

David Esrati david@electesrati.com

113 Bonner Street

Dayton Ohio 45410

(home) 937.228.5625 (work) 937.228.4433

Endorsement Sought: Congress OH-3

Education: BsB Marketing Wright State University, 1988, Veterans Fastrac

Entrepreneurs Program, 9/2004

Owner, The Next Wave advertising agency.

1) What is/are your reasons for becoming a candidate for this office?

To bring creative thinking and problem solving to Congress. Einstein said "Imagination is more important than knowledge" and I think we need new ideas and new approaches to problems, working with our constituents in an open, honest, respectful way. I also have the ability to use technology in an enlightening way to bring democracy back to the people. Since this district was gerrymandered, it has been an almost forgone conclusion that we can't beat the incumbent. Knowing his weaknesses, and being used to his rhetoric has prepared me better than most to be a sacrificial lion instead of a lamb, sent to slaughter. My perspective on obstacles faced by small business (our most reliable economic engine) is very much needed in DC.

2) What do you consider your greatest asset to be as a candidate or elected official

My ability to think creatively and share the big picture with those I'm working with via the web and new media.

3) What resources do you have for your candidacy? (money, time, volunteers)

I have a website that has been kept up-to-date and focused on issues facing the region for the last three years. I am the only candidate who has set up donations online, produced videos and begun building a platform. I have a politically astute treasurer, and teams of online researchers working to debunk the Turner Teflon. I have the tools and skills to create hyper-effective TV and Radio spots, print materials, and websites with effective e-mail marketing campaigns. I believe I can raise approximately \$300,000 from new sources for my campaign, without taking any money from special interest groups, PACs or corporations.

4) What do you feel will be the major issue (s) in your campaign and what is your position on it (them)?

All of these are interconnected.

The Economy: Wall Street is not a casino. Investment isn't something done for an hour or a day. We used to measure our economy by the GNP, now it is by the DOW. We need legislation that brings sanity and accountability back to the financial markets. This includes the reeling in of credit card fees and rates, penalties for late payments, and bait-and-switch credit offers.

We also need to make sure that executive pay is tied to real performance, not quarterly earnings. The current system rewards CEOs for firing American workers. This has to stop.

The War: I support the troops, I do not support them by keeping them in Iraq. We need to begin an immediate withdrawal of conventional warfare forces, and increase the number of Special Operations and Psychological Operations forces to do what they do. The invasion of Iraq was a mistake, predicated on a lie. We must move forward, since our current Congress is too weak to do the right thing and impeach the President and VP.

Health Care: The current system is part of the reason for the export of American jobs. We do not need insurance companies acting as "Bookies" to collect their "administrative overhead" in the delivery of health care. Either we need to work to a single payer plan, or a total reorganization of health care in our country. The first step should be a rebranding of the concept from "National Health Care" to "Workers Insurance"- we guarantee that we'll keep you healthy so you can work (to pay taxes).

End Corporate Welfare: I believe it is time to take government out of buying jobs. This means a national moratorium on relocation assistance, tax abatements, subsidies for anything except emerging technologies, and replacing all with a simple program to encourage smart growth and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels: the walk-to-work tax credit granted only for the number of employees who can walk to work.

Public Education: I believe it is time to provide real investment nationally in our education system, with Federal investment in providing computers and Internet access to all students. We cannot prepare our children for the next century using last century's textbooks.

Campaign Finance Reform: Our system won't work until we take the billions out of the election process. Nowhere in the Constitution does it say that you should have the right to buy a legislator, and that's effectively what has happened. No longer are candidates judged on the power of their ideas, but purely by the amount of green they are able to raise. This has to stop.

5) Do you support the rights of all workers to organize and bargain collectively? Please list specific involvement with or support of organized labor.

I support organized labor when it comes to safe working conditions, fair employment practices and improving the health and welfare and safety of all citizens. I am not in favor of programs that put seniority over ability, patronage, or protect the unfit or incompetent. Working for the public is a privilege and an honor, not an entitlement program.

I believe it is as important for unions to help create a more efficient, streamlined government as it is for everyone in public service. I believe the union workers should be as proud of their role in our community as our elected leaders, working together for the benefit of our city.

