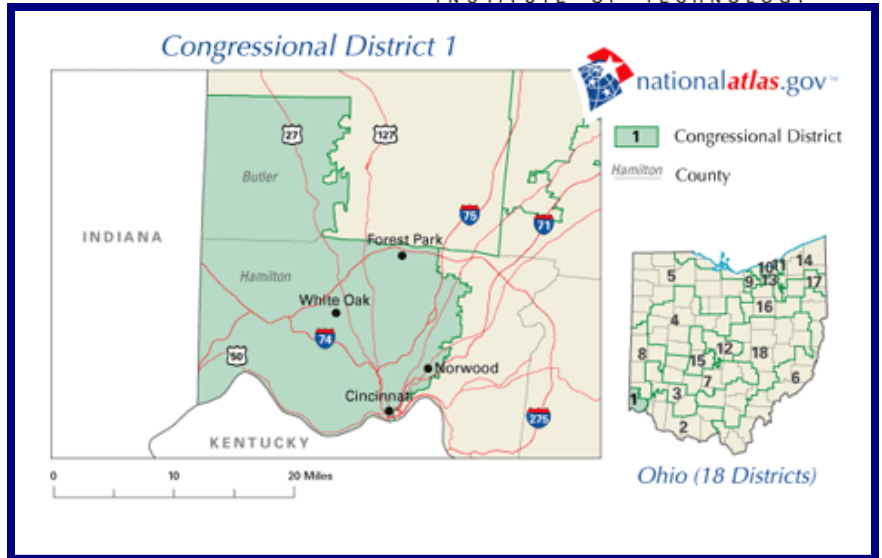Income above $200K: 1.7%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 60.5%
Blue Collar: 23.2% Service 16.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 22%
Graduate Education: 7.8%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 1

nationalatlas.gov™

1 Congressional District
Hamilton County

INDIANA

Butler

Hamilton

Forest Park

White Oak

Norwood

Cincinnati

KENTUCKY

0   10   20 Miles

Ohio (18 Districts)

Ohio -01 Polling Data

Legend: Chabot, Cranley

X-axis: 5/10-5/16, 7/27-8/01, 10/25-10/25, 10/24-10-26

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
Chabot
Receipts: $2,323,791
Expenditures: $2,147,070

Source: politicalmoneyline.com
Cranley
Receipts: $1,854,266
Expenditures: $1,576,692

The Candidates:

Steve Chabot (Incumbent): Chabot graduated from the College of William and Mary. He was elected to Cincinnati City Council and Hamilton County Commissioner. In 1994 Chabot was elected to congress. He serves on three committees: Judiciary, International Relations, and Small Business. And he also is the chairman of the Constitution subcommittee and the vice chairman of the Middle East Subcommittee. Chabot is supported by The National Republican Congressional Committee.

John Cranley: Is a moderate democrat. Cranley graduated from Harvard Law School. He was elected to the Cincinnati City Council three times where he became the Finance Chairman. John Cranley is supported by the Democratic Congressional Committee.
History Between the Two: Both grew up in the district OH-01. Cranley ran against Chabot in 2000 and lost, Chabot had 53% of the votes.

The Campaign:

When it comes down to it both sides of the campaign are throwing out negative ads toward their opponents as they try to sell themselves as the better person for the job in Congress. Chabot has stated in his campaigns that Cranley is "bad to just plain bizarre". And Cranley has repeatedly used the idea that Chabot decides along the lines of President Bush (What Bush votes for Chabot votes for). Cranley's message to the people is that he is going to fix the national budget, while Chabot really doesn't state what he is going to do(he is going to continue with what he has done).

In the news (the Cincinnati Post and Enquire): Former President Clinton visited the Ohio 1st to raise support for Cranley. And this past Friday Chabot was seen waving to commuters on the Interstate-75 overpass in freezing temperatures, trying to rally support for himself. This was a last minute effort for Chabot right before the elections this Tuesday.

Analysis:

Wild Cards for Republicans:
- Saddam Hussein is sentenced to death by hanging for crimes against humanity. This helps the Republicans with there constant push on the War on Terror.
- John Kerry and the bad joke- Massachusetts Senator John Kerry was trying to make a funny joke about president Bush when he completely killed it. This left many Democrats holding their breath so close to the election. Kerry later apologized.

Wild Cards for Democrats: It's a scandal gold mine for Democrats entering the 2006 Midterm election. The latest one being Mark Foley (Florida) who had unseemly contacts with male house pages. And let us not forget about the Lobbyist Jack Ambramoff scandal. Also here is a list of other Republicans who have fallen or are falling due to scandals:

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This helps the democrats because many voters feel that congress is already corrupt.

Predicted Result:

This one is still a toss-up but I believe that Chabot is going to win. This is because in the last poll take Cranley was barely winning. Not to mention that Chabot is an incumbent and is therefore more likely to get re-elected. I would also like to mention the fact that Chabot has tried to increase his public time in the district by doing such things as standing on a highway overpass and waving at commuters.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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WV-01	**Projection**

Alan Mollohan (D)*

Chris Wakim (R)

District Type: Rural
Cities: Parkersburg, Wheeling, Morgantown
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 32% Dem: 64%
President: Bush: 58% Kerry: 42%
Demographics –
Population: 602,545
Under 18: 21.8% Over 65: 15.8%
Married: 56.0%
Non-Hispanic White: 96%
Black: 2%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 1.0% Non-English
Speaking: 3.2%
Median Household Income: $30,303
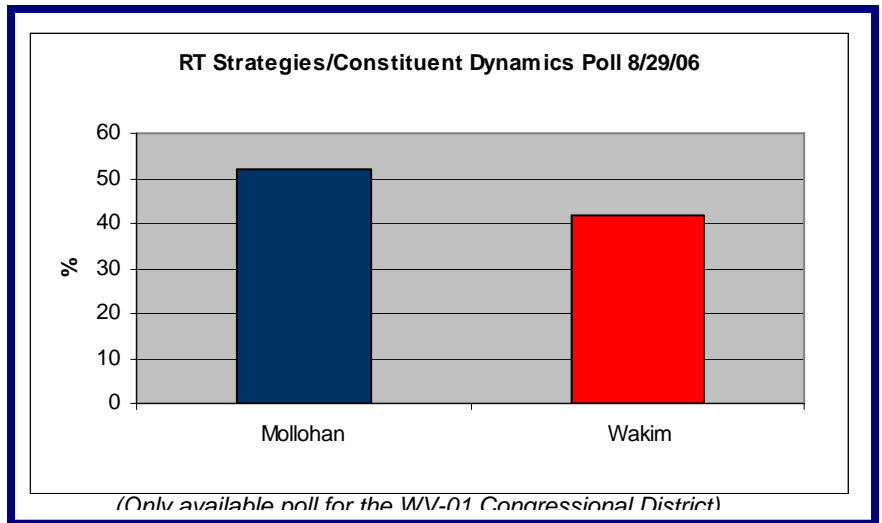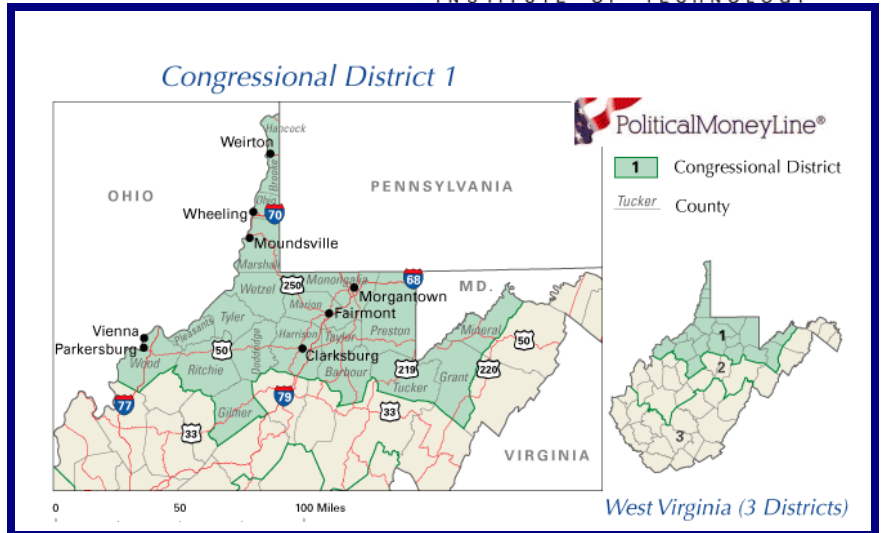Owner Occupied Housing: 74.0%
Income above $200K: 0.9%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 54.0%
Blue Collar: 29.1% Service 16.9%
Bachelor's Degree: 16.0%
Graduate Education: 6.7%

