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District reaction to Mitrano re-entering Congressional race

By Vaughn Golden Nov 26, 2018

Tracy Mitrano, conceded the congressional midterm to Corning Republican, Tom Reed eight days ago, but the Penn Yan Democrat is bouncing back, announcing that she'll seek the same office in 2020.

"Though we didn't cross the finish line this time around, we built a grassroots movement that will continue to grow over the next two years," Mitrano said in a statement Wednesday evening. "I am deeply grateful to the hundreds of supporters who have urged me to run again, and I have always said I was in this fight for the long haul."



Tracy Mitrano

Robert Barker

Mitrano's announcement followed a conference call with chairmen from each of the Democratic committees throughout the congressional district. Chautauqua County Democratic Chair, Norm Green, says he's all-in for Mitrano's 2020 bid.

"There's things that she did really good and things that she'll have to do better," Green said. "If she did everything really good, then she'd be down at orientation for members of congress."

Mitrano entered the 2018 general election after a contentious five-way primary that cost the Democrats financially and in terms of focusing their message against Reed. Green thinks that backing Mitrano early and avoiding a primary is the best way forward for Democrats to possibly take the seat back in 2020.

"There's no sense in anyone else getting involved. We're already full speed ahead," Green said.

Other Democratic chairs who were on the call could not be immediately reached for comment.

The early announcement could stir contention in the district which stretches from Jamestown to Ithaca and comprises diverse sets of left leaning ideology.

New York Progressive Action Network, a progressive statewide advocacy group founded in the wake of Bernie Sanders' 2016 campaign, endorsed Ithaca entrepreneur, Ian Golden, during the 2018 Democratic primary. The group did not endorse Mitrano in the general election. Stephen Carpineta, Director of the Tioga County Chapter, had no comment about Mitrano's announcement.

Mitrano lost the midterm to Reed last Tuesday 55-45, trailing by about 22,000 votes. She handily carried Tompkins County with 75.6 percent of the vote, while Reed did well in much of the rest of the district. He secured 59.3 percent of the vote in Chautauqua County and 64.8 percent in Steuben County.

“The people spoke last week and definitively rejected Tracy Mitrano’s extreme agenda,” said Abbey Daugherty, communications director for Tom Reed for Congress. “Tom will continue to be an effective, bipartisan leader and deliver results by listening to the hardworking people across our district.”

Mitrano accepted the results, but claims the progress she made on issues and grassroots organization over the 2018 campaign will give her momentum moving into the next two years.

“Last Tuesday’s results don’t change the facts: the people of Western New York, the Finger Lakes, and the Southern Tier deserve affordable healthcare, education that doesn’t come with a lifetime of debt, modern infrastructure, proper conservation of our natural resources, and tax policies that serve the working and middle class—not the 1% and big corporations,” the Mitrano campaign continued in its statement.

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