

## Candidates Spotlight October 2018

[Colin Allred, TX-32](#)

[Lauren Underwood, IL-14](#)

[Linda Coleman, NC-02](#)

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**Colin Allred**

**TX-32**

**General Election — Tuesday, November 6th, 2018**

**Colin Allred** is a lifetime North Texan, born and raised in Dallas by his single mother, a veteran public school teacher, who launched his first time candidate campaign in 2017 to defeat twenty-two-year powerful Chair of the House Rules Committee, Pete Sessions. He is a former professional football player turned Obama administration housing specialist and voter rights lawyer. Now as a candidate for Congress, he is running to empower his community the way it empowered his economic mobility by unlocking economic growth, improving public school education, and expanding access to health care. Not taken seriously for most of the campaign, his campaign has challenged this Republican stronghold, inspired new voters and traditional Democrats, raising over \$2.3 million last quarter.

### ***On the Issues***

- **Improving public education is Colin's top priority for students, teachers, and the prosperity of North Texas communities.** This starts with funding for Universal Pre-K, closing the achievement gap, career educational pathways, and debt-free college. It also requires supporting teachers with better pay, loan forgiveness, and professional development.
- **Restore dignity for all North Texans by ensuring economic growth and sustainability.** As the next Congressman he is seeking a multidimensional plan investing in new infrastructure, 21st century job training programs, protecting Social Security, raising the minimum wage, closing the pay gap, and expanding access to capital for small business owners. He also wants to support young families by fighting for the adoption of paid family leave and funding for child care program
- One in five district residents (approx. 100,000) do not have health insurance - overall, Texas, has one of the highest uninsured rates in the country. **Ensuring access to healthcare is central to Colin's understanding of civil rights** for the vulnerable (seniors, children, undocumented) and all families. Key to increasing access is protecting and expanding Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, and establishing a public option for Medicare are. He

also wants to lead the fight lower prescription drugs by repealing federal law that prohibits Medicare from negotiating drug prices directly with pharmaceutical companies.

**Status of Race:** Cook Report recently upgraded this race to a Toss Up from its initial status of likely Republican. This seat is located in the central portion of the state and includes the urban area of north and eastern Dallas and Collin counties (Dallas, Garland, Highland Park, Mesquite, Richardson, Rowlett, Sachse, University Park, and Wylie). It was one of 25 U.S. House districts that voted for a Republican representative and Hillary Clinton (D) for President in 2016. Sessions, who was first elected in 2002, ran unopposed in 2016 and won re-election by 26.4 percentage points in 2014. Heading into the General Election, **Colin** is now within a yardstick of possibly defeating Sessions.

**Dynamics of Race:** In his March primary, **Colin** edged out the crowded Greater Dallas Democratic primary and easily defeated his Democratic opponent in the May run off. Having only raised \$1.3 million [2.2 million of cash on hand] to **Colin's** \$2.3 [no FEC report for cash on hand] million last quarter, the Republican Party and the Trump administration are pouring in millions to stop the overall Democratic surge in Texas to help Sessions and other vulnerable Republicans. This race, similar to Gina Ortiz-Jones TX-23 race, will receive a turnout bump due to Congressman Beto O'Rourke's historic US Senate campaign against incumbent (R) Ted Cruz. Internal polling of likely voters demonstrate they are moving away from Trump/the GOP overall and the horse race among voters who know both candidates, **Colin** leads 63 – 31 percent. To expand the electorate, the campaign has registered 1,000 new in district voters and identified over 1,000 African American voters who never voted in the primary. To amplify their message, they have hired a full time digital director and 60 team fellowship program to take kick off their GOTV program during the early vote period. Given this showdown outside groups in support of both candidates are expected to run a TV war - taking spending pressure from both campaigns. In addition, voter engagement efforts led by organizations like the Texas Organizing Project are increasing the Latino Democratic vote across Texas - a deep democracy that will impact races up and down the ticket.

