



## From the National Director



Despite President Bush's unprecedented coast-to-coast campaign to privatize Social Security and a massive corporate-financed advertising blitz designed to scare us about the future of Social Security, Americans have responded with a resounding NO. (60% to 32% -

*Battleground poll*)

When a full-court press by the Religious Right and the entire conservative network tried to convince Americans that Senate rules, which were established 200 years ago, should be summarily jettisoned to allow the nomination of Bush's most extreme judicial nominees, again Americans said NO. (57% to 32% - *Newsweek poll of March 17-18*)

When Tom DeLay shepherded an 11th hour bill through Congress to intervene in the tragic Terry Schiavo matter, and George Bush rushed to Washington to sign the bill, again Americans disapproved by a wide margin. (75% to 20% - *Time magazine poll of March 22*)

If we know anything about President Bush, we know how quickly he can use his bully pulpit to shift the country's focus from domestic issues to national security. He has also shown a willingness to play the terrorism card when the public turns against his regressive domestic agenda.

We suggest that the Democrats should be ready to meet the President head-on should he be preparing for one of his famous agenda switches. If the past is any guide, this could already be in the works.

The fact is that Bush was not only willing to go to war on weak evidence but also, since 9/11, despite his rhetoric, that he has not taken the responsibility of protecting America from terrorism very seriously.

Many analysts identified the sites that store toxic chemicals as a major terrorist risk and asked for tighter safety regulations. At that point the oil and chemical moguls intervened with Karl Rove and

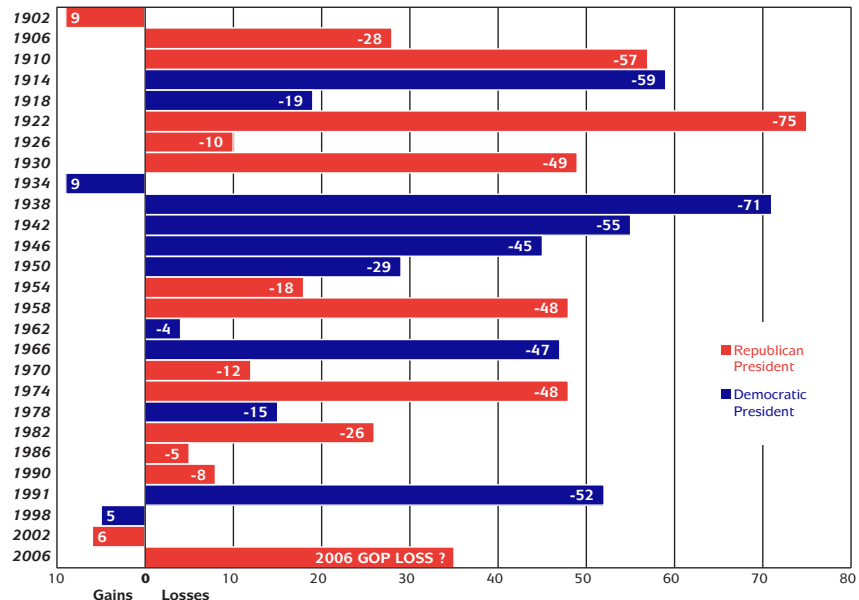
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## NCEC PREPARES MAJOR ASSAULT ON RIGHT WING INCUMBENTS

### Midterm Historical Trend Favors House Democrats. Early Analysis Identifies Some Vulnerable GOP Members

In all but three midterm elections in the last 100 years the party holding the White House lost seats in Congress. Those exceptions are revealing. In 1934 – two years after gaining huge majorities in Congress – Democrats added to their majorities by picking up nine more seats in the U.S. House. Franklin Roosevelt was still very popular and voters were in no mood to return to Republican economic policies, which they blamed for the Great Depression. Likewise, in the 1998 midterm election, Democrats benefited from the high public approval of Bill Clinton's presidency (not his behavior), reversed the trend and picked up five House seats. In the 2002 Bush midterm, the GOP gained six House seats, due primarily to GOP gerrymandering.

