

## MICHIGAN (14)

**Brenda Lawrence, D**

**Election:** Defeated Christina Barr, R, to succeed Rep. Gary Peters, D, who ran for other office

**Residence:** Southfield

**Born:** Oct. 18, 1954; Detroit, Mich.

**Religion:** Christian

**Family:** Husband, McArthur Lawrence; two children

**Education:** U. of Detroit, attended 1971-72; Central Michigan U., B.S. 2005 (public administration)

**Career:** Postal service human resources investigator; letter carrier

**Political highlights:** Southfield School Board of Education, 1992-96; Southfield City Council, 1996-00; mayor of Southfield, 2002-present; Democratic nominee for Oakland County executive, 2008; Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, 2010; sought Democratic nomination for U.S. House, 2012

A liberal Democrat, Lawrence has years of experience with issues common to mayors running large suburbs in metropolitan areas as well as with issues common to southeastern Michigan in particular.



Lawrence has been in a congressional committee hearing room before, testifying as a representative of the nation's mayors regarding the foreclosure crisis and also speaking about the auto industry. She also worked with Mayors Against Illegal Guns to curb gun violence.

Her concerns about major infrastructure projects for her region go beyond understanding the impact of property tax revenue, the need for mass transit and encouraging businesses to move to the area; she is focused on protecting water supplies from environmental hazards. Lawrence would "love" to join the Transportation panel.

She also could end up on the Education and the Workforce Committee. Starting with service on the local school board, Lawrence has pushed the idea that "education is key to fight poverty." She advocates post-secondary models that push opportunities other than four-year colleges. "We need to embrace vocational education as a way to build our economy and create jobs."

Lawrence also looks ahead to major debates about immigration policy. Recognizing the ethnic diversity in the Detroit area — and known in Southfield for having worked across race and religion lines to form coalitions — she pledges that "how we are making a pathway to citizenship in America is going to be important to me, because that's my constituency."

## MINNESOTA (6)

**Tom Emmer, R**

**Election:** Defeated Joe Perske, D, to succeed Rep. Michele Bachmann, R, who retired

**Residence:** Delano

**Born:** March 3, 1961; South Bend, Ind.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Family:** Wife, Jacquie Emmer; seven children

**Education:** Boston College, attended 1979-80; U. of Alaska, B.A. 1984 (political science); William Mitchell College of Law, J.D. 1988

**Career:** Lobbyist; lawyer

**Political highlights:** Independence City Council, 1995-2002; Delano City Council, 2003-04; Minn. House, 2005-11; Republican nominee for governor, 2010

Staunchly conservative, Emmer is confident and voluble with a big personality. In a state with a well-established moderate wing of the GOP, he replaces another conservative Republican known for strong statements about the role of the federal government, Michele Bachmann.



As both a state representative and gubernatorial candidate, Emmer backed a constitutional amendment designed to exempt Minnesota from federal laws until actively approved by a supermajority of state legislators. His goal is "making government a resource — not a restraint — for individuals and businesses."

After losing the 2010 race for governor, Emmer spent several years hosting a local morning radio show. It gave him an audience for his views on politics and current events.

Emmer holds unwaveringly to socially conservative stances on gun owners' rights, gay marriage and abortion. He says economic issues will be his primary focus in the House and pledges to restrict government activity, cut taxes and reduce federal spending.

He served briefly in a leadership post in the Minnesota House — he stepped down and later lost a bid for GOP caucus leader — and his committee memberships during his tenure included the Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections Committee and the Finance Committee.

Professionally he's hung out his own shingle as a lawyer, and he's served on local city councils and in the Minnesota House. Personally he relishes time he's spent on the ice — he played hockey in college and as an amateur.

## MONTANA (AL)

**Ryan Zinke, R**

**Election:** Defeated John Lewis, D, to succeed Rep. Steve Daines, R, who ran for other office

**Residence:** Whitefish

**Born:** Nov. 1, 1961; Bozeman, Mont.

**Religion:** Lutheran - Missouri Synod

**Family:** Wife, Lolita Zinke; three children

**Education:** U. of Oregon, B.S. 1984 (geology); National U., M.B.A. 1991; U. of San Diego, M.S. 2003 (global leadership)

**Military:** Navy 1985-2008

**Career:** Navy officer; technology consulting company owner

**Political highlights:** Mont. Senate, 2009-11; sought Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, 2012

None of his colleagues will have shared his path to Congress, but Zinke will have no trouble fitting in as a member of the Republican conference team. Division I football and a career as a Navy SEAL gave Zinke a well-tested perspective on how he likes to get things done.



"If at times that team calls for leading from the front on issues of merit, I will certainly do that. If at times it calls for pushing the group from behind, that is fine, too. To me it is less about the individual and more about purpose," he says.

For Zinke, the purpose is very clearly to shrink the size of the federal government to what he views as the scope originally intended by the Constitution.

"I understand that, as a freshman, influence is limited. [But] my goal is to move the needle."

Supporting a balanced budget amendment, Zinke emphasizes accountability measures for federal agencies.

Representing Montana, Zinke will target natural resources policy and transportation issues. Trained as a geologist, he hopes to offer insight to coal, oil and natural gas development. Renewable energy sources and hydro- and biofuel options are part of Zinke's plan for energy policy, but he strongly opposes any industry subsidies.

The Armed Services Committee would also be an obvious fit for Zinke in the House.

A native Montanan who grew up with a strong hunting tradition, Zinke opposes federal gun ownership and purchase registries and strongly supports expanded gun owners' rights.

## NEBRASKA (2) LEADING AT PRESS TIME

**Brad Ashford, D****Election:** Opposed Rep. Lee Terry, R**Residence:** Omaha**Born:** Nov. 10, 1949; Omaha, Neb.**Religion:** Lutheran**Family:** Wife, Ann Ferlic; three children**Education:** Gustavus Adolphus College, attended 1967-68; Colgate U., B.A. 1971 (history); Creighton U., J.D. 1974**Career:** Lawyer**Political highlights:** Neb. Commission of Industrial Relations, 1984-86; Neb. Legislature, 1987-94; sought Republican nomination for U.S. House, 1994; Neb. Legislature, 2007-present; independent candidate for mayor of Omaha, 2013

Ashford, who has switched parties more than once in his political career, touts his “independent” and “pragmatist” views. In early 2014 he told the Omaha World-Herald that he “borrow[s] from both parties on issues.” He was a Democrat in the mid-1980s, then a Republican during most of his two stints in the Nebraska legislature before running for mayor of Omaha as an independent in 2010 and then winning his U.S. House seat as a Democrat.



He may have changed which column his name appeared in, but Ashford has a signature issue from his tenure as a state senator: prison overcrowding. Most recently, Ashford served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and called for a special session to address criminal and administrative issues with the state’s Department of Correctional Services.

He also has taken an outspoken position on gay rights, particularly in marriage and anti-discrimination contexts. He favored a statewide referendum on a constitutional ban and was open to debates regarding an option for civil unions, but he supports same-sex marriage. He also supports equal-pay measures.

Among other issues he’s taken on while serving as a legislator, a comprehensive federal immigration overhaul has gotten most of the headlines. Ashford also backs abortion rights generally but has voted for some restrictions, and he supports Medicaid expansion but says he would have voted against the 2010 health care overhaul.

Outside of his legislative work, Ashford is a lawyer and has experience with housing and labor policy.

