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2018 Election Update

150 Days Out Report

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We are less than 150 days from November’s general elections. Roughly half of the state primary election contests, as well as a few special elections, are behind us and the contours of the campaign battlefield for the November general election are taking shape. Thus, an excellent time for an update on the battle for control of the US House and Senate, and a look at the key races for governor and attorney general, as well as seats in state legislatures around the country.

The GOP currently enjoys a 2-seat majority in the US Senate and a 23-seat majority in the US House of Representatives. In the Senate, Democrats are defending 26 seats to the GOP’s 9. As mandated by the Constitution, all 435 House seats are on the ballot in November. In the states, the GOP currently holds 33 governorships, the Democrats have 16, and there is 1 independent. As a result of retirements, the GOP will be defending 26 governors’ seats while the Democrats will be defending 10. Elections for state legislators will be held in 46 states. In addition, 35 of 50 attorney general seats will be contested this election cycle. In 43 states, the attorney general is directly elected and 30 of those states will hold elections for the position this November. Moreover, 4 of the 5 states where the attorney general is appointed by the governor will hold elections for governor. Maine, the sole state, where the attorney general is appointed by the state legislature,

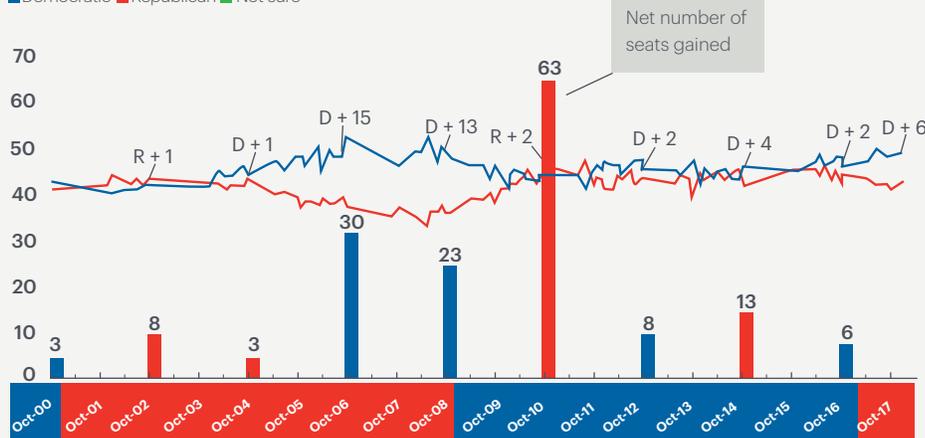
is also holding legislative elections this November. Of the 99 total state legislative chambers in the US, the GOP currently controls 67 of them.

A few truisms about midterm elections: While President Trump won’t be on the ballot this November, his presence will be felt and will surely influence many House, Senate and even state races, for better and for worse. Additionally, the party out of power, that is, the party not in the White House, ALWAYS has the edge on voter intensity and enthusiasm. Midterms are often very unkind to the party in the White House. Finally, history has shown that the generic ballot question, which simply asks voters which party they would prefer to control the Congress, is a fairly reliable metric of how many House seats turn over to the other party in the general election.

Historic polling of generic ballots suggests Democrats will gain seats in 2018, but will it be enough to flip the House?

Comparison between generic ballot polling and outcomes
Vital statistics on congress

■ Democratic ■ Republican ■ Not sure



Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2017.

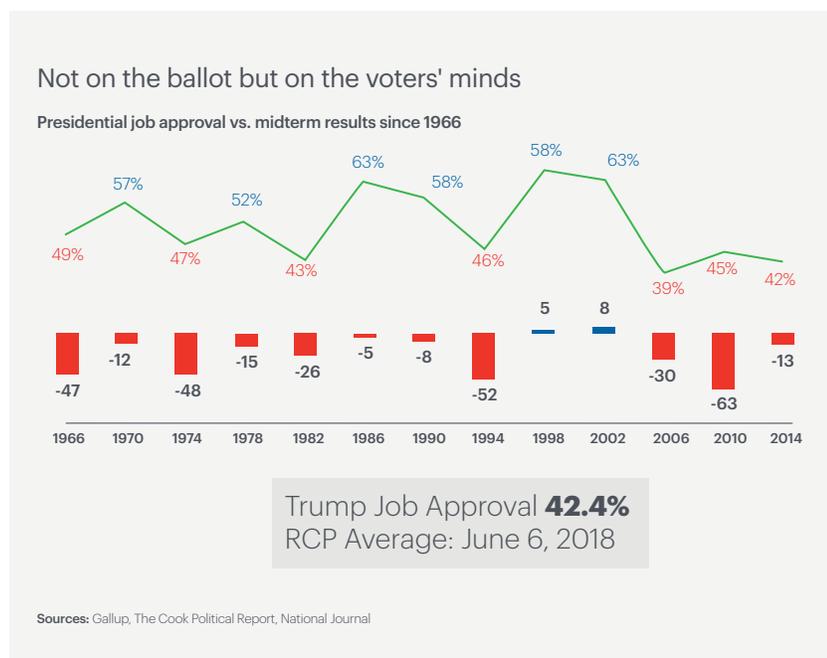
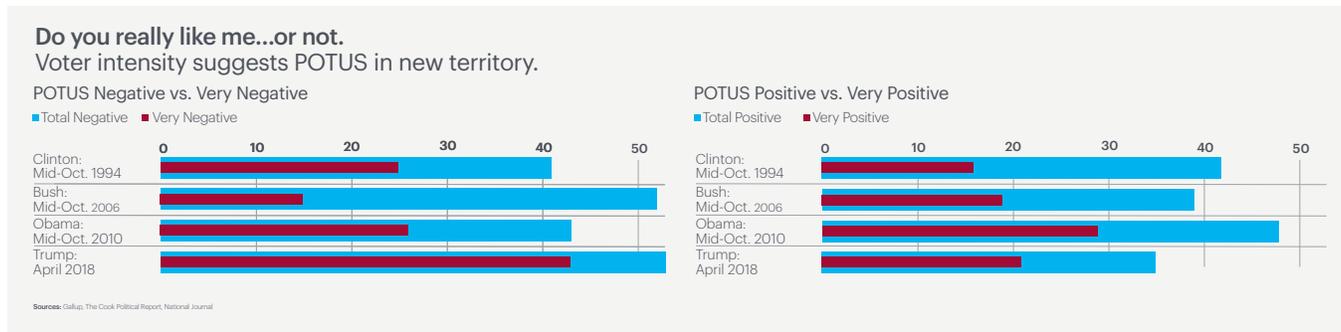
**The Real Clear
Politics Average
has Generic
Ballot at D +7.6
5/21-6/6**

The answers to the following key questions will help to inform the path forward:

- Just how large a shadow will President Trump cast on the federal races, or will those races turn primarily on local issues not involving the president?
- Will a relatively strong national economy cause voters to “vote their pocketbooks” and overlook both their concerns about the President’s tweets and their unhappiness with Congressional gridlock in Washington?
- How much of a role will the “me too” movement, and women generally, play in the outcome of the elections?
- With Democratic turnout this fall expected to be close to historic levels for a midterm election, what, if anything, can the GOP do to fire up its base and get them to the voting booths this fall?

What else do we know at the moment? We know that there are more women candidates running for office, from both parties, than at any time in our history. We know that Democrats are leading the fundraising race at the candidate level, but are still struggling at the national committee level. We know that retirements at the federal level, especially for the GOP, are reaching historic proportions and that those open seats are particularly vulnerable to national political sentiment. Above all else, we know that events—nationally, locally and on the world stage—that are presently unforeseeable, have the potential to upstage all that we think we know today. The next five months should be quite a roller coaster ride!

We offer this Elections Update as a snapshot of where things now stand in the battles for political control in our nation’s capital and across the country.

