

# **Anna's Army**

## **Reflections on the People's Movement**

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*Thanks to Rob, Katie, Robert and Christine. Your love and support has helped me find the spirit to survive in politics. In public life friends are few and far between. Family is of paramount importance. Thanks for being adventurous, willing to try new things and to try old things in new and different ways. Thanks for believing in me and working with me to promote the principles we all hold so dear. Thanks for your self reliance believing that we must stand up for our beliefs, and that we cannot wait for others to lead. You have inspired me to commit myself to our conservative principles, and to a life of public service awakening and empowering others to their ability to shape their future. Before you it was only a dream. Without you it would be a nightmare. I am truly blessed to call you my family.*

*Thanks to Mom. You brought me into this world with all the love in your heart. You taught me that I could be anything I desired to be if I worked hard and followed God's moral teachings. By your example you have shown me that if I desire a result, I must not look to others to provide it, but rather I must provide it myself. Thus the motto: I can therefore I must. You proved that balancing a family and a career is possible for any woman who wills it. I am truly grateful.*

*Thanks to Daddy in heaven. Your dedication to others and your example of leadership in your own career inspired me to public service. Your example of faith and charity reminds me that today is never only all about me. This is at once a comfort and strength. Thank you for all you did to encourage me in life. I promise to work hard always, and I hope I will make you proud.*

## **Prologue**

This is not the story of a candidate's campaign. This is not the story of a political victory. This is the story of a People's Movement. This is the story of We The People rising up in patriotic fervor to take their rightful place in our Republic as both the governed and the government. This is the story of ordinary people, dedicated to their families and searching for freedom in the unalienable rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness who following in the footsteps of their ancestors chose to stand and fight rather than to fall in defeat as

subjects to a tyrannical government. What follows is not unique to New Jersey. It happened in 2010 throughout the nation. It continues to happen today. What we hope you will learn in reading our story, is that we are ordinary people just like you. If we can do it, you can do it. Ronald Reagan told us that “Freedom is never more than a generation away from extinction.” If our children and our grandchildren are to live in freedom; We must rise up today.

## **Deciding to Run**

It was a cold snowy day in January 2010. We were attending a dinner at a well-known restaurant in Red Bank, NJ. My good friend had asked me to meet a congressional candidate he was supporting in NJ Congressional District 12. The candidate was an unknown from outside the county, but I loved and respected my friend, so I attended.

Entering the room we encountered local county politicians and committee persons whom we knew well. Upon greeting each other we sat family style for dinner. To my surprise a colleague was seated next to me. I had not seen this colleague for several years, since a county campaign in which I was successfully selected and then elected to fill an unexpired term. My colleague and I conversed jovially as we caught up on developments in our personal and professional lives. He asked for my cell phone number and we exchanged information so that we could keep in touch. Little did we know that this experience would lead to the vocation of a lifetime.

The next morning I received a telephone call from a man who explained that he had received my number from my colleague. Although I did not know the man, I knew of him. Our conversation was friendly, although detailed. I soon realized I was being vetted as a candidate for Congress. An hour and a half later, we closed the conversation agreeing that we would meet soon to continue evaluation of the opportunity. I agreed I would discuss it with my family.

So often God presents us with opportunity. It is always our decision whether to take it or to reject it. For us it's a process of balancing God's needs, and the needs of our family that leads to our decision. In this case we believe God needed truth and faith in government, and our family needed individual liberty and economic freedom if we were to have any kind of future quality of life. After discussing the matter with a close friend who had once run for Congress herself, we decided that we would enter the race.

Having served as a Councilwoman in my hometown, Borough of Highlands, as a Monmouth

County Freeholder, and as Mayor of my hometown, our family had already experienced the effects of campaigning and elected office in our family routine and in our individual lives. We had campaigned as a family five times before with much success and a sense of fulfillment that only door to door campaigning, meeting voters face to face, can provide. As the former Municipal County Committee Chairman for our town, my husband discussed with me the possibility of running for Congress during two prior campaign cycles. We agreed that I was well suited for such a position, and that the family would be supportive. However, we had always run as a selected candidate uncontested at the Primary election.

