

# Know Before You Go: CA-07 District Primer

*June 2018 • Researched, summarized, and edited by Swing Left's all-volunteer research team!*

**In the last election, Democrat Ami Bera won this district by only 6,965 votes (2.3%).**

That's too close! With your help, we're going to keep this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

## About the Incumbent

**Introduction:** Democrat Ami Bera has served as CA-07's rep since 2013. Bera is a centrist known for working across the aisle and sometimes breaking from the liberal base on issues such as immigration. Until 2017, Bera was the only Indian American in Congress.

**Issues:** Bera has pledged to bring more clean energy jobs to Sacramento County; reduce taxes on small businesses to promote job creation; expand access to affordable healthcare; protect Medicare and Social Security; promote equal pay for equal work; invest in infrastructure; and protect the environment.

**Recent Elections:** Bera has narrowly won three hotly contested elections since CA-07 was redrawn in 2012. His margin of victory has ranged from 0.8% to 3.4%. Bera underperformed Clinton by 1% in the 2016 election.

**Strengths:** Bera is a physician, and a big part of his work focuses on healthcare. He is opposed to "repeal and replace" for the Affordable Care Act and to the privatization of Social Security and Medicaid, and he also advocates for veterans affairs reform. He generally has a strong track record on environmental issues. His more centrist economic views and bipartisan efforts in Congress may appeal to independents and moderate Republicans in his district.

**Potential Weaknesses:** Bera's father is in jail for money laundering his contributions to Bera's 2010 and 2012 campaigns, a scandal that plagued Bera in the 2016 election.

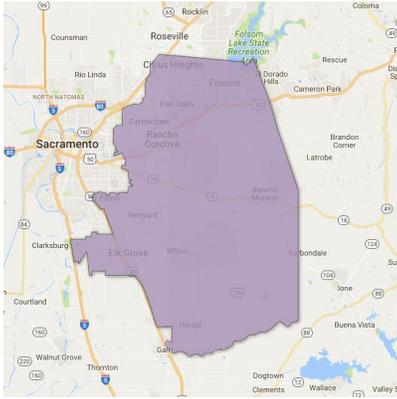
## About the Challenger

**Introduction:** Republican Andrew Grant, a California native and Marine Corps veteran is challenging Ami Bera in the 7th district. After his military service, he worked in several businesses and is now president and CEO at the Northern California World Trade Center, a consulting business that promotes international trade.

**Issues:** Grant's priorities outlined on his website include jobs, government reform, immigration reform, and tax reform. He favors lowering corporate taxes to lure companies back to the U.S., and further simplifying the tax code. He calls for more use of intelligence and investigation techniques to enforce immigration laws.

**Strengths:** Grant has a strong military career history that includes several foreign tours of duty and work in D.C. He has sought and received endorsements from local office-holders and groups. As a newcomer he is not tied closely to President Trump, and this may be an advantage in California.

**Potential Weaknesses:** His party affiliation may hurt him in this historically Democratic district. The last Republican Congressman left this office in 1957, and Hillary Clinton took the district by 52% in 2016. His positions on the issues as outlined on his website are very general, sometimes even vague, and it can be difficult to get a sense of how he would work with his colleagues in Congress.



## CA-07: Better Know the District

### Geography

District 7 covers much of Sacramento County, excluding the city of Sacramento. The district includes the county's second largest city (Elk Grove) and suburbs east of Sacramento (Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights), as well as many rural and suburban unincorporated areas to the east and southeast.

### Citizenry

Like most of California, District 7 is socioeconomically and racially diverse. Arden-Arcade is affluent, while the suburbs are primarily middle-class bedroom communities. CA-07 has a larger white and a smaller Latino/Hispanic population compared with the rest of California. It has a large population of veterans. The region has bounced back from the recession, with uninsured rates dropping and average incomes increasing to slightly above the California average, although unemployment in the district is slightly higher than the U.S. average. Communities in the district that are close to Sacramento are generally more liberal, while the more distant communities in the east and southeast are more conservative.

### Elections

District 7 is ranked "even" by the Cook Partisan Voting Index, but the district has voted Democratic in congressional and presidential elections since it was redrawn in 2012. In 2016, Hillary Clinton won the district with 52% of the vote, to Trump's 41%.

### Industries

The military was a large employer in the area until the closure of Mather Air Force Base and McClellan Air Force Base in the 1990s. Many residents commute to Sacramento for work. Within the district, hospitals and federal, state, and local governments—especially school districts—are the top employers. Tech is a big presence too: Intel's R&D center in Folsom is one of the largest employers in the Sacramento area and Apple has a customer service/repair center in Elk Grove. Citrus Heights is home to the large Sunrise Mall.

### Environment

The district contains the region's largest reservoir (Folsom Lake) and much of the American River parkway, a popular recreation spot. The lake provides water to much of the district and is expected to be critically depleted in future drought years, a problem potentially worsened once the controversial Delta twin tunnels are built just outside of the district. Agriculture is a part of the region's identity, even as farmlands dwindle from urban sprawl.

### Infrastructure

CA-07 faces critical infrastructure needs. Almost half of the roads and highways in the Sacramento region are in poor condition.

## CA-07: Facts & Stats

### Population Centers

- Elk Grove, 153,000
- Arden-Arcade, 92,000
- Citrus Heights, 84,000
- Folsom, 76,000
- Rancho Cordova, 72,000
- Carmichael, 61,700

### 2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 159K (52%)
- Trump: 124K (41%)

### 2016 House Results

- Bera (D): 152K (51%)
- Jones (R): 145K (49%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 112K
- Eligible, not registered: 135K

### 2014 House Results

- Bera (D): 93K (50.4%)
- Ose (R): 91K (49.6%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 182K