



# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

WNDC is happy to support the following great candidates who are stepping up to fight for Democratic values. For the Candidate Watch, we are focusing on defending vulnerable Democratic seats or on candidates who have a realistic opportunity to gain a new seat. While we usually feature women candidates, these male candidates are in races crucial for the overall goal of picking up Blue seats.

July 18, 2018

## WNDC Congressional Candidate Watch: GOP-toppler Conor Lamb for Pennsylvania's new 17th District

Conor Lamb became a darling of the Democratic Party when he won in a special election for Congress in March 2018 in Pennsylvania's 18th District. He successfully contested his home district, near Pittsburgh, beating the Republican incumbent, Rick Saccone, by 627 votes. Trump won that district by about 20 points. Lamb succeeded despite being significantly outspent by super PACs and special interest groups, using funding that came from individuals through a grassroots campaign. Since then, Pennsylvania's Congressional map has been redrawn and Lamb is running again in the midterms. Lamb supports job creation, investment in infrastructure, affordable health care, Medicare and Social Security, reforms to the student loan system, investments in energy, unions, and solutions to the heroin crisis, all from a Democratic perspective. This young former Marine and federal prosecutor was successful in March because he focused on issues important to his district, rather than towing a strict Democratic Party line. For this reason, he wants only stronger background checks for gun ownership, rather than stricter gun control measures. He also supports President Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs. Let's support this Democratic candidate who knows how to appeal to the voters in the very red 17th District! His campaign focuses on the need for new leaders in Congress who can work together to get things done for working families. See his official website for more information:



[www.conorlamb.com](http://www.conorlamb.com)

## Candidate Watch: Jess King is championing a progressive agenda in Pennsylvania's 11th District

Another Pennsylvania Democratic woman runs to take back the House! Jessica (Jess) King, a working mom and a leader in local economic development, believes the American dream should be for all of us. Born and raised near the farmlands in Leola, PA, King now lives in Lancaster with her two daughters and Mennonite pastor husband. King never intended to run for office, but after a career fighting for working families in Pennsylvania, she joined the race stating: "too many of us are working hard for too little while a greedy few rig the game in Washington." Republican Rep. Lloyd Smucker, who represented District 16, is now running for the new incarnation of that district resulting from the PA redistricting plan -- District 11. He is a former state senator and businessman. King, who has been the executive of a non-profit which helps create small businesses and grow jobs, faces a big challenge. However, many pundits believe that these Democratic Congressional women candidates in PA can pull out some of these Democratic victories! In the 11th district, Smucker has voted with Trump's policies 96% of the time, while Trump's popularity has declined. Further, Trump won PA in 2016 by only 0.7 points. King's campaign issues include: a fair economy, Medicare-for-all, women's rights and women's health, immigrant rights, and gun violence and safety. Her endorsements range from Lancaster leaders (County Commissioner, Mayor, City Council members) to Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, to AFL-CIO, End Citizen's United, NEA, Climate Hawks, and numerous others. Bernie Sanders also endorsed Jess King, saying that she was a great candidate who is taking on a progressive agenda with a strong grassroots ground operation. She's in the process of visiting more than 50,000 households and could still use WNDC support and donations since her Republican opponent has excellent financial resources. Learn more about her at her campaign website:



[www.jesskingforcongress.com](http://www.jesskingforcongress.com)



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*July 18, 2018*

## *WNDC Congressional Candidate Watch: Tom Malinowski for New Jersey's 7th District*

Tom Malinowski decided to abandon his Foreign Service career when Donald Trump became President in November 2016 because he now finds that the US is in "deep trouble" under Trump's leadership. "I'm running for Congress because everything I've worked for on behalf of our country is now under attack by our own President and his Republican enablers. Trump may have won an election; I don't want him to win the argument about who we are as a nation."

Malinowski served as an Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor from 2014-17 under President Obama after being a lobbyist for Human Rights Watch. He believes strongly in defending the human rights of women and LGBTQ people. He lives in the 7th District of New Jersey, a combination of rural and suburban voters. His positions are strongly anti-Trump. He supports the Affordable Care Act, wants to see the minimum wage raised to \$15/hour, and is against the Muslim ban. Given his international career, he disagrees strongly with Trump's breaking the US's international alliances. He is pro infrastructure investments and environmental protection.

Malinowski was born in Communist Poland in 1965 and moved to the US with his mother at the age of six. He earned an M. Phil from Oxford. He has just received the endorsement of the NewDemPAC, a group of 68 pragmatic Congressional leaders focused on finding bipartisan solutions. "Tom Malinowski knows that the toughest problems we face today can't be solved through partisanship or division," said the political director for the NewDemPAC. "That forward-thinking approach to governance is what makes Tom a clear fit for the New Democrat Coalition."

Let's support this strong Democrat who will be launching his political career in a battle against incumbent Republican Leonard Lance in the November mid-term elections.

For more information, see his website:

[www.malinowskifornj.com](http://www.malinowskifornj.com)





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## *Flippable District Alert: Katie Porter for California's 45th Congressional District!*

Katie Porter is the Democratic candidate running against incumbent Republican Mimi Walters to represent CA's 45th District. This Orange County district voted for Clinton over Trump in 2016, and is considered competitive by pundits.



WNDC members, this is a great chance to flip a Republican district! Porter is a consumer protection attorney and UC Irvine law professor who is endorsed by Senators Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren, among others. Her top priorities include Medicare for All, woman's right to choose, an assault weapons ban, and repealing the 2017 tax giveaway to corporations and the wealthy. She has extensive experience in state government, including obtaining relief for Orange County homeowners whose mortgages were underwater after the 2008 financial crisis. She has three young children, and serves as Cubmaster to her son's scout pack. Porter's opponent Walters is not moderate, but rather fully supports Trump's radical agenda. The Republicans will spend any amount to try to keep the 45th red. As a result, Porter and the DCCC will need our help to flip the 45th. We encourage you to learn about Porter at her campaign website:

[www.katieporter.com](http://www.katieporter.com)

## *Candidate Watch: Former NFL Player-Turned-Civil Rights Lawyer Battles for Texas' 32nd Congressional District!*

Colin Allred, Democrat from Dallas, is challenging incumbent Republican Pete Sessions for Texas' 32nd Congressional District. Allred handily won the Democratic nomination in this district, which Clinton narrowly won in 2016. Allred will face both Sessions and Libertarian Melina Baker in November. Pollsters think Allred has a good chance; GOP analysts call Sessions the most vulnerable incumbent in Texas, and the DCCC puts this contest in its Red to Blue program. Great potential here, and WNDC needs to help push him over the line!