This campaign would be different. The Republican Party had already chosen a candidate from out of district who was a multimillionaire and could self fund her campaign. But Grass Roots Republicans in the district were declaring that they would not support her. Worse yet, Grass Roots Organizations were threatening to run a third party candidate against her. Without the possibility of run off elections running a third party candidate would split the Republican/Conservative vote giving an advantage to the liberal incumbent. Furthermore a third party candidate could result in the liberal incumbent retaining his seat with less than a majority of the vote.

My husband and I understood that we were entering a realm we had never before experienced. We knew we would run this campaign without party support. This meant no financial assistance, and no access to all the tools we had used in previous races including voter lists, demographics, and direct mail fundraising lists. We would have to develop these things for ourselves simultaneously as we ran our race without these benefits to assist us. Our only hope was that the Grass Roots Independents, Unaffiliated Voters and perhaps some disenchanting Democrats would consider registering as Republicans to assist us in winning this race, while we convinced Grass Roots Republicans that our candidate was the only clear choice for victory against the liberal incumbent. It was a daunting task to say the least.

Today I am honored to have entered this new dimension in politics. The spirit and energy exhibited by grass roots activists with conservative principles is unlike anything I have witnessed in politics before. I am encouraged by this spirit and energy. I hope it becomes as

infectious to others as it is to me. I hope that more and more ordinary citizens choose to get off the couch and come into the streets to ensure their voices are heard in their government.

I believe these grass roots conservatives will begin to fill elected and appointed positions in government. I believe these ordinary citizens can and will become County Committee members of their political party and begin to change that party for the better from within. I believe that political parties and elected officials can begin to see that government and election campaigns function best when directed from the bottom up, rather than from the top down. I believe that We The People can change our political system for the better. I hope we never go away. Moreover I hope that government and politics will never be the same.

## **The Tea Party**

I attended my first Tea Party Meeting in March 2010, at the Ocean Township Community Center. There were many candidates in attendance. The crowd was seated in an auditorium setting, with a head table for the moderator of the meeting who controlled the room with a gavel. In the rear of the room a gentleman was running a video camera. We were asked to enter our contact information into a computer with a mailing address for our copy of the recording. We would each be called to speak for 5 minutes, with questions and answers to follow.

We already knew what issues we planned to discuss. Our nation's economy was failing, our President believed in tax and spend solutions which were inhibiting economic recovery, and Congress had just enacted Health Care Reform legislation that was making economic growth impossible while violating the doctor patient privilege, and our liberty to choose our own doctor, insurance company, and to decide what treatment to receive. There was also talk of cost effectiveness panels being formed to determine whether funds should be approved for treatment, second guessing the recommendations of doctors. We were outraged that such panels would be given the power to decide who should live and who should die. I was ready to state my case to the grass roots activists that we must return government to the size and scope intended by our founding fathers. I was prepared to tell these frustrated, yet patriotic and determined Americans that to solve our troubles we need only follow the Constitution, the legacy left us by the founders and the Supreme Law of the Land.

To my surprise and delight the Tea Party members already understood this. The questions I was asked that March evening provided me with a strong sense of liberation and acceptance all at once. I freely and confidently spoke from the heart, answering each question without hesitation. I finished the meeting feeling strongly that I had been among like minded Americans. It was wonderful to feel such a sense of belonging. In nine years of elected office I had never felt such respect and support.

In the weeks that followed we travelled from Republican meetings to Tea Party meetings to

our own campaign meetings. Our challenge was to create within the grass roots movement a block captain style organization that could mobilize for a large scale door to door campaign, and to include as many active Republicans as possible. We had mastered this style of grass roots campaigning during local elections in our home town, coached by a dear friend who was a member of our local Republican Club. Our election victories at the local and county level resulted from block captain style grass roots door to door campaigning, by which volunteers each took responsibility for their street ensuring that everyone knew our candidate, our message, and the date and location when they should vote. We even provided rides to the polls and absentee ballots for those in need. However, this grass roots Congressional campaign would be the largest scale implementation of the block captain program. We could not know whether we would be able to produce a victory, but we knew we had to try.

