



Partners Toolkit for March 2006

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Citizens for Global Solutions
Partners Nationwide Teleconference

- Mid-Term Elections: Advocacy & Organizing -

Saturday, 11 March 2006
1:00 PM Eastern time

Dial: 800-391-2548
Verbal password: V A 3 1 7 8 5 5

Speakers

- Don Kraus, Executive Vice President, Citizens for Global Solutions
- Drew J. Asson, Deputy Director, Government Relations, Citizens for Global Solutions

Agenda:

- Mid-Term Elections
- Citizens for Global Solutions Candidate Questionnaire and Report Card

Here are some useful tips regarding how to access the call:

- Participants should dial in 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- When dialing in, the Host and participants should hold the line for an operator.
- Participants will verbally give their password to the operator.
- All Hosts should identify themselves accordingly to the operator when they dial in.
- Operators will take the city, state and number of people in the room and place them into the Main Conference.

Elections 101: How you can build a globalist majority in Congress

It's election time again! In less than eight months, you'll be headed back to the polls to elect those who will represent you in Congress for the next few years. How do you make certain that you are voting for the right candidate? How can you find out if the candidates are globalists or if they are isolationists? How do you know if an incumbent voted to fund the UN? For that matter, how do you know if the person running against the incumbent is better on Citizens for Global Solutions' issues than the incumbent? If you don't know anything about the candidates running in the mid-term elections or you want to know more, here are a few tips to point you in the right direction.

Citizens for Global Solutions' 2006 Congressional Report Card

First, is there an incumbent running for reelection? If so, has s/he been a global leader or does s/he tend to be more isolationist? Where do they stand on funding the United Nations, stopping new nuclear weapons development and creating a sustainable economic and environmental world? To find out, take a look at our newly released 2006 Congressional Report Card. It's online at www.globalsolutions.org/reportcard. You'll be receiving a copy of it in the mail, if you haven't already. The printed copy lists the grades for both Representatives and Senators along with the issues on which they were rated.

District Intelligence

So, what do you do if your members are retiring, not seeking another term, or are just plain bad on our issues?

Find out what's going on in your district! Find out about each of the candidates running in the election. There are many ways to do this, including talking with your friends and neighbors, reading the local newspapers, watching news broadcasts, and looking online, at places like www.vote-smart.org or www.politics1.com. These online sites can tell you who's running in your district for the House of Representative or in your state for the Senate. Usually, you just have to enter your state or your zip code to find out exactly who is going to be on the ballot.

Here's how you can help Citizens for Global Solutions:

We need information from all of the districts, and as a member of Citizens for Global Solutions living in that district; you are the best person to help us out. Simply take a few minutes to answer the following questions:

Who's running in your district or state?

What are his/her chances, based on what your friends, neighbors, and colleagues are saying about him/her?

What are the most important issues in your area?

Let us know what you and your friends think are the important issues in the races and what the candidates are talking about. This will help us as we reach out to them and try to find the next generation of global leaders.

Congressional Candidate Questionnaire (CQ)

As we've just discussed, you can check our Report Card to find out who's good now, and you can look around locally to find out who's up and coming.

If you've identified a good challenger, how do you find out where they stand on Citizens for Global Solutions issues? You can use our 2006 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire or CQ as we call it in-house. It's part education material and part questions for the candidate. It touches on issues that you, as global activists, have said are important, including the environment, international aid, global health, the International Criminal Court, and working to strengthen the United Nations. You can either e-mail the questionnaire to candidates running in your district (or you simply e-mail the link on our website) or you can print out a copy and walk it into their campaign headquarters. If you can do it both ways, that's even better. The more ways you get it into their office, the more likely they are to fill it out. Persistence is a virtue!

Remember, we are a non-partisan organization, so don't forget to send the questionnaire out to all of candidates. You just might be surprised at what you learn about each of them.

How can you do all this? It's simple. The link to our CQ is <http://www.globalsolutions.org/elections/CQ/2006CQ.pdf>. Send that link in an email to your candidate with a note telling them that the issues in our CQ matter to you and that you want to elect someone who shares your vision of a democratically governed world. Who's your candidate? You can look online at www.politics1.com or www.vote-smart.org. Then, send a quick note to that campaign and get your answers! When we get the CQs into our DC office, we'll post them up on our website so you can see the responses! We use the CQ in-house to determine who we should endorse.

