

CAN THIS PRO-LIFE HISPANIC CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE GET THE HELP THAT HE NEEDS?

By Woodrow Wilcox

Mark Leyva won the Republican nomination for Indiana's first congressional district again. But, can this pro-life Hispanic congressional candidate get the help that he needs to run against entrenched Democrat Congressman Pete Visclosky?

Mark Leyva has won the Republican nomination in the past, but did not get much help from local Republican Party leaders to raise funds to wage a serious contest. The local Republican leaders are not against Mark Leyva, they just have difficulty raising money.

Local Republican leaders might want to help Mark Leyva raise funds for his campaign, but the party leaders believe that they should put the money that they raise into political contests that they believe their party's candidates are more likely to win.

No Republican has won Indiana's first congressional district since the 1920's. The district is next to Chicago and includes Hammond, East Chicago, Gary, and other pro-union areas. Leyva is a union carpenter. But, since the last census, the district has expanded to include rural communities in Lake, Porter, Jasper, Newton, and Benton counties.

In 2004, Mark Leyva won over 82,000 votes with almost nothing to spend on the campaign. What might Mark Leyva accomplish if he had a decent campaign treasury? I crunched some numbers to explore that issue.

Indiana's first congressional district has over 50,000 Hispanic voters, over 50,000 African American voters, over 50,000 non-Hispanic Catholic voters, and over 50,000 evangelical voters. Many of these voters are "pro-life" in their thinking. Most of these voters do not know that their Congressman Pete Visclosky consistently and persistently votes in support of abortion on demand. In fact, Congressman Visclosky regularly votes to give federal money – tax dollars – to pro-abortion organizations.

But, most voters in Indiana's first congressional district don't know that. Many of Mark Leyva's fellow Hispanic voters are Catholic as Leyva is. Many Catholics support pro-life candidates when they know that a candidate is pro-life. Many evangelical Christians support pro-life candidates when they know that a candidate is pro-life. A growing number of African Americans support pro-life candidates when they know that a candidate is pro-life. After all, abortion promoters call unborn children "things" or "property" just as African American slaves were once called "things" or "property".

That is the key to Mark Leyva's problem. Most voters in the district don't know that Congressman Pete Visclosky is pro-abortion and that Mark Leyva is pro-life. So far, local, state, and national Republican leaders have not done much to help Mark Leyva raise the money that he needs to make sure that every voter in the district knows of this big difference between Visclosky and Leyva.

I crunched some numbers based on the 2004 presidential election year statistics. Here is what I found. If Mark Leyva can get just 16,000 Hispanic voters, 16,000 African American voters, and 16,000 other voters to switch their votes from Visclosky to Leyva, then Mark Leyva will become the new congressman from Indiana's first congressional district.

Again, I ask the question. Can this pro-life Hispanic congressional candidate get the help that he needs?