

Congressman George Radanovich



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NEW RELEASE
Resources Chairman Pombo Selects Radanovich to Chair National Parks Subcommittee
February 10, 2005

Washington, DC - House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Tracy) today announced the leadership of the committee's five subcommittees. Rep. George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) was again selected to serve as Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands.

Inside the Issues



Rep. Radanovich's Writing Record

Congressman George Radanovich's 107th Congress Legislative accomplishments



The group gave the Web site of Rep. George Radanovich its highest award, the Golden Mouse.

Lawmakers' Web Sites Improving, Report Finds

By BRIAN D. FALER
Special to The Washington Post

It is not the Internet Revolution on Capitol Hill that we have been promised. But over the past year, scores of lawmakers have vastly improved their Web sites, transforming them from little more than fancy advertisements into "virtual offices" that provide an array of services to their constituents.

That is the conclusion of a report to be released today by the Congress Online Project, a nonpartisan group that monitors, studies, pokes and prods lawmakers' Web sites, with an eye toward making them more useful to the public.

And it is a sharp contrast from last year, when the group first rated 605 lawmaker, leadership and committee sites, based on their content, how easily information could be found and how much opportunity they gave users to interact with their representatives. Those results, at best, were mixed. The group gave A or B grades to just 10 percent of those sites. This year, the project gave A or B grades to half those sites, while handing out more than twice as many—75—of its Online Mouse Awards.

"At the member level down to the Web designer level, there has been a completely different level of attention and commitment to making [the Internet] an effective communications tool," said Rick Shapiro, executive director of the Congressional Management Foundation, which, with George Washington University, conducted the study. "This really has been a dramatic, rapid change."

The group found more lawmakers focusing less on posting heroic biographies and pictures from local ribbon-cuttings—what had been standard fare for so many sites—and more on providing useful information

targeted to their constituencies. Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.), one of the lawmakers who won the group's highest award, the Golden Mouse, has a site that allows users to choose news and links specific to the county in which they live.

Rep. George Radanovich (R-Calif.), who also won a Golden Mouse, has a "Life Events" page that provides links to government services for every stage of life, from birth to marriage to death. And Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.), also a winner, has an "Education Resource Center" that allows users to search for college financial aid, track federal education initiatives and find information on local school programs.

Not everyone passed the group's tests with such flying colors. The project still considers about one-fourth of the sites to be substandard—only slightly fewer than last year. It is not naming names, but said those sites still tend to focus on promoting the boss, be weighed down by elaborate graphics that take too long to load and give users little opportunity to interact with their representatives.

Even the best sites could be improved, Shapiro said. More lawmakers, for example, are providing at least some access to their voting records—about 37 percent of House members and 14 percent of senators. But that is only a small minority, he said.

More broadly, he said, there is not a single, easy-to-use Internet gateway to the legislative branch. Unlike the administration, which has its FirstGov.gov site, Shapiro said, Congress's online presence is a tangle of different sites that take a fair amount of patience and familiarity with the institution to navigate.

But on the whole, the group said it was impressed with what it found.