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## ELECTION RESULTS AND 115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

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At last, the most acrimonious general election cycle in recent memory has come to a close, and The United States of America has elected Donald Trump as President. With seemingly endless developments, controversies and curveballs around every corner, the divisive election season energized a voting demographic united only by their collective anger at political and establishment institutions and elites. The rhetoric was bitter and tensions seemed to soar to previously unimagined heights as ideological camps maintained one candidate was fit only for prison and the other only capable of insults, bullying and abuse. Millions of Americans cast their votes for their top choice; many more cast votes for the candidate they deemed the “lesser of two evils.” Election fatigue, real enough to be palpable, deterred few, as a record-breaking 46 million early votes were cast and voter turnout on Election Day was up by 4.7 percent in over half of America’s counties. There were long lines across the nation.

In the days and even hours leading up to the final results, pundits and predictions all pointed to a Clinton shoo-in, but as the evening progressed, it became clear that Trump supporters, much like the President-elect himself, had been underestimated. As election night wore on (and on), one camp celebrated surprising wins as the other’s fears were realized. When all was said and done, Trump triumphed with 290 electoral votes and 47.5 percent of the popular vote, and Clinton trailed with 228 votes but won 47.7 percent of the popular vote. Secretary Clinton called Trump to concede just before 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time, after Wisconsin’s electoral votes were given to Trump, putting him over the 270 threshold needed to win. Leaders from around the world have made statements in the wake of the proceedings, with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau affirming, “Canada has no closer friend, partner, and ally than the United States.” Trump was dubbed a strong leader by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe and the Vatican wished him well and prayed that “God enlightens him and supports him in the service of his country.” Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Trump, indicating hope for a “new era of fully fledged

relations” between the nations, while Saudi Arabia’s King Salman expressed hope that a Trump presidency brings “security and stability” to the Middle East.

With the results finalized and the furor perhaps beginning to recede, a few rumors have circulated as to the composition of a Trump cabinet. Under possible consideration are former GOP mayor of New York City Rudy Giuliani for Attorney General; Newt Gingrich, former Republican House Speaker, for Secretary of State; and acting Chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC) Reince Priebus as White House chief of staff. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) is a potential for Secretary of Defense. The grapevine has been quieter in terms of a possible Secretary of Education, though Ben Carson has been floated as a possibility. Williamson M. Evers and Gerard Robinson are on his transition team working on education policy. Evers is a research fellow at the conservative Hoover Institution; Robinson, who was Florida’s commissioner of education for a year, is a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Trump has also suggested that he might pick someone from business for the post. He has vowed to downsize the Department of Education (ED) and his surrogates have pointed specifically to ED’s Office for Civil Rights, which oversees Title IX enforcement, as a likely target.

Similarly, little more can be said of the future White House’s plans for education policy. The President-elect has put forth broad proposals with not much details related to early childhood through postsecondary education. He has trumpeted school choice and getting “corruption” out of public schools. In higher education, it’s worth noting that Trump’s enthusiasm for reducing the role of the Department of Education – including staff reductions – is at odds with his left-leaning student loan forgiveness plan. It remains to be seen how exactly a Trump Administration will impact ongoing implementation efforts of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), expected efforts to reauthorize the *Higher Education Act* (HEA), or any further work on career and technical education legislation.

On Capitol Hill, the results suggest that there will not be major shakeups in the leaders (and expected leaders) of the education committees. There will be some churn in membership of the panels, undoubtedly, and those moves will materialize in coming weeks and months.

## **Senate**

Though earlier reports indicated a strong possibility that the Senate would flip, the upper chamber has remained Republican-controlled, though just barely, and the races that ultimately mattered most were won by slim margins and heavily impacted by third party candidates. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) managed a tough win against challenger Deborah Ross; Senators Roy Blunt (R-MO), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ron Johnson (R-WI) likewise eked out victories against contenders. For retiring Senator Harry Reid’s (D-NV) seat, Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) defeated Congressman Joe Heck (R-NV) by less than 30,000 votes, though Independent candidates from the state collectively carried over 90,000 votes. Several former Members of the House ran successful Senate campaigns, including newly-minted Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), who defeated incumbent Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) who will succeed retiring Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD). By wider margins, Kamala Harris (D-CA) successfully won retiring incumbent Barbara Boxer’s (D-CA) Senate seat, and Todd Young (R-IN) defeated former Senator Evan Bayh for Indiana’s vacant seat following Senator Dan Coats’ (R-IN) retirement. New Hampshire’s battle between incumbent

Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Maggie Hassan was incredibly close, with Hassan prevailing with less than a thousand votes.

One Senate race has yet to be determined. Louisiana's election rules require a majority or a runoff election in its absence. John Kennedy leads Charles Boustany and Democrat Foster Campbell with only 25 percent of the vote, so the state will hold a runoff election with the top two contestants – Republicans Kennedy and Boustany – on December 10. Twenty-one additional candidates were listed on Louisiana's senate ballot, including white nationalist David Duke, who received 3 percent of the vote.

## House of Representatives

A number of races in the House of Representatives likewise proved contentious, and Republicans have secured 241, Democrats 194 seats, with runoff elections expected in Louisiana. Flips occurred in New Hampshire's 1<sup>st</sup> district, where former Representative Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH) prevailed against incumbent Frank Guinta (R-NH), New Jersey's 5<sup>th</sup> district with a win from Democrat Josh Gottheimer against incumbent Scott Garrett (R-NJ), Kentucky's 1<sup>st</sup> district with Republican James Comer's win, Nevada's 4<sup>th</sup> with a flip due to democratic challenger Ruben Kihuen's defeat of incumbent Crescent Hardy (R-NV), as well as Nebraska's 2<sup>nd</sup> district with Don Bacon's (R) defeat of Democratic incumbent Brad Ashford. Expected House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) prevailed by just over 15 percent of her state's votes and retiring Chairman John Kline's (R-MN) open seat was narrowly won by newcomer Jason Lewis (R-MN).

Washington Partners has examined the backgrounds of the newly-elected Members of the House and Senate who will take office in January. The information below is based on publicly-available sources, including newspaper articles, voting records and candidates' campaign websites; the election outcomes—or projected outcomes—are based on analysis as it becomes available.

More information will follow when leadership and committee assignments are made and the undecided races are resolved.

