

## Greenwood reaffirms support of Fitzpatrick

By: **PAUL RUPPEL** (Sat, Sep/18/2004)

Using a field of cornstalks as the backdrop Friday afternoon, Bucks County Commissioner Mike Fitzpatrick and Congressman Jim Greenwood stood side by side.

They touted similar positions, such as supporting the 1997 voter referendum that led to preservation of over 8,000 acres of Bucks County farmland including None Such Farm on York Road, where they stood.

The press conference was to reaffirm **Greenwood's support** for the new Republican candidate.

"I'm here to make it perfectly clear that I am 100 percent behind Mike Fitzpatrick," Greenwood said. **"Mike has asked me to be his general campaign chairman. I have agreed to do that,** and I want to tell you some of the reasons I've made that decision..."

Yet, Democrats called them "the New Odd Couple" in a press statement, saying it's "no secret" the congressman was pulling for state Sen. Joe Conti.

Virginia Waters Schrader said Greenwood's socially moderate positions sit better with local voters than Fitzpatrick's views.

"Make no mistake, Mike Fitzpatrick is no Jim Greenwood," she said. "And no amount of dressing up can erase the fact that Mike Fitzpatrick is too far to the right to represent the 8th District in Congress."

After introducing and praising Greenwood, Fitzpatrick noted Friday that the congressman previously was chairman of his 1995 commissioner campaign and the "Vote Yes Committee" for the open space referendum.

While Fitzpatrick doesn't share Greenwood's pro-choice views on abortion (except **in cases of incest, rape or when the mother's life is in danger**), the two men highlighted similar positions on the environment, job creation, medical malpractice reform and others.

Both men admitted that they had several conversations before Greenwood agreed to the campaign post.

"If Mike had said 'I'm opposed to stem cell research, I'm opposed to family planning, I want to hurry up and get a constitutional amendment against gay marriage,' it would have been a difficult thing for me to stand here," Greenwood said. "That's not where he is."

Regarding the timing, Fitzpatrick said simply that they had waited until people were more engaged and listening.

Then, Greenwood took the fight to the Democratic opponent: "Mike might be a little bit to my right over here, but Virginia Schrader is way over the horizon there on the left."

He criticized Schrader's experience, tax policies and said he has never met her.

"In fact, she has missed, I think, half of the opportunities to even cast a vote," Greenwood said.

He was referring to the fact that Schrader voted only in presidential general elections between 1994, when she moved into Bucks County, and 2001, when she changed her registration to Democrat.

"If you can't get out to cast your vote twice a year, I really don't know how anyone would expect that you're going to cast your vote over and over again, day after day in Washington," Greenwood said.

Fitzpatrick added that Schrader could have voted on the open space ballot question in the 1997 primary, even if she was registered as an independent.

Schrader's campaign manager, Brian Welsh, confirmed in a later phone interview that she was registered as an independent at the time, and he said she has voted in every election since November 2000.

"Ginny has been very active in the resurgence of the Democratic Party in this area," Welsh said.

**Paul Ruppel can be reached at (215) 957-8168 or [pruppel@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:pruppel@phillyBurbs.com).**

---

Article's URL:

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/113-09182004-367893.html>