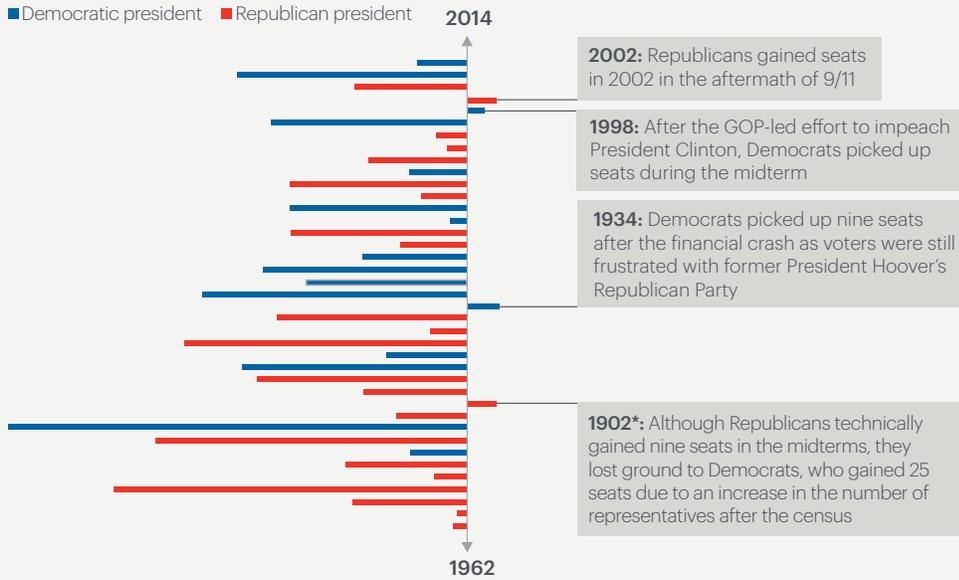


Job Approval	Average Change
Over 60%	+3 Seats
50%-60%	-12 Seats
Under 50%	-40 Seats

Is past prologue?

Since 1862, the president's party has lost ground in the House in 92 percent of midterm elections

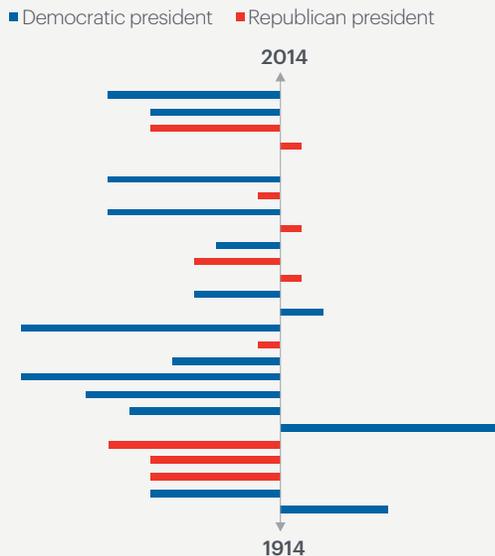
President's party gain/loss of seats in House
Vital statistics on congress



Sources: Charlie Cook, "Will History Hold in 2018 Midterms?" The Cook Political Report, January 9, 2017.

The president's party has lost Senate seats in 19 of 26 midterms

President's party gain/loss of seats in Senate
Vital statistics on congress



Sources: Charlie Cook, "Will History Hold in 2018 Midterms?" The Cook Political Report, January 9, 2017.

Wait till next cycle theory

When presidents are elected or reelected, their party picks up House and Senate seats, causing them to be overexposed in the following midterm election, or six years later in the Senate

Federal

Overview

With nearly half of the states now having held their primary elections, the contours of this November’s general election and the race for control of the Congress are beginning to take shape. Below, a brief overview of the races that are currently expected to determine which party will control the Senate, the House or both when the 116th Congress convenes on January 3, 2019.

Toss-up	Lean GOP	Likely GOP	Safe GOP	Lean Dem.	Likely Dem.	Safe Dem.
Donnelly (IN)	None	Cruz (TX)	Wicker (MS)	Nelson (FL)	Stabenow (MI)	Feinstein (CA)
McCaskill (MO)			Fischer (NE)	Brown (OH)	Tester (MT)	Murphy (CT)
Heitkamp (ND)			Hatch (UT)**	King (ME)(I)	Menendez (NJ)	Carper (DE)
Manchin (WV)			Barrasso (WY)		Casey (PA)	Hirono (HI)
Smith (MN)			Cochran (MS)**		Baldwin (WI)	Cardin (MD)
Heller (NV)						Warren (MA)
Flake (AZ)**						Klobuchar (MN)
Corker (TN)**						Heinrich (NM)
						Gillibrand (NY)
						Whitehouse (RI)
						Cantwell (WA)
						Sanders (VT)(I)
						Kaine (VA)

** Open Seat

The Math

If 4 of the 26 Democratic senators on the ballot this fall lose their bids for re-election, it is mathematically impossible for Democrats to capture the Senate even if they were to win every Republican seat currently considered potentially vulnerable.

Senate

Today, the Senate consists of 51 Republicans, 47 Democrats, and 2 independents who caucus with the Democrats for organizational purposes—a 51-49 Republican edge. As the Constitution makes the vice president the president of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence has the responsibility, in the event of a deadlock, of casting a Senate vote to break the tie. Thus, if all senators are present and voting, Democrats need a net pickup of two seats to gain effective control of the Senate.

Democrats are defending 26 of the 35 Senate seats being contested this year, including 10 seats in states that President Trump won in 2016. If one uses such seats as a proxy for identifying the most vulnerable

Democratic-held Senate seats—a customary and reasonable metric—then almost all of the most vulnerable Senate Democrats are on the ballot this year. The only two Trump-state Senate Democrats who are not on the ballot this year are Sens. Doug Jones (D-AL) and Gary Peters (D-MI). Twelve Democratic Senate seats are currently considered potentially competitive this fall—FL, IN, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NJ, OH, PA, WI and WV. In contrast, only three Republican senators hold seats in states Hillary Clinton won and, of those, only one—highly vulnerable Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV)—is on the ballot. Only five Republican Senate seats are currently considered potentially competitive—AZ, MS, NV, TN and TX.

Thus, with so many more Democratic Senate seats at risk this fall, Republicans have many more electoral paths available to maintain or expand their majority than Democrats have to gain control of the Senate. To gain a Senate majority, Democrats would have to protect all 26 of their incumbents up for re-election and win at least two of the five potentially vulnerable Republican Senate seats.

A look at the current toss-ups



Indiana—Donnelly (D) vs. Braun (R)

Former state Rep. and businessman Mike Braun (R) was the winner of a bloody and expensive primary battle for the US Senate nomination, overcoming incumbent Congressman Todd Rokita (R-IN-06) and Luke Messer (R-IN-04). The race cost about \$11 million and was considered one of the nastiest primaries in the country. In the general election, Braun now faces incumbent Joe Donnelly (D), who wasted little time before going on the attack. (Both Donnelly's campaign and outside groups supporting him ran anti-Braun ads on primary election night.) This will be a highly watched race, with total campaign expenditures expected to top \$100 million.



Missouri—McCaskill (D) vs. Hawley (R)

Incumbent Sen. Claire McCaskill (D) has been listed among the Senate's most vulnerable Democrats, in large part because Donald Trump won her state by 19 points and his current approval rating is somewhat higher there than in the nation as a whole. State Attorney General Josh Hawley (R) is going after her seat. While McCaskill and Hawley both face primary opponents in the August 7 primary election, both also hold commanding leads in fundraising and party support over their opponents and are expected to

easily qualify for the November election. Hawley's candidacy, which had been seriously hampered by the controversy and potential impeachment of Republican Gov. Eric Greitens over his extramarital affair and alleged misuse of a charity donor list for political purposes, is likely to be helped considerably by Greiten's June 1 resignation. While a recent poll showed McCaskill with a 48%–44% lead over Hawley (with about a 3.3% margin of error), that same poll also showed McCaskill's approval/disapproval rating as being underwater (38%–44%). The race is clearly a toss-up.



North Dakota—Heitkamp (D) vs. Cramer (R)

With President Trump's approval rating above 50 percent in North Dakota, the state seems tailor-made for a Republican pick-up, and the battle royale between Heidi Heitkamp (D), the incumbent junior senator, and US Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND-At Large) is among the Republicans' best midterm opportunities. Media reports also indicate that recent Republican internal polling gives Rep. Cramer a small lead over Sen. Heitkamp. Congressman Cramer initially declined to run for this seat, reportedly because of concerns about the political climate and giving up the security of his House seat, but after being strongly pressured by President Trump to reconsider, he entered the race. To date, however, Cramer has failed to carve out much of an identity of his own (and Heitkamp is surprisingly well-known and well-liked for a Democrat in North Dakota). Thus, it appears that the viability of his candidacy will depend on how much interest the President takes in this race and how much support he provides. Sen. Heitkamp, who helped to lead the moderate Senate Democrats whose support of S. 2155, the financial regulatory reform bill benefiting community banks and credit unions, was instrumental to its passage, was the only member of her party present at the signing ceremony and was prominently featured. Her strategy of demonstrating a willingness and ability to work with the Trump administration on a number of issues, including her votes for the Trump nominees Mike Pompeo and Gina Haspel for Secretary of State and CIA director, respectively, has given Heitkamp a fighting chance to win re-election in her deep-red state.



