



For Immediate Release

August 20, 2018

Jason Kimbrough, (916) 662-2831

jason@hiral4congress.com

Recent Poll Shows Dr. Hiral Tipirneni Closing on Incumbent Debbie Lesko, Continuing Momentum of Special Election

Candidate for Arizona's 8th Congressional District Encouraged and Energized Heading into November Election

PEORIA, AZ – Today the Hiral for Congress campaign released a recent survey of likely voters in Arizona's 8th Congressional District (AZ08) showing that Dr. Tipirneni has kept the gap with Rep. Debbie Lesko to single digits, and the district's voters, particularly the Democratic ones, remain more motivated than their Republican counterparts.

"Our grassroots supporters have been working hard, and this survey reflects what we've been experiencing throughout the district," said Dr. Tipirneni. "It's great to see, but we'll keep talking with voters until the polls close on election day so they know I'll be fighting for them and their families, not Washington special interests," Hiral added

Key Takeaways:

- **Tipirneni is only down nine points, a narrower gap than in March.** The April Special Election helped Hiral, and the good work done then has lasted, proving foundational. Currently, 40% of voters vote for Tipirneni, 49% vote for Lesko. In the March baseline survey, Tipirneni was down 14 points. In April, Hiral lost by five points, closing the 2016 partisan gap by an astonishing 16 points.
- **Tipirneni is in a stronger position than earlier in the year.** More voters have a favorable impression of Hiral – a 13-point increase since March – and 18% fewer voters have not heard of or have no opinion of her.
- **Lesko may be more vulnerable since moving to Congress.** Since March, her favorability ratings have declined six points to 38% while her unfavorable ratings have increased four points to 33%.
- **AZ08 Democrats remain motivated.** Although Democrats are traditionally less motivated voters than Republicans, 79% of registered Democrats rated themselves a "10-very motivated" compared to 70% of registered Republicans.

Unrelated to the poll, AZ08 early ballots are being returned at an approximately 3:2 ratio of Republicans to Democrats. By comparison, the ratio was nearly 2:1 during the Special Election.

Dr. Tipirneni also led the pack in fundraising among all Arizona U.S. House candidates for the 2018 Pre-Primary Federal Elections Commission (FEC) report (July 1st through August 8th).

In fact, Hiral has raised \$568,324, which is more than twice the total \$236,430 raised by career politician and incumbent Debbie Lesko, since the April special election according to FEC filings.



In addition to the ratio of early ballot returns, AZ08 has the largest number of early ballots returned of any Arizona congressional district, and it has the second largest number of Democratic early ballots returned in Arizona.

“All these numbers are energizing because they reinforce what we’ve been doing since Day 1 – putting people before politics and talking with 8th Congressional District voters about the issues impacting their families most,” Hiral stated.

###

Dr. Hiral Tipirneni (“HERE-uhl tipper-NEH-nee”), 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 and Meryl O'Bryan, Lake Research Partners
 Re: Polling for Arizona's 8th Congressional Districtⁱ
 Date: August 17, 2018

A recent survey among likely voters in Arizona's 8th Congressional District shows that with the right resources and partner investment, this Congressional district can flip from red to blue and help fuel the blue wave. This most recent data shows that the spring campaign has benefited Dr. Tipirneni and the good work then has lasted. Dr. Tipirneni is better known because of the campaign, Congresswoman Lesko is vulnerable, and voter mood and Democratic motivation points to a potential upset.

Here are the survey's key findings:

- **Tipirneni is only down nine points, a narrower gap than in the late-winter.** Currently, 40% of voters vote for Tipirneni, 49% vote for Lesko, and 10% are undecided. In a March 2018 baseline surveyⁱⁱ, Tipirneni was down by 14-points (34% of voters voted for Tipirneni, 48% voted for Lesko, and 17% were undecided). In the April 2018 special election, Lesko ended up winning by just five points (47% of voters voted for Tipirneni; 53% voted for Lesko).

The demographics are nearly the same from one poll to the next (50% Republican registration in this survey, 51% in the late-winter baseline). What this shows is an even better environment for Tipirneni and the potential to close this 9-point gap rather rapidly.