#### Historical Trends Favor Democrats In The 2006 Midterm Congressional Elections



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# SOME OF THE CLOSEST GO

## Colorado 4

**GOP Incumbent: Marilyn Musgrave**

**2002 Congress:**

Marilyn Musgrave (R) 115,359 (55%)  
Stan Matsunaka (D) 87,499 (42%)

**2004 Congress:**

Marilyn Musgrave (R) 155,958 (54%)  
Stan Matsunaka (D) 136,812 (46%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) (58%)  
John Kerry (D) (41%)

Although the Fourth District leans Republican, Marilyn Musgrave only narrowly beat state senator Stan Matsunaka in 2002 and 2004.

Explosive growth in the northern part of this district typifies the exurban growth that both parties are attempting to turn to their advantage.

## Colorado 7

**GOP Incumbent: Bob Beauprez/open**

**2002 Congress:**

Bob Beauprez (R) 81,789 (47%)  
Mike Feeley (D) 81,668 (47%)

**2004 Congress:**

Bob Beauprez (R) 135,571 (56%)  
Dave Thomas (D) 106,026 (44%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) (48%)  
John Kerry (D) (51%)

Bob Beauprez captured this seat in 2002 with a winning margin of only 121 of 172,870 votes cast. Although Beauprez won in 2004 with 56 percent of the vote, this suburban Denver district voted for John Kerry at the same time. Beauprez is running for governor and the prospect of an open seat has caused eight former and current state legislators to look at the race.

## Connecticut 2

**GOP Incumbent: Rob Simmons**

**2002 Congress:**

Rob Simmons (R) 117,434 (54%)  
Joe Courtney (D) 99,674 (46%)

**2004 Congress:**

Rob Simmons (R) 166,412 (54%)  
Jim Sullivan (D) 140,536 (46%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) 147,819 (44%)  
John Kerry (D) 180,235 (54%)

Rob Simmons has faced three close elections beginning with his 2000 defeat of 10-term Democrat Sam Gejdenson by less than three thousand votes. Gore and Kerry won majorities in this Democratic-leaning eastern Connecticut district. Former state senator and 2002 nominee Joe Courtney has announced his candidacy.

## Connecticut 4

**GOP Incumbent: Christopher Shays**

**2002 Congress:**

Christopher Shays (R) 113,197 (64%)  
Stephanie Sanchez (D) 62,491 (36%)

**2004 Congress:**

Christopher Shays (R) 152,493 (52%)  
Diane Farrell (D) 138,333 (48%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) 143,280 (46%)  
John Kerry (D) 162,166 (52%)

After facing weak opponents in recent elections, Chris Shays was nearly defeated by Westport selectwoman Diane Farrell in 2004. Both Kerry and Gore won the Fourth District and Democrats in statewide races often prevail. Farrell may decide to challenge Shays again. In any case Shays is vulnerable in 2006.

## Indiana 9

**GOP Incumbent: Mike Sodrel**

**2002 Congress:**

Baron Hill (D) 96,654 (51%)  
Mike Sodrel (R) 87,169 (46%)

**2004 Congress:**

Mike Sodrel (R) 142,197 (50%)  
Baron Hill (D) 140,772 (49%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) 171,829 (59%)  
John Kerry (D) 117,590 (40%)

After narrowly winning in 1998, 2000 and 2002, Baron Hill lost to Mike Sodrel by 1,425 votes in 2004. With a record of electing Democrats, this Bloomington/Southeastern Indiana district will be a target especially if Hill chooses a rematch.