**Campaign Status:** There is no debate that **Allred's** campaign has caught the imagination of voters, the support of progressive groups, community leaders, and local elected officials like popular Democratic Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings (a former Sessions supporter!). While national support is starting to have its impact on TV spending, contributions directly to the campaign and to deep democracy organizations will go a longer way to impact multicultural, early and traditional get out the vote efforts. With a competitive US senate election on top of the ticket, exciting down ballot races, this race will be won by the campaign with the more robust ground game. The status and dynamics of this race also demonstrate how important this race is to the 2020 Census and the 2020 Presidential election.

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**Lauren Underwood**

**IL-14**

**General Election – Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Lauren Underwood** is a first time candidate, born and raised in Naperville, a registered nurse and former White House advisor and special assistant on public health emergencies and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Lauren, who was born with a pre-existing heart condition, decided to run against four-term Republican Randy Hultgren when he voted to repeal pre-existing condition from the ACA in 2017. She [successfully defeated](#) six Democrats in an early March primary, including an incumbent Mayor, receiving almost 60% of the primary vote, out raising all of her primary opponents and her opponent the last three quarters. Now as a candidate for Congress, she is running to create high quality jobs, expand access to health care, and increase the economic security of all district residents.

### ***On the Issues***

- **Investing in social-emotional, economic well-being, and safety of all families** is **Lauren's** top priority. This includes fighting for paid family leave, expanding child care programs, funding for public education, and open space.
- **Creating 21st century jobs** is while we protect incumbent workers, invest in small business, and looking forward by investing in local public infrastructure.
- Bringing her relevant and practical health care experience to **expanding access to healthcare** by protecting markets created by ACA, reducing prescription drug prices, investing in mental health care, and tackling the local opioid crisis.

**Status of Race:** Cook Report recently upgraded this race to a Toss Up from its initial status of leaning Republican. This seat is located in the outer suburban Chicago communities, including parts of seven counties, including DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. Major cities include Aurora, Batavia, DeKalb, Geneva, Gurnee, Naperville, McHenry, Oswego, Plainfield, St. Charles, and Woodstock. It is a relatively affluent [average household income of \$105,650], mixed suburban and rural district, with 40% of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. Since the 2012 presidential election, party affiliation is weakening with Romney winning 54% of the vote, while in 2016, Trump won 49%-45%. Given the economic mobility of the community, the district is losing younger families to Chicago. This district has also never been represented by a woman of color.

**Dynamics of Race:** Known as a weak fundraiser and average campaigner, **Lauren** took advantage of Hultgren's Achilles heel, out raising him by \$100,000 in quarter one of this year and topping at \$2.3 million by the end of quarter 3 [Holtgen has raised \$1.8 million with \$1.08 million of cash on hand]. Twenty five resistant groups and the campaign have coordinated their non-paid and paid voter contact efforts from the launch of the campaign [currently have four field offices]. Successfully

increased typical turnout in March primary from 8,000 to 48,900 [611% increase!] and are projecting to do the same in the General with a target of 40,000 additional voters. To expand the electorate, the campaign is targeting strong base of older women and people of color minorities throughout the district [52% of the electorate is female, 9% of the electorate is African American, Asian and Latino]. Given that the district is 85% white, Lauren's campaign needs to invest heavily on its field and TV to engage traditional voters and without deep democracy organizations in the district this work will be left to the campaign to execute. One factor that can increase Democratic turnout for the Democratic Gubernatorial frontrunner, a seat that would also flip from red to blue and early voting that started in late September.

**Campaign Status:** Underwood's campaign has earned the endorsement of key progressive organizations, local and national leaders, as well as key editorial boards like the Chicago Sun-Times and the Daily Herald [both of whom endorsed Hultgren in the past]. The lone Black woman on the DSCC's Red to Blue program for most of the cycle, your direct support can make a difference in both winning the the House and closer to a more representative democracy. The status and dynamics of her race is also important to the 2020 Presidential election as we seek employ new messaging, organizing, and digital strategies to talk and turnout to suburban Democrat and Republicans - key constituencies in more white and affluent communities across the country.