West Virginia—Manchin (D) vs. Morrisey (R) vs. Blankenship (I)

A fascinating Republican Senate primary saw state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R) survive a crowded field to face incumbent Democrat Joe Manchin in November. Manchin is one of

the most vulnerable Senate Democrats up for re-election, as President Trump dominated the Mountain State with a 42-point victory in 2016 and remains highly popular. The first contested Republican Senate primary of consequence in modern West Virginia history, the election garnered a great deal of national attention, largely due to the candidacy of coal baron Don Blankenship, who shows no signs of going away quietly, having been named the nominee of the Constitution Party. West Virginia's "sore loser law" will likely be tested in the courts over the summer to determine whether Blankenship can remain on the ballot. If the answer is yes, his candidacy could end up drawing some votes from Morrisey. Given President Trump's huge popularity in the state, Morrisey will emphasize his ties to the President. Sen. Manchin is expected to focus on Morrisey's history as a lobbyist and argue that not only won't Morrisey "drain the swamp" he is the swamp. Manchin can also be expected to highlight those occasions where he voted with the President on issues of importance to West Virginians. While the Real Clear Politics average of polls taken between May 10 and May 22 gives Manchin a 5.5% lead (48.5%–43%), given the conservative bent of many West Virginia voters, the general election between Morrisey and Manchin is surely considered a toss-up.



Minnesota—Smith (D) vs. Housley (R)

Former Lt. Gov. Tina Smith (D) was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton to assume former Senator Al Franken's seat pending a special election, which will be held this November. Although Smith lacks name recognition outside of the Twin Cities, she is working hard to build the resources necessary to defend her seat. Her opponent, state Sen. Karin Housley (R), has strong name recognition and support in northern Minnesota, where President Trump did exceedingly well in 2016. Most electoral observers currently view the race as "leaning Democratic." However, given Smith's lack of name recognition, the absence of recent polling, and the number of changes occurring concurrently in Minnesota's political landscape, it is conceivable that this race could end up in the toss-up category.



Nevada—Heller (R) vs. Rosen (D) Primary: June 12

Incumbent US Sen. Dean Heller (R) is expected to face US Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-NV-03) in what will surely be one of the most competitive races of the year, with the balance of power in the US Senate potentially at stake. Former

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, still a formidable force in Nevada politics, is deploying all of the resources of his network in support of Rep. Rosen's candidacy and President Trump is not a particularly popular figure in Nevada. Thus, Sen. Heller will need to thread the needle and reach out to moderates and independents without turning off the Trump conservatives who must form the base of Heller's re-election coalition, a challenging task. While not much polling on this marquee matchup has yet occurred, a poll taken in April gave Heller a scant 1% lead over Rosen (40%–39%).



Arizona—Open (Flake retiring) Primary: August 28

With US Sen. Jeff Flake (R) vacating his seat, Arizona is considered, for the first time since 1976, a potential pick-up state for Democrats. US Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ-09) is a formidable candidate and prolific fundraiser. She has a primary challenger but is considered the front-runner in both the August primary and (albeit more narrowly) the November general election. A crowded Republican field includes former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio (of "America's toughest sheriff," Tent City and chain gang infamy), Dr. Kelli Ward (Sen. John McCain's unsuccessful 2016 primary challenger) and Rep. Martha McSally (AZ-02, which includes Tucson). While Congresswoman McSally is currently expected to win her primary without too much trouble, the primary race will consume resources that will make general election fundraising particularly critical for her.



Tennessee—Open (Corker retiring) Primary: August 2

In the race to replace retiring Sen. Bob Corker (R), Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN-07) will face off against Phil Bredesen (D), who served as the state's governor from 2003 to 2011 and, before that, as Nashville's mayor. Blackburn, for her part, has been in Congress since 2002. Bredesen faces the challenge of returning to politics at the age of 75, while Blackburn faces the challenge of having very conservative political views that may be out of step with the views of the majority of Tennessee voters. While there has yet to be much recent polling in this race, an April Mason-Dixon poll showed Bredesen, who has greater name recognition than Blackburn, with a 3% lead (46%–43%).

U.S. House of Representatives

Toss-up (2D - 23R)	
MN-1	Walz*
MN-8	Nolan*
CA-10	Denham
CA-25	Knight
CA-39	Royce*
CA-48	Rohrabacher
CA-49	Issa*
CO-6	Coffman
FL-26	Curbelo
IA-1	Blum
IL-6	Roskam
IL-12	Bost
MI-11	Trott*
MN-2	Lewis
MN-3	Paulsen

NJ-7	Lance
NJ-11	Frelinghuysen*
NY-19	Faso
NY-22	Tenney
OH-12	VACANT (Tiberi)
PA-1	Fitzpatrick
PA-17	Rothfus/Lamb
TX-7	Culberson
VA-10	Comstock
WA-8	Reichert*

Lean GOP (27R)	
AR-2	Hill
CA-21	Valadao
CA-45	Walters
FL-18	Mast
GA-6	Handel
IA-3	Young
IL-14	Hultgren
KS-2	Jenkins*
KS-3	Yoder
KY-6	Barr
ME-2	Poliquin
MI-8	Bishop
NC-9	Pittenger*
NC-13	Budd
NE-2	Bacon

NJ-3	MacArthur
NM-2	Pearce*
NY-11	Donovan
OH-1	Chabot
TX-23	Hurd
TX-32	Sessions
UT-4	Love
VA-2	Taylor
VA-5	Garrett*
VA-7	Brat
WA-5	McMorris Rodgers
WI-1	Ryan*

Likely GOP (1D -29R)	
PA-14	OPEN (Lamb)
AZ-6	Schweikert
CA-4	McClintock
CA-50	Hunter
FL-15	Ross*
FL-16	Buchanan
FL-25	Diaz-Balart
GA-7	Woodall
IL-13	Davis
IN-2	Walorski
MI-1	Bergman
MI-6	Upton
MI-7	Walberg
MO-2	Wagner
MT-AL	Gianforte
NC-2	Holding
NC-8	Hudson

NY-1	Zeldin
NY-24	Katko
OH-10	Turner
OH-14	Joyce
OH-15	Stivers
PA-10	Perry
PA-16	Kelly
SC-1	Sanford
TX-21	Smith*
WA-3	Beutler
WI-6	Grothman
WI-7	Duffy
WV-3	Jenkins*

Likely Dem. (10D 2R)	
AZ-9	Sinema*
CA-7	Bera
CT-5	Esty*
FL-7	Murphy
MN-7	Peterson
NH-2	Kuster
NJ-5	Gottheimer
NV-4	Kihuen*
PA-8	Cartwright
WI-3	Kind
PA-5	VACANT (Meehan)
PA-6	Costello*

Lean Dem. (3D-4R)	
AZ-1	O'Halleran
NH-1	Shea-Porter*
NV-3	Rosen*
AZ-2	McSally*
FL-27	Ros-Lehtinen*
NJ-2	LoBiondo*
PA-7	VACANT (Dent)

The Math

The GOP has 23 seats currently ranked as toss-ups and 6 ranked as Lean Dem or worse. For the Democrats to take the majority, they would need to hold all of their own seats seen as toss-ups (3), win the 6 leaning their way and win 17, or 73% of the GOP's toss-up seats.

* Open

The battle for the majority in the House pits history against the electoral impact of gerrymandering, with the open seats caused by retirements potentially the deciding factor. This November, Democrats have the historical advantages. Since the Civil War, the president's party has lost ground in 36 of 39 midterms, with an average loss of 33 seats (Dems need to pick up 23 for the majority). Since 1946, the president's party has lost an average of 26 seats per midterm. Moreover, voters who support the party out of power (i.e., the one that does not have the White House) are usually far more motivated to vote than those who support the party in the White House.