## Iowa 1

**GOP Incumbent: Jim Nussle/open**

**2002 Congress:**

Jim Nussle (R) 112,280 (57%)  
Ann Hutchinson (D) 83,779 (43%)

**2004 Congress:**

Jim Nussle (R) 159,993 (55%)  
Bill Gluba (D) 125,590 (43%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) 138,073 (46%)  
John Kerry (D) 157,380 (53%)

With Jim Nussle running for Governor, Democrats have a good chance of picking up this eastern Iowa district. Both Gore and Kerry won majorities here against Bush.

## Louisiana 7

**GOP Incumbent: Charles Boustany**

**2002 Congress:**

Chris John (D) 138,659 (87%)  
Roberto Valletta (I) 21,051 (13%)

**2004 Congress:**

Charles Boustany (R) 75,039 (55%)  
Willie Mount (D) 61,493 (45%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) (60%)  
John Kerry (D) (39%)

Former representative Chris John who gave up his seat in an unsuccessful run for the US Senate in 2004 may return to challenge first term representative Charles Boustany. Besides voting for John four times, this Cajun-country district handed Bill Clinton majorities in 1992 and 1996, giving Democrats hope for 2006.

## Minnesota 6

**GOP Incumbent: Mark Kennedy/open**

**2002 Congress:**

Mark Kennedy (R) 164,747 (57%)  
Janet Robert (DFL) 100,738 (35%)

**2004 Congress:**

Mark Kennedy (R) 203,669 (54%)  
Patty Wetterling (DFL) 173,309 (46%)

**2004 President:**

George W. Bush (R) 216,574 (57%)  
John Kerry (D) 161,601 (42%)

With Mark Kennedy running for the GOP Senate nomination, Democrats may

# TOP HOUSE RACES TO WATCH

have an opportunity in this suburban Twin Cities district that also includes some fast-growing exurban counties. Possible Democratic candidates include 2004 nominee, Patty Wetterling, St. Cloud mayor John Ellenbecker and a staff member to former representative Bill Luther, Ted Thompson.

## New Mexico 1

**GOP Incumbent: Heather Wilson**

### 2002 Congress:

Heather Wilson (R) 95,711 (55%)  
Richard Romero (D) 77,234 (45%)

### 2004 Congress:

Heather Wilson (R) 147,372 (54%)  
Richard Romero (D) 123,339 (46%)

### 2004 President:

George W. Bush (R) 133,134 (48%)  
John Kerry (D) 142,373 (51%)

Encompassing the more prosperous areas of Albuquerque, the First District gives Democrats some majorities. Al Gore carried the First with 54 percent of the vote and Kerry beat Bush 51-48 percent in 2004. Heather Wilson was first elected in a special election in 1998, aided by the strong showing of a Green Party candidate. Wilson continues to win by modest margins.

## New York 29

**GOP Incumbent: Randy Kuhl**

### 2002 Congress:

Amo Houghton (R) 127,657 (73%)  
Kisun Peters (D) 37,128 (21%)

### 2004 Congress:

Randy Kuhl (R) 136,883 (57%)  
Samara Barend (D) 104,555 (43%)

### 2004 President:

George W. Bush (R) (57%)  
John Kerry (D) (42%)

New York 29 is another district that gives Democrats majorities in other elections. Bill Clinton (1996), Chuck Schumer (Senate 2004) and Eliot Spitzer (2002 Attorney General) all carried the district. Randy Kuhl's weak performance in 2004 almost ensures that he will face another close race in 2006.

## Pennsylvania 6

**GOP Incumbent: Jim Gerlach**

### 2002 Congress:

Jim Gerlach (R) 103,648 (51%)  
Dan Wofford (D) 98,128 (49%)

### 2004 Congress:

Jim Gerlach (R) 160,348 (51%)  
Lois Murphy (D) 153,977 (49%)

### 2004 President:

George W. Bush (R) (48%)  
John Kerry (D) (52%)

In a closely fought race attorney Lois Murphy nearly knocked off incumbent Jim Gerlach in 2004. Both Ed Rendel (2002 Governor) and Bob Casey (2000 Auditor General) carried the district by wide margins. With near defeats in the past two elections Gerlach should expect another close one in 2006.

