

## **JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP ENDORSES JEFF SMITH FOR CONGRESSIONAL SEAT**

### **In The Face Of Establishment Grassroots Members Vote To Endorse Jeff Smith For 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District Democratic Nomination**

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**\*\*\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*\*\***

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004---** Despite opposition from the group's three leading officers, the Jefferson Township Democratic Club endorsed educator and St. Louis native Jeff Smith for Congress from Missouri's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. The township club, the biggest in the state of Missouri, canvasses Jefferson Township for its endorsed candidates and provides Smith's grassroots campaign with even more boots on the ground.

"Yesterday the Jefferson Township Democratic club proved that grassroots support can overcome party machines and the status quo. My supporters are excited about my candidacy, not about my 'name recognition,' and they are willing to stand up for the best candidate in the race," Smith said. "This is the kind of grass roots energy that is going to prevail at the polls on August 3<sup>rd</sup>."

Smith's supporters shared his enthusiasm. "Jeff Smith is the most exciting candidate I've seen in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. He is the clear choice for progressive Democrats," Anne Wilding of Webster Groves said after the meeting. "Jeff has the vision, intelligence, experience and principles to make a difference in Washington. His enthusiastic supporters made themselves heard at the Jefferson Township Democratic Club meeting last night," Wilding added.

Smith noted that his supporters at the meeting responded to his innovative ideas and vision for the future, showing that a non-traditional candidate can win elections against establishment candidates.

"Tonight my supporters proved that a positive vision for the future, and a belief in democracy will trump the status quo mentality of machine politics every time. My supporters were not intimidated by the Club's leadership and its tired arguments. My supporters are interested in electing the best representative for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District."

Smith said his campaign was gaining tremendous momentum, noting in addition to his grassroots momentum he has raised over \$250,000 since beginning fundraising six months ago. Smith has more cash on hand after just six months (\$181,000) than all but one of his opponents, Russ Carnahan, who has been raising money for 15 months.

Smith's experience uniquely qualifies him to serve in a House of Representatives composed of 177 lawyers with an average age of 54. Smith, 30, has distinguished himself as an award-winning teacher of political science and public policy at Washington University and UM-St. Louis, as co-founder (with Susan Uchitelle and Sarah Smith) of *The Confluence Academies*, a group of acclaimed public charter schools in the City of St. Louis, and as a longtime youth basketball coach. Though this is his first run for office, Smith has been involved in several local and national Democratic campaigns, including a stint as Deputy Political Director for Bill Bradley's 2000 presidential campaign.