

TIME

There ARE Second Acts in American Politics

By Mark Halperin January 16, 2013

Mark Sanford gets back in the fray:

(Charleston, SC) – Republican former South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford today formally announced his candidacy for the state’s open 1st Congressional District. Sanford previously served as the 115th Governor of South Carolina from 2003-2011, and prior to that represented South Carolina’s 1st Congressional District in Washington from 1995-2001 before stepping down to honor a self-prescribed term limits pledge. The current district includes Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester Counties.

“I am running because our country’s future is at stake if we don’t get our hands around runaway government spending in Washington,” said Sanford. “And given our nation’s long-term financial problems, we need more who have shown themselves to be leaders in standing up to the big spenders, regardless of party.”

Sanford is hardly new to the battle against bloated government excess. As Governor, Sanford eliminated almost \$1 billion in deficit and debt and fought for government reform by cutting wasteful spending and restructuring inefficient government practices. Sanford’s administration instituted changes that bettered people’s lives in South Carolina, whether that meant instituting business practices that moved DMV wait times from 66 minutes to 15 minutes or the cumulative work that led to \$24 billion of capital investment – more than during any other administration in South Carolina history.

As governor, the CATO Institute ranked Mark the most fiscally conservative Governor in America and described him as, “A staunch supporter of spending restraint and pro-growth tax reforms.” In Congress, Sanford was recognized by Citizens Against Government Waste and the National Taxpayers Union as the most fiscally conservative member on Capitol Hill.