CA-52 Research

Scott Peters (Democratic Incumbent) Vulnerabilities

Scott Peters was first elected to Congress in 2012. Peters has been active in San Diego politics for several years, having served as a Port Commissioner, City Attorney, and for two-terms as a City Council member. Prior to working in politics, Peters was an environmental lawyer. He currently serves on the House Armed Services and Judiciary Committees.

### Top Hits

* NRCC has hit him on national security issues such as his votes to close Guantanamo Bay and in favor of the Iranian nuclear deal
* Is personally wealthy—his wife works in the financial industry as a stock trader, and he was listed as the 6th wealthiest member of Congress
* Has holdings in several oil and gas companies
* Has been accused of insider trading and voting for legislation that benefits his investments
* Has been working to close the gun show loophole

Denise Gitsham (Republican Challenger) Vulnerabilities

Denise Gitsham is a principal and co-owner of a public relations firm. Previously, she held roles in the Bush White House and the Department of Justice before becoming a registered DC lobbyist. While a lobbyist, Gitsham pushed dirty technologies for coal companies and fought against efforts to regulate dangerous chemicals. She appeared at CPAC this year and told the crowd, “I’m one of you.” She boasted that she got a role as Hispanic Relations Coordinator on the Bush campaign by saying she was “just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything.”

* Said she is “pro-life” and supported “defunding Planned Parenthood”
* Filed her candidate personal financial disclosure form five months late
* Lobbied on behalf of Peabody Energy, the self-described “largest private-sector coal company in the world”
* Lobbied CPSC on behalf of a company that was actively downplaying the toxicity of chemical it produced
* Appeared on the 12th season of the Bachelor, but was eliminated after talking about Karl Rove when meeting the Bachelor
* San Diego Union-Tribune reported she had “direct ties” to Karl Rove; Said she would eventually “reach out” to Bush and Rove directly to help in her campaign

Jacquie Atkinson (Republican Challenger) Vulnerabilities

Jacquie Atkinson is a Marine Corps veteran who served in the Marines for ten years and served in Iraq. She was an explosive device expert and served as a platoon leader in Iraq. Atkinson is currently works for a military contractor. She is still in the National Guard. Atkinson is openly gay and engaged to marry her partner.

* Has close ties to Carl DeMaio and other San Diego republicans
* Not on record on many issues

John Horst (Republican Challenger) Vulnerabilities

John Horst works in the information technology field and is currently is a member of Mira Mesa’s Community Planning Group and Town Council. After graduating from St. Augustine High School, a private Catholic institution in San Diego, Horst studied theology at Bethel University in Minnesota and the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary in the Philippines. He is an Evangelical Christian who has been involved with the Pacific Lighthouse Christian Fellowship church since 2001. Horst and his wife have co-owned Xanesti Technology Services, an information technology company, since 2008. He maintains a conservative religious blog and contributes writings to other online publications.

* Called the Supreme Court’s decision legalizing same-sex marriage is “nothing short of a late-term cultural abortion”; believes homosexuality is unnatural
* Criticized minimum wage workers for expecting a livable wage
* Questioned the science behind global warming
* Proposed creation of “immigrant labor cooperatives” to handle intake of undocumented immigrants, says border security not the problem
* Supports repealing Obamacare
* Anti-choice