



## From the National Director

*The New York Times* credited NCEC with being most responsible for the passage of the 1971 Campaign Finance Reform Act, the first real change in campaign finance since 1925.

Over the intervening years NCEC never diminished its effort or failed to be prepared for a scandal of Watergate proportions that would help us take additional steps to level the campaign finance playing field and stop the corruption of our elections by special interests.

The magnitude of the Enron scandal propelled reform efforts into flank speed. At long last we may actually be about to enact into law a limitation on campaign "soft money."

The major advantage Republicans have in our electoral system is their access to corporate money and the super rich who control America's wealth. Except for a very few, like Senator John McCain and Representative Chris Shays, Republicans have always publicly spouted lofty rhetoric and

National Director continued on page 6

## 2002 Senate Races:

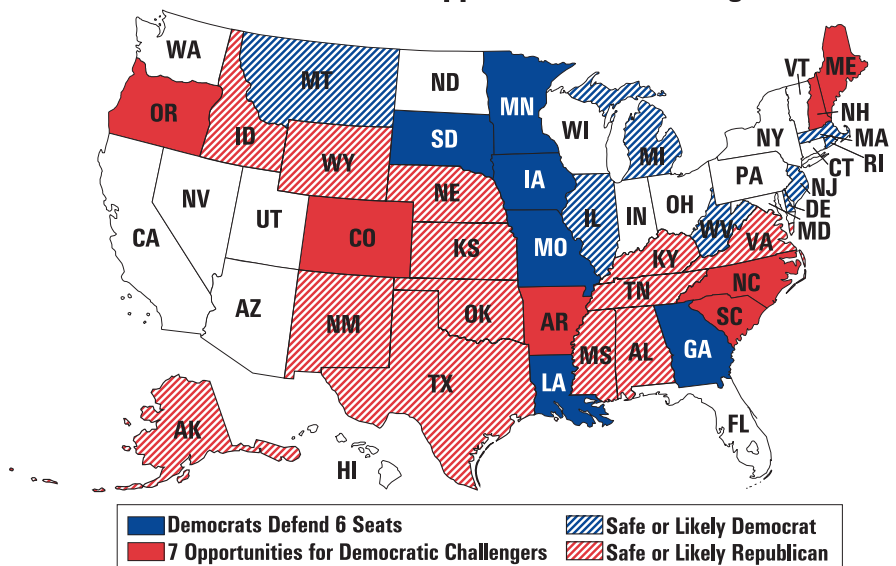
### GOP Pulling Out All Stops to Regain Majority

With the 2002 elections less than nine months away, the Senate races are heating up. It looks that at least half a dozen races could go down to the wire. If 2002 proves as exciting as 2000, when five conservative Republican incumbents, Bill Roth (DE), Spence Abraham (MI), Rod Grams (MN), John Ashcroft (MO), and Slade Gorton (WA), went down in defeat, the Democrats could solidify their hold of the chamber. Certain factors favor the Democrats, namely the historical loss of seats of the President's party during midterms and the Republicans having to defend several more seats. But, the GOP is preparing an "anything goes" campaign.

These ratings are based on current information and could change either way depending on whether certain challengers enter or drop out of the race, or on other unanticipated developments. In this issue, NCEC profiles six Democratic incumbents who will be in very close races. The next *Election Update* will profile endangered GOP incumbents and their Democratic challengers.

Senate Races continued on page 2

### Coast to Coast: Opportunities and Dangers





## Minnesota's Endangered Liberal Grapples with Party Switcher

**Senator Paul Wellstone (D):** First elected 1990; Professor, Carleton College, 1969-1990. **Former St. Paul**

**Mayor Norm Coleman (R):** Elected 1993 as Democrat, 1997 as Republican; Lost 1998 three-way Gubernatorial Race.

One of the most competitive races of 2002 will pit two-term incumbent Senator Paul Wellstone (D) against popular former St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman (R).

Coleman poses a daunting challenge to Wellstone. A February 2002 poll conducted by the *Star-Tribune* indicated that 45% of likely voters would cast their ballots for Wellstone, versus 44% for Coleman. Furthermore, only 38% of respondents believe Wellstone should be reelected, whereas 51% do not.