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*Please use these bookmarks to navigate to each state's results; new Members of the House are evident by the party designation and district number that follow their names; Senators are the first to appear in the list of each state's winners and are identified as Senators. If there is not a Senator listed as the first elected official, that state had no new Senator elected this year:*

[Arizona](#), [California](#), [Delaware](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [Hawaii](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#), [Wisconsin](#), [Wyoming](#)

### ARIZONA

**Tom O'Halleran (D-1)** will be representing Arizona's 1st congressional district. The first district includes much of the state outside the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas, covering almost the entire northern border south to Tucson, and wrapping around southern Phoenix. The district is 65 percent white and 25 percent Native American, making it the largest Native American district in the United States. O'Halleran formerly served as a Republican member of the Arizona State Legislature. He represented the 1st district

in the State Senate from 2007 to 2009, but was unseated by primary challenger Steve Pierce during the 2008 election cycle. Prior to that, he served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2001 through 2006. O'Halleran is a former Chicago, Illinois police officer. In 2014 he resigned from the Republican Party, citing the party's policies on education, child welfare and water as reasons for his departure. O'Halleran is a strong advocate for STEM and vocational education.

**Andy Biggs (R-5)** is a lifelong Arizonan, and served in the Arizona House of Representatives for eight years before being elected to the State Senate in 2010 and as State Senate President in 2012. Biggs will now represent Arizona's 5<sup>th</sup> congressional district. The district is located in southwest central Arizona. Biggs strongly opposes the Common Core and pledged to cut federal funding to return education decisions back to the states and school districts. While in the Arizona State Senate, Biggs proposed and pushed a bill that would strip the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of its powers in an effort to curtail public involvement in education policy decisions. Biggs has a bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from Brigham Young University, a master's degree in political science from Arizona State University and a JD from the University of Arizona.

## CALIFORNIA

**Kamala Harris (D)** will represent California in the U.S. Senate, replacing retiring Senator Barbara Boxer. Harris previously served as the Attorney General of California, elected in 2011, as well as Deputy Attorney for Alameda County. Harris earned an undergraduate degree from Howard University and a law degree from the University of California Hastings College of Law. Harris has spoken in support of equity in education and wants to take measures to increase resources to help students in disadvantaged schools get the medical, nutritional and social assistance they need. She supports early childhood education, especially Head Start, Early Head Start and universal pre-K, and is a proponent of providing tax incentives to businesses that offer daycare for families of employees. Regarding postsecondary policy, Harris advocates for free tuition for community colleges, refinancing student loans at lower rates and increased purchasing power of Pell Grants. Harris has also said she wants to lower tuition at public colleges and universities and work to ensure veterans receive all their GI benefits.

**Ro Khanna (D-17)** defeated incumbent Mike Honda, also a democrat, and will represent California's 17th congressional district. Khanna teaches economics at Stanford University and law at the Santa Clara University School of Law in addition to his work as an attorney at a Silicon Valley law firm. Khanna's political experience includes interning President Barack Obama's first Illinois Senate campaign, interning under Vice President Al Gore's Chief of Staff Jack Quinn, and running one of the nation's first anti-Iraq war campaigns for the House of Representatives in 2004, as well as previous challenges to incumbent Honda's seat in the 17th district. In 2009, Khanna was appointed to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Commerce by President Obama, leading international trade missions. As a Representative of Silicon Valley, the incorporation of STEM education and technology in elementary and secondary classrooms is a high priority, and Khanna is a proponent of universal Pre-K as a means to boost reading and math fluency for young learners. Khanna supports debt free college and points to federal grants and the digitization of textbooks and introductory online courses as supporting components of that policy. Khanna is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Yale Law School.

**Jimmy Panetta (D-20)** previously served as Deputy District Attorney in Monterey County California, where he was responsible for prosecuting violent gang members. In 2003, Panetta was commissioned as an intelligence officer with the United States Navy Reserve. Four years later, he voluntarily took a leave of absence from work and left home to serve on active duty with a special operations task force deployed to Afghanistan. Based on his meritorious service in a combat zone, Panetta was awarded the Bronze Star. He is active with the Rancho Cielo Youth Campus that assists at-risk youth with job training and placement and serves as a Trustee on the Foundation for the University of California at Santa Cruz. Panetta received a law degree from Santa Clara University and an undergraduate degree in international relations from the University of California at Davis. On education, Panetta strongly supports the *Every*

*Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) and has said he will advocate for implementation that was intended by the law. Additionally, he wants to fully fund Head Start, expand Pre-K and early education options for families and improve the Migrant Education Program to help immigrant children meet the challenges of enrolling in American schools. Panetta will represent California's 20th district, which is centered in the upper Central Coast region, and includes Monterey and Santa Cruz.

**Salud Carbajal (D-24)**, a member of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors since 2004, will represent California's 24th congressional district, located along the central coast of California and inclusive of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Carbajal earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a master's degree in organizational management from the Fielding University. He also served eight years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, including active duty service during the 1991 Gulf War. In his time as a county supervisor, Carbajal advocated for nature preservation and environmental stewardship, serving on President Obama's task force on climate change and advising state and local governments on how to tackle carbon pollution and create sustainable change. His education priorities include lowering interest rates for government-backed student loans, allowing students to refinance their loans, expanding the Pell Grant program and pushing universities to keep costs down in exchange for federal research dollars and other aid. Carbajal supports President Obama's proposal to allow for two years of tuition-free community college to give more students access to postsecondary and career and technical education competencies.

**Nanette Barragan (D-44)** will be representing California's 44<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which is centered in South Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Harbor Region. Barragan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in public policy at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2000 and a Juris Doctor degree in 2005 at the University of Southern California. Following law school, Barragan served as the executive director of the Gillian S. Fuller Foundation (formerly the Fuller Foundation) where she was in charge of funding worthy nonprofits focused on education, the environmental and youth programs. Regarding education and youth justice policy, Barragan supports fully funding early childhood education and increasing access to communities of all backgrounds. Barragan prioritizes "addressing the school-to-prison pipeline created by the disparity in school discipline that disproportionately impacts children of color. We need to be more creative in disciplining students rather than pulling them out of class so they are not learning."

**Lou Correa (D-46)** will represent California's 46th district, located in southern California, including Orange County. Correa represented district 34 of the California State Senate from 2006-2014 and on the Orange County Board of Supervisors from 2004-2006. Prior to that, he served in the California State Assembly from 1998-2004, where he represented District 69. Before politics, Correa taught at Rancho Santiago Community College and was an investment banker and real estate broker. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from California State University-Fullerton and an MBA and JD from UCLA. In his most recent term in the State Senate, Correa chaired the Veterans Affairs Committee and served on committees dealing with elections, governmental organization, insurance and education.