Born and raised by a single mom who taught in Texas public schools for nearly 30 years, Allred earned a full-ride football scholarship to Baylor University, where he was as much scholar as athlete. He deferred his acceptance to the University of California Berkeley School of Law to sign with the Tennessee Titans. After a career-ending neck injury, he fulfilled his law school dreams and then served as a voting rights litigator and special assistant in the Counsel's office of Obama's Department of Housing and Urban Development. His campaign issue portfolio includes: expanding and protecting the Affordable Care Act; empowering small businesses and investing in job training for the 21st century; voting rights; gun violence prevention; women's rights; and more. Allred's endorsements are numerous and include: Planned Parenthood, NARAL, Congressional Black Caucus, Mexican American Bar Association of Dallas, Giffords Campaign, Dallas AFL-CIO, Kamala Harris, Julian Castro, former Secretary of HUD, and Wendy Davis, former TX state senator.



On the other hand, many say Sessions has lost touch with his Texas voters. He voted to cut CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) funding and voted in favor of the President's tax reform for corporations. So we at WNDC need to be ever vigilant in District 32! Learn more about Allred by checking his website:

[www.colinallred.com](http://www.colinallred.com)



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*July 11, 2018*

## *Candidate Watch: Andy Kim is galvanizing New Jersey's suburban vote in nationally-watched race*

Relative political newcomer Andy Kim is capitalizing with suburban Republican disenchantment with the GOP incumbent in New Jersey's third district, Tom MacArthur. Though the wealthy, self-funded MacArthur was not even challenged in 2016, by April Andy Kim had already raised over \$1 million in his bid to unseat the incumbent.

Though still supported by many in this Republican district, MacArthur has alienated untold numbers by voting with President Trump more frequently than anyone else in New Jersey's Congressional delegation. Those voters are looking for more moderate representation, particularly as Trump's tax plan starts to impact suburban homeowners. Consequently, this race increasingly is being seen by pundits and the Democratic Party as competitive.

Rhodes Scholar Andy Kim was a national security advisor in the Obama White House. He was born and raised in this NJ district and is making a contract with its constituents to be the most accessible and transparent Member of Congress. He won't take money from corporate PACs, promises to hold a town hall every month, and yearns to serve his constituents -- families, not corporations. Learn more about his great story:

[www.andykimforcongress.com](http://www.andykimforcongress.com)





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June 27, 2018

## Candidate Watch: Vietnam Veteran and Naval Officer Tackles California's 39th District!

Gil Cisneros, Democrat, who attended college on an ROTC scholarship and served our country as a naval officer for ten years, is challenging a former Republican Assembly-woman Young Kim. Representative Ed Royce, the Republican incumbent in Orange County's District 39, decided not to seek re-election and hand-picked Kim to succeed him. According to pollsters Cook, Inside Elections, and Sabato, this race is considered an Open/Toss Up one. The DCCC added this CA race to its "Red to Blue" Campaign. WNDC members, let's shine a light on this one and take back the House!



Cisneros, an education policy expert, is President and Co-Founder of The Gilbert and Jacki Cisneros Foundation, an organization committed to strengthening public schools and creating college opportunities for students and veterans. He served on the advisory board of the Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative--an effort to inspire every student to take charge of their future by completing their education. His issues encompass: health care, including standing up to insurance and pharmaceutical industries; an economy that works for the Middle Class; Americans with Disabilities programs that broker independence and dignity; among others. His endorsements include: Vote Vets.org, Moms Demand Action Gun Sense, End Citizens United, Giffords and Brady Campaigns, Dolores Huerta and UAW, United Steel Workers, Latino Fund Victory, and more.

Young Kim with her right wing supporters opposed the minimum wage increase, farmworkers' overtime pay, and employers providing retirement savings' funds for their employees, to name a few. Retiring Royce voted for Trump 97.1% of the time, and Kim is expected to follow suit! While the Washington Post says that the 39th is the best potential pick up for 2018, nothing can be taken for granted. Help Cisneros get the job done! Learn more about him at his campaign website:

[www.cisnerosforcongress.com](http://www.cisnerosforcongress.com)

## Candidate Watch: Mike Levin for California's 49th Congressional District!

Mike Levin is the Democratic candidate running against Republican Diane Harkey for this open seat, currently held by Republican Darrell Issa, who is not running for re-election.



Covering southern Orange County and western San Diego County, the 49th is widely considered to be one of the best opportunities Democrats have to gain a seat: In 2016 the 49th voted solidly for Clinton over Trump, and Issa won re-election that year with only 50.7% of the vote, the slimmest margin of any race in the election. Members, we need WNDC to be all hands on deck to help Levin take this seat and stop Trump's destructive agenda!

Levin, 39, is a Democratic activist and accomplished energy attorney. His top priorities are clean energy and protecting the environment, and his other issues include Medicare for All; protecting choice; affordable higher education; gun reform; strengthening Social Security; and a \$15 federal minimum wage. He is endorsed by, among others, NOW; the Sierra Club; numerous federal and state officeholders, including California's Democratic Congressional delegation; and many unions.

A state officeholder, Harkey is endorsed by the NRCC and has earned an "A" rating from the NRA. She will be a reliable vote for the Republicans' reactionary agenda, and the NRCC and Republican dark money groups are gearing up to spend vast sums on this race in an effort to keep the district red. As a result, Levin's got a tough fight in front of him, and he's going to need all the help he can get to flip the district blue. We encourage you to learn about Levin at his campaign website:

[www.mikelevin.org](http://www.mikelevin.org)



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*June 27, 2018*

## *Candidate Watch: CIA officer Abigail Spanberger for Virginia's 7th Congressional District!*

Former CIA officer Abigail Spanberger is challenging a vulnerable incumbent Republican Congressman Dave Brat. Former executive director of the Republican Party of Virginia, Shaun Kenney, told the Yahoo News that Dave Brat is "done by the numbers." "Spanberger should not have had that much Democratic support, but she blew it out of the water." Pollsters Cook and Inside Elections rate it Leaning Republican. The DCCC added Spanberger's District 7 to the Red to Blue program. Time magazine calls this one of the top ten races to watch. WNDC, let's turn this district Blue!

Spanberger grew up in Henrico County, Virginia. She graduated from the University of Virginia, and later studied for her MBA. Spanberger began her public service career as a federal law enforcement officer working for narcotics and money laundering cases in the US Postal Inspection Service. She joined the CIA in 2006 as an operations officer, where she focused on counterterrorism. Later she worked for the private sector as a strategic leader to help colleges and universities to diversify their student bodies, increase graduation rates, and expand student access to affordable educational opportunities. Her campaign issues include: veteran's issues focusing on homelessness and suicide; addiction crisis and treatment; healthcare; gun violence and safety; the environment; and more. Spanberger has gained support from Emily's List, End Citizens United, NARAL, Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidates, and others.

