Know Before You Go: NY-19 District Primer

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In the last election, Republican John Faso won this district by only 26,000 votes (8.6%).
That's close! With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Incumbent

Introduction: Republican John Faso succeeded his fellow Kinderhook Republican Chris Gibson and began serving his freshman term on January 3, 2017. Previously, Faso served for 15 years as a member of the New York State Assembly. After stepping down, he became a lobbyist. In 2010 his firm paid a $550,000 fine and was banned from appearing before the state pension funds for five years.

Issues: Faso's platform focused on economic growth, private-sector job creation, tax and regulatory reform, equal pay, veterans care, and reining in federal spending.

Recent Elections: Gibson won the seat in 2010, 2012, and 2014. In 2016, Democrat Zephyr Teachout beat Faso in Ulster County, while Faso triumphed decisively in the smaller counties of Greene, Delaware, Schoharie, Montgomery, and Broome. Much of what is now NY-19 was Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's former district.

Strengths: Faso presents himself as a moderate, traditional, fiscally conservative Republican who distanced himself from Trump after the Access Hollywood tape surfaced in October, 2016. Faso is a vocal supporter of Planned Parenthood as a health care provider, while voting against all federal funding for abortion. His pro-gun-rights stance is popular in this district and he co-sponsored the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017.
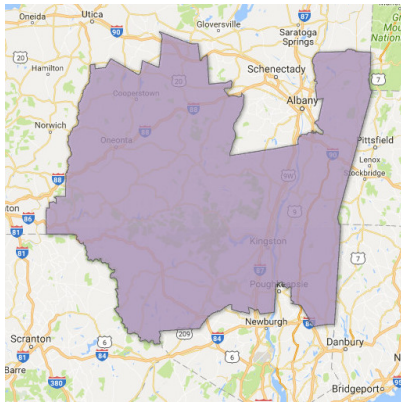
Potential Weaknesses: Faso's role as an architect of the "repeal and replace" solution for the ACA is a potential threat to his seat as the popularity of any proposal rises or falls. He received significant criticism for refusing to hold a Town Hall during the February recess. (He held two "pay-to-play" events during the recess instead.) Faso presents himself as an environmentalist but has consistently voted to undo environmental regulatory rules. He votes in alignment with Trump 86% of the time.

About the Challenger

Introduction: Democrat Antonio Delgado grew up in Schenectady, in the Hudson Valley of NY. He attended Colgate University, in Hamilton, NY, where he graduated with high honors and earned a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford. From there, he went to law school at Harvard. Delgado works as an attorney for the prominent DC-based law firm, Akin Gump, and lives in Rhinebeck with his wife and two sons. Delgado will be the first Hispanic and biracial major party nominee running to represent the region encompassed by NY-19.

Issues: Delgado's top priority is healthcare, and he is a proponent of universal affordable healthcare. His campaign platform also includes major tax reform and investment in infrastructure. His plans would bring economic opportunity to workers in the district. He also is a strong proponent of women's rights and investment in education. Delgado supports women's rights to make their own health care decisions and equal pay for men and women. He is an advocate for expanding environmental protections in order to fight climate change.

Strengths: Delgado's personal story of upward mobility—from working class roots in Schenectady to Oxford and Harvard Law—should appeal to many voters. His message of restoring economic opportunity will be attractive to workers in the district. Delgado's thoughtful and practical visions for NY-19, including healthcare and tax reform, are likely to resonate well with voters. Citizen Action of New York and the Democracy Matters Institute have endorsed Delgado's candidacy. In a crowded primary field of seven candidates, he either won or was second in all but one of the 11 counties in the district, indicating a broad base of support among Democratic voters

Learn more at **swingleft.org/resources/NY-19**

NY-19: Facts & Stats

Population Centers
- Kingston, 23,731
- Oneonta, 13,901
- New Paltz, 6,924
- Monticello, 6,725
- Hudson, 6,713

2016 Presidential Results
- Clinton: 141K (44%)
- Trump: 162K (51%)

2016 House Results
- Teachout (D): 139K (46%)
- Faso (R): 165K (54%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 178K
- Eligible, not registered: 104K

2014 House Results
- Eldridge (D): 72K (36%)
- Gibson (R): 132K (64%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 259K

NY-19: Better Know the District

Geography
NY-19 begins in the mid-Hudson Valley and continues northward, extending on either side of Albany. The major topography consists of the Hudson River and Taconic Mountains in the east, the Mohawk River and Allegheny Plateau in the west, and the Catskill Mountains in the southwest, with significant amounts of farmland throughout the district. NY-19 does not include the cities of the capital region and their immediate suburbs, nor does it include the densely populated areas of southern Dutchess County, such as Poughkeepsie. Created in 2012, NY-19 merged parts of the former NY-20 and NY-22.

Citizenry
NY-19 has over 700,000 people, but the district is one of the least densely populated in NY. The population is 86% white, 6% Hispanic, and 4% black. 93% are U.S.-born citizens, and more than half are seniors or older adults. Twelve percent of adults do not have a high school diploma. The median household income is $56,800, and more than 26,000 households in the district are on food stamps.

Higher Education
The district has four state university campuses: New Paltz (8,000 students), Delhi (3,500 students), Oneonta (6,000 students), and Cobleskill (2,500 students), with community colleges in nearly every county and two small private college campuses: Bard College (2,000 students) and Hartwick College (1,500 students).

Industries
Service activities in health care, education, and administrative support have increased while manufacturing has decreased. The district includes eight state prisons and there is a base of light industrial finishing work. The area has seen recent growth in "next-gen" industries such as craft beer and liquor, solar energy, and creative marketplaces. Some residents in the southern part of the district are employed by IBM, which has headquarters outside the district and has been steadily reducing its workforce. Lack of reliable high-speed internet and affordable, efficient rail access to metro areas are hindrances to more rapid growth.

Tourism
The past decade has seen rapid growth in tourism with the primary attractions being the arts, music, local farms and farmers markets, and access to natural areas including two dozen state parks and forests, as well as hundreds of thousands of acres of protected land. It encompasses most of the stunning Catskill mountain range, including historic hotels like the Mohonk Mountain Lodge, and the new $500m Resorts World Catskills opened this year in Monticello.

Three Superfund sites — the Hudson River, the Dewey Loeffel Landfill, and Hoosick Falls — threaten the health of the local population and could impact tourism.