

## Burns campaign cribs NRCC talking points

Larry Peterson  
912.652.0367  
[larry.peterson@savannahnow.com](mailto:larry.peterson@savannahnow.com)

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

And if it makes sense, don't re-write it.

Max Burns, the Republican candidate in the 12th Congressional District, is one of several GOP candidates who apparently think so.

Their campaigns recently used talking points supplied by the National Republican Congressional Committee in their responses to an AARP survey.

According to the Louisville Courier, at least four other Republican candidates offered the same responses to questions about Social Security, health-care costs and prescription drugs. The others are from California, Florida, Nebraska and Kentucky.

The survey results are to be mailed next week to AARP's 3.5 million members nationwide.

"So what?" responded Burns campaign spokesman John Stone, who said the campaign used only "one or two" answers supplied by the NRCC.

To be exact, one can determine by comparing Burns' responses on the AARP Web site with those of other GOP candidates, it was two.

"The statements in question accurately and clearly reflected our position," Stone said. "We had the option of rewriting them or using them as they were."

Stone said Burns' campaign staff did re-write some of the answers because the congressman wanted to stress other points or make the point differently.

Roman Levit, Barrow's campaign manager, said Burns votes with House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, about 95 percent of the time.

"It's only appropriate that he use the NRCC's answers to questions," he said.

Levit acknowledged that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee supplies Barrow material on issues.

"We look at them, but we write our own answers to questionnaires," he said.

12th becoming hot term paper topic

You may have read in this paper that the 12th is a "nationally watched" race.

That's usually a reference to national strategists in congressional elections, election newsletter editors and an assortment of political junkies.

But the Burns-Barrow showdown is getting out-of-state attention from academia, too.

Lucas Radzinski, a student at the University of Maryland, has written a 23-page report on the 12th for his congressional elections seminar.

Meanwhile, Kevin Roblee, a student at Hilbert College in Bamburg, N.Y., is doing his own paper on the election.

In his treatise, Radzinski stresses, among other things, the role that successful early fund raising played in helping Barrow build momentum and win the Democratic primary.

It also noted that getting a majority of the votes and winning the primary outright helped Barrow avoid what likely would have been a financially draining runoff campaign.

Barrow probably would have won the runoff, Radzinski concludes. But, in terms of campaign money, he adds, Barrow would have started his general election against the well-funded Burns running on empty.

Majette to stump in Savannah today

U.S. Rep. Denise Majette, Democratic nominee for U.S. Senator, will campaign in Savannah today.

The Decatur lawmaker will meet and greet the public at local party headquarters, 143 Houston St., from 4 to 5 p.m.

The event is free.

"But contributions will be most welcome," said Chatham County Democratic Party vice-chairman Joe Steffen.

Lewis, Barrow to visit local churches

Veteran U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga, will accompany Barrow to African-American church services Sunday in Savannah.

The schedule:

10:45 a.m. - First African Baptist Church, 23 Montgomery St.

11:30 a.m. - Resurrection Of Our Lord, 112 Fell St.

12:15 p.m. - Jonesville Baptist Church, 5201 Montgomery St.

1 p.m. - Second Arnold Baptist Church, 1427 E. 37th St.

## Polling locations changed

The Chatham County Board of Elections has changed the site of four polling locations for the upcoming Nov. 2 election.

They are as follows:

Precinct 3-2, formerly at Massie Heritage, will now take place at Rose of Sharon, 322 E. Taylor St.

Precinct 4-14, formerly at the Landings Association Office, will now take place at Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, 54 Diamond Causeway.

Precinct 6-3, formerly held at Savannah Country Day, will take place at Heritage Park of Savannah, 12825 White Bluff Road.

Precinct 8-10, formerly held at Oglethorpe Academy, will take place at Temple of Glory Community Church, 1105 Stiles Ave.

Sean Harder contributed to this report

Click here to return to story:

<http://www.savannahnow.com/stories/100804/2500433.shtml>