## NEVADA (04)

**Crescent Hardy, R****Election:** Defeated Rep. Steven Horsford, D**Residence:** Mesquite**Born:** June 23, 1957; St. George, Utah**Religion:** Mormon**Family:** Wife, Peri Hardy; four children**Education:** Dixie College, attended 1975-76**Career:** Contracting company owner; city public works director; construction worker**Political highlights:** Virgin Valley Water District Board of Directors, 1990-96; Mesquite City Council, 1997-2002; Nev. Assembly, 2011-present

Hardy points to his experience running a contracting company as the foundation for his fiscally conservative values of small government and self-reliance.



A hunter and fisherman, he says growing up in a farming community instilled in him a work ethic he applies to business dealings. He believes Washington should live within its means and supports low taxes and a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution.

Beyond essential services — like national defense, infrastructure and helping only the most needy citizens — Hardy says the federal government should leave most functions to states and localities.

But even state government should serve a limited role, he says. “My roots go back to taking care of your family, your own, your neighbors,” he told the Las Vegas Review-Journal in 2010 ahead of joining the Nevada Assembly. “I think we give up a lot of freedom when we start building a government to take care of everything for us.”

This year, Hardy even said he agreed with Mitt Romney’s controversial 2012 comment that 47 percent of Americans would vote for President Barack Obama no matter what, because they were dependent on government.

“Can I say that without getting in trouble?” Hardy said, drawing the ire of critics. “The 47 percent is true. It’s bigger now.”

On other issues, Hardy touts his work on meeting infrastructure needs, including on storm drain and flood control projects and a wastewater treatment facility. He says he was even himself a worker on widening the canyon road for Hoover Dam.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE (1)

**Frank Guinta, R****Pronounced:** GIN (sounds like “grin”)-ta**Election:** Defeated Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, D**Residence:** Manchester**Born:** Sept. 26, 1970; Edison, N.J.**Religion:** Roman Catholic**Family:** Wife, Morgan Guinta; two children**Education:** Assumption College, B.A. 1993 (political science & philosophy); Franklin Pierce Law Center, M.I.P. 2000**Career:** Political and business strategy consultant; campaign and congressional district aide; insurance and risk management consultant; insurance claims manager**Political Highlights:** N.H. House, 2000-02; Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen, 2002-06; mayor of Manchester, 2006-10; U.S. House, 2011-13; defeated for re-election to U.S. House, 2012

Guinta plans on using his experience from a one-term stint in the House to ensure he gets in on conversations about the economy.



He’s willing to join any committee the Republican leadership assigns him — “I want to serve where the conference thinks I can be most helpful” — and Guinta will likely continue his record of voting with a majority of his GOP colleagues.

A return to the Financial Services panel would fit his background in insurance and his support of a tax code overhaul. In his first trip to the House, Guinta argued in favor of replacing the current tax code with a flat tax, but acknowledged that such a drastic change was unlikely to get immediate traction.

Coming back, “understanding how Congress works, my approach probably would be smaller — pieces of legislation as opposed to one large piece of legislation.”

On the topic of inversions, he calls out the corporate tax code for not being competitive internationally.

Before switching to Financial Services toward the end of the 112th Congress, Guinta had served on the Budget Committee as well as the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and its subcommittee dealing with TARP and financial services.

One specific area where he thinks he could partner with Democrats is on mental health issues. Guinta would like to work on identifying challenges that could have a federal-level solution, and says that Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio — the two of them served on the Budget Committee together and both attended the same law school — would be a potential ally in that cause.

## NEW JERSEY (1)

**Donald Norcross, D**

**Election:** Defeated Garry W. Cobb, R, to succeed Rep. Robert E. Andrews, D, who resigned

**Residence:** Camden

**Born:** Dec. 13, 1958; Camden, N.J.

**Religion:** Lutheran

**Family:** Wife, Andrea Doran; three children

**Education:** Camden Community College, A.S. 1979 (criminal justice)

**Career:** Union representative; electrician

**Political highlights:** N.J. Assembly, 2010; N.J. Senate, 2010-present

Norcross considers his transition to Congress the next step in a lifelong history of representing others — he says speaking for constituents is just like giving a voice to workers.



He spent the majority of his professional life in organized labor — he describes himself as an “electrician with a tie” — and prioritizes workers’ issues. Norcross wants to see a federal minimum wage increase, and cites the New Jersey minimum wage law, which ties wages to inflation rates, as a potential guide.

In the state Senate, Norcross sponsored several bills related to veterans, including measures to provide incentives for employers to hire former service members and in-state tuition at New Jersey schools to veterans.

Making college more affordable is another of Norcross’ goals, as is a general emphasis on education. “It shouldn’t matter what ZIP code you were born into for the quality of your education.”

Access is also a big theme in his approach to health care. He supports the 2010 overhaul, recognizing that “there are clearly fixes that need to be made to Obamacare so that those seeking medical help have the opportunity to have it no matter where they live.”

Several House committees’ portfolios could fit in well with his experience. He’d be “honored” to serve on the Veterans Affairs Committee, and he could continue some of his military affairs work from the state Senate on the Armed Services panel. The Transportation Committee would be a prime assignment for his infrastructure-heavy district. And he says as an electrician, he could find room on the Energy Committee.

## NEW JERSEY (3)

**Tom MacArthur, R**

**Election:** Defeated Aimee Belgard, D, to succeed Rep. Jon Runyan, R, who retired

**Residence:** Toms River

**Born:** Oct. 16, 1960; Hebron, Conn.

**Religion:** Episcopalian

**Family:** Wife, Debbie MacArthur; three children (one deceased)

**Education:** Hofstra U., B.A. 1982 (history)

**Career:** Insurance company executive

**Political highlights:** Randolph Township Council, 2011-14

Taking a measured and moderate approach to issues like health care, immigration and federal spending, MacArthur lets his various life experiences guide him.



He and his wife spent years caring for one of their children, a daughter born with a congenital brain malformation. MacArthur says her health struggles and eventual death at age 11 “was a terrible experience. But it also shaped me a great deal and I believe we can balance conservative, common-sense, market-based principles and compassion for people who need it in times of help.”

MacArthur sees a role for the federal government in the provision of health care, but the 2010 overhaul is not it — he does not believe in a “one-size-fits-all government health care program.” A career in the insurance industry has left him with a vision of interstate sale of insurance, employer pooling, tort reform and state programs for the uninsured.

Local needs, with which MacArthur gained familiarity on the town council, will likely take top billing. Infrastructure projects — for roads, power plants and rail lines — are another area where he sees the need for federal involvement. And he will look out for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and the tens of thousands of military and civilian jobs affiliated with it, as well as push for a new veterans’ hospital, flexibility in care for veterans and an overhaul of the VA system.

Given the base’s importance to the district, MacArthur’s goal is the Armed Services Committee. The Natural Resources panel would position him well to support recreational and commercial fishing interests in the area and influence conservation policy.

## NEW JERSEY (12)

**Bonnie Watson Coleman, D**

**Election:** Defeated Alieta Eck, R, to succeed Rep. Rush D. Holt, D, who retired

**Residence:** Ewing Township

**Born:** Feb. 6, 1945; Camden, N.J.

**Religion:** Baptist

**Family:** Husband, William Coleman; one child, two stepchildren

**Education:** Rutgers U., attended; Thomas Edison State College, B.A. 1958 (social sciences & history)

**Career:** State civil rights office director

**Political highlights:** N.J. Assembly, 1998-present (majority leader, 2006-09, 2014); N.J. Democratic Party chairwoman, 2002-06

The first black woman to represent New Jersey, Watson Coleman has a long history of holding political office and had a career working for state government agencies.



