

Wag The Blog: Funding Presidential Campaigns

By Chris Cilizza

The 2008 election will be historic for a number of reasons -- not the least of which is that it will almost certainly be the most expensive presidential race in history, with a price tag that some believe will top \$1 billion.

All three Democratic frontrunners -- **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, **Barack Obama** and **John Edwards** -- have all begun to collect contributions for the primary and the general election, foregoing the acceptance of public funds for either contest.

With the top Democrats bypassing public financing, the eventual Republican nominee is almost certain to follow suit. **John McCain**, a leading advocate of campaign finance reform and his party's presidential frontrunner, has already said publicly that the public financing system is out of date; he has purposefully refused to rule out opting out in 2008.

For today's Wag the Blog, The Fix asks you what changes could and should be made to revive the public financing system? Or is public financing a thing of the past? If so, is that a good thing or a bad thing for American elections?

Your thoughts and ideas are welcome in the comments section below. Remember that Wag the Blog aims to foster intelligent discussion not partisan name-calling. In hopes of raising the dialogue, we'll pull out a few of the most insightful or interesting ideas in a separate post later today.

Dems Find It Hot Under the Klieg Lights

In one of the first public contretemps between the two Democratic presidential frontrunners, Sen. **Hillary Clinton** of New York is calling on Sen. **Barack Obama** of Illinois to break ties with **David Geffen** after the movie mogul made a string of comments critical of the former first lady.

"If Senator Obama is indeed sincere about his repeated claims to change the tone of our politics, he should immediately denounce these remarks, remove Mr. Geffen from his campaign and return his money," said Clinton communications director Howard Wolfson.

Over the years the movie producer has given hundreds of thousands in donations to the Democratic Party and its candidates. Geffen gave Obama's Hopefund PAC a \$5,000 contribution in 2006, and he gave Obama's campaign \$2,000 in 2004, according to FEC records (presidential campaign contribution data is not yet available).

Geffen's comments -- made to New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd -- were spoken on the same day that he, along with film tycoons **Jeffrey Katzenberg** and **Stephen Spielberg** hosted a major Hollywood fundraiser for Obama.

In the interview with Dowd, Geffen made derogatory comments about Sen. Clinton and her husband, former President **Bill Clinton**.

Geffen said Republicans believe Hillary Clinton is the "easiest to defeat" in the Democratic arena. He also skewered the senator's unwillingness to apologize for her 2002 vote favoring the use of force resolution in Iraq.

"It's not a very big thing to say, 'I made a mistake' on the war, and typical of Hillary Clinton that she can't," Geffen told Dowd. "She's so advised by so many smart advisers who are covering every base. I think that America was better served when the candidates were chosen in smoke-filled rooms."

Geffen also took a verbal swing at her husband: "I don't think anybody believes that in the last six years, all of a sudden Bill Clinton has become a different person," Geffen said, appearing to refer to the controversies surrounding the former president's private life.

Geffen's animosity toward the Clintons is traced by Dowd to Bill Clinton's decision in the final days of his administration not to pardon Native American activist Leonard Peltier. Peltier had been convicted of the murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in the late 1970s. Geffen political adviser **Andy Spahn** had strongly pushed for Peltier's release, with the approval of his boss.

Since that pardon decision, Geffen has made a number of anti-Clinton comments. In 2005, he said Sen. Clinton couldn't win the presidency because she was too "polarizing," adding that "ambition is just not a good enough reason."

Geffen's commentary and the ensuing hubbub reveals the risks that any candidate runs when wooing high-dollar donors to their campaigns. These extremely wealthy individuals are used to speaking their minds whenever and however they see fit. It is a difficult task for any campaign to try and rein them in.

In publicly blunting Geffen's remarks, Clinton is trying to box-in Obama. Obama faces either to keep Geffen on his finance team and run the risk of watching his reformer credentials tarnished in the eyes of party insiders and activists, or jettison him and risk the ire of the well-heeled Hollywood community.

Obama's campaign didn't shy away from the fight. "It is ironic that the Clintons had no problem with David Geffen when he was raising them \$18 million and sleeping at their invitation in the Lincoln bedroom," said Obama communications director **Robert Gibbs**. Gibbs also pointed out that Hillary Clinton had not condemned the comments of South Carolina state Sen. **Robert Ford**. Ford, a Clinton backer, said the Democratic ticket would be "doomed" if Obama was the party's presidential candidate.

