## Who's winning the Elections on Facebook: Key U.S. Senatorial and Congressional Races



A Study by www.ElectionArena.com

September 13, 2010



# **Background – Facebook and Elections**

- In Jan 2010, Scott Brown won against Martha Coakley in the Special Elections for the Massachusetts U.S. Senate seat vacated by the passing of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy
- At the time of the elections, Brown had close to 100K supporters on his Facebook page, compared to around 16K on Coakley's page
- Heralded as a brilliant social media campaign, it prompted more and more candidates to invest in social media towards the Mid Term Elections

#### 8 weeks before the elections, we checked:

- Who is doing better on Facebook?
- Can Facebook pages predict the election results?
- How does it compare to the NY Times Race Ratings, and to 538's Model?



### **U.S. Senate Elections - Supporters on Facebook**

## **Overall, U.S. Senate Republican Candidates are doing much better than Democrats on Facebook**

- Even if we exclude McCain as an outlier (with 668K Supporters), Republicans are still 75% of Total Direct Supporters for Major Party U.S. Senate Races on Facebook (3 times as many Republican supporters as there are Democratic ones)



200,000 400,000 600,000 800,000 1,000,000 1,200,000 1,400,000 Number of Supporters on Facebook

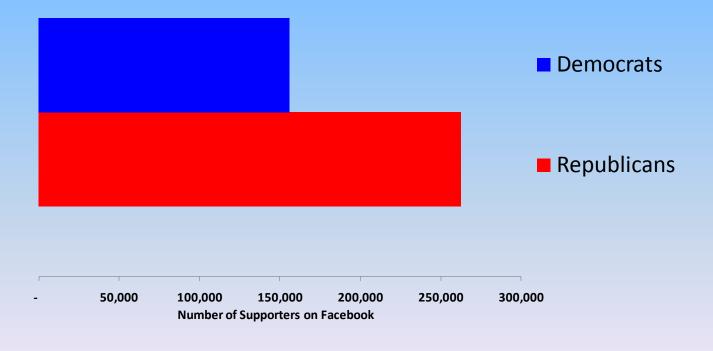


Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

### **U.S. Congressional Elections - Supporters on Facebook**

# **Overall, U.S. Congressional Republican Candidates are also doing better than Democrats on Facebook**

- Republicans hold 63% of Total Direct Supporters for Major Party U.S. Congressional Races on Facebook\*





Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

\* Included only the "99 Seats in Play" according to the NY Times website

## **Notable U.S. Senatorial Races Predictions**

State	Candidates	NY Times	538 Model	Facebook Supporters
Florida	Marco Rubio Kendrick Meek	Toss Up	<b>56%</b> chance Republican win	86% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Nevada	Sharron Angle Harry Reid	Toss Up	<b>54%</b> chance Democratic win	83% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Washington	Dino Rossi Patty Murray	Leaning Democratic	<b>54%</b> chance Republican win	<b>68%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Ohio	Rob Portman Lee Fisher	Toss Up	<b>88%</b> chance Democratic win	74% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook



## **Notable U.S. Congressional Races Predictions**

State/ District	Candidates	NY Times	538 Model	Facebook Supporters
Florida 8 CD	Alan Grayson Daniel Webster	Toss Up	<b>59%</b> chance Republican win	<b>90%</b> Democrats out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Florida 2 CD	Allen Boyd Steve Southerland	Toss Up	<b>59%</b> chance Democratic win	80% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Florida 22 CD	Ron Klein Allen West	Leaning Democratic	<b>57%</b> chance Democratic win	<b>95%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Virginia 2 CD	Glenn Nye Scott Rigell	Toss Up	<b>59%</b> chance Republican win	<b>94%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Indiana 2 CD	Joe Donnelly Jackie Walorski	Toss Up	<b>66%</b> chance Democratic win	<b>73%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Indiana 9 CD	Baron Hill Todd Young	Toss Up	<b>58%</b> chance Republican win	77% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
Arizona 5 CD	Harry Mitchell David Schweikert	Toss Up	<b>66%</b> chance Republican win	74% Democrats out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook



### Notable U.S. Congressional Races Predictions – Cont'

State/ District	Candidates	NY Times	538 Model	Facebook Supporters
Alabama 2 CD	Bobby Bright Martha Roby	Leaning Democratic	<b>74%</b> chance Republican win	80% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook
New York 20 CD	Scott Murphy Chris Gibson	Leaning Democratic	<b>72%</b> chance Democratic win	82% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

Is it only good campaigning on Facebook by Republicans, or are we going to see surprises In November?