She comes to the House from the state Assembly, in a seat once held by her father and where she has served in party leadership positions for nearly a decade.

Her approach to politics is straightforward: “I am an activist legislator.”

She will join the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Women’s Issues and the Congressional Progressive Caucus in order to make sure “that we don’t lose the fights and battles that we’ve already won, whether or not it was women’s access to health care and birth control, whether or not it’s voting rights, rights to affordable education for minorities and for women.”

Watson Coleman has her sights on the Education and the Workforce Committee. Labor unions and public education policy are important to the working-class constituents in her district; and her positions on social issues fit in well with its liberal communities, especially those around Princeton University. Her Assembly seat and her House district have significant overlap.

Her district also takes in the state Capitol, which aligns neatly with Watson Coleman’s attention to “fair governance” and pushing the role of government in improving the quality of life for the poor and the elderly.

Her father, whom she says was “more of a public servant than a politician,” expected Watson Coleman or one of her brothers to follow him to the Assembly. “And we all said ‘noooo,’ but, famous last words.”

## NEW YORK (1)

**Lee Zeldin, R**

**Election:** Defeated Rep. Timothy H. Bishop, D  
**Residence:** Shirley  
**Born:** Jan. 30, 1980; East Meadow, N.Y.  
**Religion:** Jewish  
**Family:** Wife, Diana Zeldin; two children  
**Education:** State U. of New York, Albany, B.A. 2001 (political science); Albany Law School, J.D. 2003  
**Military:** Army 2003-07; Army Reserve 2007-present  
**Career:** Lawyer; regional transportation and infrastructure agency lawyer; military prosecutor  
**Political highlights:** Republican nominee for U.S. House, 2008; N.Y. Senate, 2011-present

Zeldin has his eye on the “fiscal insanity that is plaguing Congress” and espouses both Republican priorities and the need for the parties to collaborate in a divided government.



Partisan rhetoric prevents anything productive from getting done in Washington, he says. He notes that he’s conservative but knows it’s “vitally important” to work with people from the other party when you share power.

He opposes the 2010 health care law, though there are components he supports, and says he thinks Republicans have to advance their own solutions — a discussion he says he wants to be part of. For the most part, he says, the law has been a failure.

It’s also “pretty outrageous” that Congress has only passed one federal budget since 2007, and Zeldin pushes for accountability measures to ensure budgets every year. Funding the government through continuing resolutions is not healthy, he says.

Zeldin took up veterans’ issues in the state legislature and thinks the federal government could be doing more for veterans’ mental health needs and decreasing the backlog of disability claims.

He also plans to speak up on foreign policy. He wants to protect the United States’ relationship with Israel and says the U.S. should work to improve relationships with its allies rather than “sacrificing” them to try to be friends with countries that “hate us.”

A spot on one of the budget or tax policy panels would be a preference, though he mentions interest in Oversight, Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

## NEW YORK (4)

**Kathleen Rice, D**

**Election:** Defeated Bruce Blakeman, R, to succeed Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D, who retired  
**Residence:** Garden City  
**Born:** Feb. 15, 1965; Manhattan, N.Y.  
**Religion:** Roman Catholic  
**Family:** Single  
**Education:** Catholic U. of America, B.A. 1987 (English); Touro Law Center, J.D. 1991  
**Career:** County prosecutor  
**Political highlights:** Assistant U.S. attorney, 1999-2005; Nassau County district attorney, 2006-present; sought Democratic nomination for N.Y. attorney general, 2010

Rice will likely be a team player in the House Democratic caucus, voting with her colleagues on all of the party’s signature issues: raising the minimum wage, expanding access to reproductive health services, closing the gender pay gap and restricting gun access.



With more of a national profile than some of her freshman counterparts, Rice still maintains a focus on her district as she looks toward her congressional to-do list.

Some of Rice’s national news coverage while district attorney was due to her crack-down on drunk driving, and she hopes to transfer methods on that issue to a nationwide strategy to curb texting while driving.

She is District Attorney for Nassau County and had also served as prosecutor in Brooklyn and a federal prosecutor out of Philadelphia. Several of Rice’s policy priorities are linked to her career in law enforcement — and one in particular she will pick up from her predecessor, Democratic Rep. Carolyn McCarthy: “gun violence is a public health and safety epidemic in our country.”

Rice also joins the chorus on addressing college affordability, in part by expanding tuition tax credits. Her “tax relief” plan in general includes extending middle-class tax cuts and increasing child and earned income tax credits. Though she points out that income inequality and rising costs of living are a particular concern for New York residents, Rice wants to raise the federal minimum wage since “pay remains stagnant, and the only thing we see growing is the gap between the wealthy and those our economic recovery is leaving behind.”

## NEW YORK (18) TOO CLOSE TO CALL

**Nan Hayworth, R**

**Election:** Opposed Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D  
**Residence:** Mount Kisco  
**Born:** Dec. 14, 1959; Chicago, Ill.  
**Religion:** Lutheran  
**Family:** Husband, Scott Hayworth; two children  
**Education:** Princeton U., A.B. 1981 (biology); Cornell U., M.D. 1985  
**Career:** Health care advertising firm executive; ophthalmologist  
**Political highlights:** U.S. House, 2011-13; defeated for re-election to U.S. House, 2012

A retired ophthalmologist and one-term lawmaker, Hayworth comes back to Congress with her four-point “prescription” for health care and ideas about how to reorganize the tax code and federal regulations to better serve the middle class.



Taking her former seat on the Financial Services Committee would make sense; her district has ties to the New York financial sector, and she did a lot of work in 2011 on debt limit issues. But changing health care laws remains a priority. Specifically, she backs giving consumers more choices by facilitating interstate sale of insurance and ensuring that health savings accounts are not discouraged.

Hayworth thinks government can take a role in state-level support for health services for the poor, but she is unimpressed by nearly all efforts of the federal government and derides the functioning of its agencies: “Government bureaucracies don’t create jobs. They empower themselves at our expense.” And regarding the impact of the tax code on the middle class: “Washington has tipped the scale towards the bureaucracy and the elite. I’m here to tip the scale back towards you.”

Hayworth generally supported party leadership in her previous stint in the House, and she joined both the conservative Republican Study Committee and the moderate Main Street Partnership while also working with Rhode Island’s Democratic Rep. David Cicilline on the bipartisan Common Ground Caucus. But the second time around, it seems less like a consensus-building exercise than a charge to take on “insiders and lobbyists” as she proclaims that “Washington is the problem.”

## NEW YORK (21)

**Elise Stefanik, R**

**Pronounced:** stef-AH-nick  
**Election:** Defeated Aaron Woolf, D, to succeed Rep. Bill Owens, D, who retired  
**Residence:** Willsboro  
**Born:** July 2, 1984; Albany, N.Y.  
**Religion:** Roman Catholic  
**Family:** Single  
**Education:** Harvard U., A.B. 2006 (government)  
**Career:** Plywood company sales director; presidential campaign aide; think tank communications director; White House aide  
**Political highlights:** No previous office

For a party struggling to integrate age and gender diversity into its ranks, Republicans scored a huge win with the election of Stefanik to succeed retiring Democratic Rep. Bill Owens.



