



**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** DCCC Analytics Department  
**Date:** October 2024  
**RE:** **DCCC Polling Memo: Cotter Smasal Ties the Race in Virginia's Second Congressional District**

---

In a DCCC Analytics poll of 373 likely 2024 general election voters conducted in Virginia's 2nd Congressional District from October 19th-20th, **Red-to-Blue candidate and Democratic nominee Missy Cotter Smasal is tied with Republican Jen Kiggans 47%-47%**, while 1% choose Independent candidate Robert Reid and 5% are undecided. Kamala Harris is at 50% and Donald Trump is at 46%, with 3% of voters undecided, demonstrating there is further room for Smasal to grow her vote share in this district President Biden won in 2020 by under 2 points.

**Abortion Is A Motivating Issue:**

A [DCCC Analytics poll in May](#) indicated that informing voters about Jen Kiggans' anti-abortion record would significantly move them away from her. After weeks of communicating about her extreme abortion views in [paid](#) and [earned](#) media, the electorate is responding accordingly.

**Black Voters Are a Key Voting Bloc:**

Black voters are key to a Democratic victory in VA-02. According to this poll, 75% of self-identified Black voters said there is no chance they would consider voting for Kiggans. Only 7% of Black voters approve of the way Jen Kiggans is handling her job as their Member of Congress.

Democrats are intentionally [communicating with Black voters](#). The DCCC has invested in targeted Black communications with several mail pieces centered around key issues like the economy and education, as well as digital ads about MAGA extremism and addressing gun violence.

**Room to Grow:**

Kamala Harris currently performs at 50% district-wide and 90% with Black voters, suggesting that there is room for Missy Cotter Smasal to grow as she consolidates Harris supporters down the ballot. Kiggans is performing on par with Donald Trump's 46% vote share, indicating that she has already reached her cap with Republican voters in the district.



**Methodology:** *These results are based on a tracking survey of 373 likely general election voters conducted between October 19th through the 20th via live calls to landlines and cells, and text-to-web. The margin of error is +/-5.1% at a 95% confidence interval, with larger margins of error for demographic subgroups.*