

January 21, 2010

Declaration Of Independence

Challenging Rep. [Michael Arcuri](#) (D) makes '08 nominee/businessman Richard Hanna (R) "feel like he is 'sticking his neck out there,'" but said he wants to run because he thinks he can be what Cong. needs: "someone to think independently and take action to help the district."

In '08, Hanna criticized the number of times Arcuri voted with the Dem leadership, and some experts wondered whether Arcuri "had done enough to connect" with voters. This past year, Arcuri "has amped up efforts to meet" with people in the CD and he voted against the cap-and-trade bill. Hanna said Arcuri's efforts don't change that he's "deeply aligned" with the Dem leadership.

Hanna said he planned his 1/20 announcement "for some time," but he was surprised by the MA results. He said they say less to him about voters "swinging towards" GOPers and more about voters wanting "independent thinkers." He said he's still "unhappy" with the Bush admin., the two wars and the national deficit.

Army Nat'l Guard sergeant Ernest Logan Bell (R) previously announced he was running, and said 1/20 "he plans to stay in the race (Ackerman, Utica Observer-Dispatch, 1/20).

Meanwhile, the DCCC issued a statement after Hanna's 1/20 announcement, saying he launched a campaign website where he "shamelessly touts" his ties to the **CATO Institute**, "a right wing extremist group that has long been a vocal advocate for extremist, unfair trade policies that would allow companies to ship American jobs overseas" (Mahtesian, Politico, 1/20).