

# 2014 Red to Blue Candidates

## *Pete Aguilar (CA-31)*

### *Open Seat*

- Pete Aguilar is currently serving as the mayor of Redlands, California. Previously he served as a member of the Redlands City Council and is a small business owner.
- This Inland Empire district is the most Democratic district held by a Republican; President Obama received nearly 58% of the vote in 2012.
- In February of 2014, Rep. Gary Miller announced his retirement creating a heavily Democratic favored open seat.
- In the June 3<sup>rd</sup> primary election, Aguilar placed second in the “jungle primary” overcoming high Republican turnout. Aguilar defeated two Republicans and earned the most votes of any Democrat.



## *Staci Appel (IA-03)*

### *Open Seat*

- Staci Appel is a former State Senator who won in a heavily Republican district, where she fought for Iowa’s middle class families, farmers and small business owners.
- In December, Rep. Tom Latham announced his retirement leaving an open seat in this district that leans Democratic. President Obama won in 2012 with 53% of the vote here.
- Due to her work in the state Senate district, Staci will be able to make inroads to rural voters in the Western portion of the district.
- Appel was able to build her war chest during a six-way Republican primary. Republicans failed to nominate a candidate on primary day and have been forced to select their candidate by convention that will happen in late June. The convention is likely to produce a candidate far too conservative for the district. The last candidate nominated by convention in Iowa was Congressman Steve King.



## *Brad Ashford (NE-02)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Lee Terry*

- Brad Ashford is a state Senator who is known for his ability to work with both parties to get results.
- Recent polling shows that if the election were held today Ashford and Terry would be tied. Ashford joined the race late in February of 2014; he needs to put together a campaign budget quickly but with the necessary resources this seat is winnable.
- Rep. Terry is uniquely vulnerable. He has nearly universal name ID and nearly twice as many voters disapprove of his job performance than approve. During the government shutdown Terry was quoted saying that he would not return his paycheck because he has a “nice house and a kid in college.” This quote highlighted what many NE-02 voters were already thinking, Terry is radically out of touch. Polling shows that Rep. Terry’s vote to shut down the government and his subsequent comments have dramatically damaged his re-election prospects.





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## *Aimee Belgard (NJ-03)*

### *Open Seat*

- Aimee Belgard is currently the Burlington County Freeholder and has a long history of public service.
- Belgard is running in an open seat following Rep. John Runyan's announcement that he will not seek re-election.
- Though President Obama won this district in 2012 with 53.2% of the vote, Belgard will need to run an aggressive campaign and raise enough money to be competitive in both the New York and Philadelphia media markets.
- Belgard is running against businessman Tom MacArthur, who has personally contributed over \$2 million to his campaign so far this cycle.



## *Erin Bilbray (NV-03)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Joe Heck*

- Erin is a third generation Nevadan and has strong ties to the community.
- Bilbray founded Emerge Nevada, an organization that encourages and trains women to run for office.
- President Obama won the 3rd district with 50.4% of the vote in 2012 and Senator Reid carried the district with 50.9% in 2010.



## *Pam Byrnes (MI-07)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Tim Walberg*

- Pam Byrnes is a former State Representative with a record of winning tough races.
- Byrnes will be facing Tea Party Republican Rep. Tim Walberg. Michigan's 7th district became more Democratic after redistricting and it is clear that Rep. Walberg is out of step with his district.
- Byrnes' sprawling district covers five media markets, including the costly Detroit market.
- Byrnes outraised her opponent Rep. Tim Walberg in the first quarter of 2014, forcing the NRCC to add Rep. Walberg to their Patriot program.





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## *Emily Cain (ME-02)*

### *Open Seat*

- Emily Cain is currently serving in her first term in the Maine State Senate.
- She is the former House Democratic leader, and was the youngest woman to hold that position in Maine history. She was first elected to the Maine House in 2004 at the age of 24.
- The majority of the 2nd district is in the Bangor media market, which is relatively inexpensive. The secondary media markets cover the more rural and expansive northern parts of the district.
- Mainers have elected a Democrat to represent this district in Congress in every election since 1994.
- In 2010, the most challenging year for Democrats in recent history, Mike Michaud was re-elected by a 10-point margin.
- President Obama won this district by a 9-point margin over Mitt Romney in 2012 and a 10-point margin over John McCain in 2008.



