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**EVERYBODY**

**Date: March 19, 2020**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Re: Marie Newman's Victory over Anti-Choice Democrat Dan Lipinski in IL-03 Democratic Primary**

**From: NARAL Pro-Choice America**

In one of the most closely-watched primary races in the 2020 election cycle, NARAL-endorsed progressive challenger Marie Newman ousted anti-choice Democratic incumbent Dan Lipinski in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District. **Newman's victory is a resounding affirmation that reproductive freedom is a winning issue**, and underscores how Lipinski's out-of-touch agenda—which includes overturning *Roe v. Wade* and banning abortion—does not sit well with voters. **NARAL invested heavily in Marie Newman's races in both 2018 and 2020**, knowing from the beginning that this was a fight worth waging, and one that would move the needle in solidifying support for reproductive freedom as a non-negotiable Democratic value. NARAL deployed staff, ran ads, knocked doors, made phone calls, engaged members in the district through digital communications, and more.

### ***Lipinski's Anti-Choice Record Was Core to His Loss***

Lipinski turned his back on the women and families of IL-03 time and time again. From co-sponsoring 54 bills restricting reproductive freedom to voting against the Affordable Care Act, it was abundantly clear that his values didn't align with his constituents or the Democratic Party. Earlier this year, Lipinski signed onto an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, though the [majority of people in Illinois](#) believe abortion should be legal and 77% of Americans support the landmark abortion rights decision.

The results of this race show that voters in IL-03 wouldn't stand by and allow politicians like Lipinski to prioritize their own ideological agenda over the values and wellbeing of those they were elected to represent and trample on their fundamental rights.

### ***In 2018 and in 2020, NARAL Knew From the Start That This Was a Battle Worth Fighting***

That's why we led the charge to support Newman when she jumped into the race in 2017. NARAL was proud to get behind Newman early as one of the first organizations to endorse her in November 2017, and helped close a 36-point initial gap to less than 2 points in her razor-thin loss to Lipinski in 2018.

This time around, NARAL again endorsed Newman early in the race and our members knocked doors, drove calls, and turned out to support her, helping propel her to a victory with 47% of the vote as of Thursday morning [according to](#) the *New York Times*.

NARAL joined our allies at SEIU, EMILY's List's independent expenditure arm WOMEN VOTE!, Indivisible, Planned Parenthood Votes, and Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) in February to [launch](#) a **\$1.4 million independent expenditure program in the district to expose Lipinski's extreme record using direct mail, television ad buys, and digital persuasion ads**. And when some polling locations shifted as part of a precautionary measure to protect against the coronavirus, NARAL ran digital ads to help residents of IL-03 find where they should go to vote.

But that's not all: NARAL deployed a full-time organizer to the district for the final stretch of the campaign. **We knocked on nearly 1,200 doors, engaged our members and volunteers across the country to make approximately 25,000 calls to voters in the district, and engaged over 2,300 NARAL members in the district through digital communications such as email and text. Meanwhile, we never stopped working to hold Lipinski accountable for his record.** As the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *June Medical Services LLC v. Russo* in early March, our members [held an action](#) outside of Lipinski's office to hold his feet to the fire for working against our reproductive freedom.

NARAL President Ilyse Hogue's statement after Newman's victory on March 17:

*"The voters of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District have spoken loud and clear, rejecting Rep. Dan Lipinski's anti-choice, anti-equality, and anti-worker agenda. They have a champion in Marie Newman and soon will have a representative in Congress who shares their values and priorities. Marie Newman's victory is the culmination of years of work to unseat an entrenched incumbent and proves that voters across the country are in no mind to stand by as their elected officials throw women and families under the bus.*

*In times of crisis, fundamental freedoms and rights matter, and those of women are hanging on by a thread in this country. Women voters know it. Threats to Roe rank high on their list of electoral decisions. The results in IL-03 fit in with a broader pattern showing that abortion rights cannot be up for debate if we want to win big in 2020. NARAL and its members are proud to support Marie Newman and to have mobilized on her behalf throughout both of her primaries and will continue to do so for her and all of our pro-choice champions on the ballot this fall."*

### **Marie Newman's Victory in IL-03 Reaffirms That Supporting Reproductive Freedom Builds Power and Is a Recipe for Political Success**

Marie Newman's victory over Lipinski in the IL-03 primary is the latest proof that reproductive freedom is [a winning issue](#) for candidates across the country. Last November, NARAL and its members helped elect pro-choice Democrat Andy Beshear to the governorship in Kentucky,

ousting anti-choice extremist Matt Bevin. And in Virginia, NARAL Pro-Choice America and NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia helped flip both chambers of the state legislature, ushering in a pro-choice trifecta.

***With Reproductive Freedom Facing Unprecedented Threats, It Is Critical That Our Elected Officials Step Up and Fight for Women and Families***

Voters in IL-03 took to the ballot box to demand a true champion for women and families who reflects their values and priorities. **They knew that Marie Newman would work to safeguard their fundamental rights, including their ability to make their own decisions about pregnancy free from political interference.**

It couldn't come at a more critical moment. As the anti-choice movement continues to lay siege on reproductive freedom, it is crucial that Democrats stand united in their commitment to protecting abortion access. Since Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court cemented an anti-choice majority on the bench, anti-choice state lawmakers have launched an all-out assault on access to abortion in hopes that a challenge will make its way to the Court and lead to the rollback of *Roe*. Extreme bans on abortion were introduced, passed, or signed in 31 states in 2019 alone.

***Anti-Choice Movement Quaking in Their Boots Over Lipinski's Loss***

In the aftermath of Newman's resounding victory, anti-choice organizations are conceding that their out-of-touch agenda may be a doomed agenda for Democrats hoping to stay in or run for office. The anti-choice group Susan B. Anthony List, which poured resources into Lipinski's failed primary, [called Lipinski's](#) defeat an "ominous sign for" Democrats hostile to abortion rights in a statement.

***NARAL Will Remain on the Front Lines, Working to Advance Candidates Like Marie Newman Who Fight to Make Reproductive Freedom a Reality for Every Body***

As Newman heads towards the general election in November, a race she is heavily favored to win, her victory in the primary is a lesson that goes beyond this particular district: Reproductive freedom is non-negotiable and supporting our fundamental rights galvanizes voters, particularly critical soft-partisan suburban women. Leaning into these issues builds power and support among voters key to bringing home victory.

Every candidate endorsed by NARAL plays a crucial role in fighting back against the anti-choice agenda and the Trump administration's dangerous attacks on reproductive freedom. NARAL and our members are fighting every day to uphold our progressive values, and we won't back down when our rights are on the line. That's why NARAL [announced](#) in December that it would invest \$34.7 million in a historic 2020 electoral program to win races up and down the ballot.