Wellstone began as an uncompromising liberal professor at Carleton College. In 1990, he rode his "little green bus" through the state to upset Republican incumbent Rudy Boschwitz 50%-48%. Wellstone's margin of victory increased in 1996, when he defeated Boschwitz a second time, 50%-41%. The day after his first triumph Wellstone promised to serve only two terms in the Senate, a pledge he reaffirmed six years later. His view changed when the Democrats earned a precarious one-vote edge in the Senate last year. After much deliberation, Wellstone decided, "now is not the time for me to walk away." It would appear, however, that voters do not yet understand his change of heart. Wellstone's announcement that he has been diagnosed with MS is a sad new campaign development.

Working in Wellstone's favor is that he has outpaced his opponent in raising money – Coleman began the year with \$1.4 million while Wellstone had \$2.1 million. Furthermore, Wellstone has a history of beating the odds. This race will tax NCEC to the max. Follow this exciting race in future editions of the Election Update.



## South Dakota - Skirmish on Daschle's Home Turf

**Senator Tim Johnson (D):** First elected 1996; South Dakota State House, 1978-1982; South Dakota State Senate, 1982-1986; US House of Representatives, At-Large, 1986-1996. **Rep. John Thune (R):** Member of US House of Representatives, At-Large, 1996-2002.

South Dakota, a traditionally Republican state, will host one of the most important races of 2002. This race is symbolically between Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and President George Bush.

The Senate race will pit two well-respected politicians against one another. Johnson has won six statewide races. He defeated the incumbent senator in 1996, Republican

### NCEC Goal is to Provide Maximum Support for all Progressive House and Senate Candidates

**Democrats Must Defend 14 Senate Seats. Six are competitive.**

**Republicans Must Defend 20 Seats. Seven Opportunities for Democratic Pickup.**

#### Democratic Tossup (3)

Carnahan-MO  
Johnson-SD  
Wellstone-MN

#### Republican Tossup (2)

Hutchinson-AR  
Smith-NH

#### Leans Democratic (3)

Cleland-GA  
Harkin-IA  
Landrieu-LA

#### Leans Republican (5)

Allard-CO  
Collins-ME  
Helms-NC - open seat  
Smith-OR  
Thurmond-SC - open seat

#### Safe or Likely Democratic (8)

Baucus-MT  
Biden-DE  
Durbin-IL  
Kerry-MA  
Levin-MI  
Reed-RI  
Rockefeller-WV  
Torricelli-NJ

#### Safe or Likely Republican (13)

Cochran-MS  
Craig-ID  
Domenici-NM  
Enzi-WY  
Gramm-TX - open seat  
Hagel-NE  
Inhofe-OK  
McConnell-KY  
Roberts-KS  
Sessions-AL  
Stevens-AK  
Thompson-TN  
Warner-VA

Larry Pressler, by a razor-thin margin, 51%-49%. Known as a "prairie populist" (i.e., votes with his farmer and union constituents), Johnson has become a moderate force in the Senate. Indeed, he broke ranks with Daschle to vote for Bush's tax cut.

John Thune is a relative novice, running in his first election in 1996 for At-Large Representative. He has proven popular among South Dakotan voters, winning his three races with over 70% of the vote. Because he promised to serve only three terms in the House, Thune was to run for governor, but Bush pushed him hard to run for Senate. Given the popularity of both candidates, this race will go down to the wire.



### Missouri Voters Go to Polls with a New Carnahan on the Ballot

**Senator Jean Carnahan (D):** First appointed 2000; Public Speaker and Author. **Former Rep. Jim Talent (R):**

Lost 2000 Gubernatorial Election; US House of Representatives, 2nd District, 1992-2000; Missouri State House, 1985-1992.

