



**TO: The Paul Davis Campaign**  
**FROM: The Mellman Group**  
**DATE: June 27, 2018**  
**RE: Davis Leads In Kansas 2 And Has An Excellent Chance To Win This Seat**

*This analysis represents the findings of a survey of 600 voters representing the likely November 2018 electorate in Kansas' Second Congressional District. Interviews were conducted by telephone June 13-18, 2018 using a registration-based sample of cellphones and landlines. The margin of error for this survey is +/-4 percentage points at a 95% level of confidence. The margin of error is higher for subgroups.*

Our just completed poll reveals that, despite the Republican lean of Kansas' 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Paul Davis leads the open seat race and is the best known and most popular candidate in the field. Davis has proven himself in the District, having won it by 7 points in the 2014 election for Governor.

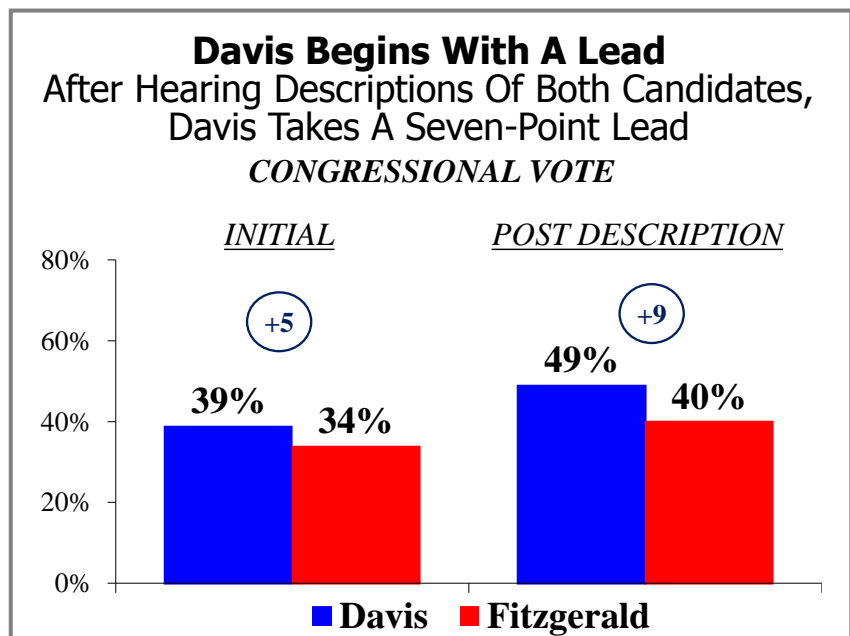
### **Davis Leads The Horserace**

Since Republicans suffer from a late, seven-way primary among unknowns, and consequently the GOP nominee is so uncertain, we picked one of the more established candidates (State Senator Steve Fitzgerald) to match up against Davis.

In that initial matchup, Davis leads Fitzgerald by 5 points (39% Davis, 34% Fitzgerald).

This lead is due in large part to Davis' impressive two to one, 18-point margin among independent voters (36% Davis, 18% Fitzgerald), the segment who will ultimately decide the race in November.

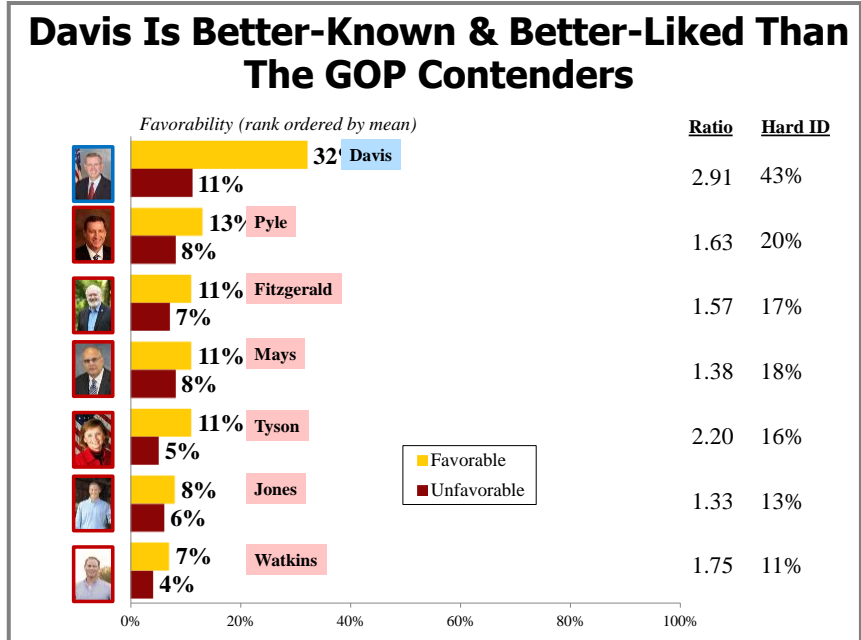
Davis' advantage grows as voters learn more about the candidates. After respondents heard paragraphs summarizing both candidates' messages<sup>i</sup>, Davis' lead grew from 5 to 9 points (Davis 49%, Fitzgerald 40%).



### Davis Is The Best Known And Best Liked Candidate

With 32% of voters holding a favorable view of Davis and only 11% unfavorable, Davis is both the best known and best-liked candidate in the field.

As the chart to the right demonstrates, his potential Republican opponents are mostly unknowns and less well liked. Fitzgerald clocks in at 11% favorable and 7% unfavorable. Steve Watkins, Caryn Tyson, Doug Mays, Dennis Pyle and Kevin Jones all have similarly low name ID and relatively mixed views among those who know them.



### Voters Have Serious Concerns About Major GOP Figures

Despite the President’s 18-point victory in this District, his job performance ratings are under water, with a majority (55%) giving him negative ratings, while only 42% give him positive ratings. Moreover, voters prefer a Member of Congress who will be a check on him over a Trump supporter, by 59% to 33%.

Additionally, former Governor Brownback remains an anathema to voters here. The number with an unfavorable view of Brownback is 40-points greater than the number with a favorable view (26% favorable, 66% unfavorable).

### Davis Is In An Excellent Position To Win

As the most popular candidate in the field, Davis begins with a lead, which is particularly large among independents. That margin expands as both candidates communicate their messages. Davis’ personal advantages are buttressed by voters’ deep concerns about both Trump and Brownback, which also bode well for Davis.

<sup>i</sup> **Steve Fitzgerald, a Republican**, is a Kansas State Senator who served more than 20 years in our military, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Fitzgerald has dedicated his life to serving Kansas and America. In Congress, Fitzgerald will support a strong military, fight burdensome regulations so we can create good jobs, defend the unborn, and protect our 2nd Amendment rights. He’ll secure our borders and crack down on illegal immigration. Fitzgerald will fight any attempts to roll back the Trump tax cuts that helped jump-start our economy, while putting more money in the pockets of middle-class families.

**Paul Davis, a Democrat**, is a lifelong Kansan and the son of two teachers. Davis is frustrated with a Congress that’s beholden to special interests and where members are too busy fighting each other to get anything done. In the Kansas legislature, Davis proved he can bring both parties together to get things done. But when billionaires and special interests are allowed to pour unlimited amounts of money into elections, they drown-out our voices. Fixing Congress’ culture of corruption starts with getting big money out of politics. Davis also knows you cannot change Congress without changing its leaders, which is why he announced that he will not support Nancy Pelosi for Speaker.