

Florida's Mahoney Ranked Most Effective New Congressman

Tim Mahoney also named "Man in The Middle" With Half of Congress More Liberal and Half More Conservative

Mahoney delivers on campaign promises as he works with Democrats and Republicans to pass legislation on homeowner's insurance, senior housing, biofuels and Everglades restoration

(Washington D.C.) - March 10, 2008 - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) has been recognized by Congress.org as the most effective new Member of Congress in the 2008 Power Rankings.[1]

In addition, the National Journal magazine, in a special report in their March issue that analyzes congressional voting records, ranked Mahoney as the Member of Congress who is in the absolute middle of all Members of the House of Representatives.[2]

The National Journal, a well-respected, non-partisan news journal that covers Congress and public policy, designated Mahoney as the "Man in the Middle" because of his 109 key votes on immigration, fiscal and tax policy, the war and foreign policy.[3]

Mahoney's good friend and colleague Rep. Allen Boyd, Chairman of the Congressional Blue Dog Caucus, said, "Bringing his centrist sensibilities and expertise in business to Washington, Tim has been a strong voice amongst the Blue Dogs and a rising star in this Congress. Whether it's creating a national disaster fund or fighting for the Everglades, Tim has been willing to work across the aisle to get things done, and as a result, he's been a real champion for the interests of his constituents and for the state of Florida."

"I don't think it is a coincidence that I got these kinds of rankings since I spend my time and effort on being effective for the people of my district without regard for partisan politics," Mahoney said.

According to the Congressional Vote Tracker, a large block of House Republicans vote with Congressman Mahoney on a regular basis.[4]

"I approach Congress from the perspective of a businessman. I am not interested in rhetoric or partisan politics. I am only interested in what can we do today to make things better for my constituents," Mahoney said.

"I had to hit the ground running due to the economic crisis facing Florida. The policies of the Jeb and George Bush Administrations have resulted in a drop in average family income while gas, food, medical, housing, homeowners insurance and property tax costs have skyrocketed," said Mahoney. "I don't have the luxury of being a partisan. This is about securing our children's ability to live their American Dreams here in Florida. Time is running out for seniors and working families."

In the article, Mahoney is quoted as saying he was surprised when he was notified of the ranking.

The magazine wrote:

When freshman Rep. Tim Mahoney, D-Fla., learned that his voting record in 2007 placed him precisely in the center of the House in National Journal's congressional vote ratings, his initial reaction was laughter. "I laughed because of the statistical probability," he said. "I was never a legislator. I was a businessman who gets the facts in the best interests of my district. I don't get caught up in ideology."

Instead, Mahoney explained, he has focused on the diverse needs of his South Florida constituents, including passing legislation for affordable homeowners insurance, restoring the Everglades, and creating jobs by making Florida the center for biofuel production. "I got elected because people in my district weren't happy with the status quo," said Mahoney...

The National Journal noted how Mahoney's votes in favor of increasing the minimum wage, embryonic-stem-cell research, and troop redeployment in Iraq were balanced by votes to eliminate the alternative minimum tax, being tough on illegal immigration, funding for the troops and missile defense.

"Politicians that call me a liberal are grasping at straws. I am a conservative Democrat which makes me a common sense moderate. The nation has seen what a generation of partisan "conservative' Republican leadership has done for our nation," Mahoney said. "I don't care which party sponsors a bill, I just try to do the right thing for the people of Florida's 16th District and that philosophy put me right dead in the middle of the current United States Congress."

"After a year of being in Washington, I can tell you that when an elected official believes that what is best for America is to have a their political party in power, America better duck," said Mahoney. "These partisans can show up on any given day and justify a bad vote for America because it is a good vote for their party."

Note to editors and reporters: Links to the National Journal article and www.Congress.org are below.

(1) Mahoney Ranked As Most Effective New Congressman by Congress.org/Knowlegis, a non-partisan team of researchers, programmers and legislative experts.

(2) 50.3 to 49.7 as noted in the Mahoney National Journal Article .

(3) According to the National Journal, the rankings were compiled based on a system designed by William Schneider, a CNN political analyst and commentator, and a contributing editor to the magazine. The ratings are based on key votes- 107 in the House and 99 in the Senate for 2007-that a panel of National Journal reporters and editors selected and classified as relating to economic, social, or foreign policy.

(4) 28% of Republicans vote with Congressman Mahoney on a regular basis, according to the Washington Post's Congressional Vote Tracker. This was garnered by averaging the amount of Republicans voting with Congressman Mahoney on key votes.

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