

10th District Congress Endorsement: Seals (D)

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Being part of the leadership group in Congress can be a blessing or a curse.

This year, it's a curse.

As assistant majority whip for Republicans in the U.S. House, Mark Kirk is responsible for keeping the GOP troops in line behind his party's message. And when you live by the whip, you die by the whip.

In the past two years, Congress has done what, exactly? Name a major initiative from which we've benefited.

Sorry; time's up.

Which is also our position on Kirk's three-term tenure in Congress. That's a shame, because he brings great experience to the job.

But Republicans' reign in Congress has been especially disappointing because it arrived with such promise. Fiscal restraint? Limited government? Preservation of freedoms? You must be kidding.

Fact is, House members' indictments outnumber their accomplishments.

Democrat Dan Seals is a knowledgeable, articulate young man who also has worked in Washington, first for semi-Democratic Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, and later in the Clinton bureaucracy. Though he lacks Kirk's experience, Seals is no stranger to Capitol Hill.

And we believe he is the best chance the 10th District has of contributing to a much needed change of direction on The Hill.

Not that we're confident Democrats have all the answers. But, really, how much worse could it be?