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Final Report

Opponent: Lauren Pardee, Ohio 8

Part I: Objectively evaluate your legislative accomplishments

Before becoming a Representative for Pennsylvania 14, I was highly interested in Congressional behavior. Through voting, introducing legislation, cosponsoring legislation, and committee work, I always kept in mind responsible Congressional behavior. I vowed to be a delegate representative that replicates the opinions of my constituents as accurately as possible (Frantzich 19). In this legislative session, there are many activities that will help my reelection campaign, and activities that may create problems in my reelection campaign.

First, I was very excited to be placed on the committee of my choice. Regarding House committees, Stephen E. Frantzich said that getting on the “right” committee can make or break a career (Frantzich 155). In my view, I believe that my placement on the Committee on Energy and Commerce will greatly help my reelection campaign. Chairman Austin Young appointed me as the Vice Chairman of the committee because of my attentiveness and knowledge regarding energy policies. Throughout the entire legislative session, Chairman Young and I worked very diligently to create the most cohesive and effective committee in the House. Often times, Chairman Young and I met after the House adjourned to discuss committee bills, strategies and most importantly, our energy package. *great*

The Committee on Energy and Commerce has a broad jurisdiction over energy related policies including: fossil energy, renewable energy resources and synthetic fuels, and energy conservation (<http://energycommerce.house.gov/>). Chairman Young and I wanted to create a comprehensive energy package that would reduce our dependency on foreign oil and move the United States into renewable forms of energy such as wind and solar programs. We saw ourselves as a team with a task to accomplish (Frantzich 162). The committee had 10 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 1 Independent. We could have easily passed an energy package that only the

Democrats approved of. However, we wanted to create an energy package that all parties could agree on. With a diverse committee, there are always going to be differing opinions on what should and should not be included in the package.

One of my biggest contributions to the committee, and specifically the energy package, is the art of persuasion. Frantzich defines persuasion as “the ability to convince others to follow your desired course of action through the use of logic and emotion” (Frantzich 9). If I did not persuade the other committee members to compromise on certain aspects of the package, it may not have reached the floor in time for a vote. Even though we all had competing interests, we all had a mutual accommodation that allowed a compromise to be made (Frantzich 9). I reminded the committee members that we had two options regarding this energy package: 1) it reaches the floor because we all compromised or 2) it never reaches the floor due to time constraints. As a committee we agreed that we would compromise for the sake of the energy package. H.R. 86: The American Energy Independence Act of 2008 overwhelmingly passed with 82% approval and 25 cosponsors.

Arnold?

Throughout this legislative session, I based my home style on being passionate and always having my constituent's best interests in mind. Political Scientist Richard Fenno believes that a strong, consistent home style will gain the trust of one's constituents (Fenno 899). The trust of your constituent's is extremely important. One of the most important lessons I learned is responsible congressional behavior. Political Scientists Jacobson and Dimock explored the 1992 House banking scandal in relation to the higher turnover of House seats (Jacobsen and Dimock 602). The more bad checks a House member wrote, the more likely they retired (605). The banking scandal shows the importance of trust. Constituents are asked to accept a lot of faith from their Congress members, and without trust it is difficult to get reelected (603).

Correct

It's Frantzich & Berube

One of the major reasons why I choose to represent Pennsylvania 14 is because my district is a well-respected area known to have a strong ethic labor, liberal professionalism, and strong black voting block. All candidates must ask themselves whether or not they are the right person to take on the tasks of a district (Frantzich 59). I believe I am the right person to represent my district. The issues that matter most to my constituents are labor rights, improvements in education, and minority rights. The African American population is more than double the U.S. average. Pittsburg, which is located in my district, is known to as the steel industry capital of the world. Being in such a large steel district means that I represent blue-collar, working class families. Since I represent working class families, I wanted to ensure that I work my hardest to improve their everyday lives. I am very proud that I introduced H.R.64: Improving the Federal Minimum Wage Act of 2008. This is a solid bill for my constituents and for anyone struggling to keep up with the cost of living. Under this bill, the U.S. Department of Labor shall raise the current federal minimum wage from \$6.55 to eventually \$8.00 per hour. In addition to raising federal minimum wage, this bill puts a limit on the hours and days a youth can work and allows tipped employees to earn federal minimum wage instead of \$2.13 an hour. I have also introduced legislation to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in Pennsylvania as a unit of the National Park System. This will allow for the preservation of important historical structures located within and around Pennsylvania 14. The fact that I have introduced legislation that is relevant for my district will help my reelection campaign. However, a mistake I made was that I should have filed a discharge petition that would have forced action on my legislation since it was not released out of committee (Frantzich 162).