Update, 3:26 p.m. ET: Clinton Communications Director **Howard Wolfson** issued the following statement today:

"By refusing to disavow the personal attacks from his biggest fundraiser against Senator Clinton and President Clinton, Senator Obama has called into serious question whether he really believes his own rhetoric. How can Senator Obama denounce the politics of slash & burn yesterday while his own campaign is espousing the politics of trash today?

"When one of Senator Clinton's supporters made an inappropriate statement, her campaign disavowed it immediately and the supporter apologized for his words. Why won't Senator Obama do the same?"

Not to be left out of the fun, Geffen issued this brief statement today:

"Despite reports to the contrary, I am not the Campaign Finance Chair and have no formal role in the Obama campaign, nor will I, other than to continue to offer my strongest possible personal support for his candidacy. My comments, which were quoted accurately by Maureen Dowd, reflect solely my personal beliefs regarding the Clintons. Thank You."

Parsing the Polls: Iraq and the GOP Frontrunners

National polling numbers that show a majority of the American public not only opposes the war in Iraq but also believes it was not worth fighting. Then why have the three leading candidates for the 2008 Republican nomination been largely supportive of President Bush on the issue?

A new poll -- conducted by the Republican firm **Moore Information** -- provides some answers.

Let's Parse the Polls!

At its root, the Moore Information poll is built around a single question: Is the United States doing a good or a bad job in Iraq?

Hardly a surprise: By a margin of roughly two to one, the survey respondents chose the latter description (32 percent good job/59 percent bad job). It's also not terribly surprising that Democrats are the most likely to choose the "bad job" description (84 percent) while Republicans are the least likely (32 percent). Independents are slightly more divided but still opt for bad (57 percent) over good (27 percent) when asked about the job the U.S. is doing in Iraq.

The fascinating elements of the poll, which was in the field from Feb. 6-8 and tested 800 registered voters nationwide, come when the Republican respondents are broken down into "hard" and "soft" categories. For the purposes of this survey, Moore Information defined "hard" Republicans as those who vote "mostly or only" for GOP candidates; "soft" Republicans are those who vote for "a few more Republicans than Democrats."

The disparity in viewpoint between these two groups is shocking. Roughly two-thirds (65 percent) of "hard" Republicans said the U.S. was doing a good job in Iraq, while just 27 percent said the country was doing a bad job. "Soft" Republicans were *much* less supportive; 48 percent said the U.S. was doing a good job in Iraq compared with 41 percent who chose the "bad" descriptor.

One other number jumped out at us in the Moore Information survey. The pollsters asked those voters who said the U.S. was doing a "bad job" in Iraq who should bear responsibility for the situation. A whopping one-third of those "bad job" voters said Bush alone was to blame for the situation. Three-in-ten voters said Bush and "all the Members of Congress who voted for the war" were responsible while 24 percent said it was Bush and Republicans in Congress who should be blamed.

What do these numbers mean to Sen. **John McCain** (Ariz.), former Gov. **Mitt Romney** (Mass.) and former New York City Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** -- the three frontrunners for the Republican nomination?

First, the Moore Information poll makes clear that the views of the most reliably Republican voters stand in stark contrast to those of the American public at large. These "hard" Republicans also happen to be the key constituency for each of the Republican candidates hoping to make a strong showing in early primary and caucus states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. Given that fact, it would be political suicide for any of the Republican frontrunners to oppose the current course in Iraq or President Bush's plan to secure victory in the country. (These numbers also suggest little room in the Republican nominating contest for a candidate who is calling for a change of direction in Iraq -- a point we made in the recent case against Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel.)

Second, even among those who believe the United States has done a bad job in Iraq, President Bush -- and Bush alone -- bears considerable blame. The strong belief that the war is primarily Bush's doing (and fault) provides a glimmer of hope for Republicans hoping to hold the White House in 2008. If the American public primarily blames Bush and not the wider Republican party for the problems in Iraq, voters may not punish the eventual GOP nominee. While this may be a bit of wishful thinking, it does provide empirical evidence that Bush owns this war in the eyes of the American voter.

So, expect McCain, Romney and Giuliani to keep offering words of support for the policy in Iraq in hopes of wooing those "hard" Republicans who still believe America is doing a good job in the country. But don't expect any of the candidates to link themselves too closely to President Bush for fear of alienating the voters who see the problems in Iraq as solely the commander in chief's doing.

It's a delicate line to walk for these candidates -- be supportive but not *too* supportive.