# **U.S. Congressional Primaries Predictions**

State / District	<b>Republican Candidates</b>	Democratic Candidates
Wisconsin 3 CD	Dan Kapanke (97%) Bruce Evers	
Wisconsin 7 CD	Sean Duffy (98%) Daniel Mielke	Julie Lassa (99%) Joe Reasbeck
<b>Delaware AL</b>	Glenn Urquhart (42%) Michele Rollins (41%)	
New Hampshire 1 CD	Frank Guinta (80%) Richard Ashooh	
New Hampshire 2 CD	Charles Bass (47%) Jennifer Horn (36%) Robert Giuda (17%)	Anne McLane Kuster (64%) Katrina Swett
Massachusetts 10 CD	Jeffrey Perry (73%) Joseph Malone	William Keating (61%) Robert O'Leary
Maryland 1 CD	Andy Harris (57%) Rob Fisher	
Hawaii 1 CD	Charles Djou (88%) John Giuffre	



### **U.S. Senatorial Primaries Predictions**

State	<b>Republican Candidates</b>	Democratic Candidates
Wisconsin	Ron Johnson (79%) Dave Westlake	
Delaware	Christine O'Donnell (73%) Michael Castle	
New Hampshire	Bill Binnie (53%) Kelly Ayotte (28%) Ovide Lamontagne (12%)	
New York	Garry Berntsen (68%) Jay Townsend	
Maryland	Eric Wargotz (42%) James Rutledge (39%) Stephens Dempsey (13%)	Barbara Mikulski (98%) Christopher Garner
Hawaii	Cam Cavasso (86%) John Roco	Daniel Inouye (82%) Andrew Woerner

Luckily, for these we only need to wait a few more days



### **Key U.S. Senatorial Races - Details**



### **Florida**

- Marco Rubio is poised to win the Elections with more than 5 times as many Facebook supporters as Kendrick Meek's



NY Times	Toss Up
538 Model	56% chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	86% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

Marco Rubio

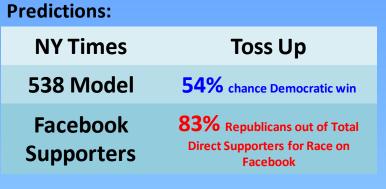
Kendrick Meek





### Nevada

- Sharron Angle is poised to win the Elections with more than 5 times as many Facebook supporters as Harry Reid's



Sharron Angle

Harry Reid





Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

### Ohio

- Rob Portman is poised to win the Elections with nearly 3 times as many Facebook supporters as Lee Fisher's

# Predictions:

NY Times	Toss Up
538 Model	<b>88%</b> chance Republican win
Facebook	74% Republicans out of Total
Supporters	Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

Rob Portman

Lee Fisher





### Washington

- Dino Rossi is poised to win the Elections with more than twice as many Facebook supporters as Patty Murray's

#### **Predictions:**

<b>NY Times</b>	Leaning Democratic
538 Model	54% chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	<b>68%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

Dino Rossi

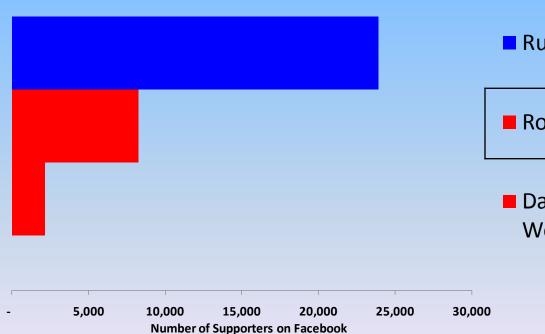
Patty Murray

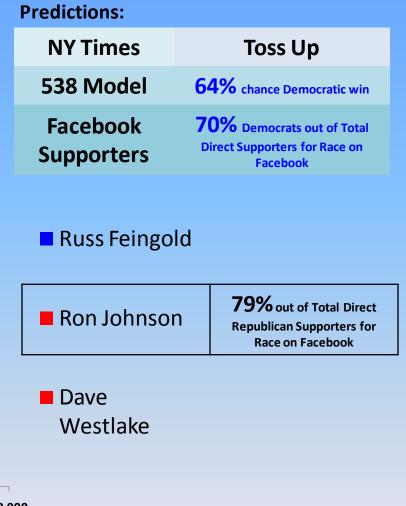


Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

### Wisconsin

Seems like Ron Johnson will win the GOP primaries
Russ Feingold is poised to win the Elections





