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Today’s Key Stories

Conservatives accuse Virginia Democrat of lying about her taxes [Washington Post [(5/27/16)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/conservatives-accuse-virginia-democrat-of-lying-about-her-taxes/2016/05/27/7d65605c-2387-11e6-aa84-42391ba52c91_story.html) ]

Conservatives are accusing democratic candidate LuAnn Bennett of not paying her DC taxes, but the group is associated with the Koch Brothers.

A conservative group is filing a complaint with the District’s tax office against LuAnn Bennett on the grounds that she failed to pay D.C. taxes. This accusation is an effort of her opponent, Rep. Barbara Comstock, to make Bennett seem out of touch with the district.

The complaint states that since Bennett lived more than half of the year in DC in 2014 and 2015 that she should have to pay taxes there. This is cited by the law that says if someone spends at least 183 days in DC in a year that they are required to pay taxes. Bennett owns a townhome in DC, but resides in Virginia.

The group who filed the complaint pointed that Bennett had deleted a Facebook post in 2014 that said she had moved back to DC. This is in addition to the claim that she had been collecting rental money for her property in Virginia during that time.

The defense for Bennett claims that she paid her taxes in Virginia since that is where she spends most of her time. The rental income that she received is from a rental apartment over her barn. The defense further claims that the group that filed the complaint is associated with the Koch brothers.

VA-10 is a suburban and exurban Virginia district where Trump is very unpopular. Comstock is focusing her campaign on the district and not the presidential. The National Republican Congressional Committee has repeatedly called Bennett “an elitist carpetbagger.”

Third District Candidates Clash Over Campaign Finances [Radio Iowa [(5/27/16)](https://www.radioiowa.com/2016/05/27/third-district-candidates-clash-over-campaign-finances/) ]

The democratic candidates in IA-03 had their first major argument over campaign finance, which ended with a call to unify and focus attacks on Young.

The Democratic debate between the three democratic candidates last night focused heavily on campaign finance. Jim Mowrer criticized rival Mike Sherzan over his statements that he wants to take all of the money out of campaigns, but still donated over $600,000 of his own money to his campaign. Mowrer commented that he doesn’t think that congressional seats should be bought. Sherzan’s retort focused on the fact that he and Mowrer had agreed to not attack each other. Then followed that up with attacking the money that he claims Mowrer has received from Wall Street.

Desmund Adams is the other candidate in the race and he has raised the least amount of money. He followed the attacks made between Mowrer and Sherzan with a call to unify the party against Republican candidate David Young.

The Des Moines Register who sponsored the debate has previously endorsed David Young.

IA-03 Young

Local News

Third District Candidates Clash Over Campaign Finances [Radio Iowa [(5/27/16)](https://www.radioiowa.com/2016/05/27/third-district-candidates-clash-over-campaign-finances/) ]

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Dems mix national agreement, local forum debate [ The Des Moines Register [(5/26/16)](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/26/iowa-3rd-district-debate-democrats-us-house/84937430/) ]

The democrats in IA-03 had a debate where they discussed national issues and had an argument over campaign finance.

During the Democratic debate last night between the three democrats for the the 3rd district in Iowa debated over policies, but the main moment of the debate was the fight over campaign finance.

Drake Universit political scientist Dennis Goldford commented on Mowrer’s performance last night. He stated that he is well-versed on policy and knew how to express his points. He cited that his previous campaign experience has prepared him well for this.

The candidates showcased that they were in agreement on most of the national issues. This is the only debate between the candidates before the primary on June 7.

Mowrer began the argument by criticizing Michael Sherzan for spending $600,000 of his own money on his campaign. Mowrer ended his criticism by stating that “I don’t think congressional seats should be bought like that.”

Sherzan responded to the attack by stating that Mowrer was breaking a pledge between the candidates to not attack one another. He followed up that statement with claiming that he is proud to finance his own campaign because he doesn’t receive as much money from Wall Street as Mowrer does.

The third candidate, Desmund Adams, acknowledged that he has raised the least, and asked the candidates to focus on building coalitions to defeat David Young.

The 3rd district is evenly split between Republicans and Democrats which makes this district a toss up district for November.

The editor of the Iowa Starting line blog praised Mowrer for being sharp and specific on policies. He states that his time in the Pentagon has given him something to rely on for references during the debates.