While participating in the Republican selection process, elected official after elected official endorsed our Primary opponent citing that she could match the funding potential of the incumbent and therefore was the best candidate. Key Republicans became paid members of our opponent's campaign team, and local county committee members stated that it would be impossible to win a primary against the establishment candidate. We keenly understood the formidable task that lay before us. We had not witnessed anyone winning a Republican Primary off the line in our county. Respect for the Republican party line weighed heavily among Republicans when casting their vote in a Primary election. However, facing the threat of an independent candidate splitting the vote and perpetuating the incumbency of our liberal opponent in the general election, we knew we had to try to bring the Conservatives and the Republicans together. We could see no other way than to run in the Republican Primary.

Many Republican leaders expressed concern and disapproval of our decision to run as a primary opponent to the party endorsed candidate. Some Republican leaders expressed to us that running in the Primary would end our political influence in the party at local, county and state levels. We were warned that we might not receive future nominations for candidacy as a Republican in our county. We knew what was in our hearts. We loved God and our country. We loved our family, and desired for them liberty and freedom to prosper toward their fullest potential. We knew that liberal policies at the state and federal levels

were limiting our rights to Life, Liberty and Economic Freedom. We feared what would become of our family and our nation if we stood by and did nothing.

Much like our founding fathers we refused to feel discouraged by our circumstances. Instead we were motivated to do something about them. In spite of the disenchantment expressed to us about the Primary by leaders of the Republican Party, we continued to grow in confidence as Grass Roots Republicans came forward to help, and as our relationships developed with Tea Party members who were supporting the campaign. Our campaign began with five people in a room at an International House of Pancakes (IHOP) restaurant in Keyport NJ. Almost immediately we grew to fifteen people at the campaign meeting. Before long our team grew to thirty campaign volunteers meeting each Tuesday evening to strategize, and meeting each Saturday to walk door to door with home spun literature designed and printed from our home computers. We opened a campaign account with \$3,000.00 which we contributed to ourselves. Not being able to afford postage, we relied upon door to door literature drops and roadside rallies with lawn signs to alert the grass roots Republicans that we were seeking the nomination, and to encourage Conservative Independents and Undeclared voters to register as Republicans.

In late March 2010 the County Conventions were held. Our Primary opponent was overwhelmingly selected, in spite of my experience in local elected office, a superior speaking ability, and command of the issues. Obviously the Republican establishment believed that money would win the race. Still the Grass Roots Republicans and Grass Roots Conservatives rejected this candidate because she lived outside the district and was moderate on key issues about which the People of District 6 held strong opinion. Our team was determined to ensure that the Grass Roots Republicans and Grass Roots Conservatives would have a voice in the candidate selection process. I filed my petition to run as a challenger in the Republican Primary.

## **The Primary Campaign**

Our first task was to establish a website. We assembled a knowledgeable team of conservatives to prepare our message on the many issues of interest to the people of District 6. We asked a web site designer and web host from our local republican party to host and design the website. Using a revolutionary theme, we outlined our position on every issue we thought voters might ask about. When the several volunteers contributing to content on the issues for the website had provided their drafts, my husband and his friend designed the website. Once decisions had been made regarding functionality and preliminary design work had been completed, we worked through the day and night and were ready to launch within a weekend. It was a truly a team effort.