On October 16, 2000, Democratic Senate candidate Mel Carnahan tragically died in a plane crash. In spite of his death, he won against incumbent John Ashcroft (R), and acting Governor Wilson appointed his widow Jean Carnahan in his stead. Observers regard Carnahan as a moderate. She supported the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights and crossed the aisle to vote for Bush's tax relief bill. Carnahan has impressed many for her performance as a new Senator after holding no previous elective office. She did receive some criticism, however, for her vote against fellow Missourian John Ashcroft for Attorney General. Furthermore, she is serving a truncated, two-year term in the Senate and has not had a chance to create an extensive voting record. Aside from partisan polls, there is little else to indicate how the candidates are faring. The Republican American Viewpoint poll conducted in October 2001 gave Carnahan a 48%-43% edge.

Talent represented Missouri's 2nd district for four terms. While in the House, Talent established a mainstream Republican record. He opposed abortion rights and gun control. He left Washington to run for Missouri governor in 2000, but narrowly lost. NCEC is working hard for Sen. Carnahan.



### Iowa - Hawkeye State Hasn't Seen Ganske Yet

**Senator Tom Harkin (D):** First elected 1984; US House of Representatives, 5th District, 1974-1984. **Rep. Greg Ganske (R):** US House of Representatives, old 4th District, 1994-2002.

Recent polls have shown Harkin far outpacing his rival. A December 2001 *Des Moines Register* poll gave Harkin a twenty-three-point advantage over Ganske, 57%-34%. Harkin has one of the most liberal records in the Senate and does not enjoy broad bipartisan support. Indeed, his Senate reelection bids have been relatively close. In 1990, he defeated Rep. Tom Tauke (R) 54% to 46%. Six years later, he beat Rep. Jim Lightfoot 52% to 47%.

Ganske is a moderate who has broken with party leaders many times, once attacking the GOP for being "in the HMO's pockets." Even though Ganske lags far behind Harkin in recent polls, he has not campaigned heavily across the state as of yet, and therefore retains the potential to increase support once voters get to know him. Iowa is generally an extremely competitive state. In 2000, Gore beat Bush by only 4,000 votes out of the 1.2 million cast. Stay informed through NCEC and follow this squeaker race.



### Georgia - Candidates Preparing for Tough Fight in Conservative State

**Senator Max Cleland (D):** First elected 1996; Georgia Secretary of State, 1982-1996. **Rep. Saxby Chambliss (R):** US House of Representatives, old 8th District, 1994-2002.

The GOP has had its sights set on Cleland since he won his first term 49% to 48% in 1996 against ultra-conservative Guy Milner. While Cleland's record in the Senate has been moderate, Republicans argue that he still votes with the Democrats the majority of the time and is too liberal for the state.

GOP frontrunner Chambliss had his district carved up by the Democratic state legislature and decided to run for Senate. He made a couple of early stumbles, including stating that the local sheriff should "pull over every Muslim that crosses the state line." Although Cleland still has more campaign funds on hand, Chambliss has been quickly

catching up, raising over \$1 million in six months alone. A June 2001 Mason Dixon poll had Cleland ahead 46% to 39%. This race is even and will go down to the wire.



**Louisiana – Landrieu Hopes for Wider Margin of Victory**

**Senator Mary Landrieu (D):** First elected 1996; State Treasurer 1987-1995. **Rep. John Cooksey (R):** US House of Representatives, 5th District, 1996-2002. **Jay Clossman (R):** Public Service Commission Chairman; first elected 1996.

Mary Landrieu won her first race for Senate in 1996 by less than 6,000 votes against a controversial GOP candidate and is now a top target for national Republicans, just like her Democratic colleague, Max Cleland, in Georgia. Landrieu also shares similarities with Cleland in that she is attacked by Republicans as not being as conservative as Louisiana’s Senior Senator, John Breaux. Also like Cleland, she is facing a retiring representative who has hurt himself by making insensitive and offensive comments about Muslims following the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Cooksey must also survive a Republican primary against Jay Clossman, Chairman of the Louisiana Public Service

Senate Races continued on page 6

**Redistricting Scorecard: NCEC Shoots Down GOP Gerrymandering Plot**

Of the ten states (Florida, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Wisconsin) that still need to redraw their congressional lines, the outcome of only two states remains uncertain: New York and Florida. Anything could happen in either of these populous states.