Rick Smith from the Iowa Daily Democrat said that he believes that all three candidates had potential to defeat David Young, but he believes that Mowrer is the strongest on the issues. He credits Mowrer’s former military experience as an addition to his credibility during an election year where national security is on the forefront of the media. In addition his list of endorsements has helped him create a large amount of resources for the general election. Goldford from the Iowa Starting line blog stated that Sherzan “looking somewhat halting” on live television in comparison with his campaign ads. He held up well in the debate, but appeared to be looking at his notes a large portion of the time. Rick Smith commented on Desmund Adam’s performance by describing his performance as offering confidence and compassion. He followed that by stating that Adams gave a great performance when pushing back on Republican policies.

The first question of the debate focused on the executive order from President Obama that gives transgender students the right to use restrooms and locker rooms in schools based on their gender identity. All three of the candidates agreed that conservatives were making this into an unnecessary controversy. Desmund Adams stated that he believes that we need to stop the hate of people who look different. Sherzan said that he believes “the way the person identifies their gender should be the deciding factor.” Mowrer used this time to criticize Young by saying that he doesn’t represent Iowa values on the LGBT community.

The second discussion focused on the email controversy over Hillary Clinton’s emails. All three of the candidates agreed that they think that Republicans have overblown this issue. They further agreed that we need immigration reform, but that doesn’t mean that we need to build a wall. Sherzan denounced Donald Trump’s proposal to building a wall by saying “It’s sad to me. It’s a disgrace…”. All three candidates agreed in their support for President Obama’s efforts to defeat ISIS in the Middle East.

National News

David Young votes ‘yes’ on new LGBT anti-discrimination bill [Des Moines Register [(5/26/17)](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/26/david-young-votes-yes-new-lgbt-anti-discrimination-bill/84984926/) ]

Young supported the amendment that would protect the LGBT community from discrimination in federally funded workplaces, but on the grounds that it was protecting religious liberty as well.

The House approved a measure that upheld an executive order that bars discrimination against LGBT employees by federal contractors. David Young was one of 40 Republicans that voted yes to the measure to ensure that it passed. Last week the GOP leadership defeated the legislation, which caused many of the supporters to switch votes.

Young made a statement that he was comfortable voting for the amendment because it included protections for religious beliefs in addition to sexual orientation. He continued by stating that every human deserves to be treated with fairness, respect and equality under the law. He further explained that it was vital to the workplace to protect people’s religious liberty and sexual orientation.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney added the proposal to the Energy Department funding bill. The amendment prohibits agencies funded by the bill from discriminating against the LGBT community. The legislation the measure was attached to was defeated on Thursday by the GOP majority who were opposed to the gay rights language.

From The Campaigns

MI-06 Upton

Local News

 Michigan lawmakers don’t want to see Lake Michigan water sent to Wisconsin city [Michigan Live [(5/27/16)](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/05/michigan_lawmakers_ask_governo.html) ]

There is a proposal to allow a Wisconsin town to use the water from Lake Michigan, but Rep. Fred Upton is opposed to it along with other law makers.

Michigan’s congressional delegates and state senators have come out against a proposal that would send some of the water from Lake Michigan to a Wisconsin city. The Wisconsin city has claimed a need for the water on the ground that their own is contaminated with radium.

There was a preliminary approval to the plan on May 18. The agreement was made that the Wisconsin city proposal would work if there was interstate agreement. The group includes eight states and two Canadian provinces.

Rep. Fred Upton was one of the U.S. representatives that signed a letter against the distribution of Lake Michigan water to different states and areas. They believe that it should be a last resort. They are using this proposal to say that it is an attack on the protected water of their state.

There is a meeting on June 21 and 22 between the Great Lakes governors to consider the city’s proposal. A spokesman for the governor stated that the decision would be made on “science and not emotion or politics.”

National News

From The Campaigns

NH-01 Guinta

Local News

National News

Rep. Frank Guinta Makes Written Commitment to Oppose Higher Taxes [Americans for Tax Reform [(5/26/16)](https://www.atr.org/rep-frank-guinta-makes-written-commitment-oppose-higher-taxes) ]

Rep. Frank Guinta signed the TaxPayer Protection Pledge yesterday.

Rep. Frank Guinta signed the TaxPayer Protection Pledge yesterday. Guinta followed his signature on the pledge with a statement that said that he signed the pledge in an effort to help create jobs, cut government spending, and help the economy. This is a pledge that has been offered to every candidate since 1986. Currently there are 219 Congressmen and 48 Senators that have signed the pledge.

From The Campaigns

NH-02 Kuster

Local News

National News

Schakowsky, Shaheen, Maloney, Kuster Introduce Legislation To Give Energy Consumers A Voice In FERC Proceedings [eNews Park Forest [(5/26/16)](https://enewspf.com/2016/05/26/schakowsky-shaheen-maloney-kuster-introduce-legislation-to-give-energy-consumers-a-voice-in-ferc-proceedings/)]

Kuster wants to create an Office for the public to participate in the FERC’s decision making process.

