



Special Edition  
November 5, 2010

## New Faces in the New England Delegation

When the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011, New England will have two new United States Senators and four new United States Representatives. While committee assignments have not been announced, some new members have already signaled their preferences as to where they would like to focus their efforts.

### New Hampshire



**Kelly Ayotte (R)** – New Hampshire’s new U.S. Senator retains the seat of retiring three-term U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, having defeated Congressman Paul Hodes in the general election. Ms. Ayotte served as New Hampshire’s first female Attorney General, resigning in the summer of 2009 after five years in the position to focus on her Senate run. Previously, she had served as Deputy Attorney General and as a law clerk to an Associate Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. A New Hampshire native, Ms. Ayotte holds a B.A. from Penn State University, and a J.D. from Villanova University. In her legal career, Ms. Ayotte was known as a tough prosecutor, most notably gaining convictions against two individuals in the murder of two Dartmouth professors. As Senator, Ms. Ayotte has pledged to help rein-in federal spending and to fight against new taxes. In addition, she opposes “cap and trade” legislation while supporting policies such as conservation and clean energy technologies. Further, she advocates starting over on health care legislation in favor of such items as portability and small business purchase pools. It is likely that Ms. Ayotte will look to serve on committees that allow her to cut federal spending.



**Frank Guinta (R)** – More than any state in New England, New Hampshire had the greatest level of turnover at the congressional level, with both its seats switching from Democrat to Republican. Mr. Guinta will begin his first term in Congress after having beaten First District incumbent, Carol Shea Porter. The 40-year-old Mr. Guinta has a history of public service, having served two terms as the Mayor of Manchester, two terms as a city alderman and also as a state representative. Mr. Guinta also enters his office with an understanding of how Congress works, having served as an aide to former U.S. Representative (and current N.H. state senator) Jeb Bradley. As mayor, Mr. Guinta devoted a great deal of effort toward reducing crime in the Queen City. In Congress, Mr. Guinta recently told *WMUR* viewers, he will work to bring fiscal integrity to the budget process, shrink the size of government, promote policies that make small businesses successful, and focus on the debt and deficit reduction. Mr. Guinta holds a B.A. from Assumption College and an M.A. from the Franklin Pierce Law Center. Mr. Guinta indicated he would like a position on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee or the Budget Committee, but considers both long-shots. In addition, he listed Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, Veterans, and Financial Services among his other committee choices.



**Charles Bass (R)** – after four years out of the public eye, 58-year-old “Charlie” Bass trades his position as an executive with New England Wood Pellet and advisor to the Laidlaw Energy Group to return to Washington to represent New Hampshire’s Second District in Congress. Mr. Bass, who defeated lawyer Ann Kuster for the seat vacated by Congressman Paul Hodes, previously represented this District for six terms, from 1995 through 2006. During that period of service, Mr. Bass was a member of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, which has a wide jurisdictional range that includes health care, energy, and telecommunications. Mr. Bass has said he anticipates rejoining the Committee in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. Mr. Bass also spent ten years (1982-1992) serving in both the New Hampshire State Senate and House of Representatives. When he rejoins the Congress, Mr. Bass has expressed a commitment to curb federal spending and provide tax incentives geared toward business investment and job creation. Based on his own comments to the press, Mr. Bass can be expected to be a Member who will work towards compromise on a number of critical issues. Mr. Bass is a Dartmouth College graduate.

## Connecticut



**Richard Blumenthal (D)** – Mr. Blumenthal won the seat left vacant by retiring Senator Chris Dodd, beating former World Wrestling Entertainment CEO Linda McMahon. Mr. Blumenthal, 64, attended Harvard and Yale Universities and has served as Connecticut's attorney general since 1991. Whether his background will result in a spot on the Judiciary Committee remains to be seen, but he has pledged to continue his fight for consumer protections in the Senate. Other key initiatives during his time as AG included taking on the tobacco industry over marketing strategies aimed at youth, fighting to curtail rapidly rising energy and heating costs, and working against abuses by health insurers. His positions as U.S. Senator are not expected to differ greatly from those of Senator Dodd, although during his campaign Mr. Blumenthal spoke out against both the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program, which Senator Dodd helped write. More recently, he has condemned BP following the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and criticized the way banks are handling widespread foreclosures.

## Massachusetts



**William Keating (D)** – Representative William Delahunt's retirement from the 10<sup>th</sup> District provided the only open congressional seat in the state of Massachusetts, where Norfolk County District Attorney William Keating, 58, defeated State Representative Jeffrey Perry. Mr. Keating served as the County D.A. since 1999, before which he spent thirteen years in the Massachusetts State Senate and seven in the State House of Representatives. Mr. Keating has said he would have voted for the 2009 economic stimulus, although he would have preferred legislation more targeted at rebuilding infrastructure. In his victory speech following his election to Congress, Keating pledged his commitment to middle class and small business interests. He also plans to fight to protect Social Security, support tax credits in lieu of tax cuts, and to modify but not fully repeal the healthcare overhaul. Mr. Keating also recently came out in support of the Cape Wind project in the name of increasing energy independence. As evidence of his ability to work across the aisle, Mr. Keating has cited his work with former Republican Governor of Massachusetts William Weld to pass the Clean Water Act and end the estate tax.

## Rhode Island



**David Cicilline (D)** –the 49-year-old Mr. Cicilline replaces Congressman Patrick Kennedy who is retiring from his 1<sup>st</sup> District seat. For the past eight years, Mr. Cicilline has served as Mayor of Providence, and from 1995-2002, he served in the State House of Representatives. His stated priorities for his service in Congress include job creation with an emphasis on domestic manufacturers and retraining, infrastructure investment, and pushing for responsible troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Mr. Cicilline supports the financial bailout and the stimulus laws as means of preventing the country's economic crisis from deepening, and believes that the healthcare reform laws were flawed but needed to address a broken system. In endorsing him for Congress, the *Providence Journal* praised his work fighting corruption and establishing fiscal discipline during his tenure as mayor. Mr. Cicilline also pursued a transit rail system for Providence to help shrink the city's carbon footprint, and served as Chair of the Committee on Children, Health and Human Services within the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Possible committee assignments in the U.S. House include Transportation & Infrastructure and Judiciary.