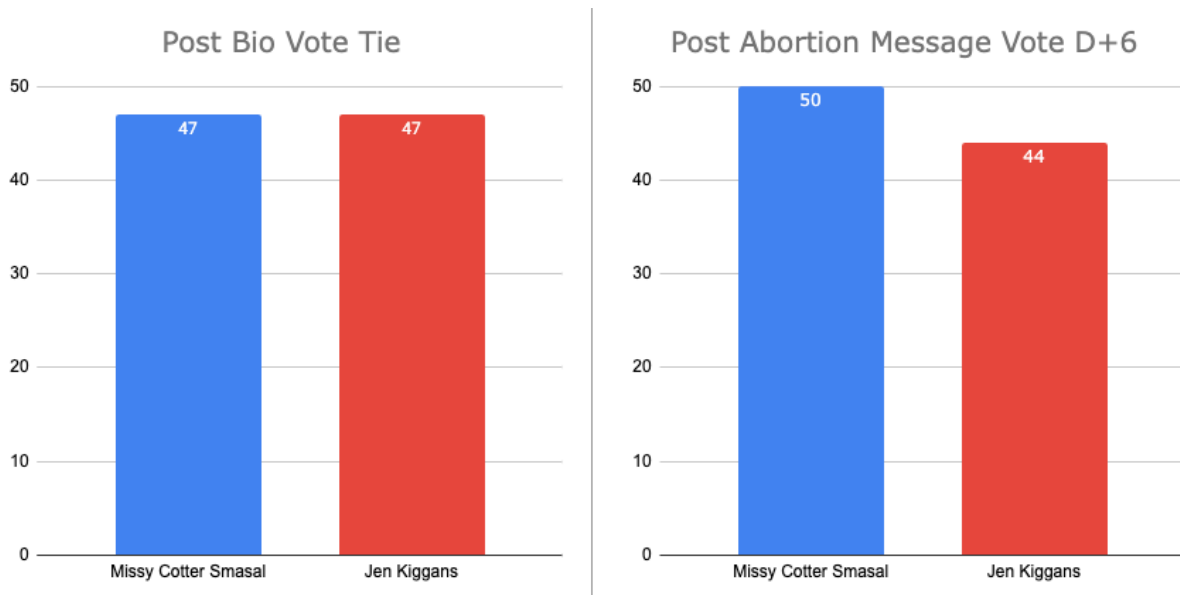




To: Interested Parties
From: DCCC Targeting and Analytics Department
Date: June 2024
RE: **DCCC Polling Memo: Cotter Smasal Takes Strong Lead When Voters Learn About Kiggans' Anti-Choice Record**

In a DCCC Analytics poll of 420 likely 2024 general election voters in Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District from May 28th-May 30th, **Red-to-Blue candidate and Democratic nominee Missy Cotter Smasal trails incumbent Republican Jen Kiggans by 4 points, 44%-48% with 9% undecided.** After brief bios are given for each candidate, the race shifts to a 47%-47% tie with 7% undecided. **Once voters hear a single statement about Kiggans’ extreme positions on abortion, Cotter Smasal pulls into a 6-point lead, 50%-44%.**

This comes as incredibly bad news for Kiggans who has made it her mission in Congress to restrict the reproductive freedoms of military service members. Kiggans [voted for](#) the Military Construction-VA Appropriations bill that prohibits abortions at VA medical centers. She also [voted](#) to restrict abortion access for military personnel in the annual defense bill and [voted](#) for an amendment to prohibit the Defense Department from paying for expenses related to abortion services. Kiggans has called abortion a “[shiny object](#)” and derisively claims abortion is “[elective surgery](#),” similar to a “[Hollywood nose job](#).”





KIGGANS' WEAKNESSES

- **VA-02 voters aren't satisfied with Kiggans' representation.** The Congresswoman's job approval is tepid (35% approve).
- **Kiggans' initial support is illusory.** The Congresswoman's early lead relies on the VA-02 electorate not yet being aware of Cotter Smasal (30% name ID vs Kiggans' 76% name ID), most notably Independents, men, and young voters. These groups, along with White voters without college degrees and Virginia Beach voters, move toward Cotter Smasal when they hear balanced biographies of both candidates.
- **Communicating on Kiggans' anti-abortion record is potent.** Once voters hear about her anti-abortion record in Congress, almost every segment of the VA-02 electorate moves further towards Cotter Smasal – Democrats, Black voters, and young voters consolidate behind Cotter Smasal, and by the end of the survey, she wins a majority of Independents and Virginia Beach voters.

This poll proves that voters are fed-up with Kiggans' failure to represent them and Missy Cotter Smasal has a strong pathway to being elected as the next representative for VA-02 in November.

Smasal Support by Demographic Group

Demographic	Initial	-->	Informed	-->	Final
Virginia Beach	44%	+3%	47%	+5%	52%
Democrat	88%	0	88%	+5%	93%
Independent	47%	+8%	55%	+4%	59%
Republican	6%	0	6%	+2%	8%
Women	51%	0	51%	+2%	53%
Men	35%	+7%	42%	+4%	46%
Black	76%	0	76%	+5%	81%
White College	44%	+1%	45%	+3%	48%
White Non-College	36%	+4%	40%	+4%	44%
Age 18-39	42%	+7%	49%	+9%	58%
Age 40-64	43%	+3%	46%	+3%	49%
Age 65+	44%	+2%	46%	0	46%



Methodology: *These results are based on a survey of 420 likely general election voters conducted between May 28-30 via live calls to landlines and cells, and text-to-web. The margin of error is +/-4.9% at a 95% confidence interval, with larger margins of error for demographic subgroups.*

About the District: *Virginia's 2nd Congressional District is located in Southeast Virginia, set along the North Carolina border and the Atlantic coast. It includes Accomack, Northampton, and Isle of Wight counties, the cities of Virginia Beach, Suffolk, and Franklin, and parts of Chesapeake city and Southampton county. The district is 38.1% urban, 43.0% suburban, and 18.9% rural by registered voter population. The voting-age population (VAP) of the district is 64.0% White, 23.4% Black, 5.3% AAPI and 5.8% Hispanic/Latino. 41.9% of registrants have college degrees. Under the current lines of the district, President Biden earned 50.9% of the major-party vote (49.8% raw), and Senator Kaine earned 53.7% (52.6% raw).*