## *Ann Callis (IL-13)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Rodney Davis*

- Ann Callis is the former Chief Judge of the Illinois Third Judicial Circuit, where she was known as a reformer.
- This district represents the closest race won by a Republican. Rep. Davis won this seat by a margin of only 1,002 votes in 2012.
- Illinois' 13<sup>th</sup> district lies partially in the costly St. Louis media market, making it a relatively expensive race.

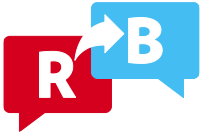


## *Jerry Cannon (MI-01)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Dan Benishek*

- Jerry Cannon is an Iraq and Vietnam veteran, retired National Guard Major General, and former county sheriff.
- As a county sheriff, he has worked throughout northern Michigan to keep communities safe, and as a General in Iraq he helped secure our troops.
- Cannon continues to build support and has now outraised Rep. Benishek two quarters in a row.
- Rep. Benishek has not established a base of support in this district and won by less than 1% in 2012.



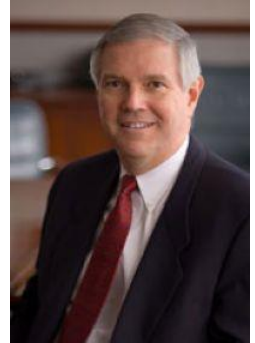


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## *Nick Casey (WV-02)*

### *Open Seat*

- Nick Casey is an attorney and certified public accountant, and former Chairman of the WV Democratic Party. He is also Past President of the West Virginia State Bar Association.
- Casey is running in the open seat being vacated by Rep. Shelly Moore Capito.
- Casey had over \$600,000 cash on hand at the end of Q1 2014, which puts him in a strong position for the general election.
- Former Maryland state Senator Alex Mooney will be Casey's Republican opponent in the general election. Mooney recently moved to West Virginia to run for this Congressional seat.



## *Sean Eldridge (NY-19)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Chris Gibson*

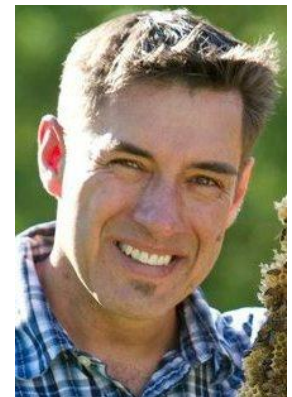
- Sean Eldridge is the president of Hudson River Ventures, an investment fund focused on investing in small business opportunities in the Hudson Valley. He is also a Senior Advisor at Freedom to Marry, the campaign to win marriage equality nationwide.
- The 19th district is one of the most competitive Republican held seats in New York; President Obama won the district with 53.2% of the vote.
- The district is covered by four media markets, one of them being the cost-prohibitive New York City market.

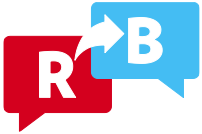


## *Michael Eggman (CA-10)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Jeff Denham*

- Michael Eggman is the owner of Eggman Bee Farm, a family farm in Turlock, California.
- California's 10th district consists of Stanislaus County and portions of San Joaquin County, and is 34.9% Hispanic. President Obama won this district in 2012.
- Eggman's background is a good fit for the district, as agriculture makes up much of the area's economy.





# 2014 Red to Blue Candidates

## *John Foust (VA-10)*

### *Open Seat*

- Since his election to the Fairfax Board of Supervisors in 2007, John has brought his commitment to hard work and problem solving leadership to serving the families and businesses of northern Virginia.
- Rep. Wolfe announced in December of 2013 he would not be seeking re-election, making this seat immediately competitive.
- Virginia's 10th district is fully in the Washington, DC media market; Foust will need to keep his strong fundraising pace to communicate with voters in this very expensive market.



## *Gwen Graham (FL-02)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Steve Southerland*

- Gwen Graham was previously the Director of Employee Relations for the Leon County School District. Before that she worked as a lawyer at an energy and environmental law firm in Washington, D.C.
- Gwen is the daughter of former Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham.
- Rep. Steve Southerland narrowly defeated Democratic nominee Al Lawson in 2012, receiving only 52.7% of the vote.
- Gwen has over \$1.3 million cash on hand at the end of Q1 2014, and retains a cash on hand advantage over Rep. Southerland.

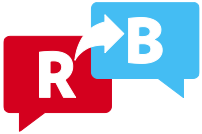


## *Patrick Henry Hays (AR-02)*

### *Open Seat*

- Patrick Henry Hays was the Mayor of North Little Rock for more than twenty years before retiring in 2012. His long serving record brings abnormally high favorability and name ID to the race as a challenger.
- Hays is largely credited with turning the city around and is responsible for the Verizon Center, a minor league ball park and the Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center.
- Hays is a strong fundraiser, raising over \$300,000 for two consecutive quarters.
- Hays will compete against out-of-touch Republican banker French Hill in November.





