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CONTACT: Janel Causey
jcausey@gopnm.org (505) 298-3662

Dems Vote for GOP Candidate at Their Own Nominating Convention
Dem. Party won't comment on ballots cast for Barela. What are they hiding?

Albuquerque, NM—According to reports, at Saturday's Democrat Pre-Primary Nominating Convention, approximately 30 delegates cast their ballot not in support of incumbent Martin Heinrich—the Democrat Party's uncontested congressional candidate— but for his GOP challenger, Jon Barela.

“The fact that approximately thirty delegates sent such a clear message to the Democrat party's leadership is telling,” noted Ryan Cangioli, the Republican Party of New Mexico's executive director. “When you have a group of party stalwarts recognizing that Republican Jon Barela would better serve constituents in the First Congressional District than would the current Democrat incumbent, it is time to rethink the strategy of sending someone to Washington who would rather heel to Nancy Pelosi than represent his district's interests.”

According to interviews conducted by the *New Mexico Watchdog*, three Democrat ward chairmen and at least one former state representative rejected Representative Martin Heinrich's nomination and instead substituted Jon Barela's name on the ballot. They did so based on Heinrich's attitude toward the military and the feeling that the freshman lawmaker was putting San Francisco interests above the needs of New Mexico.

Watchdog has requested that the Democrat Party release the number of votes which were cast for Barela, but has not received any response.

“It is not surprising that the party is trying to hide the fact that their uncontested nominee is already struggling to shore up his own party's support,” continued Cangioli. “Jon Barela is a strong, conservative candidate and we anticipate he will attract a great deal of Independent and Democrat support in November.”

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