Brat is a House Freedom Caucus member who is considered a dangerous extremist by many. He has voted to take away health care from millions of people, and refused to face constituents who disagree with him. It won't be easy to beat this incumbent but the extraordinary primary results indicate that the District residents are ready to make a change. Spanberger, however, could use your help! We encourage you to learn about her at her website:

[www.abigailspanberger.com](http://www.abigailspanberger.com)





# CANDIDATE WATCH

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WNDC is proud to support the following women who recently won their primaries in Virginia. For the Candidate Watch, we are focusing on defending vulnerable Democratic seats or on candidates who have a realistic opportunity to gain a new seat. Virginia is slowly turning blue, as urban and university communities grow - but these wonderful women need our help.

June 20, 2018

## Candidate Watch: Navy Commander Elaine Luria battling for Virginia's 2nd District

Retired Navy commander Elaine Luria is taking on the former SEAL Republican Congressman, Scott Taylor. This race is closely watched. Taylor has only been in office one term and has voted GOP lines 97% of the time. The newly-elected Democratic governor carried that district in 2017.

Twenty-year Navy veteran Elaine Luria is the one to turn this district blue. She uses her Navy credibility not only to articulate her support for a capable military, which is key in this heavily military district. She goes further to argue that security encompasses affordable and reliable healthcare, responsible gun ownership laws, Social Security, protection for our environment, and stable housing.

Luria's personal philosophy has motivated her decades of service to her community: "Be Good. Do Good Work." She is rejecting corporate PAC money as part of her support to end Citizen's United and has gained support of the DCCC, Emily's List, and others. Help Luria win this seat!

[www.elaineforcongress.com](http://www.elaineforcongress.com)



## Candidate Watch: Jennifer Wexton contesting Dreamer-defier Comstock in VA-10

Jennifer Wexton will contest the controversial GOP two-term incumbent, Representative Barbara Comstock, this fall for Virginia's 10th district. She campaigned on the slogan: "I plan to repeal and replace Barbara Comstock!" We hope she does. Comstock recently voted against legislation to support Dreamers, undermining her reputation as a moderate and tilting the district towards the Democrats.

Democratic Governor Ralph Northam endorsed Wexton "because she has a strong history of service to Virginia, getting results for her constituents, and fighting for Democratic values.... I saw her tenacity on the VA Senate floor where we fought together to expand Medicaid and stood up to the gun lobby.

Wexton has been serving the people of Northern Virginia for almost two decades as a prosecutor, an advocate for children, and a legislator focusing on families. She has built her legislative agenda on this experience and focuses on: protecting our children, combatting the opioid epidemic, reforming the criminal justice system, creating greater gender equity in the workplace, protecting housing for the LGBT community, improving transportation in NOVA, making access to voting easier, and fixing women's healthcare laws.

Wexton is a native of the Washington area, having graduated with honors from the University of Maryland and earned her law degree from the College of William and Mary. She lives in Leesburg with her family. Let's support this impressive candidate who is running in our neighborhood!

Follow Wexton online:

[www.jenniferwexton.com](http://www.jenniferwexton.com)





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*June 13, 2018*

## *Candidate Watch: Abby Finkenauer for Iowa's 1st Congressional District!*

Abby Finkenauer is the Democratic candidate challenging Republican incumbent Rod Blum of Iowa's 1st Congressional District. The DCCC has targeted the 1st District, and pollsters Cook, Sabato, and Inside Elections consider the district to be a toss-up. This is a super opportunity for the Democrats, and WNDC can help!



Finkenauer, 29, is the Iowa state legislator representing Dubuque. She was born and raised in a working class family in Dubuque County, and much of her state legislative work has been on pro-labor issues. She's also been involved in battles over women's health, including fighting Iowa's notorious "fetal heartbeat" abortion ban, the most restrictive anti-choice law in the country. Besides labor issues and women's health, her other issues include jobs; support for farmers; student loan reform; expanding the Affordable Care Act; and clean energy and the environment. She is endorsed by, among others, Emily's List; NARAL; numerous current and former officeholders, including former Vice-President Biden; and many unions.

Blum is a Tea-Party Republican and a member of the ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus. He has embraced Trump's policies, voting with Trump's position over 90 percent of the time. A significant number of Blum's constituents have vociferously opposed some of his votes, such as his vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The district may be ripe for turning back to blue, and Finkenauer is well-positioned to capitalize on voter discontent with Blum and to promote her own vision for the district. However, she could use our help to do so. We encourage you to learn about Finkenauer at her campaign website:

[www.abbyfinkenauer.com](http://www.abbyfinkenauer.com)

## *Candidate Watch: Katie Hill for California's 25th Congressional District!*

Katie Hill is considered to be in a "strong position going into the general election" in the 25th District in the Los Angeles "soccer-mom" suburbs, called "one of the most flippable Districts" in CA. The District includes large, arid tracts of northern Los Angeles County, and parts of Ventura County. Once dependably conservative, CA-25 has evolved politically and economically over the decades, delivering new prosperity and problems, such as homelessness, unheard of before in the 25th.

Already the Democrats have a four-point advantage in voter registration. Of those registered, 26 percent are Latino. In addition, the District went for Hillary Clinton by sevenpoints in the 2016 election, although the 25th has never elected a woman before. Hill is running against Tea Party incumbent Steve Knight, an extreme Republican who supports Trump strongly, arguing to defeat Obamacare, as one example of his positions. Now the District no longer supports Knight, as 54 percent of voters disapprove of his performance.

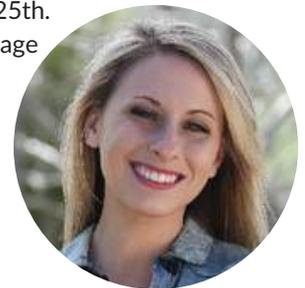
Hill has three key issues on her platform:

- 1) Supporting Health and Safety, e.g., attention to universal health care, women's reproductive rights, addiction, mental health, the environment, and gun safety
- 2) Rebuilding the Middle Class, e.g., fighting income inequality, creating affordable housing, immigration, and working on criminal justice reform
- 3) Creating Truly Representative Government, e.g., through campaign finance reform

Hill is a lifelong resident of the 25th. She is the daughter of a cop and a nurse. She worked as the Deputy CEO of PATH. She understands the issues of the people in her District and is called a "tireless advocate for the most vulnerable," well known for her dedication to ending homelessness.

She was endorsed by Emily's List in December 2017. Check her out on her website: [www.katiehillforcongress.com](http://www.katiehillforcongress.com). Let's support this impressive candidate who has "out raised and out hustled" Knight! This is a former Red District in a Blue State: Can she change that??

