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**TO:** Amy McGrath for Congress

FROM: Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group

**DATE:** April 21, 2018

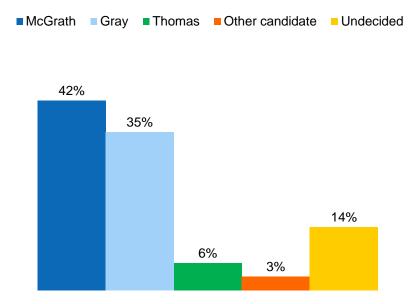
RE: Amy McGrath has surged into the lead with one month

remaining in primary

Between April 17 and 19, 2018, Garin-Hart-Yang conducted a survey among 404 likely Democratic primary voters in Kentucky's  $6^{th}$  CD. The survey, which was conducted among landlines and cellphones, is fully representative of the 6th's primary electorate and has a margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$ .

Fueled by her strong message of service to country and her desire to bring change to Congress, Amy McGrath has overtaken front-runner Jim Gray and now leads as the primary heads into the critical final weeks.

## **Initial Trial Heat Results**



Amy's seven-point lead is a tremendous turnaround considering she started the Democratic primary trailing Jim Gray by a 63% to 18% margin in our December 2017 survey.

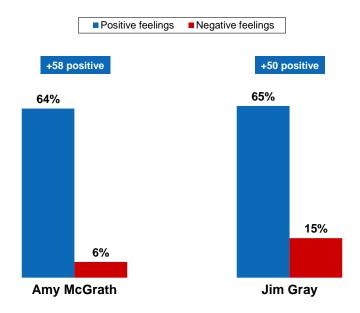
What makes this 52-point turnaround notable is that it was accomplished against a still-popular incumbent mayor without a single controversy or negative ad aired. Both candidates have aired several weeks of positive advertising.



A deeper analysis of the current survey data reaffirms Amy's strong positive image AND the likelihood that she can hold onto her current advantage and indeed expand her vote.

First, Amy McGrath has achieved an impressive and enviable name recognition figure of 83% in her short campaign, which is just below Jim Gray's 93%--despite Gray having held public office for more than a decade. However, Amy's "feeling thermometer" score is the same as Gray's, despite his higher name ID, which speaks to the INTENSITY behind Amy's candidacy:

## **Feelings Toward Candidates**



Second, despite being a first-time candidate running against a well-known and popular opponent, **Amy McGrath not only has more support but her support is MORE deeply committed**: 76% of McGrath voters say they support their candidate strongly, compared to 72% of Jim Gray voters.

Third, Amy leads among both genders, leads by significant margins in the non-Fayette County portions of the  $6^{th}$  (roughly three-fifths of the total vote), and even in Gray's home base of Fayette County (where he has served as Lexington Mayor since 2010), Amy holds him below the 50% mark.

The depth of Amy McGrath's appeal AND her ability to gain more votes as she gets better-known in the coming weeks (remember she is still unfamiliar to about 20% of the electorate) is evidenced by the trial heat results among primary voters who



are POSITIVE to BOTH candidates. Among this key group of voters, Amy leads Jim Gray by a substantial 51% to 36% margin.

Looking ahead to the November general election against Republican incumbent Andy Barr, our earlier February survey among 6<sup>th</sup> C.D. general election voters is bullish about Amy's prospects. Just 44% of voters give Andy Barr a "positive" rating for his performance as congressman, just 38% say they want to elect him to another term, and fully 47% want to make a change from Barr. And while both Democratic candidates showed the potential to defeat Barr, even in this early poll (conducted BEFORE the McGrath campaign started airing television commercials) Amy's appeal was evident--among voters who recognize "Amy McGrath," Amy is ahead of Andy Barr by 60% to 38%. Among voters who recognize "Jim Gray," Gray is ahead by only 50% to 48%.

In summary, Amy's strong and powerful message AND her equally strong grass-roots campaign has captured the imagination of  $6^{th}$  CD Democrats and has catapulted her into the lead over a credible and long-time elected official. Even more important, our polling data shows that Amy McGrath's momentum shows little signs of slowing and that she is now well-positioned to achieve victory in the May  $22^{nd}$  Democratic primary for Congress.