

Know Before You Go: IL-10 District Primer

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

In the last election, Democrat Brad Schneider won this district by only 14,000 votes (5%).

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

About the Incumbent

Democrat Brad Schneider just started his second non-consecutive term as IL-10's representative. He also served as the district representative from 2013 to 2015. Schneider is a moderate Democrat in a district that has recently elected moderate Republicans.

Issues: Schneider's major campaign promises include supporting common sense gun safety legislation, protecting the environment, passing comprehensive immigration reform, increasing the minimum wage, providing services for veterans, defending marriage equality, and protecting Medicare and Social Security from privatization.

Recent Elections: Schneider beat Dold in 2016 by around 14,000 votes (53% to 47%). Schneider beat incumbent Bob Dold in 2012 by around 3,300 votes (50.6% to 49.4%), but lost to Dold two years later by around 5,000 votes (51% to 49%).

Strengths: Schneider's successful business and consulting career appeals to many moderate, wealthy voters in his district. He's an outspoken veterans' services advocate and has a son who is currently an ensign in the U.S. Navy. He has a record of speaking up for gun control, with local support from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. He has been endorsed by the SEIU, the AFL-CIO, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Amalgamated Transit Union International, and UAW Region 4.

Potential Weaknesses: Schneider had to defend himself for flip-flopping on Obama's proposed nuclear deal with Iran. He has been accused of wavering on tax cuts. He voted against the Amash amendment to limit NSA surveillance.

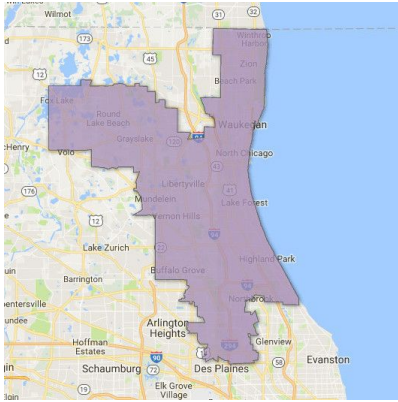
About the Challenger

Introduction: Republican Doug Bennett was nominated as IL-10's republican primary opponent to Brad Schneider for the 2018 midterm election. Bennett is an independent consultant with a background in Applied Mathematics and has never held public office. Bennett is currently the vice chairman of the West Deerfield Township Republican Organization.

Issues: Doug Bennett generally supports tax decreases and reducing the size of government. Bennett proposes a repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act, reducing environmental and labor protections, student debt reform, securing our "porous" borders, and increasing the income tax deduction to offset rising property taxes.

Strengths: In the Illinois 10th, successful GOP challengers typically take fiscally conservative stances. Bennett, a staunch supporter of deregulation and lowering taxes, could appeal to many homeowners in the area, especially given his position on increasing the local income tax deduction. Further, his proposals regarding lowering the burden of medical costs may resonate well with voters. Bennett's business experience, combined with his reputation in the community, grants him a solid foundation in the district.

Weaknesses: Doug Bennett is both a fiscal and social conservative. As the only Republican who opposed abortion rights and same sex marriage in the 10th district primary, Bennett might repel fiscally-conservative but socially moderate voters. Bennett's tough immigration stance may harm him as IL-10 is 21.6% Hispanic (along with 25% percent of the population reporting foreign-born status). Further, Bennett's proposal to repeal and replace the ACA could be interpreted as a weakness because of the public's 51% favorability of the program. Bennett's general support of President Trump could prove to be a liability.



IL-10: Better Know the District

Geography

The 10th District sits in the northeastern corner of Illinois and comprises much of Lake County and parts of Cook County. Towns in the southern end are more affluent and likely to identify as Chicago suburbs. Those in northern Lake County identify as independent towns outside the Chicago area. Many of them are about as close to Milwaukee as to Chicago.

Citizenry

IL-10 has over 700,000 people – approximately 75% white, 10% Asian, and 7% black; 22% identify ethnically as Latino or Hispanic. Nearly 25% of the population is foreign born. The median household income is \$77,031. Unemployment is 5.6%. Almost a quarter of families with a female householder and no husband present have an income below the poverty line. The district is well educated with around 89% holding at least a high school diploma and 44% holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

Elections

Hillary Clinton carried the 10th District with 62%. Trump underperformed other Republicans in some Lake County precincts, particularly around Libertyville. Despite underperforming Clinton, Schneider improved on his previous vote totals and unseated an incumbent. Vernon Hills appears to have been the area that caused the district to flip back to the Democratic representative in 2016.

Higher Education

There are 10 colleges, community colleges, and vocational schools within the district. Among the most notable are Oakton Community College (46,000 students), College of Lake County (8,000 full-time students), National Lewis University (7,500 students, 80% female and 44% people of color), and Rosalind Franklin University for medical/health professionals (more than 2,000 students).

Industries

Manufacturing, wholesale trade, and health care/social assistance are the largest sectors, each accounting for around 11% of jobs. Health care saw the largest employment growth between 2006 and 2016. Allstate, Abbott Laboratories, and Walgreen Co. are the largest private employers. The loss of major employers, particularly manufacturers, in recent years has hurt several cities in the northern 10th District. Abbott Laboratories fired close to 200 IT employees recently and blamed the ACA's medical device tax. Many of these employees were residents of Libertyville and voted Republican in reaction to their firing. Naval Station Great Lakes is the U.S. Navy's only recruit training center. In 2014, it employed 3,906 military personnel and 4,620 civilians. 150,000 people attend its graduation ceremonies yearly, contributing to \$17.4 million to the economy.

IL-10: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Waukegan, 89,000
- Buffalo Grove, 41,000
- Wheeling, 38,000
- Northbrook, 33,000
- North Chicago, 33,000
- Mundelein, 31,000

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 179K (62%)
- Trump: 94K (33%)

2016 House Results

- Schneider (D): 150K (53%)
- Dold (R): 136K (47%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 247K
- Eligible, not registered: 99K

2014 House Results

- 2014 House Results
- Schneider (D): 91K (49%)
- Dold (R): 96K (51%)