Candidates can type in their responses, then print it out and fax or mail it to us. We currently require a printed or faxed copy so that we have the candidate's signature that confirms he or she completed our questionnaire and that the responses are authentic.

It's quick, it's easy, and it's important. Get started today!

To see questionnaires we have received, visit our Candidates page, which you can get

to by going to our home page, www.globalsolutions.org, clicking on “Election Coverage” along the top bar, and then clicking on “Our Candidates” on the right hand side. This feature should be fully functional within the coming weeks.

Even if the candidates in your race seem opposed to our global vision, send them a CQ anyway. Maybe they just don’t know enough about these issues and the CQ can help educate them. At the least, it will let them know that you and the organization you belong to care about these issues.

Set-by-Step Guide to Completing the March/April Partners Project

- 1) Find out who is running for office in your state and district. You can do this by visiting www.vote-smart.org or www.politics1.com. You can also simply follow the suggestions outlined in the “District Intelligence” section of this mailing.
- 2) If there is an incumbent seeking re-election, check out our 2006 Congressional Report Card to see how s/he did on our issues over the last year. You can find the report card at www.globalsolutions.org/reportcard.
- 3) Check our website to see if anyone running for the House of Representatives or the Senate has already filled out a Candidate Questionnaire. You can find a list of questionnaires on our website at <http://www.globalsolutions.org/elections/PAC/races06.asp?action=cq>.
- 4) If all the candidates in your area have not filled out questionnaires (and this is the vast majority of those running), please deliver a questionnaire to all of the candidates running. Remember, we are a non-partisan organization, so deliver it to everyone. You may very well be surprised by what you learn.
- 5) Follow-up with the candidates to ensure that each of them returns the questionnaire to the national office, so that we can publish them on our website and use them to decide if we will endorse the candidate.
- 6) Tell others in your community about what you learn from the candidates on our issues.
- 7) Help us gather some intelligence. There are simply too many races for us to know everything about each one, so we need your help. Take a few minutes to answer the questions listed under “Here’s how you can help Citizens for Global Solutions” in the “District Intelligence” part of this mailing.
- 8) Once you have collected your intelligence on the races, please make sure to report your findings to the Government Relations Department at the national office. You can do this by either emailing Drew Asson at dasson@globalsolutions.org or by giving him a call at 202-546-3950 x102.
- 9) Make sure that everyone in your area knows how your elected officials are doing on our issues by writing a letter-to-the-editor of your local newspaper. Whether or not your elected officials did well, this is an important tool to use in order to educate others in your community about how great or how terrible your Representative and Senators are doing on our issues. There are sample LTEs below. Remember, these are templates. Feel free to change them and/or add to

them.

- 10) After you've done all this great work, don't forget to fill out the Monthly Report Form, so that I know what you guys are up to in the field!

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITORS FOR CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS' 2006 CONGRESSIONAL REPORT CARD

Below are two sample LTEs in response to the release of Citizens for Global Solutions' 2006 *Congressional Report Card*. The first letter to the editor congratulates your member of Congress for his or her support of cooperative solutions to global problems. The second calls upon your Congress member to take a better stand on global issues. Submit one, or both, to your local newspaper's editorial board today.

1. Dear Editor

RE: Congressional Report Card

In today's interdependent world, America needs leaders in Congress who will work with our friends and allies to solve those problems that no nation can solve alone. That is why I am proud to note that in its recently released 2006 Report Card, Citizens for Global Solutions gave [Name of Senator or Representative] a [Grade] for [his or her] support of cooperative solutions to global problems.

The Citizens for Global Solutions' 2006 Congressional Report Card ranks members of Congress on their votes concerning issues such as genocide in Darfur, International Criminal Court, nuclear proliferation, United Nations funding and climate change. In addition, legislators are awarded extra credit for actions taken beyond the legislative realm, including speeches, op-eds and public statements.

[Name of Senator or Representative] should be congratulated for [his or her] position and dedication to these crucial global problems. These issues are foreign policy concerns for the majority of Americans and I am glad to see that [Name of Representative] shares them.