While she'll be the youngest woman in the House of either party, Stefanik already has experience in Washington — she was a White House aide, a staffer for the national Republican Party and a presidential campaign aide.

There is no doubt about her loyalty to the GOP platform, but Stefanik takes a nuanced view on a couple of social policy issues. She backs equal pay for women, and she would be willing to raise the minimum wage if small business interests were involved in negotiating the change. And, regarding Republicans' responses about abortion, she told *The New York Times*, "it's very important that we have candidates who are respectful when they talk about this issue and that they talk about it in a humane way."

Like many young politicians of both parties, Stefanik is a strong proponent of improved transparency in government operations, and she sees online outreach and accountability measures as important functions of a congressional office.

Outside of politics and public policy, her expertise lies mainly in her experience with her parents' plywood distribution company and she would fit in on the Small Business Committee. The Agriculture and Veterans Affairs panels would let her look out for her constituents — her district is a sprawling rural expanse of forests and mountains; and Fort Drum, near Watertown, hosts tens of thousands of military personnel.

## NEW YORK (24)

**John Katko, R**

**Election:** Defeated Rep. Dan Maffei, D  
**Residence:** Camillus  
**Born:** Nov. 9, 1962; Syracuse, N.Y.  
**Religion:** Roman Catholic  
**Family:** Wife, Robin Katko; three children  
**Education:** Niagara U., B.A. 1984 (political science); Syracuse U., J.D. 1988  
**Career:** Federal prosecutor; lawyer  
**Political highlights:** No previous office

As a federal prosecutor, Katko took on organized crime and drug trafficking. In the House, he's going to take up the cause of the central New York economy.



Repealing the medical device tax is important to local manufacturers and will be his first priority in Washington. That agenda item will also fit in with Katko's larger efforts to assess the whole of the 2010 health care overhaul.

He says tax rates and an overabundance of federal regulations impede economic growth, and Katko is concerned the tax environment discourages companies from bringing overseas profits back to the U.S.

Katko's fiscal conservatism includes aiming at reduced federal spending overall as well as enforcement of spending caps, and his plan for the budget is to "reform" the process. He also opposes raising the minimum wage — he told the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, "I would rather give individuals in that tax bracket a tax incentive to work (such as a tax rebate)." He also opposes a federal paycheck fairness law, but is strident in his belief in equal pay — his preference, perhaps fitting for a prosecutor, is in stronger enforcement of existing laws.

He also backs enforcement of existing laws without expanding regulations when it comes to gun owners' rights. Katko, who is looking for a spot on the Judiciary Committee, vows to oppose any restriction on the purchase of legal firearms and ammunition, would like to see incentives to improve gun safety by gun owners and rejects the efficacy and constitutionality of federal firearms bans or registries.

## NEW YORK (25) TOO CLOSE TO CALL

**Mark Assini, R**

**Election:** Opposed Rep. Louise Slaughter, D  
**Residence:** Gates  
**Born:** July 17, 1959; Gates, N.Y.  
**Religion:** Roman Catholic  
**Family:** Wife, Mary Ann Clarno; three children  
**Education:** Monroe Community College, A.S. 1980 (liberal arts); Rochester Institute of Technology, B.S. 1986 (business)  
**Career:** Financial analyst  
**Political highlights:** Monroe County Legislature, 1993-2005; Gates town supervisor, 2010-present

If Assini needs a personal motto, it might just be "never give up."

An outstanding wrestler, he once hurt his leg so badly in a high school football game there was a possibility he might have had to give up wrestling. Nope. He persevered and earned a college scholarship. A decade and a half later, he lost his position at Eastman Kodak and ended up with no job prospects. But he was a county legislator and later became town supervisor. Ten years ago, he ran in the Republican primary for a House seat, only to lose to the eventual winner. And now, in his second try, he beat an incumbent who had been in Congress for nearly three decades.



Assini ran for the seat this time because "there has been no cooperation and collaboration. I don't think problems are unsolvable."

The problems most relevant to his district have to do with the local economy, which he calls "abysmal."

Corporate tax rates and regulations on businesses are "crushing" them. One of his targets for a committee spot is the Small Business panel, though he also sees room on Budget to explore how to prioritize spending (especially on infrastructure projects), as well as eliminate what he considers wasteful spending. This type of program budgetary examination could also be addressed as a member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

He might not believe in giving up — he says "nothing has ever come easy" for him — but he also doesn't believe in staying in Congress forever. Assini favors an eight-year limit on House service.

## NORTH CAROLINA (6)

**Mark Walker, R**

**Election:** Defeated Laura Fjeld, D, to succeed Rep. Howard Coble, R, who retired

**Residence:** Summerfield

**Born:** May 20, 1969; Dothan, Ala.

**Religion:** Baptist

**Family:** Wife, Kelly Walker; three children

**Education:** Trinity Baptist College, attended 1987-88; Houston Community College, attended 1990; Piedmont Baptist College, B.A. 1999 (biblical studies)

**Career:** Pastor; car salesman

**Political highlights:** No previous office

Walker plans to align with conservatives in the House intent on trimming federal spending and reshaping entitlement programs.



He is a preacher's son who spent time in the business world before becoming a Baptist minister. Walker had never sought elected office before winning his House seat; he says the 2012 GOP presidential nominating contest inspired him to craft a message of limited government and self-reliance and to run for Congress.

Citing his experience working in inner-city and international ministries, he thinks Congress should scrutinize social welfare programs for low-income people. He believes the programs are detrimental to the poor and create a culture of dependency, particularly for Hispanics and black Americans.

His vision for overall fiscal health includes a balanced budget amendment and either a "fair tax" or flat tax system. Among his plans for shrinking the federal government's outlays, he says foreign aid should be limited to "people in need — refugees, widows, and orphans — and countries that share our commitment to democracy, like Israel."

Looking out for the rural counties in the northern part of his district and the highways, freight rail lines and airport around Greensboro, the Transportation and Agriculture panels would be a good fit for Walker. He is also interested in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Walker says his religious beliefs will influence his approach to governing, although he adds, "My oath is not to a denomination. It is to the Constitution. I'm not going as a pastor but as a representative."

## NORTH CAROLINA (7)

**David Rouzer, R**

**Election:** Defeated Jonathan Barfield Jr., D, to succeed Rep. Mike McIntyre, D, who retired

**Residence:** McGee's Crossroads

**Born:** Feb. 16, 1972; 2nd General Hospital (Army), Landstuhl, Germany

**Religion:** Southern Baptist

**Family:** Single

**Education:** North Carolina State U., B.A. 1994 (chemistry), B.S. 1994 (agricultural business management), B.S. 1994 (agricultural economics)

**Career:** Government affairs and marketing consulting company owner; U.S. Agriculture Department administrator; congressional aide; university administrator; political action committee coordinator

**Political highlights:** Sought Republican nomination for N.C. Agriculture Department commissioner, 2000; N.C. Senate, 2009-13; Republican nominee for U.S. House, 2012

Rouzer has more than a decade of experience working for senators and the Agriculture Department, as well as a network of connections within his state delegation and that lead back to some members of the House GOP leadership. Knowledge of institutional traditions and the legislative process, especially the snags common across the Capitol, will put Rouzer out ahead of many of his freshman colleagues.