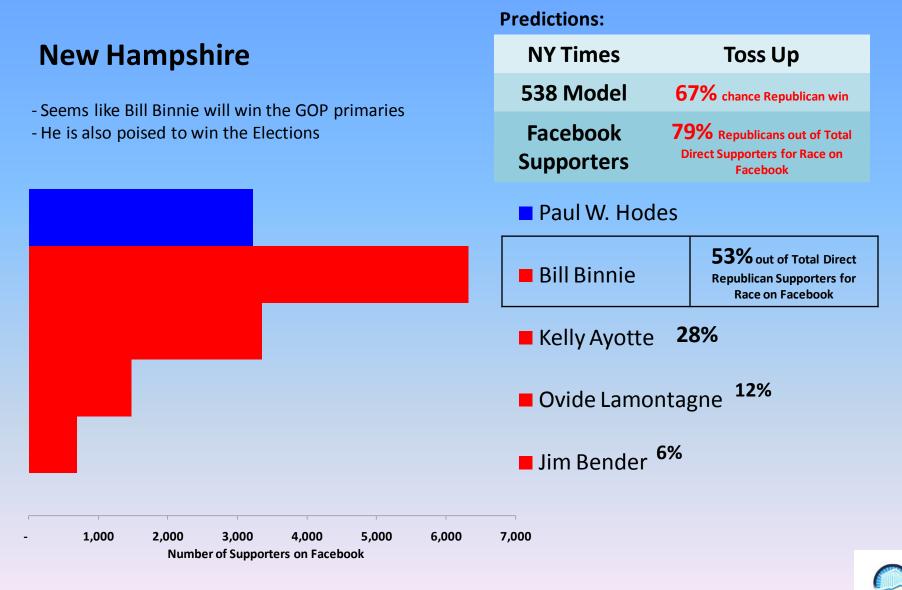


**Predictions:** 

#### **Delaware NY** Times **Leaning Republican** 538 Model 75% chance Republican win - Seems like Christine O'Donnell will win the GOP Facebook 86% Republicans out of Total primaries **Direct Supporters for Race on** - She is also poised to win the Elections **Supporters** Facebook Chris Coons 73% out of Total Christine O'Donnell **Direct Republican** Supporters for Race on Facebook Michael N. Castle 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 Number of Supporters on Facebook



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

#### **Predictions: New York NY** Times **Solid Democratic** 538 Model 100% chance Democratic win - Seems like Gary Berntsen will win the GOP 86% Democrats out of Total Facebook primaries - Chuck Schumer is poised to win the Elections **Direct Supporters for Race on Supporters** Facebook Charles E. Schumer 68% out of Total Direct Gary Berntsen **Republican Supporters for Race on Facebook** Jay Townsend 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 Number of Supporters on Facebook

Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

### Maryland

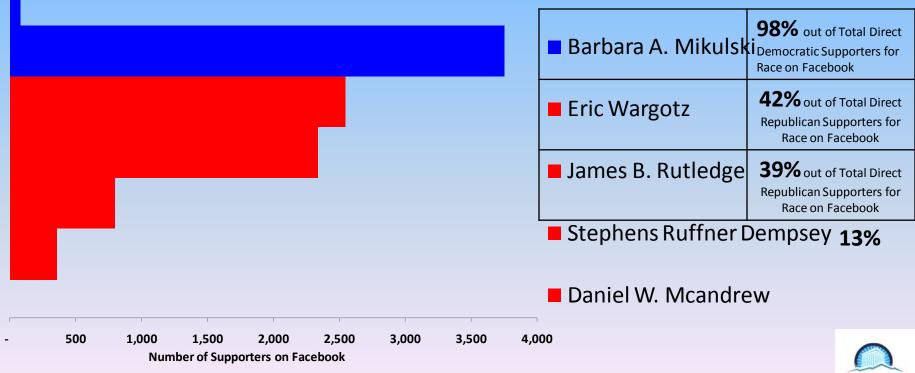
 Seems like Barbara Mikulski will win the Democratic primaries. A close call between Eric Wargotz and James Rutledge on the GOP primaries.

- Barbara Mikulski is poised to win the Elections

#### **Predictions:**

<b>NY Times</b>	Solid Democratic
538 Model	<b>99%</b> chance Democratic win
Facebook Supporters	<b>61%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

#### Christopher John Garner



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

### Hawaii

- Seems like Daniel Inouye and Cam Cavasso will win the Democratic and GOP primaries

- Daniel Inouye is poised to win the Elections

#### **Predictions:**

<b>NY</b> Times	Solid Democratic
538 Model	<b>100%</b> chance Democratic win
Facebook Supporters	69% Democrats out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

#### Andrew Douglas

Woerner

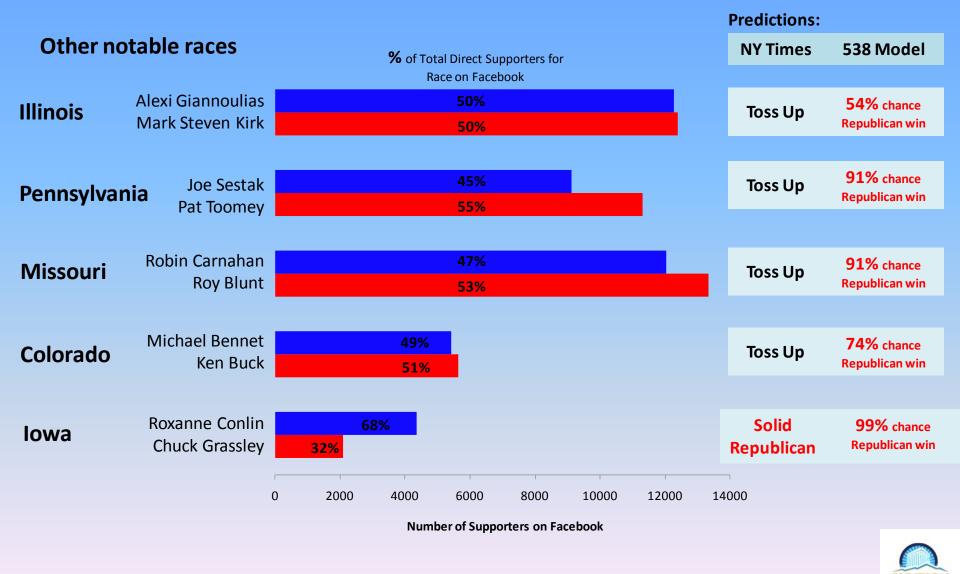
Daniel K. Inouye	<b>82%</b> out of Total Direct Democratic Supporters for Race on Facebook
Cam Cavasso	<b>86%</b> out of Total Direct Republican Supporters for Race on Facebook

