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## Democrats Flush in House Races

Dixie's Democratic US House members and some challengers are in good financial shape for the coming campaign, say the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Federal Election Commission (FEC) reports. All six Democratic freshmen who replaced Republicans in 2006, and should be at the most vulnerable point in their congressional careers, are far out-fundraising most of their GOP challengers. Other Democrats who had close races last time are also way ahead in the money chase.

Potentially vulnerable Republicans -- freshmen and those with close 2006 elections -- are not raising comparable war chests, with several notable exceptions.

The financial reports, along with opinion polls and significantly increased turnout in Democratic primaries, are another sign that Republicans in the South could be in for another rough year. Combined with the loss of six seats in the House in 2006, additional losses this year would represent significant erosion in the GOP's base in the South.

### Freshmen

Freshman Democrats are flush. In Florida 16 (Palm Beach, etc.), **Tim Mahoney**, who got

elected in 2006 only because disgraced Republican **Mark Foley's** name remained on the ballot, had \$1,453,000 on hand at year's end. The three Republicans who are vying for the nod to challenge Mahoney have \$969,000 combined -- and they'll have to spend most of that trying to win the GOP primary.

In Florida's 22<sup>nd</sup> District (Boca Raton, etc.), freshman **Ron Klein** (D), who defeated 13-term **Clay Shaw** (R) in 2006, is getting a bye from the GOP this year. Klein has \$1,803,000 on hand to Republican **Allen West's** \$31,000.

In Kentucky 3 (Louisville), **John Yarmuth** has \$659,000 on hand (plus he's personally wealthy). His Republican foe, former US Rep. **Anne Northup**, hasn't been in the race long enough to file a report.

In North Carolina 11 (Asheville, etc.), **Heath Shuler** has \$626,000 on hand. Republican challenger **Spence Campbell** has \$73,000 and **Carl Mumpower** has \$1,000.

In Texas 22 (Sugar Land, etc.), **Nick Lampson** (D), who won in **Tom DeLay's** (R) former district mainly because no Republican name was on the ballot, has \$716,000 on hand, but that may not be enough. Eight Republicans



ying to oppose him have \$1,179,500 combined. Though they will have to spend most of that in the March 4 primary, GOP money-raising should be easy in this Republican district.

In Texas 23 (San Antonio, etc.), **Ciro Rodriguez** (D) has \$661,000 on hand. One of his Republican opponents, banker/lawyer **Quico Canseco**, has a respectable \$207,000, but he is in a tough primary battle with Bexar County Commissioner **Lyle Larson**.

One Democratic freshman could be vulnerable in the primary rather than the General Election. In Tennessee 9 (Memphis), **Steve Cohen** faces a tough battle with labor relations lawyer **Nikki Tinker**. At issue is whether Cohen, who is white and won with a plurality against a large field of African-American opponents, should continue to represent this 60% black district. If Tinker, who is African-American, can amass a major share of the black vote, she could defeat Cohen in the August 7 primary. Cohen has \$522,000 on hand; Tinker \$224,000 -- less, but significant nonetheless.

There is a bright spot for a Republican freshman, however. In Florida 13 (Sarasota, etc.), **Vern Buchanan** has raised a substantial war chest -- \$1,066,000 -- to deflect a challenge from Democrat **Christine Jennings**, who narrowly lost to him in 2006. Jennings has raised far less -- \$305,000.

In Georgia 10 (Athens, etc.), freshman **Paul Broun** (R) has begun to raise some money -- he has \$125,000 on hand. But his Republican primary foe, state lawmaker **Barry Flemming**, has nearly four times as much, \$488,000.

**Other Competitive Districts**

Democrats are winning the financial contest in several other districts with incumbents who are potentially vulnerable.

In Georgia 8 (Macon, etc.), three-term **Jim Marshall** (D), who won with 51% last time, has \$900,000 on hand; his GOP challenger, retired Air Force Major General **Rick Goddard**, has \$348,000, considerably less but still respectable.

In Georgia 12 (Augusta to Savannah), two-term **John Barrow** (D), who won with 51% in 2006, has a whopping \$1,139,000 on hand and so far has no serious challenger.

In Texas 10 (Austin, etc.), **Mike McCaul** (R) won with 55% in 2006, not a huge margin. This year, he is likely to face well-financed Democratic opposition. "Texas Justice" television judge **Larry Joe Doherty** has \$267,000 on hand to McCaul's \$116,000. Doherty must first win the primary against consultant **Dan Grant**, with \$37,000 on hand.