## **DELAWARE**

**Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-At Large)** will represent Delaware's at-large district. She previously served as Delaware's Secretary of Labor, Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services and State Personnel Director. Blunt Rochester also served as CEO of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, a research think tank that focuses on inclusion of people of color. She attended Farleigh Dickinson University as an undergraduate and earned a master's degree from the University of Delaware. Blunt Rochester wants to increase programs with secondary schools and technical and community colleges to help students find gainful employment after high school, and she supports tuition free community college. Blunt Rochester has said students should be able to refinance their loans and give "debt relief to thousands of graduates."

## FLORIDA

**Matt Gaetz (R-1)** is a lifelong Floridian and son of Don Gaetz, President of the Florida State Senate. Gaetz will represent Florida's 1<sup>st</sup> congressional district, which is anchored in Pensacola and stretches along the Emerald Coast. Gaetz previously served in the Florida House of Representatives for 6 years, where he successfully sponsored legislation allowing local school districts to opt-out of the Common Core textbook requirements. Additionally, Gaetz has stated that he plans to "file legislation to abolish the Department of Education and let parents and local officials choose the curriculum and standards that will put students on a path to success." Gaetz holds degrees from Florida State University and the William and Mary College of Law. Following law school, Gaetz practiced tax law, where he became known as the "tax killer" for his continued efforts to block new taxes.

**Neal Dunn (R-2)** is a conservative businessman, surgeon and veteran will represent Florida's 2nd District in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Dunn attended George Washington University Medical School and completed his residency training at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which led him into a distinguished tenure in the United States Army for 10 years. He has served as President of his County Medical Society, Chief of Staff of Gulf Coast Medical Center and as Director of Bay Medical Center Sacred Heart. On education, Dunn has stated support for "eliminating the Department of Education" and "stopping Common Core." Florida's 2<sup>nd</sup> district consists of the eastern part of the Florida Panhandle along with much of the Big Bend region along the Emerald Coast. It is anchored in the state capital of Tallahassee and includes Panama City.

**John Rutherford (R-4)** has led a career in law enforcement, beginning as a patrolman and eventually becoming director of corrections and later, Sheriff of Jacksonville in 2003. Rutherford describes one of his primary crime fighting initiatives as "community problem solving," which involves community outreach that brings together police and civilians and uses "intelligence-led policing." As Sheriff, Rutherford oversaw a half billion dollar budget and 3,200 employees, and boasts a 40-year low for violent crime in Jacksonville during his tenure. Regarding his bid for congress, Rutherford has said "Washington is too big and does too little," and identifies his priorities as centering on building the economy, repealing the *Affordable Care Act*, maintaining law enforcement and military and combating federal government overreach. He has not identified education priorities. Rutherford will represent Florida's 4th district, comprised of communities surrounding Jacksonville.

**Stephanie Murphy (D-7)** is a businesswoman and former national security specialist who will represent the 7<sup>th</sup> congressional district, located in an eastern part of Florida including parts of Seminole, Orange and Volusia counties. Murphy currently works as an executive at Sungate Capital, leading investment efforts and implementing government affairs initiatives. Additionally, she is an instructor of business and social entrepreneurship at Rollins College. Previously, Murphy served as a national security specialist in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, where she worked on a wide range of security issues from counterterrorism and foreign military relations to strategic planning for the department. Prior to her public service, Murphy was a strategy consultant at Deloitte Consulting. She holds a master's degree in foreign service from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in economics from the College of William and Mary. On the issue of early childhood education, Murphy wants to increase investments in Head Start and Pre-K. In terms of K-12 education, she also believes in pushing for a greater emphasis on STEAM (STEM plus the arts) education and more public-private partnerships to help expand career and technical schools. On the higher education front, Murphy has championed lower interest rates for student loans, increasing Pell Grant funding and loan refinancing.

**Darren Soto (D-9)** will be representing Florida's 9<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which stretches from eastern Orlando south to Yeehaw Junction. It also includes the cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud. He holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a JD from George Washington University. Upon graduating from law school, Soto moved to Orlando, where he worked *pro bono* to represent low-income individuals in civil rights lawsuits. By age 28, Soto was elected to Florida's State House of Representatives. Soto has supported increased funding for English learner programs and teacher

development within these programs, increased dedication for social emotional education and he supported a bill that forgives all teacher loans for new teachers that specialized in STEM subjects. He is the first person of Puerto-Rican descent to represent Florida in congress.

**Val Demmings (D-10)** previously served as Chief of Police to the Orlando Police Department, the first woman to ever hold the position, and has experience as a social worker. Demmings will represent Florida's 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district in central Florida. Demmings attended Florida State University, graduating with a degree in criminology. For Demmings, education is a priority issue. She pledged to fight against any push back against President Obama's tuition-free community college plan and expand on the educational benefits of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. Additionally, Demmings seeks to expand pre-kindergarten opportunities for low-income children and address the inequities in these communities.

**Charlie Crist (D-13)** is the former Governor of Florida (2007 to 2011), and will represent the 13<sup>th</sup> congressional district of Florida after defeating incumbent Republican David Jolly. The 13<sup>th</sup> district is in the Western part of the peninsula, covering the area from Dunedin to St. Petersburg. A member of the Republican Party until 2010, Crist turned Independent, and then joined the Democratic Party after endorsing Barack Obama for reelection in 2012. In addition to serving as governor, Crist was state attorney general from 2003-2007 and the state education commissioner from 2001-2003, until the office was eliminated. Crist graduated from Florida State University, where he was the Vice President of the student body, and went on to receive a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in Alabama. As governor, Crist supported President Obama's economic stimulus package. He also acknowledged the dangers of climate change, extended voting hours, restored voting rights for nonviolent ex-felons and presided over the restoration of the coastal communities after the BP oil spill of 2010. In his role as Education Commissioner and as a Florida State Senator, he supported teacher salary increases. While he has advocated for making education a priority in his campaign, he has not outlined specific policy proposals in his platform related to education reform.

**Brian Mast (R-18)** will represent Florida's 18<sup>th</sup> congressional district, located in southeastern Florida, including an area stretching from Ft. Pierce to Palm Beach. A Michigan native, Mast is a graduate of South Christian High School. He served in the US Army for 12 years. Following retirement from the Army, Mast continued his work in counter terrorism and national defense as an explosives specialist under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). While serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2010, Mast stepped on a roadside bomb, causing him to lose both legs. Mast strongly opposes the Common Core and supports expanding school choice. However, he is more focused on issues of national security and terrorism.