Overall, because of the redistricting that occurred in 2010, the House map is still considered to be tilted in the GOP's favor. While courts have reduced the grade of that tilt through court-mandated new maps in Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the electorate in the average House seat nonetheless remains about four points more conservative than that of the electorate as a whole. This continuing tilt to the right effectively limits the number of strong House pick-up opportunities for Democrats in states like Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin, even though Democrats are highly competitive in national elections in each state. That said, House retirements do matter and, this November, Democrats are poised to reap a significant benefit from all the open GOP seats. Only once since 1946 have we seen 59 congressional districts—39 held by Republicans, 20 held by Democrats—with no incumbent running for reelection. With voters choosing someone new for these seats, it is highly likely that, the overall national political climate, as reflected in Presidential approval ratings and right track/wrong track polling, will have an enormous impact on the eventual composition of the House.

Prognosticators assert, and history tends to confirm, that the Democratic lead over Republicans in the House generic ballot polling average (another recognized metric) will probably need to be in the high single digits for Democrats to take the House. The Democrats' generic polling edge recently has been below that—but it has been as high as 16 percent this cycle and is fluid to say the least. The answer to the question "Which party do voters want to control the House?" is that we're still in the roller coaster phase and the mood of the electorate is likely to continue to fluctuate regularly before it begins to settle as the November election nears. Here is an overview of the currently most competitive House races:

A look at the toss-ups by the numbers; 2016 Incumbent, 2016 Presidential % and 2012 Presidential %.

CA-10 Denham (R) vs. Pending as of printing				
Denham 2016 52%	Trump 45.54%	Clinton 48.54%	Obama 50.64%	Romney 47.03%
CA-25 Knight (R) vs. Pending as of printing				
Knight 2016 53%	Trump 43.65%	Clinton 50.32%	Obama 47.85%	Romney 49.66%
CA-39 Kim (R) vs Cisneros (D)				
OPEN	Trump 42.86%	Clinton 51.47%	Obama 47.09%	Romney 50.75%
CA-48 Rohrabacher (R) vs. Pending as of printing				
Rohrabacher 2016 58%	Trump 42.20%	Clinton 47.91%	Obama 43.04%	Romney 54.59%
CA-49 Harkey (R) vs. Pending as of printing				
OPEN	Trump 43.18%	Clinton 50.66%	Obama 45.66%	Romney 52.25%
CO-6 Coffman (R) vs. Primary 6/26				
Coffman 2016 51%	Trump 41.29%	Clinton 50.22%	Obama 51.56%	Romney 46.50%
FL-26 Curbelo (R) vs. Primary 8/28				
Curbelo 2016 53%	Trump 46.35%	Clinton 53.05%	Obama 51.56%	Romney 46.50%
IA-1 Blum (R) vs. Finkenauer (D)				
Blum 2016 54%	Trump 48.71%	Clinton 45.16%	Obama 56.19%	Romney 42.52%
IL-6 Roskam (R) vs. Howland (D)				
Roskam 2016 59%	Trump 43.44%	Clinton 45.16%	Obama 45.09%	Romney 53.41%
IL-12 Bost (R) vs. Kelly (D)				
Bost 2016 54%	Trump 54.99%	Clinton 40.12%	Obama 49.74%	Romney 53.31%
MI-11 Trott (R) vs. Primary 8/7				
Trott 2016 53%	Trump 45.31%	Clinton 49.69%	Obama 49.94%	Romney 52.33%
MN-1 Primary 8/14				
OPEN	Trump 53.31%	Clinton 38.39%	Obama 49.56%	Romney 48.21%
MN-2 Lewis (R) vs. Primary 8/14				
Lewis 2016 47%	Trump 46.52%	Clinton 45.33%	Obama 49.07%	Romney 49.01%

MN-3 Paulsen (R) vs. Primary 8/14				
Paulsen 2016 57%	Trump 41.37%	Clinton 50.84%	Obama 49.61%	Romney 48.79%
MN-8 Primary 8/14				
OPEN	Trump 54.20%	Clinton 39.23%	Obama 51.70%	Romney 46.22%
NJ-7 Lance (R) vs. Malinowski (D)				
Lance 2016 54%	Trump 47.47%	Clinton 48.58%	Obama 46.34%	Romney 52.48%
NJ-11 Webber (R) vs. Sherrill (D)				
OPEN	Trump 48.79%	Clinton 47.91%	Obama 46.59%	Romney 52.77%
NY-19 Faso (R) vs. Primary 6/26				
Faso 2016 54%	Trump 50.79%	Clinton 43.99%	Obama 52.12%	Romney 45.85%
NY-22 Tenney (R) vs. Primary 6/26				
Tenney 2016 47%	Trump 54.81%	Clinton 39.32%	Obama 48.76%	Romney 49.24%

OH-12 Balderson (R) vs. O'Connor (D)				
OPEN	Trump 53.16%	Clinton 39.32%	Obama 48.76%	Romney 49.24%
PA-1 Fitzpatrick (R) vs. Wallace (D)				
Fitzpatrick 2016 NA	Trump 47.12%	Clinton 49.01%	Obama 50.21%	Romney 48.57%
PA-17 Rothfus (R) vs. Lamb (D)				
Rothfus 2016 NA	Trump 49.39%	Clinton 46.47%	Obama 47.19%	Romney 51.68%
TX-7 Culberson (R) vs. Fletcher (D)				
Culberson 2016 56%	Trump 47.10%	Clinton 48.47%	Obama 38.58%	Romney 59.90%
VA-10 Comstock (R) vs. Primary 6/12				
Comstock 2016 53%	Trump 36.30%	Clinton 62.46%	Obama 51%	Romney 49%
WA-8 Primary 8/7				
OPEN	Trump 44.67%	Clinton 47.72%	Obama 49.68%	Romney 48.12%

A view from the states

Governors

In a curious twist of fate, the GOP is defending 26 and the Democrats are defending 9 governors' mansions—the exact opposite of the level of party exposure in the US Senate. One independent, Gov. Bill Walker of Alaska, is also on the ballot. Republicans currently hold a 33-16-1 edge over the Democrats in state governorships.

With 26 of the 36 governorships on the ballot this year in Republican hands, prognosticators believe the Democrats will net governorships—with Illinois and the

open seats in Maine and New Mexico the most likely to flip. Alaska is a toss-up—and probably the Republicans' best chance to pick up a governorship. There are six other highly competitive seats, all of them open seats. Democrats are defending Colorado, Connecticut and Minnesota, while Republicans are defending Florida, Michigan and Nevada.

Of all the toss-up races, only Alaska has an incumbent. Of the 36 total races, 16 are open seats.

Safe D	Likely D	Lean D	Tossup	Lean R	Likely R	Safe R
CA (OPEN)	IL (Rauner)	NM (OPEN)	AK (Walker)	GA (OPEN)	AL (Ivey)	AR (Hutchinson)
HI (Ige)	OR (Brown)	RI (Raimondo)	CO (OPEN)	IA (Reynolds)	AZ (Ducey)	ID (OPEN)
NY (Cuomo)	PA (Wolf)		CT (OPEN)	MD (Hogan)	KS (Colyer)	MA (Baker)
			FL (OPEN)	OH (OPEN)	NH (Sununu)	NE (Ricketts)
			ME (OPEN)	WI (Walker)	OK (OPEN)	SD (OPEN)
			MI (OPEN)		SC (McMaster)	TX (Abbott)
			MN (OPEN)		TN (OPEN)	VT (Scott)
			NV (OPEN)			WY (OPEN)

A look at the toss-ups



Alaska

Incumbent Gov. Bill Walker, a former Republican who won election as an independent in 2014, is running for re-election as a registered independent

who will be participating in the Democratic primary. The state Supreme Court recently upheld a rule passed by the Alaska Democratic Party that allows independent candidates to run in their primary and win the party's nomination for the general election. There are a number of candidates vying for the Republican nomination and the most likely victor is Mike Dunleavy—a conservative former state senator who has strong popular appeal and will be a formidable opponent. It is also possible that former US Sen. Mark Begich will enter the race as a Democrat, which would likely force Walker to exit the Democratic primary and revert back to running as a true independent, setting up a three-way race in November. In any scenario, Walker has an uphill battle ahead of him—his favorability and job approval ratings having hit rock bottom due to his handling of the state's fiscal crisis.



