

NY-17 District Primer

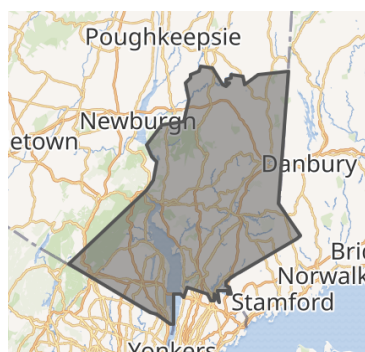
In 2024, Republican Mike Lawler won this seat by 23,946 votes—just four votes per precinct. *That's close!* If we can persuade just five voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we're going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: April 6
Primary: June 23
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 194,302 (50%) Trump: 192,139 (49%)	Lawler (R): 197,845 (52.1%) Jones (D): 173,899 (45.8%)	Lawler (R): 143,550 (49.2%) Maloney(D): 141,730 (48.6%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Ramapo: 148,919
- Clarkstown: 86,855
- Orangetown: 48,655

Geography

Located just north of Manhattan and bordering both Connecticut and New Jersey, largely suburban NY-17 encompasses the entirety of Rockland and Putnam counties, as well as most of northern Westchester and parts of southern Dutchess counties in the Hudson Valley. Redistricting in 2022 removed White Plains and Greensburg, making the once firmly Democratic district a heavier lift for Dems.

Citizenry

Many residents of this socioeconomically mixed district commute for work in NYC. About 21% identify as Hispanic. Rockland County is home to the nation's largest per-capita Jewish population (31.4%), including a large Hasidic community. 211,500 residents of NY-17 are enrolled in Medicaid, and 10k households in SNAP. 35% of Rockland County residents (and 46% of children) rely on Medicaid. Service jobs, especially in healthcare, account for 83% of all jobs in the district..

The Local Vibe

People here are especially worried about the budget cuts to social assistance and to funding for hospitals.

At Lawler's town halls, hundreds of angry residents have voiced intense opposition to his choices in Washington. Senior citizens and healthcare advocates are very concerned about impending cuts, which include more than \$7 billion for NY hospitals..

Local school boards have strongly resisted attempts to remove DEI policies.

In June 2025, 2,500 people attended a No Kings demonstration in Nanuet.

Key Issues

- **Threats to essential services:** In addition to the large percentage of district residents who rely on Medicaid and food assistance, many jobs in the district are in healthcare, hospitals and social services. They are all threatened by budget cuts to hospitals and healthcare.
 - **A duplicitous rep:** Mike Lawler presents himself as a moderate but votes 100% of the time for Trump-aligned priorities; constituents at his town halls have been vocal in their protest.
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About the Candidates

Mike Lawler | GOP Incumbent

Mike Lawler serves on the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He has proudly claimed to be a top recipient of America PAC, a super PAC created by Elon Musk, from which he received over \$1.7 million in 2024. Lawler had considered a run for governor, announcing his candidacy in July 2025. Trump then pressured him to announce that he would instead attempt to hold on to his Congressional seat—a pressure to which he acquiesced.

Despite representing a purple district and cultivating a reputation as a moderate, Lawler votes with Trump 100% of the time. Over vocal opposition from his constituents (and contrary to his own promises) he voted to cut social service programs like Medicaid and the food assistance programs that support 10,000 households in his district.

Democratic Challenger(s)

There are several possible candidates; we'll know more after the primary election on June 23. Until then, we've identified these front runners:

Army veteran and former election security official **Cait Conley** previously served on Biden's National Security Council and most recently worked at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Her platform is focused on affordability and investments in the Hudson Valley's infrastructure. She has been endorsed by Vote Vets, Giffords PAC, and Future Forum PAC, among others. She lives in Ossining.

Beth Davidson, a legislator in Rockland County, is running on a broad affordability platform informed by her experiences on the Nyack School Board and as a mother. She has been endorsed by former Rep. Mondaire Jones, the first openly gay Black man in Congress who lost to Lawler in 2024, and by the Rockland Dems.

Effie Phillips-Staley is a Tarrytown Village Trustee whose work history includes nonprofit and arts organizations in the district and in New York City. She is a progressive whose priorities include child care, housing and health care. She has been endorsed by the Working Families Party.

Nonprofit executive **Jessica Reimann**, former FBI analyst **John Sullivan**, Air Force veteran **John Cappello**, and **Mike Sacks**, a lawyer and former broadcast journalist, are also running.

The contrast: Mike Lawler is a servile Trump toady whose voting record reflects his alignment with Trump/MAGA's reactionary, anti-democratic politics and his subservience to both Trump and Musk. He is clearly out of step with his constituents, who are concerned with matters of affordability, social services, and the threats to residents' jobs and well-being posed by the Trump regime.