[www.katiehillforcongress.com](http://www.katiehillforcongress.com)





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*June 13, 2018*

## *Candidate Watch: Mikie Sherrill for New Jersey's 11th Congressional District!*

Mikie Sherrill is the Democratic candidate in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District who is taking on Republican Assembly member Jay Webber in the November general election. Democrats have the opportunity to pick up this seat since Republican Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen suddenly decided to retire in late 2017. Webber is known as a Reagan "conservative" and rising star in New Jersey party circles.

Democrat Sherrill is a former Navy pilot and prosecutor. Her district has been targeted by the DCCC to turn it from Red to Blue. Sherrill is poised to win the 11th. WNDC can be right there with her!

Sherrill, 46, mother of four, graduated from the US Naval Academy and then spent 10 years on active duty in the US Navy. As a Sea King Helicopter pilot, she flew missions throughout Europe and the Middle East.

Sherrill worked in the European Theater during the Iraq invasion, and served as Aide to the Deputy Commander of the US Atlantic Fleet. After leaving the Navy, she attended Georgetown Law School and later joined New Jersey's US Attorney's Office and developed programs to help prevent crime in the community. Her campaign agenda for families and communities includes: affordable and quality healthcare; access to quality education; addiction and opioid treatment; veterans' health care; national security; gun safety; and more. Sherrill is endorsed by Emily's List and the Brady Campaign, among others.

Democratic women candidates like Sherrill and her classmates at the US Naval Academy (such as Kentuckian Amy McGrath) are on a mission: to win seats in Congress. These Democratic women are breaking electoral barriers with the military credentials that launched their male peers into public office. According to the New York Times, these women candidates are running in swing districts where military service is likely to be recognized and where Democrats must win to take control of the House from Republicans. Sherrill's district, according to pollster Cook, just switched ratings from Toss Up to Leaning D after the June primary. Other pollsters, Inside Elections and Sabato, rate the district as Tilt D or Toss Up. Democrat Sherrill, according to her own words, is taking on a fight for the soul of this country! Learn more about Sherrill at her campaign website:

[www.mikiesherrill.com](http://www.mikiesherrill.com)





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*June 6, 2018*

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Kara Eastman for Nebraska's 2nd District*

Kara Eastman is the Democrat running for Nebraska's 2nd District. She pulled off a surprise primary win while riding the progressive wave. Her immediate challenges will be party unity and fundraising. Before the primary, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee included this district in its targets for 2018. Her Democratic opponent, the more moderate Bradford Ashford, was expected to win so now the question is: will the DCCC support her? We can help her turn the 2nd blue!



Eastman, nonprofit director and social worker, faces Republican incumbent Don Bacon, a retired US Air Force Brigadier General and NRA candidate who won the seat by one point in 2016 against Bradford Ashford. Bacon is running on the Republican tax plan and regulatory rollbacks. Pollster Sabato considers the 2nd District a "toss up" seat. Two other pollsters consider it a "tilting" Republican seat (Inside Elections) or a "leaning" Republican seat. Great chance for Dems!

Midwesterner Kara Eastman, raised by a single mom and grandparents, recalls her grandfather's WWII Purple Heart and her uncles who served in Vietnam. Following this "service" tradition, Eastman started the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance, now 20 years strong and earning national awards. The group raised more than \$13 million to support green, safe, and healthy housing in Omaha for more than 4,000 kids and their families.

Eastman is a life-long Democrat who isn't afraid of a fight. She embraces: healthcare for all; reducing income inequality; and pushing for common-sense gun safety. Learn more about Eastman at her campaign website:

[www.eastmanforcongress.com](http://www.eastmanforcongress.com)

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Kathy Manning for North Carolina's 13th District!*

Kathy Manning is the Democratic candidate challenging Republican incumbent Ted Budd of North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, which includes Greensboro. The DCCC has targeted the 13th for the "Red to Blue" program, and pollsters Cook and Sabato consider the district to only "lean" Republican. WNDC can help Manning in her efforts to win this seat. Manning is an accomplished immigration lawyer and businesswoman from Greensboro, where she has lived with her family for the past 30 years. In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, she became a community leader, helping the unemployed with job retraining and mortgage assistance programs. She has firsthand experience with the US's frustrating healthcare system, due to having a daughter with a chronic illness. Besides promising to fight for affordable and accessible healthcare, her other issues include jobs; clean energy; education; protecting Social Security and Medicare; and helping veterans.



Budd is a gun store owner and a member of the Tea-Party aligned Freedom Caucus, a group of the most hard-right members of Congress. He was elected in 2016 with the strong financial backing of the Club for Growth, the ultra-conservative organization that is anti-regulation, anti-tax, and anti-Obamacare. A self-proclaimed Christian, that has not prevented Budd from engaging in a "dirty tricks" style campaign against Manning since December, when she first announced her campaign for the primary. Manning is going to need help to fight back against Budd's hypocritical attacks and the Club for Growth's money. We encourage you to learn more about Manning at her campaign website:

[www.kathymanning2018.com](http://www.kathymanning2018.com)



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*June 6, 2018*

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Lauren Underwood for Illinois' 14th District!*

Lauren Underwood is the first African-American woman to run in this outskirt of Chicago, having beaten six white, middle-aged men to win her primary. She's facing Republican incumbent Randy Hultgren, who promised his constituents he wouldn't vote for a healthcare bill that excluded protections for pre-existing conditions...but then did. At that point, Lauren decided it was game on.

A registered nurse who was tapped to be a senior health policy advisor for President Obama, she's been in community service her whole life. Now, as the youngest black woman candidate running for Congress this year, Lauren is fierce in her desire to promote jobs, improve healthcare, and make childcare as well as higher education affordable.

Lauren's got momentum, even in this 85% white district. Noting the political gains African Americans have made, she explains, "Now we are able to step forward and say, 'Hey! I grew up in this predominantly white area and my family has been here for years. I'm a leader and I have ideas.' The community rallies around [me] not because I'm Black, and not despite my race and heritage, but just because I'm a dynamic, compelling leader who shares [their] values." Women in particular are rallying to her. Though leaning Republican, the district went Democratic in 2008 and 2010. Let's help Lauren flip the district once again. Learn more about her, the race, and how you can help:

[www.underwoodforcongress.com](http://www.underwoodforcongress.com)



## *Voting Reminder:*

### *DC Early Voting began June 4th!*

Washington, DC, Early Voting at sites in most wards is June 8th through June 15th, as well as at One Judiciary Square(441 Fourth St., NW). Eligible voters can cast ballots at any site.

DC voters can register to vote on same day with proof of address.

Check out [earlyvoting.dboe.org](http://earlyvoting.dboe.org) for locations and wait times.