It will also help him go after items on his district-first agenda. Rouzer would like to land on the Agriculture Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee so he can look out for southeastern North Carolina farmers, the waterways around Wilmington and local tourism.

On a national scale, getting immigration policy right is important to Rouzer. "The real problem is that we have a legal immigration problem that has led to our illegal immigration problem ... we need to have a simple and easy way for our employers to get labor they need when they need it." He supports expanded guest worker visa programs for agricultural laborers as well as for high-tech workers.

He will also certainly maintain some of his focus on regulatory overhaul from four years in the state Senate. Rouzer had success at the state level with legislation about administrative procedure — his concerns at the federal level include EPA rules as well as regulations that have an impact on small businesses.

About his approach to legislating, "philosophically, I'm very conservative, but I'm also very practical. You can't get from Point A to Z overnight."

## NORTH CAROLINA (12)

**Alma Adams, D**

**Election:** Defeated Vince Coakley, R, to succeed Rep. Melvin Watt, D, who resigned

**Residence:** Greensboro

**Born:** May 27, 1946; High Point, N.C.

**Religion:** Baptist

**Family:** Divorced; two children

**Education:** North Carolina A&T U., B.S. 1969 (art education), M.S. 1972 (art education); Ohio State U., Ph.D. 1981 (art education)

**Career:** Professor; artist; teacher

**Political highlights:** Greensboro City Board of Education, 1984-86; Greensboro City Council, 1987-94; N.C. House, 1994-present

A liberal Democrat who calls herself the kind of legislator who works hard to master an issue and then is "relentless" in pushing it forward, Adams is invested in higher education access and affordability.



Historically black colleges and universities are of particular interest to Adams, who graduated from North Carolina A&T State University and was a professor at Bennett College for decades.

The Education and Workforce Committee would serve that interest, as well as fitting in well with her support of a higher federal minimum wage — a proposed \$10.10 would be a place to start, but Adams thinks a living wage would require eventually getting closer to \$18 per hour — and her efforts to address a gender-based pay gap. Unemployment and economic stagnation are problems for the residents of her district.

Support for abortion rights and voting rights will take up room in her portfolio, too.

One characteristic of a teacher she has sought to retain in 30 years in elected office has been that of facilitator — she believes that stakeholders, including colleagues, constituents and lobbyists, can inform a legislator's position. "As an educator, I know how helpful it is to study and the pitfalls when you don't, when you're not prepared."

She already has a network of connections to members of the North Carolina Democratic delegation and the Congressional Black Caucus; she says she admires the style of California's Maxine Waters and the District's Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Adams hopes to continue with her collage art while in D.C.

## OKLAHOMA (5)

**Steve Russell, R**

**Election:** Defeated Al McAffrey, D, to succeed Rep. James Lankford, R, who ran for other office

**Residence:** Oklahoma City

**Born:** May 25, 1963; Oklahoma City, Okla.

**Religion:** Southern Baptist

**Family:** Wife, Cindy Russell; five children

**Education:** Ouachita Baptist U., B.A. 1985 (public speaking)

**Military:** Army 1985-2006

**Career:** Army officer; motivational speaker; gun store owner

**Political highlights:** Okla. Senate, 2009-13

There's no mistaking Russell's background — he wrote a book about his combat experience; he talks about the impact on foreign and defense policy and on veterans' services of having fewer former service members in Congress; and he exudes a straitlaced demeanor — and there will be no mistaking his voting record once he's in the House.



His legislative priorities fall in line with the Republican leadership agenda. He has a typical view of the 2010 health care overhaul, which he would like to see repealed and replaced, and of energy policy, fiscal policy and national security. He has seen what he views as “a multitude of errors in foreign policy” over the past several years.

The federal deficit comes up regarding the defense budget and continuing sequestration cuts. His state's military installations are important, as is general readiness. “You can't [eliminate the deficit] by reducing the military, and you weaken our country when you reduce our armed forces to the size of any peer competitor or any tin pot tyrant trying to make a move in the world.”

Energy and federal lands are a big deal in Oklahoma. Russell argues for expanded drilling projects and the Keystone XL pipeline. “I think we could see a percentage of anything that would be produced on federal land go directly against the deficit.”

He strongly opposes most EPA regulations, but counts energy policy as one potential area for bipartisan cooperation.

Gun owners' rights are a particular concern for Russell, who opened a small rifle manufacturing business after serving one term in the state legislature.

## PENNSYLVANIA (6)

**Ryan Costello, R**

**Election:** Defeated Manan Trivedi, D, to succeed Rep. Jim Gerlach, R, who retired

**Residence:** West Chester

**Born:** Sept. 7, 1976; Phoenixville, Pa.

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Family:** Wife, Christine Costello; one child

**Education:** Ursinus College, B.A. 1999 (politics); Villanova U., J.D. 2002

**Career:** Lawyer

**Political highlights:** East Vincent Township Board of Supervisors, 2002-07; Chester County recorder of deeds, 2008-11; Chester County Board of Commissioners, 2011-present

Costello's constituents are used to being represented in the House by a moderate Republican. The youngest member of the Pennsylvania delegation by more than a decade, Costello replaces the retiring Rep. Jim Gerlach and pledges to work with any of his new colleagues on education policy, federal spending and changes to the tax code.



Costello was born, raised and educated in southeastern Pennsylvania, and the region will stay on his agenda in the House. Like many local Republicans, Costello, whose law practice focused on land use and real estate, emphasizes preservation of the area's rural heritage. He backs environmental standards to protect undeveloped and agricultural land.

A lawyer by trade, Costello served in local and county elected positions. As county chairman, he worked with a balanced budget — a goal he'd like to see achieved at the federal level. He supports low tax rates and increased efficiency in government agencies. Federal debt is a problem for economic and social progress and for national security, he says.

The small business environment is a frequent topic for Costello, particularly regarding what he sees as an overly complicated tax code and the potential for increasing levels of federal regulation. “Restoring confidence and stability in our economy requires a new direction: cutting red tape, simplifying our tax code and replacing the health care law.”

Costello, whose parents were schoolteachers, formulates a plan for education policy that targets technology. And his views on immigration encompass overhauls of visa programs to allow high-tech learners to join the workforce.

## PENNSYLVANIA (13)

**Brendan F. Boyle, D**

**Election:** Defeated Carson Dee Adcock, R, to succeed Rep. Allyson Y. Schwartz, D, who ran for other office

**Residence:** Philadelphia

**Born:** Feb. 6, 1977; Philadelphia, Pa.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Family:** Wife, Jennifer Boyle; one child

**Education:** U. of Notre Dame, B.A. 1999 (government); Harvard U., M.P.P. 2005 (2005)

**Career:** Information technology consulting company analyst

**Political highlights:** Democratic nominee for Pa. House, 2004, 2006; Pa. House, 2009-present

Boyle draws on his roots as the son of a janitor and a school crossing guard to advocate policies he thinks will bolster the “American Dream,” including improving the affordability of higher education.



“We are pricing out kids from working families, middle-class families, lower income families. And it's completely unfair. It's not consistent with building America as a meritocracy. And it also is very unwise if we're going to be competitive globally in this century.”