The overall count has the Democrats losing just one more seat than the Republicans, with a total of 13 seats considered as toss-ups. This is in stark contrast to the 10-12 seat gain that the GOP has been predicting. The Democrats are slightly behind the Republicans in the redistricting battle, but nowhere near where the pundits were predicting a year ago. This has much to do with the courts and NCEC outmaneuvering the GOP in Texas, Ohio, Colorado, and other high-stakes states.

State	Reapportionment Gain/Loss (seats)	Democratic Gain/Loss (seats)	Republican Gain/Loss (seats)	No Clear Advantage (Seats)
Alabama	0		-1	+1
Arizona	+2	+1		+1
California	+1	+1		
Colorado	+1			+1
Connecticut	-1			-1
Florida	+2		Plan expected in Spring	
Georgia	+2	+2	-2	+2
Illinois	-1			-1
Indiana	-1	-1	-2	+2
Maryland	0		-1	+1
Michigan	-1	-3	+2	
Mississippi	-1			-1
Nevada	+1			+1
New York	-2		Plan expected in Spring	
North Carolina	+1	+1	-1	+1
Ohio	-1	-2		+1
Oklahoma	-1		-2	+1
Pennsylvania	-2	-4	+2	
Tennessee	0		-1	+1
Texas	+2		+1	+1
Utah	0	-1		+1
Wisconsin	-1	-1		
West Virginia	0		-1	+1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>+13</b>

# Latest Developments in NCEC's War Against GOP Conservatives

## Early Redistricting Victories for NCEC

The time and effort NCEC has put into the redistricting process has paid large dividends. Our bank of electoral and demographic data and our unequalled expertise has made NCEC a leading player in blocking Republican plans to pick up a dozen House seats by devious gerrymandering. Democrats are still in position to regain majority control of the House, much to the chagrin of Tom Delay and the right wing.

Over the past year, the National Committee for an Effective Congress has been working tirelessly with Democrats fighting GOP state-by-state gerrymandering. With NCEC's electoral and technical expertise, the double-digit Republican gains predicted last year have not been realized. NCEC's biggest victories were the production of the compromise maps in Texas, New Jersey, and Ohio—all states where Republicans were supposed to make big gains and where NCEC held them at bay. With only a few more states to finish redistricting, the two major ones being New York and Florida, NCEC has helped keep the Democrats even with the Republicans. Our victory ensures that the voters will decide who goes to Congress next November, not partisan right wing state legislators.

### ARIZONA

Surging in population during the last 10 years, Arizona received two new congressional districts, ensuring two competitive open-seat contests in 2002. The new first district is extremely marginal and has a total of 14 declared or likely major party

candidates. The new district incorporates much of the eastern section of the state, extending from the northern state border to the suburbs of Phoenix.

The state's other open-seat race favors Democrats in the Hispanic-majority 7th district. Of course, as is generally true with open-seat races, anything could happen in this southwestern Arizona district.

### COLORADO

The new 7th District was carved out of Denver-area suburbs and is considered a swing district. State Republicans have complained that the district unfairly favors Democrats. A flood of potential candidates, both Republican and Democratic, have been publicly mulling running for election.

### CONNECTICUT

Connecticut lost a House seat because of slower population growth and state lawmakers were forced to combine two districts. After intense negotiations, 5th District Democrat Jim

Maloney and 6th District Republican Nancy Johnson were placed together into a new 5th district. It should prove a close race, especially when looking at how the new district's constituents have voted in recent elections. Although Gore outperformed Bush within the newly configured district, Johnson is used to running in Democratic-heavy Connecticut.

### GEORGIA

Democrats controlled the entire redistricting process in Georgia, and even though Georgia receives two new congressional seats, the legislature placed two pairs of Republican incumbents together. The combination of retirements and incumbent match-ups, has ensured that four districts in Georgia will have contentious, open-seat races in November 2002. The 3rd, 11th, and 13th districts are extremely competitive and the 12th leans Democratic.