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*May 30, 2018*

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Lizzie Pannill Fletcher for Texas's 7th District*

Lizzie Pannill Fletcher is facing Republican U.S Representative John Culbertson in the battle for Texas's 7th District. Though Culbertson is a nine-term incumbent, he is considered vulnerable as his district was won by Hillary Clinton. In Fletcher's opinion, he "puts party ahead of country and especially ahead of the Houstonians in the 7th District," noting that he has undermined investment in the Houston infrastructure and has neglected disaster preparedness, despite the great needs after Hurricane Harvey ruined much of the city in 2017. He also has raised the cost of health care for families in the District. He has \$1 million in his campaign account to Fletcher's \$1.4 million.

Fletcher is a Houstonian who has lived most of her life in the 7th District. A Phi Beta Kappa scholar, she became the first woman partner of the 50-person Houston law firm AZA in 2015. While the firm focuses on high-stakes business litigation, it also works on issues she cares about, giving her the opportunity to represent Houstonians of diverse backgrounds who face difficult issues. She fights for them.

Fletcher wants to go to Washington to represent Houston, a city that "opens its doors to newcomers from around the world, prides itself on scientific discovery, serves as a hub for innovation, works together, and takes care of its neighbors."

Follow Lizzie on [www.lizziefletcher.com](http://www.lizziefletcher.com), where she lists her positions on a broad range of issues: civil rights, education, equality, foreign policy/national security, gun safety, health care, immigration, jobs, Medicare/Social Security, transportation/infrastructure, voting rights, and women's health.

[www.lizziefletcher.com](http://www.lizziefletcher.com)



## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Amy McGrath for Kentucky's 6th District!*

Amy McGrath is the Democratic candidate challenging Republican incumbent Andy Barr of Kentucky's 6th Congressional District. Although Barr won his last re-election by over 20 points, the district, last represented by a Democrat in 2012, has more registered Democrats than Republicans.

Pollsters Cook, Sabato, and Inside Elections consider the district to be competitive and only "leaning" Republican, and the DCCC has targeted it for its "Red to Blue" program.

Let's help McGrath win this seat!

McGrath was born and raised in Kentucky, graduated from the US Naval Academy, and spent 20 years in the Marines. Among her other accomplishments, she was the first female Marine fighter pilot to fly combat missions (89 total). After she retired from the military, she returned to Kentucky with her husband and 3 children. Among her issues are universal healthcare coverage; teachers' pensions; climate change; sexual harassment; and common-sense gun regulation. Barr votes with Trump's position on legislation 95% of the time, according to FiveThirtyEight. A civilian his entire career, he is heavily backed by coal executives and coal industry PACs even there is not one active coal mine left in the district. McGrath is going to need help to counter Barr's attacks, get her progressive message to the voters, and win this campaign. We encourage you to learn more about McGrath at her campaign website:

[www.amymcgrathforcongress.com](http://www.amymcgrathforcongress.com)





# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

*WNDC is proud to support the following women who recently won their primaries. For the Candidate Watch, we are focusing on defending vulnerable Democratic seats or on candidates who have a realistic opportunity to gain a new seat.*

*May 30, 2018*



## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Gina Ortiz Jones for Texas' 23rd District!*

Gina Ortiz Jones defeated her Democratic challenger Rick Trevino in the May 22 runoff election for Texas' 23rd Congressional District, after the two beat three other Democrats in the primary. Ortiz Jones, a Filipina-American and former Air Force intelligence officer, won by capturing 68% of the vote to Trevino's 32%. She now faces a two-term incumbent, Republican African American Will Hurd, who has lots of gas and oil money. This district is usually a swing district between Democrats and Republicans, but Hurd--who even voted for Hillary Clinton--stopped that in 2016 with a narrow re-election victory. According to the DCCC, Hurd voted 95% with Ryan and 97% with Trump in a heavily Hispanic-Latino district, not good for West Texas families. The district is now rated a "toss up" by Pollsters Inside Elections and Sabato, with Cook rating it competitive and leaning Republican.

As a career civil servant after her military tours, Ortiz Jones worked under presidents of both parties. She became frustrated with Trump and his administration, and outraged with his policies and personnel choices for the top administration jobs. She later quit her job, and stepped up to run for the 23rd!

Her Democratic supporters are energized by those same feelings and concerns about the Trump presidency. Ortiz Jones launched an active campaign agenda: responsible immigration reform; accessible affordable health care; higher education and skilled job training; and protecting seniors and veterans. Her endorsements are numerous: Emily's List, Vote Vets, Giffords PAC, and Khizr Khan. If Ortiz Jones wins, her victory will herald lots of Firsts in Texas: Asian-American, Lesbian, and Iraq War veteran. WNDC, let's get her over the finish line! Learn more about Gina Ortiz Jones and her campaign at:

[www.ginaortizjones.com](http://www.ginaortizjones.com)





# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

*The Candidate Watch features candidates defending vulnerable Democratic seats or who have a realistic opportunity to gain a new seat. This week we are highlighting Pennsylvania, which has had an all-male Congressional delegation since 2015. These recent women Democratic primary winners can change that!*

*May 23, 2018*

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Mary Gay Scanlon for Pennsylvania's 5th District!*

Mary Gay Scanlon is the Democratic candidate running to represent Pennsylvania's newly redrawn 5th Congressional District. Although this district consists of parts of the old 7th district that had been represented by Republican Congressman Meehan until he resigned in April, voters in the newly drawn 5th voted for Clinton over Trump by a wide margin. Many pollsters, including Cook and Inside Elections, consider this seat "likely" Democratic! Let's help Scanlon win this open seat!

Scanlon is an attorney who has long been an advocate for women's and children's rights, and has held elective office as a school board member. The national pro bono counsel at a Philadelphia law firm for the past 14 years, she is also heavily involved in protecting immigrants. Among her other issues are gun reform, criminal justice reform, LGBTQ equality, and expanding access to health care.



This is the only Congressional race in PA to pit two women candidates against each other. The Republican candidate is Pearl Kim, a Senior Deputy Attorney General of PA. Pundits suggest her strategy will be to run against Trump and to engage women voters. As a result, although this district is considered "likely" Democratic right now, Scanlon will need help all the way to the general election to secure this seat. WNDC can help Scanlon. We encourage you to learn more about Scanlon at her campaign website:

[www.scanlonforcongress.com](http://www.scanlonforcongress.com)

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Chrissy Houlahan for Pennsylvania's 6th District!*

Chrissy Houlahan is the Democratic candidate running for Pennsylvania's newly redrawn 6th Congressional District. Houlahan, compelled to run after the 2016 election, raised substantial campaign funds and ran unopposed. She was endorsed by former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., and supported by Emily's List. District 6 is called "likely Democratic" by pollsters Cook and Inside Elections. Her Republican opponent, Greg McCauley, entered the race when incumbent Rep. Ryan Costello retired. He is considered by many an "accidental" candidate, who is a strong conservative without a campaign operation and little funding. Republicans are concerned. Houlahan's story is an American one! Her father, a Holocaust survivor, came to America with his widowed mother seeking safety and opportunity. He joined the US Navy and showed his daughter service and duty. She attended Stanford on a ROTC scholarship, and served in the US Air Force. More recently, she has served as President and COO/CFO of Springboard Collaborative, an educational organization focused on early childhood literacy. Her campaign issue portfolio includes: growing the economy, healthcare for all, reproductive rights, gun violence, and immigration reform, among others.