#### John Roco



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010





Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

**Key U.S. Congressional Races - Details** 



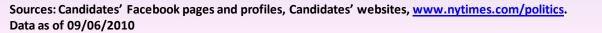
### Florida 2 CD

- Will Steve Southerland win the General Elections?









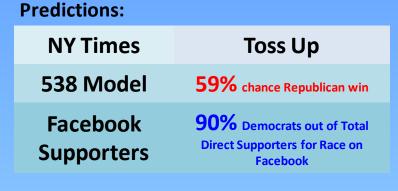
Allen Boyd

Steve Southerland



### Florida 8 CD

- Will Alan Grayson win the General Elections?





Daniel Webster

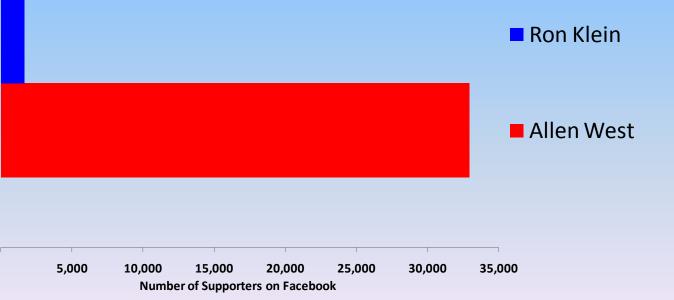


Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

### Florida 22 CD

- Will Allen West win the General Elections?

Predictions:	
NY Times	Leaning Democratic
538 Model	<b>57%</b> chance Democratic win
Facebook Supporters	<b>95%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

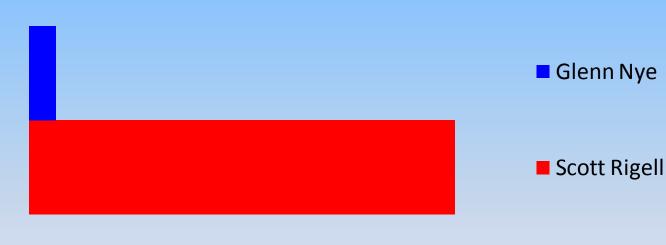


**Prodictions**.

### Virginia 2 CD

- Will Scott Rigell win the General Elections?

r redictions.	
<b>NY Times</b>	Toss Up
538 Model	<b>59%</b> chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	<b>94%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook





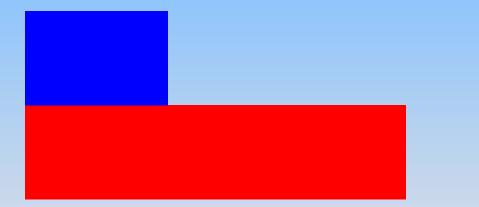
Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

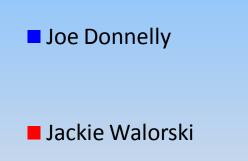


### Indiana 2 CD

- Will Jackie Walorski win the General Elections?









Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010



**Predictions:** 

### **Indiana 9 CD**

- Will Todd Young win the General Elections?

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NY Times	Toss Up
538 Model	<b>58%</b> chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	<b>77%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook





Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

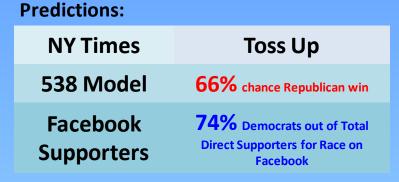
### Arizona 5 CD

500

1,000

1,500

- Will Harry Mitchell win the General Elections?



Harry Mitchell

David Schweikert



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

Number of Supporters on Facebook

2,000 2,500

3,000

3,500

4,000

4,500

### Alabama 2 CD

- Will Martha Roby win the General Elections?







Bobby Bright

Martha Roby

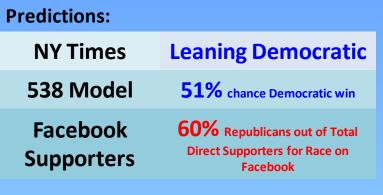


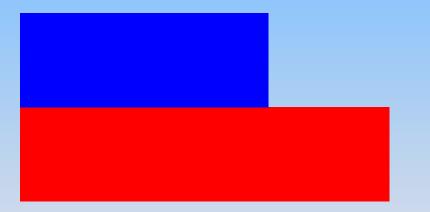
Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

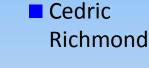


### Louisiana 2 CD

- Will Joseph Cao win the General Elections?