Colorado

With full fields on both sides, political watchers are looking to see if Walker Stapleton (R) beats Republican rivals Victor Mitchell, Doug Robinson and Greg Lopez. Odds are in Stapleton's favor. The Democratic primary will be more difficult—pitting current Congressman and billionaire Jared Polis against former State Treasurer Cary Kennedy, the Democratic Caucus favorite. Polis has been shocked at the groundswell for Kennedy, who unions have endorsed. This could be a close primary. Also on the Democratic primary ballot are Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne and former state Senator Mike Johnston, but neither is considered a serious contender.



Connecticut

As both parties brace themselves for primary campaigns, the race for governor remains a toss-up. The Democratic field had already been whittled down to a small handful of candidates going into the party's nominating convention in May. Self-funding, former cable executive Ned Lamont (D) was viewed as the front-runner and emerged with the party's endorsement. Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim (D) fell short of the 15 percent he needed to automatically qualify for the August 14 primary, but is planning to forge ahead with his plan to collect signatures and force his way onto the ballot. The race for governor was still wide

open for the Republicans going into their biannual nominating convention in May, with 15 announced gubernatorial candidates and no front-runner. At the end of the two days, three candidates automatically qualified for the primary ballot—Tim Herbst, former first selectman of Trumbull; Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, who received the party's endorsement; and Westport businessman Steve Obsitnik, who garnered enough delegate support to qualify. Three others are trying to petition their way onto the ballot.



Florida

After hinting that he would announce for governor in early May, Speaker of the Florida House Richard Corcoran (R) ultimately concluded that he lacked sufficient resources to make a run and instead endorsed state Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam (R). As the two had been expected to face off in a GOP primary, they sparred over much of the past year, but at the end of the day, Corcoran found Putnam more palatable than US Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL-06), who announced his candidacy in January, a week after President Trump tweeted: "Congressman Ron DeSantis is a brilliant young leader, Yale and then Harvard Law, who would make a GREAT Governor of Florida. He loves our Country and is a true FIGHTER!" That endorsement and DeSantis' frequent appearances on Fox News have constituted the bulk of his campaign so far—but it's been enough for him to tie Putnam or take the lead, within recent polls' margin of error. Nearly half of GOP primary voters are still undecided, according to recent polls.



Maine

Incumbent Gov. Paul LePage (R) is term-limited. The gubernatorial race features four Republicans, with businessman Shawn Moody ahead in public polls. On the Democratic side, state Attorney General Janet Mills has a commanding lead of more than 2-1 over former Maine House Speaker Mark Eves. Five more candidates make up the Democratic primary field. The races will be decided on June 12 with the highly unusual (and controversial) ranked-choice voting being deployed for the first time in Maine history for a statewide race.



Michigan

With incumbent Gov. Rick Snyder (R) prevented by term limits from seeking reelection, the governor's mansion is open for new occupants this November. With

Republicans currently in power in the state Senate and House, the possibility of Dems moving in could have broad implications in the coming years, particularly surrounding redistricting in 2020 and 2021. Accordingly, a number of prominent Republicans have lined up for the right to face a would-be Democratic nominee. Republican front-runners include Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, state Senator Patrick Colbeck and state Attorney General Bill Schuette. On the Democratic side, Abdul El-Sayed, a Rhodes Scholar and former head of Detroit’s public health department, will face off against former Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer and businessman Shri Thanedar.



Minnesota

Two-term Gov. Mark Dayton (DFL) is retiring this November and the open seat has drawn substantial attention. State Democrats at their party’s convention earlier this month endorsed state Rep. Erin Murphy to run for governor, albeit after six rounds of voting in which she ultimately prevailed against top rival US Rep. Tim Walz, who has indicated he intends to run for the party’s official nomination in an August primary, which third-term Attorney General Lori Swanson also may enter. Minnesota Republicans endorsed Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson for governor, but a bigger test looms for Johnson in the Republican primary because former Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty wants his old job back. (He opted to skip the convention and head straight to

an August primary.) Pawlenty raised over \$1 million in just over three weeks after his March announcement, which also prompted the Republican Governors Association, which sees the race as a top pick-up opportunity, to make a substantial financial commitment towards the general election.



Nevada

The last time a Democrat was elected Governor of Nevada was 1994. Democrats are hoping this is the year they will take back the executive branch. On the Republican side, Attorney General Adam Laxault is expected to advance to the general election. In what is certain to be the state’s most compelling primary battle this year, Democrat Steve Sisolak, Chair of the Clark County Commission, will square off against Clark County Commissioner and long-time Democratic state legislator Chris Giunchigliani. Conventional wisdom holds that Giunchigliani is stronger with the party’s base but that in a general election, Sisolak will garner more of the much-needed independents, potentially making this primary the one that will determine which party will control the executive branch in 2019—and the next redistricting effort. As of April 2018, Democrats had 61,629 more active registered voters statewide than Republicans. However, there were also 302,084 active non-partisan voters.

State attorneys general

Toss-up	Lean GOP	Likely GOP	Safe GOP	Likely Dem.	Safe Dem.
Open (CO)	Mark Brnovich (AZ)	Alan Wilson (SC)	Steve Marshall (AL)	Open (DE)	Xavier Becerra (CA)
Open (FL)		Ken Paxton (TX)	Leslie Rutledge (AR)	Open (MN)	Tom Miller (IA)
Open (MI)			Chris Carr (GA)	Open (CT)	Brian Frosh (MD)
Open (NV)			Lawrence Wasden (ID)	Open (IL)	Maura Healey (MA)
Open (OH)			Derek Schmidt (KS)		Hector Balderas (NM)
Brad Schimel (WI)			Doug Peterson (NE)		Open (NY)
			Mike Hunter (OK)		Open (RI)
			Wayne Stenehjem (ND)		T.J. Donovan (VT)
			Open (SD)		

Of the 43 states in which the attorney general is elected and not appointed, 30 will hold elections for the position in 2018. In addition, three of the five states where the attorney general is appointed by the governor will hold elections for governor in 2018, and in Maine, where the state legislature appoints the attorney general, there will be legislative elections. Control of 34 attorney general seats (out of 50) will be contested in the 2018 election cycle.

Nationally there are there are 23 Democratic attorneys general (including Washington, DC), 27 Republican attorneys general, 1 independent attorney general and 1 nonpartisan attorney general. Of the 23 attorney general offices with Democratic incumbents, 13 are up for election in 2018. Of the 27 Republican-held seats, 18 will be contested.

State legislatures

Senate

Toss-up	Lean GOP	Likely GOP	Safe GOP	Lean Dem.	Likely Dem.	Safe Dem.
CO	AZ	GA	AL	DE	NV	CA
CT (tied)	FL	IA	AK	WA		HI
ME	WI	MI	AR			IL
NH		MO	ID			MD
NY		NC	IN			MA
		PA	KY			NM
		WV	MT			OR
			ND			RI
			OH			VT
			OK			
			SD			
			TN			
			TX			
			UT			
			WY			

House / Assembly

Toss-up	Lean GOP	Likely GOP	Safe GOP	Lean Dem.	Likely Dem.	Safe Dem.
NH	MI	AZ	AL	AK	NV	CA
		FL	AR	CO		DE
		GA	ID	CT		HI
		IN	IA	ME		IL
		MN	KS	WA		MD
		MO	KY			MA
		NC	MT			NM
		OH	ND			NY
		OK	SC			OR
		PA	SD			RI
		TX	TN			VT
		WI	UT			
			WV			
			WY			



Colorado

To take control of the chamber in 2018, Democrats need to gain one seat. Of the 17 seats up for election in 2018, Republicans control 10 and Democrats control the other seven. Two of the 10 Republican-controlled seats were won by Hillary Clinton (D) in the 2016 presidential election. Her average margin of victory in those districts was 6.8 percent. Both districts were held by Democratic state senators prior to the 2014 elections.

Of note Colorado has four “Pivot Counties”, which are counties that voted for Barack Obama (D) in 2008 and 2012 and Donald Trump (R) in 2016. Two senate districts intersect with the Pivot Counties, with each party holding one seat.



Connecticut

Both parties needed to gain one seat to take outright control of the chamber.

Republicans gained three seats in the chamber in 2016, bringing the chamber to an 18-18 tie. Democrats maintain effective control of the chamber because Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman (D) can cast tie-breaking votes.