RT Strategies/Constituent Dynamics Poll 8/29/06

(Only available poll for the WV-01 Congressional District)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
Mollohan
Receipts: $1,225,941
Expenditures: $1,162,598

Source: *PoliticalMoneyLine*
Wakim
Receipts: $698,173
Expenditures: $465,696

The Candidates:

Alan Mollohan – *Son of Democratic Senator Bob Mollohan, Alan attended the College of William and Mary before receiving his law degree from the West Virginia University. He succeeded his father as Representative of the West Virginia 1st District, winning the 1982 election. He has served in this position ever since, often going unopposed, as he did in 2002. Recently his position has been threatened by scandal and a federal investigation, forcing him to resign from his post as ranking Democrat on the House Ethics Committee in 2006. However, though he is still under investigation, he has not been prosecuted.*

Chris Wakim – *Grandson of Lebanese immigrants, Wakim graduated from West Point in 1980 and served 11 years in the Army, attaining the rank of captain. Wakim has had certain challenges to claims made in his biography such as being a Gulf War Veteran and having graduated form Harvard with a MA in Public Policy. The records have been adjusted to show that he didn't receive the award for service in the Gulf, although he is currently on disabled veteran status, and his transcript shows that he received a masters from Harvard in liberal arts, with a concentration in*

government in 1991. Wakim has worked as an investment banker and now serves as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegate, representing the Western portion of Ohio County and is the ranking Republican on Veteran's Affairs/Homeland Security committee. Wakim doesn't have the national profile of Mollohan and has defined himself as a more pragmatic, less ideological Republican candidate, not one in lockstep with the national Republicans.

The Campaign:

The campaign of Alan Mollohan shows the marks of the advantage of being the incumbent, with Mollohan having over twice as much funding as Wakim, and positive political play from his home district media. His campaign has focused on the success Mollohan has had in bringing money and jobs home to his district, and takes advantage of the struggles of the GOP, criticizing the War in Iraq and the Administration's failures to support pre-war claims about Iraq. The campaign especially points out that the war has been shown in a congressional report, to have created new terrorists.

The campaign of Chris Wakim has tried to focus on the scandal surrounding Mollohan and his campaign. They have tried to keep that scandal in the news, despite the length of time since the scandal broke and the more current, and noteworthy scandals surrounding the Republican Party. The Wakim campaign has been aided in this pursuit by several conservative watchdog groups who have run ads attacking Mollohan. The campaign and those surrounding Chris Wakim have also attacked Alan Mollohan's stance on child sex crimes and his policy towards Terrorism. Wakim supports the war, and stands with the general party on most issues but, places effectiveness over doctrine or party loyalty. In this sense he has been aided in keeping his identity separate from the national GOP by their lack of recent attention to this race. He highlights protecting America from terrorists, protecting traditional Christian values, economic growth, improving Medicare and strengthening social security, as key issues to his campaign

Analysis:

As a house race that was at one time considered up for grabs, this district has had relatively little national focus lately. Indeed, Mollohan seems to have recovered from the effects of the scandal and is regaining the trust of his constituents despite being on the list of the twenty most corrupt representatives, as listed by Citizens for Ethics and Responsibility in Washington. In a district where Mollohans have been an establishment for the past 30 years, and where Alan Mollohan regularly gets around 70% of the vote, it will take more than just accusations and an investigation to shake their faith in him. Indeed the wild card in this election is the scandal itself. If new, incriminating evidence breaks, it could upset what has become an increasingly stable race since the scandal first broke in June. Indeed the return to stability in this race is signaled by the national Republic party withdrew most of its resources in support for Wakim during mid-October. The polls reflect this lack of competition, with Mollohan leading by 10%. Mollohan says that this has been one of the dirtiest campaigns he has experienced, and in a sense that is the only way for Wakim to close the gap is to attack Mollohan's integrity and try to make the scandal the most prominent issue in them mind of the voters. Another wild card is the fickleness of voters in the district. The voters in West Virginia's first district supported a strong Democrat like Mollohan while at the same time giving President Bush a 16% margin in 2004.

Predicted Result:

Alan Mollohan is significantly in the lead at this point in time and unless new aspects of the investigation surrounding him break right before the election, look For him to win with a solid margin. Except for the scandal, Wakim is already at a disadvantage on issues in a relatively Democratic district, a disadvantage further accented by the national advantage of Democrats this election. Individually, Mollohan also has the edge in familiarity with the district, name recognition, success while an incumbent, and greater monetary and media support.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

RI Senate	Projection

Lincoln Chafee(R)* ✓

Sheldon Whitehouse (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Pawtucket, Providence
Election History (2004)
Senate: GOP: 57% Dem: 41%
President: Kerry: 59% Bush: 39%
Demographics –
Population: 1,076,189
Under 18: 23.6% Over 65: 14.5%
Married: 51.5%
Non-Hispanic White: 81.9%
Black: 4%   Asian: 2.2%
Foreign Born: 11.4% Non-English
Speaking: 8.5%
Median Household Income: $42,090
Owner Occupied Housing: 60.0%
Income above $200K: 1.9%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 61.1%
Blue Collar: 22.9% Service 16%
Bachelor's Degree: 15.9%
Graduate Education: 9.7%
Source: CQ Politics

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
CHAFEE
Receipts: $3,778,123
Expenditures: $4,294,553
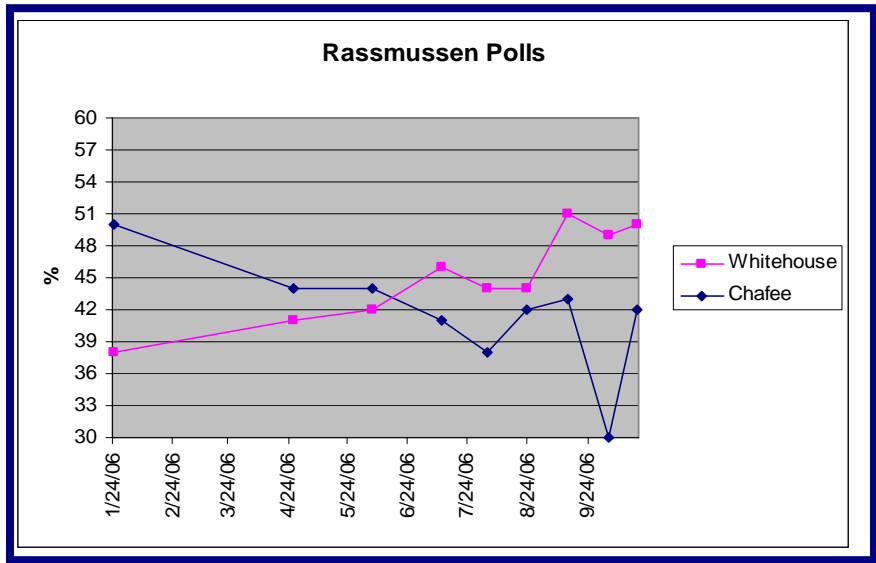
Source: *PoliticalMoneyLine*
WHITEHOUSE
Receipts: $5,407,899
Expenditures: $4,423,601

