



News You Can Use

Shades of 1994

Mark Twain famously said that "History doesn't repeat itself but it rhymes."

The last time that Democrats controlled both houses of Congress and the White House, they overreached. Even though Clinton was elected toward the end of a mild recession and the economy had substantially improved, the mid-term elections of 1994 provided the best Republican showing of the past century.

You can chalk it up to a variety of factors--Hillary Care scared the moderates, Americans prefer divided government, Newt Gingrich is an evil genius--whatever, but the bottom line is that just when Democrats were riding high, they got a major thumping.

Which brings me to 2010. Rasmussen is reporting an interesting fact.

For just the second time in more than five years of daily or weekly tracking, Republicans now lead Democrats in the latest edition of the Generic Congressional Ballot.

So the national wind may be at the Republican's backs.

Here's an update of the key races that are likely to be effected if 2010 looks anything like 1994.

Legislature:

District 11:

In District 11, Republicans are hopeful that Senator Leff--termed out of the Senate--would be willing to run for one of the open House seats. Leff's popularity in the district would ensure that at least one of the seats remains in Republican hands and her strength on the ticket would go a long way toward ensuring that Republicans maintain her old Senate seat and regain the lost House seat. Leff would be considered a senior House member and probably serve as Commerce Chair in her first term back and be a leading candidate for leadership in her second term.

District 14:

Rep. Robert Meza is termed out while Senator Debbie McCune-Davis isn't. The district is 55% Hispanic and voter turnout in the Democratic Primary is traditionally very low--Meza and Campbell defeated Valdez with around 2,700 votes cast total. Meza may not be able to resist the temptation to take a seat that he could easily win.

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The "Morning Shot" is the Professional version of Espresso Pundit.

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