

JAC NewsBreak

VITAL NEWS & RESEARCH INFORMATION FOR JAC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Oct 22, 2010

On my mind this month...



Gail Yamner

I remain sleepless in New Jersey. In the wee hours of the morning, I lie awake and imagine a Congress made up of anti-choice candidates who do

not believe in abortion rights even in the case of rape or incest. These hard-right of right candidates would do away with embryonic stem cell research, in vitro fertilization and contraception. They would bring down the deficit by not voting for Israel's foreign aid needs. They bring Jesus into classrooms, public meetings and text books. JAC's core issues would reside only in my dreams.

Unfortunately, the wave of anger, fear, disgust with our leaders is clouding the real issues. Do you really want Senators who invoke the Constitution although they know little about its provisions? Who would privatize social security, end Medicare and wall others out while walling us in? Because you are impatient for change, will you opt for inexperience and extremism?

Helping elect JAC candidates is a more effective solution. Make your voice heard. Vote. Participate in GOTV. If you live in states like Washington that vote predominately by mail, vote now, call your friends and make sure their votes are mailed in. If you can, vote early and take a road trip to work for JAC-supported candidates. From now until election day, volunteer to work phones, canvass neighborhoods, distribute flyers. Drag everyone you know to the polls. **Call the office at 847-433-5999 if you need help finding volunteer opportunities in your community.** Make November 2nd a day of promise.

Research & Races

These JAC-supported candidates in the most contested races could fall victim to the unpredictable political climate. Last-minute contributions to their campaigns or to JAC could make the difference between victory and defeat. Please donate by phone 847.433.5999 or on the JAC website www.jacpac.org.

Senate Races

California -- Senator Barbara Boxer (D) is facing her toughest race since being elected in 1992, facing former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina (R). Boxer is a leader on the environment and women's issues, and supports JAC's agenda 100%. As Boxer fights for the protection of women in the US and around the world, Fiorina promises to restrict a women's reproductive rights and repeal the gains for women made in the recent health care bill.

Colorado -- Senator Michael Bennet (D), was appointed to the Senate in 2009. His voting record on JAC's issues has been perfect. As the former superintendent of the Denver Public Schools, Bennet has a particular interest in education reform. Tea Party candidate Ken Buck (R) promises to be anti-choice, anti-health care, anti-social security and deny climate change. Buck believes that homosexuality is a choice. This tight race could lead to an extreme voice on the right replacing a thoughtful and moderate vote in the Senate.

Connecticut -- Attorney General Richard Blumenthal (D) has excellent positions on JAC's issues. He has been a popular and effective elected official and has fought for the rights of Connecticut's citizens. Linda McMahon (R), CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, has spent over \$50 million of her own money in this race. Her reputation from women's groups and former employees has shown a pattern of disregard.

Delaware -- New Castle county executive Chris Coons (D) faces a unique challenge against Sarah Palin's chosen candidate and Tea Party favorite Christine O'Donnell (R). Coons' positions align with JAC's criteria. In a recent debate, O'Donnell spoke of

prayer in school and the teaching of creationism. She does not believe that the separation of church and state is protected in the constitution. She is anti-choice without exception, anti-sex education, anti-stem cell research and denies global warming.

Kentucky -- Attorney General Jack Conway (D) has been a progressive pro-Israel voice in Kentucky politics. By contrast, his opponent Dr. Rand Paul (R) is anti-Israel, anti-choice, and anti-government. He would repeal health care, medicare and social security. His extreme views on civil rights and the environment have made him avoid the press and refuse to answer questions.

Missouri -- Secretary of State Robin Carnahan (D) faces Congressman and former House minority whip, Roy Blunt (R). They both come from Missouri political families. Carnahan has excellent positions on JAC's issues and has been an advocate for women in her current position. Blunt has voted consistently with his party and against choice, health care, financial reform, DADT and the stimulus. He promises to carry forward the Republican "Pledge for America."

Nevada -- Majority Leader Harry Reid's (D) accomplishments for Nevada, women and Israel are many, but he is sometimes underestimated because of his quiet demeanor. Nevadans are angry about jobs and the economy and they hold him responsible. Sharron Angle, darling of the Tea Party Right, is no match for Reid on substance, relying on canned talking points after some gaffes in the press. She has railed against Hispanics, rape victims, homosexuals and government. Anti-incumbent sentiment makes this race a toss-up.

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More Research & Races

House Races

More House races are in play this cycle than ever before. Many members are at risk— from freshmen to long serving representatives. JAC's issues are in play as right wing candidates are challenging incumbents.

Arizona -- Three races in Arizona feature JAC-supported candidates who are facing strong opposition. Freshman Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D) and Reps. Gabrielle Giffords (D) and Harry Mitchell (D) are all running in districts that favor the GOP. All 3 are strongly pro-choice and face anti-choice opposition.

California -- Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D) is in a tough race that pollsters have not been able to assess because many constituents in this district do not have land lines. Sanchez is a leader on Homeland Security and the Armed Services Committee. She is a good friend to JAC and has done meetings for us around the country.

