



The Miller/Wenhold Political Report

Vol. 1 Issue 5

May 2008

In Focus

Miller/Wenhold Once Again Proud to Sponsor 5th Annual Capitol PurSuit Drive.

Miller/Wenhold is leading the charge once again this year to put on our 5th Annual Capitol PurSuit Drive on Wednesday, June 4, 2008. This event has been a huge success over the past four years bringing in over 30,000 items of business attire in just sixteen hours. Dave worked to create the event through a partnership with Men's Wearhouse and the American League of Lobbyists where Dave now serves as the 1st Vice President. This event would not have been a success of course without our two charity advisors who have been with us from the beginning Gary Field with Career Gear based in New York City and Jerri Rosen with Working Wardrobes based in Fountain Valley, California. It has been a strong team working together that continues to make this event such a huge success.



During the event, which is held in the Rayburn Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building, Members of Congress, Hill staff, the lobbying and association community and the general public donate their gently used business attire. The influx of suits is a true sight to behold. The entire Rayburn Foyer is filled with suits, shoes and dreams for a brighter future for the individuals who will have an opportunity to take one of these suits and wear it to an interview with their head held high. These suits go directly to local DC area charities who in turn give these suits to individuals who would like to secure a job but can't afford the proper business attire to get their foot in the door. This event helps to change lives one individual at a time.

Image is a very key factor when people go in for an interview. If you don't look the part you will be discounted almost instantaneously. The self confidence that these suits provide to the individual who receives one is immeasurable. There is a true transformation that takes place when a person who has been discounted by society for so long gets to put on a suit that they never imagined owning. They begin to believe they can truly accomplish their dreams.

Miller/Wenhold has been at the forefront of this event since the beginning. The firm has donated thousands of hours to make this event a true success. For Miller/Wenhold's volunteer service with the Capitol PurSuit Drive, the President of the United States awarded Dave and his associate, Laura Dennis, the "Call to Service" award which is the country's highest award for citizen volunteerism. Dave and Laura are the only lobbyists to ever receive this prestigious award.





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We believe that volunteerism is every American's responsibility and that you can truly make a difference if you are willing to donate your time and energy.

If you would like to find out more about our 5th Annual Capitol Pursuit Drive please feel free to contact Laura Dennis at ldennis@mwcapitol.com or call 571-239-0765 or if you want more background on the event please go to <http://www.mwcapitol.com/probono/pursuit.cfm>.



. Darnell Washington Before and After

The suit doesn't make the man, but it does make a difference.





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On the Hill:

Gas Prices

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Arizona Sen. John McCain has introduced an idea that would create a tax holiday throughout the summer on gasoline, thus reducing the final costs to consumers throughout the warmer months (typically heavy traveling times). The President in his responses has seemed skeptical about this plan and has flatly refused to halt additions to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Congressional Democrats are expected to unveil their plans to curb the rising fuel costs very soon.



Obama, Clinton, and the Capital Gains Tax

Sen. Obama of Illinois has proposed a tax break for middle class Americans, homeowners, and retired individuals in the neighborhood of \$80 billion. In order to pay for this shift, he would raise the capital gains tax on the wealthiest Americans. In an interview with CNBC, Obama states that he did not have a specific amount in mind for a raise to the capital gains tax; however, it could possibly be between 20%-25% instead of the current 15%. New York Senator Hillary Clinton similarly believes that the capital gains tax could be higher than the current 15%. Under her husband's administration, the tax was 20%, and the current President Bush lowered it to 15%.

Equal Pay for Women

Congress took up the issue of equal pay for women this past month in the form of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Arizona Sen. John McCain was not in Capitol Hill to vote for the measure; however, he made it known that he was against the bill (which failed in the Senate) because it was, in his belief, too much government interference in the lives of business leaders. He states that he is for equal pay among employees, but that this was not the right way to go about it. Sens. Clinton and Obama both voted in favor of the bill. The bill had previously passed the House by a vote of 225-199.

Mortgage Crisis

The Senate began crafting legislation that would attempt to stem the tide of the current mortgage crisis. The bipartisan bill would greatly assist homebuilders by hopefully keeping them from bankruptcy, enable borrowers to refinance, and encourage buyers to purchase homes that have been foreclosed. The White House has indicated that it is not entirely happy with the measure, and the House is working on its own solutions to the current crisis.

