

State Central Committee Members of the RPV

David Ray, 11th CD
Patsy Drain, 11th CD
Keith Damon, 11th CD
Kay Gunter, 10th CD
Jo-Ann Chase, 10th CD
Michael Giere, 8th CD
Vellie Detrich-Hall, 8th CD

We represent seven of the nine elected **State Central Committee** members from Northern Virginia and the three Congressional Districts (the 8th, 10th, 11th). We are your representatives to the Republican Party of Virginia, and were elected to our positions by you, as delegates to the last District Conventions two years ago.

We are writing to you with exciting news and some thoughts on the 10th District Chairman's race.

As you may know, in the 10th Congressional District (represented by Congressman Frank Wolf) the current GOP Chairman, Jim Rich, announced that he would not stand for re-election after nearly 20 years in that position. Our good friend and fellow elected State Central Committee member **Howie Lind** announced his candidacy for this position, as did a Leesburg Town Councilman.

We enthusiastically and whole-heartedly endorse Howie Lind. Howie is very well known in the 10th District (and statewide) for his inspiring hard work, his energy and true grassroots leadership. He has proposed a robust agenda of action items for the 10th District, all aimed at building and updating party operations, outreach and messaging.

Howie's background is impressive. He's a former Naval officer. He was an appointee in the Bush Administration for nearly five years in the Defense and State Department, working on Iraq reconstruction. He's currently an executive with a major firm. Howie's been involved in grassroots politics as a Precinct and District Chairman; he has run for the State Senate and been elected to the State Central Committee for the 10th District. As Dranesville Chairman, he raised over \$30,000 to operate and staff a satellite office of the FCRC in McLean that proved instrumental in the 2008 elections. Howie has raised money and found candidates for public office such as the new 34th District Delegate, Barbara Comstock. Led by Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, he has hundreds of endorsements to his campaign, in the 10th District and statewide.

Although none of us personally know his opponent, we believe him to be a fine man. However, while Howie has run a 100% positive, constructive, enthusiastic campaign of ideas for our Party's future, this has not been the case for his opposition. Some people, apparently speaking for Howie's opponent, including the outgoing Chairman, have lowered the bar in this race by engaging in a whispering and email campaign of half-truths and mischaracterizations.

We are saddened by this, and would have expected much more in the 10th District Chairman's race. You may disagree with Howie Lind on a specific issue or on his agenda for the 10th District. You may even question his action in a specific situation. But you simply can't make a rational case for the outrageous smears that have found their way into the campaign. This is the type of rancor and division that drives many people from becoming involved in the Republican Party in the first place. We would hope that Howie's opponent would disassociate himself from these smear tactics, and give 10th District Republicans the type of campaign worthy of them.

To us, it seems that we have the kind of campaign from Howie Lind that we all want - positive, driven by ideas and energy. And it shows in Delegate filings. Howie has overwhelming support throughout the 10th District, including a stunning Delegate signup in his opponent's home county. Howie is a fine man, with a passion to serve his Party, his Commonwealth, and his Nation. *He wants to elect Republicans to office in every nook and cranny of the 10th District - not tear down other Republicans.*

Republicans in the 10th District are looking forward to a District Committee where all the members are given an opportunity to express opinions, where decisions are made in an open and transparent manner, and where accountability and cooperation go hand in hand.

We believe that Howie Lind is the best candidate to lead in this building process and in electing Republicans. If you live in the 10th District, we ask you to join us in our support of Howie. Become a delegate to the 10th District Convention and attend the Convention on May 22, 2010 and vote for Howie Lind for Chairman.

**Note: Fairfax County and Prince William County registration ends on
Saturday, March 13, 2010**