Both parties have opportunities to pick up seats. In 2016, there were four seats with a margin of victory of less than 5 percent. Three were won by Republicans and one was won by a Democrat. There are nine Republican-controlled seats that were won by Hillary Clinton (D) in the 2016 presidential election

Democrats could reverse their losses in previous elections. From 2012 to 2016, Democrats saw their majority decline from 22-14 to 18-18, losing one seat in 2014 and three seats in 2016. During the same time period, Democrats did not gain any Republican seats. Of the four seats Democrats have lost, two had a margin of victory of less than 3 percent in 2016. In February 2017, a Democratic candidate ran in a special election to fill District 32 after it was vacated by Republican incumbent Robert Kane. Although Republican Eric C. Berthel won the race, the Republican margin of victory dropped from 35.7 percent in 2016 to 9.7 percent.

Maine



Democrats currently control the 151-member state House and should maintain, and likely grow, their majority. In the state Senate, Republicans hold a slender 18-17 majority and control of this body is regarded as a toss-up in November.



New Hampshire

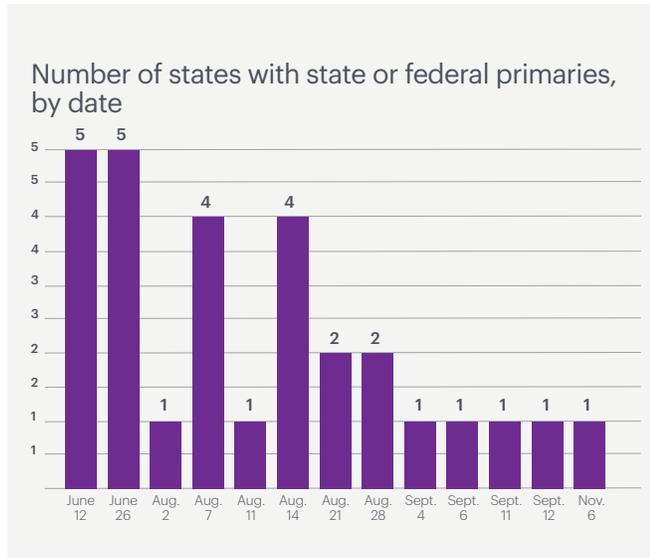
It is hard to predict legislative races this early— the filing deadline isn’t until June 15— but there is a growing feeling that Democrats could make gains. With the 24 Senate districts having been significantly redesigned since 2006 and 2008, when the Democrats were last in control, it is hard to imagine the Republicans, who currently have a 14-10 majority, losing control of the chamber, even if one acknowledges that one or two Republican incumbents face serious challenges. The 400-member House is a different story. Its current composition is 218 Republicans, 175 Democrats and 3 Libertarians, but with so many candidates running in multi-candidate districts, there is a growing feeling that this could be the year for Democrats to flip control.



New York

In early-April, the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), an eight-member conference of breakaway Senate Democrats who joined in a coalition with the Republican majority conference beginning in 2012, announced its decision to dissolve and reunite with the Senate’s mainline Democratic Conference. The reunification of the two Democratic conferences removes a major barrier in the party’s effort to win a majority of Senate seats after decades of Republican control. The reunification, combined with Gov. Cuomo’s newfound enthusiasm for supporting the Senate Democrats, the anticipated “blue wave” in November and a number of Senate Republican retirements, has many in Albany wondering whether 2018 will be the year Democrats finally flip the Senate.

What's left on the primary calendar?



What's left on the primary calendar?

June 12 - Maine, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina, Virginia



Maine

US Sen. Angus King (I) is up for re-election and should win easily over his little-known Republican and Democratic challengers.

US Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01) is widely expected to win a fifth term in this safe Democratic seat. US Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R-ME-02) will face a stiffer challenge in his quest for a third term, but should also prevail in the conservative rural areas of Northern and Western Maine that comprise this district.



Nevada

Neither party's primary is expected to produce a competitive outcome. Incumbent US Sen. Dean Heller (R) is expected to face US Rep. Jacky Rosen

(D-NV-03) in what will surely be one of the most competitive races of the year.

There are two open Congressional seats this cycle—NV-03 and NV-04. Both were held by Republicans before flipping to Democrats in 2016 and are now competitive

again. By November, NV-04 will likely be a contest between two former members of Congress—Steven Horsford (D) and Cresent Hardy (R). NV-03 will likely pit Danny Tarkanian (R) and Susie Lee (D) against each other. Both have run for Congress before and lost.



North Dakota

With tens of millions of dollars to be spent in the state's two federal races, North Dakota's down ballot campaigns will be competing for attention and facing very expensive traditional and digital advertising rates. The state will have a new Secretary of State. But it won't be Will Gardner, the new-to-politics Republican candidate who, winning his party's endorsement after defeating long-time incumbent Al Jaeger at the party's April convention, withdrew from the race a month later after The Forum, the state's leading newspaper, reported on a 2006 window-peeping incident at a state university campus. Jaeger, the longest-serving Republican official in the North Dakota Capitol, has announced his intention to run as an independent in November. State Rep. Josh Boschee is the endorsed Democrat. Republican House Majority Leader Al Carlson said he expects a tough race.



South Carolina

It is shaping up to be quiet off year election in the Palmetto State. Mark Sanford faces a primary challenge from the right, who is questioning his fidelity to the President. In South Carolina's 4th, an open seat created by Rep Trey Gowdy's retirement, Thirteen Republican candidates are seeking the party's nomination for the seat. A Republican has represented the Greenville-based district since 1990 and it is rated Solid/Safe Republican, meaning the winner of the primary is considered likely to win the general election. All thirteen candidates have expressed support for the president's policy agenda but have differing campaign strategies.



Virginia

US House

Democrats in Virginia are hoping to again harness this fall the anti-Trump fervor that nearly dissolved Republicans' 16-seat majority in the state

House of Delegates last year. (Republicans maintained control of that chamber by a slender 51-49 only after a race that had ended in an electoral tie was decided in the GOP's favor through a random drawing of the candidates' names.) Primary elections are set for June 12. Republicans hold seven of Virginia's 11 congressional seats. Like the four Democratic congressmen, US Reps. Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), and Morgan Griffith (R-VA-09) are widely expected to win re-election. A late breaking open seat in (R-VA-05) should break the GOP's way but is worth watching

June 26 - Colorado, Maryland, New York, Oklahoma, Utah



Colorado

Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-CO-05) is squaring off against state Sen. Owen Hill (R) and Commissioner Darryl Glenn (R). Lamborn was told he made the ballot—then was kicked off it due to invalid signatures. He took his case to the state Supreme Court and lost—then appealed to federal court and won, so he is back on the ballot for the June 26 primary and currently has a 10-point lead over Glenn, who ran an unsuccessful campaign against Michael Bennet for US Senate in 2016

In CO-06 Democrats Jason Crow and Levi Tillemann are vying to see who will run against incumbent Congressman Mike Coffman. Democrats are once again putting money into this race. Odds are with Crow. Democrat operatives have been after Tillemann to drop out but he has declined.



Maryland

MD-06 is the only competitive congressional district, incumbent Rep. John Delany (D) having declared his candidacy for President of the United States in 2020. The race is highly competitive, with state Senator Roger Manno (D), state Delegate Aruna Miller (D) and businessman David Trone (D) vying for the seat. Whoever wins the Democratic primary will likely win the general election.

Nine Democrats will be competing in their party's June 26 primary for the right to take on popular incumbent Gov. Larry Hogan (R) in the general election. The race took an unusual turn with the unexpected death of front-runner Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Executive, less than seven weeks before the primary. Valerie Ervin, Kamenetz's former running mate and a former

Montgomery County Council Member, has filed to run in his place. Meanwhile, the new front-runners appear to be Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker and former NAACP President Ben Jealous.



New York

All eyes are on NY-19. Freshman Republican Congressman John Faso's district is squarely in the sights of the DCCC, which sees the Mid-Hudson Valley swing district as a prime pickup opportunity in November. Democratic candidates have lined up to run for the seat, however no clear front-runner has yet to emerge. Meanwhile, Faso has kept up with his top opponents fundraising-wise and, despite Democratic enthusiasm, Republicans have successfully defended this seat since 2012.



Oklahoma

A crowded Republican field will be battling it out in the June 26 primary to choose a nominee to replace term-limited Gov. Mary Fallin (R). While roughly 30 percent of the state's Republicans are still undecided, four candidates have recently polled in the double digits, Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb and businessman Kevin Stitt each laying claim to front-runner status at one time or another, and former US Attorney and 2002 gubernatorial candidate Gary Richardson, not far behind. A runoff is almost certain.