Colombia Free Trade Agreement

Yet another hotly contested trade agreement (or disagreement as it were) between Congress and the President has made news; this time, Colombia is at the center of it all. In an effort to pass the legislation, the President used his authority to fast track the agreement within Congress. To fast track a trade agreement is to send it to Congress for a ye or nay vote, but Congress cannot amend the bill. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi balked and through procedural maneuvering, held up the process. So as it stands currently, the House of Representatives and the President are at a stalemate.



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Citizen McCain

The United States Constitution states that citizens must be natural born in order to be President. Of all of the issues at hand in the 2008 presidential race, this particular issue had not been called into question...until now. As it turns out, Arizona Senator and presumptive Republican nominee John McCain was not born within the fifty states. He was born in the then-U.S. controlled Panama Canal Zone while his father was serving in the Navy there. In order to clear up any misunderstanding or misinterpretation, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a resolution clearly stating that John McCain is a natural born citizen of the United States. Not only was the resolution bipartisan, but it was also cosponsored by Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.



On the Ground:

House Races:

NY-20

Democratic Rep. Kristen Gillibrand, noted as one of the more vulnerable members of the House, is facing a tough reelection bid from the Republican Party. In 2006, Gillibrand defeated then-GOP Rep. John Sweeney with 53% of the vote. Gillibrand will likely be facing former New York Secretary of State Sandy Treadwell in November.

MS-01

Who ever said that democracy was dead? That is truly not the case in the First Congressional District of Mississippi. By Election Day in November, Mississippians in the First will have voted for their choice for Congress at least five times in 2008. Soon, the voters will be going to the polls for the fourth time in two months to cast their ballot in a runoff in the special election to replace now-Sen. Roger Wicker. Wicker was tapped to replace Trent Lott in the Senate when Lott retired to start up his own lobbying firm. The runoff race will pit Democrat Prentiss County Chancery Clerk Travis Childers against Republican Southaven Mayor Greg Davis.

LA-06

GOP incumbent Rep. Richard Baker has decided to retire at the end of the 110th Congress, thus thrusting this Louisiana district into an open and contested race. National Democrats believe that they have a shot at scoring a major victory with state Rep. Don Cazayoux. Cazayoux will be facing off against former state Rep. Woody Jenkins, the Republican nominee. This race and the Mississippi 1st District contest seem to be linked together; perhaps, one will follow the other come election day, and that could be in the Democrats favor in these two decidedly Republican areas.



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Senate Races:

New Jersey

Democratic U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews (NJ-01) has announced that he is challenging incumbent Democratic Sen. Frank Lautenberg for the Democratic nomination. Andrews, who ran to be the nominee but lost to former Gov. Jim McGreevey, is making his second run at statewide office. Andrews was thought to be on the short list of candidates to replace now Gov. Jon Corzine when he left the Senate. Instead, Sen. Bob Martinez was selected. In his bid against Lautenberg, Andrews has lined up support from a handful of the southern New Jersey Democratic leaders. The New Jersey First District comprises the southern portion of the Garden State.



Virginia

Former Governor Mark Warner is the presumptive Democratic nominee to take on his eventual GOP counterpart. While the Republicans attempt to finalize their candidate, Warner has been drumming up support for his candidacy. The GOP nominee will most likely be former Gov. Jim Gilmore. Warner has ridden a wave of popularity since he left office having turned the financial strains of the commonwealth into a surplus. Gilmore directly preceded Warner as the executive. The November Senate election may very well prove to be a bellwether for the presidential race in the Old Dominion.

Maine

GOP incumbent Sen. Susan Collins is seeking reelection against current Rep. Tom Allen (D-1st). Collins is known as a moderate Republican; however, Allen will most likely attempt to portray her as being too close to President Bush's policies on many of the issues, including the War in Iraq. Recent polls still have Collins as ahead, but it will be important to watch this race. A state that leans blue with a presidential candidate to head the ticket may very well assist Allen in this election.

On the Trail:

Presidential Race:

Democratic presidential candidate Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) survived for another day of campaigning when she took the Pennsylvania Democratic primary by 10 percentage points over her rival, Illinois Senator Barack Obama. Needing not only a win in Keystone State, but rather a win by more than a handful of points, Clinton came through by turning out voters in the western and central portions of the state. Obama was able to win the Philadelphia area; however, he did not secure enough support to overcome Clinton's votes. The next two contests will prove if Sen. Clinton truly will be riding a new wave of support for her campaign, or rather if Pennsylvania simply delayed an inevitable Obama victory.

Delegate Count: *Not including super delegates

Clinton: 1,332

272 - Superdelegates

Obama: 1,491

250 - Superdelegates

McCain: 1,246