It all started the morning after the election of President Barack Obama.

Let's just say it wasn't among Rep. John Campbell's best days. His party took a thrashing at the hands of angry voters who pink-slipped scores of his colleagues.

Since then he's put away his razor and has been rockin' the rugged look.

"Hey, I've had facial hair for half my life," Campbell said, chuckling as he talked about his beard to reporters in his D.C. office Monday.

"I decided I'm going to keep it for at least a year," he added. "And my wife likes it so..."

He wasn't done. The suddenly comedic congressman was on a roll.

"I needed to shake things up, you know, give myself an edge," he said.

Election day might have been a disaster for his party, but at least he won by a decisive margin, Campbell said.

Not bad, considering Obama carried Campbell's district.