Sincerely,

2. Dear Editor

RE: Congressional Report Card

In today's interdependent world, America needs leaders in Congress who will work with our friends and allies to solve those problems that no nation can solve alone. That is why it is so disheartening to note that in its recently released 2006 Report Card, Citizens for Global Solutions gave [Name of Senator or Representative] a [Grade] for [his or her] failure to support solutions to global problems.

The Citizens for Global Solutions' 2006 Congressional Report Card ranks members of Congress on their votes concerning issues such as genocide in Darfur, the International Criminal Court, nuclear proliferation, United Nations funding and climate change. In addition, legislators are awarded extra credit for actions taken beyond the legislative realm, including speeches, op-eds and public statements.

I believe we deserve better representation on these foreign policy issues than [Name of Senator or Representative] has provided. Let's hope this year, an election year, brings a renewed commitment to these crucial global problems.

Sincerely,

Monthly Report of Your Accomplishments on the Nov./Dec. & Jan./Feb. Partners Projects

Chapter _____ Leader _____

The November/December Partners project was to lobby your local mayor on the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and the Urban Environmental Accords.

Were you able to go and lobby? If so, did you lobby for one or both of the above-mentioned environmental treaties? Did your mayor agree to sign onto either or both?

If you chose to only lobby for one of the treaties, which did you choose and why?

What did you find easy and difficult about each of the projects?

Did you enjoy the project/s?

Do you feel you made an impact on your community through this project? Please explain.

Have you passed out the contest-in-a-box kits? If so, how many and to what schools?

Did you take action on the United Nations revitalization process?

Letters to the editor and op-eds *(Please note them here even if you are enclosing copies)*

| Total Submitted | Total Printed | Type: LTE, op-ed | Topic | Written By | Paper | Date It Ran |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Other Political or Media Activities Your Chapter Engaged In

Use another sheet if necessary to continue your report. Please detach and return to Sara Bodenberg by March 25th so your accomplishments can be published in the next mailing.

Mail: Partners Monthly Report
418 7th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003-2796
Fax: (202) 546-3749
E-mail: sbodenberg@globalsolutions.org

*****PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES TO FILL THIS OUT AND SEND IT BACK TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE. I AM RECEIVING FEWER AND FEWER OF THEM. THIS INFORMATION IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR SEVERAL REASONS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM GOES TO LOBBY, IT GREATLY HELPS TO TELL THE SENATOR OR REP WHAT THEIR CONSTITUENTS HAVE BEEN DOING. EVEN IF YOU SEND ME A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR CHAPTER, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT SOMEONE IN THE CHAPTER ACTUALLY FILLS THIS OUT.

News from the Field

- Our **Maine** Chapter is co-sponsoring a Real Security Hearing to be held at the University of Maine in Orono on Saturday, March 25th. All candidates for congressional offices will be invited to hear testimony from 20 organizational representatives. Maine is also in the process of lobbying their city council in order to get the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement passes as well as the Urban Environmental Accords! Good Luck & Congratulations!
- Our **Mansfield, CT** Chapter has scheduled Joe Courtney to talk to the public on "Connecticut and International Affairs" on March 6th. He is the Democratic nominee running against Republican representative Rob Simmons in the '06 election.
- Our **Portland** Chapter has been busy thanking Portland and Vancouver's mayors for signing onto the Urban Environmental Accords and the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. They have also kicked off a huge letter writing campaign urging Oregon members to lobby Senator Smith to support a strong and effective United Nations and oppose the Hyde UN Reform Bill.
- Finally, many of you have done an extraordinary job of highlighting this year's Global Solutions Flash Movie Contest. So many of you have handed out the contest-in-a-box kits that I actually don't have enough room to recognize everyone on this page. Because of your help in promoting it, this contest has already surpassed last year's in terms of the number of young people involved—more than **6,000** people have signed up on our website through this contest. I will continue to keep you posted on the Flash contest. Also, it isn't too late to hand out a few more contest-in-a-box kits. We have extended the deadline for the contest to April 15th.

*Please remember to fill out the monthly report, so that the National Office knows what our chapters are doing and so that I can share your successes with everyone!

Every day, you are changing the world!