

SMALL BUSINESS 70 MILLION STRONG ... AND VOTING

With midterm elections now less than one month away, the airwaves are dominated by campaign ads telling you why you should vote for a particular candidate—or in many cases, why you should NOT vote for his or her opponent.

Although a general distrust of Washington D.C. insiders is nothing new to this election, there appears to be a growing number of voters who consider themselves disenfranchised and unrepresented by the current crop of elected officials. This is spurring candidates from both parties to tout their “I’m an outsider” cred which many experts are citing will lead to a change in leadership from Democrats to Republicans in at least one chamber of Congress.

According to the [Cook Political Report](#)—compiled by Charlie Cook who has been a speaker at past NSBA Washington Presentations—there is a good chance Republicans could pick up 40 seats in the House—more than the requisite 39 seats needed to take over the majority. In the Senate, a Republican takeover is less sure, with Cook’s predictions of a seven-to-nine-seat gain still resulting in Republicans just a few seats shy of the seats required to take the gavel from Democrats. One thing all sides can agree on is that the 2010 midterm elections are going to be very tight.

So what does this all mean for America’s small-business owners? Your votes count.

Rarely has there been a time when small business has been so at the epicenter of political debates as they are today. Unfortunately the miserable economic situation is the primary reason for the attention on small business, but—in our entrepreneurial spirit we’ll make lemonade out of lemons—it does position small-business owners in a unique and powerful place to affect the outcome of the elections.

As America’s small-business owners consider the candidates, NSBA is urging them to vote on a small-business platform. This is one of the most impactful ways small businesses can hold candidates and elected officials accountable, and let them know that how they vote matters more than campaign rhetoric.

Although NSBA isn’t endorsing specific candidates, we have compiled a list of our [priority issues](#) and the [votes held by Congress](#) that were supported or opposed by NSBA. These priorities and how lawmakers voted will provide valuable insight into how small-business friendly a candidate really is.

In addition to evaluating the votes, NSBA’s action center details which lawmakers sponsored and cosponsored [legislation critical to small business](#). It is often the case that good legislation is offered, but due to politics or timing, that measure isn’t given the proper consideration it deserves.

Please visit the [NSBA Action Center](#) on-line today.

National Small Business Association

2010 Midterm Elections Guide

2010 Midterm Elections - Candidate Checklist		
Candidate	Issue	NSBA Position
	Support a provision to lift the restrictions on participation in SIMPLE cafeteria plans by the self-employed? Currently, self-employed individuals are excluded from participating in cafeteria plans.	✓ Support
	Support the Small Business Jobs Bill in its entirety as proposed in the Senate? This includes the Small Business Lending Fund, a long-term extension of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) stimulus lending provision, and the one-year deduction of health insurance costs from self-employment taxes.	✓ Support
	Support full-repeal of the expanded 1099 reporting provision that was passed under the new health care reform law?	✓ Support
	Support allowing an increased small-business lending cap for credit unions ?	✓ Support
	Believe more must be done to ensure cost-containment in the recently-passed health care reform legislation to make health care more affordable for small businesses and their employees?	✓ Support
	Support a long-term reauthorization for the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) Program , akin to what the Senate has offered, and reject the House Democrats proposal?	✓ Support
	Support a permanent reform of the estate tax ?	✓ Support
	Support and actively promote credit-card reform that includes the cards used by small businesses?	✓ Support
	Support an extension (at least temporary) of the current tax rates , as enacted in 2001 and 2003 under President Bush?	✓ Support
	Support a more broad reform of the tax system, similar to the Fair Tax ?	✓ Support
	Support immigration reform that doesn't place the onus of verification solely on small employers, and incorporates good-faith effort considerations into "safe harbors"?	✓ Support
	Oppose card check legislation and other labor law reforms that will require mandatory paid leave?	✗ Oppose