

Know Before You Go: NV-03 District Primer

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In the last election, Democrat Jacky Rosen won this district by only 4,000 votes.

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

About the Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat **Susie Lee** won an open primary after incumbent Democratic Congresswoman Jacky Rosen declared she was running against Dean Heller for Nevada's U.S. Senate seat. Before running for Congress, Lee was President of the Nevada Board of Communities In Schools, an organization focused on lowering high school dropout rates. She moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1993, where she founded a homeless shelter for parents and children in need. She worked as the campaign advisor to former mayor of Las Vegas, Jan Laverty Jones, in the 1990's.

Issues: Lee favors strong public schools and opposes diverting public funds to school voucher programs. She wants to expand early childhood education programs and maintain federal Pell grants for college. She strongly supports the Affordable Care Act, especially covering pre-existing conditions. She supports the DREAM Act, and supports a pathway to citizenship. Lee supports Planned Parenthood, contraceptive access, and paid family leave. On gun control, she supports background checks, banning bump stocks, and restrictions for domestic abusers, felons, and people on the no-fly list. She also supports stronger penalties for illegal firearms sales. She supports campaign finance reform including immediate contribution reporting and transparency. Lee is a strong supporter of unions: "When unions thrive, working families thrive."

Recent Elections: Lee won the NV-03 2018 Democratic primary with 66.9% of the vote, besting six other contenders.

Strengths: Lee enjoys broad endorsement support and has been very effective at raising money for her campaign.

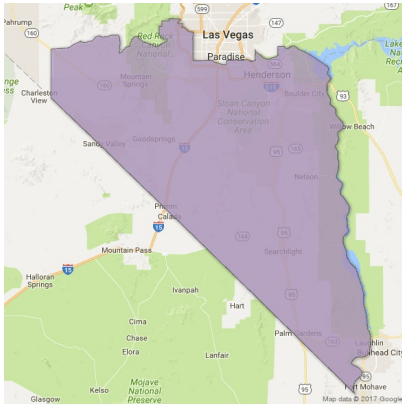
About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican **Danny Tarkanian** is the Republican candidate running in NV-03. He originally declared for the U.S. Senate seat held by Dean Heller, hoping to beat the incumbent in the GOP primary, but withdrew once Trump announced his support for Heller.

Issues: In Nevada, Tarkanian supported controversial programs such as the now-defunct Education Savings Account that diverted funding from public schools. He is closely aligned with Trump and supports most items on Trump's agenda. He opposes the Affordable Care Act and wants it repealed, and he supports defunding Planned Parenthood. Tarkanian supports building a border wall and Trump's travel ban from primarily Muslim countries. Tarkanian is a strong proponent of the NRA and doesn't support any changes that would restrict access to guns.

Strengths: Tarkanian's primary strength is his alignment with Trump on hard-line issues that resonate with Trump's base. He also enjoys name recognition in the area; his father was a well known basketball coach at UNLV, and a middle school in the district bears his name.

Potential Weaknesses: Tarkanian has run for office six times and has never advanced past the primaries.



NV-03: Better Know the District

Geography

Located in Nevada's triangular tip, NV-03 constitutes the area southwest of Las Vegas. It is a predominantly rural district with population centers concentrated around Las Vegas. Outside of the Las Vegas suburbs, population centers in the district are very small. The district includes several national parks, recreation areas, and conservation areas. Additionally, NV-03 is home to Big Bend of the Colorado State Park, the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and seven wilderness areas and habitats.

Citizenry

With a voting-age population of more than half a million, NV-03 is the largest district in Nevada. Its 72.8% white population and 7.0% black population closely mirror overall Nevada demographics, but NV-03's population differs from Nevada in three respects: NV-03 has the largest Asian voter population in the state (12.3%), the fewest Hispanic voters (12.7%), and more women than men. NV-03 is also an older district with a lower-than-average population of 18-to-29-year-olds and a higher-than-average population of 30-to-44-year olds. Perhaps because of these demographics, NV-03 is the wealthiest district in Nevada: 28% of the district's households have an income of \$100,000 or more per year and only 8.0% of its voting-age population is below the poverty line.

NV-03: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Las Vegas, 583,000 (partial)
- Henderson, 258,000
- Paradise, 223,000 (partial)
- Spring Valley, 179,000 (partial)
- Enterprise, 108,000

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 137K (50%)
- Trump: 123K (45%)

2016 House Results

- Rosen (D): 147K (47.2%)
- Tarkanian (R): 143K (46.0%)
- Other: 21K (6.8%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 111K
- Eligible, not registered: 134K

2014 House Results

- Bilbray (D): 53K (36.1%)
- Heck (R): 86K (60.8%)

Elections

Despite electing Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, NV-03 turned Republican in 2016; the district favored Donald Trump with 47.5% of the vote to Hillary Clinton's 46.5%. Clinton's loss is likely attributable to the approximately one-third of Democratic voters who swung to Trump. NV-03's congressional seat has flipped between Democrats and Republicans several times in recent years.

Education

NV-03 is the most educated district in Nevada: 32.3% of its population holds a bachelor's degree or higher. Additionally, at 90%, its high school graduation rate is above the national average.

Employment

The majority of NV-03's residents live in the Las Vegas suburbs, and as a result, 28% of the district's population works in the arts, entertainment, recreation, food services, and accommodation industries. NV-03's unemployment rate of 6.8% is above the national average, perhaps because the tourism and gaming industries, which suffered during the 2008 financial crisis, have been slow to recover.