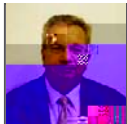


SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

Sierra Club backs Watson Coleman, Belgard bids for N.J. Congress



New Jersey Sierra Club director Jeff Tittel, center, announces the Sierra Club's endorsement of Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman for Congress on the steps of the Statehouse in Trenton. (Phil Gregory/WHYY)



BY PHIL GREGORY

A recent Stockton Polling Institute survey shows Belgard and Republican Tom MacArthur in a close race with each getting about 42 percent of voter support. They are running for the seat now held by U.S. Rep. Jon Runyan.

New Jersey Sierra Club director Jeff Tittel said the group's support matters.

"We think it's important, not only to send a message to Washington that we need to have people that care about the environment," he said. "We also need to have a few women [in Congress]. We haven't sent a woman to Washington in New Jersey in two decades."