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Democrat Mark Pera earns an early endorsement from Chicago's Northside DFA

Northside DFA, a progressive political organization representing Chicago's North Side, voted last week to endorse Democrat Mark Pera in his bid to un-seat U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski in Illinois' 3rd Congressional district.

DFA members reached their decision during their September meeting and the Pera campaign made a formal announcement about the endorsement over the weekend.

Northside DFA co-host Sandra Verthein said Pera will steer Congress down the right path on a number of issues.

"We need a new direction in this country, and we are not going to get there with someone who stands down on the votes that matter," she said.

"Mark Pera is right on all the issues that Dan Lipinski is so wrong on. And unlike Lipinski, if elected he will owe his allegiance to the people instead of to the Democratic machine."

Pera said he is pleased that Northside DFA is part of the coalition coming onboard the campaign.

"DFA made a real impact in some of the state and national races last year," Pera said "We appreciate the endorsement and we're pleased to have them on our side this early in the campaign — five months before the Feb. 5 primary.

Northside DFA (an acronym for "Democracy for America") is a diverse group of volunteers who work to elect socially progressive, fiscally responsible, and ethically committed Democrats to office at all levels of government.

In 2006, Northside DFA volunteers campaigned on behalf of Democratic Congressional candidate Dan Seals — who ran in Illinois' 10th district — and state Sen. Dan Kotowski, D-33rd, who defeated incumbent Republican state Sen. Cheryl Axley.

The group recently endorsed Daniel Biss, a Democrat running for the state House seat currently held by state Rep. Beth Coulson, R-17th.

For more information on Mark Pera, please visit www.PERA08.com.

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