The Candidates:

Lincoln Chafee - *the incumbent, son of the late Congressman John Chafee ,Lincoln was raised in a rich political home and attended Brown University and then went on to get a degree in horseshoeing from Montana State University. Chafee then worked as a blacksmith at racetracks across America. His political life began in 1985 when he was elected to Warwick City Council. He was then elected Mayor of Warwick, RI in 1992 and then appointed to his present post upon his father's death in 1999. As a congressman Chafee has made a name for himself by being a very charismatic liberal Republican, and a strong critic of the Bush Administration, and a strong supporter and protector of local businesses*

Sheldon Whitehouse – *son of late ambassador Charles Whitehouse, Sheldon also received a privileged upbringing, attending Yale University and then received his law degree from the University of Virginia. He has since served as a U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island under President Bill Clinton and later as the Attorney General of Rhode Island. He is known for being the first*

investigator to convict a member of organized crime under Clinton's 'three strikes law", and also played a part in beginning the investigation that uncovered a municipal corruption ring in Providence, RI. Whitehouse ran for governor in 2002 but was defeated in the Democratic primary.

The Campaign:

Lincoln Chafee has run his campaign focusing primarily on his strong liberal status and his differences with the White House, While this might not be endearing to the National Republican party, his campaign has received significant attention and contributions from The national Party. This aid and the success of the Republican grass roots movement to get out the vote turned what was thought to be a tight primary with Conservative Cranston Mayor Stephen Laffey. The dedication to this race of over $400,000 and 86 out-of-state workers shows the sincere effort being put forth by the GOP to retain control of this Senate seat. If lost, this seat could swing the balance in the Senate to the Democrats, upending many key Republican controlled Senate committees. Chafee himself is not running on a typical Republican platform but rather, is trying to convince voters that he will continue to challenge Bush on many issues, and will stand up for liberal policies such as abortion, stem cell research, environmentalism and gay rights. Indeed Chafee and his counterpart are incredibly similar in their policies, the only difference being that Chafee is still labeled as a member of the GOP. %. Ultimately, Chafee hopes this election comes down to a choice of candidate over party.

While Sheldon Whitehouse is running on the same issues as Chafee, he has tried to leverage his status as a Democrat, to urge those upset with the Republican party to vote for him, not just because he opposes Bush, but that his success will help the Democrats gain control of the Senate. Furthermore he has attacked Chafee's status as an incumbent, saying that Chafee hasn't brought about change, and that he still supports the GOP, in part because he has received so much support from the GOP and because he refuses to demand for the removal of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. While Whitehouse's campaign hasn't benefited from the national focus the way Chafee's has despite visits by Barak Obama and Bill Clinton, he has played the natural advantage of being a Democrat, in a district which leans strongly democratic, voting for the Democrats in all of the last five presidential races by an average margin of 22.5%.

Analysis:

This race will be one of the closest and most watched races in the 2006 Midterms because it combines the struggle between an incumbent against a Democrat, and the challenge of a charismatic candidate trying to overcome a district which leans toward the Democratic party and matches two candidates who are remarkably similar in policy. This Senate race will also be a bellwether for other close races, revealing just how much of a handicap the presence of the Bush administration will be the Republican party. In a level comparison of the candidates, Chafee would win due to his more winning personality, his achievements as an incumbent and his more national renown. However, the factor that tips the playing field in Whitehouse's favor is the wildcard of this election, the effect the association with Bush administration and the GOP will have on otherwise, solid, Republican candidates. If the nation chooses to send a message for change in Washington, candidates like Chafee will fall to whoever is from the Democratic party, not necessarily dependent on any personal qualifications. Although Chafee has received significant help form the National Republican party this has been both a blessing and a curse, linking him closer to the angst with the ruling party, in addition to giving him a campaign boost.

Predicted Result:

Lincoln Chafee will retain his seat in the Senate. His personal charisma, moderately liberal status and his strong stance against Bush with protect him from the Democratic winds of change that will sweep across this election. This race will be very close, but ultimately, Chafee and his more successful grassroots campaign will sway enough moderates to stave off a sharp challenge by the Democrats.

Group 9

Group 9
Brace Bade
Andrew Johnson
Nick Maloney

Florida – 22nd
Indiana – 9th
Pennsylvania – 8th
North Carolina – 11th
Wisconsin – 8th
Tennessee – Senate

Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NC -- 11th   Projection

Charles Taylor (R)*

Heath Schuler (D)

District Type:
Cities:
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 45%
President: Bush: 57% Kerry: 43%
Demographics –
Population: 619,177
Under 18: 21.3% Over 65: 17.8%
Married: 60%
Non-Hispanic White: 90%
Black: 5%   Hispanic: 3%   Asian: 0%
Foreign Born: 3% Non-English
Speaking: 5.2%
Median Household Income: $34,720
Owner Occupied Housing: 75.4%
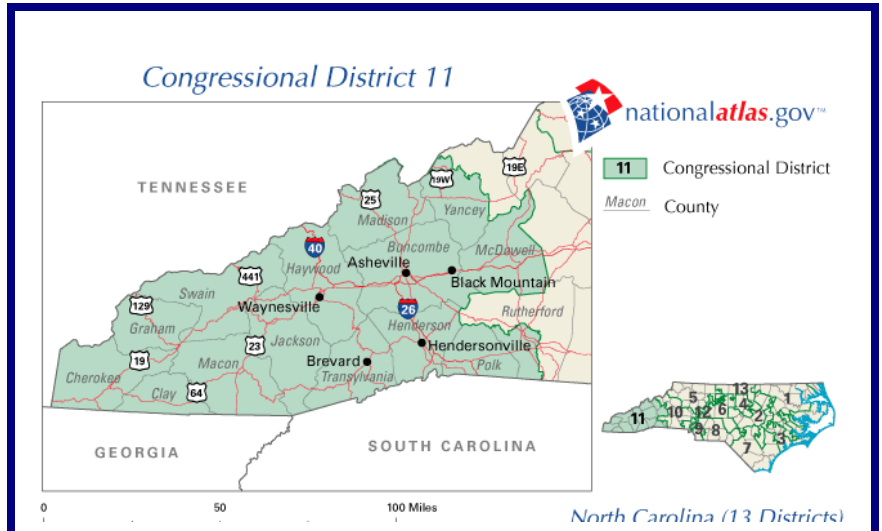Income above $200K: 1.2%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 51.9%
Blue Collar: 32.3% Service 15.8%
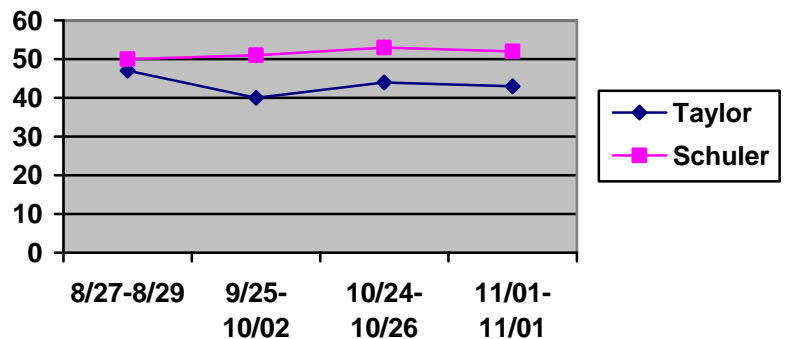Bachelor's Degree: 20%
Graduate Education: 7.4%%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 11

nationalatlas.gov™

11 Congressional District
Macon County

North Carolina (13 Districts)

