

## TCPalm: Mahoney named most effective freshman member of Congress

By Jessica Zaluzec

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U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney has been ranked as the most effective freshman member of Congress by Congress.org's Power Rankings.

And, National Journal, a non-partisan magazine that covers Congress and public policy, ranked him as the member of Congress who is, ideologically, in the absolute middle of all members of the House. That ranking is in a special report in its March issue that analyzes congressional voting records.

"It is nice that people recognize your accomplishments," Mahoney said. "I don't wake up every morning and say I want to work toward a ranking; I want to work for the best results for people of the 16th District."

Mahoney is among 57 freshmen Congressmen elected in 2006. The recently released Power Ranking by Congress.org is for 2006 through early 2008.

On the ideological spectrum, he ranked 50.3 percent Liberal and 49.7 percent Conservative, according to National Journal.

His votes for liberal positions on the minimum-wage hike, embryonic-stem-cell research, and Iraq war spending were balanced by his conservative votes on the alternative minimum tax, illegal aliens, and missile defense funds, according to the magazine.

"Being a freshman and working on both sides of the aisle really shows that I am doing the right approach for getting things done in the district," said Mahoney, who has been widely described as an "accidental" congressman because he won the seat of Republican Rep. Mark Foley, who resigned shortly before the 2006 election.

Mahoney's actual rank, as graded by Congress.org, was No. 110 out of 435 members of Congress.