## Pennsylvania 8

**GOP Incumbent: Michael Fitzpatrick**

### 2002 Congress:

Jim Greenwood (R) 127,475 (63%)  
Timothy Reece (D) 76,178 (37%)

### 2004 Congress:

Michael Fitzpatrick (R) 183,229 (56%)  
Ginny Schrader (D) 143,427 (44%)

### 2004 President:

George W. Bush (R) (48%)  
John Kerry (D) (51%)

In a close 2004 contest, former Bucks County commissioner Michael Fitzpatrick held onto this open seat. Far more conservative than the moderate Republican he replaced, Fitzpatrick is out of step with voters in this suburban Philadelphia district.

## Texas 22

**GOP Incumbent: Tom Delay**

### 2002 Congress:

Tom Delay (R) 100,499 (63%)  
Tim Riley (D) 55,716 (35%)

### 2004 Congress:

Tom Delay (R) 150,386 (57%)  
Richard Morrison (D) 112,034 (42%)

### 2004 President:

George W. Bush (R) (64%)  
John Kerry (D) (35%)

The Twenty-second District was drawn by Tom Delay for Tom Delay and is strongly Republican. However even Delay's GOP constituents are reacting negatively to his ethical lapses and his poll numbers are dropping. Former representative Nick Lampson, who lost his own seat in the Delay redistricting, has entered the race along with at least two other Democrats.

## Washington 8

**GOP Incumbent: Dave Reichert**

### 2002 Congress:

Jennifer Dunn (R) 121,633 (60%)  
Heidi Behrens-Benedict (D) 75,931 (37%)

### 2004 Congress:

Dave Reichert (R) 173,298 (52%)  
Dave Ross (D) 157,148 (47%)

### 2004 President:

George W. Bush (R) 168,087 (48%)  
John Kerry (D) 177,229 (51%)

Al Gore beat Bush 53-43 percent in 2000 and John Kerry bested Bush in 2004 in this suburban Seattle-based district. Dave Reichert's position on environmental and cultural issues are too conservative for this Democratic-leaning district. Another priority district for Democrats in 2006.

## Wisconsin 8

**GOP Incumbent: Mark Green/open**

### 2002 Congress:

Mark Green (R) 152,745 (75%)  
Andrew Becker (D) 50,284 (25%)

### 2004 Congress:

Mark Green (R) 248,070 (70%)  
Dottie LeClair (D) 105,513 (30%)

### 2004 President:

George W. Bush (R) 202,238 (55%)  
John Kerry (D) 162,793 (45%)

With incumbent Mark Green running for Governor Democrats have a chance to win this northeastern Wisconsin/Green Bay district. Kerry got 45 percent here in 2004.

“Director” continued from page 1

these efforts were blocked.

The clear probability of potential terrorist attacks on major ports and nuclear plants has been ignored by the White House and their protection has gone unfunded even after the insistent urging by House and Senate members of both parties. Such possible targets remain our most vulnerable soft spots.

Politics, not national security, has dictated the allocation of federal funds

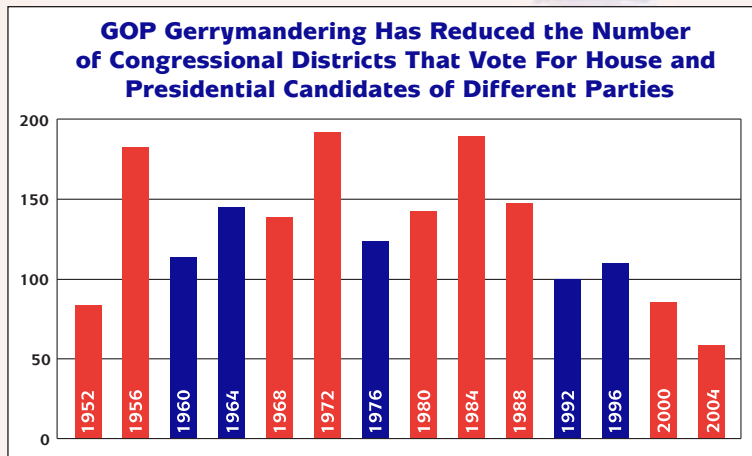
for homeland security. Several times as much money went to protecting a Wyoming resident than to a New Yorker. The money to protect our ports went to unlikely locations such as the six sites in landlocked Arkansas.