North Carolina 11th District Polls (8/27-11/01)

| | Taylor | Schuler |

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
TAYLOR
Receipts: $3,648,662
Expenditures: $3,558,578

Source: *Real Clear Politics*
SCHULER
Receipts: $1,632,945
Expenditures: $1,296,079

The Candidates:

Charles Taylor is the Republican incumbent in the North Carolina 11th district. He was first elected to congress in 1991. Since then he has served 8 consecutive terms, in 2004 he won with 55% of the vote. Prior to serving as Representative he served in the North Carolina House of Representatives and the North Carolina Senate. Taylor has a history of nonpartisan voting when it will benefit members of his district.

Heath Schuler is not a career politician. Prior to running he was an NFL quarterback and co-founder of a real estate company. Heath has served in many organizations such as the Heath Schuler foundation, the Knoxville boys and girls club, and the Friends of the Smokies.

The Campaign:

Charles Taylor is campaigning on the platform that a vote for Shuler is a vote for Pelosi. Taylor says that the consequence for Democratic backing is that Shuler must vote with the party. This would mean that if the Democrats gain control then Nanci Pelosi would become speaker of the House. Taylor says this will mean that Shuler's values and what is best for his district will be left behind as he is forced to follow the Democrats. Taylor says his seniority will allow him to continue to work for the benefit of his district even if the Democrats gain control of the House.

Heath Shuler is trying to make Taylor appear corrupt. He shows that Taylor has cut loans for American students, while creating loans for Russian students. He also talks about how Taylor missed the vote on a bill that has resulted in the unemployment of many in the 11th district. Shuler also pushes the idea that congress won't change until we change the people who are sent there.

Analysis:

The 11th district in North Carolina is largely a rural area. Traditionally this means more conservative voters. Looking back at the voting record they have elected a Republican, Charles Taylor, for eight straight terms. They also voted strongly, 57%, for Bush in the 2004 election. This would make it appear that Taylor would have an easy time beating Shuler. However, many are unhappy with the fact that he missed the vote on a bill that has cost many their jobs. Another factor is the money race, coming into the final stretch Taylor has almost exhausted a budget twice that of Shuler's. As a result Taylor has been behind in the polls the entire election; however, it has been very close.

Shuler has received a lot of backing nationally from the Democratic party. This has given the former quarterback a more concrete platform to work from. Shuler recognizes the fact that he is in a conservative district and in turn has campaigned more on a personal basis than a party basis. Shuler has done a lot of campaigning on Taylor's mistakes. However, his biggest advantage lies in the money race. Shuler still has a large amount of money to run last minute ads to sway the undecided.

At this point it is too late for another wildcard such as the Foley scandal. I think the main determinant will be whether or not voters want a democrat controlled congress. Shuler has been ahead in the polls the entire race; however, it is close enough to go either way.

Predicted Result:

Shuler has led the polls for the entire race. The most current poll has Shuler leading 52% to 43%. However, Taylor is the Republican incumbent in a conservative district. Many voters are unhappy with Taylor's job as representative last term. This has led to many conservative voters voting against Taylor. Given polling data and the fact that Shuler has more money going into the final stretch Shuler should win the election; however, it will be close.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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FL – 22nd	**Projection**

Clay Shaw (R)*

Ron Klein (D)

District Type: Suburban
Cities: West Palm Beach, Boca Raton
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 63% Dem: 35%
President: Bush: 49% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 639,295
Under 18: 19% Over 65: 21%
Married: 55.8%
Non-Hispanic White: 82%
Black: 4% Hispanic: 11% Asian: 2%
Foreign Born: 16.7% Non-English
Speaking: 20.0%
Median Household Income: $51,200
Owner Occupied Housing: 74.0%
Income above $200K: 6.5%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 69.4%
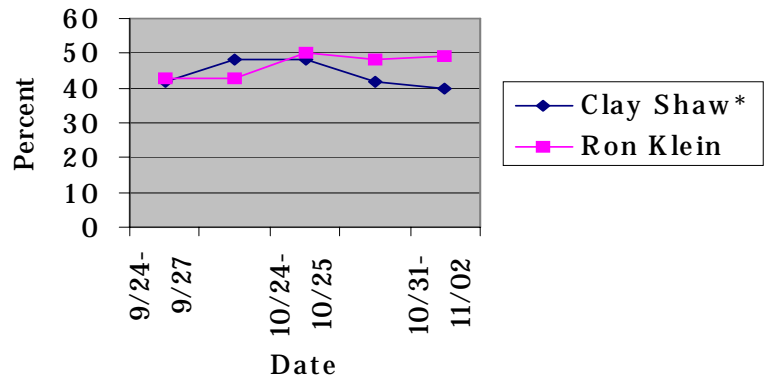Blue Collar: 16.2% Service 14.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 34%
Graduate Education: 12.5%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 22

national**atlas**.gov™

22 Congressional District
Palm Beach County

Florida (25 Districts)

Florida 22nd District Polls (9/24-11/02)

Clay Shaw*
Ron Klein

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
SHAW
Receipts: $4,303,079
Expenditures: $3,539,587

Source: *[Real Clear Politics]*
KLEIN
Receipts: $3,595,978
Expenditures: $3,568,401

The Candidates:

Clay Shaw was first voted into congress in 1996. But before being elected into congress, Clay Shaw had experience as a community mayor, vice mayor of Ft. Lauderdale, city commissioner, municipal judge, chief city prosecutor, and an assistant city attorney. In the most recent 2004 election Mr. Shaw had won the district by a stiff margin, 63% of the votes to 38% of the votes. His reputation for independence and willingness to put aside partisan issues to better help the Floridians has helped him in the past to win seats in a slightly Democratic district.

Ron Klein is a legitimate contender for election in FL-22. He is a very experienced politician. These include being first elected to the Florida House of Representatives, in 1992 after defeating a ten year incumbent, and then was re-elected in 1994 without representation, then he was elected to senate district 30 in 1996, earned the title of minority whip, and in 2002 Mr. Klein was elected by the Senate Democratic Caucus as the Senate Democratic Leader. Mr. Klein has proved that he is backed by the state, and is starting to be backed nationally.

The Campaign:

Mr. Klein is trying to sell himself by focusing his attention on the fact that his opponent, Mr. Shaw is running around in Washington with President Bush, and big oil. He said that District 22 needs someone to lead them, not follow big oil, insurance, and drug companies who are calling the shots in Washington. He says that this year the people have a choice, a congressman who sides with President Bush and his special interest friends, or someone who stands with them, someone who will stand up to the big oil companies.

Mr. Shaw is trying to sell himself by showing the public that ports were shipping materials overseas and that they could have been targets for terrorists. He said that those in Washington were hoarding the protection money, but Mr. Shaw was fighting back. Since then he has forced president Bush to approve $9 million to help protect these ports. He says that he is independent and effective.