We launched our campaign by contacting County Committee chairpersons and County Committee members in every town in the District. The District included forty (40) towns from four (4) counties. Therefore all four (4) County Chairmen received a letter declaring my candidacy. We obtained a list of registered voters from each of the four (4) County Clerks pertaining to the towns included in our Congressional District. Our intention was to knock on each and every door. We asked our campaign volunteers to develop a strategy to reach voters in every town in the district. We asked volunteers to take responsibility for their own towns, and to suggest other volunteers who might be interested in taking responsibility for other towns in the district. We announced our focus town each week at the Tuesday strategy meeting. From Tuesday to Friday we called all registered republicans and republican elected officials in our focus town, while we prepared folders with walking maps and voter registration lists. Inside the folders were our campaign literature, a voter registration form, and a vote by mail application. We also included a two sided page with our position on every issue we could think of. This helped volunteers answer questions during door to door conversations.

Tuesday meetings were strategy sessions and briefing sessions on accomplishments during the prior week. Saturday rallies were door to door meet ups where we split up into pairs and foursomes with parts of the voter registration list. We walked to each registered Republican's door and left a piece of literature and contact information for the campaign. Simply put we

didn't have the money for postage, so we were determined to hand deliver. During the Primary election this door to door activity was coordinated by one of the local Tea Party leaders. This gentleman did not even live in our congressional district, but he was so dedicated to constitutional conservative government that he dedicated himself to our campaign. His walking lists and maps became signature style for our campaign's door to door effort.

Voters truly appreciated seeing the candidate actually standing on their doorstep. Some said they were voting for us just because the candidate knocked on their door. We explained that listening to what the voters were talking about and what questions they were asking helped to focus our message as we were bringing the People's Voice to Washington. Many of those with whom we spoke in our door to door efforts became members of our group and began knocking on doors themselves. Our work empowered everyday citizens to come out of their homes into the streets and begin the process of directing their government.

Our volunteer group grew after every Saturday rally as newly contacted people began to show up for briefings. Thirty volunteers on Tuesdays quickly grew to fifty volunteers at our strategy meetings. When we began discussing our mail campaign, and media campaigning on radio and television, we understood that we needed money for some aspects of those efforts. We did all we could to produce in house and spend funds only on printing, postage, and air time. Canvassing became viewed as a fundraising opportunity too. Within two weekly strategy meetings we had enough money for a week of radio on a New York station, and a week of cable television commercials on Fox News channel on two cable networks. We produced the radio commercial in studio at WOR radio. We produced our commercial in our web developer's business office, editing and inserting required statements with input from the television station. It was a thrill to view our home spun commercial on cable TV. There is truly nothing We The People cannot do if we set our minds to it.

By Primary night we had 75 people in the victory headquarters ready to hear the election results. Monmouth County numbers came in at an overwhelming 10% over our opponent. However, we knew this was not yet a victory. Middlesex County numbers were expected to

be better for our opponent. In fact, they nearly cancelled our lead. The primary election was too close to call by midnight on primary election day. Our volunteers were exhausted, but eager to wait up and hear the final tallies. When fatigue set in some volunteers were declaring that they would bunk in at the restaurant until results were final. Our team determined to end the night by declaring the election tallies too close to call. We all felt in our hearts that whatever the outcome, we had achieved a significant victory for We The People. No more would candidates be chosen without our input. Candidates and party leaders would consult We The People before seeking the nomination or face We The People in a primary in order to set things straight.

By 6am the next morning we were up by 84 votes. We declared our Primary victory, having spent approximately \$19,000 to our opponent's approximately \$250,000. Clearly Grass Roots Conservative Republicans did not believe that a candidate's wealth alone would make a candidate desirable. Clearly We The People did not believe that money was the factor which would win this Congressional race. Rather, the People of District 6 demanded a candidate who agreed with them on the issues, and who had the experience and determination to get things done. The People of District 6 required a candidate who respected them, listened to them and understood their values. We The People in District 6 chose their own candidate, a People's candidate, who would carry their voice to Washington.

We had proven that in New Jersey's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, in the Republican Primary, We The People were in charge and we would select our candidate for our Congressional Seat, the People's seat. The Republican Party in Congressional District 6 would consult We The People in selecting future candidates or face a Primary opponent who, with the support of We The People, would defeat the establishment's candidate over and over again.

