

MEMORANDUM

TO: Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
FROM: Garin Hart Yang Research Group
DATE: April 10, 2007
RE: Recent Nevada 3rd CD Survey Results

The results of our recent survey are extremely encouraging of Democratic chances to defeat Congressman Jon Porter. Our 2005 survey showed that Congressman Porter was vulnerable, and last November's elections bore this out--Porter defeated a first-time candidate by a mere 3,966 votes. Congressman Porter's standing is weaker in the current survey than he was two years ago, and he remains vulnerable to a credible Democratic challenger.

The following presents the key survey findings:

First, the anti-Republican/Bush wave that characterized the November 2006 elections is very much evident in the 3rd CD, thereby creating a difficult environment for the incumbent.

The national "wrong track" number (68%) in the current survey is significantly worse than the negative number in the April 2005 survey, which presaged a "change" electorate that typically hurts incumbents and did hurt Porter's 2006 bid. In other words, NV-3 voters are even MORE dissatisfied about Washington than they were during an election in which the incumbent won by a mere 3,966 votes.

In 2006, President Bush clearly was a drag on Republican candidates nationally and on Congressman Porter specifically. Again, the current survey shows the situation has gotten even worse for the incumbent. The President's excellent/good rating has dwindled to 32%, compared to 43% in April 2005. The problem that close association with the President poses for Congressman Porter is evident in the large 17-point margin for the Democrat who would provide a balance to President Bush (43%) versus a Republican who is associated with the Bush agenda (26%).

Second, Congressman Porter is well under the important 50% threshold for an incumbent on a variety of important measurements AND he is weaker than his lukewarm April 2005 results that led to his narrow 2006 victory.

Congressman Porter's feeling thermometer scores currently stands at an unimpressive 37% positive and 24% negative, compared to 42% positive and 19% negative two years ago. These results show that Porter has grown more vulnerable since his narrow victory.

We regard the job rating as perhaps the most important indicator of an incumbent's standing, and it is noteworthy that the current survey shows Congressman Jon Porter with worsening scores. And in fact, he now has a higher "negative" rating than positive rating.

	<u>March 2007</u>	<u>June 2005</u>	<u>April 2004</u>
ALL VOTERS			
Excellent/good	43	46	45
Only fair/poor	46	41	35
UNAFFILIATED VOTERS			
Excellent/good	36	43	38
Only fair/poor	51	40	35

On every single measurement, Congressman Porter's ratings are below average for an incumbent and below the important 50% threshold. The results of the Congressman's reelect are no different. Just 27% of voters want to reelect Porter, 22% want to replace him, while 32% want to consider someone else. The current reelect to replace ratio is worse than his April 2005 scores: 30% reelect, 17% replace.

This memorandum is based on a survey conducted among a representative sample of 405 likely general election voters in Nevada's 3rd CD. This survey, which was conducted from March 13 to 17, 2007, has a margin of error of ±4.9 percentage points.