

PRESS KIT

1. Summary

This campaign is about removing corruption and bringing integrity back to politics, while lowering costs, creating opportunity, strengthening communities, and making sure every corner of Southern Illinois has a voice. We can do both, and we need to do both, to build a stronger Southern Illinois. Because every community matters. Because government should work **for all of us**.

#ForAllOfUs #Fortier4Congress

2. Bio

Scientist

Julie Fortier has spent her career solving problems through science. As a cancer research scientist, she believes good decisions start with evidence, facts, and accountability. She brings that same practical, results-oriented approach to public service, believing Congress should focus on solving problems instead of scoring political points.

Veteran

Julie proudly served in the United States Air Force, where she learned the values of service, discipline, and responsibility. That experience shaped her commitment to putting country before politics and ensuring veterans receive the care and benefits they earned. She believes supporting those who served should never be a partisan issue.

PHOTOS FOR THE PRESS ►



2. Bio (Cont.)

Family

Julie is a parent who understands the challenges families face every day, from the rising cost of healthcare and groceries to finding good-paying jobs and creating opportunities for the next generation. Her campaign is rooted in the belief that every family deserves the chance to build a secure future, regardless of where they live or who they vote for.

Community

Julie has always been actively involved in her local community. Whether that was as a substitute teacher, a library volunteer, or even as an elementary art teacher, Julie has always stepped up and stepped in to lend a hand where and when it was needed.

Career

For decades, Julie has built a career dedicated to improving lives through science, research, and service. Her professional background has taught her how to evaluate evidence, collaborate with experts, and tackle complex problems with practical solutions rather than political ideology. She is running to bring that same mindset to Washington.

Why She's Running

Julie is running because she believes Southern Illinois deserves a representative who is accessible, accountable, and willing to listen. She is holding public town halls in every county throughout the district and is running to represent everyone, not just those who share her political views. Her campaign is focused on integrity, transparency, and putting the people of Illinois' 12th Congressional District ahead of corporate power and partisan politics.

District Connection

Julie has called Southern Illinois home for more than 25 years. She has lived, worked, volunteered, and raised her family in the region, giving her firsthand knowledge of the opportunities and challenges facing the district. From supporting veterans and farmers to expanding healthcare access, strengthening local economies, and investing in infrastructure, Julie believes every community in Illinois' 12th District deserves to be heard and represented.



3. Campaign Fact Sheet

OFFICE

Candidate: Dr. Julie Fortier

Office Sought: U.S. House of Representatives

District: Illinois' 12th Congressional District

Party: Democratic

DISTRICT

- Illinois' 12th Congressional District
- Covers 34 counties across Southern Illinois.
- Includes communities from the Metro East to the Shawnee National Forest, including Carbondale, Marion, Centralia, Belleville, O'Fallon, Chester, Murphysboro, and many rural communities.

BACKGROUND

- Air Force veteran
- Cancer research scientist
- Scientist committed to evidence-based decision making
- Longtime Southern Illinois resident
- Community volunteer
- Running to bring integrity, accountability, and accessibility back to Congress

PRIORITY ISSUES

- Lower healthcare costs and strengthen access to care
- Protect veterans and oppose VA privatization
- Create good-paying jobs across Southern Illinois
- Support family farms and rural communities
- Expand broadband and infrastructure investment
- Defend public education
- Protect constitutional rights and democracy
- Respect Second Amendment rights while promoting responsible gun safety
- Invest in practical energy and climate solutions that protect workers
- Restore reproductive freedom and medical privacy by codifying Roe v. Wade.