Mr. Klein's campaign seems to be more effective. He seems to be attacking his opponent more, and is focusing on key national ideas. Mr. Shaw's new campaign seems to be a little off track with national topics. However he is trying to show that he is independent from President Bush, and that he does not necessarily support everything President Bush does. At this point, being a Republican, Mr. Klein has an easier job at being an effective advertiser, and because of this is more effective.

Locally this race is described as a dead heat. Shaw brought up a bill that he put through that President Clinton signed, and Klein continues to suggest that Shaw is a rubber-stamp for the Bush administration. Negative ads in this district have dominated the airwaves; however near the end have eased a little. At this point each candidate recognizes that it is a close race and has been out in the communities trying to persuade voters one-by-one to vote for them on November 7.

Analysis:

Nationally this race is under close watch by both parties. This is a seat that tends to lean Republican, but with the intense scrutiny this party is under, this race is extremely close. In 2004 this seat was won by the Republican incumbent 63%- 38%. Now the most recent polls have the challenger ahead by 6%.

There are no present wildcards, but if there was one, depending on which party would be affected would probably determine the outcome of this race. The issue that will most likely decide the winner is President Bush, and the national Republican leadership. Bush's ratings are so low, and this close to the election will affect the various close House races, especially this one. Since President Bush is a Republican, negative connotations will be assed when determining who to vote for, a Democrat, or a Republican.

Predicted Result:

My prediction for this race is that Democrat Ron Klein will win. He will do so because of the bad implications that President Bush has in the minds of the voters, because he has a strong political background, he is supported by the Democratic Parties, and voters are just plain sick of Republicans, and want to vote for a change. Plus this district voted in favor of John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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PA -- 8th	**Projection**

Mike Fitzpatrick (R)* ✓

Patrick Murphy (D)

District Type:
Cities:
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 55% Dem: 43%
President: Bush: 48% Kerry: 51%
Demographics –
Population: 645,403 (2000)
Under 18: 26% Over 65: 13%
Married: 60%
Non-Hispanic White: 91%
Black: 3%   Asian: 2%
Foreign Born: 6% Non-English
Speaking: 9%
Median Household Income: $59,207
Owner Occupied Housing: 77%
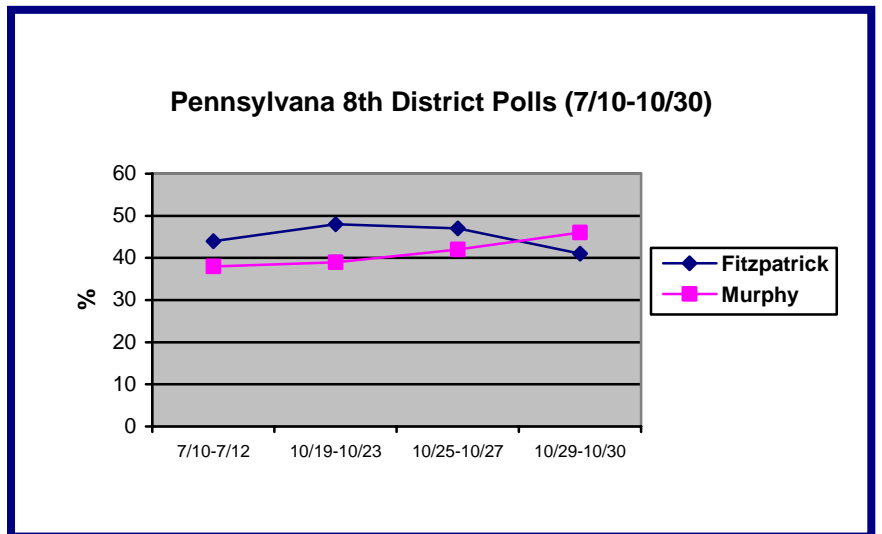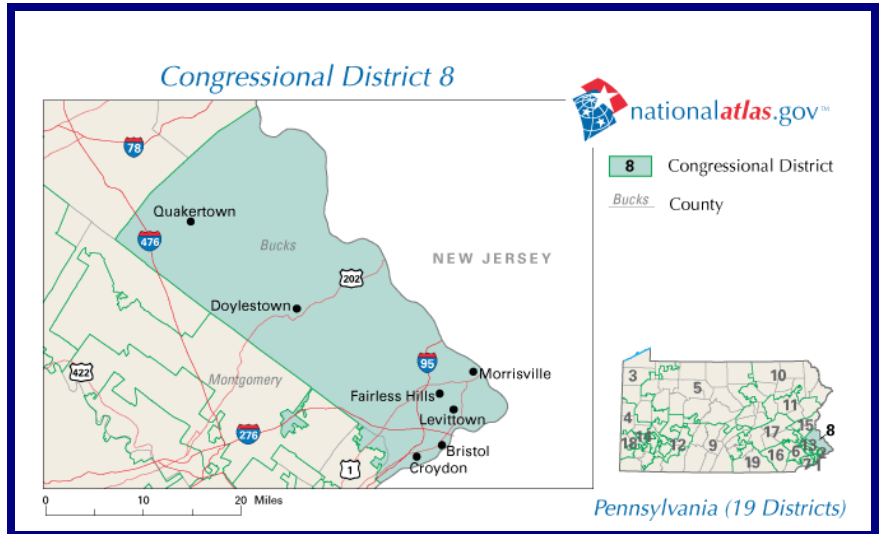Income above $200K: 3.6%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 68%
Blue Collar: 21% Service 11%
Bachelor's Degree: 31%
Graduate Education: 11%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 8

national**atlas**.gov

8 Congressional District
Bucks County

Pennsylvania (19 Districts)

Pennsylvana 8th District Polls (7/10-10/30)

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
FITZPATRICK
Receipts: $2,678,574
Expenditures: $2,414,194

Source: *Real Clear Politics*
MURPHY
Receipts: $1,934,384
Expenditures: $1,485,499

The Candidates:

Mike Fitzpatrick is the Republican incumbent in the Pennsylvania 8th district. He has served one term and won the last election with 55% of the vote. Fitzpatrick is a social moderate who has been an outspoken supporter of abortion rights and a supporter of President Bush. He holds a law degree from Penn State University and is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Prior to becoming representative he served on the Bucks County Board of Commissioners and was chairman of the board for five years.

Patrick Murphy is the Democratic challenger. Murphy holds a Law degree from Widener University and has taught at the U.S. Military Academy. Murphy was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army and has been deployed twice overseas. He was deployed in Bosnia in 2002 and Baghdad from 2003-2004. In Baghdad he worked to reconstruct the justice system and also to prosecute Sheik Moyad. For his services he received the Bronze Star. Murphy has served as a legislative aide to

Thomas Tangretti, a Democratic representative. Murply won the Democratic primary with 65% of the vote.

The Campaign:

Mike Fitzpatrick is running a campaign focused on community ties. Fitzpatrick is focused on letting people know his service record in the district. His goal is to show people that he knows more about what is good for the district than Murphy. He is also set on showing everyone that he is not a rubberstamp. He is pushing the fact that a recent study found Fitzpatrick to have one of the lowest party unity scores in the Republican party. This means he often votes against what the Republican consensus votes for. Fitzpatrick has done a lot to try and discredit Murphy such as calling in to question Murphy's resume.

Patrick Murphy is running his campaign on the War in Iraq. Murphy as a veteran claims to have a resolution for Iraq. He is pushing the idea that Fitzpatrick is in league with Bush when it comes to Iraq strategy and neither has any idea how to end the war. Murphy has received a lot of support from the Democratic party. At recent press conferences he had figureheads such as Bill Clinton and John Kerry speaking on his behalf.

Local newspapers have been focusing on the fact that this has become a dirty and deceitful election. For example Murphy posted on his website false endorsements from 3 groups, and Fitzpatrick attacked Murphy's resume.

