

During Biden's address, Miller-Meeks dons '6' mask, referring to six-vote victory

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Iowa's freshman congresswoman is not shy about the handful of votes that won her the 2nd Congressional District seat.

U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks drew attention Wednesday night while wearing a navy face mask with a large white "6" across the front, a reference to the six votes that put her past challenger Rita Hart in November.

But far from being a statement, Miller-Meeks' communications director said it was just part of her mask collection.

"Honestly not sure where the idea for

it came from but it has been in her rotation of masks for a few months now," Will Kiley said.

After a recount in the 2020 election, Miller-Meeks' victory margin shrunk from 282 votes to six. The count, which was certified by a bipartisan state board, was the center of a contested election challenge that ended only when Hart dropped her petition.

"I would prefer to not have been this close — I would rather be up 282 or 600 or 6,000 rather than six — but Iowa law says 50% plus one," Miller-Meeks told the Press-Citizen.

Miller-Meeks, a Republican, was among the representatives who escort-

See MASK, Page 2A



U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks poses for a photo inside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.
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2A | FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021 | IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

Mask

Continued from Page 1A

ed Democratic President Joe Biden into the House to deliver his joint address to Congress on Wednesday. The Press-Citizen reached out for comment but she was not available as she was traveling Thursday.

In a Thursday news release, Miller-Meeks provided her thoughts on Biden's first appearance before Congress as president. She called his speech "well-toned," but criticized the administration's performance during its first 100 days in office. She decried Biden's plans to raise taxes, his shelving of the Keystone XL Pipeline and the jobs lost as a result.

The Biden administration has announced plans to raise the tax rate on

households making more than \$400,000. Michels Corp. and Precision Pipeline, two Wisconsin companies contracted for the Keystone project, were to create 1,950 jobs; however, those jobs were temporary and would have fluctuated throughout construction, according to a Politifact factcheck.

Miller-Meeks said she felt former President Donald Trump wasn't receiving enough credit for the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic, particularly Operation Warp Speed, which she said, "miraculously gave us three safe and effective vaccines in just nine months."

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U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks poses for a picture with President Joe Biden on April 28, 2021. SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-CITIZEN