

NY-19 District Primer

In 2024, Democrat Josh Riley won this seat by 8357 votes. *That's close!* With a winning margin of *just 2 votes 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
Harris: 194,147 (50.4%) Trump: 187,279 (48.7%)	Josh Riley (D): 192,647 (51.1%) Marcus Molinaro (R): 184,290 (48.9%)	Marcus Molinaro (R): 146,004 (49.9%) Josh Riley (D): 141,509 (48.4%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Binghamton, pop. ~47,000
- Ithaca, ~32,000

Geography

Located in upstate New York, NY-19 extends from Ithaca and Binghamton in the west, nearly to the Hudson River in the east, and to the Massachusetts and Vermont borders to the north. The southern part of the district shares a border with Pennsylvania. The area is partially coextensive with both the Catskills and the Finger Lakes regions. Parts of the area are forested and mountainous, and there are many farms and orchards.

Citizenry

In 2023, 777,000 people lived in the district, of whom 377,000 were employed. 81% of residents are white, 7% Hispanic or Latino, 4% Black, 4% Asian.

Of the 248,000 people employed around Binghamton, 37,000 (14.8%) are union members, and 43,000 (17.3%) are covered by a union contract but are not union members.

For nearly ten percent of all families in the district, incomes have fallen below the poverty level in the last year.

The Local Vibe

Hundreds of people in upstate New York have been arrested by ICE.

In March 2026, hundreds of protestors participated in No Kings demonstrations in Binghamton and Monticello.

In 2024, 13.2% of households in the district—more than 42,000 households—were receiving SNAP benefits, which are also being cut.

As a result of cuts required by the Big Ugly Bill, 3,000 district residents stand to lose ACA coverage. More than 30,000 people will lose Medicaid in NY-19.

Key Issues

- **Healthcare:** Cuts to ACA and Medicaid leave some residents uninsured and others in financial distress.
 - **Immigration:** ICE crackdowns threaten families, businesses, and schools.
 - **Trade:** With Canada as New York's largest trading partner, uncertainty around tariffs negatively impacts agriculture, businesses, and consumers.
-

About the Candidates

Josh Riley | Democratic Incumbent

Josh Riley is a 44-year-old Democrat from a working-class family in Endicott. He is a graduate of William & Mary and Harvard Law School.

Early in his career, Riley was a Fellow on US Senator Ted Kennedy's Labor & Pensions Committee staff, where he worked on legislation to raise the minimum wage and fought back against big corporations that tried to weaken the Family & Medical Leave Act. Riley served as a staff assistant to former Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), as policy analyst at the US Department of Labor, as clerk on the Ninth Circuit US Court of Appeals, and as general counsel to former Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) on the US Senate Judiciary Committee, where he took on big corporations that exploited workers and consumers and to expand addiction treatment programs and combat the opioid epidemic. He also represented children from low-income families in a landmark civil rights case to improve access to affordable healthcare. Riley serves on the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Riley is focused on safeguarding Medicare and Social Security, protecting the environment, strengthening the manufacturing sector, lowering costs, and reforming campaign financing. He has signed the US Term Limits Pledge. He has secured endorsements from a slew of organizations and labor unions including the Working Families Party, Planned Parenthood, Giffords PAC, the NY AFL-CIO, the New York State Public Employees Federation, and the 1199 SEIU.

Peter Oberacker | Republican Challenger

Republican State Senator **Peter Oberacker** has served three terms in the New York Senate. He has served as a legislator in Otsego County as well as supervisor of the town of Maryland. He is a food scientist and a research chef. He supports bringing whole milk into the state's public schools and opposes the proposed ban on gas stoves. He is against taxes on tips, overtime, and Social Security; and he wants to uncap state and local SALT tax deductions. Controversy has dogged his campaign, as he claims to have grown up upstate, in Schenevus, New York, but he seems in fact to have grown up in Merrick, on Long Island.

The contrast: Unlike his opponent, Rep. Riley is a serious candidate who has proven to be an effective legislator from his very first term in Congress. Riley serves on influential committees and advances the interests of his constituents in Congress, while his opponent embraces fringe issues.