**Francis Rooney (R-19)** is a graduate of Georgetown University and the Georgetown University Law Center. He is the CEO of Rooney Holdings, an investment and holding company, and is the majority owner of Manhattan Construction Group, which has worked on several high profile projects, including two presidential libraries, the Capitol Visitors Center and contracts from the Pentagon estimated at over \$100 million. Rooney served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See from 2005 to 2008. Though he has not identified specific education priorities, Rooney plans to prioritize economic growth, cutting federal spending and debt, protecting the Constitution and second amendment rights and "standing up for conservative values." Rooney has pledged to serve no more than eight years in Congress and vows to author legislation on term limits in early 2017. He will represent Florida's 19th congressional district, located on the southwest coast of the state, from Fort Myers to Marco Island.

## GEORGIA

**Drew Ferguson (R-3)**, who will be replacing Congressman Lynn Westmoreland, will represent Georgia's 3rd congressional district. The 3rd district is based in west-central Georgia and includes most of the southern suburbs of Atlanta as well as portions of Columbus and its northern suburbs. Ferguson attended

the University of Georgia and went on to the Medical College of Georgia, where he earned a degree in dental medicine. He then founded a family dental practice before becoming civically involved and serving as mayor of his hometown, West Point. Ferguson believes that reducing taxes, regulations and the size and scope of government results in increased personal liberty. He has not outlined a specific platform on education policy.

## HAWAII

**Colleen Hanabusa (D-1)** is a fourth-generation American of Japanese ancestry who grew up in Wai‘anae, HI. Hanabusa earned undergraduate, master’s and law degrees from the University of Hawaii. She served in the State Senate as Senate Majority Leader before being elected the first woman President of the Hawaii State Senate in 2006. In 2010, she was elected as Hawaii’s first congressional district representative, which she will represent again following. The first district is located entirely on the island of Oahu, including Honolulu. On education, Hanabusa pledged to advocate for increasing funding on Title I, IDEA, and Section 504 needs-assessment funding, which Hanabusa says will, “equalize opportunities and make education accessible for all students that are identified as having challenges, whether it is disabilities, English Language Learners, or impoverished families.” Additionally, Hanabusa supports increased funding for special education programs, teacher development and training and higher education funding opportunities such as Pell Grants and scholarships.

## ILLINOIS

**Tammy Duckworth (D)** will represent the state of Illinois in the Senate after defeating incumbent Republican Mark Kirk. Previously a representative of Illinois’ 8th congressional district, Duckworth’s House committee assignments included Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform. While in the House, Duckworth sponsored the *In the Red Act of 2016*, which would allow student loan borrowers to refinance debt at lower rates, adjust the value of Pell Grants for inflation, and create two years of tuition-free community college, and is a proponent of strong investment in early childhood, STEM and career and technical education. An Iraq War veteran, she served as a U.S. Army helicopter pilot and suffered severe combat wounds, including the loss of both legs. Duckworth holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Hawaii, a master’s degree from George Washington University, PhD from Capella University, and an honorary doctorate from Northern Illinois University.

**Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-8)** was born in Peoria, IL and holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Princeton and a law degree from Harvard. Krishnamoorthi has law firm experience and worked on Barack Obama’s successful 2004 campaign for the U.S. Senate. He has said he supports a new Opportunity Tax Credit, which would allow families with up to \$200,000 annual income claim \$15,000 in tax credits per student. He wants to increase the maximum Pell Grant by 75 percent, create a 401k style plan in which employers match employee payments on student debt and streamline the FAFSA form. He will represent the 8th district, which covers parts of Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. Krishnamoorthi unsuccessfully sought the district 8 seat in 2012.

**Brad Schneider (D-10)** will be representing Illinois’s 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which is located in the northern suburbs of Chicago, for the second time, previously holding the office in the 113th Congress. Schneider is a strong supporter of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). He believes in increased investment for training teachers in their fields—especially emerging STEM fields, as well as history and the arts. Schneider has indicated several goals for education including: increasing opportunities for teacher support and training, providing more flexibility for schools to implement unique curriculum while also maintaining standards and increasing higher education and technical training access. Before serving in Congress, Schneider worked as a management consultant on strategic planning and succession management and owned and managed a life insurance agency from 1997-2003. He earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering and an MBA from Northwestern University.

## INDIANA

**Todd Young (R)** Prior to being elected to the U.S. Senate, Young represented Indiana's 9th congressional district, where he sat on the Ways and Means and Armed Services Committees. While in Congress, Young introduced the *Investing in Student Success Act of 2015*, which was designed to implement market principles and create an alternative, debt-free student financing option for higher education. Young plans to re-introduce that initiative in the Senate. Additionally, Young is a strong proponent of social impact bonds, and has introduced the *Social Impact Partnership Act*, which utilizes social impact partnerships to improve social and public health outcomes. Just a few weeks after graduating high school, Young enlisted in the United States Navy and reported for duty in Newport, Rhode Island. In May 1991, Young received an appointment from the Secretary of the Navy to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated cum laude in 1995, earning a bachelor's degree in political science.

**Jim Banks (R-3)** will replace Congressman Marlin Stutzman, who vacated Indiana's 3rd congressional seat to run for the U.S. Senate. Banks has served in the Indiana State Senate where he chaired the Veteran Affairs and the Military committee and served on committees dealing with education, homeland security, and labor. A member of the Naval Reserve, he is known for being the first Indiana legislator to take a leave of absence from the legislature for military service. In addition to his political and military service, Banks is a commercial real estate broker. He earned his undergraduate degree from Indiana University and a master's degree from Grace College and Seminary. Banks has said he wants to repeal the *Affordable Care Act* and expand gun rights, and he touts his military experience as evidence that he will support strong national defense policies. Indiana's 3rd district is located in the northeast part of the state and includes Fort Wayne.

**Trey Hollingsworth (R-9)**, originally from Tennessee, moved to Indiana in 2015 and will represent Indiana's 9th district, which is located in the southeastern part of the state and includes Bloomington. Prior to politics, Hollingsworth started HCP, a company that rehabilitates old warehouses in Indiana and other states. Hollingsworth maintains he "is not a politician," does "not want a career in public office" and is a proponent of decreasing the size and scope of the federal government. He has said he prefers private and free market solutions instead of government solutions, and, in a debate with his opponent Shelli Yoder, said he wanted to repeal the *Affordable Care Act*, enact term limits on members of congress and increase military spending. Hollingsworth's campaign has received little media coverage, and *Roll Call* published an article in April 2016 about how many district 9 voters lack familiarity with him. He has not detailed any specific education policy views.