And in Virginia 5 (Charlottesville, etc.), where maverick GOPer **Virgil Goode** has \$384,000 on hand and should be safe, Democrat **Tom Perriello**, an international lawyer, has \$244,000. Perriello does have two primary foes, but both are seriously under funded.

On the GOP side, in North Carolina 8 (Concord, etc.), where five-term **Robin Hayes** (R) won by a very slim 329 votes in 2006, Hayes has \$793,000 on hand, while his populist ex-school teacher challenger **Larry Kissell** (D) is repeating his 2006 record for poor fundraising, with only \$137,000 on hand.

**FEC Reports, US House**  
4<sup>th</sup> Qtr, Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2007

<b>Incumbents in bold</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	On Hand
<u>Alabama 2</u> Jay Love/R	\$370,000	370,000
<u>Florida 8</u> <b>Ric Keller/R</b>	183,000	617,000



Todd Long/R	41,000	40,000
Mike Smith/D	121,000	271,000
Charlie Stuart/D	117,000	266,000
Alan Grayson/D	20,000	17,000

Florida 10  
**Bill Young/R**                    4,000            563,000

Florida 13  
**Vern Buchanan/R**            497,000        1,066,000  
Christine Jennings/D        214,000        305,000

Florida 14  
**Connie Mack/R**                71,000            402,000  
Larry Byrnes/D                18,000            47,000

Florida 16  
**Tim Mahoney/D**            423,000        1,453,000  
Tom Rooney/R                125,000        397,000  
Hal Valeche/R                82,000          301,000  
Gayle Harrell/R               74,000          271,000

Florida 19  
**Robert Wexler/D**            245,000        1,361,000  
Ben Graber/D                 700                5,000

Florida 21  
**Lincoln Diaz-Balart/R**      79,000            904,000

Florida 22  
**Ron Klein/D**                 502,000        1,803,000  
Allen West/R                 22,000            31,000

Florida 24  
**Tom Feeney/R**                153,000        455,000  
Suzanne Kosmas/D            360,000        377,000  
Clint Curtis/D                6,000            7,000

Florida 25  
**Mario Diaz-Balart/R**        68,000            466,000

Georgia 4  
**Hank Johnson/D**            53,000            66,000

Georgia 8  
**Jim Marshall/D**                179,000        900,000  
Robert Nowak/D                9,000            7,000  
Jack Ellis/D                    -0-                6  
Rick Goddard/R                164,000        348,000

Georgia 10  
**Paul Broun/R**                 208,000        125,000  
Barry Fleming/R                290,000        488,000

Georgia 12  
**John Barrow/D**                250,000        1,139,000  
Chris Edenfield/R              (-800)            2,000

Kentucky 3  
**John Yarmuth/D**                112,000        659,000

Louisiana 1  
Steve Scalise/R                170,000        274,000  
John Young/R                 102,000        100,000  
Tim Burns/R                    64,000        61,000  
Ben Morris/R                  -0-                20,000  
Gilda Reed/D                  6,000            2,000

Louisiana 2  
**William Jefferson/D**         2,000            30,000

Louisiana 3  
**Charlie Melancon/D**         142,000        743,000

Mississippi 3  
David Landrum/R               319,000        244,000  
John Rounsaville/R            146,000        129,000  
Charlie Ross/R                117,000        101,000  
Gregg Harper/R                120,000        97,000

North Carolina 3  
**Walter Jones/R**                65,000        191,000  
Joe McLaughlin/R              23,000        30,000  
Marshall Adame/D              2,500            4,500

North Carolina 8  
**Robin Hayes/R**                417,000        793,000  
Larry Kissell/D                99,000        137,000

North Carolina 11  
**Heath Shuler/D**                161,000        626,000  
Spence Campbell/R            152,000        73,000  
Carl Mumpower/D               3,000            1,000

Tennessee 9  
**Steve Cohen/D**                152,000        522,000  
Nikki Tinker/D                79,000        224,000



Texas 3

<b>Sam Johnson/R</b>	174,000	799,000
Tom Daley/D	1,300	1,300

Texas 4

<b>Ralph Hall/R</b>	331,000	348,000
Gene Christensen/R	202,000	100,000
Kathy Seei/R	18,000	12,000
Kevin George/R	9,000	4,000
Joshua Kowert/R	3,000	3,000
Glenn Melancon/D	5,000	5,000

Texas 10

<b>Mike McCaul/R</b>	92,000	116,000
Larry Joe Doherty/D	152,000	267,000
Dan Grant/D	33,000	37,000

