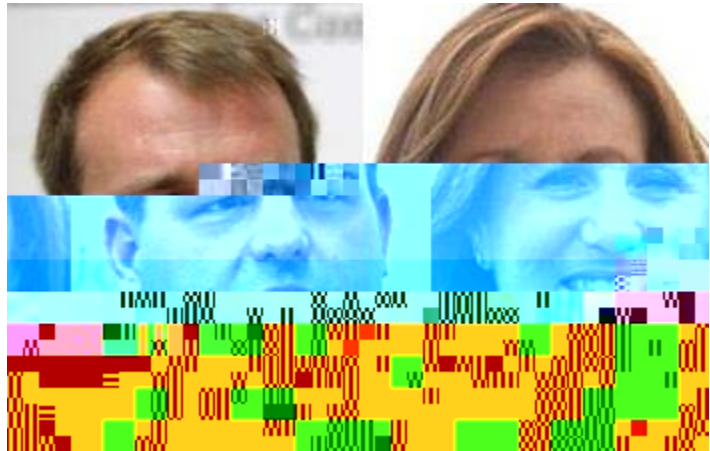


## N.J. congressional races could help determine control of House

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File photos

John Runyan, 38, and Shelley Adler, 52 are shown in these file photos.

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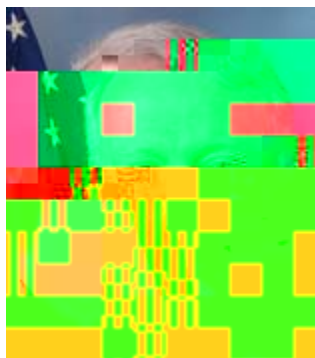
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The Stockton Polling Institute said last week Runyan was leading Adler among likely voters 49-39 percent.





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Republican Leonard Lance is running against Democratic challenger Upendra Chivukula to represent New Jersey's 7th district

into a block grant program and his willingness to allow states to cut programs for the poor.

"One wonders if he really represents the district or has he gone out on his own," Chivukula said in an interview.

It may be Chivukula who is out of step with the new district. In 2008, Obama won the 7th District with 51 percent of the votes, but he would have lost in the newly configured district — a large, affluent region that embraces parts of Essex, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Union and Warren counties — according to figures provided by the Lance

campaign.

"I am confident that my views represent the district that I serve," Lance said in a recent interview. "I've always been a fiscal conservative."

As a state senator, Lance said he opposed former Gov. Christie Whitman's pension borrowing and successfully sued former Gov. James McGreevey for taking loans to cover routine state costs.

"That's the difference between myself and Mr. Chivukula," Lance said, noting that his challenger also voted against a landmark bill last year that forced public employees to pay more for their health and pension benefits.



Star-Ledger file photo

Democratic challenger Upendra Chivukula says his opponent doesn't represent the views of the 7th district