Colorado -- Freshman Rep. Betsy Markey (D) is in a tough race against state Rep Cory Gardner (R) in a Republican leaning district. Rep Ed Perlmutter (D) is facing Ryan Frazier (R), an African-American "young gun."

Delaware -- Fighting for an open seat vacated by GOP Rep. Mike Castle, former Lt. Gov. John Carney (D) can move this seat to the Democratic column. He faces Tea Party candidate Glenn Urquhart, who is anti-choice and anti-health care.

Florida -- Rep. Ron Klein (D) is a visible and vocal leader on Israel, Iran Sanctions and Holocaust remuneration. He faces a rematch against Tea Party candidate, Allen West (R), whose comments have been extreme and questionable. (He claims a higher security clearance than Pres. Obama.)

Illinois -- Five races in Illinois are being watched with concern. Long

time JAC member Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D) is facing attorney Joel Pollack who is trying to discredit her 100% pro-Israel voting record. Reps. Phil Hare (D) and Melissa Bean (D) are being challenged by well funded GOP opponents blaming them for the economy and high unemployment. Rep. Bill Foster (D), distinguished scientist and businessman, gave up his career for public service. His opponent is anti-choice, right wing state Senator Randy Hultgren. Dan Seals (D) is running for the 10th district open seat.

Iowa -- The two races that concern JAC are Reps. Bruce Braley (D) and Leonard Boswell (D), both with good voting records on JAC's issues. Their opponents are anti choice, and favor repealing health care and financial reform.

Massachusetts -- Rep. Barney Frank (D), 15-term Congressman, Jewish; and Chair of the Financial Services Committee, has never faced a tough race in his 30 years in Congress. Republicans are extremely unhappy with the Financial Reform legislation pushed through by Frank and have made him a target.

Michigan -- JAC-supported endangered freshmen Reps. Mark Schauer (D) and Gary Peters (D) face well funded right wing Tea Party candidates who accuse the Dems of not fixing the economy. Both have taken courageous votes on hot-button issues.

Missouri -- Rep. Russ Carnahan (D) faces his first tough race in 6 years. His opponent Ed Martin (R) is the former chief of staff to Gov. Matt Blunt. Carnahan voted positively for health care and financial reform. Mr. Blunt is committed to the Republican agenda.

Nevada -- Freshman Rep. Dina Titus (D) is a top tier target of the GOP. Her challenger is former state Senator

Joe Heck who is right wing.

New Jersey -- Freshman Rep. John Adler (D) represents a suburban Philadelphia district that was GOP-held for over 20 years. Adler's opponent is former NFL player John Runyan.

New York -- 2nd term Rep. Michael Arcuri (D) has a rematch against millionaire businessman Richard Hanna in a Republican leaning district.

Ohio -- The GOP could pick up 3 seats in Ohio. Reps. Betty Sutton (D), Mary Jo Kilroy (D) and Zack Space (D) are all in trouble. All 3 face right wing opponents. Kilroy's race is a rematch against 08 nominee Steve Stivers.

Pennsylvania -- Rep. Patrick Murphy (D), the first Iraq war veteran to be elected to Congress, is fighting for his career against former Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R), whom Murphy defeated in 2006. He has been vocal in his support for Israel since going there in 2007.

Rhode Island -- Providence Mayor, David Cicilline (D) is running for the seat being vacated by retiring Rep. Patrick Kennedy. Cicilline has excellent positions on JAC's issues and will follow in Kennedy's footsteps as a friend to the Jewish community.

South Carolina -- 14-term Rep. John Spratt (D) is the Chairman of the influential Budget Committee and also sits on the Armed Services Committee. He is a top GOP target because of his leadership role. Spratt is a long time friend of JAC.

Wisconsin -- Rep. Steve Kagen, a physician and Jewish, represents a district in Northern Wisconsin that favors Republicans. This community has a very small Jewish population. Representation in this district has switched back and forth between parties 4 times in the past decade. Kagen is the only person who has been reelected.

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Pennsylvania -- Congressman Joe Sestak (D), retired US Navy Admiral, has a perfect voting record on foreign aid for Israel. He is running against former Congressman Pat Toomey (R). Toomey was the President of the Club for Growth, an anti-tax group. In the House he consistently voted against foreign aid for Israel. Sestak is a leader on women's issues in contrast to anti-choice Toomey.

Washington -- Senator Patty Murray (D), first elected to the Senate as just a "Mom in tennis shoes," has been a true friend to JAC. She has risen to leadership levels in the Senate and continues to push for Israel, women and education reform. Her opponent, Dino Rossi (R) is anti-choice, wants to repeal health care and wall street reform and opposes all climate change legislation.

Wisconsin -- Senator Russ Feingold (D), known for leadership on campaign finance reform, has often crossed the aisle to be effective. Businessman Ron Johnson (R) has no political experience but can buy this seat. Johnson considers global warming a myth. He plans to repeal health care, medicare and privatize social security. This race pits an extreme right wing novice against an independent-minded Senate veteran.