

NY-21 District Primer

In 2024, Republican Elise Stefanik won this seat by **84,583 votes—that's 150 votes per precinct**. If we can persuade just 151 voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we're going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates

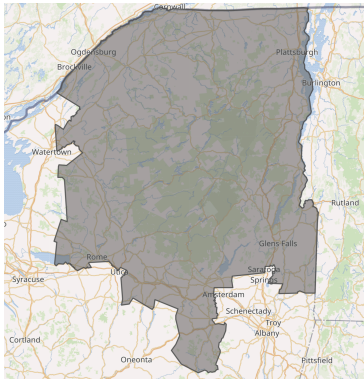
Early Voting begins: October 24, 2026

Midterms: November 3, 2026

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 140,758 (39.4%) Trump: 214,512 (60%)	Collins (D): 132,447 (38%) Stefanik (R): 215,996 (62%)	Castelli (D): 116,421 (40.8%) Stefanik (R): 168,579 (59.1%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Rome, pop. 31,682
- Queensbury, pop. 29,049
- LeRay, pop. 24,259

Geography

NY-21 is situated in the northeast part of NY state. It is one of the largest congressional districts in the eastern U.S., encompassing all or part of fifteen counties, sharing borders with Vermont to the East and Canada to the north. A largely rural, sparsely populated district, it is home to the Adirondack Mountains and includes millions of acres of parkland, the North Country, and thousands of lakes and rivers.

Citizenry

This largely rural district has a majority of white residents (88.6%), with no other single race in any large numbers. 98% are citizens and the poverty rate is 13%, with 16% of children living in poverty. The median income is well below the national average. 27% are enrolled in Medicaid, 19% of households participate in SNAP and only 27.4% of residents have a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

The Local Vibe

Historically a Republican district, Trump's actions have taken a big toll here. Tariffs and the trade war with Canada is hurting North Country communities that rely on exports and on tourism. Tariffs and USDA cuts have hurt farmers here, and cuts to Medicaid and SNAP are felt acutely - as are the cuts to the area's many cultural institutions.

Thousands demonstrated their dissatisfaction in No Kings protests throughout the North Country and the Adirondacks. ICE actions in the region inspired groups providing services and rapid response teams. There was an anti-ICE rally in Saranac Lake in January. North Country farmworkers, seasonal hospitality workers and workers in the dairy and construction industries fear deportation, even those with valid visas.

There will also be a race for Governor on the ballot.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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Key Issues

- **Cuts to benefits:** Many in the district are vulnerable to cuts in SNAP and Medicaid.
 - **Jobs:** Many jobs here are in hospitals and schools, two sectors that are greatly harmed by Trump's budget cuts. Many businesses here rely on workers who are vulnerable due to their immigration status
 - **Trade wars:** Trump's trade war with Canada is having a devastating effect on North Country businesses.
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About the Candidates

There is no incumbent as Elise Stefanik announced her decision not to run again for this seat.

Blake Gendebien | Democratic Candidate

Blake Gendebien was born and raised in the North Country where he is a second generation dairy farmer. He earned a BA in Agriculture from Penn State and now owns Twin Mill Farms. He was elected Vice Chair of the Board of Agri-Mark, a major dairy cooperative in the Northeast. He has been JV basketball coach and Lisbon Central School Board member, and founder of a charity supporting children with cancer and their families.

Gendebien's priorities are lowering costs for working families and seniors, pushing for meaningful immigration reform, supporting small businesses and farms, improving access to health care and lowering drug prices, supporting veterans, and instituting government reform to root out corruption. He supports renewable energy and opposes Trump's tariffs and trade wars with Canada saying "Washington treats this relationship like a bargaining chip."

He is endorsed by the NY State AFL-CIO and he describes himself as a moderate, willing to work with anyone to get things done for his constituents.

Anthony Constantino | GOP Candidate

Anthony Constantino is the CEO of a large printing company, Sticker Mule, which has 1,000 employees in 39 countries. He took up professional boxing at age 40 to pursue his fitness passion. He is an avid Trump supporter and was encouraged to run for Congress by Trump advisor Roger Stone.

An arch conservative, Constantino proposes to "put more money in people's pockets" by eliminating waste and sealing the border, supporting ICE and ending illegal immigration. He wants to minimize regulations, favors gas and oil industries over renewable energy and he opposes subsidies for farmers who install solar panels. He says he defends the 1st and 2nd Amendments, wants to expose government corruption and writes that "I am NY's strongest Republican and will aggressively defend MAGA values."

The contrast: Although this district often votes Republican, Elise Stefanik was initially a moderate Republican, as Gendebien is a moderate Democrat. A fast-talking MAGA extremist hardly represents the values of this down-to-earth district, with its small farms and beautiful land.