

# 'Contract' May Cut Both Ways

*Hopefuls on Both Sides  
Seize on GOP Pledge*

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Steven Van Grack, a congressional candidate in Montgomery County, thinks he's just been handed the political crowbar he needs to pry a popular Republican incumbent from the seat she has held since 1986. Kyle F. McSarrow, a Northern Virginia Republican, hopes to use the same instrument to bludgeon a two-term Democrat.

The device is called the "Contract with America," a political agenda drafted by House Republicans, and across the Washington area yesterday, candidates of both parties were saying the 10-point legislative plan could make a big difference in some lively elections.

"It will be the most significant issue in our race," declared Van Grack, the former Rockville mayor in a long-shot campaign against 8th District Rep. Constance A. Morella, long known for her moderate brand of Republicanism.

"Connie, in her past, has been an independent Republican," Van Grack said. "This contract shows blatantly she's joining the ranks of her party, and that's not like her."

Nonsense, retorted Morella, one of Washington area incumbents and challengers who signed the GOP contract. She said the agenda, which calls for floor votes on issues such as balanced budget and tax limit amendments, term limits for Congress and a defense buildup, merely lists a menu of items bottled up too long in the House and Senate.