

# DCCC Political Memo

**To:** Chairman Ben Ray Luján  
**From:** DCCC Political Department – *Justin Myers (cell: 646-[Redacted], email: myers@dccc.org)*  
**Date:** February 11, 2015  
**Re:** Kara Hahn (NY-01, Zeldin; Long Island)

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## Purpose of Meeting:

Thank you for meeting with potential candidate for NY-01, Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn. She is exploring a run but has not committed.

## Talking Points:

- This swing seat requires a strong candidate that will potentially face a crowded primary and ultimately a well-funded incumbent.
- The ideal candidate must start their campaign early in order to raise significant funds. This seat is located entirely in the New York City media market, which is extremely expensive.
- Please ask about her timeline for making a decision, entering the race, and how she plans to deal with potential primary opponents.
- Please ask about her plans to run for re-election to the Legislature, and how she will balance that with a congressional race.

## Background:

- NY-01 is located in Suffolk County on Long Island and was previously held by Congressman Tim Bishop, who was defeated by former state Senator Lee Zeldin (54.8% to 45.2%).
- In 2014, a combined \$7.8 million was spent (includes candidate committees and independent expenditures by party congressional committees).
- Kara's husband Chris was a senior aide for Senator Schumer for 6 years.
- Kara is running for re-election as county legislator this year.
- The potential field includes another county legislator that is running for re-election this year. The County Executive, who is also a Democrat, has asked legislators who have an interest in running for Congress not to announce until after their November elections. This is too late to raise the money it will take to be competitive here.
- In addition to Kara Hahn, former Brookhaven Town Supervisor and federal prosecutor Mark Lesko, South Hampton Town Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst, lawyer David Calone, and Suffolk County Legislators Kate M. Browning and Jay Schneiderman have shown interest in the race.
- Congressman Israel has spoken to Kara Hahn and the other candidates about the seat. Additionally, he has recommended to staff at DCCC that we allow some time for the full field to take shape.

## Kara Hahn Bio:

Most people learn their first civics lesson while sitting in a classroom, but Kara Hahn first remembers serving the public while riding in the back of pickup truck with her dad after Hurricane Gloria ravaged Long Island back in 1985. As a volunteer firefighter, Ron Gerry showed Kara and siblings Kevin and Kristin what it means to make a difference in people's lives. For days, they worked side-by-side with other community members to clear downed trees from the roadways. And, as she drives these same roadways now with her daughters Karina

and Hope, Kara continues to be inspired by those early lessons and seeks to instill that same sense of civic responsibility in her children.

In 2011, residents of the Fifth Legislative District elected Kara to be their voice on the Suffolk County Legislature. Kara's mission has been to make government more open and responsive by passing legislation that posts the audio from legislative meetings online, and hosting community meetings.

As Chairwoman of the Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee, Kara has been a tireless advocate for the environment. She introduced legislation to preserve the southern portion of Detmer farm in Setauket, open space in Port Jefferson Station, and prevent toxic hydrofracking waste water from coming to Suffolk for disposal. She has been instrumental in modernizing the County's land preservation program so that it will remain an important tool in protecting groundwater.

As a member of the Legislature's Economic Development Committee, Kara has championed policies to assist small businesses and build a stronger high-tech workforce.

As a parent, Kara has worked to protect families by promoting policies that increase background checks at daycare centers, that save lives by putting opioid antidotes in the hands of first responders during suspected overdoses, and that will keep guns out of the hands of individuals deemed to be a threat to themselves or others.

Born in Port Jefferson, raised in Stony Brook, and now raising her family in Setauket, Kara cares deeply about the community. Prior to her election, Kara served as President of the Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook, a role that highlighted her passion for public service and earned her the Village Times Herald's 2009 "Civic Woman of the Year" distinction.

Kara has served as Public Policy Coordinator for a Child Care Advocacy organization in the City of Philadelphia, Senior Public Relations Specialist in the corporate communications division of a Multinational high technology corporation, and the Director of Communications for the Suffolk County Legislature. Kara holds a Master's degree in Social Work Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor's degree with distinction from the University of Delaware. A native of Three Village the area, Kara graduated from Ward Melville High School and currently resides in Setauket with her husband Christopher and two daughters.

# NY-01 DISTRICT SUMMARY

## FINANCIAL INFO

### 2014 Post General Candidate Summary

Name	Party	Post General Raised	Post General Spent	Post General COH	Post General Cycle Raised
Tim Bishop	D	\$363,367.00	\$950,756.00	\$86,706.00	\$3,024,579.00
Lee Zeldin	R	\$159,138.00	\$424,650.00	\$42,688.00	\$1,798,065.00

### 2012 Candidate Cycle Summary

Name	Party	Cycle Raised	Cycle Spent	Ending COH
Tim Bishop	D	\$2,731,218	\$3,031,035	\$6,969
Randy Altschuler	R	\$2,284,790	\$2,293,150	\$926

### 2014 Major Democratic v. Republican IE Spending

Name	Party	IE
<b>DCCC</b>	D	<b>\$1,776,836.52</b>
House Majority PAC	D	\$1,509,279.27
Other Democratic Spending	D	\$137,000
<b>NRCC</b>	R	<b>\$2,133,904.16</b>
Other Republican Spending	R	\$2,269,845
<b>All Democratic Spending</b>		<b>\$3,423,115.79</b>
<b>All Republican Spending</b>		<b>\$4,403,749.16</b>
		<b>\$7,826,864.95</b>

### 2012 DCCC Full Itemized Spending

Name	Field	IE	Other Spending	Total
DCCC	\$170,040.00	\$44,416.78	\$588,323.07	\$802,779.85

## ELECTION RESULTS

### Congressional Statistics

(2 Party Only)

Cycle	W/L	Candidate	Party	Vote
2014	L	BISHOP	DEM	45.6%
2014	W	ZELDIN	REP	44.4%
2012	W	BISHOP	DEM	52.5%
2012	L	ALTSCHULER	REP	47.5%
2010	W	(redistricting)	DEM	50.2%
2010	L	(redistricting)	REP	49.8%

### Presidential Statistics

(2 Party Only)

Cycle	Candidate	Party	Vote
2012	OBAMA	DEM	50.3%
2012	ROMNEY	REP	49.7%
2008	OBAMA	DEM	51.9%
2008	McCAIN	REP	48.1%

## DISTRICT DATA

DPI	49.2%
AfAm	4.2%
Hispanic	11.2%
Other	4.5%
<b>Total Minority</b>	<b>19.9%</b>

### MAJOR CITIES

Brookhaven  
Southampton  
Patchogue

## MEDIA MARKETS

New York (100%)  
\$1,700 (Politics) / \$2,173 (Issue)

## POLLING

- 48 (Bishop) – 45 (Zeldin) (**Internal, 10/5/14**)
- 46 (Bishop) – 46 (Zeldin) (**Public, 9/25/14**)