Regarding my voting record, one of the smartest voting decisions I made was voting against H.R.31: Protect our Jobs and Economy Act of 2008. Under H.R. 31, a guest worker

program shall be incorporated that will allow aliens to work in the U.S. for up to six years.

While cheap labor is a benefit for our economy, these jobs should be going to our own citizens. I felt as though voting in favor of H.R. 31 was going to hurt my constituents because I am from a blue-collar district and the potential for job loss in my district is high. This was a controversial vote for me because my district is in favor of immigration but probably not in favor of job loss. On other issues such as education, I have a 100% pro-education voting record. Education is a large priority in my district because top schools such as Carnegie Mellon University and University of Pittsburg reside in my district. I voted in favor of H.R.111: College Loan Reimbursement by Public Service Act of 2008, H.R.47: Student Testing Growth Plan of 2008, H.R.88: Universal Preschool Act of 2008, H.R.84: Educational Equity ACT and H.R.121: Regulating Federal Funding to improve Public Schools Act of 2008.

While I feel as though I deserve to be reelected, there are activities and votes that may hurt my reelection campaign. Regarding abortion issues, I have a mostly pro-choice record but made a mistake when I cosponsored H.R.23: Freedom of Choice Act but then voted against it on the floor. This was a very careless mistake on my part. I cosponsored the bill because I personally liked it, but realized that my constituents would not want me to sponsor a bill that many House members believed “goes a little too far regarding pro-choice.” When I realized that this bill was too extreme, I immediately decided to vote against this bill. However, it was not until debate occurred that I realized this mistake. Even though I liked the bill, I vowed to be a delegate representative. I also feel the need to explain my vote regarding H.R.138: The Discretionary Funding for Foreign Aid within the already established military budget of 2008 Act. I voted against this bill because we are allocating \$30 billion to 3rd world countries to encourage “democracy.” However, I feel as though this bill is too vague because the entire bill

was made up of three lines. Three lines and \$30 billion dollars is too vague, and there needed to be more information on how this was going to be carried out. OK

Aside from my voting record, I need to address my behavior towards a fellow committee member during a morning speech regarding our energy package. Everyone should always follow the rules of decorum when addressing our fellow colleagues. While this behavior may or may not create a problem for my reelection campaign, it is better to address this behavior before I am deemed as a hotheaded politician who can't work with others that disagree. An important lesson we learned from Stephen E. Frantzich regarding committee work is that "the early Congresses worked under the assumption that all members should be involved in every decision" (Frantzich 152). We also learned from Frantzich about ^{the} The Participation Rule: You Can't Win If You Don't Play" because this is a put up or shut up game. The way in which Congress operates is on a 'speak now or forever hold your peace basis' (Frantzich 164). Regarding The Participation Rule, Frantzich says,

"If a senator is on the committee and he has not participated and he goes down to the floor, what's he doing going to say? If you have participated and your view was not adopted, than you have a perfect opportunity to go down to the floor and raise a ruckus" (164).

In this case, Rep. Sohn did not participate in our committee discussion of our energy package but decided to speak to the House about the flaws of our package. Instead of hearing about his dislikes of our package in committee, we hear about his dislikes of the package in front of the entire House. In my view, I should have said this to Rep. Sohn following the Rules of Decorum. I would have liked to follow the Rules of Decorum but also be viewed as a Congressman who is not afraid to call out a fellow colleague. OK

Part II: Design your reelection strategy

When designing my reelection strategy, I want my constituents to know that I am working very hard in Washington for their respect. I think all elected politicians owe it to their constituents to be a delegate representative and introduce legislation for the benefit of their district. For my district, the most effective legislation I can introduce is raising federal minimum wage. The individuals and families of my district are below national average regarding ALL income categories. The national median household income is \$41,994 while my district's median household income is \$30,139. 17% of individuals living in my district are below the poverty line, compared to the national average of 12.4%. Additionally, per capita income is lower than the national average, as well as the number of families below the poverty line (Washington Post 2008, Pennsylvania 14). Blue-collar workers are definitely in my re-election constituency because I represent the steel industry capital. My re-election constituency is important because these are people that will vote for me (Fenno 886).

