

## **NEW SENATOR PROFILES: HEATH MELLO AND KATE SULLIVAN**

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**E**ach week between now and the end of the year, we are profiling two of Nebraska's newly elected senators. Sixteen senators will begin their first term January 7, 2009. This is the second in a series of profiles.

**Heath Mello, Omaha (District 5)**, overwhelmed his opponent, Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan in a race to replace term-limited Don Preister in this south Omaha district. Mello won in each of the counties comprising the district, Douglas and Sarpy, by margins of 69% and 62% respectively, very high numbers for a non-incumbent.

Mello currently serves as the Coordinator for Community Development at the Metropolitan Community College Foundation and is a former Senior Aide to Senator Ben Nelson. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2002.

Mello, a Democrat, was endorsed by Senator Nelson, as well as by Senator Preister and the *Omaha World-Herald*. The Legislature will be Mello's first public office.

**Kate Sullivan, Cedar Rapids (District 41)**, won a close race in a large district in central Nebraska. Sullivan won six of the nine counties that comprise the district. Her overall margin of victory was 4%. Sullivan also was elected to a seat vacated by term limits. Senator Vickie McDonald, of St. Paul, had served the district since being appointed in 2001 by Governor Johanns to fill the seat held by her late husband, Richard, who died while in office.

Sullivan, who holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Home Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, serves on the Board of Directors for the Cedar Rapids State Bank. She and her husband Mike have two children.

The *Omaha-World Herald* endorsed Sullivan, a Democrat, who has served 12 years on the Cedar Rapids School Board. She was also endorsed by Senator McDonald.

For more information on the Nebraska Legislature, please contact Andy Pollock at [apollock@remboltludtke.com](mailto:apollock@remboltludtke.com). Andy is a registered lobbyist at the Nebraska Legislature.

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