

Know Before You Go: KY-06 District Primer

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In the last election, Republican Andy Barr won this district with 61% of the vote. With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Incumbent

Introduction: Republican Andy Barr has a law degree and previously worked as the deputy general counsel to Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher. First elected to Congress in 2012, Barr won the next two elections by at least 20%. He's been in politics since 1996 and is considered an "average Republican", voting with his party most of the time.

Issues: Barr is pro-life and believes abortion should be illegal, even in cases of rape & incest, unless the mother's life is threatened. He supports replacing and repealing the Affordable Care Act. He has an "A" rating from the NRA and supported Trump pulling out of the Paris Climate Accord. Barr is an advocate of coal and manufacturing, and some expect him to put coal at the forefront of his campaign. Although there are no longer mines in KY-06, he claims that Obama-era legislation weakened the sector, devastating Kentucky, allowing Barr to highlight his pro-coal agenda. He supports limited government regulation and voted for the latest tax bill as well as in favor of the repeal of several regulations on banks from the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act.

Committees: Barr serves on the House Financial Services Committee.

Strengths: He has strong support from the NRA and from the coal & mining industries, and his pro-coal agenda may resonate with some constituents. Barr's economic platform also includes support for horse racing, auto manufacturing and bourbon distilling, all industries specific to KY-06.

Potential Weaknesses: While having comfortably won the last three elections, Barr is considered vulnerable. Almost 100,000 more Democrats are now registered in KY-06 and Barr's popularity is impacted by Trump's failing support in the region. McGrath's labelling of him as a career politician, "hand-picked by Mitch McConnell", could also hurt. His support for repealing the ACA is also a gamble. He's raised a lot of money from Wall Street, which raises eyebrows as he sits on the House Financial Services Committee.

About the Challenger

Introduction: Democrat Amy McGrath won the primary by highlighting her military background and positioning herself as a Washington outsider and an agent of change. She is an aviator and a combat veteran, retiring as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2017. She has worked as a defense and foreign affairs policy advisor to U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (D), and later served as the Pentagon's Marine Corps liaison to other federal agencies. In 2014, McGrath was assigned to the US Naval Academy, where she served as a political science instructor until her retirement. She holds an M.A. in International and Global Security from The Johns Hopkins University, a Graduate Certificate in Legislative Studies from Georgetown University and has won several awards for her military service. In 2016 she was she was inducted into Kentucky's Aviation Hall of Fame.

Issues: McGrath supports the Affordable Care Act and expanding Medicare, is against the current administration's isolationist foreign policies, has a tough stance on sexual harassment, supports medical marijuana, and is anti-NRA and promotes a national discussion on guns. She is against money in politics, and believes in climate change while promoting renewable resources to both fight its effects as well as create jobs.

Strengths: In the primary, McGrath's outsider stance appealed to Democrats and may further appeal to independents and moderate republicans. Her military background is a major asset, providing her with solid experience to apply to the job as well as appealing to some voters who might discount a woman as not "tough" enough to handle Washington D.C. Her support of the ACA may appeal to constituents worried of losing their healthcare. McGrath's attention to suburban and rural counties during the primaries helped her win the vote.



KY-06: Better Know the District

Geography

KY-06 is located in central Kentucky and contains the cities of Lexington (including its suburbs), Richmond and Frankfort, the state capital. Featuring rolling hills and fertile soil, it is 72.59% urban, and 27.41% rural.

Citizensry

According to the last census, KY-06 is majority white (85.4%), 9.2% black and 4% Hispanic and 1.3% black. The median household income is roughly \$50,000. Unemployment is around 6%, compared to 3.9% nationally. Over 294,000 citizens are on public assistance, in some form, and an additional 52,000 are uninsured. During the last 12 months, 13.6% of families were below the poverty line. 87.2% of the population have graduated from high school, and, 31.7% have college degrees.

KY-06: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Lexington-Fayette, 300,840
- Richmond, 31,840
- Richmond, 31,840
- Georgetown, 29,710
- Nicholasville, 28,190
- Frankfort, 27,020 (state capital)
- Winchester, 18,370
- Berea, 13,890

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 39%
- Trump: 55%

2016 House Results

- Kemper (D): 98K (39%)
- Barr (R): 202K (61%)

2014 House Results

- Jensen (D): 98K (40%)
- Barr (R): 123K (60%)

Elections

While Donald Trump won this district by more than 15 points in the 2016 election and *Cook Partisan Voter Index (2018)*: has rated the district R+9, it should be noted that of the 5 Kentucky districts that voted for Trump in the last election, KY-06 had the lowest percentage for Trump and highest for Clinton. This area, known as “inner Bluegrass”, is home to more moderate Republicans with a fiscally conservative attitude.

Higher Education

87.2% of the population is high school educated and the college graduation rate is 31.7%. Lexington is home to several colleges and universities, the largest being the University of Kentucky (enrollment 29,781, it is a major employer in the area) as well as Bluegrass Community and Technical College (enrollment 9,440). Eastern Kentucky University is located in Richmond (enrollment 16,881). Frankfort is home to Kentucky State University (enrollment 1,736).

Industries

Lexington and its suburbs (including Fayette), is the largest city in this district. Its industries are consistent with much of Kentucky's, including: bourbon, equine (horses are a billion dollar industry- racing, breeding and the tourism it attracts), energy and agriculture. Lexington-Fayette produces the largest crop of tobacco in the country as well as corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay, wheat, barley and beef cattle. More than 100 major companies are located in or near Lexington including Toyota's multimillion-dollar assembly plant, which employs close to 7,500 workers. Lexmark International, a *Fortune 500* company, is the city's largest employer (6,784 people). More than two dozen national organizations—medical, research, scholarly and business- call Lexington home. *Entrepreneur* magazine recently named the city one of the top five in the southeast for small-business start-ups.