I have participated in union activities with my father from a young age, but have not worked with labor since graduation from High School.

I do not believe that unions should be involved in partisan party politics. I do not believe in special interest groups or political action committees. I do not believe union funds should be used to select or endorse candidates.

6) Do you support affirmative action in the hiring and promotion of women and minorities?

Absolutely, if they are qualified for the job.

7) Minorities, women, organized labor, the poor, have always been important constituents of the Democratic Party. Please indicate any programs or initiatives you will propose regarding these groups if you are elected.

In the past I have proposed a subsidized day care program to help create working opportunities for women in Dayton, and to reduce the biggest financial obstacle for working families. I believe in asking the United States to make the kind of investment in social infrastructure that it is making in Iraq. I would push for a new social compact providing incentives for community wide, year round programs for youth focused on education, the arts and athletics to give working parents the ability to work without worrying that their kids are on the streets.

I believe that National Work Insurance is a step to leveling the playing field for the ability to earn a living and compete globally.

I believe changing the way we elect representation to take the power away from special interest groups, corporations and political action committees will restore the rights and the access to government that has been missing for these groups.

8) What is your position on a woman's right to choose regarding abortion?

A woman's body is her own. She has the right to choose.

9) Do you support laws that prohibit discrimination against gay men and lesbians?

I believe that the Constitution clearly states that all men (and women) are created equal. I believe in partner's rights, and that loving partners should have the right to marry. As a first generation American, son of a holocaust survivor, I believe that equal rights are what make our country great.

10) Have you been endorsed by any other organization? If so which?

In a past run I was endorsed by the IAFF.

11) What involvement have you had with the Democratic Party and its candidates?

I have attended meetings, I have run for office, and I have held council with elected leaders from our party. I worked on the Kerry campaign with ACT.

12) Why is it important to you to receive the endorsement of the Democratic party of Montgomery County?

Because I am a Democrat. Because I believe in what the Democratic Party stands for. And because I know that without the GOTV efforts and inclusion in Democratic party materials I am at a severe disadvantage.

13) What are you expecting to receive from the party if endorsed?

The endorsement opens doors for me. I plan on raising \$300,000 outside party circles for the campaign. I would appreciate the ability to co-campaign with other candidates as a collective ticket with a shared vision. The access to shared phone banks and literature drops would be valued, as well as the organizational tools, but not absolutely necessary. I hope to help with the production of materials for other candidates in exchange for volunteer efforts.

14) In what ways will you demonstrate commitment and loyalty to the party?

I will not run a negative campaign; I will work with candidates to supply them with top quality marketing materials.

15) Have you attended our candidate's school? If yes, what are two or three of the most valuable items you feel were discussed there?

Yes. I learned that the party has a strong system to get out the vote and can supply needed support to endorsed candidates. I also learned that the party still isn't tuned in to the Internet, community building online or the change in media effectiveness.

16) In your race, if the Democratic Party endorses someone other than you, will you run against the endorsed candidate? If yes, why?

My word is my bond. When the party chose not to endorse Jane Mitakides when I called from the floor for the endorsement, the party effectively called for other candidates. I have stepped forward, begun a campaign and accepted money from voters to do the job. I have invested time and money, and made the commitment to serve as a candidate. I will see this through to the end. I believe that I am the best-positioned candidate at this time to run.

17) Are you willing to work for the endorsed candidates even if you do not receive the endorsement of the Montgomery County Democratic Party?

I will help any candidate defeat Mike Turner. I have offered my seminar on web 2.0 free to Jane Mitakides, and at a discount to other Dem candidates on the ballot.

18) Do you have any questions, comments or concerns for the screening committee?

I believe that this meeting should be open to the public. I believe the process works best when open. I believe that the Democratic party is showing exclusionary behavior by doing this behind closed doors. I am here, only because I believe in working within the system to change it. It has been a hard learned lesson. I will continue to work for open government and public access for as long as I live. It is a hallmark of my personal brand, and one that does me well to fight Mike Turner, who is the poster child for secrecy and deceit.