

Voters Poised to Take Back the House

Marred by corruption and plummeting approval ratings, House Republicans are reeling as the 2006 midterm elections draw near. Democrats need to pick up 15 seats to take control of the House of Representatives, a scenario Republicans thought they eliminated by redrawing district lines so precisely that GOP incumbents were thought to be untouchable. On November 7, voters are poised to defy that logic.

Scandal after scandal, coupled with repeated Republican votes against working families, have put Democrats in their best position to take back the House since Republicans gained control in 1994. Working families are taking

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International President

notice as solid candidates including Diane Farrell in Connecticut, Heath Shuler in North Carolina and Mary Jo Kilroy in Ohio speak to issues that benefit the middle class, not corporate America.

The complete and utter

disregard the Republican-led House has shown for working families was on full display in August when they refused to raise the minimum wage unless they got another massive tax break for America's wealthiest families.

Republican refusal to raise the minimum wage, despite it being stagnant for nearly ten years, is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Republican House's disdain for middle class men and women. They have voted to cut student loan subsidies, deny relief to firms hurt by unfair trade practices and weaken child support enforcement.

As Americans were pounded by gas prices topping \$3 a



Unless voters demand change on November 7, working families will have to face two more years of House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and other Republican leaders who will put corporate interests ahead of working family issues.

gallon, oil companies such as ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips and Chevron racked up record profits. House Republicans ignored working families and not only gave oil executives a free pass and massive tax breaks, they defeated a motion by Democrats to fight gas price gouging.

“Since being taken over by Republicans, the House has shown time and time again that their loyalty lies with the Wal-Marts and Exxons of the country, not the working families who are barely able to get by,” said International President Tom

Buffenbarger.

If Democrats take back the House, they will push issues important to working families to the top of the legislative agenda.

The fight for control of the House of Representatives comes down to a rejection of the misguided policies of the Republican leadership. A Washington Post/ABC News poll conducted in August found 52 percent of Americans plan to vote for a Democratic candidate in this year’s election, compared to just 39 percent who said

they would vote for a Republican.

“Voters have the chance to put the House back into Democratic hands and ensure the policies that working families care about are pushed to the top of the legislative agenda,” said Buffenbarger. “Now is the time for American families to make their voices heard.”

Competitive Races

Of the 435 House races this fall, political analysts have deemed 40 to be “competitive.” Democrats must hold on to all of their seats and



AP/Wide World Photos

Soaring utility bills are putting the squeeze on family budgets, especially seniors on fixed incomes. Under GOP leadership, the House has ignored record oil industry profits and let home heating oil prices soar.

pick up another 15 to win back control of the House in November. Stuart Rothenberg and Charles Cook, two of the nation's top independent political analysts, predict a Democratic takeover of the House if current political conditions persist.

The closest House races include the following:

Ohio

District 15

Kilroy vs. Pryce

Franklin County Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy is poised to provide Republican incumbent



AP/Wide World Photos

Deborah Pryce with her toughest challenge in over a decade. Backlash against Pryce's close ties to unpopular, corrupt Republicans and her votes to cut funding for such domestic programs as Medicaid and student loans make her extremely vulnerable.

Connecticut

District 4

Farrell vs. Shays

Westport Selectwoman Diane Farrell will challenge Republican incumbent Christopher Shays for the second time in this Democratic-leaning district. Farrell is quickly gaining momentum thanks to her pledge to focus on strengthening the economy and jobs.

Pennsylvania

District 6

Murphy vs. Gerlach

Democrat Lois Murphy is again challenging Republican incumbent Jim Gerlach, who

has been plagued by his close ties to former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

New York

District 24

Arcuri vs. Meier

Democratic Oneida County D. A. Michael Arcuri and Republican state Sen. Ray Meier face off for this open seat encompassing 11 counties in central New York. With Republican incumbent Sherwood Boehlert retiring after 24 years, both parties are pouring money into this critical race.

Iowa

District 1

Braley vs. Whalen

Democrat Bruce Braley, a Waterloo trial attorney, squares off against Republican Mike Whalen for this open seat that Democratic House leaders have said is critical to their taking back the House. Braley has targeted Whalen's opposition to issues important to working families, including raising the minimum wage.

Indiana

District 8

Ellsworth vs. Hostettler

Vanderburgh County Sheriff and democratic candidate Brad Ellsworth faces off against Republican incumbent John Hostettler in this Republican-leaning district. Ellsworth, considered to be Hostettler's toughest opponent to date, has a legitimate shot at taking this seat from the Republican incumbent,

who is plagued by a 34 percent approval rating.