## KANSAS

**Roger Marshall (R-1)** is an obstetrician who defeated incumbent Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) in the Republican primary, securing the seat in the general election by a wide margin. Marshall positions himself as a political outsider committed to conservative Kansas values and, as a medical provider, healthcare policy is of utmost importance to Marshall, who wants to repeal and replace the *Affordable Care Act* with a free market system that, in his view, retains the "sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship." Though he has said little on education policy, other priorities for Marshall include revitalizing the Kansas economy, opposing taxpayer funding for abortions, and protecting second amendment rights. Marshall is a graduate of Kansas State University and the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Kansas' 1st congressional district includes parts of Salina, Dodge City, Emporia, Garden City, Hays and Hutchinson.

## KENTUCKY

**James Comer (R-1)** James Comer will be representing Kentucky's 1<sup>st</sup> congressional district, a seat previously vacant following the sudden retirement of Ed Whitfield. Located in Western Kentucky, the district takes in Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, Paducah, and the college town of Murray. On the issue of education, Comer adamantly opposes President Obama's efforts to tax college savings plans and supports "more diverse technical programs that allow youth to obtain certificates and degrees that meet the demands of the private sector." He previously served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 2000 to 2012 and as Agriculture Commissioner of Kentucky from 2012 to 2016. Comer holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Western Kentucky University.

## LOUISIANA

**John N. Kennedy (R)**, a Republican, is the frontrunner for a Louisiana seat in the U.S. Senate in a race that will go to a runoff election on December 10th under Louisiana's election laws because no candidate was able to garner 50 percent of the vote. Kennedy served as the State Treasurer from 2000-2016. Originally a Democrat, he changed his political affiliation to Republican in 2007 before his third term as Treasurer, saying he agreed with Republicans on more issues. Prior to entering politics, Kennedy was an attorney and partner in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans law firm Chaffe McCall. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and economics from Vanderbilt University, a law degree from the University of Virginia, and law degree from Oxford University. While serving as Treasurer, Kennedy was frequent a critic of spending increases and most recently what he views as a "spending problem" on the part the governor and legislature. Kennedy has said that he strongly favors teacher evaluation reform and "peer-review" programs for teachers to rate their co-workers, but has not listed other major education policy views.

**Scott A. Angelle (R-3)**, a lifelong native of Louisiana, will go into a December 10th runoff election to represent Louisiana's 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district, which covers the south central tier of the state west to the Texas border. Angelle is a Cum Laude graduate of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette with a degree in Petroleum Land Management. Angelle strongly opposes the Common Core. He previously stated that "standards were implemented poorly, resulting in very little buy-in from local school communities and teachers." Previously, Angelle has served as secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and interim Lieutenant Governor.

**Clay Higgins (R-3)**, a lifelong native of Louisiana, will face a December 10th runoff election with Scott Angelle to determine the winner of Louisiana's 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district, which covers the south central tier of the state west to the Texas border. Prior to his 2016 congressional campaign, Higgins served in law enforcement for the last eleven years, including as Deputy Marshal for the City of Lafayette. On K-12 education, Higgins has stated, "Common Core is an uncommonly poor idea even by government standards. It seems to have been derived by hippies on acid in DC." Additionally, when speaking about the rising cost of college, Higgins has stated, "It's because of out of control salaries to administrators and liberal professors, who commonly seem driven to indoctrinate our youth with leftist principles, a college grad finally leaves the campus with a hundred grand of debt or more... and frequently no job to be found."

**Mike Johnson (R-4)** is the frontrunner in a December 10th runoff election to represent Louisiana's 4th congressional district, which covers the northwestern part of the state. Johnson is currently serving in the Louisiana House of Representatives, a position he has held since 2015. He is a constitutional attorney and lifelong Louisianan, graduating from Louisiana State University with an undergraduate degree in business administration, and later a JD. Johnson serves as senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, a non-profit which is "dedicated to religious liberty, traditional family values, and the value and sanctity of life," and as chief counsel of Freedom Guard, which has a similar mission. He has been counsel in lawsuits defending the Louisiana ban on same-sex marriage. In addition to his legal career, Johnson has

lent his conservative views on national television, and as a columnist and radio talk show host. Johnson opposes the Common Core, but has pledged to be an “honest broker” on the issue.

## MARYLAND

**Chris Van Hollen (D)** will replace retiring Senator Barbara Mikulski, the longest serving female in that body, as Maryland’s freshman Senator. Previously a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Van Hollen represented Maryland’s 8<sup>th</sup> district since 2002. Prior to being elected to Congress, Van Hollen served in the Maryland House of Delegates, first elected in 1990. Van Hollen earned his bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from Swarthmore College and a master’s in public policy from Harvard University. He supports universal pre-K, and more investment in elementary and secondary education, including afterschool and career training programs. He supports making higher education more affordable by expanding Pell Grant funds and giving state schools more funding so they can lower tuition. Van Hollen also supports tuition-free community college and additional funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

**Anthony Brown (D-4)**, formerly Lieutenant Governor of Maryland and representative in the Maryland House of Delegates, will represent Maryland’s 4<sup>th</sup> congressional district, comprised of portions of Prince George’s and Anne Arundel Counties. Brown has led an extensive military career, and is currently a Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, having served in the U.S. Army for thirty years. While serving as Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, Brown was one of the two highest ranking officials to serve a tour of duty in Iraq. Brown graduated from Harvard as a Distinguished Military Graduate and later earned a JD from Harvard Law School. In 2010, Lt. Governor Brown launched the Skills2Compete initiative, which promotes programs and activities that lead to increasing the skill level of Marylanders through the attainment of a postsecondary credential, apprenticeship program or degree. While in Congress, Brown pledged to ensure universal Pre-K for every four year old, increase federal aid for education, provide teachers with more professional support and resources, and champion greater investments in career and technical education.

**Jamie Raskin (D-8)**, currently a professor of constitutional law at American University in Washington, DC, will represent Maryland’s 8<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which stretches from the northern Washington, DC suburbs north toward the Pennsylvania border. Raskin has experience serving as a Maryland State Senator, where he was named the Majority Whip for the Senate. Raskin holds undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University, and is a past editor of the Harvard Law Review. Additionally, Raskin is the author of *We the Students: Supreme Court Cases for and about Students*. While serving in Annapolis, he worked to fully fund public education, increase school construction dollars, enact Farm-to-Schools legislation and improve school nutrition and “curb the dogmas and protocols of the new testing mania which are all too often squeezing out real education and driving teachers out of the profession.” He is also deeply involved in promoting chess among children and has been active in the Lumina Studio, which is one of the nation’s leading Shakespeare theaters for young people.

