

HAINES *Alaska* NEWS

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Latest Articles

Online:

- Alaska's Race for the Senate
- Letters to the Editor
- Haines Candidates Forum Online
- Northern Lights Over Portage Cove
- Cruise West Restructuring
- Haines Struts Her Stuff
- Lutak Oil Spill

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Alaska's Race for the Senate

Does Sen. Murkowski's write-in candidacy help or hurt Republicans?

By Roger Maynard

Our instinctive response to Senator Lisa Murkowski's choice to run against Joe Miller and Scott McAdams as a write-in candidate for the U.S. Senate seat she now holds, was to wring our hands and ask, "What is she doing? She's splitting the conservative vote. The Democrat could win." But in politics things are not always what they appear on the surface.

In the primary election Republican voters chose Joe Miller, the underdog Republican candidate backed by Sarah Palin and the Tea Party

movement. Miller ran an aggressive campaign, including some negative tactics — accusing Murkowski of being too liberal on abortion, too soft on climate change, and too compromising on President Obama's national health care plan. Miller's victory toppled a strong candidate who was generally favored by Alaskans, and whose seat was rated by some as the most secure in the U.S. Senate.

Background: Ted Stevens' Legacy

Alaskans are still stinging from U.S. Senator Ted Stevens' loss to Mark Begich

just two years ago after a fraudulent prosecution for corruption, a strongly negative campaign by Vic Vickers (a challenger imported from Florida) and other dirty tricks. Begich's election gave the Democrats their veto-proof super majority in the Senate for most of the past two years, leaving Alaskans with a junior senator who has little or no power to stand up for our state's resource-based economy against an aggressive anti-development administration.

In a normal election sce-

(Continued on page 3)

Haines Candidates Forum Online

Candidates for local office can show their best side

by Roger Maynard

The Haines Candidates Forum provides a free web page to each candidate for public office in Haines.

The daily activity graph at right shows that people are checking the site daily for changes.

Participating candidates have a full page including their photo, candidate state-

ment of position, their campaign signs, and whatever else seems appropriate.

Optionally, each candidate can accept comments and

(Continued on page 2)



Letters to the Editor

REMEMBER TO VOTE

I remember, about a year ago, there were mutterings amongst the community over the Haines Borough Assembly's inability to listen to and represent the people of Haines. I remember chastening the good people of Haines that if they do not get involved and vote in the elections, they have no right to complain about the resulting Assembly's job performance.

Now's our chance for change! Our local election is near. We have some exciting people running for the Assembly this year that can give this community new life.

I refer to Karen Hess and Linda Geise. Both of these dynamic ladies are common sense conservatives; just what we need to shake things up in our stagnant Borough government. Both have prior experience in our local government; they can hit the ground running. Both understand the needs of our small businesses, and know just what the Borough can do to help them provide jobs and boost our economy.

We each have the responsibility to exercise our civic duty as Americans; to take a few minutes out of our day, Tuesday October 5th. Get up, go out and VOTE!

Vote for Linda Geise for Seat B. Vote (write-in) for Karen Hess for Seat E. I most certainly will; with pride.

*Sincerely,
Ady Milos*

TEA PARTY- PARADE OF FOOLS

When are you going to wake up? Sarah Palin is playing you like a fiddle. Check her real record; she is a quitter / user from the word go. Has it occurred to you that she is getting rich at your expense? Do you really think she believes the garbage she slings to you?

Once she won second place in the 1984 Miss Alaska pageant, she realized she is cute and has used that to sucker people to get where she is. Look past the glitz and there is not much there.

It's interesting that last Tuesday CNN realized she is helping elect Democrats. Doing this by electing weak Republicans in primaries.

Over the past year this writer has met and talked with many that have known Sarah Palin most of her life. Seems the people you would expect to be closest like her the least. They have realized they have been used also.

She most likely will self destruct before the presidential election. The question is how many good elected officials will be destroyed by her by then? We real Republicans should get the word out about her before to many more people are destroyed by her.

Bill Kurz

CANDIDATES FORUM

(Continued from page 1)

questions and link their web page to their Facebook account or other website.

Check it out at <http://hainescandidates.wordpress.com>, or just click on the links in the top left column at <http://hainesnews.net>.

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Linda Goodman
- KAREN HESS
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For the benefit of our children

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SENATE RACE—PT 1

(Continued from page 1)

nario (is there such a thing?) Alaskans tend to elect Republican candidates. Without the dirty politics it's extremely unlikely that Alaskans would have replaced Stevens with a Democrat.