## **The General Election**

It took two weeks to examine the vote count and for our opponent to concede, abandoning her demand for a recount. By June 15, we were declared the uncontested victor. Our campaign team had taken a much needed break during the recount in order to recharge and prepare to launch the general election campaign. We sent out a single email blast to supporters to announce the first Tuesday strategy meeting for the general election. To our amazement 125 people attended. We exceeded the fire code requirements and had to spill over into a second section of the restaurant.

About thirty minutes after starting the meeting, a convoy of fire, police and first aid vehicles passed the IHOP. A wounded soldier was returning home from Afghanistan. All 125 people left the IHOP to stand by the road side and cheer the soldier on. The soldier was a well known local volunteer firefighter, and the entire community was grateful he was alive. Three fire companies, countless policemen, and several first aid volunteers accompanied the soldier on his route. Our campaign team held a sign that said "Welcome home!" and we all shouted "Thank you" while waving wildly. It was an uplifting and memorable experience.

Even more memorable and significant is the fact that after the soldier's convoy passed us, every one of the 125 campaign volunteers reentered the IHOP to continue the meeting. We opened with a prayer led by someone in the audience. Prayers varied from Catholic, to Christian, to Jewish, to Evangelical. All religions were welcome, and freely expressed. Next we recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and shared our activity updates and strategy for the next week. Lastly we sang God Bless America after a verse that goes as follows: "While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us pledge allegiance to a land that's free. Let us all be grateful for a land so fair as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.....God Bless America...." Our campaign team has determined that God Bless America is more than just a patriotic tune. It is a prayer for our nation set to song. Every voice was lifted in song. Every person participated.

From the 125 supporters, we identified 18 key staff members and Sunday evening Staff meetings began. These Sunday night meetings were an opportunity for staff members to present updates from various function areas, and to formulate our strategy which would be communicated to the volunteers at our Tuesday strategy meetings. One of our volunteers who had held a house party in the Primary was kind enough to host the staff meetings at her home. Aside from her wholesome home grown cooking, fresh from the garden, she provided a comfortable and private setting for the formation of our historic grass roots campaign. She went on to function as our Communications Director as a staff member for the campaign.

And so it began, "The Little Campaign That Could". Staff meetings grew lengthy, and we moved to a 2nd story business office in Asbury Park rented by another volunteer for his business. Discussions were insightful and lively regarding such subjects as the Fundraising Committee, Get Out the Vote Efforts, Communications, How to Handle the Press, and most importantly How to encourage unity after the Primary among grass roots Conservatives, grass roots Republicans and the main stream establishment Republican Party.

We took a team to Washington DC on several occasions to develop contact with experienced professionals who would help us strategize and form our campaign message. Soon we had a team of professional consultants on staff all of whom charged a moderate fee, and solicited campaign contributions to defray the cost of their service. Even these professionals began to consider themselves Tea Partiers and Anna Little for Congress volunteers. The enthusiasm of our team was infectious.

From July 16, 2010 through November 2, 2010 we continued our Tuesday Strategy Meetings and our Saturday Door to Door Rallies. While Republican leadership warned that we might burn out our volunteers by starting too early, our numbers consistently continued to grow. We commissioned a poll to see how our door to door effort was progressing. The poll showed we were neck in neck with our opponent. The key was that many voters, Republican, Independents, Unaffiliated and even Democrats, were disenchanted with our opponent because of his arrogance and his failure to listen to his constituents when thousands urged him not to vote for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)

also known as Obamacare. His response to the people he served was that he knew better than they how to direct their lives. Some supporters created a YouTube video from a video recording where he stated that it was not Obama's bill, not Harry Reid's bill, not Nancy Pelosi's bill, but rather it was his bill. He wrote it, and he was proud of it. The YouTube spread throughout the district and spawned some bloggers and websites like [www.stoppallone.com](http://www.stoppallone.com) and [www.pallonenotfornewjersey.com](http://www.pallonenotfornewjersey.com). The people of District 6 were outraged. But more importantly our commissioned poll showed that voters who had contact with our candidate or a member of our volunteer team were convinced to vote for our candidate. We became determined to touch the voters via every available method. We knew that if we spoke to every voter, we could win this election.

