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## **Sessions Adds Fundraiser for Carnahan Foe**

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by Erin McPike

National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman Pete Sessions of Texas is heading to St. Louis Nov. 12 to headline a fundraiser for GOP congressional candidate Ed Martin, the likely challenger to Rep. Russ Carnahan, D-Mo., next year.

Martin, who was in town last week for fundraisers and meetings, met with Sessions just after being named to the NRCC's Young Guns program and given its "On The Radar" status. Martin outraised Carnahan \$201,000 to just under \$164,000 in the third quarter and was left with \$191,000 on hand to Carnahan's \$254,000, getting the attention of Republican operatives.

"Ed Martin is a very good candidate, who, as a result of his progress in 'Young Guns' will earn a trip by his favorite chairman to St. Louis," Sessions said. "You don't go and do the work; I don't come. You do the work; I come."

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee hasn't taken much notice of Martin, and the committee points out that the St. Louis-based district has traditionally strong turnout. President Obama carried the district with 60 percent of the vote last year, to 39 percent for GOP presidential nominee Sen. John McCain of Arizona. House Speaker Pelosi traveled to St. Louis for an Oct. 2 fundraiser for Carnahan.

Martin was former Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt's chief of staff and was executive director of the Missouri Club for Growth, which might boost him among a motivated Republican base for the midterms. This week he is touring the district visiting with physicians, seniors, small business owners and others to criticize what he calls the "Pelosi-Carnahan-Obamacare bill."

Carnahan's sister, Robin, will also be on next year's ballot. She is running for the Senate against GOP Rep. Roy Blunt.