Houlahan is running to bring her public service passion and business savvy to Washington. The road to take the House back is right through Pennsylvania's District 6, where Hillary Clinton narrowly beat Trump in 2016. WNDC, let's help Houlahan grab this seat and take the House back! We encourage you to learn more about Chrissy Houlahan at her campaign website:

[www.chrissyhoulahanforcongress.com](http://www.chrissyhoulahanforcongress.com)



# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

*The Candidate Watch features candidates defending vulnerable Democratic seats or who have a realistic opportunity to gain a new seat. This week we are highlighting Pennsylvania, which has had an all-male Congressional delegation since 2015. These recent women Democratic primary winners can change that!*

*May 23, 2018*

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Susan Wild for Pennsylvania's 7th District!*

Susan Wild, experienced civil litigator, is taking her fight for families to the newly redrawn 7th Congressional District in Pennsylvania. She emerged victorious from a primary field of 8 contenders, showing her campaigning savvy. She'll need it. Although her newly redrawn district leans slightly Democratic, Republicans plan to put lots of money into tv ads to back her GOP competitor, Marty Nothstein. Both candidates are new, with low name recognition, and therefore have great scope to define themselves.

Nothstein is an Olympic cycling champion who cites himself as "principled conservative" while promising to end sanctuary cities, curtail abortion rights, and support gun rights. His pro-Trump message contrasts sharply with Wild's progressive platform. Wild plans to stop ICE raids, ban assault weapons, and fight for a woman's right to choose. She is resolutely anti-Trump, even having helped a Syrian family stay in the country despite being affected by the travel ban. She will fight for jobs, protect Medicare and Social Security, and defend the environment. Learn more about Susan Wild's story, her stances, and the chance to add a woman's voice back into the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation:

[www.wildforcongress.com](http://www.wildforcongress.com)





# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

May 16, 2018

## *Special Election Candidate Watch: Danny O'Connor for Ohio's 12th Congressional District!*

On August 7, 2018, there will be a special election in Ohio's 12th District. This is a great opportunity for a Democratic pickup in a district long represented by a Republican, but currently considered competitive by multiple pollsters. Danny O'Connor, Franklin County Recorder, is running against hard-right Republican State Senator Troy Balderson for this open seat.



The 12th District consists of sections of several counties in north central Ohio, including Franklin, Delaware, Licking, and Morrow. The district (in its various iterations through redistricting) has historically been represented by a Republican, including ex-Congressman Pat Tiberi from 2001 to January 2018, and it includes a large number of well-educated suburban voters. Although the district went for Trump by 11 points over Clinton in the 2016 Presidential election, the Cook Political Report is rating this district as "toss-up," and Inside Elections rates it as only "tilts" Republican. WNDC can help Danny flip this district blue!

Danny was born and raised in rural Shelby County, Ohio. Prior to being elected Recorder, he contributed to an amicus brief in support of marriage equality in the Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges. Since being elected Recorder, he's instituted the first-ever paid family leave program for employees in the Recorder's office. He's the child of a breast cancer survivor. His priorities include expanding health care, protecting Social Security and Medicare, combating climate change, and creating economic opportunities. He is endorsed by, among others, Planned Parenthood Action Fund; Democratic Progressives of Ohio; Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Ohio's 3rd Congressional District; former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland; and many unions.

Danny's opponent Balderson has consistently voted against choice and is endorsed by Ohio Right to Life, and is pro-gun and endorsed by the NRA. Balderson's own campaign ads describe him as an anti-immigrant spending hawk who is fully committed to building Trump's wall while defending "Christian" values.

WNDC can help Danny mobilize the 12th district's Democratic voters, and its independent voters who may never have voted Democrat before but are repelled by the Trump administration and its priorities. We encourage you to learn more about Danny at his campaign website:

[www.dannyoconnorforcongress.com](http://www.dannyoconnorforcongress.com)

## *Candidate Watch: Liz Watson for Indiana's 9th Congressional District!*

Liz Watson is taking on Republican incumbent Trey Hollingsworth in a bid to turn Indiana's 9th district blue. She's a progressive candidate in an area where Democrats usually run moderate candidates, and is predictably shaking things up. "Liz Watson is running on a bold agenda and a record of experience actually crafting policy that is making a difference in the lives of working families," said Joe Dinkin, spokesman for the Working Families Party, which endorsed her. "She is going to prove that that is the way to win in a Republican district."

In addition to these progressive groups, she's won the backing of more mainstream organizations including Emily's List and NOW.



There's strong hope that she can put together voters from some of the academic communities in her district as well as people of color and union representatives. As recently as 2008, this was a Democratic seat, and the Republican incumbent significantly underperformed President Trump in the district, winning by only 14% where Trump carried the district by 27 points.

Liz returned to her native Indiana after years of progressive legal work in the Washington, DC, area, including supporting victims of domestic violence and providing advice to help pass Maryland's paid family leave and gender pay parity acts. She'll bring that vision of equality not only to her district but also to the US. Learn more about her:

[www.lizforindiana.com](http://www.lizforindiana.com)



# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

May 10, 2018

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Help Heidi Heitkamp Hang On in North Dakota!*

Heidi Heitkamp is North Dakota's dynamic junior senator and is facing one of the toughest races in the country this year.

Her state went for Trump by 36 points, and she's facing North Dakota's at-large congressman, Kevin Cramer, who was asked by Trump several times to join the race. However, Trump's trade war tariffs loom large in her rural, white state -- precisely the voters that the Democratic party is trying to attract -- so there is good momentum in her favor. Let's help keep this great woman legislator working for North Dakota and for the US.

A businesswoman and lawyer, Senator Heitkamp has been bi-partisan in her politics and focuses closely on what she thinks is good for her state. While she has voted for most Trump cabinet picks, she voted against tax reform and efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. She is working on energy issues in ways that appeal to her state's energy interests but also to the environmental sector: she led the way with a carbon-capture bill in Congress. Senator Heitkamp is exactly the right representative for her state as well as for the women, girls, and men of our country.

