

Congressional Update

Written by Compiled by Arizona Foothills Magazine

Monday, 02 August 2010 01:00 - Last Updated Monday, 02 August 2010 09:02

In June, AFM got the chance to talk with Arizona's 3rd Congressional candidates about campaigning and their reason behind it. Now, two months later, we're catching up with the Congressional hopefuls to see how their summer has been and what strides they've made along the way. Here's what they had to say.

Sam Crump



AFM: Has the past months changed your view of running for election?

SC: Not really since I've run for office several times before.

AFM: After meeting and interacting with local residents, what have you discovered is their No. 1 concern?

SC: Fear for America's economic situation and that Obama, Pelosi and Reid are doing exactly the wrong things to improve it.

AFM: How do you think you can achieve local residents' desired change?

SC: With a Republican majority in Congress, we can work to reduce taxes and spending and get the private sector moving again.

AFM: What has been your biggest challenge to date?

SC: Fundraising. We've got millionaires in this race, and I'm trying to raise money from regular folks. But I have faith in the grassroots voters to help me to victory on Election Day.

AFM: Who has been your biggest supporter throughout your campaign?

SC: My wonderful wife, Colleen.

AFM: If you could change anything about your campaigning, what would it have been?

SC: Ask Dan Quayle for his fundraising list.

AFM: What will you be doing on Election Day?

SC: Greeting voters at the polls.

AFM: Where do you plan on celebrating should you win the election?

SC: At my home thanking my family and supporters—win or lose!

For more information on Sam Crump visit, www.samcrump.com.

Michael Shoen

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AFM: Has the past months changed your view of running for election?

MS: The past months have not changed my view of running as I ran two years ago and more or less know what to expect.

AFM: After meeting and interacting with local residents, what have you discovered is their No. 1 concern?

MS: Jobs.

AFM: How do you think you can achieve local residents' desired change?

MS: I can help Arizona residents achieve sustainable jobs by explaining that the only path to sustainable new wealth is new manufacturing and entrepreneurship, and that militarism, manufacturing weapons and financial gimmicks are not sustainable, but actually decrease national wealth in the long run.

AFM: What has been your biggest challenge to date?

MS: Biggest challenge to date is that there are so few forums to discuss this taboo subject, and that most people do not want to confront unpleasanties, such as the national security state, warfare state and military-industrial-governmental complex which are sucking the life out of our economy and misdirecting our country to militarism rather than to economic creativity. The controlled mainstream media is full of propaganda which obscures the truth.

AFM: Who has been your biggest supporter throughout your campaign?

MS: Thomas Costanzo.

AFM: If you could change anything about your campaigning, what would it have been?

MS: I would smile more.

AFM: What will you be doing on Election Day?

MS: I don't plan that far ahead.

AFM: Where do you plan on celebrating should you win the election?

MS: I don't expect to win the election—a third party candidate has never won a Congressional seat in Arizona and no Libertarian has ever polled more than five percent for a Congressional seat. Nevertheless, my exposition of issues can force the two main party candidates to answer important questions they hope to avoid, like the 70 percent of the federal discretionary budget and 40 percent of total federal budget wasted on the warfare state, the national security state, the military-industrial-governmental complex, our over 730 military bases in over 130 foreign countries, our 16 duplicitous intelligence organizations, our admittedly failed and lied to 9/11 Commission investigation, our intentionally failed wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and the whole construct of synthetic terror. I am a truth teller. What is going to win the election is something over \$2.6 million (mostly from sources outside Arizona) for either of the two main-party candidates combined with polling and focus groups to tell them what to say. I am the only candidate who understands and who will face the paramount economic issue of today—the rise of the warfare state and the fall of the manufacturing state.

For more information on Michael Shoen please visit, www.shoenforcongress.com.

Pamela Gorman



AFM: Have the past months changed your view of running for election?

PG: I've run three times, five elections total (including primaries) and haven't lost. Without a doubt it's the first time I've run against nine opponents, so for all of us it's been a new experience. At the end of the day, it's about maintaining your commitment to the principles, doing your best to let the voters get to know your political priorities and how you'll work to put their interests before the interests of lobbyists. Over the past months, I've been energized by the progress, the new supporters and the momentum we've created. I see what our leadership in Washington is doing to the country that I love and I hear my son say his prayers and watch him lay his head down to sleep, I'm more committed than ever to working to take our country back.

AFM: After meeting and interacting with local residents, what have you discovered is their No. 1 concern?

PG: Without a doubt, Arizona residents are concerned about both financial security and national security—and the two are intricately intertwined.

AFM: How do you think you can achieve local residents' desired change?

