

Know Before You Go: NV-04 District Primer

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In the last election, Democrat Ruben Kihuen won this district by only 11,000 votes (4%).

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 Steven Horsford was born in Las Vegas. He graduated from Clark High School and went on to study political science at the University of Nevada, Reno, although he dropped out to support his family before earning a degree. He served as the Congressman for NV-04 from 2013-2015, but was defeated by Cresent Hardy (R) in his bid for reelection. Hardy was subsequently defeated by Democrat Ruben Kihuen, who decided not to seek re-election in 2018 after allegations of misconduct with a former campaign staffer. Horsford has run a successful campaign for his old seat, and won the Democratic nomination with 62% of the vote.

Issues: While serving in the House of Representatives from 2013-2015, Horsford took progressive stances on the economy, healthcare, abortion, and immigration. He voted more moderately on criminal justice reform.

Recent Elections: NV-04 had been a Democratic seat but flipped Republican in the 2014 midterms. It returned to Democratic control in the 2016 cycle after Ruben Kihuen won by a scant 10,600 votes — about the same as Hillary Clinton's margin in the district's presidential tally. After Kihuen decided not to run in 2018 amid sexual harassment allegations, Horsford decisively won the Democratic nomination for his old seat in a crowded primary.

Strengths: Horsford's experience in this same seat makes him a strong candidate. Moreover, some 89,000 district residents stand to lose their health insurance if Congress repeals the Affordable Care Act entirely — an outcome likely to disadvantage a Republican opponent in the 2018 cycle.

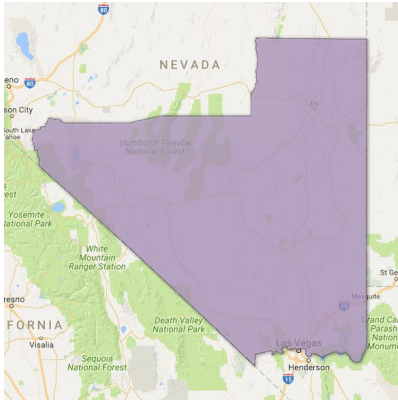
About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican Cresent Hardy is from the state of Nevada and graduated from Dixie State College in Utah. In 2014, he defeated Democratic incumbent Steven Horsford to become the Representative for NV-04; he served as the Representative from 2015-2017, but was defeated by Democrat Ruben Kihuen in his bid for reelection. Prior to his election to the House, Hardy was a member of the Nevada State Assembly representing the 19th district.

Issues: Cresent Hardy supports decreasing taxes and repealing the Affordable Care Act. He strongly opposes abortion and has voted conservatively on domestic issues like women's rights, immigration, and same-sex marriage. Hardy has also consistently voted along Republican party lines on foreign policy and defense spending.

Strengths: Like Steven Horsford, Cresent Hardy has previously held this same seat in the House. His previous experience and name recognition may work to his advantage. Although he defeated Steven Horsford in 2014, he won with a narrow margin of only 2.7%.

Potential Weaknesses: Hardy has a reputation as a staunch conservative, which may not play well in a district where the majority of voters are Democrats. In the past, he has made statements implying many people living in his district were fraudulently taking advantage of government assistance.



NV-04: Better Know the District

Geography

NV-04 is situated in the central part of the state. Some 90% of the district's population lives in Clark County, which encompasses Las Vegas. The rest of the district is primarily rural.

Citizenry

The district is 60% white, 16% black, and 7% Asian. Thirty percent of the population is of Hispanic heritage. In the Las Vegas area, employment is concentrated in the hotel and casino industry, health care, education, and government. The district includes three of the state's five poorest counties: Mineral (19.1% poverty rate), Nye (18.9%), and White Pine (15.5%). Suicide rates are high in these counties.

Economy

The 2008 financial crisis hit Las Vegas hard; the city became known as the foreclosure capital of the country. While the real estate market has mostly recovered, construction employment is still down. Las Vegas has been awarded an NHL Franchise, and has put in a bid for the Oakland Raiders NFL franchise.

Elections

Democrats have a slight edge in registered voters in the district. In the urban areas, state Senate and Assembly seats are held mostly by Democrats. In the more rural areas, there are more Republican-held seats. Unions play a key role in voter registration and turnout, especially Culinary Union Local 226 and Bartenders Local 165, both part of UNITE HERE.

Education

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is adjacent to the district. Its 28,000 students include 24,000 Nevada residents. In K-12 education, a battle is brewing over the state's Educational Savings Accounts, a school voucher program that would give parents whose children transfer out of public schools \$5,100 in public funding to spend on private schools. The courts have ruled the program constitutional, but it needs funding in the new state budget.

Industry

Six of the top 10 employers in the district are casino hotels. The district is also home to two Air Force Bases, Creech and Nellis, and to Clark County government offices. The state as a whole is trying to diversify beyond its traditional reliance on tourism and mining, but there is concern over whether there are enough skilled workers for skills-driven jobs.

NV-04: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Las Vegas, 623,747 (split between NV-01 and NV-04)
- North Las Vegas, 234,807

2016 Presidential Results

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

2016 House Results

- Kihuen (D): 129K (49%)
- Hardy (R): 118K (45%)
- Other: 19K (7%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 111K
- Eligible, not registered: 134K

2014 House Results

- Horsford (D): 60K (46%)
- Hardy (R): 63K (49%)
- Other: 7K (6%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 172K