WNDC can help Heidi keep her state in her tough race! We need her pragmatic voice and encourage you to learn more about her at her campaign website:

[www.heidiforthdakota.com](http://www.heidiforthdakota.com)



## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Texas Turning Blue? Beto for Senate!*

Beto O'Rourke is the 45 year-old, Spanish-speaking, two-term Congressman from El Paso, TX who is challenging Ted Cruz in the upcoming Texas Senate race. Prior to his election to Congress, "Beto," as he is known to his staff and supporters, had served on the El Paso City Council since 2005. Before he began his career in public service, Beto owned and ran a small technology company in El Paso. Beto also had a brief career in the rock world as the bassist in a punk band in the early 1990s.

In the New York Times Opinion Section, Frank Bruni recently described him as a political fable. "He's a peppy, rangy, toothy progressive with ratios of folksiness to urbanity and irreverence to earnestness that might well have been cooked up in some political laboratory." Beto has no speechwriter, because he never speaks from a fixed script. He has no pollster, because he's not developing a strategy based on polls. Beto has been driving across the state himself, visiting every county in Texas. He is visiting college campuses and small towns. He is listening to people and responding, unscripted, to their concerns. In a state where Democrat is often still a dirty word, Beto is staying true to his progressive ideals, while still appealing to a more conservative electorate that is unhappy with Trumpism.

The last time a Democrat won statewide office in Texas was 24 years ago. However, Beto's poll numbers have been climbing, with the most recent numbers indicating that the race is too close to call. There is only room to grow as 53% of Texas voters say they don't know enough to have an opinion of him yet. His campaign events are packed and his financial coffers are ballooning, despite the fact that the campaign accepts no donations from PACs, corporations, or special interests. At the end of Q1 2018 the campaign had raised \$13.2 million, significantly outpacing Ted Cruz and raising more than any Texas Democrat running for the Senate has ever amassed.

This is genuinely a grassroots campaign with an army of supporters canvassing and making calls for him across the state. He has a map showing his upcoming campaign events taking place across the state, making it easy for supporters to get involved and meet other supporters. Connectivity to other Beto supporters will be important as former Republicans venture into voting for a Democrat for the first time. The Texas Senate race is certainly not an easy one for Democrats, but if there was ever a candidate that was capable of taking on the complex social, political, and economic issues affecting Texans, Beto O'Rourke is the guy:

[www.betofortexas.com](http://www.betofortexas.com)





# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

May 10, 2018

## ***DC Voter Registration (by May 29 for primaries) and Early Voting Information***

### **Registration Deadlines and Election Dates**

Mail-in Registration Deadline: Postmarked 30 days before Election Day

DC residents may also register and vote via provisional ballot on Election Day

Primary Election Registration Deadline: May 29, 2018 by mail or online. Register in person through Election Day.

Update party affiliation by parties May 29, 2018.

Primary Election: June 19, 2018

General Election Registration Deadline: October 16, 2018. Register in person through Election Day.

General Election: November 6, 2018

### **How Can I Vote?**

#### **By Mail**

DC voters may vote by absentee ballot for any reason.

You can request an absentee ballot through the DC Board of Elections and Ethics at

**[vote4dc.com/ApplyInstructions/Absentee](http://vote4dc.com/ApplyInstructions/Absentee).**

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by mail or electronically by seven days before Election Day.

#### **Early In-person**

Early voting is available at certain vote centers at least seven days prior to Election Day from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm,

Monday through Saturday. More information is available at [dcboe.org](http://dcboe.org)

#### **Election Day**

Voting sites will be open from 7:00am until 8:00 pm on Election Day. If you are in line by closing time then you will be allowed to vote.

### **Official Election Websites**

More election information at [www.dcboe.org](http://www.dcboe.org)

Online voter registration available at [www.vote4dc.com](http://www.vote4dc.com)



# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

May 2, 2018

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Catherine Krantz for Texas's 4th Congressional District!*



The Democratic Congressional candidate running in November for Texas' 4th District is Catherine Krantz. Let's help her turn the 4th blue! The 4th District stretches through a number of counties in northeastern Texas. The district has historically been so red that Democrats did not even field a Congressional candidate there in 2014 and 2016. It has been represented by Republican John Ratcliffe since 2014, and prior to that by Republican Ralph Hall. According to pollsters, currently this district does not represent a realistic pick-up opportunity for Democrats. However, supporting Krantz now can help set up the district to be competitive in future elections, by increasing Democratic visibility and engagement in the district.

Catherine is a native Texan. She helps run her family's business in the district, and previously had worked in Mexico for many years (she is a dual citizen). Her web page lists her priorities, which include preserving social security, improving infrastructure, strengthening the Affordable Care Act (her website notes that she has had Obamacare herself for three years and that it has "been a blessing"), reducing income inequality, and implementing reasonable immigration and gun control policies.

Catherine's opponent, incumbent John Ratcliffe, has voted to impose criminal penalties on abortion providers and place other restrictions on women's right to choose; has an "A" rating from the NRA; and supports Trump's unconstitutional Muslim travel ban and increased restrictions on refugees entering the US. He votes with Trump over 90% of the time according to FiveThirtyEight.

However this race turns out, WNDC can help Catherine mobilize Democratic and progressive voters in the 4th! We encourage you to learn more about Catherine at her campaign website:

[www.catherinekrantzforcongress.com](http://www.catherinekrantzforcongress.com)

## *Congressional Candidate Watch: Jennie Lou Leeder for Texas' 11th Congressional District!*

Democrat Jennie Lou Leeder is challenging Republican incumbent Kenneth Michael "Mike" Conaway for Texas' 11th Congressional District. According to the Cook Report, Texas is poised for change in 2018. Trump has a low rating in the state and Republicans are frustrated with him. Let's help Leeder bring that change to the 11th District!

District 11 is in west central Texas, covering 29 counties, including the cities of Midland, Odessa, and San Angel. It has been represented by Republican Conaway since 2005. Politico Says Conaway immediately began building one of the most conservative records on the Hill. According to FiveThirtyEight, he has voted with Trump 98% of the time. Conaway took over for Nunes (R-CA) as the Chair of the Permanent Select House Committee on Intelligence and, on April 27, released the Committee's Russia Investigation report with newly declassified information.



Jennie Lou Leeder, a 7th generation Texan, is an educator, a businesswoman, and a coach, and has been active in politics since 2007, as Democratic Chair for Llano county (2007-20017). She is the daughter of two retired teachers and is a former teacher herself. In 2014, Leeder was elected Senate District 24 Committeewoman where she served one term and also sat on the Rural Subcommittee, Urban County Subcommittee, and Legislative Committees.

Leeder campaigns that Medicaid and Medicare are essential safety nets for seniors, the disabled, and children living under the poverty line. She supports a strong national infrastructure, beyond roads and bridges, including pipes for drinking water, rail systems, power grids, and broadband connectivity for creating jobs and for investing and maintaining those systems for the future.

