

My Legislative Agenda Assignment

Memo

To: All Staff

First off, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work on the campaign. I know it wasn't easy, but we did it, and we did it by listening to the people here and showing them that we understand their problems. We showed them that we understand the difficulties they're facing after the horrendous tragedy that we all faced together. We showed them that we will be responsive to them and that we hear their pains. We understand them, we understand that they don't want a corrupt and ineffective government that says they're going to help and then three years later has them still suffering from devastation and that has their representatives lining their own pockets while watching our fellow citizens suffer. We understand their desire to renew our environmental protections and to help find a new energy solution in this new world.

I want to remind each and everyone of you that we must listen to our constituents. We must show them that we understand their pains and that we will react to their problems and we must and will help them where and how we can. If someone calls us up and wants to know why their social security check hasn't arrived, then we will help them find out why and try to get them their check as soon as possible. If their disability has been denied, we will find out why and see if we can get them a new hearing. As you know we can not directly influence the decisions of these agencies but we can help our constituents map the maze of bureaucracy that they happen to face. To give the short of it, if one of our constituents has a problem, and they ask for our help, we will do everything in our power to help them.¹ I know this will be a lot of work, but we must show everyone that we work for them and in that way together we can rebuild their confidence in our government

Corruption has also been a major problem that has our constituents up in arms, so I must stress to each and every one of you that all and I mean all of my and by extension my staff's interactions must be above board. There will not be any appearance or hint of impropriety from this office and we will be an example for all to follow. I want you to keep notes and logs of every meeting you have, every person you meet with, and if someone buys you lunch or gives something to you we will report it. We must regain the people's trust, they are tired of corruption, they are tired of politics as usual and we will show them something different. You might think that it's a lot to ask, but considering what has happened here over the past few years I think it is appropriate and needed to help heal our community.²

Need I remind you what has happened to us with the devastation that was caused by Hurricane Katrina?³ Our community was devastated by it and the destruction of the levees, and our community's trust in government was destroyed by the government's response to the disaster. Three years have passed, and our levees are still not rebuilt. Three years have passed

¹ Fenno, U.S. House Members in their Constituencies: An Exploration, pg. 9, 10. Fenno states that each representative's most important resource is his time. Here I am stating that my staff will devote their time to our constituent's problems and that I am willing to allocate a large portion of my time to them so that I can help them regain their confidence in government.

² Fenno, Pg. 17. My constituents are tired of corruption and that is the platform I ran on. How my constituents perceive me was important to my success and important to my ability to be reelected. They want an honest person and that is something I will deliver to them.

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina

and our community is still trying to rebuild.⁴ Where has the government been during all of this, where was our representative? The program to help rebuild our fair city has been so badly mismanaged that our own state's legislature asked the federal government to fire the people administering it.⁵ Add to that the corruption of our own representatives, who lined their own pockets instead of trying to protect us and our neighbors.⁶ People are sick and tired of it, and we can no longer tolerate it.

In addition to this, we must focus on our environment. Studies show that had we not lost our coastal marsh, the storm surge that devastated our city would not have been so bad.⁷ We must rebuild our coastal marshes and we must admit that global warming is real. While we rely on the petroleum industry heavily we must start to look for other solutions. Drilling is no longer the answer and we must face this fact and find sustainable ways to provide for our needs in the future. Our citizens want this and I want this.

We will work together with our brethren in the Congress, and we will work towards these goals. I know that it will be hard, and that there may be some opposition to the things that we want but we must educate people that our government is one of the people and that we will have their best interests in mind. Again thank you, and let's get to work.

Nick Lovelace
Congressional Representative, LA 2

⁴ <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/2005katrina/3years.shtm>

⁵ <http://www.morenoforcongress.com/html/recovery.html>

⁶ Johnston, David and Zeleny, Jeff. "Congressman Sought Bribes, Indictment Says". The New York Times. June 5, 2007.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/05/washington/05jefferson.html?ex=1338782400&en=f8ac6372594c21f5&ei=5124&partner=permalink&exprod=permalink>

⁷ <http://www.morenoforcongress.com/html/coastal.html>