

## **Appendix A: Interview Questions, 2018 Female Congressional Candidates**

Please tell me about your decision to run for office this year.

When did you decide to run? What were the issues or factors that propelled you to run?

Have you ever run for elected / political office before? When was that?

How about appointed office? Have you ever sought out a position as an appointed government official? Been nominated for such a position?

[Filter - ask only those who are first-time candidates] Before this year, had you ever considered running for office? When? Why did you decide against running?

In deciding to run, what would you say was the most important factor that convinced / propelled you to do so?

Probe: policy issue specifics, details about anger / frustration, community needs, etc.

Tell me what effect, if any, Donald Trump's election had upon your decision to run.

Tell me what effect, if any, Hillary's Clinton's candidacy had upon your decision to run.

In deciding to run, what kinds of things would you say caused you the greatest concern / made you apprehensive about running?

Were you recruited by anyone to run? Who was that?

Probe: How about the \_\_\_\_\_ Party? Did anyone from the party encourage you to run?

Probe: How about any campaign training organizations? Did you attend any campaign trainings while considering a run? If so, who hosted those trainings?

Did anyone discourage you from running? Who was that?

Do you have any plans to run again in the future?

What was the most important lesson you learned during your campaign?

What kinds of qualifications and experience, if any, do you think women need to have before running for office?

Demographics: We're also curious whether the women running for office this year differ from a "typical" political candidate and so we have a few demographic questions to help us determine whether or not they do.

What is your primary occupation?

What is the highest degree you have earned?

What is your marital status?

Do you have any children? How old are your children?

What is your racial identity?

Veteran status

Immigrant status

Did you participate in any candidate training program?

In what year were you born?

Is there anything else you'd like to share with me?

## Appendix B: Comparison of Interviewees with Larger Female Candidate Pool

	Primary Losers		General Election Losers	
	Interviewed (n=36)	Not Interviewed (n=201)	Interviewed (n=17)	Not Interviewed (n=115)
% Vote, in primary	18.3	16.5	69.6	57.3
% vote, general	--	--	35.2	38.6
Vote gap from winner	-27.2	-29.6	-28.0	-21.6
Relative performance	-9.0	-7.6	+1.5	+2.1
% Democrats	86.1*	65.8	94.1*	67.3
% Women of Color	36.1	36.1	11.8	31.6

\*p<.05

As this table shows, our sample overrepresents Democrats in both the primary and general and overrepresents white women in the general election. But on measures of electoral competitiveness, our interviewees performed very similarly to the larger population of female candidates who lost their congressional bids in 2018.