Mitt's Media Blast

Former Massachusetts Gov. **Mitt Romney's** decision to begin his television advertising campaign in a series of early primary states today signals a new phase in the run for the Republican presidential nomination.

To date, the Republican and Democratic candidates seeking the White House have played an inside game -- recruiting key activists and donors, putting into place a national organization and visiting early-voting primary and caucus states. All of that activity flies under the radar of the average person who likely has no idea the presidential race has even begun.

But, in going up with a 60-second commercial in select markets in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Michigan and Florida, (over the next week) Romney is vastly expanding the universe of people he hopes to reach and forcing his opponents to re-evaluate when they might begin their own paid advertising campaigns in early states.

The reason for Romney's decision is two fold.

First, he needs to transition from a candidate with great potential to a great candidate. Romney still trails Sen. **John McCain** (Ariz.) and former New York City Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** badly in both state and national polling. Romney must, therefore, start to make his case for the nomination sooner rather than later. He has run a deft campaign thus far by successfully wooing the Republican establishment and Washington's chattering class but now must prove that early success is predictive of how he will be received by the broader Republican electorate.

The second reason for Romney early ad blitz is simple: because he can. Romney has proven an able fundraiser -- collecting more than \$6 million on a single day last month. He will have more than enough financial resources to build his name identification in early states.

The ad itself is nicely produced -- kudos to Romney media consultant **Alex Castellanos** -- and seeks to present Romney as an outsider with a record of getting things done. Clips of Romney speaking on the campaign trail with narration that touts Romney's accomplishments both in and out of public life.

"Every place that Mitt has gone he has solved problems that people said were nearly impossible," says Romney's wife Ann at the start of the ad.

Romney himself goes on to mention a variety of popular Republican issues -- taxes, spending, judges -- as the words "Strong. New. Leadership." appear on the screen.

"This is not a time for more talk and dithering in Washington," says Romney in an attempt to further drive home his outside-of-Washington resume. "It's a time for action."

The ad is aimed at introducing Mitt Romney to the voters of these influential early states and should do nicely on that front. We would expect Romney's numbers to immediately bump up slightly in polling out of the Hawkeye State as those who were unfamiliar with the former governor are

exposed to him through this ad. The real test for Romney is how quickly can he grow his support in places like Iowa and South Carolina and whether he can sustain that growth under what will likely be a withering assault from McCain, Giuliani and others.

McCain Inks South Dakota's Giant Killer

Sen. **John Thune** (R-S.D.) is throwing his support behind Sen. **John McCain**'s (R-Ariz.) presidential bid, according to Paul Kane's Capitol Briefing blog.

Thune's support is significant for McCain as the South Dakota senator is not only beloved within the social conservative movement but is also revered among establishment Republicans for defeating the top Senate Democrat, Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), in 2004.

Thune is just the latest high-profile social conservative to make his preference in campaign '08 known early. As Alan Cooperman and I wrote recently in The Post, many social conservative leaders and activists are opting to side with McCain or former Gov. **Mitt Romney** (Mass.), making the pragmatic assumption that those two best combine a chance to win with solid stances on the issues most important to this crucial voting bloc.

Clinton Courts S.C.'s Top Democrat

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- After a stop for a late lunch at Chick-Fil-A -- without question one of the country's best fast food restaurants -- The Fix made his way east to Charleston for Sen. **Hillary Rodham Clinton**'s second public event of the day.

Unlike her earlier appearance in Columbia, the room where Clinton spoke was not adorned with banners touting "Hillary for President" and other campaign slogans. This was an event in honor of Rep. **Jim Clyburn**, the highest-ranking African American in the House Democratic leadership, and Clinton was sure not to overshadow the influential legislator.

"Jim Clyburn made it the old fashioned way," said Clinton. "He earned it."

Clinton praised Clyburn as a go-to member of Congress, saying: "He tries to find common ground and then stands his ground whenever it's necessary." He has previously said he will not endorse any of the Democrats in the primary process.

The show was stolen -- as usual -- by former Sen. **Fritz Hollings**, who introduced Clyburn. Hollings regaled the audience with a story about how Sen. **Robert Byrd** (D-W.Va.), the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee chairman, was initially skeptical about Clinton but was quickly won over. "She had that rascal eating out of her hand," said Hollings. "We'd be lucky to have her as president."

A few notes from the road:

* Clinton made a slight misstep earlier today when she was describing the state's distinct geographic areas, pledging to campaign from the "Lowlands to the Midlands to Upstate." South Carolina political aficionados know the southern reaches of the state -- including Charleston -- are known as the "Lowcountry" not the "Lowlands."