He is heavily influenced by being a first-generation American — and the first member of his family to go to college — and is concerned about the state of the middle class. Those concerns also find their way into his views on tax policy and access to elementary and secondary education.

Strong support of a tax overhaul to change income tax rates as well as the incentives that he says encourage companies to move abroad and lay off U.S. workers meshes well with Boyle's call to boost funding for infrastructure projects. He is bothered that other countries outpace the U.S. in transportation investments; at a time when federal spending has been stigmatized, he says, he wants to be a voice explaining why that funding is necessary.

A “pragmatic idealist,” Boyle recognizes that compromise is sometimes necessary. He wants to be part of a new class of members who recognize that government must work and show that it can.

He is interested in foreign affairs but would like to serve on the House Financial Services and Transportation and Infrastructure committees.

## TEXAS (4)

**John Ratcliffe, R**

**Election:** Defeated Rep. Ralph M. Hall, R, in a primary election

**Residence:** Heath

**Born:** Oct. 20, 1965; Mount Prospect, Ill.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Family:** Wife, Michele Ratcliffe; two children

**Education:** U. of Notre Dame, B.A. 1987 (government and international studies); Southern Methodist U., J.D. 1989

**Career:** Lawyer; federal prosecutor

**Political highlights:** Heath Board of Adjustment, 1997-98; Heath Planning and Zoning Commission, 1998-2001; Heath City Council, 2001-04; mayor of Heath, 2004-12

A former mayor, federal prosecutor and anti-terrorism official, the tea-party-backed Ratcliffe says his primary defeat of longtime Rep. Ralph M. Hall is not a mandate to be a “bomb thrower” in the House — he wants to be seen as a “thoughtful conservative.”



He also wants to take on a policy agenda geared toward what he identifies as the issues for the next generation. Federal debt and spending are at the top of that list. Touting his leadership of Heath, Texas — especially his record of not raising taxes — Ratcliffe emphasizes the need to have a balanced budget. Regarding the trajectories for federal entitlement programs, he says “we’re really not in a position well to meet those needs.”

Immigration will likely play a large role in his policy agenda. Border security in particular relates to his background in anti-terrorism efforts, and enforcement of immigration laws for those already in the country illegally has been a big part of Ratcliffe’s portfolio.

Like many other Republicans, Ratcliffe strongly opposes much of the work done by the EPA, saying it is “not just regulating, but is legislating. And where it is regulating, its regulations are overreaching.”

He supports an all-of-the-above energy policy, but not one backed by subsidies or federal requirements.

Ratcliffe took the opportunity of an uncontested general election to use some of his time this summer to meet with dozens of members of the House GOP conference for advice on the administrative and fundraising details most of his freshman colleagues won’t have experience with.

## TEXAS (23)

**Will Hurd, R**

**Election:** Defeated Rep. Pete Gallego, D

**Residence:** Helotes

**Born:** Aug. 19, 1977; San Antonio, Texas

**Religion:** Christian

**Family:** Single

**Education:** Texas A&M U., B.S. 2000 (computer science)

**Career:** Cybersecurity risk management consultant; CIA agent

**Political highlights:** Sought Republican nomination for U.S. House, 2010

Addressing his drive to serve in the House, Hurd says some of his own interactions with Congress while he was in the CIA left him “shocked by the caliber of our elected officials.” And he says, “the organization as a whole has gotten such a bad reputation ... because of a lack of leadership.”



Hurd plans to use his CIA background to tackle foreign policy, energy, border security and cybersecurity issues, all while holding himself to a “gold standard” in constituent relations.

He is confident he will be able to make an immediate impact in the House, and his idealism and ambition show in his optimism about quickly moving to the front on the topics he finds most pressing for his district and the nation. Most of the work Hurd would like to do would be addressed from the Select Intelligence Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The energy sector is a big issue in the sprawling southwest Texas district, as is immigration. Border security takes top billing for him — he’d like to see more use of intelligence in combating trafficking and tracking those crossing the border illegally, but also sees room for flexibility in management of high-volume entry points — and he opposes any path to legalization for those in the country illegally. But Hurd does not want to stymie trade, especially as he anticipates increased energy production in Mexico.

Calls for a simpler tax code, a balanced federal budget and fewer federal regulations match up with many of his new GOP colleagues, but he says he’s willing to work with Democrats.

## TEXAS (36)

**Brian Babin, R**

**Election:** Defeated Michael K. Cole, D, to succeed Rep. Steve Stockman, R, who ran for other office

**Residence:** Woodville

**Born:** March 23, 1948; Port Arthur, Texas

**Religion:** Southern Baptist

**Family:** Wife, Roxanne Babin; five children

**Education:** U. of Texas, attended 1967-69; Lamar U., B.S. 1973 (biology); U. of Texas, D.D.S. 1976

**Military:** Texas National Guard 1969-71; Army Reserve 1971-75; Air Force 1976-79

**Career:** Dentist

**Political highlights:** Woodville City Council, 1981-82, 1984-89; Historical Commission, 1989-95; Woodville School Board, 1992-95; Republican nominee for U.S. House, 1996, 1998

As a dentist and longtime resident of southeastern Texas, Babin hits his stride when discussing health care and border security. He spent more than three decades serving in a number of local and state positions, and he says this background gives him a broad understanding of policy.



Babin is highly critical of the 2010 health care overhaul and plans to be part of any effort he can to repeal it and make the health care system more market-based.

“I know any time the government gets involved, setting prices, setting fees, mandating this, mandating that, you’re going to have problems,” he says.

He also frequently invokes a responsibility to future generations when calling for a balanced budget and claiming the federal government has surrendered control of the border to the extent that “we have no clue who’s out there and what they have in mind.”

While he’s interested in the Ways and Means Committee, he said Science, Space, and Technology would be a fitting assignment, with Johnson Space Center in his district. As a veteran and father to a former Navy SEAL, he also identified the Armed Services Committee as a potential posting.

Babin served in the Texas Air National Guard and the Army Reserve, then attended dental school and spent three years as an Air Force dental officer. He settled in Woodville, opened a private practice and raised his five children.

He spent eight years in city government and has been appointed to state boards dealing with issues ranging from dentistry to water authority.



## UTAH (4)

**Mia Love, R**

**Election:** Defeated Doug Owens, D, to succeed Rep. Jim Matheson, D, who retired

**Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Born:** Dec. 6, 1975; Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Religion:** Mormon

**Family:** Husband, Jason Love; three children

**Education:** U. of Hartford, B.F.A. 1997 (music theater)

**Career:** Homemaker; computer services company employee; flight attendant

**Political highlights:** Saratoga Springs City Council, 2004-10; mayor of Saratoga Springs, 2010-14; Republican nominee for U.S. House, 2012

Love won a seat in the House on her second try, and she will become the first black Republican woman to serve in Congress. But she's not new to politics, and she's not new to the spotlight.



In 2012, Love spoke at the Republican National Convention. That spring, the Saratoga Springs mayor had dominated the state GOP convention selecting a candidate to challenge Democratic Rep. Jim Matheson; he squeaked by narrowly in 2012, but opted to retire and Love was a shoo-in for 2014.

The daughter of Haitian immigrants, Love was raised Catholic in Norwalk, Conn., before going to college with dreams of performing on Broadway. Shortly after graduating, she followed her sister into the Mormon faith, was hired as a flight attendant for Continental Airlines and moved to Utah.