Question Type (%)	August 2018	March 2018	August Minus March
Initial Ballot: Vote for Tipirneni	40	34	+6
Initial Ballot: Vote for Lesko	49	48	+1
Initial Ballot: Undecided	10	17	-7
Favorable Impression of Tipirneni	33	20	+13
Unfavorable Impression of Tipirneni	17	13	+4
No Opinion/Never Heard of Tipirneni	50	68	-18
Favorable Impression of Lesko	38	44	-6
Unfavorable Impression of Lesko	33	29	+4
No Opinion/Never Heard of Lesko	30	28	+2

Lake Research Partners
 1101 17th Street NW,
 Suite 301
 Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 202.776.9066
 Fax: 202.776.9074

Partners
 Celinda Lake
 Alysia Snell
 David Mermin
 Dr. Robert G. Meadow
 Daniel Gotoff
 Joshua Ulibarri

Additionally, Democrats in this district are more motivated to vote than Republicans. Democrats often underperform Republicans in terms of motivation. However, at this time, 79% of registered Democrats rate themselves a "10-very motivated" compared to 70% of registered Republicans. Finally, while this campaign will not be decided around President Trump, even his favorable ratings take a tumble in this current electorate. Before, 59% of voters had a favorable impression of Trump; now 51% have

a favorable impression of him. Before, 38% of voters had an unfavorable impression of Trump; now, 46% have an unfavorable impression of him.

- **Moving to Congress has not insulated Lesko; in fact, she may be more vulnerable today.** Lesko’s favorability ratings have declined and her unfavorable ratings have increased. In March 2018, 44% of voters had a favorable impression of Lesko, and just 29% had an unfavorable impression of her. Currently, voters are more divided: voters who have a favorable impression of Lesko has dropped to 38%, and voters who have an unfavorable impression of her has increased to 33%.

Additionally, the data show that older women, Republican women and blue-collar women show softer support for Lesko and disproportionately shift towards Tipirneni.

- **Lesko is also susceptible to negative definition around her positions and associations that negatively impact seniors, such as the Republican tax giveaway that House Republican leadership have said they will pay for by making cuts to Medicare and Social Security.** Healthcare, Medicare, and Social Security are especially important to voters ages 50 and older (who make up 70% of the likely electorate), particularly to women (who make up 38% of the likely electorate). In fact, after voters are given more information about Lesko and healthcare, Medicare, and Social Security, Tipirneni receives majority support among women ages 50 and older (53% vote for Tipirneni, 39% vote for Lesko, and 7% are undecided).
- **Tipirneni is stronger and in a better position now than earlier this year.** More voters know her and like her and she starts from a solid foundation with still room to grow. In the March survey, 20% of voters had a favorable impression of Tipirneni, 13% had an unfavorable impression of her, and 68% of voters had no opinion or had never heard of her. By building on the good work that she already did for the special election, now, she is better known, and her favorable ratings are close to Lesko’s. Currently, 33% of voters have a favorable impression of Tipirneni (17% have an unfavorable impression of her, and 49% have no opinion or have never heard of her).

In summary, Dr. Hiral Tipirneni continues to gain momentum after her historic special election earlier this year. The atmosphere is better, Tipirneni is stronger, and Lesko remains vulnerable. Any work she and outside help do will build on the foundation already laid, potentially propelling this race and Tipirneni to an upset win.

###

ⁱ **Methodology:** Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, and it was conducted by telephone using professional interviewers August 7 - 13, 2018. The survey reached a total of 400 likely 2018 voters in Arizona’s 8th Congressional District, including an oversample of 100 modeled persuadable voters (partisan score of 20-60). Telephone numbers for the sample were generated from a list of registered voters in Arizona. The data were weighted slightly by gender, region, age, party registration, party ID, education, partisan score, turnout score, cell phone, and vote history. Both cell phones and landlines were called.

ⁱⁱ **Methodology:** Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, and it was conducted by telephone using professional interviewers March 3- 6, 2018. The survey reached a total of 400 likely April 2018 special election voters in Arizona’s 8th Congressional District. Telephone numbers for the sample were generated from a list of registered voters in Arizona. The data were weighted slightly by gender, age, region, party registration, education, support score, and turnout score. Both cell phones and landlines were called.