

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**9<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT REPUBLICAN PARTY**  
**2008 ELECTION CYCLE**

**LOCAL RACES**

- Following the 2008 election cycle, there are now the most Republicans elected at the local level in the history of the district
- Prior to qualifying, there was an aggressive attempt in cooperation with local leadership to switch identified “good” conservative Democrats and recruit candidates to run in competitive seats. In all, there were 52 meetings with elected officials and perspective candidates in the five months prior to qualifying. These efforts were done in conjunction and partnering with the local county chairs/ leadership. One of the results of these efforts was a total of 10 former Democratic elected officials across North Georgia qualified as a Republican in 2008. Only two candidates faced General Election opposition, with the remainder running unopposed
- In 2008, the Ninth District GOP spent more money and provided more assistance for local candidates than any other time in the history of the 9<sup>th</sup> District
- During qualifying, Republicans picked up a total of 2 seats by simply qualifying candidates in a formerly Democratic seat. In contrast, Republicans found candidates to qualify for *EVERY* position that was vacated by a Republican incumbent.
- In our “8 in ‘08” campaign, 9<sup>th</sup> District Republicans won 6 of the 8 targeted races. These were local races where Democrats were elected in the 2004 election cycle
- In the additional local races were targeted by the 9<sup>th</sup> District, Republicans won 9 of the 11 identified races
- 14 of the 15 Commission Chairs/Sole Commissioner are Republican beginning in 2009
- 10 of the 15 Sheriffs are Republican beginning in 2009 (1<sup>st</sup> Republican majority ever)
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in history, a majority of Tax Commissioners in the 9<sup>th</sup> District are now Republican
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in history, a majority of Clerk of Courts in the 9<sup>th</sup> District are now Republican
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in history, a majority of Coroners in the 9<sup>th</sup> District are now Republican
- In Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens, Gordon, Lumpkin, Dawson, White and Forsyth Counties did not elect a single Democrat in 2008
- In Dade (D-Tax Commissioner and Coroner), Catoosa (D-Clerk of Court, Sheriff, Tax Commissioner, Coroner) and Hall County (D-1 Commissioner), every Republican won their election, but Democrats won simply because no Republicans were on the ballot
- In Whitfield County, only 1 Republican on the ballot was defeated (Sheriff won re-election and the D Coroner was unopposed)
- In Walker County, only 1 Democrat won re-election and 3 Democrats did not have opposition (Tax Commissioner, Probate Judge, and Magistrate Judge)
- In counties with partisan school board races, there were Republican majorities in every county except one
- In Murray County, David Ridley won the Sole Commissioner as only the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republican since Reconstruction
- In Union County, Republican Jimmy Alexander is the new surveyor
- During qualifying, Republicans picked up a total of 2 seats by simply qualifying candidates in a formerly Democratic seat (Dade-Commission District 4 and Lumpkin-Clerk of Court). In contrast, Republicans found candidates to qualify for *EVERY* position that was vacated by a Republican incumbent

- Of the 112 Republican-held seats entering qualifying, a total of 83 people (or 74 percent) were elected without any opposition. In contrast, only 21 (or 55.2 percent) of the 40 currently Democratic-held seats were elected without opposition
- In Democratic-held seats, Republicans qualified candidates in 32.5 percent of the seats. In contrast, Democrats only qualified candidates in 15.1 percent in Republican-held seats
- In the competitive head-to-head local races, Republicans won 37 of the 48 races this cycle
- In 15 counties, Republicans did not lose a single seat to a Democrat in Republican-held seats
- Following the 2008 elections, Republicans gained a total of 24 additional seats at the local level
- In summary, 124 Republicans, 30 Democrats, and 3 independents were elected by the voters in 2008 for the next four years
- In total, 78.9 percent of the officials in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District elected the 2008 cycle are Republican (highest percentage ever)

### **STATE RACES**

- In the targeted races by the 9<sup>th</sup> District that were funded, Republicans won all 6 races
- Each of the 7 state senators are Republican (Senator-elect Jim Butterworth will be new in 2009)
- In the House, all 17 members are now Republican: 3 Republicans won competitive elections, 1 (Tom Weldon) won the open seat and 1 (Stephen Allison) beat the last remaining Democrat-Charles Jenkins
- The Ninth District became the only congressional district in the state with every legislative member in its legislative caucus as a Republican
- 5 of the 6 District Attorneys are Republican (only Dade, Walker, and Catoosa have a Democratic DA-unopposed)
- In summary, Republicans won the majority of votes in 33 of the 34 races in the 9<sup>th</sup> District at the state and federal races
- Following the 2008 cycle, the 9<sup>th</sup> District emerged as the strongest grassroots district in the state of Georgia

### **FEDERAL RACES**

- John McCain carried the 9<sup>th</sup> District with over 75 percent of the vote. This was the highest percentage of any congressional district in the state.
- Our own Congressman, Nathan Deal, won 75.5 percent of the popular vote (highest percentage of any Georgia Congressman with opposition)
- In the November 2008 election, counties in the 9<sup>th</sup> District gave Senator Saxby Chambliss 68.8 percent of the vote. This again was the highest percentage in the state.
- All federal and state candidates on the ballot won every county in the 9<sup>th</sup>-we are the only congressional district in the state with this distinction

**TOGETHER, WE MADE A DIFFERENCE!**