



March 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO DEMOCRATIC LEADERS & ACTIVISTS

FROM: Michael Sargeant, DLCC Executive Director

SUBJECT: This Is Our Time. Let's Make It Count.

U.S. Census forms are hitting mailboxes this month, and state legislatures across the country will use the updated population numbers next year to reconfigure district lines for important political offices.

The bottom line: The results of the 2010 state legislative elections will define how key reforms and policies are decided for the next decade.

Democrats have been winning races at the state legislative level for years, and we haven't suffered a net loss since 2002. That's why President Bush's political gurus are lining up to game the system again. Karl Rove has already stoked the Grand Old Party to use redistricting to reassemble the old conservative majorities in Congress.

We can't let them hold our country's future hostage again. Not now. This is our time.

We're in charge of 60 legislative chambers, most of which will draw maps for 383 congressional and 5,074 legislative seats. But 21 chambers in 17 states are within five seats of changing hands. These 17 states will shape 198 congressional districts.

Legislatures in the Crosshairs

Democrats are ready to win in 2010. Already this year, we gained seats in special elections in Republican-leaning areas, despite shifts in the national political landscape. But the hard work of consolidating the gains our lawmakers have made since 2003 is still ahead of us. Ten chambers where we hold majorities have tight contests this year:

- Alabama Senate (21D, 14R)
- Colorado Senate (21D, 14R)
- Indiana House (52D, 48R)
- Nevada Senate (12D, 9R)
- New Hampshire Senate (14D, 10R)
- New York Senate (31D, 30R, 1 vacancy)
- Ohio House (53D, 46R)
- Pennsylvania House (103D, 97R, 3 vacancies)
- Wisconsin Assembly (52D, 46R, 1I)
- Wisconsin Senate (18D, 15R)

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We also have our eye on the Alabama House, Michigan House and the North Carolina Senate and House. Despite comfortable margins in those chambers, Republicans are taking those states seriously. At the same time, the Bush team is on the defensive in 5 states. We have a real shot of gaining majorities in the:

- Michigan Senate (16D, 22R)
- Missouri House (74D, 88R, 1 vacancy)
- Oklahoma Senate (22D, 26R)
- Tennessee House (48D, 51R)
- Texas House (73D, 77R)

Mobilizing for the Fight

The DLCC is determined to run the largest Democratic redistricting mobilization in history this year to ensure that our state legislative candidates have the resources needed to win against well-heeled Republican special interests. To make this possible, we have established the DLCC's Redistricting Fund to deploy \$20 million to races that will have the greatest impact on reapportionment.

We're also working hard to support our candidate's ability to communicate directly with voters by taking our fight online. We're upgrading our online DLCCWeb2 program which provided Internet resources to 350 candidates in the 2008 cycle -- mostly challengers who won their contests. We're also seeing increased activity at RedistrictingFacts.com, our own clearinghouse for state-specific information and analysis about redistricting.

Stay tuned for more detailed information as the campaign roils.