

Bachmann's district continues to lead state in foreclosures

By [Andy Birkey](#) 12/1/09 6:00 AM



In 2008, Rep. Michele Bachmann's district [had the highest number of foreclosures](#) in Minnesota and the highest rate of foreclosures. Now, as 2009 draws to a close, that trend continues. According to new data from [HousingLink](#) and county sheriffs' offices, the Sixth Congressional District is being disproportionately impacted by the foreclosure crisis despite its representative's reticence to vote for foreclosure relief legislation.

Bachmann's district had 1,097 foreclosures in July, August and September of 2009, the highest in the state and almost three times as many as Rep. Tim Walz's district, which had the state's lowest number of foreclosures, at 396.

As the Minnesota Independent noted in April, the second-term Republican voted against every major piece of foreclosure-relief legislation brought before the House:

Bachmann voted against five key foreclosure relief bills, including the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, which would set standards for mortgages and reduce predatory lending, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Act, which would provide funds for buying and rehabilitating foreclosed properties in affected neighborhoods. She also opposed the Expanding American Homeownership Act, which allows more people to qualify for FHA-backed mortgages, and the Expand and Preserve Home Ownership Through Counseling Act, which aims to improve financial literacy. Bachmann additionally voted against the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, a law

signed by President Bush that contained many provisions to assist struggling homeowners and also the only one of the bills to become law.

And since April, she [successfully spearheaded an effort to strip the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now \(ACORN\)](#) of Housing and Urban Development funds aimed at preventing foreclosures in low and middle income neighborhoods.

Bachmann did, however, cosponsor a bill “to direct the Architect of the Capitol to acquire and place a historical plaque to be permanently displayed in National Statuary Hall recognizing the seven decades of Christian church services being held in the Capitol from 1800 to 1868, which included attendees James Madison and Thomas Jefferson.”

Here’s a breakdown of foreclosures by Congressional district for the 3rd quarter of 2009:

District	Representative	Foreclosures
6th	Michele Bachmann	1097
2nd	John Kline	935
5th	Keith Ellison	867
4th	Betty McCollum	828
8th	James Oberstar	704
3rd	Erik Paulsen	580
7th	Collin Peterson	398
1st	Tim Walz	396

Bachmann’s office has not responded to the Minnesota Independent’s request for comment.