

Know Before You Go: IL-14 District Primer

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

In the last election, Republican Randy Hultgren won this district handily. But with your help, Democrat Lauren Underwood, a registered nurse and Obama advisor, can win this seat in 2018!

About the Incumbent:

Introduction: Republican Randy Hultgren, 52, graduated from Bethel College and the Chicago-Kent College of Law and has represented IL-14 since 2011. He has served in the IL Senate (2007-2011) and the IL House (1999-2007), and was on the DuPage County Board (1994- 1998). He resides in Plano with his wife and has four children.

Issues: As a Tea Party "fiscal conservative," Hultgren opposed Dodd-Frank and supported bills to roll back financial protections established to prevent another recession. In 2013, he voted to shut down the government and refused to raise the debt ceiling. Hultgren favors repealing Obamacare, is a strong supporter of gun rights, and opposes federal environmental regulations.

Committees: Hultgren serves on the Financial Services and Science, Space and Technology committees and on the Capital Markets, Securities and Investment, the Housing and Insurance, the Research and Technology, and the Energy subcommittees.

Recent Elections: Hultgren's been an incumbent since 2011, defeating Dennis Anderson 59%-41% in 2012 and 65%-35% in 2014, and Jim Walz 59.3%-40.7% in 2016.

Strengths: Hultgren has more than 20 years of political experience and a favorable reputation in the scientific research and technology community, having supported bills that expand STEM education. Hultgren criticized Trump's Muslim ban, and he has been an advocate for human rights in China.

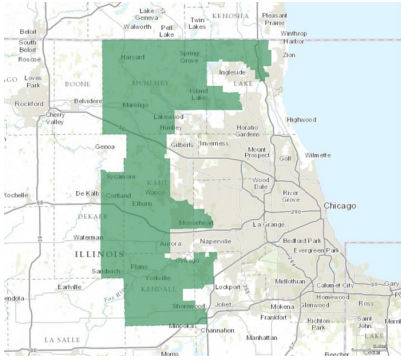
Potential Weaknesses: Hultgren is a founding member of the Tea Party. His track record and leadership in opposing financial regulations that protect consumers is alarming.

About the Challenger:

Introduction: Democrat Lauren Underwood, 32, is a Naperville native, registered nurse, nurse practitioner instructor, and a first-time candidate. In 2014, she was appointed by President Obama as a Senior Advisor in Health and Human Services (HHS), where she worked from 2010. At HHS, she helped implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and worked on public health crises including the 2014 Ebola outbreak, and the Flint water crisis. Recently, she worked with a Medicaid plan in Chicago to ensure high-quality, cost-efficient care.

Issues: Underwood supports affordable access to health-care including reproductive services; investment in quality education for all; and a strong economy. She supports improvements to the ACA and finding a comprehensive solution to the opioid crisis. Education initiatives that win her approval include affordable student loans, Pell grants, and the public service loan forgiveness program. She is a strong advocate of reducing gun violence with universal background checks, closing loopholes, and preventing criminals and potentially dangerous individuals from purchasing guns. She supports treating gun violence as a public health issue, allowing the government to study the problem. An advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, she supports a clean Dream Act and a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients.

Strengths: Underwood has demonstrated her ability to make government an effective means to expand access to healthcare, improve its quality, and reform private insurance. She has impeccable *bona fides*, having pursued a career in public health after being inspired by caregivers treating her childhood heart condition; she decided to run for office in response to Rep. Hultgren's vote to repeal the ACA. As the first African-American woman to run for the House in IL-14, she believes that "this moment in history requires courageous people to stand up and fight to restore our voice in Washington."



IL-14: Better Know the District

Geography

IL-14 is located in northeast Illinois, from along the Wisconsin border and runs along the western edge of the Chicago metro area. The district is a mix of farmland and more densely populated cities. The counties of IL-14 are home to several annual festivals including Swedish Days in Geneva and Pumpkin Festival in Sycamore. Historical sites include unique the Fabyan Windmill in Kane County, the Fabyan Villa designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, Farnsworth House, and Woodstock Square. IL-14 also features many wildlife preserves, and bike and nature paths along the Fox River.

IL-14: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Crystal Lake: 40,743
- Plainfield: 39,581
- Oswego: 30,355
- Huntley: 27,207

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 154K (45%)
- Trump: 167K (49%)

2016 House Results

- Walz (D): 138K (41%)
- Hultgren (R): 201K (59%)

2014 House Results

- Anderson (D) : 77K (35%)
- Hultgren (R): 145K (65%)

Citizenry

IL-14's population is 718,232, of which 49.3% are male, and 50.7% are female. The district is predominantly white (85.8%), with Hispanic (12.2%), Asian (3.8%) and Black (2.9%) residents making up the balance of the population. Unemployment is lower than the state average (4.6%) at 4.2%, and the median household income is \$92,461.

Elections

IL-14 consists of parts of seven counties. In the 2016 Presidential election, five of those counties preferred Hillary Clinton over Trump. Of the two counties that Trump won, his largest margin of victory was in McHenry County (50.7% - 42.7%). In the 2016 election Randy Hultgren kept his House seat, 59.3%-40.7%.

Higher Education

Traditional graduate and undergraduate programs are offered at Aurora University and Governors State University. Seven community colleges are located in the district, including the four campuses of Waubensee Community College. The University of Illinois Extension program has a campus in Kane County.

Industries

The largest industries in the district are manufacturing, health care, retail trade, and construction. The DeKalb County Business Incubator program launched in 2016 to foster entrepreneurship in the area.