

Begich Stumps In Kodiak

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

Anchorage mayor, and Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, Mark Begich was in Kodiak on Sunday for a campaign swing through Crab Fest.

After being courted for months by national Democratic figures, Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich entered the race for his party's nomination last month to try and unseat U.S. Senator Ted Stevens in the fall general election.

He's the son of the late Nick Begich Senior, who, while Alaska's lone congressman, was lost and presumed killed on a small plane flight in Southcentral Alaska. No remains of the crash have ever been found. Mark was just 10 years old when that happened, and because of it, was not attracted to politics until his 20s. He has since served on the Anchorage Assembly and is in his second term as Anchorage mayor. He was once the driver for Tony Knowles when the former governor was mayor of Anchorage.

A candidate can't come to Kodiak — especially during Crab Festival — without addressing Crab Rationalization, the privatization program earmarked into existence by Ted Stevens which has cost Kodiak hundreds of jobs, both on boats and at processing plants:

-- (Crab Ratz 30 sec "and has a direct impact.")

He vowed that if he were elected to the senate, he would not let industry have more influence than science and community input:

-- (Crab Ratz 20 sec "science wasn't part of the equation.")

He also
said crewmen seemed to have been left out of the equation as well:

-- (Crewmen 28
sec “…
an economic impact to these families.”)

Rising fuel
prices and global warming threaten Alaska’s fishing industry, as well:

-- (Energy
climate 34 sec “…
a common thread is energy.”)

Begich
defended the Bush Administration’s listing of the Polar Bear as threatened, and
questioned Governor Sarah Palin’s lawsuit to overturn it:

-- (Polar
Bears 21
sec “…
to the secretary, we can still do that.”)

He also
called for a more focused war on terror and to better take care of America’s
returning veterans.

-- (War 29 sec “… are going to
have to have.”)

In the
primary election, Begich is facing Frank Vondersaar of Homer, and former
Republican Moderate Party founder Ray Metcalfe of Anchorage.

l’m Jay
Barrett.

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