There is no argument from these statistics that raising federal minimum wage is probably the most effective piece of legislation I can introduce for my district. My reelection campaign strategy has been designed to make my constituents feel as though they need me as their representative to continue to fight for legislation that will improve their lives. The reason why I have designed my reelection campaign around this single piece of legislation is because it goes beyond just raising the amount someone is paid per hour. H.R.64: Improving the Federal Minimum Wage Act of 2008 puts limitations on the number of hours, days and times a youth can work. Currently, there is no law that puts any limitations on these categories (www.yourules.dol.gov). This bill also allows those that earn tips to be paid federal minimum wage. Currently, tipped employees are subject to only \$2.13 an hour (www.dol.gov/compliance).

I believe that those that earn tips should be allowed to keep their hard earned tips and also receive federal minimum wage.

*Careful of
repetition*

For my reelection strategy campaign poster, I am trying to distance myself from other politicians that believe we shouldn't raise federal minimum wage because of our country's struggling economy. I am using those exact reasons for why I am raising federal minimum wage. On my reelection poster I put, "Current Federal minimum wage amounts to ONLY \$13,000 per person annually." Here, I am trying to make the connection that \$13,000 is not enough for an individual to live off of. Additionally, how is someone supposed to survive off of \$13,000 if they have a family to support? It is nearly impossible. I am incorporating the strategy of localism, which is a survival game by which lawmakers consider policy primarily as it affects the welfare of their districts and constituents (Frantzich 303).

Explain

Another reelection strategy to incorporate is my voting record. My voting record has a solid liberal ideology and shows my loyalty to my constituents and their desires. My district is overwhelmingly democratic; the last Republican representative for my district was back in 1960s (Congressional Quarterly Inc, Pennsylvania 14). My district and specifically Pittsburg is one of the most liberal voting districts in the United States (Modie 2005). I have voted in favor of a very liberal agenda that includes pro-education, universal health care, civil rights, aggressive energy policies, and mostly pro-choice. Since my district is very liberal, my primary constituents are always going to be made up of those that share my similar ideology (Fenno 887).

My overall reelection strategy is based on my liberal voting record, and loyalty to my constituent's interests. I believe these strategies will help my reelection campaign because most house members believe that a great deal of their support is won by the kind of individual self they present to constituents (Fenno 898).

III. Objectively evaluate your opponent's record in his/her district

Lauren Pardee represents Ohio 8. Ohio 8 has voted for a Republican as their representative since the 1930s (Congressional Quarterly Inc, Ohio 8). She has made extremely smart voting decisions for her district, but has made a few mistakes regarding her legislative activity. For example, I was not sure what Rep. Pardee's home style was. One's presentation of self is important because you want to leave the correct impression of yourself with others (Fenno 898).

Regarding legislation, Lauren Pardee has introduced one bill. Dr. Wilkerson informed us that it is not how many bills you introduce but rather the quality of the bills. However, I have a particular issue with the one bill she introduced. This one bill is not of very high quality and it makes me question the motives behind it. Rep. Pardee introduced H.R.90: Automotive Emissions Act of 2008. This bill requires the decrease of emissions by 40% for the manufacturer's fleet as a whole and includes incentives for auto manufactures that surpass standards. Rep. Lauren Pardee and I both serve on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. As a committee, we decided to introduce a comprehensive energy package. Each member would write a bill pertaining to energy and as a committee we would discuss each bill and vote accordingly. The majority of the committee agreed that her bill needed to be modified. Therefore, we placed a modified version of Rep. Pardee's bill in the energy package.

When it came down to voting for the energy package, Rep. Pardee voted against the energy package. While I am not personally offended that she voted against this energy package, objectively, I am concerned how she is going to explain this decision to her constituents. I believe that voting against the energy package may create problems during her reelection campaign because she introduced this one and only bill. Including her bill in the energy package

was the only opportunity she had for her bill to pass because as a committee we agreed that these bills would never pass individually. Hmmm

Another activity that Rep. Pardee will have to address during her reelection campaign is only cosponsoring two bills and why she did not introduce legislation for the benefit of her district. I believe it is not very credible if a Representative only cosponsors two pieces of legislation. Members who cosponsor bills receive some credit for the final passage (Frantzich ^{OK} 251). Rep. Pardee cosponsored H.R.122: Protecting America Act and H.R.7: Capital Gains Suspension Act of 2008. Rep. Pardee should be concerned about why the number of bills she cosponsored is much lower compared to other members of the House. As previously mentioned, Rep. Pardee introduced H.R.90: Automotive Emissions Act of 2008. Rep. Pardee represents a huge farming district (<http://johnboehner.house.gov>). While the state of Ohio is important for agriculture, her district is arguably the most important agricultural district in the United States (Ohio Department of Agriculture). For Ohio 8, their rich and economically viable farming ^{OK} district makes them an important attribute to the United States economy. Why did Lauren Pardee not introduce legislation to improve farming and promote free trade? If you come from a district that is defined by a particular issue, you should use that to your advantage to show your constituents that you are fighting for them. Rep. Pardee will have to justify why her legislative activity was low and why she did not introduce legislation for the benefit of Ohio 8.

