

# JAC NEWSbreak

VITAL NEWS & RESEARCH INFORMATION FOR JAC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

November 27, 2012

## Election Results: JAC's New Friends in the Senate

Thanks to your help, JACPAC had a very successful election cycle. We contributed to 23 Senate races and the candidates we supported won in 20 of the 23. We are disappointed that Surgeon General Richard Carmona was defeated in Arizona, former Sen. Bob Kerrey lost in Nebraska, and Rep. and JAC member Shelley Berkley did not win in Nevada.

**Hawaii** – Democratic Rep. Mazie Hirono will now be her state's junior senator. Hirono has been a member of the House since 2006. She was Hawaii's lieutenant governor from 1994-2001. Hirono is the first woman elected to the Senate from Hawaii and the first Asian-American woman elected to the Senate. Her votes have always aligned with JAC's criteria.

**Maine** – Former Governor Angus King, an Independent, defeated both the Democratic and GOP candidates to win this senate seat. King announced on November 14 that he would caucus with the Democrats. However, in his "victory" address, King said, "We are off to Washington and the only people who will tell me how to vote are the people of Maine."

**Massachusetts** – Elizabeth Warren, special assistant to the president and adviser to the Treasury Secretary 2010-11, defeated GOP Sen. Scott Brown. On November 15, Warren

announced that she would work with other senators to change the current filibuster rules, which have stopped the Senate from carrying forward the administration's agenda. Watch for fireworks from Republicans who have already identified Warren as a chief obstacle to their anti-tax, anti-regulation agenda.

**New Mexico** – Rep. Martin Heinrich (D) will join senior senator and JAC friend Tom Udall (D) in the Senate. As one of only a handful of members of Congress with a background in science and technology, Heinrich brought a unique perspective to help create good, sustainable jobs in growing industries like clean energy and biotechnology. He will continue to do so in the Senate.

**North Dakota** – Former North Dakota attorney general Heidi Heitkamp defied conventional wisdom and kept this seat in the Democratic column. Heitkamp shares JAC's values and supports the Affordable Care Act, a

major issue in the Senate campaign. The GOP expected to win this seat the minute Dem. Sen. Kent Conrad announced his retirement. Heitkamp's popularity and excellent campaign skills brought the winning results.

**Virginia** – Tim Kaine, former Governor and chairman of the Democratic National Committee defeated former Governor and Senator George Allen. Kaine supports JAC's issues and many of President Obama's initiatives, including the Affordable Care Act and stimulus legislation. On his campaign web site, Kaine says, "I am an optimist about America's future. I reject the pessimism about America that is too common today."

**Wisconsin** – JAC has supported Dem. Rep. Tammy Baldwin during her 14-year tenure in the House. The first openly gay woman to serve in the Senate, she is a champion for marriage equality and for women's issues. She is a reliable liberal vote on the Obama agenda.

## Election Results: JAC's House Winners

In the House, JAC contributed to 47 races and was successful in 41. These are the new JAC-supported members of Congress.

**California 02** – Jared Huffman was a member of the California Assembly from 2006-present. Prior to that tenure, he was a practicing attorney working on antitrust litigation and Title IX cases pursuing gender equity. Huffman is requesting a seat on the Natural Resources Committee, as well as the Transportation and Infrastructure panel. Both, he said, are good fits for his district.

**California 07** – Ami Bera ran against GOP Rep. Dan Lungren in 2010 and held Lungren to 50%. This time, re-districting favored Bera, and he was

able to defeat the 9-term congressman. Bera becomes the third Indian-American to serve in the House and one of 20 physicians in the 113th Congress. Bera has always believed in hard work and community service—and "refuses to accept a future where our children and grandchildren don't have the amazing opportunities that he did." A first-generation American, Bera benefited from California's public schools, from kindergarten through medical school.

**Connecticut 05** – Elizabeth Esty was a member of the Connecticut House from 2008-10. She has a long record of advocacy for pro-choice causes, volunteering for Planned Parenthood while in college, and authoring Supreme Court briefs for medical

providers. Esty proudly voted in the legislature to ensure full marriage rights and benefits to gay couples.

**Florida 18** – Patrick Murphy defeated GOP Rep. Allen West. One of two African-American Republicans in the House, West had called President Barack Obama a "low-level Socialist agitator" and called Obama supporters "a threat to the gene pool." Three weeks after the election, West finally

(continued on page two)

JAC NEWSbreak, for JAC Leadership Circle, is a monthly publication of JACPAC.  
 Writers: Joy Malkus, Dana Gordon  
 President: Gail Yamner  
 Executive Director: Marcia Balonick  
 Tel (847) 433-5999 Fax (847) 433-6194  
 Email info@jacpac.org  
 Web www.jacpac.org © JAC 2012

conceded. Murphy, at 29, will be the youngest member of the freshman class. “Throughout this campaign, the one message I heard time after time was the need for bipartisanship, to reach across the aisle,” Murphy said. “And that’s what we’re going to do.”

