



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Davidson for Congress

DATE: Monday, October 20, 2025

RE: PPP Polling Shows Lawler Highly Vulnerable to Beth Davidson Challenge

A new Public Policy Polling survey of 513 likely voters in New York's 17th Congressional District, conducted October 13 to 14, shows Beth Davidson entering the race as the most serious contender Mike Lawler has faced since entering Congress and with a commanding profile advantage within the Democratic primary.

Davidson's record as a bipartisan problem-solver and 20-year Hudson Valley resident gives her a decisive advantage when voters hear about her background - especially compared to Democrats with limited local roots. The data confirm what we are already seeing on the ground: Mike Lawler is a tough politician but is specifically vulnerable to Beth Davidson.

Key Findings

The political environment in this swing district remains deeply competitive, but Beth Davidson is the most serious contender Mike Lawler has faced in years. Donald Trump's job approval sits at 48% approve / 49% disapprove, reflecting the district's even partisan balance. Lawler's favorability stands at 47% favorable / 46% unfavorable, with nearly 4 in 10 voters viewing him very unfavorably. Notably, he is 8 points underwater with Independents (43% favorable / 51% unfavorable).

In 2024, [the Democratic nominee trailed Lawler by 7 points](#) heading into the final weeks of the race. In the initial head-to-head more than a year out from election day, **Davidson and Lawler are statistically tied** (46% Davidson / 47% Lawler / 7% undecided) and Davidson leads with Independent voters (45% Davidson / 43% Lawler / 12% undecided). This parity, before any major paid communication for Davidson, demonstrates how weak Lawler's hold on the seat truly is when faced with the right opponent.

Davidson not only poses a serious threat to Lawler, but has the strongest profile in the primary field. When presented with two possible Democratic profiles—one a *“local legislator and 20-year Hudson Valley resident who has worked across party lines to cut taxes and strengthen public safety, and is fighting back against cuts to Medicaid and food stamps”* versus a *“former Biden Administration official and veteran who has been living in Washington, D.C., working on national security issues”*—**Davidson’s profile wins overwhelmingly, 58% to 15%, a 43-point advantage. Among Democratic voters, she leads by a similarly wide margin, 54% to 18%.**

Davidson leads other Democratic candidates in the field in name recognition, with 23% of voters overall and 29% of Democrats already having a favorable view of Davidson more than a year away from the general election. She leads other Democratic contenders in name ID by more than 10%, and in one of the nation’s most expensive media markets, building comparable recognition will be extraordinarily difficult.

The Bottom Line

Beth Davidson begins this campaign as the dominant Democrat in the primary thanks to profile and name ID advantages, and the most formidable general election challenger Mike Lawler has faced since entering Congress.

Her deep local roots, bipartisan record, and focus on affordability and safety position her to unify Democrats, appeal to independents, and win back swing voters frustrated with Washington’s chaos. With sustained fundraising and message discipline, Beth Davidson has the credibility, local and broad coalition, and momentum to retake New York’s 17th District for Democrats in 2026.

About the Poll

Public Policy Polling surveyed 513 likely voters in New York’s 17th Congressional District from October 13–14, 2025. The survey was conducted via landline and text-to-web interviews. The margin of error is $\pm 4.3\%$.