### ILLINOIS

The state legislature passed a compromise plan that solidified most of the incumbents. The 19th and 20th districts were combined into the new 19th, reflecting population loss in the southern part of the state. Although it was initially thought that 19th district Democrat David Phelps would run in the new 15th District against Republican Tim Johnson, he has stated that he will move and challenge John Shimkus in the new 19th District. The district leans Republican, but the largest portion of Phelps' former district lies within the new district.

War on GOP continued on page 6

**The NCEC has played a key role in all my elections. This year I'm counting on them more than ever. My colleagues would agree that NCEC's unique electoral and demographic analyses are indispensable to running a modern campaign. ☺**

**Senator Tom Harkin  
Democrat, Iowa**

### INDIANA

The former third congressional district is now the second district and the incumbent, Democrat Tim Roemer, is retiring. Previous Republican candidate, Chris Chocola, has already announced he will run for the seat. Several Democrats have announced their intentions to run, including former Congresswoman Jill Long Thompson. Although Chocola nearly defeated Roemer in 2000, redistricting has made the new 2nd more Democratic.

Known as the "Bloody Eighth" for its tendency to experience highly contentious congressional races, the newly drawn district was made more Democratic. The district's incumbent

is Republican John Hostettler, who has faced close contests since his initial election in 1994. With his redrawn district including even more Democratic voters, this district will see another highly competitive race.

### NEVADA

Reapportionment gave Nevada a new congressional seat for a total of three. Legislators compromised by making the new district evenly competitive between the two parties. Two well-known candidates, Republican State Senator Jon Porter and Democratic Clark County Commissioner Dario Herrera, are the frontrunners. Porter has previously run for Congress, losing to Rep. Shelley Berkley's in 2000. Herrera is a popular young politician, whose old commissioner district is largely contained by the third district.

### NORTH CAROLINA

The state's astounding 21.4% growth between 1990 and 2000 handed North Carolina an additional U.S. House seat. Democrat State Senator Brad Miller, co-chair of the committee that drew North Carolina's new maps, was the first declared candidate in the new 13th district. Several other local Democrats and three relatively inexperienced Republicans have since entered the race. Gore would have beaten Bush 50.0% to 48.9% in the new district.

### PENNSYLVANIA

With Republicans controlling the entire redistricting process in

Pennsylvania and the state losing two congressional seats, several incumbent Democrats were targeted. In the Philadelphia area, Rep. Bob Borski's district was carved up forcing him to retire.

Incumbents are paired up in the new 17th, with Republican George Gekas of the former 17th facing Democrat Tim Holden of the former 6th. This rural, eastern Pennsylvania district was drawn to favor Republicans, although it still remains competitive.

The incumbent Democrat from the former 20th district, Frank Mascara, found himself in a more Republican district in the new 18th. Mascara appears to be determined to move to the neighboring 12th district, where he would face fellow Democrat John Murtha, leaving the 18th open. Although the district has been radically altered and leans Republican, it remains competitive. Bush would have edged out Gore by only 5.0% in the new 18th district.

### TEXAS

Republican Pete Sessions decided to leave the 5th Congressional District and move into the adjacent, newly created 32nd. Although Bush beat Gore in the newly configured 5th by a wide margin, some Texas Democrats think they can take this open seat in 2002. Already, five Republicans and three Democrats have declared their candidacy for the 2002 election.

### Senate Races continued from page 4

Commission. Clossman has labeled Landrieu as an "ultraliberal" like Ted Kennedy.

Recent polling has Landrieu with a comfortable lead, but it remains to be seen how solid her grip will remain after the GOP has a nominee. A January 2002 Democratic poll has Landrieu with 58% to Cooksey's 18% and Clossman's 9%.

### From the National Director continued from page 1

privately scuttled any reform effort. We don't anticipate any change in the GOP mind set.

NCEC members who worked through our Congressional Action Network made an important contribution to the passage of this law. We urge you all to get involved. You too can make a difference.

**NOW ONLINE:  
more information on  
2002 Senate Races**

