



For Immediate Release

RYAN HUFFMAN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR ILLINOIS' 6TH DISTRICT SEAT

'Young, scrappy, and hungry' candidate vows to bring a fresh voice to Washington and solve real problems facing the residents of the 6th District

PALATINE, IL – September 14, 2017 – Progressive Democrat Ryan Huffman today announced his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives in Illinois' 6th District. In a critically important race to unseat far-right Republican Peter Roskam, Huffman offers a fresh choice as a candidate who can energize the district's growing millennial population.

"It will take a youth movement in this district if we're finally going to flip this seat blue," said the 31-year-old Huffman, noting that the share of millennials voting in the 6th District's primary *tripled* in 2016 thanks to Bernie Sanders. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for all the Democrats running in this pivotal race, but if we keep running the same kind of campaign we've run against Roskam for over a decade, the result will be just as disappointing."

Huffman, a data analyst and policy expert who worked on Barack Obama's presidential campaign and in his White House, listed wealth inequality, climate change, and student loan reform as issues key to winning over hard-to-reach millennial voters.

"All over the country, people in my generation are looking for new leaders who will address the issues that matter to them," said Huffman, who holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a Master of public policy degree from the University of Chicago. "We are a passionate and hopeful generation, and we're ready to move beyond the tired politics of the past."

Like so many in the 6th District, Huffman has been appalled watching Peter Roskam move farther and farther to the right over the years, first buddying up with the Koch brothers and now with Donald Trump. Even as Roskam rakes in unprecedented campaign funds from the corporations and special interests he serves, Huffman believes that the key to beating Roskam is through grassroots organizing and offering real solutions to the problems people care about.

"A strong message beats a big checkbook every time," said Huffman, a Palatine resident. "We need to turn our backs on the dangerous practice of letting people buy elections. If federal offices can only be held by the wealthy and well-connected, then struggling middle-class and low-income families will continue to be ignored by our political leaders."

Because he believes it's so critically important to break the stranglehold of special interests on politics, Huffman has pledged that he will accept no special interest or corporate money during the campaign or while in office, and he encourages his opponents to do the same.

"While my top priority is flipping the 6th District blue, it's important that we do it the right way," said Huffman. "Switching from a Republican owned by corporations to a Democrat owned by corporations is not the way forward for our party, or our country."

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