The activities that Rep. Lauren Pardee engaged in that will greatly help her reelection campaign are intelligent voting decisions and strong coalition within her own party. Rep. Pardee was in the minority party with only 13 Republican representatives in the House. Democrats had 65 out of 93 seats in the House. Rep. Lauren Pardee and the Republican Party formed an unbreakable, strong coalition to have their voices be heard in an overwhelmingly Democratic

House. Even though the entire Republican Party voted against bills that passed and vice versa, they formed a strong coalition. Frantzich defines natural coalition as “a group of individuals agreeing to support a particular position without any additional inducement” (Frantzich 9). Some bills such as H.R. 134, H.R. 67, H.R. 103, and H.R. 1 are just four examples of a strong Republican coalition. In each of these bills, the entire Republican Party voted consistently. On the contrary, many times the Democratic Party was split regarding controversial bills because overly large coalitions have a tendency to self-destruct (240). However, the Republican coalition shows Rep. Pardee’s teamwork. From Frantzich we learned that some members will support an alternative simply because it is the party position (236). Also, the more independent, the more of a maverick you are, the worse off you are in the insider process (Frantzich 160). Forming a strong coalition with the Republican Party was a very smart role for Rep. Pardee. *OK*

In a largely Republican district, Rep. Pardee has a solid voting record that is unlikely to disappoint her voters. Rep. Pardee made smart voting decisions when it came down to bills like H.R.1: Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2008. Pardee voted against this bill because she represents a district where 93% of her constituents are Caucasian/White (The Washington Post, Ohio 8). Rep. Pardee also made a smart decision by voting against H.R.135: Universal Healthcare Act because almost 60% of her district are white-collar workers (Congressional Quarterly Inc, Ohio 8). While Rep. Pardee did not introduce agricultural related legislation, she made the correct voting decisions by voting in favor of H.R.57: Agricultural Renewable Energy Act and against H.R.131: The Agricultural Revitalization Act of 2008. *OK*

Pardee’s voting patterns is very similar to what John W. Kingdon describes in his Models of Legislative Voting. As a matter of fact, there were very few times during this legislative session where I was surprised on how she voted. Kingdon’s legislative voting model is extremely *OK*

in her district or any legislation for free markets and fair trade (<http://johnboehner.house.gov>). We can frame her legislative ineffectiveness around the fact that the only legislation she has cosponsored failed to become laws of the land. President Pate vetoed H.R.122: Protecting America Act and the House overwhelmingly rejected H.R.7: Capital Gains Suspension Act of 2008.

Incumbent
 It was very smart of Rep. Lauren Pardee to vote according to her party lines. Her district has had a Republican representative since the 1930s (Congressional Quarterly Inc, Ohio 8). However, just because she is a Republican in a Republican district, that doesn't mean she is the right choice for Ohio 8. We are designing our campaign to show this: "Just because she is a Republican for Ohio 8, that doesn't mean she is working hard in Washington for her district." It will be difficult to defeat Rep. Pardee because some voters are always going to be driven by a psychological affinity such as party identification or ethnic origin (Frantzich 79).

For the campaign poster, I wanted voters to question her family values by using vagueness. Since the public is inattentive and does not pay attention to their local representative, we can portray the incumbent as someone who voted against an issue that nearly all Americans can agree on (Frantzich 211). Rep. Pardee voted against legislation that would expand options for homeless children to find homes. In this situation, everyone believes that orphans deserve a loving home. Framing the issue as Rep. Pardee voting against legislation that would expand options for homeless children shows that she lacks family values. This creates a question in her constituent's minds on her morals or lack of, and exactly why she would vote against such a bill. The reason why I believe this strategy works is because it is vague. If voters do not research Rep. Pardee's voting record and base their judgment off of campaigns such as this one, they are going to have this disturbing image of a child in tears because she is being left in a miserable

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