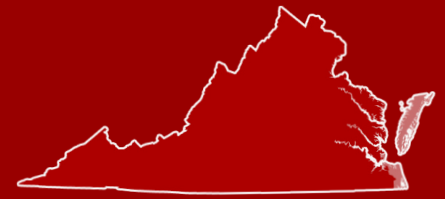


District 02

CONGRESSIONAL REPORT



INCUMBENT

Thelma Drake (R)

CHALLENGER

Glenn Nye (D)

Although reliably Republican, Virginia's second congressional district is host to a competitive campaign that has drawn the attention, money and star power of both national political parties.

The incumbent, 2-term U.S. Rep. Thelma Drake, 58, is campaigning hard to turn back a well-funded, energetic challenge from political upstart Glenn Nye, 33, a former diplomat from Norfolk.



Drake, with close ties to the Bush administration, has enjoyed strong campaign support from Washington insiders such as former White House chief strategist Karl Rove and Bush confidant and former GOP Chairman Ed Gillespie. Both have stumped in the district for Drake this year.

Nye, despite being virtually unknown in Virginia politics, is one of only four challengers in Virginia targeted for priority assistance by the national Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He has received financial

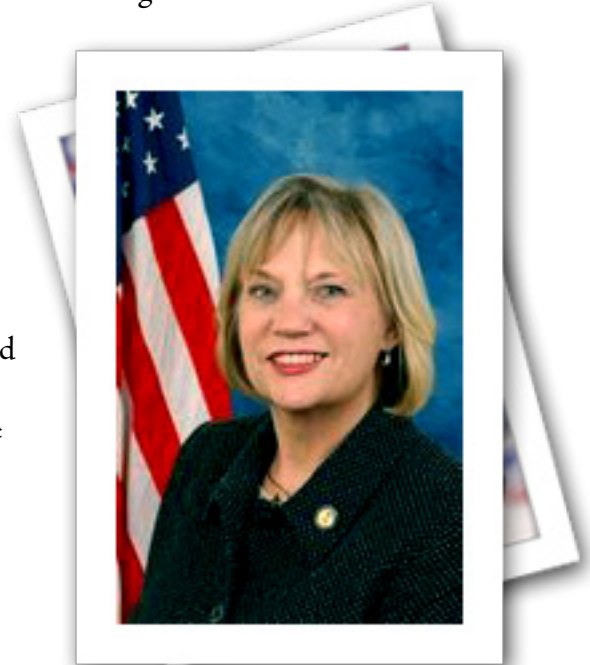
backing from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and and Rep. Charles Rangel of New York.

The second congressional district includes all of the City of Virginia Beach, parts of the cities of Norfolk and Hampton, and Virginia's Eastern Shore.

The district's economy is built on two transient industries - tourism and military personnel. Virginia Beach has poured millions of dollars into widening the white strand along the Atlantic Ocean, a beacon for summer tourists. The nearby Oceana Naval Air Station employs about 9,000 military and civilian employees. The Second Congressional District also includes portions of Norfolk adjacent to the Norfolk Naval Base, home to the towering U.S. Navy Atlantic Fleet. One in every three jobs in lower Hampton Roads is dependent upon the military. The Second District's population is weighted heavily toward Virginia Beach, now the states largest city following a residential development boom that began in the 1980's. This suburban growth has favored Republicans at all levels of government. In 2004, George W. Bush carried the Second District with 58 percent of the vote. The Senate contest in 2006 was a bit closer, with Republican George Allen edging Democratic challenger Jim Webb with just 51 percent of district voters.

In August 2004, almost overnight, Thelma Drake went from relative obscurity as a junior state legislator to a U.S. Congresswoman with a coveted seat on the powerful House Armed Services Committee. Second District Republicans named her to take up the party banner in a special election for congress after U.S. Rep. Ed Schrock abruptly announced he would not run for reelection amid allegations of secretive homosexual activity.

It appeared the GOP nomination for Shrock's seat would turn into a fight between disparate Republican factions until moderate GOP State Senator Ken Stolle decided not to enter the race. In the special election, Drake out-spent the opposition by two-to-one, capturing 55% of the vote over Democrat David Ashe, a former Marine Corps officer and lawyer who had served in Iraq.



Thelma Drake

In 2006, Drake's re-election bid was the focus of national attention as one race that could decide which party controlled Congress. Commentators believed Drake's unwavering support for President Bush made her vulnerable. Democrats nominated Phil Kellam, the Commissioner of Revenue for Virginia Beach and member of a family with a long history of involvement in city politics. The race was bitter, but Drake survived with a 51 percent majority. A vivid profile in *The Virginian-Pilot* portrayed Drake as a survivor her whole life. She became pregnant while in Catholic high school in Ohio, raised her child and finished school. Later, she married a Navy man and moved to Norfolk in 1967. She persevered through two divorces and found her calling as a real estate agent. She and her third husband Ted own property in the Ocean View area valued at several million dollars.

Drake's political career grew out of her involvement in Norfolk's Ocean View neighborhood, a waterfront area on the fringes of the area's Naval bases. In 1995, she defeated incumbent Del. Howard Copeland (D-Norfolk) on her second try, winning 55 percent of the vote. She was never seriously challenged, in part because of the vigor of her constituent service. In 2003, Drake became the first Republican woman named to the state House Rules Committee.

In Congress, she serves on the House Armed Services Committee and House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. She also is a member of the Republican Policy Committee, responsible for shaping House Republican positions on legislative and public policy initiatives.



Glenn Nye

Glenn Nye grew up in Norfolk and graduated from high school at Norfolk Academy. He is a graduate of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. While in college, Glenn volunteered on medical education missions to the Middle East. He began his Foreign Service career focusing on economic development in war-torn Eastern Europe, while working for the U.S. Director at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Nye later joined the U.S. State Department, receiving training in the Albanian language and serving initially in Macedonia and Kosovo. In 2001 he received the State Department's Superior Honor Award for organizing the rescue of American citizens caught behind insurgent lines during a civil conflict in Macedonia and for securing the release of an American citizen held hostage by insurgents. He was then posted to the U.S. Embassy in Singapore, where he helped protect U.S. intellectual property rights during the negotiation of the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. From

there he volunteered to go to Afghanistan, spending almost a year as part of a U.S. government sponsored team managing the historic Afghan Constitutional Convention and supporting the country's first Presidential election.

During his public service career, Glenn managed a USAID community development program in The West Bank and Gaza. He also served as Operations Director for an unprecedented effort to give democracy a chance in the Middle East by registering eligible voters in major U.S. cities for Iraq's Transitional National Assembly election.