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## Roxanne “Rocky” Lara (NM-02)

*Incumbent Rep. Steve Pearce*

- Rocky Lara is a former Eddy County Commissioner and small business owner.
- During her time at the Commission, she worked hard to maintain and bring good jobs to Southern New Mexico.
- Rocky provides a contrast to millionaire Rep. Pearce in one of the most Hispanic districts in America represented by a non-Hispanic Republican.



## John Lewis (MS-AL)

*Open Seat*

- John Lewis is Senator Baucus' former state director. While working for Senator Baucus, Lewis visited all 56 counties in the state.
- Lewis will face former state Senator Ryan Zinke. Zinke won a bruising Republican primary after spending more than \$200,000 on television.
- Lewis enters the general election with a cash advantage but will need to raise enough to compete in a statewide race covering five media markets.
- After the 2012 election, Democrats held all statewide offices except for the Attorney General and U.S. House. In 2014, Democrats will have a competitive race to hold a senate seat as well as a chance to pick up this house seat.

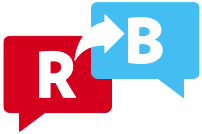


## Jim Mowrer (IA-04)

*Incumbent Rep. Steve King*

- Jim Mowrer is a retired army sergeant and former defense department official.
- Mowrer is running against Tea Party favorite Rep. Steve King. Rep. King's inflammatory comments about immigration and other issues have drawn attention in Iowa and nationwide.
- With three competitive media markets and 39 counties this district could be expensive, especially if the Governor's race or the U.S. Senate race become competitive.
- Mowrer has outraised Rep. King in every filing period that he has been in the race.





## 2014 Red to Blue Candidates

### *Pat Murphy (IA-01)*

#### *Open Seat*

- Pat Murphy is an attorney and former Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives.
- On June 3rd, Murphy won a competitive Democratic primary for Iowa's first Congressional district which is being vacated by Rep. Bruce Braley.
- Democratic Rep. Bruce Braley has held this seat since 2006. President Obama won the seat in 2008 and 2012.
- After the competitive primary, Murphy will need to quickly rebuild his war chest to compete in the multiple media market district, where competitive statewide races will drive up costs.



### *Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. (NY-11)*

#### *Incumbent Rep. Michael Grimm*

- Councilman Recchia was elected to the New York City Council in 2001, after serving as a Community School Board member for 12 years. He currently serves as the Chairman of the New York City Council Finance Committee.
- Rep. Grimm was recently indicted. He has stated publicly that he has no plans to vacate the ballot, take a leave of absence or resign from his position in Congress. Republicans have very little legal ability to remove him from the ballot.
- New York's 11<sup>th</sup> district is made up of Staten Island and part of Brooklyn. It is contained entirely within the expensive New York City media market.
- Recchia has raised more than \$1.4 million dollars this cycle and has nearly as much cash on hand as Michael Grimm.

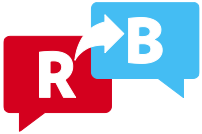


### *Amanda Renteria (CA-21)*

#### *Incumbent Rep. David Valadao*

- Amanda Renteria is a first generation American who previously worked as a high school teacher and Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Stabenow.
- President Obama won the 21<sup>st</sup> district with 55.7% of the vote in 2012.
- Young Guns reserved television time in CA-21 to defend Rep. Valadao.
- Renteria is a strong fundraiser, but more than \$300,000 in outside spending has already been spent against her this cycle.





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## *Kathleen Rice (NY-04)*

### *Open Seat*

- Kathleen Rice is the District Attorney of Nassau County in Long Island representing 1.3 million New Yorkers.
- She was first elected in 2005 after defeating a 31-year incumbent, making her the first woman elected DA in Long Island's history.
- Democrats are strongly favored to keep this seat in 2014. Rep. McCarthy defeated her Republican opponent by 30 points in 2012.
- Rice raised more than \$1.47 million in the first quarter of 2014.



## *Martha Robertson (NY-23)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Tom Reed*

- Martha Robertson has served in the Tompkins County Legislature since 2002 and has served as Chair of the Legislature since January 2010.
- Rep. Tom Reed won by only 10,000 votes in 2012 against an under-funded challenger.
- Rep. Tom Reed is now under fire for paying his property taxes late over a dozen times and using campaign funds to pay the, once. There is currently an outstanding FEC complaint and Ethics complaint regarding his tax issues.
- In Q1 of 2014 Robertson posted her best fundraising quarter to date, raising \$327,000.