**Florida 22** – Lois Frankel was the mayor of West Palm Beach from 2001-11 and a member of the Florida House for 14 years prior. Her campaign stressed her opposition to Paul Ryan’s budget plan and privatizing Medicare. Frankel firmly stated her belief that a woman “must have the right to make choices about her body without the involvement of government officials.” She has been a life-long supporter of women’s reproductive rights and believes that “access to effective birth control and emergency contraception should be guaranteed for all women.”

**Illinois 08** – Tammy Duckworth defeated Tea Party Republican Joe Walsh. She was the Asst. Secretary of the U.S. Veterans Affairs Department from 2009-11, is an Iraq veteran and a member of the National Guard. Duckworth lost both her legs in Iraq. Rep. Walsh, during the campaign, said that, if she were really a “hero,” she would not speak about her disability. On her website, Duckworth featured her commitment to Israel: “I firmly support the unique relationship between America and Israel.... One of my top priorities as a Member of Congress will be to support the safety and security of the State of Israel.”

**Illinois 10** – Brad Schneider, a JAC member, pulled an electoral upset by defeating freshman GOP Rep. Robert Dold. Schneider has been active in pro-Israel advocacy and Jewish community affairs for the past 25 years. “I believe that good government, including strong leadership and bold action from our Congress, can make a positive difference in our everyday lives. That, as much as anything, is why I am dedicating myself to working with our community to improve the lives of those struggling, to create opportunities for those with dreams, to restore confidence for all of us.”

**Illinois 17** – Cheri Bustos defeated freshman GOP Rep. Bobby Schilling. This district was in the hands of Democrats for several terms, but Schilling won with 53% in the Republican sweep of 2010. Bustos is an advocate for women’s health issues and was

backed by labor unions. “I have made advocating for women and families a focus throughout my life and career. I have always fought to ensure that women have equal opportunities and a voice in the most important issues facing our communities, whether in the workplace, in education, or in the public sector.”

**Massachusetts 04** – Joseph Kennedy III continues the Kennedy political legacy – he is the grandson of Ethel and Robert Kennedy. He has been the Asst. District Attorney of Middlesex County and was in the Peace Corps from 2004-06. Continuing the family’s commitment to public service, Kennedy says, “Our number one priority must be getting people back to work. For me, that’s what this election is about. Our efforts will fall short if we fail to get back to a country that rewards hard work and gives everyone – no matter who they are or where they come from – a chance at success.”

**Nevada 01** – Dina Titus served in the House from 2008-10; she was defeated in the GOP onslaught of 2010. During the course of her political career, Titus focused on protecting those most vulnerable – children, seniors, and the disabled. A teacher herself, she has always made quality education for all a priority and has been a strong advocate for the arts. During her prior two years in the House, Dina Titus’ record on JAC’s issues was perfect.

**Nevada 04** - Prior to this election, Steven Horsford served in the Nevada Senate where, in 2008, he became the state’s first African-American majority leader. Representing a newly created district in North Las Vegas, Horsford is the first African-American to serve in the US Congress from Nevada. The father of three children, Horsford says it is a priority to “get our children ready for the 21st century economy by supporting early childhood education and increase funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs.”

**New Mexico 01** – Michelle Lujan Grisham was the Secretary of the New

Mexico Department of Health and the Director of the New Mexico State Agency on Aging. As Congresswoman-elect, Lujan Grisham issued the following statement, “I am hopeful for a cease fire that will end the devastating violence that has claimed the lives of innocent people in Israel and the Gaza Strip. But the international community must not condone the attacks from Hamas. While I support negotiations to stop the attacks and move both sides toward a lasting peace, I support Israel’s right to defend itself against attacks that target innocent Israeli civilians.”

**New York 08** – Hakeem Jeffries won this seat after a hotly contested primary in July against an anti-Israel, anti-Semitic opponent. A member of the New York Assembly since 2006, Jeffries has been a consistent voice on the issue of education reform and charter schools as an alternative for some of the most underserved minority students. He co-sponsored legislation in 2010 that lifted the charter school cap in New York State as part of the successful Race to the Top application that secured approximately \$700 million in education funding from the federal government to help poor, urban school districts.

**Washington 01** – Suzan DelBene, a former vice-president at Microsoft and the director of the state Department of Revenue, won this open seat. Her campaign touted her business background; her position papers showed alignment with JAC’s values. Dem. Rep. Jay Inslee resigned this seat during the summer to campaign for Governor. DelBene, who will fill his unexpired term, was sworn in early during freshman orientation. “I support the Buffett rule, which would ensure that those making a million dollars or more per year do not pay a lower tax rate than middle class families. Today the wealthy are paying the lowest tax rates in 50 years, which is why the Bush tax cuts for high wage earners need to expire. I will fight to eliminate the unfair loophole that allows hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate on their income than other professions.”



**The coffers are empty.  
The cupboard is bare.  
The bank balance is “0.”**

**We gave away every dollar to candidates.  
Now we need to replenish our coffers.**

**Please renew or contribute today.  
[www.jacpac.org](http://www.jacpac.org)**