She stayed in Utah and got involved with her community, ending up in the mayor's office after two terms on the city council — Love was the first black female mayor in the state's history. A focus on local control and decision-making guides her political outlook, and she says she believes that "there is so much more accountability at a local level."

Once in the House, she hopes eventually to find a way onto the Energy and Commerce Committee, and has also expressed interest in the Financial Services and Ways and Means panels. Prioritizing education policy and replacing the 2010 health care law, she may find other perches for working on legislation.

Love also has said she would consider joining the Congressional Black Caucus, which has only ever had one Republican member.

## VIRGINIA (7)

**Dave Brat, R**

**Election:** Defeated John K. "Jack" Trammell, D, to succeed Rep. Eric Cantor, R, who resigned

**Residence:** Glen Allen

**Born:** July 27, 1964; Dearborn, Mich.

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Family:** Wife, Laura Brat; two children

**Education:** Hope College, B.A. 1986 (business administration); Princeton Theological Seminary, M.Div. 1990; American U., Ph.D. 1995 (economics)

**Career:** Professor; management consultant

**Political highlights:** No previous office

Brat delivered this cycle's most surprising intraparty defeat, becoming the first person ever to oust the sitting House majority leader in an election. An economics professor from a small school two and a half hours from Capitol Hill, he is opposed to what he calls "the power party ... the money party" — painting all politicians with the same brush.



He has an anti-establishment approach to policy and politics, and his biggest focus is removing the federal government from all but the narrowest areas of activity. Brat takes expected stances against the 2010 health care overhaul and in favor of reduced federal spending, and he supports a secure border and opposes any legislation that would provide opportunities to provide citizenship to immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally. At a campaign event in June, he called "amnesty ... the key pivotal issue of the day."

His academic work includes topics in economic methodology and theory as well as ethics, an area he studied while in seminary. He is particularly focused on the intersection of capitalism and Christianity, and he adheres strictly to free-market economics. His libertarian leanings also include opposing NSA data collection and the indefinite detention of American citizens.

He's not new to Washington — he got interested in politics while a graduate student in the District — and he even tried his hand at politics in 2011, failing to secure a state House nomination at a party convention. But before he has set any specific policy agenda, Brat has vowed to limit himself to six terms in Congress.

## VIRGINIA (8)

**Don Beyer, D**

**Election:** Defeated Micah Edmond, R, to succeed Rep. James P. Moran, D, who retired

**Residence:** Alexandria

**Born:** June 20, 1950; Trieste, Free Territory of Trieste

**Religion:** Episcopalian

**Family:** Wife, Megan Carroll Beyer; four children

**Education:** Williams College, B.A. 1972 (economics)

**Career:** Car dealership owner; Boy Scouts of America regional manager; national park information assistant

**Political highlights:** Lieutenant governor, 1990-98; Democratic nominee for governor, 1997; U.S. ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, 2009-13

A veteran of Virginia politics, Beyer has the personal and political connections to feel at home in the Capitol. And he's got a personality and leadership style suited to either working with the details or taking a big-picture lead on issues important to his suburban Washington district.



Beyer will be a reliable Democratic vote and won't be combative or prone to gaffes. He hopes eventually to end up on the Energy and Commerce or Ways and Means committees, but has the savvy to understand that it might be a bit of wait before he gets there. An even-keeled nature and his past political experience might land Beyer on conference committees or with opportunities to negotiate contentious bills.

He says his first priority is climate change, working to find "efficient, bipartisan ways to affect climate change, and, little by little, moving it away from being a Democrat or Republican issue."

Gun control, particularly expanding background check regulations, and changing policies for family and medical leave are also high on his to-do list.

He pledges to be a voice for the many federal workers he'll represent. "Especially in the 30 years that we decided that government is the source of all problems, it hasn't been fun to be a federal worker, and it often shows up in things like, 'Well, freeze their pay' or 'Let's close down the government.'"

In addition to running successful car dealerships — Beyer will almost certainly be one of the wealthiest members of the 114th Congress — he has volunteered for charitable organizations and political campaigns.

## VIRGINIA (10)

**Barbara Comstock, R**

**Election:** Defeated John Foust, D, to succeed Rep. Frank R. Wolf, R, who retired

**Residence:** McLean

**Born:** June 30, 1959; Springfield, Mass.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Family:** Husband, Chip Comstock; three children

**Education:** Middlebury College, B.A. 1981 (political science); Georgetown U., J.D. 1986

**Career:** Public affairs firm owner; lobbyist; lawyer; U.S. Justice Department public affairs official; presidential campaign aide; congressional aide; homemaker

**Political highlights:** Va. House, 2010-present

Comstock promises to be a conservative voice, especially on tax and fiscal policy.

A tax overhaul will be her first order of business. She opposes any tax increases, even for transportation and infrastructure projects beneficial to her densely populated Northern Virginia district. In the Virginia House of Delegates, Comstock signed the Americans for Tax Reform pledge, a promise to never vote for a tax increase — a position at odds with the stance of longtime Republican Rep. Frank R. Wolf, whom she replaces.

With a background as a Wolf aide, in the Justice Department and as a lobbyist, Comstock has a wide breadth of understanding, and she has a history of digging deep into issues. She was also an investigator for the House Government Reform Committee during the Clinton administration and headed up the research team for the Republican National Committee during the 2000 presidential election. (Rep. Tim Griffin of Arkansas worked with her in both capacities.)

She strongly supports “right to work” laws, and claims that the National Labor Relations Board and regulations set by the EPA hinder economic growth. Comstock supports expanded offshore drilling, including oil exploration off the Virginia coast.

On immigration, she will join Republicans who prioritize border security. During a September 2014 debate, she emphasized the need for legislation — as opposed to executive action — and also suggested, “Fed-Ex can track packages coming in here all of the time, we can track people who are coming into the country and we can do that right.”

**Clint Didier, R**

**Pronounced:** DID-ee-er

**Election:** Opposed Dan Newhouse, R, to succeed Rep. Doc Hastings, R, who retired

**Residence:** Pasco

**Born:** April 4, 1959; Eltopia, Wash.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Family:** Wife, Kristie Didier; four children

**Education:** Columbia Basin College, A.A.S. 1979; Portland State U., B.S. 1981 (political science)

**Career:** Farmer; excavation company owner; professional football player

**Political highlights:** Sought Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, 2010; Republican nominee for Wash. commissioner of public lands, 2012

Didier would likely be among the group of very conservative House Republicans willing to buck leadership. He lists Sens. Ted Cruz and Mike Lee and Reps. Thomas Massie and Justin Amash among the lawmakers he admires. “We gotta get back to the Constitution,” he says. “This thing is etched in stone. It’s our guiding light.”

Referring to a portion of the Declaration of Independence that describes swarms of officers harassing people and taking their resources, he says: “This is exactly what’s transpiring in America today. We’re right back to when we were fighting for our independence from the king.”

He says he wants across-the-board cuts for federal agencies. “My pledge is no new taxes, no increase in existing taxes; and anything that grows the size of the federal government by one dollar, I will vote against so help me God.” The regional issue of cleanup at the Hanford nuclear site “can and must be done utilizing existing tax revenue.” A farmer himself, he calls the farm bill a “welfare bill.”

Border security is a major concern for Didier, who identifies national security and public health concerns stemming from continued illegal immigration. He opposes a path to citizenship for those in the country illegally, and his plan for a guest-worker program would include garnishment of wages by the private sector to be returned when workers leave the U.S.