## MICHIGAN

**Jack Bergman (R-1)** is a retired three-star United States Marine Corps General who will represent the 1<sup>st</sup> congressional district of Michigan – located in the far northern portion of the state. The seat was vacant after incumbent Republican Dan Benishek chose not to seek reelection. After his time in the military, Bergman was a pilot for Northwest Airlines and the founder of a startup medical equipment business. In addition to his military training, Bergman received an undergraduate degree from Gustavus Adolphus College and an MBA. from the University of West Florida. He supports the repeal of the *Affordable Care Act*, lowering taxes, reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs and balancing the budget through zero-based budgeting. He also supports stronger borders, opposes amnesty for illegal immigrants and wants to implement a mandatory use of the federal E-Verify program for employers in determining an employee’s

citizenship status. While Bergman has been largely quiet on education issues, he is a strong proponent of school choice.

**Paul Mitchell (R-10)** is a conservative who graduated from Michigan State University, and has led a career focused on workforce training. For over 25 years, Mitchell worked for Ross Education, establishing satellite campuses and assisting people in building job skills. Mitchell became CEO of the company in 2005 and the company boasted 6,000 annual training enrollees and 19 campuses by the end of his tenure in 2011. He said little regarding education policy during his campaign, identifying national and homeland security, foreign policy, fiscal responsibility and limited government as his top congressional priorities. Though he has never held elected office, Mitchell ran a successful campaign to defeat Michigan Proposal 1 in early 2015, a measure that would have raised state sales taxes to maintain and improve regional infrastructure. Michigan's 10th congressional district includes the counties of Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and St. Clair.

## MINNESOTA

**Jason Lewis (R-2)**, has led a career as a conservative radio talk show host and political commentator, and will represent Minnesota's 2nd congressional district, vacated by retiring House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline. Lewis graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in education and business, going on to earn master's in political science from the University of Colorado Denver. Before hosting his radio show, he worked as the co-host of a statewide public affairs program on Minnesota Public Television, and has made appearances on various national television programs and stations. In addition to his television and radio presence, Lewis wrote for the *Star Tribune* of Minneapolis as a contributing columnist and has had articles published in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Times*. In 2010 he wrote a book titled *Power Divided is Power Checked*. He has advocated for changes such as merit pay, collective-bargaining reform, seniority rules changes and school choice in addition to more competition in higher education and a greater emphasis on less expensive vocational and technology training.

## NEBRASKA

**Don Bacon (R-2)**, a former Air Force General, will represent Nebraska's 2nd congressional district, which includes Omaha and the surrounding suburbs. Currently, Bacon is an assistant professor at Bellevue University, where he teaches courses on leadership and American values. He graduated from Northern Illinois University with a political science degree and holds master's degrees from the University of Phoenix and National War College. In 1985, Bacon joined the Air Force, where he served for nearly 30 years and retired as a Brigadier General. During his service, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, two Legion of Merits, and two Bronze Stars. In 2009, he was selected as Europe's top Air Force Wing Commander. Bacon has also worked for Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, who represents Nebraska's 1st district, as his military advisor. Bacon has not put forward an explicit policy platform on education but believes strongly in local control of schools, the elimination of the Common Core, expansion of school choice and reducing "micromangement" from the federal government.

## NEVADA

**Catherine Cortez Masto (D)** has won the Nevada Senate seat being vacated by outgoing Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. Previously, Cortez Masto served two terms as Nevada's Attorney General, Assistant County Manager for Clark County, Nevada, federal criminal prosecutor for the United States Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. and was Chief of Staff to former Governor Bob Miller. On education, Cortez Masto has stated that she will fervently fight against any attempts to abolish the

Department of Education or decrease the federal government's education budget. She worked to pass a bipartisan budget increase in Nevada and hopes to do the same in Washington. In 2014, Cortez Masto was named executive vice chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Cortez Masto earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada, Reno and a J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law.

**Jacky Rosen (D-3)** is a graduate of the University of Minnesota who has career experience as a computer programmer, software developer and designer for companies including Summa Corporation, Citibank and Southwest Gas Company. Rosen is the president of Congregation Ner Tamid, a large Jewish reform synagogue, and she positions this experience working in community development as critical to her decision to run for Congress. Rosen represents Nevada's 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district, which occupies the area south of Las Vegas, including Henderson and most of unincorporated Clark Counties. Throughout her campaign for Congress, Rosen has said little about education policy, focusing mostly on national security and immigration.

**Ruben Kihuen (D-4)** will represent Nevada's 4<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which is located in the central portion of the state and includes most of northern Las Vegas and surrounding counties. First elected to the state assembly in 2006, Kihuen served two terms before successfully running for the state senate in 2010. There, he chaired the Senate Standing Committee on Revenue and Economic Development and served as Majority Whip. Kihuen graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a degree in education. Kihuen previously helped work toward a solution to fully fund K-12 education in Nevada by supporting the state's largest investment for schools during the 2015 legislative session. Additionally, he has supported funding for full day kindergarten, English language learner programs and "zoom schools," an initiative to accelerate learning in low-performing schools. In Congress, Kihuen has pledged to fully-fund early childhood education through the Head Start Program, oppose diverting public school funding to private schools through vouchers and ensure teachers receive more training and resources to support their work.

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Maggie Hassan (D)** has served three terms in the New Hampshire State Senate, one of which as elected Majority Leader. In 2013 Hassan was elected Governor of New Hampshire and Vice Chair of the Democratic Governors Association. Hassan prioritizes education as essential to expanding economic opportunity, and identifies her son with significant disabilities as motivation for working toward high quality and inclusive local education communities. While Governor, New Hampshire froze in-state tuition at universities and reduced community college tuition, and Hassan identifies her current post-secondary priorities to expand Pell Grants, lower interest rates on student loans, and debt-free public college. She has expressed an aversion to "predatory practices by certain for-profit schools" and advocates for increased oversight. As for elementary and secondary education, Hassan launched a New Hampshire STEM Task Force to modernize STEM education. She wants to expand early childhood education and also identifies state flexibility with federal funds as a priority. Hassan earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a JD from Northeastern University's School of Law. Hassan is an attorney with a background in corporate defense and business law, and was appointed as a citizen advisor to the Advisory Committee to the Adequacy in Education and Finance Commission in 1999 under then-Governor Jeanne Shaheen.

**Carol Shea-Porter (D-1)** defeated Republican Representative Frank Guinta to reclaim the state's southeastern district, which has been flipping between Guinta and Shea-Porter since 2010. She earned a bachelor's degree in social services and a master's degree in public administration from University of New Hampshire. In her previous tenure in Congress, Shea-Porter sat on the Committee for Education and the Workforce, where her "proudest moment in public service was when our Conference Committee completed the reauthorization of Head Start." Shea-Porter has pledged to fight for funding increases

across the board. She plans to lead a fight to restore the modest tax deduction for teachers' classroom supplies expenses, dedicate more support to technical education and expand access to affordable higher education opportunities. Shea-Porter was an original cosponsor of the *Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act*, which would treat student loans like any other loan by allowing refinancing. She helped write and pass the *Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act*, which switched subsidized private loans over to direct loans, and successfully passed an amendment that increased Pell grant funding.

