

Election ad watch: Arcuri ad questions Hanna's priorities

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U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri, D-Utica, and Republican Richard Hanna, of Barneveld, are competing for the 24th Congressional District seat in a rematch of their 2008 race.

Arcuri's campaign recently released a television advertisement questioning Hanna's priorities.

What it says

A female voice narrates the advertisement:

"Who is millionaire Richard Hanna looking out for? Over 100,000 jobs lost, yet Hanna is a member of a radical organization that supports unfair trade deals that ship jobs to China and India. While China doesn't play by the rules, Hanna said China is not 'a threat' and is a 'great source of opportunity.' Opportunity for who? Mike Arcuri thinks we should create jobs here. That's why Mike's fighting to keep jobs at local businesses like Remington Arms, Nucor Steel and Unison."

Arcuri then comes in for the closing comment:

"I'm Mike Arcuri, and I approve this message."

The facts

"Over 100,000 jobs lost"

For this statement, the advertisement cites Alliance for American Manufacturing data for 2010. New York state has lost 140,200 jobs to China, according to the Alliance for American Manufacturing website.

"Hanna is a member of a radical organization that supports unfair trade deals that ship jobs to China and India"

For this statement, the advertisement cites WKTV coverage from May 15, 2008, and the CATO Institute's policy handbook.

Arcuri's campaign said the advertisement is specifically referencing part of the Cato Institute's policy handbook that talks about the way it wants Congress to handle trade. For example, the handbook says Congress should "avoid using trade deficits and concerns about employment levels as excuses for imposing trade restrictions.

A May 15, 2008, biography of Hanna on WKTV's website addresses whether Hanna is a member of the CATO Institute:

"He is a sustaining member of the CATO Institute, having traveled to Russia as part of an international study group," the WKTV

But in September this year, Hanna told the O-D he had been officially considered a member of the Cato Institute only because he subscribed to the organization's newsletter. He used to read the newsletter but doesn't buy into all of the institute's ideas, and he no longer subscribes to it, he said.

"Hanna said China is not 'a threat' and is a 'great source of opportunity."

For this statement, the advertisement cites uticaod.com from Oct. 15, 2008. In the O-D story, the campaign was referring to is actually Hanna's 2008 candidate questionnaire, which was posted on uticaod.com Oct. 14, 2008.

From the questionnaire:

"O-D: What is the proper U.S. approach to coping with the growing influence of China on world affairs?

Hanna: We should not automatically assume that the growing influence of China on the world is a threat. Nor is it true that China's influence is a reflection of our loss of influence. China's tremendous rate of growth and its subsequent need for resources around the world should be viewed as an opportunity for us. Today, almost every major U.S. company has a presence in China. China has become a great source of opportunity for value-added products. The high savings rate of China has served to support our debt and ultimately the growth of China's middle class will increase the demand for our products. We must do what the U.S. has always done best as the world's most productive economy - compete."

"Mike's fighting to keep jobs at local businesses like Remington Arms, Nucor Steel and Unison"

For this statement, Arcuri's campaign said the advertisement is referencing work Arcuri has done to help the companies and published comments officials from the companies have made thanking Arcuri.

For example, Arcuri and U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., announced in September that Remington Arms had won a five-year \$28.2 million Army contract to upgrade 3,600 M24 sniper rifles. Arcuri and Schumer have said they worked to secure \$5.6 million in defense appropriations for the upgrades.

The reaction

Arcuri: "Unfair trade deals are responsible for the loss of hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs in New York," Arcuri spokesman Jeb Fain said. "Richard Hanna's support for an organization that advocates for unfair trade deals is just plain out of touch

with Upstate New Yorkers. Voters deserve to know the truth about where Richard Hanna stands on important issues."			
Hanna: "Richard Hanna is an honest businessman who has worked for 30 years for our community," Hanna spokeswoman Renee Gamela said. "He is the only person in this race who has created hundreds of jobs. It's clear Mr. Arcuri is desperate because even he knows his record isn't strong enough to stand on. It's Mr. Arcuri who sold out the American workers with his stimulus vote that created jobs overseas."			
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