



## WHY KEITH ELLISON

### TOPLINE

Keith is a committed, proven organizer who can energize the grassroots to win elections.

### COMMITTED

- Keith is “all-in” on ensuring the Democratic Party looks to the future and thrives in future elections. That’s why he has promised to resign his seat in Congress if he wins.

### PROVEN ORGANIZER

- **Record of Supporting States:** Keith has a deep history of collaboration with the Minnesota state party to boost turnout. He has organized to elect candidates across the state from city council to state legislator to governor.
- **30 states:** Keith traveled to nearly 30 states last cycle campaigning for candidates up and down the ballot, including campaigning in 9 states for Secretary Hillary Clinton.

### ENERGIZE THE GRASSROOTS

- **Grassroots:** Keith has national relationships with grassroots leaders and a demonstrated ability to speak to and excite the Democratic base in all parts of America.
  - That’s why he’s been endorsed by labor groups like the AFL-CIO and the United Steelworkers, labor leaders like Lee Saunders of AFSCME and Randi Weingarten of AFT, and grassroots groups like MoveOn.org, PCCC, the Center for Popular Democracy, and Democracy for America.
  - There are over 600,000 signatures on petitions supporting Keith for DNC Chair.
- **Unity:** Keith knows Democrats must be unified to fight back against Trump and he has the trust of all segments of the party. That’s why he has broad support from Senators Chuck Schumer and Elizabeth Warren to Representative John Lewis to Mayor Bill DeBlasio to former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

### WINS ELECTIONS

- When Keith was elected to Congress in 2006, the Fifth Congressional District had the lowest voter turnout in Minnesota. Over five re-election campaigns, Keith has used grassroots organizing to transform his 63% white, middle-class district into the highest performing district in the state.
- Keith’s organizing has helped keep MN blue, and Republicans have not won a statewide race since 2006.
- If 2016 voter turnout in Milwaukee, Detroit, and Philadelphia matched their turnout in 2012, Hillary Clinton would have won WI, MI, and PA and be our President right now.

### PROVEN FUNDRAISER

- Keith has raised over a million for his state party, and millions more for the DCCC and Democratic candidates at all levels. He is the number 3 grassroots fundraiser in the US House.

## KEITH ELLISON TURNOUT MEMO

*Like the marchers from Selma to Montgomery, Americans are organizing for justice through movements to raise the minimum wage, prove that black lives matter, combat climate change, and more. Our democracy is in trouble when issues supported by the majority of Americans, like increasing the minimum wage or passing immigration reform, can't even get a vote in Congress. Our voters are demoralized and unengaged when only 36 percent turn out to vote. It's up to all of us to make voting count again. The solution is to put voters first.*

*Keith Ellison, [The Nation](#), 6/22/15*

- **2006** – Keith Ellison gets elected to Congress with his congressional district as the lowest turnout in Minnesota. This grassroots work focused on 365 day-a-year organizing around issues impacting voters. It also targeted voters living in apartments by building a database of over 20,000 multi-unit dwellings, organizing on campus and new Americans leading to identifying tens of thousands voters to register.
- **2008** – Democratic Senator Al Franken defeated Senator Norm Coleman by just **312** votes in 2008. MN-05 boosted the Democratic margin of votes from 2004 to 2008 by more than 10,000 votes. If the district performed the same as 2004, Al Franken would not be in the Senate. Senator Franken's vision, work and dedication to the state allowed him to grow a 312 vote margin to more than 200,000 in his re-election.
- **2010** – Minnesota had 94,449 fewer voters turnout in 2010 than in 2006. MN-05 drove an increase of turnout by 18,772 votes. Democratic Governor Mark Dayton won his election after a ballot recount by less than 10,000 votes. In 2014, he won by more than 100,000 votes after passing progressive policies and continuing to organize.
- **2012** – In 2012, an anti-LGBT constitutional amendment and voter ID constitutional amendment were on the ballot. 18 months prior to the Election Day the voter ID amendment had a support of 80% of Minnesotans. The Ellison campaign organized around these issues and our team of volunteers provided almost 40% of the IDs and conversations statewide.
  - o MN-05 provided 135% more “no” votes than the statewide average on the voter ID amendment
  - o MN-05 provided 138% more “no” votes than the statewide average on the anti-LGBT amendment.
  - o Both were narrowly defeated due to work done in MN-05.
  - o Including 2 to 1 opposition within the African American community.
  - o Voters who stood in opposition to the amendment outperformed Congressional Democratic candidates in three key districts. A pattern we see nationwide where constitutional amendments or ballot measures like minimum wage outperform Democratic performance.
  - o When we organize around our values, we win.
- **2014** – Turnout in Minnesota went down by 5% from 2010, hitting a 70-year low. Democratic Secretary of State candidate Steve Simon lost 5 of 8 Minnesota Congressional districts but won by a slim 1.2% margin. Turnout in MN-05 in 2014 **increased** by 3%. It was the **only** Congressional district in Minnesota where voter turnout grew between 2010 and 2014.
- **2016** – In MN-05 Congressional race, an additional 9,000 voters cast ballots between 2012 and 2016. The margin of votes between MN-05 and the national average in Congressional districts is **larger** than Clinton's margin of victory in Minnesota.

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