

Know Before You Go: IN-09 District Primer

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In the last election, Republican Trey Hollingsworth won this district by only 44,164 votes (13.7%). That's close! With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Incumbent

Introduction: Republican Joseph Albert "Trey" Hollingsworth III is a 33-year-old businessman with personal worth of about \$58 million. He moved from Tennessee to Jeffersonville, Indiana, in September 2015 and declared his intention to run for Congress one month later. Hollingsworth's campaign spent \$3.6 million, \$2.8M from Hollingsworth himself, about 2.5 times as much as Democrat Shelli Yoder's 1.4 million. His father's super PAC also contributed \$1.1M.

Issues: During his campaign, Hollingsworth portrayed himself as someone who believes in Christian family values, a small business owner, and a political outsider. He emphasized government deregulation as a means to strengthen the American economy and preserve jobs.

Recent Elections: The Democrats held the seat for 38 years straight until 2004. Since then, they won again in 2006 and 2008, but Republicans have held the seat since 2010. The district was redrawn in 2012, favoring Republicans slightly. Voter turnout fluctuates between 30% (in 2014) and 58% (in 2016), with higher turnout during presidential elections.

Strengths: Hollingsworth is a young, rich, white male conservative with new energy and an outsider perspective. He can invest heavily in campaigns. His emphasis on small government, small business, American manufacturing, and jobs is attractive to rural, right-leaning communities.

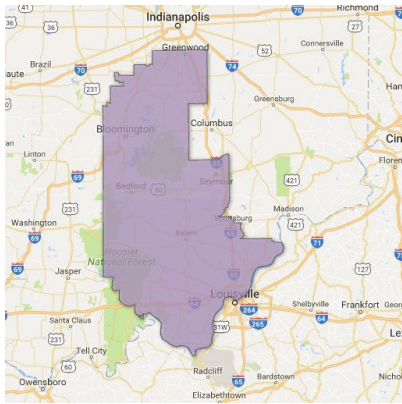
Potential Weaknesses: Hollingsworth's status as a rich non-Hoosier who paid for his seat was heavily promoted during the last election, but didn't get the traction Democrats hoped for. Hollingsworth has been vocal in his opposition to the Affordable Care Act, whose repeal may decrease Hoosiers' access to affordable healthcare, particularly in rural areas. He has also been largely supportive of Trump's agenda, which may hurt him as Trump's popularity declines.

About the Challenger

Introduction: Democrat Liz Watson is a professor at Indiana University and Bloomington native. Over the last decade, Watson worked as the Executive Director at the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality, wrote labor policy for the National Women's Law Center, and, most recently, as the Labor Policy Director for Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her successful pitch to primary voters focused on being an "effective progressive," experienced in the nitty-gritty of writing and moving legislation without compromising progressive values.

Issues: Watson's progressive platform is particularly focused on healthcare, worker's issues (which resulted in overwhelming union support and endorsements during the primary), and infrastructure. Per an April survey from Ballotpedia, Watson's top three priorities, if elected, would be "Medicare for all, better wages, and infrastructure spending." During her tenure as Labor Policy Director, Watson helped in development of a bill calling for \$15 minimum wage, and personally authored the Schedules that Work Act, intended to reduce gross variability and unpredictability in low-wage job schedules – these and a host of other employee-friendly efforts frame her as a worker's champion, in stark contrast to the independently wealthy Hollingsworth. Her campaign has also focused significant attention on programs dedicated to fighting the opioid epidemic, both in Indiana and nationally, legalizing marijuana (as a part of the common-sense plan to bolster public health care and fight Indiana's opioid proliferation), and to strengthening public schools.

Strengths: Liz Watson is a strong progressive candidate widely perceived as a champion of Indiana families. She is a labor attorney with legislative experience and would be the first woman in history to hold this seat.



IN-09: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Bloomington, 81,100
- Greenwood, 51,600
- Jeffersonville, 45,200
- New Albany, 36,500
- Clarksville, 21,700
- Seymour, 18,400

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 111K (34%)
- Trump: 198K (61%)

2016 House Results

- Yoder (D): 131K (40%)
- Hollingsworth (R): 175K (54%)
- Other: 17K (5%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 247K
- Eligible, not registered: 107K

2014 House Results

- Bailey (D): 55K (34%)
- Young (R): 102K (62%)
- Other: 6K (4%)

IN-09: Better Know the District

Geography

Indiana's 9th District is located in south central and southeastern Indiana, between the Indianapolis suburbs in the north and the Louisville metropolitan area in the south. The land is mostly rural, with 6% urban areas. The district has Brown County State Park, the largest state park in Indiana, as well as many other state parks, forests, and public lands. It also includes 13 active contaminated land sites (Superfund sites).

Local Lingo

As with the rest of the state, the appropriate term for a resident of this district is "Hoosier." The area surrounding the Louisville metro area on both sides of the border is sometimes referred to as "Kentuckiana." Some famous Hoosiers: John Mellencamp, Larry Bird, basketball coach John Wooden, violinist Joshua Bell, and astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom.

Citizenry

Total population is about 742,000 with 64% urban and 36% rural population. The district is not racially diverse; about 91% of the district's population is white. However, if broken down by age, black and Asian populations reach up to 12% in the age group of 18-29 years old. The median household income is \$52,041, and the poverty rate in the district is 13.5%, or about the same as the national poverty rate. The unemployment rate is 5.4%. About 41% of the district's population claimed membership in a religious group in 2010. Of those, 77% belonged to Protestant denominations. Other common religious traditions in the district include Catholic, Mormon, and black Protestant denominations.

Industries

Historically, one of the primary economic engines of the district has been farming and agriculture. Over time, the 9th District's economy shifted to manufacturing (currently, 16% of all employed), healthcare (13.7%), retail (11.3%), and education (10.6%). Manufacturing is prevalent in Orange, Jackson, and Washington Counties. Education is mostly concentrated in Monroe County with Indiana University's primary campus in Bloomington. Indiana University and IU Health are among the top employers in the district. Walmart Supercenter is one of the major employers in retail.

Education

The district has five four-year colleges, most notably Indiana University's Bloomington and Southeast campuses and Franklin College. In addition, Ivy Tech Community College, the state's largest post-secondary institution, enrolls more than 90,000 students and has three locations in the 9th District (Bloomington, Franklin, and Sellersburg). Educational attainment varies significantly by county, but overall about 36% have only high school diplomas, 28% have some college or an associate

degree, 14% have a bachelor's degree, and 9% have a graduate degree (master's, doctoral, or professional).