

No contest for Amodei; NV seat in the House still GOP

By Kyle Trygstad, Roll Call

Republican Mark Amodei ran away with a victory Tuesday night in the special election for Nevada's 2nd district.

Amodei, a former state legislator and ex-state GOP chairman, took 57 percent of the vote to Democratic state Treasurer Kate Marshall's 37 percent with 66 percent of precincts reporting.



Mark Amodei

Amodei keeps the seat in GOP hands following the Senate appointment of Republican Dean Heller in May. The rural district, which includes all of Nevada outside metro Las Vegas, has never elected a Democrat to the House since it was created in 1981.

That fact, along with President Barack Obama's 33 percent approval rating and the Marshall campaign's inability to find a message that moved voters in her direction, led to this race becoming even less competitive than the other Tuesday special election in New York's heavily Democratic 9th district.

Nevada added a fourth district through reapportionment, so this district will change when Amodei seeks a full term in November 2012. It's the most likely of the four districts to be a safe Republican seat, but nothing is certain with the state's redistricting process now in the courts.

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