Our Tuesday meetings multiplied into three different locations in the north, central and southern regions of the district. Meetings were held intentionally in a pancake house, a pizza and ice cream store, and a local VFW meeting hall. All voters regardless of political affiliation felt comfortable attending our meetings. I was honored to attend all three meetings every week to thank everyone and to update them on what I experienced and accomplished during the week. While I would not be present for the prayer and the pledge at every meeting, we made sure I could lead everyone in singing God Bless America at every location. Before the end the of general election cycle we counted almost 200 people in three locations every Tuesday, and roughly 125 people at the Saturday door to door rallies. We were affectionately called Anna's Army. We marched on each town. Everyone knew we were there.

Walking door to door and roadside rallies weren't enough for Anna's Army. Although all townspeople who drove past us could see us at the rally, some voters at home might not realize what was going on. Our team decided to fit some vehicles with oversized signs and a public address system so that we could alert voters in their homes that we were in town and we wanted to meet them. Some of our volunteers owned pick up trucks. They constructed a 4 foot by 8 foot lawn signs in the back of their pick up trucks, and played patriotic music and our radio commercials over the public address system. One man even painted the side and the back of his commercial van with our campaign slogan and a reminder about election day. Our team drove these vehicles through the streets of each town during the Saturday rallies, and while volunteers walked door to door. Voters loved the experience of talking to

our volunteers and seeing the trucks drive by. We coined the vehicles the Anna Little Lawrence Welk fleet: Anna 1, Anna 2, Anna 3, and Anna 4. We encouraged volunteers to decorate their family cars with magnetic campaign signs, and home made signs in their windows. We also distributed bumper stickers which looked like the lawn sign to every supporter who had a vehicle.

In October we marched in a Columbus Day Parade in Long Branch. Our team sent emails and made calls to encourage volunteers and supporters to march with us. When we arrived for the parade we counted 200 people, 10 vehicles including four pick up trucks, two classic cars, two golf carts, a convertible, and a motor cycle. Among those who marched, two volunteers were in wheel chairs and insisted on coming out to support our position against Obamacare. We were described as Anna's Army having descended upon Long Branch for the day, and when we left our campaign signs had been placed all along the parade route. The historic event is captured on video and presented under the StarMoss account on YouTube.

## **The Importance of Grass Roots Media Campaigning**

Among our volunteer team we were blessed with several photographers and videographers who documented our work.

One photographer in particular committed himself to following us around ensuring that everything the candidate did was caught on film. These still shots were posted on Facebook with a description of the event and key quotes from the candidate and those who attended.

One videographer in particular dedicated himself to the campaign in a similar fashion. After video taping several events, meetings and rallies he would create a video collage and add music to the video for effect. These videos were posted on YouTube along with speeches and debates which also were videotaped so that we could reach voters in their own homes at their computers. Themes for these video collages are "We Will Rock You" and "Welcome to the Jungle."

Video collages are displayed under the YouTube account of StarMoss. Additional YouTube videos can be viewed at little4congress and anna little YouTube channels.

## **Election Night**

November 2, 2010 was the night we had all worked for. Our team spent two weeks planning the evening, with bands every half hour, bar and food sponsorships, and every detail of the stage including a riser for the 4' 11" tall candidate to stand on so television cameras would see her face. One volunteer spent the two weeks ensuring that wifi internet connections were installed, and ample electricity would be available for livestreaming for the evening and real time bloggers to report on results. The media was in house in full attendance for the evening. Excitement filled the air.

All totaled nearly 650 people poured into the Shore Casino Restaurant at Atlantic Highlands Municipal Harbor, in Atlantic Highlands, NJ. Many volunteers and political activists from the tri-state area were in attendance. Supporters from all over NJ District 6 and throughout the state came to share in the results election night evening. We began this as a team, and we were finishing it as a team. It was an intense nine month non-stop campaign. Some had to drop back periodically to address the needs of their families and businesses. Everyone came home to the Election Night event to share in the results, whatever they may be, together as a family – as a team.