DONATE to LINDA



**Linda Coleman**  
**NC-02**  
**General Election – Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Linda Coleman** is a lifetime public servant, raised on an eastern North Carolina peanut farm with nine sibling, her work began in the classroom as public school, then public sector human resource specialist, Wayne County Commissioner and former three term state assembly member. Given her previous time in elected office and two failed Lieutenant Governor's race, **Linda** easily defeated an entrepreneur billionaire to win the May Democratic nomination. A sleeper race among national and local pundits as well as her opponent, three- term Republican Greg Holding, she is now in a contested election that can be the surprise Southern race of the cycle. Now as a candidate for Congress, **Linda** is running to champion bipartisan solutions for better healthcare, better schools, and reversing Trump era tax cuts.

#### **On the Issues**

- **Ensuring access to healthcare** is central to **Linda's** vision for a better North Carolina, especially for rural residents, who are isolated from most major services, as well as protecting women's reproductive justice rights.
- Making multidimensional to **transform public schools** by becoming a champion for universal pre-kindergarten, reducing interest rates for

students loans tied to careers in public services, and supporting community colleges as the workforce clearing house of the 21st Century.

- **Reverse Trump era tax cuts** and reinvest these funds for low to moderate income rural and urban families.

**Status of Race:** Cook Report recently upgraded this race to leaning Republican from its initial safe Republican. This seat is located in eastern North Carolina, including parts or all of Franklin, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Wilson counties. This congressional map was redrawn due to federal court ruling in 2016 that determined NC-02 and NC-12 were racially gerrymandered. Holding held the now dissolve NC-13. This triggered the consolidation of two congressional districts, where Holding emerged successful. The federal court has determined once again that this seat is unconstitutionally gerrymandered but this time, the state ran out of time to redraw district. This district is more Republican than the national average, which is the case in 10 of 12 Congressional seats, the Republican Legislature, but except the Governorship. Randy Cooper, a Democrat, narrowly defeated the Republican incumbent - only to have his executive powers diluted by a Republican dominated legislature. Trump won this district 2016 (9%) and no Democrat has been competitive in this seat since 2012.

**Dynamics of Race:** Having won all of his elections with more than 56% of the vote, Holding unlike many Republican incumbents, has posted strong fundraising numbers; allowing him to drive the TV ad watchers from early on this summer. His last quarter filing only showed only \$256, 955.15 of cash on hand versus **Linda's** filing that shows \$444,822.92 of cash on hand. She has now come from behind, forcing Holding and the House Speaker to defeat rising Democratic tides by allocating \$1.4 million in TV ads. Given the low cost media market, she plans to go on TV to target suburban African American vote. The biggest challenge to her path to victory is state sanctioned gerrymandering and the higher rate of un-enrolled voters, effectively makes it impossible for Democrats to win statewide, this is the case for this seat. To expand the electorate, she is focusing on African American non-voters across the district and using digital, ethnic media, and field. There is also a Libertarian candidate in the race, threatening a spoiler for **Coleman**. Outside TV spending (\$1 million) in support of **Coleman** by the DSCC and North Carolinians for a Fair Economy is helping offset outside Republican spending. A defeat in North Carolina, would be a blow to the heart of the Republican voter suppression strategy locally and nationally. With early voting underway, local authorities are reporting an increase by registered Democrats for mail-in absentee ballots - this is normally dominated by Republicans. As a former aide to US Senator Jesse Holding, former U.S. Attorney and a member of North Carolina's biggest bank families, Holding is expected to easily raise the money he needs to fund his negative and racist attacks to blunt **Coleman's** fourth quarter surge

**Campaign Status:** **Coleman's** campaign is now considered a real plausible threat and for locals it's a face off between two political veterans that can possibly begin to turn the tide on the most Republican gerrymandered state in the country. Earning recently the Charlotte News & Observer editorial board endorsement

sends clear message to voters. At a time of reckless Republican administration, North Carolinians need to send Democrats like Linda to Congress. She is an Emily's List endorsed candidate and has strategically maintained a low profile. The status and dynamics of her race is also important to the U.S. Census and 2020 Presidential election as we seek employ new messaging, organizing, and digital strategies to talk and turnout to rural Democrat and Republicans - key constituencies in the U.S. South.