

REPUBLICANS HOLD FLORIDA SEAT WITH GAETZ VICTORY

Florida State House Success Gives GOP Another Special Election Win

ALEXANDRIA, VA — Republicans continued their special election dominance, this evening, with a special election victory in Florida's Fourth House District. Fort Walton Beach's Matt Gaetz captured the seat, marking the 51st Republican win in state legislative special elections since President Barack Obama took office.

"Matt Gaetz ran an excellent campaign on the need for strong representation to fight higher taxes and create jobs for Northwest Florida," said Scott Ward, President of the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC). "I congratulate Matt and am proud to see, yet another, Republican reach voters with a message of lower taxes, less spending and smaller government."

In addition to his platform that included the economy, taxes, and conservative values, Gaetz emphasized health care saying he "believes that health care decisions should be made by doctors and patients, not the government" and that he "will fight to keep health care costs down by eliminating junk lawsuits and fraud in the system." Gaetz received the endorsements of numerous, conservative leaders and groups including former Governor Jeb Bush, senate candidate Marco Rubio and the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The RSLC is the largest caucus of Republican state leaders and the only national organization whose mission is to elect down ballot, state-level Republican office-holders. Since 2002, the RSLC has been working to elect candidates for the office of attorney general, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and state legislator. The RSLC consistently raises and spends an average of more than \$20 million, per two-year cycle, from more than 80,000 donors and from all 50 states. In February, the RSLC announced the creation of the REDistricting MAjority Project (REDMAP), a program, headed by former U.S. Representative and NRCC Chairman Tom Reynolds, dedicated to winning state legislative seats that will have a critical impact on redistricting in 2011.