ENDORSEMENTS

- AFL-CIO Illinois
- Citizen Action/Illinois
- Democrats Abroad Veterans & Military Families Caucus
- College Democrats of EIU
- Sierra Club (National)
- Illinois Veterans for Change
- Downstate Illinois Laborers' Council

3. Campaign Fact Sheet (Cont.)

2026 ELECTION TIMELINE

- **General Election:** Tuesday, November 3, 2026
- Democratic nominee for Illinois' 12th Congressional District
- Opponent: Rep. Mike Bost (R)

CAMPAIGN CONTACT

Website:
juliefortier.org

Volunteer:
juliefortier.org

Donate:
juliefortier.org/donate

General Contact:
Fortier Campaign
comms.fortiercampaign@gmail.com

Campaign Manager:
Kendra Paulson
kwilag@gmail.com

Communications Director:
Bridget Lescelius
bridget@groupclover.com

4. Official Campaign Boilerplate

Julie Fortier is a scientist, educator, Air Force veteran, and candidate for Congress in Illinois' 12th Congressional District. Her campaign is focused on protecting strengthening local economies, expanding opportunity for working families, and ensuring communities across the region have a stronger voice in Washington.

She accepts zero corporate PAC money or AIPAC funding and depends on donations from around the district to keep her campaign going. For more information about upcoming town halls or to get involved with the campaign, please visit juliefortier.org

5. Quotes Page

HEALTHCARE

"Healthcare should be affordable, accessible, and dependable for everyone. No family in Southern Illinois should have to choose between seeing a doctor and paying the electric bill."

VETERANS

"When someone raises their right hand to serve our country, America makes a promise in return. Balancing budgets on the backs of veterans breaks that promise."

AFFORDABILITY & ECONOMY

"If you're working hard and playing by the rules, you should be able to afford groceries, healthcare, housing, and a little peace of mind. That's the American promise, and we must keep it."

JOBS & SMALL BUSINESS

"Southern Illinois isn't looking for handouts. We need investment, opportunity, and leaders who believe our workers and businesses can compete with anyone."

AGRICULTURE & RURAL COMMUNITIES

"Farmers in Southern Illinois help to feed and power our nation and our local economy. When our farmers succeed, our small towns, schools, and local businesses succeed with them."

DEMOCRACY & ACCOUNTABILITY

"You have to be accessible and accountable to the people you represent. That's the job, and that's why I hold public town halls in every single county in the district, because I have to meet the people I am running to represent."

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

"The most personal healthcare decisions belong to patients, their families, and their doctors, not politicians in Washington. I believe in medical privacy and freedom for all."

EDUCATION

"Every child deserves the chance to succeed, whether their path leads to college, a trade, military service, or straight into the workforce. Success shouldn't depend on your ZIP code."

ENERGY

"We don't have to choose between good-paying jobs and protecting the land we love. Southern Illinois can lead in both."



5. Quotes Page (Cont.)

SCIENCE & INNOVATION

"Facts still matter. Science still matters. Good policy starts by listening to evidence and working with the people whose lives are affected by it."

NATIONAL SECURITY

"A strong America keeps its military ready, uses force only when necessary, and honors those who serve long after they come home."

PURPOSE

"I've spent my life serving in uniform and in science. Both taught me the same lesson: you don't solve problems by shouting louder, you solve them by listening, working together, and following the facts."

UNION SUPPORT

"Strong unions built America's middle class. When workers have a seat at the table, wages rise, workplaces become safer, and local economies grow stronger. Every worker deserves dignity, respect, and the freedom to organize without fear."

CLIMATE CHANGE

"I'm a scientist. I believe in facts, evidence, and listening to the data, and the science is clear: climate change is real, and we must act."

We can respect our energy workers, strengthen our local economy, and move toward responsible solutions that protect our environment for future generations, and saying no to data centers in Southern Illinois is an essential part of all of that."

PERSONAL FREEDOM

"Every voice, regardless of their race, religion, gender, and political affiliation has a right to be heard. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."



6. Issue Position Statements

HEALTHCARE

Julie's Position

Healthcare should be affordable and available to every family, regardless of where they live. Southern Illinois has too many communities losing hospitals, doctors, maternity care, and mental health services. Congress should strengthen, not weaken, our healthcare system.

