



# PRESS RELEASE

## Recreational Fishing Alliance

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For Immediate Release  
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### **REPUBLICAN BOB TURNER WINS NEW YORK 9TH Long Time Blue District Sees Red In Special Election**

Voters in New York's 9th Congressional District made a huge political statement yesterday by voting to send a Republican to Congress to represent them, the first time that's happened since 1923. The Republican, Bob Turner, is a retired cable television executive who defeated Assemblyman David Weprin, son of a prominent Democratic political family in the metropolitan area, in a special election to replace disgraced politician Anthony Weiner who resigned earlier this summer.

Turner of Breezy Point, Queens held an impressive 54-46 lead over Weprin as of this morning with 88 percent of the precincts tallied, but at noon today Weprin formally conceded the race.

In his victory speech, Congressman-elect Turner said the results make a strong statement on the national stage, particularly for President Obama as he prepares to seek re-election in 2012. "This message will resound for a full year. It will resound into 2012," said Turner, adding "I only hope our voices are heard, and we can start putting things right again."

The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) had publicly endorsed Turner in the tightly contested race, and believes strongly that the voice of the coastal fishing community was indeed heard loud and clear in the special election.

"RFA was proud to support and endorse Bob Turner for this seat in New York's 9th Congressional District," said RFA executive director Jim Donofrio. "The New York metropolitan area is home to many saltwater fishermen who Mr Weiner ignored, but now we have a member of Congress who cares about our way of life and the thousands of jobs that recreational fishing supports in New York's marine district."

RFA said Weiner failed to support important fisheries reform legislation that would've provided improved access to rebuilding coastal fisheries for saltwater fishermen from the district, and he also voted in Congress to support 'catch share' programs which are being supported by radical environmental groups and which are staunchly opposed by members of the fishing community.

"A lot of folks don't realize that New York's 9th is a coastal district, and our Sheepshead Bay fishing fleet especially is being gravely impacted by over-burdensome regulations which are desperately in need of reform," said RFA managing director Jim Hutchinson, Jr., a resident of Turner's district who is also president of the New York Sportfishing Federation.

"Congressman-elect Turner is a coastal fisherman himself, and after speaking with him during the campaign I believe strongly that our local fishing community is in much better shape today than we have been in several years."

Turner is expected to be sworn-in as early as Thursday.

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*The Recreational Fishing Alliance is a national, grassroots political action organization representing recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry on marine fisheries issues. RFA's Mission is to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our Nation's saltwater fisheries. For more information, call 888-JOIN-RFA or visit [www.joinrfa.org](http://www.joinrfa.org).*