The WNDC is highlighting this strong woman who is challenging a seven-term GOP incumbent and who we believe just might make it over the finishing line in November! We encourage you to learn more about Jennie Lou at her campaign website:

[www.jennielouleeder.com](http://www.jennielouleeder.com)



# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

May 2, 2018



## ***Virginia Primary Voter Registration and Primary Day Voting!***

### **Register to Vote at Your Current Address**

The deadline to register to vote in the Virginia Primary is Monday, May 21, 2018.

For more information on voter registration, visit  
[www.vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](http://www.vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation).

### **Vote on Primary Day Or ...**

Make your plan to vote on Primary Day -- Tuesday, June 12th! Turnout often is low for primaries, so your vote can have an outsized impact on the election result. Be sure to bring a valid photo ID with you to the polls!

Date: June 12, 2018

Time: 6 am to 7 pm

Location: Your polling location (visit

[www.vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](http://www.vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation) for lookup tool)

... Be Sure to Cast Your Absentee Ballot!

Yes, absentee voting is an option for the Primary! If you are unable to vote in your precinct on Primary Day, you may be eligible to vote absentee. Check here:  
[www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/)

Absentee ballot-by-mail requests are due by 5 pm on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, and the absentee ballot must be received in the office of your local registrar by 7 pm on Primary Day.

Absentee voting in-person can be done at your local registrar's office.

Additional information is available at  
[www.vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](http://www.vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation), or by phone at 800-552-9745 or email at [info@elections.virginia.gov](mailto:info@elections.virginia.gov).





# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

April 25, 2018

## *Flippable District Alert: Sean Casten for Illinois' 6th Congressional District!*

The Democratic Congressional candidate running in November for Illinois' 6th District is Sean Casten, scientist and clean energy entrepreneur. Let's help him turn the 6th blue!

The 6th District has been represented by Republican Pete Roskam since 2007. However, in 2016 Hillary Clinton bested Donald Trump by 7 points in the district. Now, the district has been targeted by the DCCC for their Red-to-Blue program.

Currently, pollsters rate the 6th as "tilts Republican" or "Republican toss-up." This is a terrific pick-up opportunity for Democrats!

Sean has degrees in science and engineering from Middlebury and Dartmouth, and his career has focused on clean energy and developing new technologies. Besides a focus on climate change, Sean supports an assault weapons ban, is pro-choice, wants to formally approve DACA, and protect and expand the ACA. He supports LGBTQ rights and wants to increase opportunities for affordable education, including refinancing of student debt.

Sean is running against Republican Pete Roskam, who has consistently voted to repeal the ACA and is a social conservative who is anti-choice and anti-LGBTQ rights. He has derided climate change as "junk science," is pro-NRA and votes with Trump 98% of the time, according to Swing Left.

WNDC can help this accomplished scientist take the 6th, getting Democrats one seat closer to taking back the House! We encourage you to learn more about him and contribute to his campaign:



[www.castenforcongress.com](http://www.castenforcongress.com)

## *Strong woman challenging GOP incumbent: Betsy Dirksen Longdrigan for Illinois' 13th Congressional District!*

Democrat Betsy Dirksen Longdrigan is challenging Republican incumbent Rodney Davis. She's a former staffer to Senator Dick Durbin and is endorsed by Emily's List. Among the issues she supports are women's issues; universal healthcare coverage; gun control; codification of DACA; protecting the environment; affordable education.

Watching Republicans try to dismantle Obamacare was what pushed her to run, having lived through her young son being in intensive care for weeks after an accident, and realizing the difficulties of healthcare. While the race is considered leaning Republican, it's been targeted by the DCCC and Emily's List, among others. Longdrigan has deep Central Illinois roots and is a formidable fundraiser, so her chances are strong. To learn more about her and get involved in her campaign, check out her website:



[www.betsydirksenlongdrigan.com](http://www.betsydirksenlongdrigan.com)



# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

April 25, 2018

## *Flippable Race Alert: Brendan Kelly for Illinois' 12th Congressional District!*

The Democratic Congressional candidate running in November for Illinois' 12th District is Brendan Kelly, US Navy veteran and State's Attorney for St. Clair County, IL.

The 12th District has been represented by Republican Mike Bost since 2014. Prior to that, it was held by a Democrat. Pollsters are rating the 12th as "leans Republican" or "Republican toss-up." This is another fantastic opportunity for Democrats to help take back the House!

Brendan has been State's Attorney for St. Clair County since 2010. He is known for taking on political corruption cases, creating a children's justice division to focus on domestic and child assault cases, and taking on cases against big pharmaceutical manufacturers, suing them for maximizing profits by deceiving patients about the dangers of certain prescribed opioids.

His priorities are reducing income inequality, ensuring healthcare for all, strengthening organized labor, and repairing crumbling infrastructure. He has advocated for stronger mental health and addiction services to combat the opioid epidemic, and has been outspoken about getting money out of politics.

Brendan is running against Republican Mike Bost, who has voted against equal pay for women. Bost has also offered full-throated support to repealing the ACA, privatizing Social Security and Medicare, and reducing government spending. He is a climate change denier whose signature issue is repealing environmental regulations that he claims hold back job creation.

WNDC can help this US Navy Veteran and principled State's Attorney take back the 12th! We encourage you to learn more about him and contribute to his campaign:



[www.brendan4southernil.com](http://www.brendan4southernil.com)



# CANDIDATE WATCH

From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

April 11, 2018

## *Keep the momentum going! Turn an Arizona seat blue in the April 24th special election!*

Physician and activist Dr. Hiral Tipirneni is in the final days of her campaign to take a normally solidly Red congressional seat -- the one held by Rep. Trent Franks for 15 years until he was forced to resign in a #MeToo moment in December. Let's help her do this!

Dr. Tipirneni is an emergency room physician who also became a cancer research advocate when her mother and nephew died of the disease. She takes her role in the community seriously, having served on several NGO boards and led a TEDx event on positive solutions for development of Arizona's Northwest Valley. She champions an evidence-based approach to issues, which has led her to positions on the need for universal healthcare, against building a wall with Mexico, and for common sense gun safety laws. As a physician, she listens carefully, which is why she knows she can represent her district well. Emily's List, Indivisible, Gabby Giffords, and others have endorsed her.

Dr. Tipirneni is running against Republican State Representative Debbie Lasko, who supports the wall with Mexico and has voted for state budgets with deep cuts to public education. In recent weeks, pundits have changed the race from "solidly Republican" to "likely Republican" and GOP leaders such as Paul Ryan have started stumping for Lasko. It's still a tough race.

We can help put this strong, intelligent woman in the House!

In accordance with the WNDC Board of Governors decision to support her, we encourage you to learn more about Hiral and contribute to her campaign:



[www.hiralforcongress.com](http://www.hiralforcongress.com)