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### **Pera, candidate for IL-03, to join Firedoglake readers in online discussion**

Mark Pera, the Democratic challenger in Illinois' 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Congressional District, will be the featured guest during an online chat beginning at 1 p.m. CST on Saturday, Sept. 8 with progressive activist Howie Klein.

Pera is battling for the Congressional seat held by incumbent U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, a so-called "Bush Dog Democrat," who has voted in lockstep with the Bush Administration on issues such as reproductive rights, stem cell research, the Iraq war and the environment.

The Illinois Democratic Primary is scheduled for Feb. 5.

Pera, of suburban Chicago, is an assistant Cook County state's attorney. During his time with the State's Attorney's office, he has prosecuted cases against major industrial polluters in the Chicago area. He is also a school board president, a husband and a father of four.

Klein, who will host the chat, has been honored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California for his work in the area of free speech. Klein also writes the political blog "Down With Tyranny!" The chat will be take place live at [www.firedoglake.com](http://www.firedoglake.com).

To participate, just click onto [www.firedoglake.com](http://www.firedoglake.com) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8, click on the link and submit your question or comment to Mark Pera.

Pera said he hopes interested voters will take time to hear from the right kind of Democrat.

"We're committed to reversing the damage done by the Bush Administration and the more complacent members of Congress. I'm happy to have this opportunity to discuss my platform and field your questions. It's an honor to be asked to participate," Pera said.

Lipinski has been called the "accidental Congressman" for the way his father's political machinations allowed him to sidestep the 2004 Democratic Primary. After winning the primary former U.S. Rep. Bill Lipinski retired and his son was selected as his replacement. Lipinski won the 2004 General Election in the traditionally Democratic-leaning district.

For more information on Mark Pera, please visit [www.PERAO8.com](http://www.PERAO8.com) or call (847) 687-7579.

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