



For Immediate Release

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New Poll Shows Dead Heat in Race for Arizona's 8th Congressional District

*Dr. Hiral Tipirneni and Debbie Lesko in 46%-46% dead heat a week before election day;
second poll in 48 hours indicating similar results*

GLENDAL, AZ – Today the Hiral for Congress campaign released a new poll indicating that Dr. Hiral Tipirneni and former State Senator Debbie Lesko are locked in a dead heat one week before election day. Over the course of the past month, Lesko has surrendered her 14-point lead.

“It’s heartening to see the results of this new poll, but we are taking nothing for granted in this final week,” said Dr. Hiral Tipirneni. “I’ll be fighting tooth and nail until the polls close to earn every last vote, and make it clear to West Valley families that I’ll fight for their interests, not those of corporations and DC lobbyists,” added Hiral.

Key Takeaways:

- **This race is now tied.** Among voters who have already voted, Dr. Tipirneni ties Lesko 46%-46%. Similarly, among voters who have already voted or plan to vote, Dr. Tipirneni ties 44%-44%. This is a nearly 10-point swing in favor of Dr. Tipirneni since March.
- **The crossover vote could cost Lesko this election:** Among voters who have already voted, 13% of registered Republicans voted for Dr. Tipirneni. If this trend holds, it is just enough drift to push this special election to Dr. Tipirneni.
- **Dr. Tipirneni’s favorable rating is surging while Lesko’s unfavorable rating has risen:** Voters view Dr. Tipirneni favorably by 18 points, whereas Lesko’s unfavorable rating is at a whopping 40%. For Lesko, the damage among Republican voters is measurable with 17% having an unfavorable view of her.

Yesterday, [Emerson College issued a poll](#) showing Tipirneni and Lesko in a 45%-46% statistical dead heat.

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Dr. Hiral Tipirneni (“HERE-uhl tipper-NEH-knee”), an emergency room physician and cancer research advocate, is a candidate for Arizona’s 8th Congressional District. After losing her mother and nephew to cancer, she left emergency medicine to concentrate on cutting-edge cancer research. Now she leads teams of researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates in the fight against breast cancer, prostate cancer and childhood leukemia. At the age of three, Hiral came to America from India with her family in pursuit of the American dream. Hiral and her husband met while in medical school in Ohio. They have lived in the Phoenix area, where their three children were born and raised, for more than 20 years. She is on the board of directors for the Maricopa Health Foundation.

For more information, please visit www.hiralforcongress.com. Follow Hiral on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/hiralforcongress> and on Twitter at @hiral4congress.

To: Interested Parties
From: Joshua Ulibarri, Lake Research Partners
Re: Tracking in the April 24th Special Election in Arizona's 8th Congressional Districtⁱ
Date: **EMBARGOED UNTIL** April 17th, 2018

A recent survey among likely special election voters in Arizona's 8th Congressional District shows that the race has become a dead-heat. Republican State Senator Debbie Lesko has surrendered her lead and the Democratic nominee, Dr. Hiral Tipirneni, is in great shape to flip this race from red to blue. With just a week out, this race can be won by Tipirneni if she and allied forces have the funds to remain competitive on television, online, in mail boxes, and at front doors.

Here are the survey's key findings:

- **This race is now tied.** Among voters who have already voted (70% of the sample, self-reported), Tipirneni ties Lesko 46%-46% (8% refused to answer). Similarly, among voters who have already voted or plan to vote, Tipirneni ties 44%-44% (11% undecided). In March, Lesko led 48% to 34%.
- **The crossover vote could cost Lesko this election.** Currently, among voters who have already voted or intend to vote, Lesko takes just 71% of the registered-Republican vote. Notably, Tipirneni takes 85% of the registered-Democratic vote. Tipirneni doubles up Lesko among unaffiliated voters (63% Tipirneni to 25% Lesko). Among voters who have already voted, 13% of registered Republicans voted for Tipirneni. If this trend holds, it is just enough drift to push this special election to Tipirneni.
- **Tipirneni's favorable ratings are surging while Lesko's have taken a serious hit.** Voters view Tipirneni favorably by 18 points (40% favorable to 22% unfavorable). Comparatively, Lesko is upside down by two points (38% favorable to 40% unfavorable). The negative television ads against Lesko have had a dramatic effect while Republican attempts to negatively define Tipirneni have fallen flat. For Lesko, the damage among Republican voters is measureable with 17% having an unfavorable view of her (compared to just 4% of Democrats that view Tipirneni negatively).
- **Democrats are now MORE motivated to vote than Republicans.** Eighty percent of registered Democrats rate themselves a "7" on a 0-7 motivation scale compared to 75% of Republicans. Among those who rate themselves a "7," Tipirneni leads 47% to 43% (counting those who have already voted or intend to vote).
- **Finally, this is once again NOT a benign sample for Democrats and progressives.** Fifty-one percent of voters are registered Republicans compared to 26% who are registered Democrats (+25 GOP). Forty-seven percent are self-described Republicans compared to 29% who are self-described Democrats (+26 GOP). And in a generic head-to-head, the Republican leads 46% to 34% (+12 GOP). In fact, this sample is more conservative than current returned ballots indicate. As of Friday

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April 13, 48% of the returned ballots belonged to registered Republicans and 28% belonged to registered Democrats (this data set is 51% Republican and 26% Democrat).

In summary, this race is tied and winnable for Tipirneni. Lesko's lead has eroded, her image has deteriorated, and Republicans are crossing over to Tipirneni in just the share needed to earn her the victory.

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ⁱ **Methodology:** Lake Research Partners designed and administered this multi-mode IVR/Live calling survey, and it was conducted by telephone April 14 – 16, 2018. The survey reached a total of 408 registered voters in Arizona's 8th House District., including more than 140 on their cell phones, completed by interviewers. Telephone numbers for the sample were generated from a list of registered voters in Arizona. The data were weighted slightly by gender, region, age, race, party registration, education, turnout score, and partisan score. Both cell phones and landlines were called. The margin for error is +/- 4.9% and larger for subgroups.