Analysis:

The Pennsylvania 8th district has elected Republican representatives for several years now. However, Kerry won the district in 2004 with 51% of the vote. The 8th district then is fairly balanced between Republicans and Democrats which means the election comes down to the swing voters. This has been reflected throughout the election by the polls. Even the most recent poll shows Murphy with only 46% of the vote which is just 5% ahead of Fitzpatrick.

Both candidates have strong backing from their respective parties. Murphy has received aid from Clinton and Kerry as well as the support of Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell. Fitzpatrick has the support of President Bush, which may prove detrimental.

Even the money race is tight. Both candidates still have money left for a final push in the home stretch. However, Murphy does have about $200,000 more. Fitzpatrick has spent more so far, but based on the polls it appears to have made no difference.

At this point in the election it is too late for a wildcard to mix things up. However, past events such as the Foley scandal will still be present in the back of voter's minds. Murphy has taken a recent lead in the polls; however, it remains close enough to go either way.

Predicted Result:

Fitzpatrick has led the polls up until recently when Murphy took the lead with 46% of the vote. However, Fitzpatrick is the incumbent and has more political experience than the very green Murphy. Most voters have been content with Fitzpatrick over the last term; however, the current anti-Republican feelings will hurt his chances. However, Fitzpatrick does know the district better and this should result in more votes for Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick should win the election; however, it will not be by much.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

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IN -- 9th   Projection

Mike Sodrel (R)*

Baron Hill (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Bloomington, New Albany
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 49% Dem: 49%
President: Bush: 59% Kerry: 40%
Demographics –
Population: 675,599
Under 18: 24.2% Over 65: 12.1%
Married: 56.6%
Non-Hispanic White: 94%
Black: 2%   Asian: 1%
Foreign Born: 2.1% Non-English
Speaking: 4.1%
Median Household Income: $39,011
Owner Occupied Housing: 71.7%
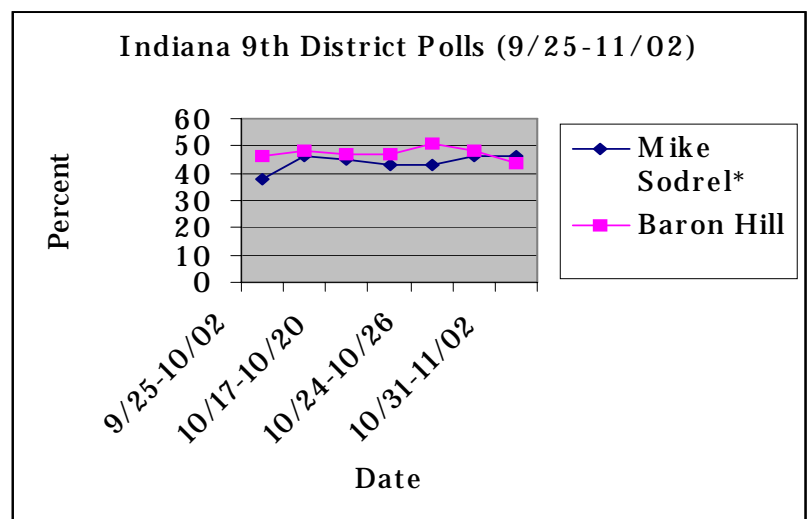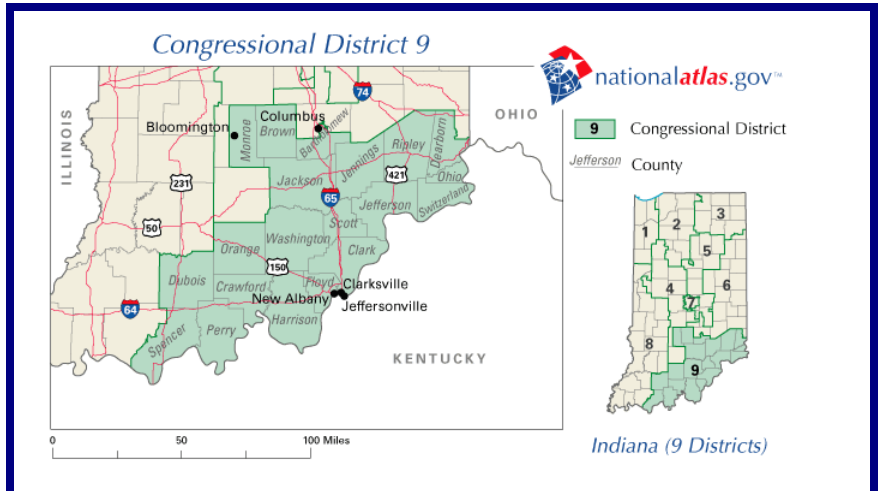Income above $200K: 1.0%
Workforce/Education:
White Collar: 50.6%
Blue Collar: 35.0% Service 14.4%
Bachelor's Degree: 17%
Graduate Education: 7.3%
Source: CQ Politics

Congressional District 9

nationalatlas.gov™

9 Congressional District
Jefferson County

Indiana (9 Districts)

Indiana 9th District Polls (9/25-11/02)

Legend: Mike Sodrel*, Baron Hill

The Money Race (data through 10/18/06):
SODREL
Receipts: $2,403,290
Expenditures: $1,776,012

Source: *[Real Clear Politics]*
HILL
Receipts: $1,672,524
Expenditures: $1,139,317

The Candidates:

 The incumbent in this race is Mike Sodrel. He is a Republican backed nationally, and has a very accomplished political career. He has spent seven years in the National Guard, was a Regional Council President for the Boy Scouts, was the President for the Jeffersonville Rotary Club, past chairman of the Southern Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and a past representative. In the most recent election Mr. Sodrel won a close election in 2004 to the same opponent he is running against right now.

 His opponent is Baron Hill. He is a Democratic National Committee supported candidate because in 2004 he ran against Mr. Sodrel, and almost pulled off a victory. This year the Democrats feel that he can get the job done so once again he has been nominated. In 1998 he was elected into the House of Representatives, and served until 2004. In 2002 he was appointed to a Chief Deputy Whip, and was the Executive Director to the Indiana State Student Assistance Commission. He was also part of the State house from 1982-1990.

The Campaign:

Mr. Sodrel's campaign technique is to portray Mr. Hill as one who wants to move Indiana jobs to China, raise taxes, and vote against untraditional marriage. He wants people to associate him with Hoosier values, and to associate him with them. He also has tried to show that he is creating jobs, not sending them overseas. He is trying to disprove the direct negative ads on himself, and he even added that the Indianapolis Star endorsed him as their representative.

Mr. Hill's advertising campaign was based heavily on bashing Mike Sodrel. He called him Millionaire Mike, and said things like he has taken hundreds of thousand of dollars from big contractors, cut veterans benefits, privatize social security, and he goes on to say the Mr. Sodrel's views are Washington's not Indiana's. The moral of the story is that if the people want change then they have to change who they send to Washington.

I think previously Mr. Hill had done a better job with advertising because it was so easy to shed negative light on the Republicans. Now that things have kind of settled down so to speak in Washington, it has been harder to relate to voter feelings using the same tactics. Down the final, crucial stretch, Mike Sodrel had more funds left and was able to use this to his advantage when advertising and I think this is a big reason why he was able to overtake Mr. Hill.

Locally this race is even closer than expected because there is a third party running. His name is Eric Schansberg, and he is a Libertarian, who generally takes votes away from Republicans. Many doubt that he will win, but he could be a "role" player, and if he gets enough votes he might just be able to let Baron Hill win.