## NEW JERSEY

**Josh Gottheimer (D-5)** is a communications and technology strategist who will represent the 5th congressional district of New Jersey, comprising the rural northern and western parts of the state. Gottheimer defeated Republican incumbent, Scott Garrett. An active lifelong Democrat, Gottheimer attended the University of Pennsylvania for his undergraduate degree before going on to become a Thouron Fellow at Oxford and then attend Harvard Law School. Gottheimer worked as a speechwriter under former President Bill Clinton. He also worked on John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign and Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. Additionally, he worked at the Federal Communications Commission, directing public-private initiatives to increase broadband access, before ultimately joining Microsoft as a General Manager for corporate strategy in 2012. In addition to a progressive platform focused on infrastructure rebuilding, Gottheimer has outlined education policies to provide more students with STEM education to close the skills gap he has seen first-hand as an executive at Microsoft. He also wants to address the runaway costs of college, incentivize college completion and better match college training with employer needs.

## NEW YORK

**Tom Suozzi (D-3)** is an accountant and attorney from Glen Cove, NY, where he served as mayor from 1994 – 2001. Glen Cove is near the center of New York's 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district, which also includes western Long Island includes communities from Port Washington to East Northport and Commack, The district was previously represented by longtime Congressman Steve Israel, who did not seek reelection. In addition to serving as mayor, Suozzi has experience as the Nassau county executive from 2002 – 2009, and created "Fixalbany.com" in 2004, aimed at addressing corruption in New York state politics. Suozzi's career has also included stints in advising, litigating and auditing for various investment banking and legal firms. Rallied behind the slogan "gets it done," Suozzi has expressed support Hillary Clinton's "New College Compact," a postsecondary education policy plan that includes free community college and allows students to attend public four-year colleges without having to take out student loans. Suozzi identifies college and university accountability as a key factor for bringing down costs of tuition.

**Adriano Espaillat (D-13)** has political experience as a New York State Senator and former member of the New York State Assembly, where he served as Chair of the New York Senate Puerto Rican/Latino Caucus. Prior to public office, Espaillat served as the Manhattan Court Services Coordinator for the New York City Criminal Justice Agency, with a focus on providing legal services to low income individuals to combat pretrial detention and post-sentence incarceration costs. He also worked as Director of the Washington Heights Victims Services Community Office to provide counseling and other services to families of homicide victims. Espaillat supports increased investment in education and wants to set a focus on a national technology curriculum, in addition to expansion of dual language programs. Espaillat supports free public college and wants to create a five year moratorium on loan repayment after graduation, reduce interest rates on student loans and cap payment to five percent of income, in addition to expanding loan forgiveness programs for distressed communities. New York's 13th congressional district includes parts of Harlem, Inwood, Marble Hill and Washington Heights.

**John Faso (R-19)** is a former minority leader of the New York State Assembly and gubernatorial candidate for the State of New York. He will represent the 19<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which is located in

New York's Hudson Valley, north of New York City and south of Albany. During his time in the State Assembly, Faso sponsored charter school legislation and was involved in the passage of Governor Pataki's proposal to create charter schools in New York in 1998. He supported expanding the current cap on charter schools as well. Faso plans to work with colleagues in Congress to develop a college affordability agenda. With a particular focus on increased financial planning, Faso proposes that a federal initiative with accounts funded by private dollars would be an incentive for families to open and continue funding a college savings account. Additionally, Faso seeks to "encourage students to better plan for higher education and pursue programs where there is a strong likelihood of employment post-graduation." Faso holds an undergraduate degree from SUNY Brockport and a JD from Georgetown.

**Claudia Tenney (R-22)** is a conservative from New Hartford, NY, who completed an undergraduate degree at Colgate University and a law degree at the Taft College of Law at the University of Cincinnati. Tenney's campaign was premised on "standing up for core conservative Republican values" and "fighting against the Washington elite." Early in her career, Tenney worked for the Consulate General of Yugoslavia and liaised between ABC Sports and the Yugoslavian government leading up to the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Tenney established a Clinton, NY branch of a media company founded by her ancestors that prints free community newspapers, for which she served as publisher and corporate counsel. Tenney was elected Oneida County Legislator in 2010 and ran against New York's 22<sup>nd</sup> congressional incumbent, Representative Richard Hanna, losing by a margin of 6 percent. She will now replace him as he enters retirement. With regard to education policy, Tenney prioritizes local control to combat "federal interference in educational decisions." She is a proponent of measures that allow parents to opt out of "excessive, mandated Common Core testing." The 22<sup>nd</sup> district covers a large portion of central New York, including the cities of Rome, Utica, and Johnson City.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Brian Fitzpatrick (R-8)** is the brother of incumbent Michael Fitzpatrick, who chose not to seek reelection. Fitzpatrick is a lawyer and accountant with an extensive career with the FBI that has garnered him numerous leadership awards and accolades. Fitzpatrick is a graduate of LaSalle University, Pennsylvania State University and Dickinson School of Law. He has said little regarding education policy, but does want to guarantee interest-free student loans for those pursuing career and technical education or STEM fields, arguing that these courses of study "position our nation as a leader in manufacturing and emerging careers of the future, which will create family-sustaining jobs." Fitzpatrick will represent Pennsylvania's 8<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which includes communities north of Philadelphia such as Franconia, Hilltown, and Buckingham.

**Lloyd Smucker (R-16)** will take over for retiring Congressman Joseph Pitts and represent the 16<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which encompasses York and Lancaster Counties. Smucker was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and attended Franklin & Marshall College and Lebanon Valley College part-time while managing his business. For 25 years, he served as president of the Smucker Company, a family-owned commercial construction firm in Smoketown. Additionally, he was a member of the West Lampeter Township Planning Commission for four years before serving two terms as a township supervisor. Elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2008, Smucker focused on education reform, specifically restoring local control and holding failing schools accountable, as well as ensuring schools are adequately funded. In the State Senate, Smucker served as a member of the Education Committee. His education platform does not prescribe specific policy recommendations, however, he is staunchly opposed to the Common Core and believes strongly in local control of education.