Words cannot express our experience that evening. This was our seventh political campaign. We believed we knew what to expect. The crowd was larger than any we had experienced before, but otherwise a campaign was a campaign; Or so we thought. The truth is we had never experienced a true People's Campaign before. This campaign was not a "business as usual" political campaign. This campaign was a passionate mission into which folks had put their heart and soul. Volunteers spent their last dollar and their last dime, putting businesses on hold and expending themselves physically to exhaustion at all hours of the day and night unceasingly from February through November. This Election Night was as intensely different from previous election nights as this Campaign was intensely different from previous campaigns.

We entered the room to a festive crowd full of hugs and kisses and shouts of "We Love You"

and “Don't forget us when you go to Washington.” A separate room had been made ready with a television to allow the candidate and her family to receive results in privacy for periods throughout the evening. Several times throughout the night we circulated on the floor listening to the several bands who entertained us as we waited. Each time we saw volunteers, supporters and friends who greeted us with uplifting and inspiring phrases. We saw the prayer circles our volunteers had formed in the great room.

We were ready for a long night. Indeed, the night was late before results were fully tallied. We were ahead all evening. We made history by winning Monmouth County in the southern part of District 6 by 4%. Shouts and cheers of celebration filled the room as we prepared for victory. Surely we believed we would make history in the Northern counties of the district too. No challenger had ever defeated our opponent in Monmouth County before. Monmouth County was his home county, but it was our home county too. We campaigned long and hard in the north of the district. Our opponent hadn't campaigned at all. We believed we had won our election. We believed the 110,000 doors on which we had knocked would ensure our voters made it to the polls.

As the numbers rolled in late into the evening, our lead diminished and our opponent declared victory. The sheer number of voters who turned out in the densely populated, Democrat leaning, northern part of the district in urban cities overwhelmed our base. In one such city the turnout exceeded that of the 2008 Presidential election. We knew we were dealing with voter fraud. Calls came in from cities in the north reporting that offers had been made for \$75 per person to “Get Out the Vote” in one city. Reports stated that vans pulled up to the election sites bringing voters to the polls and that our opponent greeted them as they entered the polls. A targeted assault on that city and one other had been orchestrated with the help of union leaders. They worked hard to defeat us. We The People gave the machine a run for the money that night. Never had our opponent had such difficulty defending his incumbency. In our blue state, ours was an historic and notable accomplishment.

We recognized our historic results of 46% to 54% as a major accomplishment, but so many of our volunteers and supporters were new to campaigns and politics. This was their first

experience with an election. They had expected a victory. We were sure they would go home defeated, and we fully expected to exit our private area to an empty room. We could not have been more incorrect. As we stepped out into the great room, we noted that nearly the entire crowd remained, waiting to greet us and to offer us condolences and support. The team presented us with a poster in the shape of a heart. The heart was made up of white envelopes from volunteers and supporters with personal notes from each person. The colors were patriotic red, white and blue. The gesture brought tears to our eyes, and warmed our hearts. Never before had we experienced such solid personal support given to a candidate for public office. The experience was humbling and inspiring at the same time. We were a true team of patriots, full of love for our country and love for each other fighting to take it back. But nothing compares with the significance of the next gift presented to us: A beautiful file box decorated with printouts of black and white pictures of our team at various times throughout the campaign, given to us on stage at the time of our concession speech. In it was the Bayshore Tea Party Quilt that had been hanging in the Tea Party office where the phone banks for Americans For Prosperity were coordinated. There was no holding back our emotion at this point. All the love in our hearts poured out at that moment to every individual present in the room and those who were watching and waiting with us at home. This gift was the most significant gift we had ever received from a campaign team. It signified the historic primary campaign we waged against all odds, underfunded and on our own, using the "Tea Party Approved" slogan on the ballot for the first time in our state. It represented our Primary Victory off the line by which Grass Roots Republicans directly chose their Candidate for Congress to fill the People's Seat in District 6. This gift demonstrated the Grass Roots Identity of our campaign and the mission of our team: To prove that We The People are in charge, and we will direct our government.