On the Democratic side, former Attorney General Drew Edmondson commands a sizeable lead over former state Senator Connie Johnson, though more than 40 percent of Democratic voters remain undecided. While Cook Political Report lists the race as "solid Republican," Edmondson was running within five or six points of Republicans Lamb and Cornett as recently as late May.



Utah

For the first time in close to 40 years Orrin Hatch will not be on the ballot for US Senate. Prognosticators believe, and even the average guy on the street, that former Massachusetts Governor and presidential candidate Mitt Romney will win the seat. All four of Utah's congressional seats are up for reelection—with one building towards an important nationally watched race in November. In UT-04, two-term incumbent Rep. Mia Love (R) will face a robust challenge from Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams (D). Love has won two

relatively close elections over the past three cycles in a seat that leans Republican, and while she remains somewhat unknown, she sits on several important committees and does not make waves. McAdams is currently in his second term as the county-wide elected mayor of Salt Lake County. He is an LDS-practicing, Ivy League-educated Democrat. While the county encompasses the district, McAdams does not live in the district. Polls are close and both will be well funded by their respective national parties as well as independent expenditures.

August 2



Tennessee

For the first time since 2002, this year's elections include open seats for both governor and a US senator, in addition to three open congressional seats and 26 open seats in the state General Assembly. As Gov. Bill Haslam (R) is term-limited, four Republicans and two Democrats are vying for his job. Republican candidates include US Rep. Diane Black (TN-06), former Haslam-appointed economic chief Randy Boyd, businessman Bill Lee and Speaker of the state House Beth Harwell. The Democratic candidates are former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and state House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh.

Incumbent Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN-08) will have an August primary rematch with radiologist, radio station owner and perennial self-funding candidate George Flinn. Kustoff, a former US Attorney, bested Flinn in a multi-candidate primary two years ago. Vying for the open seat of retiring Congressman Jimmy Duncan (R-TN-02) are Republican candidates Tim Burchett, former mayor of Knox County; and Jimmy Matlock, a state representative. Seeking to fill the TN-06 seat that Republican Diane Black is vacating to run for governor are former Judge Bob Corlew, state Rep. Judd Matheny and former state Agriculture Commissioner and businessman John Rose. Running for TN-07, which Republican Marsha Blackburn will vacate should she become her party's nominee for US Senate, is state Sen. Mark Green (R), a former US Army physician and Trump nominee for US Secretary of the Army (before withdrawing his name from consideration).

August 7 - Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Washington



Kansas

With the retirement of US Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS-02), the district is up for

grabs. While it is currently an "R+10," a Democrat has emerged as the clear front-runner in the race. Kansas politico Paul Davis, a former minority leader of the state House and a 2014 gubernatorial candidate, is seen as leading (based on both poll numbers and cash-on-hand), while Republicans are mired in a crowded primary that includes several candidates who are little known in the district outside of their own neighborhoods.

Several Kansans of both the Republican and Democratic persuasion are vying to become the state's next governor. On the Republican-side, incumbent Gov. Dr. Jeff Colyer, who was sworn in on January 31, 2018, when former Gov. Sam Brownback (R) took a position in the Trump administration, will attempt to leverage his newfound name recognition and clout to secure the nomination. The former lieutenant governor will attempt to differentiate himself from Brownback by courting moderate Republicans as well as conservatives. Running to Colyer's right is current Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, a frequent guest on Fox News and the clear conservative in the race. Kobach will therefore have to watch his right flank as he fights off fierce attacks from his more moderate opponents (including many national groups) who take issue with his tough stands on immigration and voter access.

On the Democratic side, state Senator Laura Kelly has emerged as a strong contender. The Topeka Democrat is the ranking minority member of the Ways & Means and Public Health & Welfare Committees and is known for her straight talk and command of the issues. She also has the backing of former Governor and former US Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, who is expected to rally grassroots support and assist with fundraising.



Michigan

Given President Trump's extraordinarily narrow victory over Hillary Clinton in Michigan in 2016, the state's congressional races are shaping up to be closely contested affairs. To date, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) has identified Michigan's 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th congressional districts as targeted races. MI-11 and MI-13 will see special elections in August to replace outgoing members of Congress, including Rep. John Conyers (D), who resigned late last year amid allegations of sexual harassment.

With incumbent Gov. Rick Snyder (R) prevented by term limits from seeking reelection, the Governor's Office is open for new tenants this November. With Republicans currently in power in the state Senate and House, the possibility of Dems moving in could have broad implications in the coming years, particularly surrounding redistricting in 2020 and 2021. Accordingly, a number of prominent Republicans have lined up for the right to face a would-be Democratic nominee. Republican front-runners include Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, state Senator Patrick Colbeck and state Attorney General Bill Schuette. On the Democratic side, Abdul El-Sayed, a Rhodes Scholar and former head of Detroit's public health department, will face off against former Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer and businessman Shri Thanedar.



Missouri

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D), who is seeking re-election, has been listed among Senate's most vulnerable Democrats, in large part because Donald Trump won her state by 19 points. She faces a challenge from state Attorney General Josh Hawley (R). The race is a toss-up.

Gov. Eric Greitens (R), who took office on January 9, 2017, and resigned on June 1, 2018, after months of controversy and possible impeachment in connection with his indictment and arrest on felony invasion of privacy charges relating to an affair he had prior to becoming governor, as well as accusations of campaign finance and open records statute violations. The Rhodes Scholar and former Navy SEAL resigned under pressure from his own party, who felt his plummeting approval ratings risked weighing down other Republican candidates on the 2018 ballot, particularly in the US Senate race. Lt. Gov. Mike Parson was sworn in as governor on June 1.



Washington

In her bid for a fourth term, US Senator Maria Cantwell (D) faces a tougher-than-expected challenge in the general election from former Washington State Republican Party Chair Susan Hutchison. Cantwell's campaign has raised more than \$8 million and had \$4.7 million in the bank at the end of March 2018. That said, the race is rated as "safe Democrat," and Hutchison being a vociferous Trump supporter hasn't helped in a state where he received only 38% of the vote.

Dave Reichert (R-WA-8) stepping out of his seat has created a competitive race in a swing district that Clinton won by three points but which has been held by a Republican since its creation through redistricting in 2010. The top three candidates for the seat include Emily's List-endorsed Kim Schrier, a pediatrician; former CDC official Shannon Hader; and former prosecutor and trial lawyer Jason Rittereiser. Additionally, Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-05) and Jamie Herrera Butler (R-WA-03) are both in slightly tougher than normal races. McMorris Rodgers is running against former state Senator Lisa Brown (D) and Butler is running in a crowded field. Both are expected to win. All other incumbents don't face serious threats.

August 11



Hawaii

US Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI-02) will likely be re-elected. HI-01, the US House seat to be vacated by Democrat Colleen Hanabusa, who is running for governor, will be open. Democrats Lt. Gov. Doug Chin, state Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, state Rep. Kaniela Ing, state Rep. Beth Fukumoto and Honolulu Council Member Ernie Martin are all vying for it.

Gov. David Ige (D) is being challenged by US Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI-01) in his upcoming re-election bid. This will be a highly contested race between two veteran politicians. Before being elected Governor, Ige served in the state House and state Senate for more than 30 years. Before running for Congress, Hanabusa was president of the state Senate. She made an unsuccessful run for the US Senate against Senator Brian Schatz in 2014

August 21 - Alaska, Wyoming



Alaska

US Rep. Don Young (R-AK-At-Large) is in-cycle and is facing a legitimate Democratic challenger—Alyse Galvin. Young is the front-runner in this race but with his long history of scandals/gaffes. That, plus a volatile environment for Republicans generally, gives Galvin an outside chance of winning. The national Democratic committees are paying more attention to this race than they have in past campaigns against Young.

Incumbent Gov. Bill Walker, a former Republican who won election as an independent in 2014, is running for re-election as a registered independent who will be participating in the Democratic primary. The state Supreme Court recently upheld a rule passed by the Alaska Democratic Party that allows Independent candidates to run in their primary and win the party's nomination for the general election. There are a number of candidates vying for the Republican nomination and the most likely victor is Mike Dunleavy—a conservative former state senator who has strong popular appeal and will be a formidable opponent. It is also possible that former US Senator Mark Begich will enter the race as a Democrat, which would likely force Walker to exit the Democratic primary and revert back to running as a true independent, setting up a three-way race in November. In any scenario, Walker has an uphill battle ahead of him—his favorability and job approval ratings having hit rock bottom due to his handling of the state's fiscal crisis.



