



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Lisa Grove, Ben Patinkin and Jessica Paulson
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RE: Recent Polling in FL-18 Shows Allen West Is Vulnerable
DATE: August 27, 2012

This analysis is based on a survey of 400 likely, 2012 general election voters in Florida's 18th Congressional District. The survey was conducted August 21-24, 2012. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

Patrick Murphy Leads Incumbent Republican Allen West By One Point

In a poll just completed, Patrick Murphy holds a one-point lead over incumbent Republican Allen West. Murphy receives 47% of the vote compared to 46% for West. Less than one in 10 (7%) remain undecided. This closely mirrors the generic Congressional test (44% Democrat; 45% Republican).

"If the election for U.S. Congress were being held today for whom would you vote?"

Murphy	47%
West	46%
Undecided	7%

Allen West Is a Divisive Figure in Florida's 18th Congressional District

Given Allen West's positions on the issues that matter in his district, it should come as no surprise that he has become a divisive figure there. Similar numbers like (43% favorable) and dislike him (38% unfavorable). In addition, the Congressman has weak job performance ratings (41% positive; 52% negative)—a sign of vulnerability for any incumbent politician.

In sum, Florida's 18th Congressional District represents a pick-up opportunity for Democrats as the November General Election approaches.