Texas 14

<b>Ron Paul/R</b>	33,000	66,000
Chris Peden/R	177,000	144,000

Texas 17

<b>Chet Edwards/D</b>	161,000	1,017,000
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Texas 22

<b>Nick Lampson/D</b>	131,000	716,000
S. Sekula-Gibbs/R	262,000	435,000
Pete Olson/R	205,000	191,000
John Manlove/R	229,000	175,000
Jim Squier/R	153,000	159,000
Robert Talton/R	167,000	118,000
Dean Hrbacek/R	101,000	93,000
Brian Klock/R	19,000	7,000
Ryan Rowley/R	7,000	1,500

Texas 23

<b>Ciro Rodriguez/D</b>	125,000	661,000
Quico Canseco/R	30,000	207,000

Virginia 2

<b>Thelma Drake/R</b>	196,000	426,000
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Virginia 5

<b>Virgil Goode/R</b>	56,000	384,000
Tom Perriello/D	267,000	244,000
David Shreve/D	7,000	8,000
Al Weed/D	20,000	-0-

Virginia 8

<b>Tom Moran/D</b>	57,000	693,000
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Virginia 10

<b>Frank Wolf/R</b>	393,000	555,000
Vern McKinley/R	16,000	12,000
Judy Feder/D	241,000	483,000
Mike Turner/D	14,000	37,000

Virginia 11

Keith Fimian/R	251,000	656,000
Leslie Byrne/D	115,000	104,000
Doug Denny/D	19,000	14,000

**Retirements Hitting Dixie GOP**

Congressmen **Tom Davis** (R-VA), **Ron Lewis** (R-KY) and **Dave Weldon** (R-FL) announced in the last week of January that they would not run for re-election this year. These three announcements mean there are now seven Southern Republicans who will not seek re-election, including one who has already resigned. The six congressmen who will be retiring at the end of their current term are Davis, Lewis, Weldon, **Terry Everett** (AL), **Jim McCrery** (LA) and **Chip Pickering** (MS). In addition, **Richard Baker** (LA) has already resigned his seat.

It is not clear, however, that these retirements will cause the GOP to lose seats in the South. Democratic candidates will be underdogs in almost all of the districts, even though the seats will be open. In Lewis's district, Bush beat Kerry 65% to 34%. In Weldon's district, Bush beat Kerry 57%-43%. In Everett's, Bush won 67% to 33%. In McCrery's, Bush won 59%-40%. In Pickering's, Bush won 65%-34%. And in Baker's, Bush won 59%-40%.

Nevertheless, Democratic challengers will have an easier time running for an open seat than against an incumbent. In Virginia's 11th District (Fairfax County, etc.) in particular, without Davis on the ballot, there is a strong chance that a Democrat will win the seat. In



Davis's district, in 2004, **President Bush** barely edged **John Kerry** 50%-49%.

In any case, these resignations are further evidence that the Democrats are a solid bet to maintain their House majority in this fall's elections. Republicans across the country are bailing out in increasing numbers. Make no mistake, it's not normal attrition. Of the 25 members of the House who have so far announced they are stepping down, 23 are Republicans, only 2 are Democrats. Of the five US Senators who won't be seeking re-election, all are Republicans.

Rumors are also widespread -- as they have been every two years for some time now -- that 19-term Congressman **Bill Young** (R), 77, of Florida's 10<sup>th</sup> (St. Petersburg) District will retire. Young, who says he will announce his intentions during the filing period in May, could also be succeeded by a Democrat; in 2004, Bush slipped by Kerry with a mere 51% to 49% in Young's district.

Although most of these Southern retirements are in Republican districts and can be expected to send a new GOPer to fill the seats, in several the absence of an incumbent could help the Democrats pick up new seats in the South, especially if Young (FL) decides to step down. This would help strengthen the Democrats' hold on the House, currently 233 to 200, which could be especially important in 2010, when a Democratic president might be trying to prevent Congress from reverting to GOP control.

On the Senate side, **John Warner** (VA) won't be seeking re-election and **Trent Lott** (MS) has already stepped down. John Warner's pending retirement in Virginia has already made a Democrat, former Gov. **Mark Warner**, the favorite to win the seat, which would give the Old Dominion, once a stalwart

Republican state, two Democratic US Senators and a Democratic governor. In Mississippi, while Lott's appointed successor, US Sen. **Roger Wicker** (R), starts out as the favorite over his likely foe, former Gov. **Ronnie Musgrove** (D), Wicker is not the sure thing that Lott would have been.