After accepting these gifts, all thoughts prepared for a concession speech had vacated our minds. We spoke about how grateful we were for everything each volunteer had done to bring us so close to victory. We spoke about how much we had accomplished. We told everyone to be proud of what they had achieved. We told them we had made history, and that while we hadn't won the election, we had been victorious. It was at that moment that the question arose: "Would you like to do this again?" The crowd erupted in applause and

cheers. This group was ready to continue what they had started. These patriots were not yet ready to give up the fight. We spoke about some ways to stay active in the years between this election and the next. We finished by stating that the next election begins the day after election day.

The applause and excitement was overwhelming. We did not feel defeated. In fact, we felt as if we had won. As we exited the stage, the band began to play our song: "In The Mood". My husband and I had danced to that song together for nearly 25 years. Gifts were taken from our arms and we danced our Victory Dance. Supporters joined us on the dance floor. We celebrated the friends we had made, and the constituents we had met. We celebrated our love of our country, the future for our children and our grandchildren. We continued on into the evening celebrating our accomplishments and thinking of our future work together. Media interviews followed as surprised interviewers asked about the mood of the evening and future plans. We emphatically stated that it seemed that the consensus of We The People in District 6 was to continue what we had begun. When asked, we stated that we would run again.

## **Epilogue: The Moral of our Story**

Five people gathered in a pancake house. Then came fifteen people, then thirty. Suddenly a team formed and a candidate was born. What followed became a People's Army: An unstoppable force of nature that unceasingly continues to fight oppression by taxes and overregulation. This movement cannot be defeated. We will not go home. We will not go away. We are the majority and we are silent no more.

Over 236 years ago ordinary men with limited financial means could no longer tolerate tyranny from their government. With a patriotic fire in their hearts and love for their God and for their families, they set out to fight against tyranny to defend their God given unalienable rights. By their actions and what followed the United States of America was born: A Republic by which We The People are both the governed and the government. Our challenge is to be ever vigilant over our government; To ensure that tyranny does not return.

Our nation's founders embarked on a "great experiment". They had never lived under a Republic form of government before. They did not know their future. They only knew their past was wrong and intolerable. By their faith they forged on fighting a bloody war for our freedom. Freedom is not free. It is purchased by the blood left on the battle fields, the sacrifices of our founders and every soldier who follows their example today.

We have an advantage. We have lived under this form of government our entire lives. We know what works, and we know what does not work. We are as qualified, or perhaps more qualified than our founders to correct what is ill in our nation's government. We owe it to our founders, our military and our families to continue what they began. We must honor their sacrifice. We must uphold their legacy.

Our founders had to pick up a musket and fight a bloody war in order to gain freedom. Wishing that no one should ever have to endure such horror and suffering again, they left us their legacy: The Constitution of the United States. By this legacy, our beloved Constitution, "We The People" are in charge and charged with directing our government. By informing

ourselves about our government operations, and using our voice to participate fully in our government, we honor the legacy of the Founders, and the sacrifice of our military who defend our freedom today. We must never fail to tell our elected officials what we think about the work they are doing for us in government. We must continuously communicate with them, directing them to do what We The People desire them to do.

The moral of our story is that We The People can and We The People will direct our government as our Founders intended, and as our beloved Constitution requires. We have already demonstrated our ability to come together and work toward our common goals. Victory is not achieved in a single election cycle. Our work has only just begun.

**We, Anna's Army, believe in you.** We know your patriotic love for your country, your love for your God and your love for your families burns within you. We know that you are invincible once you decide to act. Our story is just one story among hundreds across the country. If we can accomplish so much in New Jersey, a blue state, imagine what you can accomplish wherever you are. Because of you, we are certain that We the People will direct our government. Come on We The People, let's go take our government back.