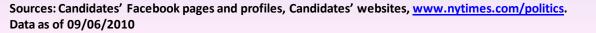






Joseph Cao

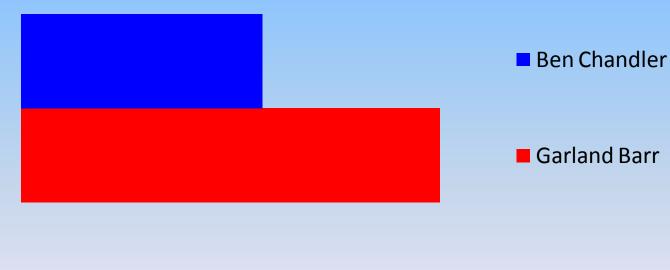




### **Kentucky 6 CD**

- Will Garland Barr win the General Elections?

Predictions:	
<b>NY Times</b>	Leaning Democratic
538 Model	<b>53%</b> chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	<b>63%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook



- 200 400 600 800 1,000 1,200 1,400 1,600 1,800 Number of Supporters on Facebook

Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

### **Mississippi 1 CD**

500

1,000

- Will Alan Nunnelee win the General Elections?







Travis W. Childers

Alan Nunnelee



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, www.nytimes.com/politics. Data as of 09/06/2010

Number of Supporters on Facebook

2,000

1,500

2,500

3,000

### **New Mexico 2 CD**

- Will Steve Pearce win the General Elections?







Harry Teague

Steve Pearce



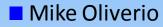
Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, www.nytimes.com/politics. Data as of 09/06/2010



### West Virginia 1 CD

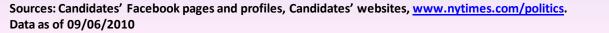
- Will Mike Oliverio win the General Elections?

Predictions:	
<b>NY Times</b>	Toss Up
538 Model	<b>70%</b> chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	<b>63%</b> Democrats out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook





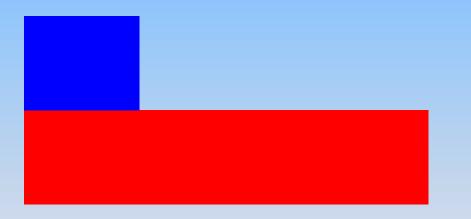




### Illinois 8 CD

- Will Joe Walsh win the General Elections?

Predictions:	
<b>NY Times</b>	Leaning Democratic
538 Model	<b>96%</b> chance Democratic win
Facebook Supporters	<b>78%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook





Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

Melissa Bean

Joe Walsh



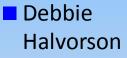
# **U.S. House Elections - Supporters on Facebook by Candidate**

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## Illinois 11 CD

- Will Adam Kinzinger win the General Elections?

Predictions:	
NY Times	Toss Up
538 Model	<b>88%</b> chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	<b>67%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook



Adam Kinzinger



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

2,000

Number of Supporters on Facebook

2,500

3,000

3,500

1,500

1,000

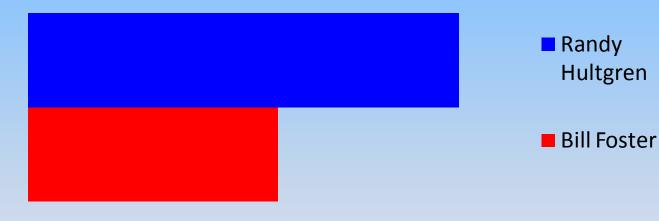
# **U.S. House Elections - Supporters on Facebook by Candidate**

**Prodictions**.

### Illinois 14 CD

- Will Randy Hultgren win the General Elections?

Fieucions.	
NY Times	Toss Up
538 Model	<b>63%</b> chance Republican win
Facebook Supporters	<b>63%</b> Democrats out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook



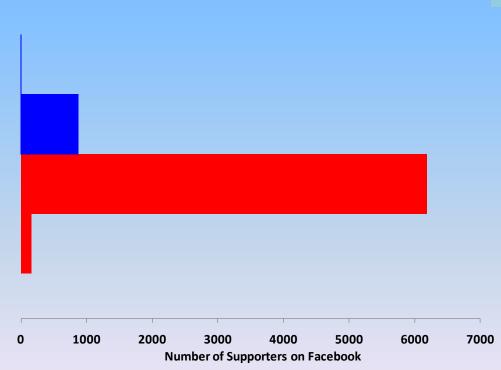


Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010



## Wisconsin 7 CD

- Seems like Sean Duffy and Julie Lassa will win the GOP and Democratic primaries
- Sean Duffy is poised to win the Elections





#### Joe Reasbeck

**Predictions:** 

Julie Lassa	<b>99%</b> of Total Democratic Supporters for race on Facebook
Sean P. Duffy	<b>98%</b> of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook

Daniel E. Mielke

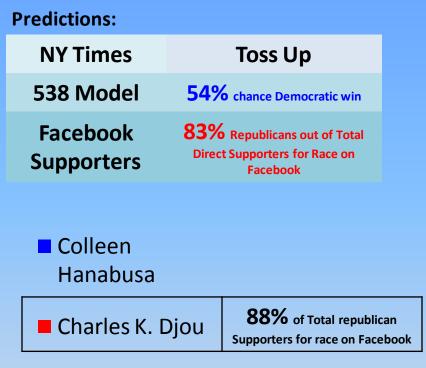


## Hawaii 1 CD

0

1000

Seems like Charles Djou will win the GOP primaries
He is also poised to win the Elections



#### John Giuffre



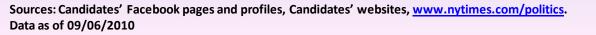
Number of Supporters on Facebook

3000

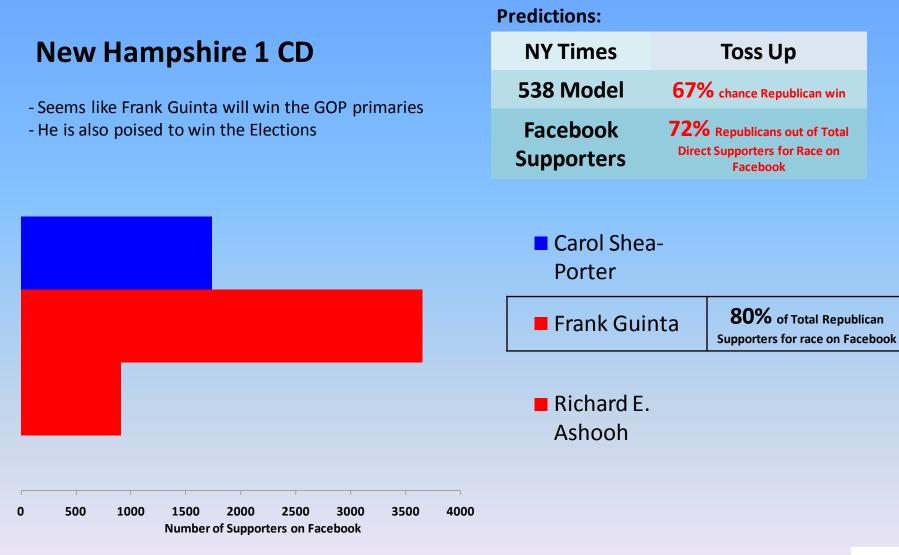
4000

5000

#### **Predictions: Maryland 1 CD NY** Times **Toss Up** 538 Model 84% chance Republican win - Seems like Andy Harris will win the GOP primaries - Close call between him and Frank Kratovil for the Facebook **58%** Republicans out of Total **General Elections Direct Supporters for Race on Supporters** Facebook Frank Kratovil 57% of Total Republican Andy Harris Supporters for race on Facebook Rob Fisher 0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 Number of Supporters on Facebook



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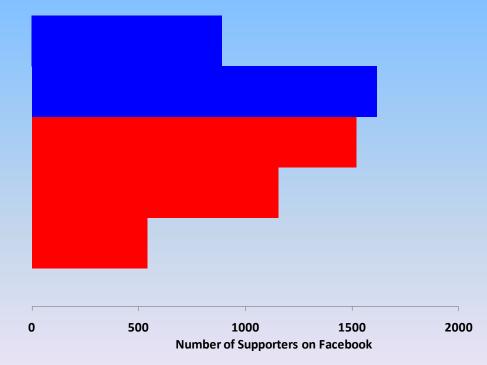




### **New Hampshire 2 CD**

- Seems like Ann McLane and Charles Bass might win the Democratic and GOP primaries

- Close call between them on the General Elections



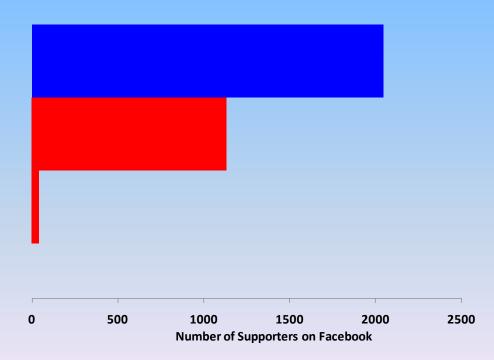
#### **Predictions: NY** Times **Toss Up** 538 Model 69% chance Republican win Facebook 56% Republicans out of Total **Direct Supporters for Race on Supporters** Facebook Katrina Swett 36% Ann McLane 64% of Total Democratic **Kuster** Supporters for race on Facebook Charles Bass **47%** of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook Jennifer Horn 36%