* The biggest applause line of the day came when Clinton asked rhetorically whether a woman could be president. The crowd erupted in a spontaneous standing ovation.

* Clinton's religious faith was on display throughout the day. In Columbia she bowed her head and nodded repeatedly as the invocation was offered. During her remarks about Clyburn in Charleston, she referenced the book of James, which she called one of her favorite books in the Bible.

Romney Explains 1992 Vote for Tsongas

During an appearance Sunday on ABC's "This Week", former Massachusetts Gov. **Mitt Romney** (R) faced questions on the evolution of his beliefs on controversial issues like abortion and gay rights. But the most interesting question -- and response -- came when host **George Stephanopoulos** asked Romney why he had voted for Democrat Paul Tsongas during the 1992 presidential primaries.

Romney said he was a registered independent at the time, which allowed him to vote in either the Democratic or Republican primaries. "When there was no real contest in the Republican primary, I'd vote in the Democrat primary, vote for the person who I thought would be the weakest opponent for Republicans," he said.

So, it was strategic voting, right? Not so fast. According to the Associated Press, Romney offered a different explanation to the Boston Globe in 1994 when he was running for Senate, saying then that he chose Tsongas over Bill Clinton because Tsongas hailed from Massachusetts and had put forward more compelling ideas.

Romney spokesman **Kevin Madden** pointed out that in 1994, Romney said he was certain that Republicans would renominate President George H.W. Bush in the 1992 primaries, and Romney said he went on to vote for Bush in the general election.

"Voters are interested in ideas and issues affecting our country today and in the future, not the minutiae of voting scenarios from 15 years ago," Madden said.

The problem for the Massachusetts governor is that at some point the contrasts between Mitt Romney 1994/2002 and Mitt Romney 2008 might pile up to an unacceptable level for Republican primary voters. A voter might understand a real conversion by Romney on the abortion issue, but when put into the context of his new view on gay rights, his recent decision to become a member of

the National Rifle Association and his explanation of his vote for Tsongas, it could well raise questions about just what he believes.

To date Romney has weathered the criticism over his changing views. In fact, he has convinced a number of social conservative leaders to sign on to his campaign. But if there are more "Tsongas" moments floating out there from Romney's past campaigns, it could complicate his efforts to cast himself as an earnest outsider and committed conservative.

Clinton Courts S.C.'s Black Voters

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- Hundreds waited in line outside Allen University's Adams Gymnasium here for the chance to hear Sen. **Hillary Rodham Clinton** speak in her first visit to South Carolina as a presidential candidate.

After a marching band and gospel choir warmed up the crowd, Clinton appeared to raucous applause. She was introduced by state Sen. **Darrell Jackson**, whose recent announcement that he is support Clinton in the state's Democratic primary, has created some controversy.

Clinton delivered her standard stump speech with a heavy emphasis on domestic priorities from health care to energy to college tuition. But she also framed the discussion in historic terms. "I believe this presidential campaign is about breaking barriers," Clinton said. "This is the campaign and I am the candidate."

Clinton reiterated her opposition to President Bush's plans to send more U.S. troops to Iraq and noted that she has supported a phased troop withdrawal from Iraq for the last two years -- a recent point of contention between she and Sen. **Barack Obama**. (Speaking of Obama, he has won the endorsement of former South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman **Dick Harpootlian**.)

Clinton also sought to draw a contrast with some of her Democratic rivals on the issue of terrorism. "Some people may be running who may tell you that we don't face a real threat from terrorism," she said. "I am not one of those."

This historically black university -- founded in 1870 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church -- was a fitting backdrop for Clinton's visit, which focused heavily on courting the African American voters considered crucial winning the Palmetto State's primary next year.

Polling has repeatedly shown Clinton running well ahead of her rivals, including Obama. Obama spent Saturday night in Columbia and was greeted by large crowds pining for a chance to catch a glimpse of America's newest political rock star.

Much of Clinton's appeal among black voters is attributed to her husband's popularity. Even the mention of President **Bill Clinton** brought a roar from the crowd, and Sen. Clinton repeatedly referenced her husband's administration during her comments. Asked why she was best qualified to handle the situation in Iraq, Clinton said: "Obviously, during the eight years of Bill's presidency, I

had a front row seat on history to see the difficult decision any commander in chief has to make. I learned both what works and what doesn't work."