Julie Supports:

- Protecting Medicare.
- Strengthening Medicaid for seniors, children, people with disabilities, and rural families.
- Lowering prescription drug costs.
- Expanding access to mental health services.
- Protecting coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.
- Supporting rural hospitals and community health clinics.
- Continuing efforts toward affordable, universal healthcare.

Healthcare decisions should be based on patients, not politics.

Julie believes healthcare should be expanded and made more affordable. Congressman Mike Bost voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which included nearly \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts, new work and reporting requirements, more frequent eligibility checks, and changes projected to cause millions of Americans to lose health coverage over the next decade. Julie opposes those cuts because she believes they will hit rural hospitals, working families, seniors, people with disabilities, and children across Southern Illinois the hardest.

VETERANS

Julie's Position

As an Air Force veteran, Julie believes America has an obligation to its veterans: When someone serves our country, our country keeps its promise to them.

Julie Supports:

- Fully funding VA healthcare.
- Protecting veterans' earned disability benefits.
- Reducing wait times.
- Expanding mental health services.
- Addressing PTSD, toxic exposure, and military sexual trauma.
- Ending veteran homelessness.
- Making VA services easier—not harder—to access.

Julie believes supporting veterans means protecting the benefits they have already earned and listening to the organizations that represent them. As an Air Force veteran, she opposes using disability compensation to fund other veterans' programs and believes veterans service organizations should have a seat at the table when Congress considers changes to VA benefits.

6. Issue Position Statements

VETERANS (CONT.)

Mike Bost sponsored the **Take Care of America's Veterans Act**, legislation opposed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) because it would finance new veterans' programs in part by changing disability compensation for some future veterans with conditions such as tinnitus and sleep apnea. After the VFW publicly campaigned against the proposal, Bost joined a request for the Department of Veterans Affairs to investigate the organization over its advocacy.

Bost also voted for the House version of the **FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**, which authorizes approximately **\$1.15 trillion** in defense spending, expands defense cooperation with Israel, and supports continued military operations related to Iran.

Julie believes America can maintain a strong national defense and military autonomy while keeping its promises to veterans at home. She supports fully funding veterans' healthcare and earned benefits without asking one generation of veterans to bear the cost of new priorities.

AFFORDABILITY & THE ECONOMY

Julie's Position

Working families need lower costs, not more political fights. Julie believes Congress should focus on making everyday life more affordable.

Julie Supports:

- Lower grocery prices.
- Lower healthcare costs.
- Protecting Social Security and Medicare.
- Creating good-paying jobs.
- Investing in infrastructure.
- Supporting small businesses.
- Helping family farms succeed.

Trade

Julie supports fair trade that protects American workers while recognizing that broad tariffs can increase prices for consumers and businesses if not carefully targeted. Families shouldn't have to choose between paying for groceries, medicine, or utilities.

Congressman Mike Bost repeatedly supported procedural votes allowing broad tariff policies to continue while limiting congressional review and backed legislation that shifted benefits toward higher-income households while reducing assistance for lower-income families.

DEMOCRACY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Public service means showing up, listening, and being accountable.

Julie holds public town halls throughout Illinois' 12th Congressional District, meeting people where they live.



6. Issue Position Statements

DEMOCRACY & ACCOUNTABILITY (CONT.)

Julie Supports:

- Government transparency.
- Protecting voting rights.
- Defending constitutional freedoms.
- Respecting free speech while rejecting political violence and extremism.
- Bipartisan problem-solving.
- Public access to elected officials.

ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, & RURAL COMMUNITIES

Julie Supports:

Southern Illinois can lead America's energy future while protecting good-paying jobs and supporting agriculture.

Julie believes we don't have to choose between economic growth and environmental stewardship.

Julie Supports:

- An all-of-the-above energy strategy.
- Clean energy innovation.
- Protecting union jobs.
- Supporting farmers.
- Expanding broadband.
- Modernizing roads, bridges, and water systems.
- Protecting clean air and clean water.