In sum, although the South has been less prone to move away from the GOP than the rest of the nation -- **President Bush** still gets favorable ratings from many Southern voters -- Dixie's Republican lawmakers have not been immune to the jump-ship phenomenon. The retirements won't decimate the GOP in the South, but they could contribute to an erosion of Republican strength in the region.

### **Kentucky: High Congressional Drama**

There some tense moments in Kentucky politics late last month. On January 29, **Jill London**, wife of **Daniel London**, chief of staff for US Rep. **Ron Lewis** (R-KY), entered the Kentucky Secretary of State's office only minutes before the 4pm deadline, filing first her husband's papers to be a Republican candidate for congress, then Lewis's withdrawal papers. The secret ploy to get London into the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (Bowling Green, etc.) congressional slot before any other Republicans could file became known in the US Capitol, however, and Sen. **Mitch McConnell** (R), the state GOP's unofficial Godfather, quickly persuaded state Sen. **Brett Guthrie** (R) to run. Strong negative reaction to the Lewis/London scheme finally prompted London to withdraw and endorse Guthrie.

Guthrie, however, is no sure thing this fall. Third-term state Sen. **David Boswell** (D), who served a term as Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture and 14 years in the state House of Representatives, has filed for the Democratic nomination. Though he has primary opposition



from Daviess County Judge Executive **Reid Haire**, with whom he has had local policy squabbles, Boswell is the likely Democratic nominee. "He's a formidable, well-respected guy," notes Democratic consultant **Dale Emmons**. Guthrie "doesn't quite cut the figure that Boswell does," says long-time journalist **Al Cross**, who adds that Boswell "has a shot at capturing the seat." Given the district's voting history, however, it leans Republican.

Meanwhile, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District (Louisville), former Congresswoman **Anne Northup** (R) filed to challenge freshman **John Yarmuth** (D), the alternative newspaper publisher who defeated her (51%-48%) in 2006. Shortly afterward, **Chris Thieneman**, a real estate developer and former University of Louisville football player who had previously said he was running as a Republican, announced on a live radio interview that he was withdrawing and endorsed Yarmuth, contending that Sen. **Mitch McConnell** (R) had squashed his candidacy. While Northup is the strongest candidate the Republicans could run in this district, she is still an underdog. Yarmuth gets good press back home and if he's made mistakes, they haven't created a local uproar. Leans Democratic.

## Grits

? **Dixie's Congressional Endorsements.** As of February 10, **Hillary Clinton** had 92 supporters in the Senate and House, to 65 for **Barack Obama**. In the South, Clinton had 18, Obama 11. Now that the race may go to the convention floor, the support of members of congress, who get a vote as a Super Delegate, are especially important. On the GOP side, where **John McCain** has all but sewed up the

nomination, McCain has 54 congressional supports -- 21 of them in the South -- to only 5 for **Huckabee**, three of them Southerners. Before **Mitt Romney** dropped out, he had 46 supporters in congress, 24 of them from the South. They are free to endorse either candidate. And we almost forgot: **Ron Paul** has one backer in congress: US Rep. **Walter Jones** (NC), a fellow foe of the war in Iraq.

## ? Florida Cuban GOPers Draw Foes.

Democrats have announced they will oppose all three of the Republican Cuban-American lawmakers from South Florida. **Annette Taddeo** (D), who runs a language translation company, will oppose nine-term **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** (R). **Joe Garcia**, chairman of the Miami-Dade Democratic Party and a past head of the anti-Castro Cuban American National Foundation, is running against three-term **Mario Diaz-Balart** (R). And former Hialeah Mayor **Raul Martinez** is challenging eight-term **Lincoln Diaz-Balart** (R).

? **Alabama: Good News for Obama.** On January 29, **James Fields Jr.** (D) was elected to fill a vacancy from Cullman County in the Alabama legislature. Fields is black; Cullman County is 97% white, the second whitest county in the state.

? **North Carolina's Money Chase.** In the Tar Heel race for governor, on the Democratic side, as of Dec. 31, state Treasurer **Richard Moore** had \$4.64 million on hand to Lt. Gov. **Beverly Perdue's** \$4.55 million. The Republicans weren't nearly so well off. State Sen. **Fred Smith** had \$1.1 million; Charlotte Mayor **Pat McCrory** \$417,000; attorney **Bill Graham** \$11,000; and ex-Supreme Court Justice **Bob Orr** \$1,800.