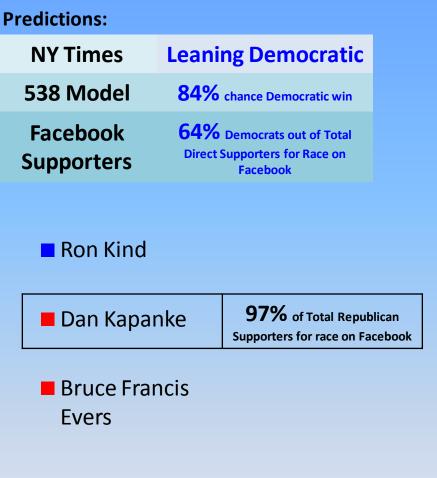
Robert Giuda 17%



### Wisconsin 3 CD

Seems like Dan Kapanke will win the GOP primaries
Ron Kind is poised to win the Elections



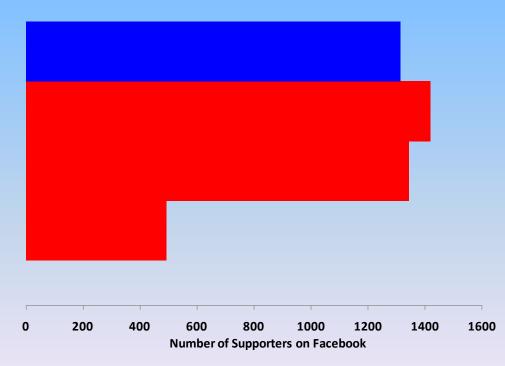


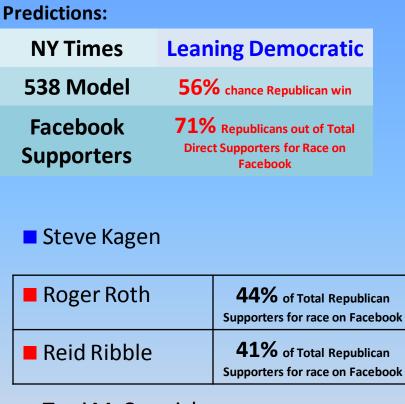


## Wisconsin 8 CD

- Close call between Roger Roth and Reid Ribble on the GOP primaries

- Close call on the General Elections as well, although stronger GOP presence overall





Terri McCormick



#### **Massachusetts 10 CD**

- Seems Like Bill Keating and Jeff Perry will win the Democratic and GOP primaries - Jeff Perry is poised to win the Elections

#### **Predictions:**

<b>NY Times</b>	Leaning Democratic
538 Model	<b>73%</b> chance Democratic win
Facebook Supporters	<b>65%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

#### Robert A. O'Leary

■ William R. Keating	<b>61%</b> of Total Democratic Supporters for race on Facebook
Jeffrey Davis Perry	<b>73%</b> of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook
Joseph Daniel Malo	one

Raymond Kasperowicz



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, www.nytimes.com/politics.

2000

Number of Supporters on Facebook

2500

3000

3500

#### Data as of 09/06/2010

500

1000

1500

#### **Delaware At Large**

0

100

200

300

Close call between Glen Urquhart and Michele Rollins on the GOP primaries
Close call on the General Elections as well, although stronger GOP presence overall

#### Predictions: NY Times Leaning Democratic 538 Model 66% chance Democratic win

Facebook Supporters

**71%** Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

#### John Charles Carney Jr.

Glen Urquhart	<b>42%</b> of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook
Michele M. Rollins	<b>41%</b> of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook

Kevin Lynn Wade

Rose Izzo



Number of Supporters on Facebook

500

600

700

800

### New York 1 CD

Close call on the GOP primaries
Close call on the General Elections as well, although stronger GOP presence overall

#### **Predictions:**

NY Times	Leaning Democratic
538 Model	<b>76%</b> chance Democratic win
Facebook Supporters	<b>76%</b> Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

#### Timothy H. Bishop

Christopher N. Cox	<b>37%</b> of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook
George Demos	<b>31%</b> of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook
Randolph Altschuler	<b>27%</b> of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook

#### Michael J. Fitzpatrick





### New York 13 CD

0

1000

Seems like Mike Grimm will win the GOP primariesHe is also poised to win the Elections

#### **Predictions:**

NY Times	Leaning Democratic
538 Model	<b>89%</b> chance Democratic win
Facebook Supporters	88% Republicans out of Total Direct Supporters for Race on Facebook

