EXHIBIT 33
U.S. Rep. John Delaney (D) has won a razor-thin victory over Dan Bongino in his re-election bid to the 6th Congressional District seat.

And for that he might want to send Blaine Young a thank-you card. We'll tell you why in a minute.

Delaney’s victory wasn’t assured until absentee ballots were counted Thursday. The congressional race — which turned into a nail-biter Tuesday night — wasn’t supposed to be this close.

After all, the Martin O’Malley administration had shamefully gerrymandered the congressional district (which includes a large chunk of Frederick County) in order to push former Republican congressman Roscoe Bartlett out of office two years ago and solidify it as a safe Democratic seat for years to come.

But that strategy nearly backfired this week.

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When district-wide voters showed up at the polls they voted heavier than expected for Republican candidate Bongino. He trailed by about 2,000 votes election night.
But now that we've had a few days to digest this race, it is abundantly clear that the only reason Delaney isn't a one-term congressman is because of his support from Frederick County. Without Frederick County, Delaney would have gone down in Maryland history as one of only a handful of “one and done” congressmen.

In a historic election that doomed almost anyone with a “D” after their name, Delaney and a handful of other Democrats on the Frederick County ballot were able to survive in a county with a 6,500-voter registration edge for Republicans. When all the votes are finally tallied next week, Delaney will likely defeat Bongino by at least a 1,700-vote margin in the county.

That's significant because Delaney was hammered by 2-to-1 and 3-to-1 margins in the other three Western Maryland counties where voter registration favors the GOP. For example, in neighboring Washington County, Delaney lost to Bongino by more than 10,000 votes. Delaney also lost by nearly 5,400 votes in Allegany County and 4,400 votes in Garrett County.

Fortunately for Delaney, he was able to wipe out those losses by taking Montgomery County, a heavily Democratic county. But his 20,000-vote victory there would not have been enough to put him back in office had Frederick County voted along similar party lines as the other three Western Maryland counties.

Even Chris Van Hollen, the Democratic congressman who represents northern Frederick County, was pounded by local voters. Van Hollen, who was easily re-elected to a seventh term, trailed a relatively unknown Republican candidate by more than 10,000 votes in Frederick County.

So why did Delaney fare better in Frederick County than expected?

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And one of the main reasons it was higher was the county's intense interest in electing its first-ever county executive in a race that pitted the Republican Young against Democrat Jan Gardner.

As we now know, Gardner trounced Young on Election Day, in large part because Democrats in Frederick city precincts turned out in large numbers to make sure Young didn’t rise to the county’s highest elected position. An examination of those same precincts showed they also voted heavily for Delaney — in many cases in the 60 percent or higher range. In other words, Delaney benefited greatly from a surge in voters who supported Gardner — and we’re safe in assuming they weren’t conservative Republicans.

To give Delaney credit, it does help that he is seen as pragmatic and not political, and there’s no question he has represented the county well during his first term in office. And for that, voters rewarded him with another two years as their congressman — with some help, of course, from Gardner supporters who turned out in large numbers.