PG: I have a demonstrated commitment to the conservative values that predominate in our district. I alone have proven that I won't back down in defense of those principles. Of course, I will stand up against the Democrats to defeat their dangerous, left-wing agenda. I've also left no doubts about the fact that I will stand up to political insiders, special interests and powers within the Republican Party. The last time Republicans had control and the opportunity to do this work, there were too many who didn't have the intestinal fortitude for the job and they came up short. That's why I want to be part of a new group of leaders sent by the people to Washington to demonstrate that for us, "conservative" isn't just a campaign slogan to be dusted off at election time. We're going to clean up this mess.

AFM: What has been your biggest challenge to date?

PG: I'm not an establishment candidate. I stood up and fought against the Governor when she proposed her \$3 billion tax increase because I opposed raising taxes (always, but especially during a recession), and I thought we should cut spending like families were doing in tough times. I also stood up alone and successfully fought to ensure that millions of tax dollars didn't go into our not-so-clean elections system for political ads and political slush funds. There were more than a few politicians, lobbyists and political consultants none to happy about that. And all along, I've opposed corporate welfare to private companies and industry. Because I put real people and principles before insiders and special interests, the big political money doesn't flow to our campaign like it does for others. I'll be honest, our campaign is built on \$10, \$25 and \$30 checks and online donations from real people who don't have a lot, but who love this country. When I read the notes that accompany those checks, it brings tears to my eyes and makes me appreciate that our work is not in vain.

AFM: Who has been your biggest supporter throughout your campaign?

PG: My campaign has truly been a family affair. I can't tell you how blessed I've been with family and friends.

AFM: If you could change anything about your campaigning, what would it have been?

PG: If I could change anything, I would have spoken up and let people see the real me sooner in this race.

AFM: What will you be doing on Election Day?

PG: I will wake early and pray. Then I'll meet with our volunteers and spend all day with them visiting polling places throughout the district, talking to local radio and TV stations in order to reach voters, thanking volunteers working the phones for the campaign and meeting voters on their way to cast ballots.

AFM: Where do you plan on celebrating should you win the election?

PG: For the primary election, we'll be getting together at the home of one of our supporters. We'll enjoy one evening of brief celebration before beginning work on the general election.

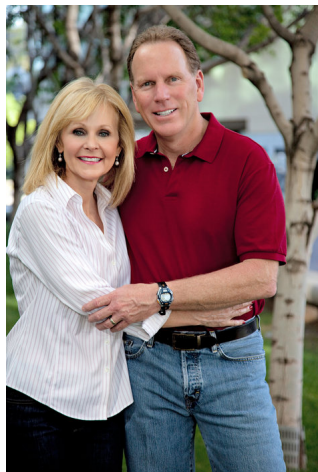
For more information on Pamela Gorman visit, www.gorman2010.com.

Steve Moak

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AFM: Has the past months changed your view of running for election? If so how?

SM: If anything, the past months have only solidified my belief that my business skill set and expertise at creating jobs is desperately needed in Washington. Along with the citizens of Arizona, I have completely lost faith in professional politicians and career candidates. We are not going to change Washington until we change the type of people we send there; that starts this November.

AFM: After meeting and interacting with local residents, what have you discovered is their No. 1 concern?

SM: All Americans, not just the residents of Arizona, are concerned with three main issues: job creation, stopping the out of control federal spending, and securing our borders.

AFM: How do you think you can achieve local residents' desired change?

SM: As a successful businessman, I know how to organize and mobilize people around a shared objective and how to hold people accountable for results. When the Republicans take back the House, there will be 50 to 60 newly elected, freshman members of Congress (many of them businesspeople like myself). I believe we can come together and exert a disproportionate influence on the issues we all care about: jobs, immigration, and fiscal responsibility.

AFM: What has been your biggest challenge to date?

SM: We challenged ourselves to meet and talk with as many voters as we could right up until Election Day. Our campaign has been very successful, meeting several thousand great folks around the district. We have more people to meet and I will not rest until the polls close on Aug. 24.

AFM: Who has been your biggest supporter throughout your campaign?

SM: Without question, my wife Debbie is my biggest supporter—and toughest critic—as she has been throughout our 33 years of marriage and working together.

AFM: If you could change anything about your campaigning, what would it have been?

SM: I could not be happier with the success our campaign has achieved so far, and I would not change a thing.

AFM: What will you be doing on Election Day?

SM: After casting my ballot in the Republican Primary, I will spend the day meeting voters, listening to their concerns, and asking for their support.

AFM: Where do you plan on celebrating should you win the election?

SM: I have not thought about it, but we will let you know. I am sure our staff, volunteers, supporters, family, and friends will be gathering to celebrate somewhere.

For more information on Steve Moak visit, www.moakforcongress.com.