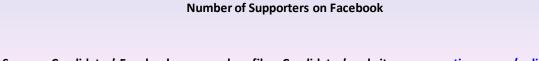
Michael E. McMahon

Michael Grimm

**68%** of Total Republican Supporters for race on Facebook

#### Michael A. Allegretti





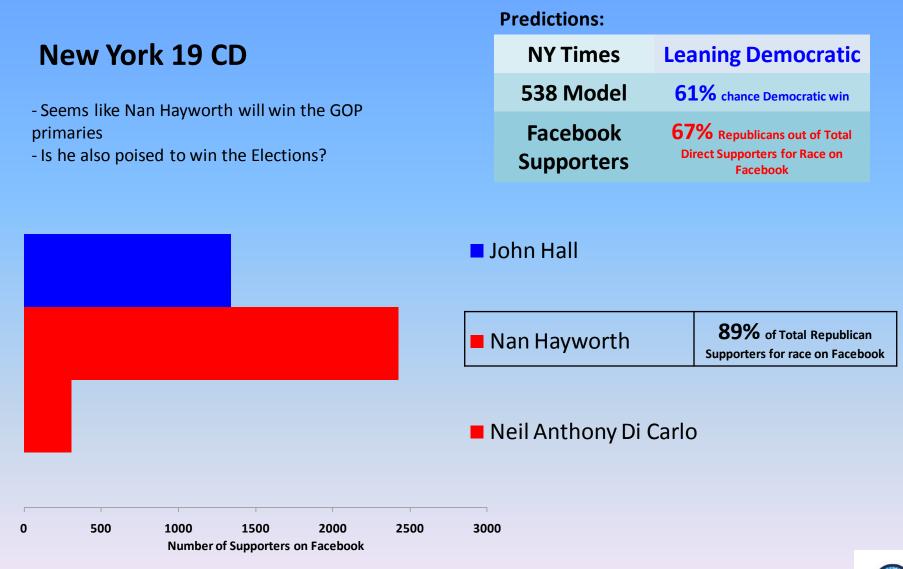
3000

4000

5000

2000

Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

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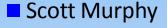
### **New York 20 CD**

- Will Chris Gibson win the General Elections?







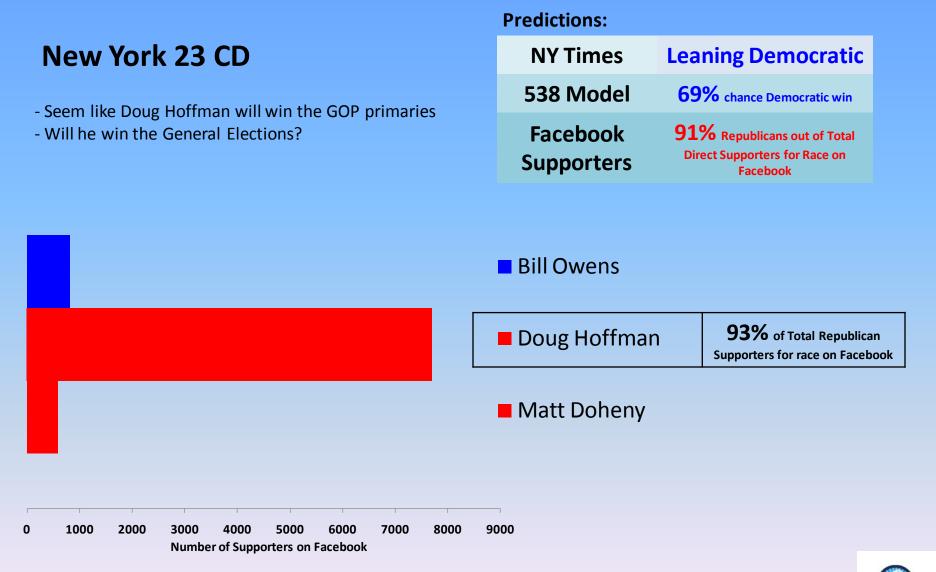


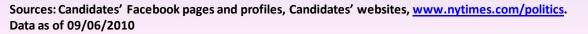
Chris Gibson



Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, www.nytimes.com/politics. Data as of 09/06/2010





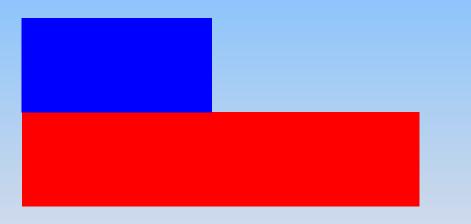


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### New York 25 CD

- Will Ann Marie Buerkle win the General Elections?







Sources: Candidates' Facebook pages and profiles, Candidates' websites, <u>www.nytimes.com/politics</u>. Data as of 09/06/2010

#### Dan Maffei

Ann Marie Buerkle



#### About www.ElectionArena.com

ElectionArena informs voters about the elections relevant to them and connects them with those running for political office. By inserting their zip code on ElectionArena.com, voters can check all ongoing election campaigns at the local, state and federal level, together with the relevant candidate and campaign news from across the web.

Each election has its own profile, showing voters who the candidates are and what they stand for, so voters can compare between them. ElectionArena also contains a profile for each candidate, featuring their social media activity feeds, blogs, tweets and posts, together with all the feedback they received from their supporters and followers across the various social networks.

This means that voters can join the discussion on ElectionArena, even if they don't 'like' or 'follow' a specific candidate on a social network. They can ask questions, voice their opinions, receive updates and support the candidate they believe in.

All candidate profiles are managed by the candidates themselves, ensuring that ElectionArena remains fair and neutral.

By creating this Arena, ElectionArena hopes to deliver on its vision: making the democratic process better, for everyone.

