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JANUARY 19, 2010, 5:07 PM ET

Steele: Massachusetts Race 'A Model for Campaigns of the Future'

By Susan Davis

Polls aren't closing until 8 p.m. in the Massachusetts Senate race, but Republican National Committee Chairman **Michael Steele** has already declared it a victory, of sorts.

In a memo to RNC members today, Steele said the national committee has been "working very diligently behind the scenes" with the Massachusetts Republican Party for the past three months to make the race what it is today—a likely Republican takeover in one of the bluest states in the nation.

"Never in the history of our party have so many fellow Republicans from all over the country worked so hard to help another state," he wrote. "This is a model for campaigns of the future."

Steele's revelation that the RNC has been working this election for months may come as a surprise. The committee avoided seeking attention for its work on behalf of GOP candidate **Scott Brown**, Steele writes.

"We have stayed out of the limelight while supporting the Brown campaign and the Massachusetts Republican Party," he said, adding: "If we succeed tonight this will be a victory for our ideas, for our principles, and for the people of Massachusetts."

While Steele was quick to predict victories in contested New Jersey and Virginia governor's races last year, the often-embattled party chairman has been uncharacteristically silent on the Massachusetts race. It could be, in part, because he has been taking some heat for unflattering press he received recently during a media tour to promote his book.

Suggesting the RNC will be sure to claim a role in Brown's victory (if he wins), Steele highlights in the memo exactly what the party did to help him defeat Democrat **Martha Coakley**.

The steps include: supplying equipment, including computers and over 400 phone lines, to the Massachusetts GOP, sending "multiple" RNC staffers to the state full-time last November, as well as nearly three dozen additional RNC staffers as Election Day approached, and coordinating bus trips for 160 volunteers. Steele writes that the RNC also endorsed Brown early, maxed out to his campaign, and sent out 228,000 emails to raise money on his behalf.



Associated Press
Republican National Chairman Michael Steele.