



ADA BOOSTS ELECTION EFFORTS IN IOWA, VIRGINIA, SO. CALIFORNIA AND SE PENNSYLVANIA

This past November 6th, ADA volunteers joined with others to end Republican control of Congress by developing a massive vote margin and electing many new progressive leaders – including many women – to the U.S. House of Representatives.

ADA in Iowa

- ADA Iowa targeted the state's 1st Congressional District Congressman Rod Blum for defeat, holding 45 separate campaign events and actions in pursuit of this goal.
- These efforts activated 1,600 volunteers for the campaign who mailed over 4,000 hand written postcards, made over 8,000 phone calls, and generated an additional 18,500 personal text messages to voters in the district, just prior to the election.
- Democrat Abby Finkenauer defeated Blum by a decisive 5-point margin.
- Additional ADA efforts in the state generated Democratic victories in Iowa's 2nd congressional district, three Iowa State House races, and the State Auditor, Attorney General and State Treasurer races.



ADA in Virginia

- In Virginia, ADA's target was 10th congressional district Republican Congresswoman Barbara Comstock. We first helped nominate Comstock's Democratic challenger, the very well-qualified Jennifer Wexton, and then conducted an issue campaign to oppose Comstock's positions on gun violence, and her effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. And Wexton won for the first called "flip" on election night!
- To support Wexton, ADA organized 29 voter contact events, knocked on almost 9,000 doors in the district and made almost 12,000 calls to voters on behalf of the candidate.
- To push the vote on election day, we organized two dozen volunteers, mostly from George Mason University, who worked tirelessly to get out the Wexton vote.



ADA in California

- ADA concentrated its work in two congressional districts in Orange County, CA – CD 45 and CD 48 -- districts represented by Republican incumbents Mimi Walters (45) and Dana Rohrabacher (48). Both of these districts have been held by Republicans since the 1980s.

- ADA work helped defeat both incumbents. Walters was defeated by Democratic challenger, UC Irvine law professor, Katie Porter; and Rohrabacher was trounced by Democrat Harley Rouda by 6½ points.
- To support these efforts, ADA California campaigned around issues of Medicare for All and the \$15 minimum wage, targeting Santa Ana, CA where they completed two canvass passes to voter to Santa Ana voter targets.



ADA in Philadelphia and Southeast Pennsylvania

- ADA’s Pennsylvania strategy focused on down-ballot races concentrating on electing state legislators. We saw the numerous state Senate and House districts held by Republicans in SE PA as opportunities to take advantage of a surge in Democratic voter registrations during the previous year.
- ADA targeted six races – Senator Casey and Governor Wolf won reelection! State House Districts 165 and 170; and State Senate Districts 6 and 10. ADA supported candidates won in House District 165 and Senate District 10 while the Senate District 6 race came short by only 72 votes.
- Jennifer O’Mara in House District 165, a millennial woman, had a well-articulated policy platform and a compelling personal story. Her father’s suicide when she was 13, drove her to enter politics to protect the public services that helped her family during their time of need.
- The Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the ADA supported these candidates by canvassing and calling into the districts during the campaign. O’Mara won a tight race by a margin of .6%!



Although we didn’t win all we wanted, we feel that inroads were made, particularly in traditionally conservative areas of the country, such as Iowa, Virginia and Southern California. We will be looking to build stronger ground operations over the next two years in preparation for the 2020 election. Call us (202) 600-7762 if you have any questions, or want to discuss efforts in your local area.

ADA’s efforts in this past election were made possible by additional resources generated through the organization’s Shining Light Campaign, a \$2 million campaign launched by the organization two years ago. For more information on Shining Light, or to participate in the campaign, please contact Don Kusler, ADA National Director, (202) 600-7762 or dkusler@adaction.org.