

Look for Primaries to Be No Holds Barred in NJ's 2nd and 3rd Districts

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Just to the north is the 3rd Congressional District, which covers Burlington and Ocean counties, where newcomer Andy Kim narrowly beat Tom McArthur, a rising GOP star who had served two terms, two years ago.

No safe haven for Democrats in 3rd

The long-safe GOP district has become mercurial since the retirement of longtime Republican congressman Jim Saxton in 2009. The seat has been "lled by Democrat John Adler, Republican Jon Runyan, Republican Tom MacArthur and now Democrat Kim. Trump won the district by six points in 2016, but Kim def

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The two candidates will square off Thursday in a debate presented by the William J. Hughes [Center for Public Policy](#) at Stockton University.

Joining them in the debate will be candidate Will Cunningham, a former staffer for Sen. Cory Booker, who won the endorsement of Democracy for America, a progressive political action committee.

Things were looking rosy for Kate Gibbs and David Richter last fall.

Gibbs, the former Burlington County freeholder, was considered the favorite to win the GOP nomination to run against Andy Kim, the rookie congressman who won a razor-thin election in 2016. Richter, a wealthy businessman with a stacked resume, was viewed as the Republican favorite to take on Jeff Van Drew, the Democrat who also won in the 2016 blue wave. By all accounts, Richter and Gibbs would be running mates in neighboring districts.

That all changed on December when Van Drew switched parties. In the blink of an eye, Richter lost his party's support, which he had so carefully cultivated for two years. His solution was simple: He withdrew from the race and in January announced he would run instead in the neighboring [3rd District](#).



Vying to become the GOP congressional nominee in the 3rd District are Kate Gibbs and David Richter.

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most glaring disagreement may be who is the [more loyal supporter](#)

As for her own experience, Gibbs notes she was raised by a single, working mother, and she was the first person in her family to get a college degree. It was actually two — an MBA from Drexel University's LeBow College of Business and a B.A. from American University, majoring in communications and political science.

"I'm proud of my record as a freeholder. I've earned everything I got by hard work, as opposed to

