

THE HILL

The Newspaper
for and about
the U.S. Congress

 Search The Hill

essential₂know
americanchemistry.com/security
essential

Who's the biggest proponent of
chemical security legislation?
You'd be surprised.

Tuesday October 03, 2006

- The Hill -

- Subscribe -

- Advertise -

- Feedback

OCTOBER 3, 2006

HOME

BLOG

The Hill's
Congress Blog

NEWS

Campaign 2006
Business
& Lobbying
The Executive
Under the Dome

COMMENT

Editorials
Letters
Op-Eds

Dick Morris

**GOODBYE, DR.
FRIST**

Albert Eisele
John Fortier
Andrew Glass
Ben Goddard
David Keene
Josh Marshall
Lynn Sweet
Byron York
POLLSTERS:
David Hill
Mark Mellman

FEATURES

Capital Living
Hillscape
Social Scene
Capitol
Ambitions
Uncommon Lives
Restaurant
Review
Book Reviews

NEWS

Ripple effect may shake Reynolds

By [Jonathan Allen](#) and [Aaron Blake](#)

The political fallout from former Rep. Mark Foley's (R-Fla.) inappropriate electronic communications with underage congressional pages could spread to Rep. Thomas Reynolds' (R-N.Y.) district, according to some political experts.

As Republican leaders scramble to limit the damage to their party, Democrats are drawing a bead on the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) chairman, who has admitted to knowing for months about e-mail contact Foley had with a page.

Sean Kelly, a political science professor at Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y., said there is reason for Republicans to be worried about Reynolds' seat.

"The story seems to have some legs, and the current explanation doesn't seem to be cutting it to a lot of people — that he knew and that he passed on the information and the parents didn't want to pursue it," Kelly said. "My perception is that a lot of people are looking at that and saying, 'So what if the parents didn't want to pursue it? It should be pursued.'"

Last week a Survey USA poll found that Reynolds is only leading his opponent by two points. Reynolds and other Republican leaders insist they knew nothing about the most salacious Internet chats, the contents of which have been posted on ABC's website.

"His insistence that he told the Speaker about this some time ago highlights ... his own political vulnerability," said Thomas E. Mann, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Reynolds won a fourth term in 2004 by his slimmest margin to date,



CLASSIFIEDS

Employment
For Rent
Employer
Spotlight
All Ads

RESOURCES

PR Newswire
Write Your
Congressman

**PREVIOUS
ISSUES**

Last Six

HealthWatch



MARQUIS
Who's Who
on the Web

Over 1.3 MILLION
biographies of today's
movers and shakers...

...including
key figures in
the political arena!

Request Free Trial

56 percent to 44 percent. Democrat Jack Davis is making a second bid for the seat and said he will pump \$2 million of his own money into the campaign.

But Republicans say the Foley story has not made them more concerned about Reynolds's prospects for reelection.

"Not at all," NRCC spokesman Carl Forti said.

Two past NRCC chairmen, Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.) and former Rep. Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.), said Reynolds will be unaffected.

"I don't think last week will have any impact at all," Linder said.

Republican leaders have been working to distinguish between less-suggestive e-mails that they say they were aware of and extremely explicit Instant Messenger conversations that they say they knew nothing about until they were reported by ABC last week.

Paxon suggested that the distinction is important in explaining why Reynolds did not pressure Foley to resign months ago.

"If you're Tom Reynolds and if you thought for a nanosecond that there was a potential scandal there, you would have taken immediate action to get Foley out of the race," Paxon said.

But Democrats say Reynolds kept the e-mail quiet for political purposes.

"When Washington and Republicans in Congress needed a moral compass, Tom Reynolds, as a member of the leadership, swept the facts under the rug and put politics ahead of protecting children," said Jen Psaki, spokeswoman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC).

Jim Campbell, a political science professor at the University at Buffalo, said the Foley scandal does not help Reynolds but it probably will not cost him his seat.

"My sense is that this is probably going to be a two-day story. As long as Congressman Reynolds indicates he followed the reasonable procedure in sending along the information about this up through the channels, I wouldn't think it would hurt him much," Campbell said.

Campbell and Kelly said Davis has focused almost entirely on economic issues and they do not anticipate a message shift in the five weeks before the election.



“I’d be surprised if Davis changes tact,” Campbell said.

Ads by C

Local Democrats are upset that Davis has been reluctant to attack Reynolds on issues other than the economy, Kelly said.

[Capito Speak](#)
Conce
Email I
With C
- Read
ABCNew

“I think there are a lot of people in Erie County who are probably pulling their hair out,” he said.

But the Davis camp launched a salvo at Reynolds late Monday afternoon.

“Like all of us, Tom Reynolds has a moral obligation to protect our children. He did not care, period,” said Davis campaign spokesman Curtis Ellis. “Reynolds should have been demanding accountability from Mark Foley. Instead, he was demanding a \$100,000 campaign contribution and took it.”

[congru murth:](#)
See Ja
FBI Ab
YouDont

DCCC Chairman Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.) has targeted Reynolds’s seat throughout the 2005-2006 cycle.

[Email](#)
Add or advoc
websit
Congre
Learn i
www.The

[Senat Camp:](#)
George
promot
sense
princip
www.gec

Advertis

STI
YOUI

Tip

Deliv
eve

Be a

as
re
wha
C



[Home](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

The Hill
1625 K Street, NW Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006
202-628-8500 tel | 202-628-8503 fax

The contents of this site are © 2006 Capitol Hill Publishing Corp., a subsidiary of News Communications Inc.