



Pelosi Super PAC Funds ‘Moderate Party’ Backing Rep. Malinowski

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A super PAC closely tied to Nancy Pelosi is funding a new “moderate” political party organization that is trying to help re-elect New Jersey Democratic Rep. Tom Malinowski.

House Majority PAC donated \$500,000 in September to the Moderate Party Independent Fund, according to a new [disclosure](#) filed with the Federal Election Commission. The Moderate Party has [filed](#) nominating petitions to make Malinowski’s name appear on the November ballot twice, once under the Democratic Party line and once under their own, new line. The House Majority PAC donation is the only money that the Moderate Party group has raised as of the end of September, according to the disclosure. Until today’s filing, it was not publicly known that the group was being funded by a Democratic PAC.

Malonowski wrote [on Twitter](#) in June that he had accepted an endorsement from the newly established Moderate Party, writing that it had been “formed by Republicans and Independents fed up with the extremism of today’s GOP, and eager to heal our country’s divisions.” In attempting to give voters multiple party-line options to vote for Malinowski, the group seeks to provide the candidate an advantage over his Republican rival Thomas Kean.

“The Moderate Party was formed by Americans who believe that we have too much extremism—on the left and right,” the political party’s [website](#) states. The website has the text “Moderate Party Independent Fund” at the top, above a headline that reads “Moderate Party of New Jersey.”

One of the group’s co-founders is lifelong Republican Richard A Wolfe, the former mayor of East Amwell Township. In an interview with [Insider NJ](#), Wolf said the goal of the Moderate Party is to give disaffected Republicans a way to vote for a Democrat without supporting the Democratic Party.

House Majority PAC is steered by Pelosi, though there is not a formal affiliation due to campaign finance laws prohibiting candidates from coordinating with outside spending groups. It is funded by a Democratic dark money vehicle called House Majority Forward, Pelosi's leadership PAC, and wealthy donors including Michael Bloomberg and hedge fund executive James Simons.

The Moderate Party Independent Fund's only expenditure as of the end of September is \$48,000 spent on polling with Global Strategy Group, a Democratic firm whose top client so far this cycle is the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Fusion voting, the practice allowing candidates to appear multiple times under different political parties, has been banned in New Jersey since the 1920s and the Moderate Party's nomination of Malinowski already received a legal challenge from Republicans and other groups. With absentee ballots already distributed for the November midterms, the cases in state appellate courts are unlikely to be resolved before Election Day. As a way for independent voters to express their preferences, fusion voting has been endorsed by good government advocate Miles Rappoport and the libertarian Cato Institute.

Malinowski is a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus in the House, which says it aims to bring moderate Democrats and Republicans together to help break partisan gridlock in Congress.

The Moderate Party did not respond to a request for comment in time for publication.