## TENNESSEE

**David Kustoff (R-8)** represents Tennessee's 8<sup>th</sup> district, which includes most of the northwestern portion of the state and borders Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Kentucky. Kustoff ran on a platform

challenging lawmakers in Washington, DC. Previously, he was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee by President Bush in 2006, where he worked to reduce crime in the Memphis area, joining a group of Memphis leaders and law enforcement officials called Operation Safe Community. Additionally, Kustoff chaired the Senate campaign for Senator Lamar Alexander. On education, Kustoff opposes the Common Core and any federal mandates on education. Kustoff reasons that he “supports public education” because he himself is a graduate of a public high school. He holds a bachelor’s degree and a JD from the University of Memphis.

## TEXAS

**Vicente Gonzalez (D-15)** represents Texas’ 15<sup>th</sup> district, a thin section of the far south of the state, reaching a portion of the border with Mexico. Gonzalez will replace retiring Rep. Ruben Hinojosa, former Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Higher Education. Gonzalez has pledged to support full funding of early childhood education programs and Head Start. Additionally, he supports increased investment in education technology, tuition free public university for a student’s first two years and plans to follow Rep. Hinojosa’s footsteps in expanding post-secondary programs throughout South Texas. Gonzalez, a former high school dropout, worked hard to eventually earn his GED. From there, he went on to study alongside other military families at the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University on the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station and earned his JD from the Texas A&M University School of Law while serving as a congressional intern.

**Jodey Arrington (R-19)** is a previous appointee to the George W. Bush administration as Associate Director of Presidential Personnel and as Chief of Staff to Donald Powell, Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Arrington will represent Texas’ 19<sup>th</sup> district, which covers over 29,000 square miles through the south plains of west Texas, including Abilene and Lubbock. Referencing little about education throughout his campaign, Arrington has pledged to shrink the size of government and bring education back to states and districts. Arrington attended Texas Tech University, earning a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration. In 2007, Arrington served as Chief of Staff to Chancellor and former Congressman Kent Hance at Texas Tech, where he was also later appointed as Vice Chancellor of Research and Commercialization.

## VIRGINIA

**Scott Taylor (R-2)**, a former Navy Seal, entrepreneur and motivational speaker, will represent Virginia’s 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district, which encompasses all of Accomack and Northampton Counties and the Virginia Beach area. Taylor holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations from Harvard University’s Extension School and is currently pursuing his masters there in the same field. In 2005, Taylor was sent to Baghdad/Ramadi as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to SEAL Team 4 and served as a Navy SEAL sniper. Taylor is brief on education, simply stating, “although the new federal *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, ESSA, provides some additional local control, there are still unfunded mandates and unnecessary regulations.” Beyond that, Taylor is much more focused on international relations and terrorism.

**Donald McEachin (D-4)** represents Virginia’s 4<sup>th</sup> congressional district and has experience as a member of the Virginia State Senate and House. As a state Senator, McEachin chaired the Senate Democratic Caucus. A co-founder of the law firm McEachin & Gee, he has practiced injury law for over 26 years. Among McEachin’s education priorities are universal access to pre-K, increased investment in public schools, debt-free public college and student loan debt reduction through refinancing and expanded loan forgiveness. He wants to strengthen and improve the *Affordable Care Act*, and reform the criminal justice system to end “self-defeating policies that promote over-incarceration and create a school-to-prison pipeline.” McEachin earned a bachelor’s degree from American University, a JD from the University of

Virginia School of Law, and a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

**Tom Garrett (R-5)** earned bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Richmond, and served in the Army for six years. In 2011, Garrett was elected as a Virginia State Senator, where he sat on the education and health committees. He is a firm advocate for significantly decreasing the size of government. On student finance, Garrett presents a unique plan which he likes to call, "Student Security." Student Security is a proposal to alleviate both the student debt crisis and the impending insolvency of social security by allowing individuals who currently hold student loan debt to have \$5-7,000 of that debt forgiven for every year that that student agrees to defer Social Security disbursements. He has made little comment on early childhood through secondary education, but has supported the expansion of homeschooling in the past. Garrett will represent the 5<sup>th</sup> district, which stretches from North to Southwest rural Virginia, making it Virginia's largest district with an area of 10,181.03 square miles. One of his main issues while campaigning for congress was his support for prosecuting and punishing Hillary Clinton for alleged crimes while serving as Secretary of State. He currently has a petition on his campaign website to seek public support for this cause.

## WASHINGTON

**Pramila Jayapal (D-7)**, who most recently served as a Washington State Senator, represents the 7th congressional district, which covers the Seattle metropolitan area. Before her election to the Washington State Senate, she was a Seattle-based civil rights activist, serving as the founder and executive director of OneAmerica, a pro-immigration advocacy group. Immigration reform has been a focal point of Jayapal's career, in part due to the fact that she came to the U.S. as a young immigrant. Born in India, Jayapal came to this county by herself when she was sixteen to attend Georgetown University. She also worked on Wall Street as a financial analyst and went on to earn an MBA from Northwestern University before pursuing a career in advocacy and politics. On education, Pramila supports strong investment in early childhood education, increased pay and benefits for teachers, additional support for teachers of bilingual students and students with disabilities and tuition-free public universities and colleges.

## WISCONSIN

**Mike Gallagher (R-8)** is a Marine veteran who served seven years on active duty as a human intelligence, counterintelligence and regional affairs officer for the Middle East and North Africa. Gallagher received a bachelor's degree from Princeton University, a master's degrees from Georgetown and National Intelligence Universities, and a PhD in international relations from Georgetown University. Gallagher has experience working on Capitol Hill as a Republican staff member for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was the national security advisor for Governor Scott Walker's presidential campaign. A conservative, Gallagher's policy priorities stem from opposition to federal overreach; he is a proponent of a balanced budget, fewer regulations and maintained second amendment rights. Regarding education, Gallagher supports local control and flexibility and desires to see the promotion and expansion of career and technical education to meet the demands of American industries such as manufacturing and construction. Wisconsin's 8th congressional district includes Marinette, Menominee and Waupaca counties, and a portion of Winnebago county.

## WYOMING

**Liz Cheney (R-At Large)**, the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado College and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School. Following law school, Cheney practiced as an international law attorney and consultant at the International Finance Corporation. She held several state department positions during the George W. Bush administration,

including special assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State for assistance to the former Soviet Union, and as a USAID officer to U.S. embassies in Budapest and Warsaw. Cheney's policy priorities are premised on reducing the scope of the federal government, and a major emphasis of her campaign focused on revitalization of Wyoming's coal industry and repealing a number of environmental protections that Cheney believes are beyond the scope of the federal government. Regarding education, Cheney does not support the Common Core and maintains education decisions must remain firmly in the hands of parents, teachers and local communities. Cheney represents Wyoming's at-large district.