From Columbia Clinton will head to Florence for an event with Florence Mayor **Frank Willis** and then to Charleston for a gala honoring Rep. **Jim Clyburn** -- the state's most influential black politician.

On Iraq, Sen. Clinton Goes on Offense

As the Senate begins debate on President Bush's Iraq surge proposal, Sen. **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D-N.Y.) has posted a video on her Web site touting her plan for a way forward in Iraq.

In the three-minute video, she outlines her "Iraq Troop Protection and Reduction Act" that among other things seeks to cap troop levels, calls for a diplomatic conference in the region and establishes identifiable benchmarks that must be met by the Iraq security forces.

"This bill is a roadmap out of Iraq," she says.

And, in an appearance this morning in New Hampshire, Clinton had a strong response for those who say she must apologize for her 2002 vote on the use of force resolution against Iraq. "Obviously I would not vote that way again if we knew then what we now know," she said. "But I have to say that if the most important thing to any of you is choosing someone who did not cast that vote or has said his vote was a mistake then there are others to choose from. But to me the most important thing now is trying to end this war."

Earlier this week Clinton and Sen. **Barack Obama** (D-Ill.) sparred over whether Clinton has advocated for a phased redeployment. Obama has also called on Clinton to clarify her views on the future of American involvement in Iraq. In the video, Clinton emphasizes her support for a phased redeployment of American troops from Iraq and said that if the redeployment doesn't begin within 90 days Congress should revoke authorization for the war.

She also takes a subtle jab at her rivals who are critical of her stance on the war. "I know we're at the start of a presidential campaign but I think all Democrats should be focused on working together to push the President to change course," Clinton says in the video. "We have to end this war in a smart way, not a Republican or a Democratic way."

The Fix heads to South Carolina with Sen. Clinton on Sunday night. Make sure to check back regularly for updates on her trip.

The Line: Another Early Look at the Senate Playing Field

The 2008 cycle got much more interesting earlier this week when comedian/liberal activist/radio show host Al Franken announced that he is running for the Democratic nomination for Senate in Minnesota.

Franken's announcement was decidedly subdued and serious, a tone that suggests the author of "Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot" is planning to run a real campaign. "Over the next 20 months I look forward to proving to you that I take these issues seriously," Franken said in an eight-and-a-half-minute video address.

He won't be alone in the race, however, as wealthy trial lawyer Mike Ciresi announced the formation of an exploratory committee two days before Franken officially entered the race. Ciresi spent roughly \$6 million of his own money on a bid for the Democratic nomination in 2000 but came in second place -- well behind Mark Dayton. Ciresi has said he plans to raise money from individuals for this race.

As The Fix wrote earlier this week, it's still hard to gauge whether Franken or Ciresi would be the better general-election candidate against Sen. Norm Coleman (R). If the national political environment remains as bad as it currently is for Republicans, it may not matter.

Minnesota is clearly one of Democrats' best pick-up chances in 2008, along with the open seat in Colorado and two New England seats -- New Hampshire and Maine -- where Republican incumbents are trying to stem the growing Democratic tide in the region.

The ten Senate races below are ranked alphabetically for now. By this summer (or maybe even a little bit before then) we should know enough about the shape of the field to rank them.

To the Line!

* **Colorado:** Here's what we know: Rep. Mark Udall (D) and former Rep. Scott McInnis (R) are running for the seat being vacated by Sen. Wayne Allard (R). What we don't know is whether former Rep. Bob Schaffer, who ran unsuccessfully against beer magnate Pete Coors in the 2004 Senate primary, will decide he has another race in him. And, if he decides not to run, will conservatives find another candidate to back or just line up behind McInnis? The Fix keeps hearing that Schaffer is leaning against the race. If he decides not to run, keep an eye on Secretary of State Mike Coffman. He may be the choice to carry the conservative flag in the primary.

* **Louisiana:** The full-court press is on to convince Rep. Richard Baker (R) to run against Sen. Mary Landrieu (D) next November. Democrats and Republicans agree that Baker would be Landrieu's most formidable opponent, and it would seem as though he has little reason to remain in the House with Republicans in the minority. If he wants to win, Baker needs to get in and start raising money. He had just \$37,000 in the bank at the end of 2006, compared with \$852,000 for Landrieu. If Republican can get Baker to run, which looks more likely than not at the moment, this is their best pick-up chance of the cycle.

