

# NY-04 District Primer

In 2024, Democrat Laura Gillen won this seat by 8603 votes. **That's close!** With a winning margin of *less than one vote per precinct*, we can't afford to lose a single vote. With your help, we're going to **HOLD** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: April 2
Primary: June 23
Midterms: November 3

## Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
<b>Harris: 194,428 (50%)</b> Trump: 189,465 (48.8%)	<b>Laura Gillen (D): 191,760 (51.1%)</b> Anthony D'Esposito (R): 183,157 (48.8%)	<b>Anthony D'Esposito (R): 140,622 (51.8%)</b> Laura Gillen (D): 130,871 (47.6%)

## District Facts & Stats



### Largest Cities

- Hempstead, pop. 59,569
- Freeport, 44,028
- Valley Stream (parts): 40,232

### Geography

Located on Long Island in southeast Nassau County, NY-04 extends north to Garden City and east to Wantagh and Massapequa; to the west, it borders New York City. Consisting of densely populated small cities, towns, and villages, the district includes Long Beach and other beach communities on the Atlantic coast. Mineola (pop. ~21k) is the county seat.

### Citizenry

The third wealthiest CD in New York, NY-04 has a diverse population consisting of approximately 51% white, 21% Hispanic or Latino, 18% Black, 8% Asian, and 2% Haitian people. Many residents commute to work in NYC. The district leans Democratic, with approximately 66,000 more registered Democrats than Republicans. More than 16,500 veterans live in the district, along with nearly 30,000 SNAP recipients, and more than 202,000 Medicaid enrollees.

### The Local Vibe

In Hempstead, Hispanic residents and small business owners report feeling on edge after waves of ICE activity in the district. Local organizers have convened events to help residents understand their rights and what to do if confronted by ICE agents.

No Kings protests in Mineola have been well attended. A June 2025 rally attracted thousands of participants and was covered on local TV news. In January 2026, residents gathered at the Nassau County Legislative Building to protest the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis. In March, No Kings rallies drew thousands in Mineola and nearby Port Washington (in NY-03).

There is a gubernatorial election in NY in 2026.

Sign up for another event: [mobilize.us/swingleft](https://mobilize.us/swingleft)

Updated May 2026 • Researched and edited by Swing Left's all-volunteer research team

## Key Issues

- **Housing and homelessness:** The district's housing crunch could worsen if HUD funding for emergency housing vouchers is cut. Current funds will run out in late 2026.
  - **Social Security and Medicaid:** Nearly 140,000 district residents depend on Social Security; nearly 15% of residents rely on Medicaid. Cuts to these programs will hurt the district's most vulnerable.
  - **Taxes:** Raising the SALT cap in the current budget is popular among constituents wanting tax relief.
- 

## About the Candidates

### Laura Gillen | Democratic Incumbent

An attorney who grew up in the district and a devoted public servant, Laura Gillen was elected to Congress in 2024, flipping the seat to Democratic control.

She previously served as Hempstead Town Supervisor, leading efforts to revitalize the town's infrastructure and to pass critical legislation relating to sexual harassment and veterans' benefits.

Gillen serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and its subcommittees on Highways and Transit, Aviation, Water Resources and Environment as well as the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and its subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.

In 2024, Gillen narrowly won by a margin of 2.3% over Anthony D'Esposito, the incumbent who had previously defeated her by a margin of 3.6% in 2022.

Gillen has the support of eighteen union locals and she has earned endorsements from Emily's List, The Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood, End Citizens United, and the Human Rights Coalition, among others. A familiar figure known for her bipartisanship, she is highly engaged with voters in the district. As of April 2026, her campaign has at least \$3 million in cash on hand.

### Republican Challenger(s)

*Though he was widely expected to be the GOP's favorite for this race, D'Esposito recently announced that he is not running in 2026. We'll know more after the primary election on June 23. Until then, we've identified these front runners:*

**Jeanine Driscoll**, Receiver of Taxes for Hempstead, is the Nassau County GOP's pick to replace former front-runner Anthony D'Esposito who abruptly announced his withdrawal from the race in April. New York State Assemblyman **Brian Miller** is also running.

**The contrast:** Gillen is a seasoned campaigner and legislator with a national profile who is trusted by her constituents; neither of her GOP opponents is anywhere near her in terms of qualifications, experience, or name recognition in the district.