In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene in 2011, Representative Hayworth made another misstep in representing her constituents. The hurricane caused massive amounts of damage to New York and even her district; so much damage in fact that FEMA announced to Congress that it did not have enough resources to alleviate the situation. When they requested more assistance, the Republican Party and Nan Hayworth said they would not distribute any more funds unless concessions were made elsewhere (Seitz-Wald). This resulted in a delay of funds that would have directly benefited Hayworth's district. Representative Hayworth has done an exceptional job in not following through on most of her campaign promises. Her opponent this fall will surely capitalize on Ms. Hayworth's ability to flip flop and disappoint her voters.

This November Nan Hayworth is running against Sean Patrick Maloney. Maloney beat four other Democrats in the primary and will face a sitting incumbent with a large war chest of funding (Weathers). The Democratic Party backed Maloney with high hopes of dislodging the 18th District from Republican grasp. The electoral race is a battleground in which both parties have invested large amounts of funds.

Maloney is a former senior West Wing advisor to the Clinton administration and served as Deputy Secretary to New York Governors Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson. He has vast political knowledge and the political support of the Democratic Party and many influential individuals, including President Bill Clinton. The former President had this to say about Maloney: "Sean worked closely with me in the White House to create jobs, grow our economy and balance the budget. It's time to bring a common sense approach back to Congress, and Sean Patrick Maloney is the right Democrat to help restore the economy and get people back to work in the Hudson Valley" (Katz). Maloney is a strong proponent for restoring the economy, supporting new jobs through job growth, protecting Medicare, as well as opposing tax cuts for the rich. While Maloney seems like a fantastic candidate for the 18th District, he has the flaws of being associated with political scandals of the Clinton and Spitzer administrations. Maloney is also openly homosexual but prides himself on the fact, and he lives with his partner and their three children.

The upcoming election will be a close one in the 18th district. The district's people are not afraid to vote for change, and it is considered a swing district. Maloney is running on the platform of change and supports basically everything Hayworth opposed for the last two years. He also enjoys large amounts of support from popular Democrats and special interest groups. Nan Hayworth's campaign attempts to paint her as a moderate who supports middle class workers and small businesses, but she must overcome the failed support of her district, which alienated her from her constituents.

The candidates discussed have challenging races ahead of them and this election will prove to be a difficult one. Many factors influence elections, but how well these candidates appeal to their constituents will have the greatest effect on whether or not they are elected. By looking at past elections in the 18th District where strong incumbents have made political mistakes and lost by considerable margins, I predict that Representative Hayworth will not be able to overcome the political missteps she made during her first term and will not be re-elected as Representative for the 18th District of New York.

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