H.R. 5348 was introduced by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) and Rep. Annie Kuster (NH-02) to accompany the legislation introduced by Senator Shaheen (D-NH) in the Senate. This bill would create an Office of Public Participation and Consumer Advocacy at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The statement released following the introduction of the bill stated that the bill would regulate the sale of electricity and natural gas or when they approve energy infrastructure. They cited that in 1978 Congress recognized that there was a need for public involvement and authorized this office to be constructed. The office has not been created or funded for 38 years.

FERC’s decision making process is very complex, and this office is aimed at creating easier access for the public in the energy regulation and power system in this country.

Rep. Annie Kuster addressed how her constituents would have been affected by the Kinder Morgan pipeline. She cites that her constituents had stated how the FERC had not been properly addressing their concerns.

In 1978 Congress authorized FERC to create an Office of Public Participation under the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) that would assist public and consumer advocates in the intervening at FERC.

The Office if created would directly participate in FERC proceedings on rates, service, and infrastructure as a representative of the interests of residential and small commercial consumers. It would conduct an outreach program to ensure that they were advocating for the interests of the public, and would contain representatives from the national and state- based nongovernmental consumer advocacy program.

From The Campaigns

NJ-02 LoBiondo

Local News

National News

From The Campaigns

NJ-03 MacArthur

Local News

Congressional Primary Roundup: Information About the June 7 Races [ PolitickerNJ [(5/26/16)](http://politickernj.com/2016/05/congressional-primary-roundup-information-about-the-june-7-races/) ]

The PolitickerNJ gave a roundup of the congressional districts in New Jersey and summarized the fundraising efforts of the democratic candidates.

Alyana Alfaro a reporter for PolitickerNJ did a roundup of the congressional districts in New Jersey as the state approaches the June 7 primary. She summarizes that both NJ-02 and NJ-03 that both republican candidates are running unopposed in the primary. She states that Frederick LaVergne has only submitted one FEC filing so far, so he only has $600 as his fundraising contributuion. Keady has not submitted any fundraising information to the FEC. LaVergne received the endorsement of the Burlington County Democratic Party, while Keady was endorsed by Ocean County. This has created a split between the districts. MacArthur has already started to focus on the general election in November. MacArthur has released a robocall that blasts Keady.

National News

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From The Campaigns

NY-11 Donovan

Local News

Congress candidate blasts ‘pay to play’ campaign finance [Brooklyn Daily Eagle [(5/26/16)](http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2016/5/26/congress-candidate-blasts-%E2%80%98pay-play%E2%80%99-campaign-finance) ]

Reichard called out campaign finance laws and

Reichard made one of his first public statements yesterday by calling out the role of big money in campaign politics. He described the system as ‘pay to play’ and further criticized the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. The court’s ruling dramatically changed campaign finance in the election and legislative process. Reichard wants to reinstate congressional limitations on campaign spending.

Riechard is running in NY-11 which covers all of Staten Island and a small part of Brooklyn. The former congressional representative from that district was forced to resign after being convicted of federal tax fraud.

Reichard has been endorsed by the Staten Island Democratic County Committee.

National News

From The Campaigns

VA-10 Comstock

Local News

National News

Conservatives accuse Virginia Democrat of lying about her taxes [Washington Post [(5/27/16)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/conservatives-accuse-virginia-democrat-of-lying-about-her-taxes/2016/05/27/7d65605c-2387-11e6-aa84-42391ba52c91_story.html) ]

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From The Campaigns

MA-09 Keating

Local News

National News

Shortfall most pressing Social Security issue OPINION [Cape Cod Times [(5/27/16)]](http://www.capecodtimes.com/article/20160527/OPINION/160529608)

Keating wants to increase Social Security benefits, but the reporter claims that adding money to the program might create additional problems.

Rep. William Keating wants to increase Social Security benefits for retirees because Americans are routinely “retiring into poverty”. The Census Bureau reported that the elderly as a group have the lowest poverty rate of any population group in the nation. Social Security pays for the cost of living and have the fullest medical coverage than any other population group.

The reporter continues to explain that the proposed benefits for the Social Security system was running a $39 billion annual deficit and will be insolvent in 20 years. The support of the elderly takes over a third of the trillion annual federal budget. The reporter believes that the revenue for the system must be used to stop the system from breaking in the future instead of adding to the problem.

From the Campaigns