



TO: Democratic Colleagues
FROM: DCCC Chairman Rahm Emanuel
RE: OH-2 -- Sending A Shot Across the Republican Bow
DATE: August 3, 2005

CHANGING CONVENTIONAL WISDOM:

Just this week, the *Almanac of American Politics* said, "Democrats nominated Iraq War veteran Paul Hackett. But the August 2nd general election in this heavily Republican district was expected to be a mere formality." We now know that this race was anything but a formality.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE DISTRICT.

- "The most Republican major metropolitan area in the nation over the longest time span has been Cincinnati" -- *Almanac of American Politics, 2006.*
- President Bush beat Senator Kerry here, 64% to 36%. -- *Almanac of American Politics, 2006.*
- In the 1998-2004 elections, former Congressman Rob Portman received over 70% of the vote. -- *Almanac of American Politics, 2006.*
- Out of the 18 districts Ohio districts, OH-02 is one of the three most Republican districts in Ohio, where Bush won overwhelmingly. -- *Almanac of American Politics, 2006.*
- In the 2005 primaries, 45,000 Republicans voted compared to just 13,800 Democrats. -- *CNN Morning Grind, August 2, 2005.*
- Yet ... the NRCC spent over half a million dollars to hold this rock-solid Republican -- *FEC Reports.*

ON THE GROUND:

There is much chatter about Democrats losing races because of exurbs and fast growing areas. That is one of the principal talking points about the 2004 election. OH-2 includes all of Clermont and most of Warren, which are two of the fastest growing exurbs in Ohio. If Democrats can gain, even minimally in the exurbs, they will be able to score major