Bush chose Bernard Kerik as his Homeland Security director without a serious background investigation which would have revealed Kerik’s lack of qualification and his dissembling to cover a checkered past.

When Bush uses national security issues as a refuge from his domestic failures and when he hides behind the flag, we must be prepared to challenge him immediately. NCEC will advise its candidates on how best to respond effectively.

It is ironic that national security and the threat of terrorism may have been the key issue in the Bush election of 2004 and may be an important issue in electing Democrats in 2006.

“Assault” continued from page 1



2006 to recapture majority control of the U.S. House. NCEC is working now to identify those congressional districts on which to concentrate that effort. In the last couple of years, largely as a result of GOP gerrymandering,

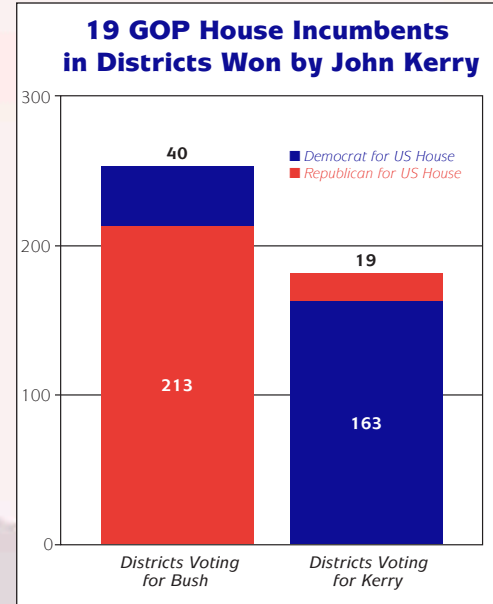
narrow margin. NCEC is already identifying the candidates best able to challenge GOP incumbents in those battleground districts. This early analysis of battleground U.S. House districts is a “first cut” in that process. Inevitably, this list will increase as more information becomes available and candidates are identified. This analysis concentrates on GOP-held districts.

Without the explanatory factors that caused these exceptions, 2006 is shaping up as a conventional midterm election and this time congressional Democrats have the edge. Public approval of President Bush’s policies is sinking. Large majorities of Americans disapprove of his Social Security privatization scheme, GOP attempts to force through Bush’s judicial nominations using the “nuclear option” and inserting the federal government into the Terri Schiavo case. Americans disapprove of Bush’s handling of the economy (34-57% disapproval, *CBS News Poll*, April 2005) and his handling of the War in Iraq (39-56% disapproval). Americans have a more favorable opinion of Democrats in Congress (49-40% positive) and unfavorable opinion of Republicans (42-49% negative).

fewer than 35 seats remain competitive in a general election.

Nineteen Republicans were elected in districts that, at the same time, gave majorities to John Kerry over George W. Bush. An additional 11 Republicans won by 10% or less.

Although still early in the 2006 cycle, the NCEC staff is already at work updating our database (already the largest) of electoral and demographic information at the precinct level. NCEC is already working to identify those battleground districts where the next election will be won or lost by a



“NCEC has provided invaluable technical assistance to my reelection effort. Their expertise has made a major difference not only in my race, but in countless races across the country. Without a doubt, the NCEC has led the fight for progressive candidates and won many of the most important battles.”

Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat, Massachusetts