* **Maine:** The last Senate Line noted that we continue to hear rumors that Rep. **Tom Allen** (D) was not entirely committed to challenging Sen. **Susan Collins** (R). Immediately after we wrote that, The Fix's inbox was flooded with notes insisting that Allen is running. We're convinced. While Allen isn't the most charismatic candidate, he is a proven vote getter -- having held southern Maine's 1st District since 1996. And he starts the race on equal financial footing with Collins: Allen ended 2006 with \$502,000 on hand while Collins had \$436,000.

* **Minnesota:** The Fix can't wait to see how Franken's candidacy plays out. His announcement struck the right message, which can be boiled down to: I'm not a typical politician but that doesn't mean I don't care deeply about the direction of the country. Franken's fame brings pluses and minuses -- he should be able to raise money rather easily, but he must prove to voters that his candidacy isn't a gag. The likelihood of a Democratic nomination fight between Franken and Ciresi should help the political novices polish their messages and organize their fundraising efforts. Both men have pledged to abide by the results of the party's convention, meaning that there will not be a potentially destructive September '08 primary.

* **Mississippi:** Until Sen. **Thad Cochran** makes his decision, we can't leave this race off The Line. If Cochran decides not to run -- and we keep getting rumors that he will retire -- then this seat has the potential to be competitive. Former state Attorney General **Mike Moore** is by far Democrats' strongest nominee, and insiders say he is inclined to run for an open seat. Rep. **Chip Pickering** (R) has been waiting for years for an open Senate seat and would likely have a clear shot at the Republican nomination. Cochran said recently he'll make a decision around Dec. 1, 2007. Ugh.

House Democrats Reveal Their "Frontline"

In the 2006 election, Democrats didn't lose a single House member to defeat, an unblemished record that was credited to a program aimed at funneling funds to endangered incumbents early and often.

Known as "Frontline," the program was so effective at helping otherwise endangered incumbents that it allowed the **Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee** to play offense in a number of GOP-held seats that wound up turning over. Pennsylvania's 4th District, New Hampshire's 2nd District and Minnesota's 1st District jump to mind.

Given the successes of Frontline in 2006, it's not surprising that Democrats are quickly reviving the program for 2008. Today the DCCC released the names of the 29 lawmakers who are on the Frontline list -- a first glance at the lawmakers considered by their own party to be most at-risk of losing next year.

"Our Frontline Members inspired the confidence of their constituents during their campaigns for Congress," said Rep. **Debbie Wasserman Schultz** (D-Fla.), who will lead the program. "They are our Majority Makers."

A full list of the Frontline team is below, but here's a few quick notes:

* 24 of the 29 Members (83 percent) are freshmen.

* Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania each have three seats on the list -- the most of any states.

* Rep. Leonard Boswell (Iowa), who has held the 3rd District since 1996, makes the list, but freshman Iowa Reps. Dave Loebsack and Bruce Braley don't.

* New Hampshire freshman Rep. Paul Hodes is a Frontline member but fellow Granite State freshman Rep. Carol Shea Porter isn't. Hodes won with 53 percent while Shea Porter took 51 percent.

FULL FRONTLINE LIST (* denotes freshmen)

Rep. Jason Altimire (Pa.)*

Rep. Tim Walz (Minn.)*

Rep. Michael Arcuri (N.Y.)*

Rep. John Yarmuth (Ky.)*

Rep. John Barrow (Ga.)

Rep. Melissa Bean (Ill.)

Rep. Leonard Boswell (Iowa)

Rep. Chris Carney (Pa.)*

Rep. Joe Courtney (Conn.)*

Rep. Joe Donnelly (Ind.)*

Rep. Chet Edwards (Texas)

Rep. Brad Ellsworth (Ind.)*

Rep. Gabrielle Gifford (Ariz.)*

Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.)*

Rep. John Hall (N.Y.)*

Rep. Baron Hill (Ind.)*

Rep. Paul Hodes (N.H.)*

Rep. Steve Kagen (Wisc.)*

Rep. Ron Klein (Fla.)*

Rep. Nick Lamson (Texas)*

Rep. Tim Mahoney (Fla.)

Rep. Jim Marshall (Ga.)

Rep. Jerry McNerney (Calif.)*

Rep. Harry Mitchell (Ariz.)*

Rep. Chris Murphy (Conn.)*

Rep. Patrick Murphy (Pa.)*

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez (Texas)*

Rep. Heath Shuler (N.C.)*

Rep. Zack Space (Ohio)*