Texas

District 22

Lampson vs. Sekula-Gibbs

Democrats are in a good position to take this traditionally Republican district after legal troubles led former House majority leader Tom DeLay to resign from the House three months after winning his party's primary. Texas law does not allow a replacement candidate, so Republicans must back a write-in candidate to replace DeLay. Democratic candidate and former Rep. Nick Lampson is favored to defeat Houston City Councilwoman and Republican write-in candidate Shelley Sekula-Gibbs.

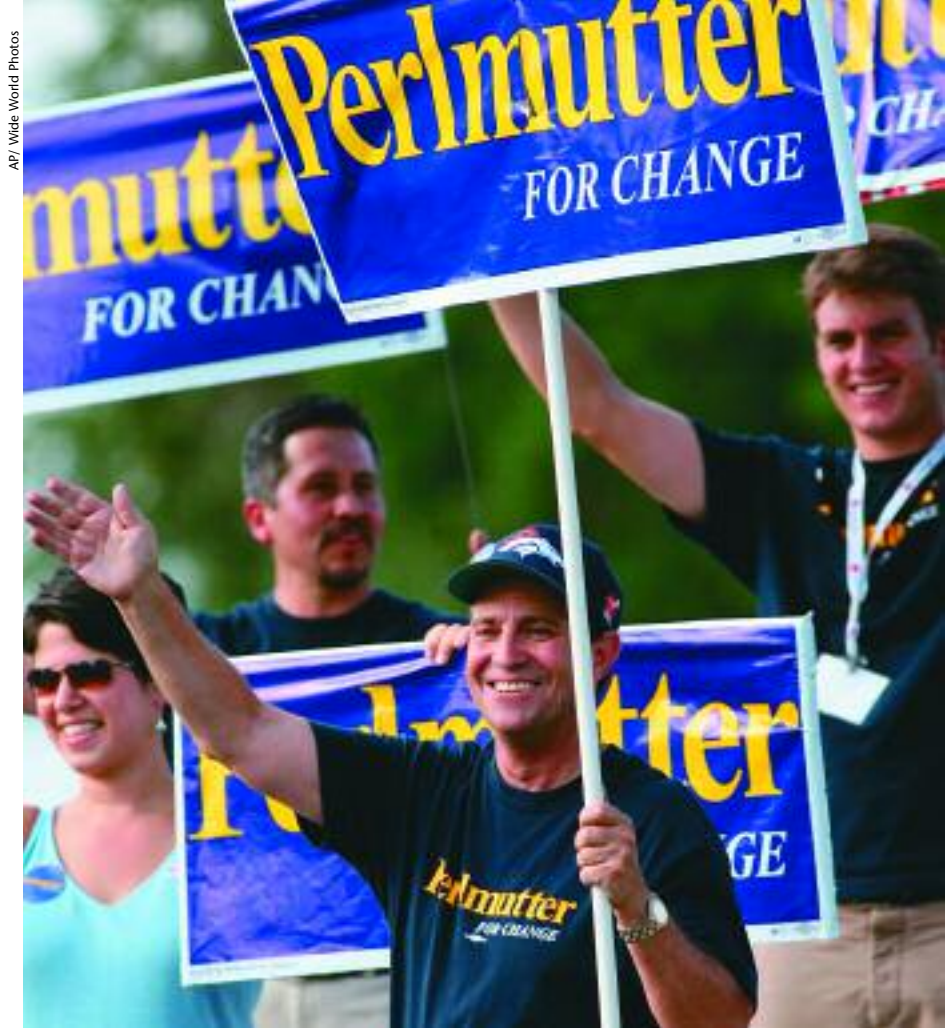


North Carolina

District 11

Shuler vs. Taylor

Democratic candidate and former NFL quarterback Heath Shuler is quickly gaining ground on eight-term Rep. Charles Taylor. Shuler's solid campaign, coupled with ethical questions regarding



Democrat Ed Perlmutter is reaching out to working families in the race for District 7's open seat in Colorado.

Taylor's business practices, could be enough to push a district that has traditionally voted Republican into Democratic hands.

Arizona

District 8

Giffords vs. Graf

Gabrielle Giffords, who has served in both the Arizona Senate and House of Representatives, will compete against Republican Randy Graf for this open seat. While serving in the Senate and House, Giffords was a key sponsor of bills that would have expanded the right of public employees to organize and allow workers to join unions without fear of retaliation.

Colorado

District 7

Perlmutter vs. O'Donnell

Democratic candidate and former state legislator Ed Perlmutter faces off against former gubernatorial aide Rick O'Donnell. Their suburban Denver district is divided evenly between Independents, Democrats and Republicans, making for a close race to capture this open seat.

Vote
November 7
for your family
and your future!