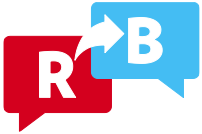
## *Andrew Romanoff (CO-06)*

### *Incumbent Rep. Mike Coffman*

- Andrew Romanoff is the former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives.
- Romanoff's opponent, Rep. Coffman, is out of touch with the changing needs of the district, especially with the increasing Latino population.
- President Obama won this seat in 2008 and 2012 and political forecasters are rating it as a pure toss up.
- Romanoff continues to be a successful fundraiser, raising over \$2.5 million since entering the race last year.





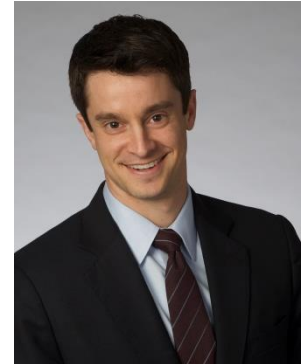


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## *Kevin Strouse (PA-08)*

*Incumbent Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick*

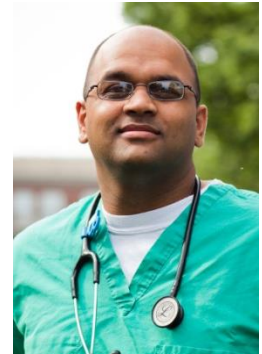
- Kevin Strouse served in the United States Army as an Army Ranger and then worked at the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick was placed on the first round of the Patriot Program, the NRCC's program for vulnerable Republicans.
- Pennsylvania's 8th district is an efficient place to campaign; however, Philadelphia media prices make it one of the most expensive media markets to communicate in.



## *Manan Trivedi (PA-06)*

*Open Seat*

- Manan Trivedi is a physician and an Iraq war veteran. During the war, Trivedi served as a battlefield surgeon with the Marine Corps.
- Trivedi is running in an open seat being vacated by popular Republican Rep. Jim Gerlach.
- Trivedi will have to communicate in the expensive Philadelphia media market.
- Trivedi's opponent, Ryan Costello, has been named to the NRCC Young Guns Program, their program for top candidates.



## *James Lee Witt (AR-04)*

*Open Seat*

- James Lee Witt is a former County Judge and the Director of FEMA under President Clinton.
- Witt brings an uncommon wealth of experience and a compelling personal story to this open seat.
- Witt has maintained excellent relationships from his time in the Clinton administration, and has been using his connections to help him raise money in DC and nationally. In Q1 2014, Witt raised more than any of his Republican opponents.
- Witt will face Republican Bruce Westerman in November. Westerman is the Arkansas House Majority Leader.





## 2014 Red to Blue Candidates

### *Aaron Woolf (NY-21)*

#### *Open Seat*

- Aaron Woolf is the producer and director of the hit documentary King Corn and the filmmaker behind the acclaimed PBS specials Blueprint America: Beyond the Motor City.
- This is an open seat, being vacated by Democratic Congressman Bill Owens.
- In 2012, President Obama won this district with 53.1% of the vote. The district encompasses a larger territory of Northern New York, extending from the Vermont to the Canadian borders including the Plattsburgh, Watertown and Albany media markets.
- Since receiving the endorsement of the Democratic county chairs in February Aaron Woolf has raised more than \$200,000 and personally contributed \$200,000; finishing Q1 with more than \$400,000 cash on hand.





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- \$ \_\_\_ for Pete Aguilar (CA-31)
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- \$ \_\_\_ for Brad Ashford (NE-02)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Aimee Belgard (NJ-03)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Erin Bilbray (NV-03)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Pam Byrnes (MI-07)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Emily Cain (ME-02)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Ann Callis (IL-13)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Jerry Cannon (MI-01)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Nick Casey (WV-02)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Sean Eldridge (NY-19)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Michael Eggman (CA-10)
- \$ \_\_\_ for John Foust (VA-10)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Gwen Graham (FL-02)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Patrick Henry Hays (AR-02)

- \$ \_\_\_ for Roxanne "Rocky" Lara (NM-02)
- \$ \_\_\_ for John Lewis (MT-AL)
- \$ \_\_\_ for Jim Mowrer (IA-04)
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