



With just 42 days left until Democrats go to the polls to select their nominee in Illinois' 2nd Congressional District, Robin Kelly is best positioned to capture the nomination amidst a crowded field of candidates.

The following update highlights the Kelly for Congress campaign's building momentum. We will continue to keep our friends updated as the race progresses and as 2nd District voters and leaders align behind our campaign to stand up for Illinois families and bring new leadership to Washington to end the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our streets.

Strong Fundraising

In just 29 days, Robin Kelly raised **over \$200,000** from over 500 unique contributors. Over 95% of Kelly's funds are available for the primary campaign. Toi Hutchinson, on the other hand, raised \$130,000 during the same time period, and has not stated what portion of those funds will be available for primary spending, or what has already been spent. This dramatic gap translates to a strong advantage for Kelly, who will be able to communicate to a wider audience more frequently.

Additionally, the campaign announced Monday that physician and health care executive Dr. Cheryl Whitaker will be joining the team as the Campaign Chair.

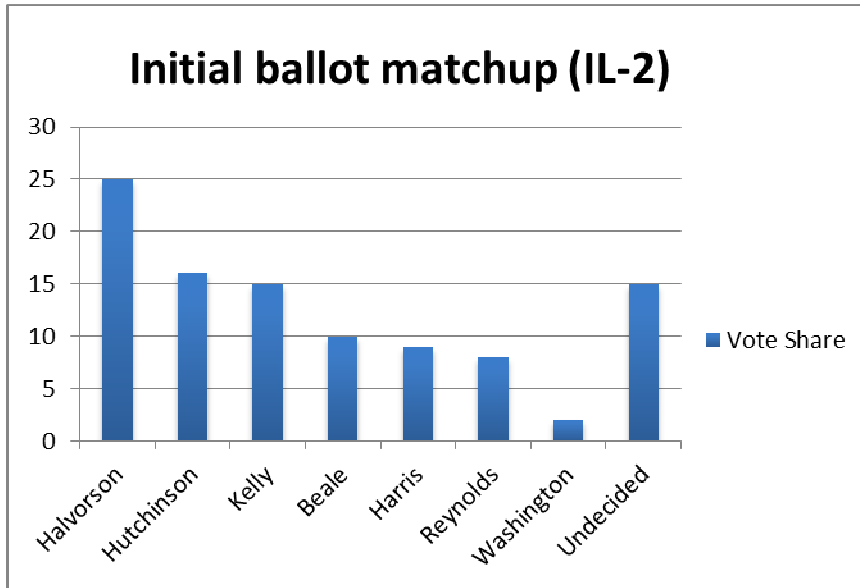
Polling Shows a Path to Victory

The Kelly campaign recently commissioned a survey of likely 2nd District primary voters. Conducted by GBA Strategies between January 3-7, the survey of 500 likely voters carries a margin of error of +/- 4.4 percent at the 95 percent confidence interval. The following are key findings from the survey:

- *Halvorson begins in the lead, but the race is wide open.* Congresswoman Halvorson begins the campaign with 25 percent of the electorate in her corner, but her lead is soft. Senator Hutchinson (16 percent) and Kelly (15 percent) follow, with no other candidate getting more than 10 percent. Fifteen percent are purely undecided, but a full 65 percent of voters are either undecided or only softly supporting a candidate.

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- *Hutchinson and Halvorson share the same base.* Both Debbie Halvorson and Toi Hutchinson start with their base of support coming from the same demographic and regional base, especially white voters and voters in the southern portion of the district.
- *Kelly starts with a base of support in the suburbs.* Robin Kelly currently leads all other candidates among several key groups, including African American women, African Americans in the suburbs and African Americans with a college degree. And Kelly’s support from these pivotal blocs grows during the survey.
- *The NRA is extremely unpopular with this electorate.* Just 17 percent of likely voters have a favorable impression of the NRA, with 63 percent saying they feel unfavorably towards the pro-gun organization. Kelly’s record of standing up to the NRA and her pledge to reduce gun violence resonates as one of the most powerful reasons to support her.
- *Kelly has significant room to grow.* Despite having lower name ID than Halvorson or Hutchinson, Kelly starts the race off statistically tied in second place. Once voters—especially voters in the city—hear more about Kelly and the leading candidates’ positions on preventing gun violence, the vote moves dramatically in her favor, pulling her ahead of both Halvorson and Hutchinson.
- *Hutchinson/Halvorson’s growth limited by NRA ties.* Both other leading candidates find their growth opportunities severely limited by their proud associations with the NRA and the ISRA. Nearly 7-in-10 voters (69 percent) oppose allowing concealed carry in this race. Voters have very serious concerns about Hutchinson’s and Halvorson’s positions on this critical issue.

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Growing Political Support

In addition to the wide base of support we've received from mayors and community leaders from across the southland, the Kelly campaign is poised to announce even more support from throughout the district.

Later this week, we will unveil new endorsements from elected officials and activists who are joining Kelly's campaign for Congress. Many of these leaders are motivated to join Kelly because of her steadfast record of taking on the NRA and her pledge to get assault weapons and high capacity magazines off Illinois streets.

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