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Van Drew holds 17-point lead over Grossman, Stockton poll finds

JOHN DeROSIER Staff Writer Oct 25, 2018



Republican Seth Grossman, left, shrank a deficit to Democrat Jeff Van Drew in the most recent congressional poll conducted by Stockton University.

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Democratic congressional candidate Jeff Van Drew holds a 17-point lead over Republican challenger Seth Grossman with less than two weeks before the general election, according to a new poll by Stockton University.

The poll, released Thursday, reflected a six-point gain for Grossman since the last Stockton poll released earlier this fall. It also found Grossman has support from 78 percent of Republicans, about a 13-point gain from the last poll.

However, the new poll found only 28 percent of voters view him favorably compared with 52 percent who view Van Drew favorably.

“Sen. Van Drew has been a member of the New Jersey Legislature since 2002, so it is clear that he is known and liked by a majority of 2nd District voters,” Michael Klein, interim executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, said in a statement. “His double-digit lead also reflects the evolving political makeup of the congressional district that has sent a Republican to Congress — Frank LoBiondo — for the past 24 years.”

Klein said 59 percent of new voters in District 2 — nearly 4,700 out of 7,965 — registered as Democrats, and the number of unaffiliated voters shrank by more than 1,500.

“The voters are picking sides, and many are lining up against the party of President Trump, whose job performance was rated fair or poor by over 57 percent of the respondents to our poll,” Klein said.

Election Day is Nov. 6.

Contact: 609-272-7260 JDeRosier@pressofac.com Twitter [@ACPressDeRosier](https://twitter.com/ACPressDeRosier)

