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**SHARICE DAVIDS SHAKES UP RACE IN KANSAS THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, ENTERS WITH A FOCUS ON OPPORTUNITY, EQUITY, AND ACTION**

SHAWNEE, Kan. - Democrat and Shawnee resident Sharice Davids today announced her candidacy for United States House of Representatives, officially entering the race to unseat Republican Kevin Yoder and represent the Third Congressional District of Kansas. Davids said she is joining the already crowded field because voters deserve a candidate with the leadership, courage, and experience to take effective action for our country's progress.

“Voters want a representative who speaks and acts for their values, interests, and communities,” Davids said. “I have a proven track record of service and will add a new, distinct voice and viewpoint to the nation's discussions.”

Davids graduated from Leavenworth High School, the daughter of an Army veteran single mother. She earned degrees from Johnson County Community College and the University of Missouri-Kansas City before graduating from Cornell Law School. An enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, a Native American tribe, Davids has spent the majority of her career focused on economic development and advocacy in Native American communities, living and working on reservations where she saw federal policies play out on the ground.

In 2016, Davids was chosen as one of 16 participants in the prestigious White House Fellowship Program. Davids spent a year in the highest levels of the federal government, working with senior officials to increase transparency and citizen engagement. Davids was working in Washington during the chaos of the Obama-Trump transition and saw first-hand the immediate need for competent, thoughtful people to step up, take action, and get involved in government. When her fellowship concluded, Davids returned to Kansas, uniquely poised to fight for opportunity, equity and measurable improvement for all people in the district.

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“Kevin Yoder no longer represents the people of Kansas,” Davids said. “He is now a rubber stamp for the Trump administration and the big-money donors who have fueled his campaigns. Voters now have a clear choice in this race.”

When elected, Davids will be Kansas’ first openly-gay Representative and the nation’s first female Native American member of Congress. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. The deadline for voters to register or change party affiliation and participate in primary elections is June 1.

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***About Sharice:*** Shawnee resident Sharice Davids is a White House Fellow and Cornell Law School graduate. She has focused her career on bringing opportunity and equity to underserved communities. She is uniquely qualified to put the values and interests of the Third District into action in Washington D.C. as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. When elected, Davids will be Kansas’ first openly-gay Representative and the nation’s first Native American woman member of Congress.

***About the Third Congressional District of Kansas:*** The Third Congressional District is home to more than 672,000 people in Johnson, Miami, and Wyandotte Counties. It is the economic heart of the state and comprised of vibrant, growing communities.

***About the 2018 election:*** There will be a Democratic primary election for the Third Congressional District and many other local, state, and national races. This vote will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. Absentee and advanced voting will be available. To participate in a primary election, voters must register their party affiliation by June 1, 2018. To register to vote or check your current registration online, please visit [ksvotes.org](http://ksvotes.org).

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