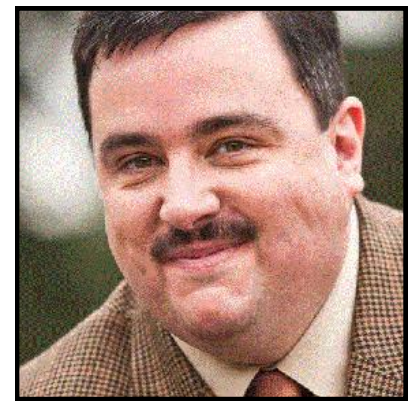
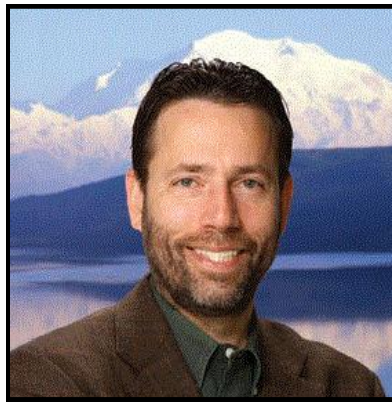
The point is that Stevens had a choice. Seeing the hand writing on the wall, he could have told the Republicans "It looks like circumstances are stacked against me. Right or wrong, it's time for me to retire. For the sake of the party, put a strong Republican candidate into the race for my seat."

But Stevens was used to having things his way – he was not a quitter. He fought bravely right up to the bitter end – and lost, giving liberal Democrats a major victory in the Senate.

If we can be allowed a single criticism of Stevens, it is that after 40 years of scoring touchdowns for Alaska and in the face of overwhelming opposition, he chose to run the ball himself instead of passing it, and fumbled.

So it's no wonder Alaskans are jumpy about losing their remaining Senatorial seat to a junior Democrat – and in the case of McAdams, a politically inexperienced one. Given the present political climate, it's hard to envision Alaska being represented by two junior Democrat U.S. Senators.

Murkowski's Decision: What the Polls Say



(Left to right) Senator Lisa Murkowski, Joe Miller, and Scott McAdams.

On March 19th, Rasmussen Reports published a poll showing that in a race between Joe Miller and Scott McAdams, Miller would get 50% of the vote compared to McAdams' 44% — a 6-point lead. The poll also shows that 48% of voters considered Miller to be extreme in his views, while only 21% considered McAdams to be extreme. With several weeks to go, this race looked too close to predict.

Even more interesting is the Democrat Public Policy Polling (PPP) study released August 29th which includes the following:

"Miller leads Democratic nominee Scott McAdams 47-39. McAdams benefits from a more united party, getting 81% of the Democratic vote to Miller's 73% of the Republicans. The candidates split even with independents at 42% of voters."

"In a three way race with Murkowski running as a Libertarian, Miller would still lead but with only 38% to 34% for Murkowski and 22% for McAdams. The folks who go for Murkowski favor McAdams 47-23 in a two way contest so

somewhat intuitively she would actually hurt Democratic chances even through she'd de facto make it a race with two Republicans and a Democrat."

The PPP analysis explains the reason this way:

"Murkowski's 50/43 approval spread still makes her one of the more popular senators in the country in PPP's polling but her 52% support from Democrats is actually better than her 47% with Republicans, speaking to the trouble she had in Tuesday's primary."

A new Rasmussen poll on September 19 seems to support PPP's prediction: Whereas their August 31 poll shows Miller with only a 6-point lead over McAdams, the new poll shows Miller with 42%, McAdams with 25% and Murkowski with 27% — in what is now a 3-way race, Miller leads McAdams by 17 points.

In their September 21 analysis Rasmussen Reports concludes that the race is leaning toward the Republicans. But they hedge their opinion:

"Polling for write-in cam-

paigns is always challenging, so results should be interpreted with caution. For this survey, Rasmussen Reports asked respondents about a choice between Miller and McAdams without mentioning Murkowski. That is the choice voters will see when they enter the voting booth. However, when response options were offered to survey respondents, Murkowski's name was mentioned."

Weighing Risks and Rewards

American voters are recoiling from the aggressive liberal agenda of the Obama administration. Strongly conservative "Tea Party" candidates like Miller have been elected over moderate or liberal Republican candidates in several races around the country, demonstrating a strong political shift to the right.

When making the decision to run as a write-in candidate, Murkowski and her team need to weigh all of the possible outcomes. We see them like this:

- Murkowski could stay out of the November race and support Joe Miller.

(Continued on page 4)

SENATE RACE—PT 2*(Continued from page 3)*

She would be the loser – for now—but that’s politics. Her political career would not necessarily be over. Miller would win or lose the November election on his own merits.

•Murkowski could run as a write-in and be elected.

•Murkowski could run as a write-in and Miller could win. If so, then under the circumstances it could be argued that she probably helped Miller get elected. If so, she might be viewed as a team player by the Republican party and by her loyal voters – therefore she would be a viable candidate in a future race.

•Murkowski could run as a write-in and Democrat Scott McAdams could win. Although this is the least probable outcome, conservative voters would likely blame Murkowski’s write-in campaign and she could lose a large portion of her supporters, possibly ending her political career.

Polls are not hard facts – they change daily. They can be skewed for a number of reasons, and some folks consider them entirely unreliable. But given this total set of circumstances, we can see the logic in Murkowski’s decision to run as a write-in candidate.

Above all, however, Alaskans want to know that Sen. Murkowski has correctly analyzed the political land-

scape, and is not putting our remaining Republican Senate seat at risk. The November 5th election is shaping up to be a real nail-biter with long-term consequences for Alaska.

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