

# U.S. HOUSE

## 29th District:

Just a few short months ago, this district was gaining national attention and making headlines for all the wrong reasons. The resignation of Eric Massa amid sexual harassment allegations made him — and the district by association — the laughingstock of the national political landscape. To that end, both major parties have to be commended for running candidates who have restored normalcy, common sense and some real decency to the 29th:

Republican Tom Reed and Democrat Matt Zeller. They have stuck to the issues, not made things personal, been accessible almost to a fault and have brought their messages to the public time and time again in almost a dozen head-to-head debates and forums.

**Our pick: Zeller.** But only slightly. Both are political newcomers, save for Reed's one term as mayor of Corning; both, as their debates have illustrated, are well-informed on all the issues; and both certainly are well-intentioned. Either would reinstate the requisite amount of dignity that



the district is crying out for. What all these head-to-head battles have done, though, is really forced them

to chisel their positions in stone.

On the Bush-era tax cuts: Reed wants them kept; Zeller favors eliminating them for those who make \$250,000 a year or more.

On hydrofracking: Reed wants to find a way to do it safely and reliably; Zeller opposes it. On repealing the military's controversial

"don't ask, don't tell" policy: Reed says now is not the time for this type of legislation; Zeller is for its repeal. Reed has identified him-

self with the tea party movement and toes the Republican party line on most issues; Zeller insists he is a free thinker, beholden to

no one and more than willing to work in a non-partisan fashion for the betterment of his district and America. We'd like to see him have a shot at it.