His interest in the Natural Resources Committee is in land use and states’ access to resources on federally owned land. He backs gun owners’ rights, and during his campaign raffled firearms to followers on his website.



PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

**Dan Newhouse, R**

**Election:** Opposed Clint Didier, R, to succeed Rep. Doc Hastings, R, who retired

**Residence:** Sunnyside

**Born:** July 10, 1955; Yakima, Wash.

**Religion:** Presbyterian

**Family:** Wife, Carol Newhouse; two children

**Education:** Washington State U., B.S. 1977 (agricultural economics)

**Career:** Farmer; national fraternity assistant

**Political highlights:** Wash. House, 2003-09; Wash. Department of Agriculture director, 2009-13

Newhouse worked under a Democratic administration as the state’s director of agriculture. He says he eschews labels and is “willing to work with anybody who has a good idea,” but he would fit in with many of his Republican colleagues in the House.

He supports the GOP’s plan to balance the budget within 10 years and a constitutional balanced-budget amendment. In general, “I will insist that we live within our means and respect every penny of the public’s money.”

Immigration would be another priority. Many farms in his vast district — which is covered by hops and fruit orchards — rely on migrant workers. He says immigration and border security policies aren’t working; his goal would be a system that works efficiently for people coming into the U.S. as well as it works for businesses hiring employees.

“For undocumented workers already here, we need a long-term solution, not blanket amnesty. I would support a plan to allow undocumented workers with no serious criminal record to apply for legal status, learn English, pay taxes and a penalty and then go to the back of the line and work toward citizenship.”

Other farm-related issues he’d take up are water resources, federal lands policy and species protection regulations. Agriculture is as important to Newhouse personally as it is to the district — his family operates a 600-acre farm.

Before serving in the state cabinet, Newhouse spent eight years in the state House. He supports repeal of the 2010 health care overhaul, opposes abortion rights and backs gun owners’ rights.



PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

## WEST VIRGINIA (2)

**Alex X. Mooney, R****Election:** Defeated Nick Casey, D**Residence:** Charles Town**Born:** June 7, 1971; Washington, D.C.**Religion:** Roman Catholic**Family:** Wife, Grace Gonzalez Mooney; two children**Education:** Dartmouth College, B.A. 1993 (philosophy)**Career:** Public affairs firm owner; conservative journalism training nonprofit executive; conservative public policy nonprofit analyst; congressional aide**Political highlights:** Republican nominee for N.H. House, 1992; Md. Senate, 1999-2011; defeated for re-election to Md. Senate, 2010

Politics has always been the goal, and the path has wound through several states. Mooney has been interested in civic participation since childhood and was active in campus groups at Dartmouth; he ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the New Hampshire House and later served for a more than a decade in the Maryland Senate and also as the state's Republican Party chairman.



He comes to Congress from West Virginia, still touting the same socially and fiscally conservative priorities that earned him a reputation as a willing combatant in partisan debates in Annapolis. Mooney's success representing a conservative anti-abortion, pro-gun owners' rights, anti-EPA platform has superseded his status as a newcomer to coal country. Among the federal regulations that Mooney hopes to reduce or eliminate — including the entirety of the 2010 health care overhaul — are environmental regulations on coal production.

Mooney has sought out tea party support during his transition across the Potomac. A strong supporter of a balanced budget amendment, Mooney also pledges to oppose tax increases, which he says “are just an excuse for the spending addicts in Washington to spend more of your hard-earned money.”

His views on immigration policy are shaped in part by his mother's and in-laws' experiences; they all emigrated from Cuba. Rejecting any federal plan for “amnesty” for those already in the country illegally, Mooney also pushed several bills in the Maryland Senate aimed at prohibiting the Motor Vehicle Administration from issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.

## WEST VIRGINIA (3)

**Evan Jenkins, R****Election:** Defeated Rep. Nick J. Rahall II, D**Residence:** Huntington**Born:** Sept. 12, 1960; Huntington, WVa.**Religion:** Presbyterian**Family:** Wife, Elizabeth Jenkins; three children**Education:** U. of Florida, B.S. 1983 (marketing); Samford U., J.D. 1987**Career:** State physicians association executive; lawyer**Political highlights:** W. Va. House, 1995-2001 (served as a Democrat); candidate for WVa. Supreme Court of Appeals, 2000; WVa. Senate, 2003-present (served as a Democrat, 2003-13)

Coal will always fuel debates in the rural and economically struggling 3rd District, and Jenkins has taken up the issue full bore.



“My passion and my efforts in Congress will be to be a strong, consistent and committed voice to making sure that coal is an important part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy,” he says.

He calls out President Barack Obama for what he calls a “war on coal,” which Jenkins says has devastated his district. He is familiar with the needs of his constituents, having served in the state legislature for two decades.

Jenkins strongly opposes the 2010 health care overhaul, citing his time with the state's medical professionals' association as providing particular insight. “West Virginians have bristled at the idea of Washington dictating the type of coverage that must be purchased and then turning around and imposing a fee or a penalty if you don't purchase what the government tells you to.”

Party affiliation in West Virginia does not always match up with national platforms, but Jenkins successfully linked the man he defeated, the long-serving Democratic Rep. Nick J. Rahall II, to Obama.

And Jenkins touts an independent record in the state legislature: “I pride myself on being a problem solver and a consensus builder and having an earnest willingness to work across party lines with individuals willing to roll up their sleeves and solve tough problems.”

His emphasis on that self-identified bipartisanship makes sense: Jenkins served in both the state House and Senate as a Democrat.

## WISCONSIN (6)

**Glenn Grothman, R****Election:** Defeated Mark Harris, D, to succeed Rep. Tom Petri, R, who retired**Residence:** Campbellsport**Born:** July 3, 1955; Milwaukee, Wis.**Religion:** Lutheran**Family:** Single**Education:** U. of Wisconsin, B.B.A. 1977 (accounting), J.D. 1983**Career:** Lawyer**Political highlights:** Wis. Assembly, 1993-2005; Wis. Senate, 2005-present

Trying to stick with a basic platform of being a small-government guy, Grothman hopes to continue in the House work he did on the state Senate's Budget Committee.



His view on taxes (cut them across the board), government spending (cut it, too), federal debt (eliminate it) and the number of federal jobs (shrink it) are in line with most conservative Republicans.

Union activists who challenged Republican Gov. Scott Walker's administration in 2011 were described as “a bunch of slobs” by Grothman in an interview with MSNBC; he also dismissed the protesters as “college students and hangers-on having a party.”

Among Grothman's nonfiscal related legislation in the Senate was a bill to classify nonmarital parenting environments as a factor in designating child abuse or neglect. He strongly opposes same-sex marriage.

Welfare programs need a serious overhaul, according to Grothman, and he wants education policy driven by local leaders. He will push school choice measures like tax credits for parents sending students to private school. Overall, Grothman derides “federal laws and never-ending regulations that preempt reforms on the state level.”

One target of his in the Senate was a state law restricting work weeks from extending a full seven days without a break — Grothman told the Huffington Post in January 2014 that the rule was a “little goofy” and removed the opportunity for people who wanted to work more hours. (It's possible Grothman, who remembers having wanted to work overtime while in college, will be surprised by the congressional schedule.)