Wyoming

Incumbent US Sen. John Barrasso (R) faces a surprising challenger in his party's primary in Charlie Hardy, a former Roman Catholic priest and Democratic candidate for the US House in 2016. Now styling himself as an "Eisenhower Republican" concerned with out-of-control military spending, Hardy also has championed such traditional liberal causes as universal healthcare and a federal minimum wage. This is Hardy's second go at the Senate; he was the Democratic Party's nominee in 2014, but was resoundingly defeated by current US Sen. Mike Enzi (R). As for the Democratic field, it currently belongs to Gary Trauner, a former Democratic nominee for the state's at-large US House seat.

Incumbent US Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY-At Large) is expected to face one of two Democratic challengers this fall for the state's lone US House seat. Retired USDOT employee Mark Harvey recently announced his candidacy, joining Laramie attorney Travis Helm as would-be spoilers of the congresswoman's reelection hopes. Harvey is running decidedly to the left, going so far as to propose a "Cowboy Healthcare Plan" that would require all taxpayers—including corporations—to place 1/30th of their salary into a fund for universal healthcare.

A fight for term-limited Republican Gov. Matt Mead's chair is well underway in Wyoming, with former state House Minority Leader Mary Throne expected to be the Democratic nominee. After pondering a run against incumbent US Senator John Barrasso (R),

Republican mega-donor Foster Freiss will face off against State Treasurer Mark Gordon and Cheyenne businessman Sam Galeotos, among others.

August 28 - Arizona, Florida



Arizona

Arizona has experienced a bit of musical congressional chairs, with Trent Franks (R-AZ-08) resigning after admitting improper behavior with his female staff, and Martha McCally (R-AZ-02) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ-09) giving up their seats to run for Senate. McCally's district is one of the most competitive in the state, and former US Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ-01) has taken a substantial fundraising lead to fill the seat once held by Gabrielle Giffords. In late May, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton (D) resigned and officially entered the race to replace Sinema. Via a special election in April, Franks was replaced by former state legislator Debbie Lesko (R) in a district with a large Republican registration advantage. Lesko is running again in November and the safe bet is that it will continue to be a Republican seat. But should McCally's seat fall to the left, Arizona's congressional delegation could flip from 5-4 Republican to 5-4 Democrat.

Gov. Doug Ducey (R) is up for reelection after a brutal legislative session that began with the removal of a state representative for sexual harassment and ended with the largest strike (teachers) in state history. Education funding dominated the session and continues to be the issue du jour. Democrats are fielding three candidates and their primary should be interesting. In addition, Arizona has the potential to flip the state House and/or Senate blue for the first time in modern history.



Florida

Joe Negron (R), president of the state Senate, announced in early May that he will leave the legislature in November (when his leadership tenure is over), despite having two years left in his term. Negron's seat is considered a swing district that will now be hotly contested. Since Trump was elected, Democrats have won four swing-seat elections in Florida and many Democratic operatives believe they have a good chance to take Negron's seat, and perhaps two others, narrowing the GOP advantage in the Senate to 21-19. If a true "blue wave" develops, some Democrats even believe they could take control the Senate for the first time since 1993. But GOP politicians are certain Republicans will retain control of the upper chamber.

September 4



Massachusetts

US Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA-07) is running for his 11th term and faces a primary challenger, Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley. The announcement by US Rep. Nikki Tsongas (D-MA-03) that she will not seek reelection has resulted in a crowded Democratic primary, with 13 hopefuls running for the seat.

Gov. Charlie Baker (R) is running for a second term. However, while he was given a strong endorsement for reelection from delegates to the Massachusetts Republican convention in April, he fell short of avoiding a primary fight with a controversial anti-gay pastor from Springfield. Democrats Bob Massie, an environmental activist, and Jay Gonzalez, a former state Secretary of Administration and Finance, will face off at their party's nomination.

September 6



Delaware

Incumbent US Sen. Tom Carper (D), an icon of Delaware politics, is largely expected to cruise to re-election for a fourth term.

However, former PayPal executive Eugene Truono has mounted a bid to become the first openly gay Republican to win elected office in the state. Truono faces Robert Arlett in the Republican primary on September 6. While Delaware has historically been a deep-blue state at the national level, its state legislature has seen inroads by Republicans in recent years. That said, barring the unexpected, Sen. Carper should make a comfortable return to Washington in 2019.

A recent \$82.4 million jump in the state revenue projection may require incumbent Gov. John Carney (D) to adjust his stated expectations for state spending in 2019. Carney, who had previously asked state lawmakers to adhere to a 3.5 percent cap on expenditure increases, will now have to deal with legislators looking to take advantage of a roughly \$180 million windfall relative to his previous projections. From the restoration of cuts to nonprofits and public schools to proposed new tax cuts for casinos and first-time homebuyers, the Governor will have his hands full encouraging the General Assembly to exercise financial prudence by planning for future years when new revenue streams may not hold constant.

September 11



New Hampshire

With no US Senate race, the open NH-01 seat, vacated by Congresswoman Carol Shea Porter (D), is getting a lot of attention. Nine Democrats and three Republicans are vying to fill it. Executive Councilor Chris Pappas is the Democratic front-runner—early polls show him with a large lead—but Democrat Maura Sullivan is leading the fundraising race, with over \$1 million dollars already in her campaign coffer. None of the Republicans has much name recognition or money. In NH-02, incumbent Congresswoman Anne Kuster (D) has a big lead over all four of her current Republican challengers. Primary elections are on September 11.

September 12



Rhode Island

Bucking some local observers' expectations that he would challenge current Gov. Gina Raimondo (D) in her reelection bid, former Democratic Governor (and one-time presidential dark horse) Lincoln Chafee instead announced that he intended to enter the September 12 Democratic primary for a US Senate seat, challenging incumbent junior Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. Whitehouse defeated Chafee for his US Senate seat in 2006, which Chafee held as a Republican. Whoever wins may find themselves in a surprisingly competitive battle with Republican and former state Supreme Court Justice Robert Flanders.

November 6



Louisiana

The Republican party holds five of the six seats in Congress. All current US House members are up for re-election. Popular Congressman and House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA-01) will face a few opponents but is heavily favored to return to Washington. It is also anticipated that US Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA-02), will have little opposition. Ditto for Republicans Clay Higgins (LA-03), Mike Johnson (LA-04), Ralph Abraham (LA-05), and Garret Graves (LA-06), all of whom are expected to coast to reelection against varying degrees of token opposition.

Public Policy practice

Our national team includes lawyers and professionals with experience in federal, state and local government with specialists in public policy, law, business and public affairs. We help clients to anticipate, mitigate, and leverage matters of government through innovative, holistic public policy and regulation strategies. Our team blends core regulatory, legislative, and political experience across key industry sectors with practical guidance and a balanced perspective on domestic and global policy and regulatory initiatives that are important to you and your business.

Federal Government Affairs practice

Our Federal Government Affairs practice is recognized for delivering timely guidance, substantive counsel—and, most importantly, results—on legislative and regulatory policy initiatives that accomplish priority outcomes for clients. We craft testimony, draft legislation, develop shareholder partnerships and identify opportunities to impact our clients goals. Our counsel and advice is shaped by the experience of our lobbyists, lawyers, and other professionals who have served in senior government positions. We have represented local governments on a variety of legislative and regulatory matters throughout the globe – whether as lawyers to government entities or as trusted partners in developing procurement programs for large municipalities.

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State Attorneys General practice

Dentons State Attorneys General Practice is a full-service, nationwide practice to advise and assist clients when dealing with state attorneys general and their staff. The practice features bipartisan leadership from five former state attorneys general along with former deputy attorneys general, assistant attorneys general and chiefs of staff from some of the most active offices in the nation and top notch litigators experienced in defending lawsuits brought by state attorneys general. Our team helps clients develop and implement strategies to avoid becoming subjects of state attorneys general investigations—and when clients are subjects of investigations, the team works to achieve resolution or settlement short of litigation, as well as defending litigation.

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Local Government Solutions

Our Local Government Solutions team encompasses former local government elected and appointed officials across the United States which allow our bipartisan team to work effectively to emerging policy initiatives and the needs of our clients. We have unparalleled experience in key categories for local governments including economic development, finance and infrastructure.

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