At local debates Hill argues that Washington is a mess and needs change, Sodrel argues that he has not been there long enough to clean up Hill's previous mess, and Schansberg said that Hill is only offering "spare-change." Locally there are even more factors to this race in this district than seen by many people nationally.

Analysis:

This race is a tight one, and has been pretty much Baron Hill dominated, until the most recent polls. Now Mike Sodrel is ahead. It appeared that the national problems of the Republican Party were influencing voters, but now it seems as if they have been forgotten. Sodrel is a strong candidate and it seems that people are focusing more on their local race than what is being done in Washington. The fact that Sodrel had raised more money, and had more money to spend down the stretch might have helped to influence voters to the point where he is ahead in the polls.

There have not been any scandals that would tip the scales one way in this district, so I do no think that will be a factor, but there is still time left for that. If something were to happen between no and election day, and depending on who did what, the opposing party would most likely win the race.

However providing something like this does not happen locally, or nationally, then this race should be decided based on the best candidate.

Predicted Result:

My prediction for this race is that Mike Sodrel will pull out the win. I think to re-take the lead in the polls this late in the race will be devastating for Baron Hill, and I think that he will not be able to overcome this. He had a pretty secure lead for awhile until the final stretch when the better funded Mike Sodrel regained control. As long as there are no national or local Republican scandals then Mike Sodrel should be re-elected.
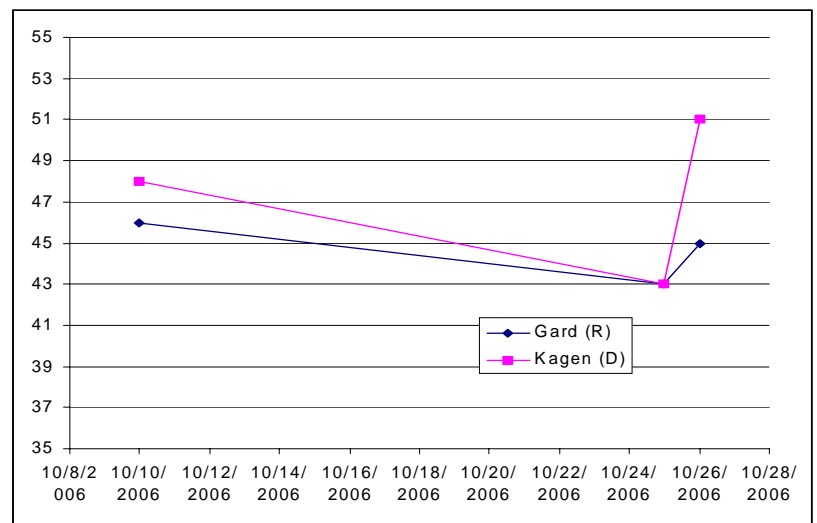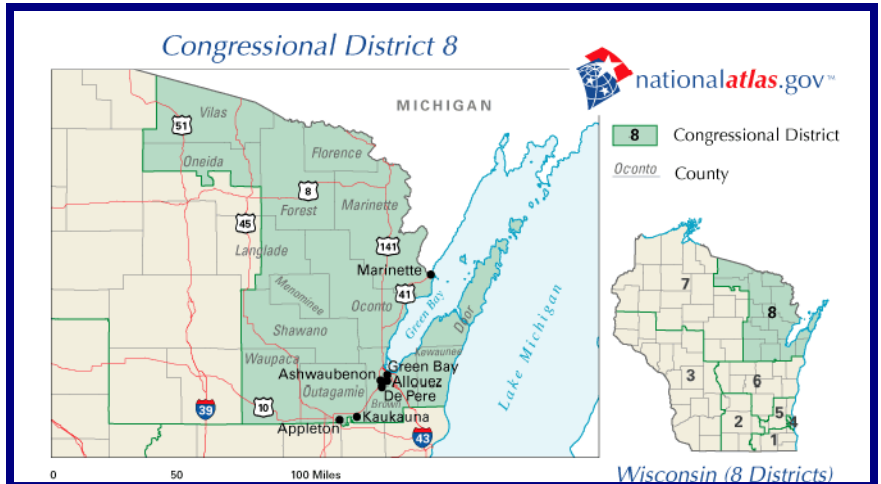
Election 2006 Campaign Project

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

IN -- 8th   Projection

John Gard (R)

Steve Kagen (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Green Bay
Election History (2004)
House: GOP: 70% Dem: 30%
President: Bush: 55% Kerry: 44%
Demographics –
Population: 670,480
Under 18: 25.8% Over 65: 13.5%
Married: 59.4%
Non-Hispanic White: 93.2%
Black: 0.6%   Asian: 1.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native: 2.7%
Hispanic/Latino: 2.2%
Two or More Races: 1.0%
Non-English Speaking: 5.6%
Workforce/Education:
Management and Professional: 28.6%
Service: 13.6%
Sales and Office: 25.3%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry: 1.2%
Construction, Extraction, etc.: 10.3%
Production, Transportation, etc.: 21.0%
Median Household Income: $43,274
Bachelor's Degree: 19.1%
Graduate Education: 5.2%
Source: Washington Post

Congressional District 8 — national atlas.gov
8 Congressional District
Oconto County
Wisconsin (8 Districts)

Gard (R)
Kagen (D)

The Money Race (data through 10/20/06):   **Source:** Washington Post
GARD   KAGAN
Receipts: $1,979,419   Receipts: $2,000,122
Expenditures: $1,694,534   Expenditures: $1,853,713

The Candidates:

John Gard was born in Milwaukee, WI in 1963. He grew up on a Dairy farm in rural Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse in 1986 with a degree in political science. In 1987 he was elected to the State Assembly representing the 89th Assembly District. Since 2003 he has been the Speaker of the Assembly. He is married with two children. His wife is former Wisconsin Secretary of the Department of Revenue Cate Zeuske and was also a member of the Wisconsin Assembly.

Steve Kagen was born in the 8th District in Appleton, WI. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison for both his BS and Medical degrees. He is currently a practicing physician as well as an assistant clinical professor of Allergy - Immunology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is married with four children. Kagen was honored in 2005 by the EPA with a 2005 Children's Environmental Health Recognition Award. His medical background remains key to the issues he finds important. This is his first attempt at elected office.

The Campaign:

John Gard's campaign strategy has been to paint Steve Kagen as a liberal politician who wants to raise taxes, ship jobs overseas, give illegal immigrants amnesty, and opposes putting non-violent criminals in jail. He has shown that he is willing to work with traditionally liberal organizations such as labor unions and has been supported by union members in a campaign ad. He has used his dairy farm roots to show that he is a person who understands that thing need to get done regardless of the circumstances and that there is value in building coalitions. He acknowledges that much anti-Bush rhetoric is out there this election cycle but does not believe it will resonate with members of his district.

Steve Kagen has been trying to show that he is qualified to speak on medical issues given that he is a compassionate doctor who cares about people. He is seeking to paint John Gard as a career politician who has been known as one of Madison's most corrupt. He supports the troops but supports a new direction in Iraq while stopping 'blank checks' for the war. He has cited Gard voting to raise taxes and opposing affordable health care. Kagen has been using his medical background as a spear for his campaign and it will be interesting to see if that will resonate enough with the voters.

Local newspapers have made note of the fact that Steve Kagen has used much of his own money for this race while John Gard has raised money through donations. John Gard has been trying to portray himself as regular neighbor next door. Steve Kagen has used the anti-incumbent rhetoric common in many of the democratic campaigns this year.

John Gard has had the support of many political giants including President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and Arizona Senator John McCain.

