



TO: House Majority PAC
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At this early stage of the 2014 midterm elections, Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District is a solid Democratic target. President Obama won this district in both 2008 and 2012 and, despite John Kline's 11 years as this district's Congressional representative, few voters have any strong impression of him. Redistricting in 2011 made this district somewhat more Democratic, but in the very expensive Twin Cities media market and with a late primary date, 2012 Democratic nominee Mike Obermueller had very little time and money to introduce himself to voters. Obermueller is gearing up to run again in 2014 and our recent polling indicates that his prospects are good:

- **In the initial trial heat, John Kline gets an anemic 45% of the vote, with 32% for the largely unknown Obermueller and 23% Undecided.**
- **A simple positive paragraph test before any other information about the candidates is given flips this race on its head as 44% of voters favor Obermueller while only 38% stick with Kline.**
 - A basic description of Obermueller "working together with others to meet common goals" moved his support twelve points, indicating that he is clearly a good fit for this southeast Minnesota district. Of course, the caveat is Obermueller will only have this chance in 2014 if he has the media dollars to articulate his message.
- **President Obama continues to be well liked in the 2nd CD.** Fifty-four percent of likely CD2 voters have a favorable view of the President, with 43% unfavorable. In contrast, only about 1 in 4 voters (26%) knew Obermueller enough to rate him, which suggests he has considerable room for growth.
- **Voters are increasingly looking for someone who will change the political climate in Washington.** Kline's job rating is a fairly dismal 41% excellent/good to 48% only fair/poor, a -7 deficit that was not evident for Kline just 10 months ago, at the height of the political campaigns. It is not too surprising, as voters want compromise and balance, and it is clear Kline is not any part of that. Only 25% of his constituents think Kline is "willing to compromise to get things done."
 - This survey was conducted July 17th -21st using a voter file sample of likely 2014 voters. Live interviewers hand-dialed all numbers to complete 400 interviews on mobile and landline phones. Minnesota does not register by political party, but respondents self-identified as 30% Democrats, 24% Republicans, and 46% Independent, which is on par with historical party identification trends in this part of Minnesota. The margin of error for a sample of this size is plus or minus 4.9% at the 95% confidence interval.