

Know Before You Go: WA-08 District Primer

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Hillary Clinton won this district in 2016 and Republican Dave Reichert will not be running again in 2018. With your help, we'll bring that Democratic trend down ballot and take this seat back in 2018.

About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican **Dino Rossi** grew up in WA-02, graduated from Seattle University in 1982, and began his sales career in commercial real-estate at Capretto & Clark. One year later, the firm filed for bankruptcy, owing \$40 million to 800 creditors. His boss, Melvin Heide, served time for fraud. Rossi later followed Heide to a new firm and worked for him for another five years. Rossi served as a state senator from 1997 to 2003; he hasn't won an election since 2000, losing twice in the race for governor against Christine Gregoire and once against Patty Murray for the U.S. Senate.

Issues: While Rossi claims to be a moderate, he's consistently opposed abortion rights and same-sex marriage. Asked why he opposed abortions for pregnancies that threaten a woman's health, he said: "'Health' is anything you want it to be." Rossi supports increasing border security and "protecting our citizens from crimes committed by those here illegally." He doesn't support health care mandates. His supporters include Koch Industries and President Trump. Rossi received \$400,000 from the NRA when he ran for U.S. Senate in 2010.

Strengths: Rossi's race against Christine Gregoire for governor was the closest in U.S. history, decided by 130 votes; some Republicans feel sympathy for Rossi. Rossi self-describes as "fiscal conservative with a social conscience," a tagline he has used since 2004. He cites his 2002 role as Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee in balancing a large state budget deficit as an example of his ability to get things done.

Potential Weaknesses: Rossi voted for Donald Trump for president as a delegate at the 2016 Republican convention, limiting his ability to distance himself from Trump. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ran a \$200,000 ad in July 2018 highlighting Rossi as a supporter of free trade, ignoring Rossi's close ties to Trump, who has actively pursued trade wars with major trading partners. Forty percent of all jobs in Washington State are supported by trade.

About the Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat **Dr. Kim Schrier** is a pediatrician who built her 16-year-old practice in Issaquah. If she wins, she'll be the only female physician in Congress. A first-time candidate, she decided to run as a result of her efforts to persuade former Congressman Reichert to reject the GOP plan to replace Obamacare. Dr. Schrier met with Reichert's staff to discuss how this bill would hurt her patients and the district. Days later, Reichert voted for the bill in committee and refused to hold town hall meetings to discuss the bill. Schrier realized if Reichert wasn't going to serve his constituents, she could. She lives with her husband and 9-year-old son in Sammamish.

Issues: Dr. Schrier's experience as a physician is the centerpiece of her campaign. She proposes allowing everyone to participate in Medicare as a public option on a sliding scale based on ability to pay, with subsidies available to help cover the neediest. Schrier supports reproductive rights and will work to increase funding for Planned Parenthood. With regards to trade, Schrier backs "fair trade, not free trade." Trade deals that include fair labor standards, include environmental standards, and have clear consequences for noncompliance will have her support. Schrier supports codifying DACA and the DREAM Act as laws of the land. Rather than abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Schrier believes comprehensive immigration reform is needed. Gun safety priorities for Schrier include implementing universal, comprehensive background checks and keeping military-style weapons out of the hands of individuals with criminal histories, people in crisis, and those under 21 years old.

Strengths: Dr. Schrier's medical training and experience make her an exceptionally credible voice on healthcare. She has the support of Emily's List, Planned Parenthood, 314 Action, Gun Sense, and several former and current elected officials.