The campaign has also been seen as one where lots of money has been spent at record amounts for this part of the state and that could very well turn some voters off when many voters appear disgruntled.

Analysis:

With the exception of areas in and around Green Bay, the 8th district is largely rural. Conventional wisdom would suggest that would favor the conservative, John Gard. However, some American native groups are largely opposed to John Gard for actions he took while in the Wisconsin Assembly which would potential have harmed the groups. Polls have shown the race very close in a traditionally conservative district.

Steve Kagen on November 4th claimed that he was too conservative to be a republican and challenged the republicans on saying that they were so. This may signal that Kagen understands that voters in his district are largely conservative and is attempting to lure them into his camp. Kagen has also tried to deflect some of the mudslinging by running anti-mud slinging ads while still insisting for change away from career politicians such as John Gard. Both candidates have been involved in campaigning which calls attention to their opponent's supposed falts.

John Gard has come out with recent ads with doctors opposing Kagen, an allergen physician. The wild card in this campaign may well be the national politicians who have actively campaigned for Gard. It remains to be seen if the voters in this district still support these powerful national politicians.

Predicted Result:

In a traditionally conservative district Kagen and Gard as recently as October, 25th were in a dead heat both at 43% leaving 14% undecided. In more recent polls Kagen has had the lead. This is a bad sign for Gard given that current Rep Mark Green carried the district with 70% of the vote in 2004. Given some victories for Kagen in recent debates coupled with disgruntled voters this year, many might see Gard as a career politician and therefore part of the problem. Kagen should carry the vote by the slimmest of margins.

Election 2006 Campaign Project

TN - Senate   Projection

Robert Corker (R)

Harold Ford (D)

District Type: Mixed
Cities: Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga
Election History (2000 & 2004)
Senate: GOP: 65% Dem: 32%
President: Bush: 57% Kerry: 43%
Demographics –
Population: 5,689,283
Under 18: 24.6% Over 65: 12.4%
Married: 56.2%
Non-Hispanic White: 79.2%
Hispanic: 2.2%
Black: 16.3%   Asian: 1%
Non-English Speaking: 4.8%
Median Household Income: $36, 360
Workforce/Education:
Management and Professional: 29.5%
Service: 13.7%
Sales and Office: 26.1%
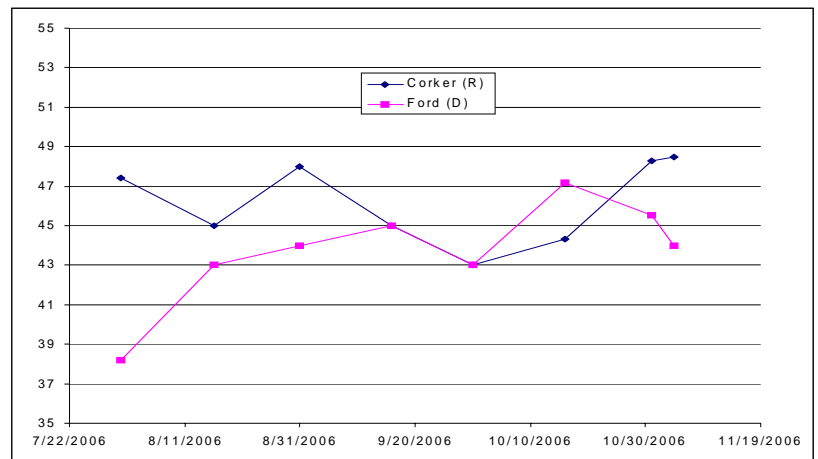Farming, Fishing, and Forestry: 0.6%
Construction, Extraction, etc.: 10.3%
Production, Transportation, etc.: 19.9%
Bachelor's Degree: 19.6%
Graduate Education: 6.8%
Source: Real Clear Politics, Washington Post

The Money Race (data through XX/XX/06):
CORKER
Receipts: $13,145,585
Expenditures: $14,143,797

Source: Political Money Online
FORD
Receipts: $8,632,984
Expenditures: $8,933,348

The Candidates:

Robert Corker was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee and later became its mayor in 2001. In 1974 he graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Industrial Management. Later he founded his own construction company out of almost nothing and grew it to become active in 18 different states. Following a church mission trip to Haiti he decided to become involved in civil service and founded and organization to help poor people realize the dream of owning their own house. In 1995 he was appointed as Finance Commissioner for the State of Tennessee and was responsible for overseeing $13 billion of the state's budget. During his tenure as mayor he helped to cut violent crime by51% in three and a half years, attracted new investment, and improved education through merit based bonus pay with good results. Mr. Corker is married with his wife Elizabeth and two daughters Julia and Emily.

Harold Ford is the son of a Former United States Congressman and grew up in Memphis. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994 with a degree in American History and later from the University of Michigan with a law degree in 1996. When his father, Harold Ford Sr., decided not to seek reelection in Tennessee's 8th district, centered around Memphis, Ford immediately seized the opportunity and ran while still

in law school. He won in a landslide and has been reelected 4 times without serious Republican opposition in a district with a considerable black population by and average of 80%. He has been steadily winning over the white vote in Memphis through his tenure in the House.   He has been described as a consensus builder and a political centrist. He is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of conservative democrats who are attempting to bridge gaps between political extremes. His younger brother Jake is running as an independent in the House seat vacated by Harold and his father before him.

The Campaign:

This campaign is also about regional differences in Tennessee between the conservatives in the east and the more liberal areas in the west.

Republican's have tried to paint Ford as the ear of special interests citing many of the privately funded trips he has taken and his voting record in congress where he has missed more than 300 votes.   They have tried to shown that Corker is a Tennessean Businessman and Ford is a polition who has lived most of his life outside of Tennessee. Corker has touted the coherence between his values and the values of Tennesseans.

Ford has been running a quite interesting campaign not criticizing President Bush when most Republicans seem afraid show much support for the president. He is not easily portrayed as a liberal and opposed Nancy Pelosi as the Democratic Minority Leader.   He has also called on John Kerry to apologize for remarks he made about the US military. Ford has the ability to use precise rhetoric make argument which is hard not to agree with even when they don't answer the question being asked. His campaign has echoed that of many democrats this election year with a call for change in Washington.

This campaign has been thrust into the national scene with political giants Bill Clinton and John McCain both pitching their vocal support behind their respective party members.

Analysis:

 Since early October, both candidates have solidified their partisan bases but polls have shown a 20 point swing in the opinion of independent voters in favor of Mr. Corker. This may be partially due to some questionable moves by Mr. Ford attempting to crash a press conference held my Mr. Corker. The press conference had been scheduled by Corker earlier in the week on private property at a charter air strip. Mr. Ford tried to confront Mr. Corker and debate him on the spot on several issues including ethics, the war in Iraq, and personal campaigning. Many have seen this as breaching campaign etiquette although Ford has denied this.

Despite this Mr. Ford has run a very good campaign in what has in recent times been a very tough state for democrats to do well.   Past elections for senate have seen republicans win by more than 30 points, so the fact that Ford is even in the race at this point says a lot. However, he had done this by running a good race and any slip up could spell his doom.

If Mr. Ford were to win he would be the first black senator from a former confederate state to hold office since the 1870s.   Both candidates have been careful how the approach any issue of race but pundits have mentioned that it's hard for it not to be a factor in a southern state.

Predicted Result:

In what has traditionally been a GOP state in recent years, Corker should have the edge. While Ford has run a strong race in a tough state his antics at Corkers press conference have portrayed him as arrogant and sleazy. Despite running a near perfect campaign in a year where everything seems to be going against the republicans, Ford's momentary slip up could have very well cost him the election.