

Inside Elections

with

Nathan L. Gonzales

Nonpartisan Analysis

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2018 Election Preview: GOP Bump or Trend?

By Nathan L. Gonzales and Leah Askarinam

With less than a month before Nov. 6, the fundamentals of these midterm elections are set and broadly good news for Democrats. But with dozens of close races around the country, a shift of just a couple points across the board is the difference between a good night and a historic night for Democrats in the House, and between a Democratic majority and an expanded GOP majority in the Senate.

Just a couple weeks ago, the Democrats' path to 51 Senate seats looked to be widening as their candidates gained or maintained narrow advantages in Florida, Arizona, and Tennessee while Rep. Beto O'Rourke was breathing down Sen. Ted Cruz's neck in Texas. Now, Texas and Tennessee look like fading opportunities, and Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill is nearing North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp at the top of the most vulnerable lists.

Whether it's a boost from the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation process or natural coalescing of the GOP, Republican candidates have ticked up in the most recent surveys. But we don't know yet whether it's temporary bump or longer-term trend. We're changing our overall Senate outlook to a Democratic gain of two seats to a GOP gain of a seat. (Previously, it was a Democratic gain of a seat to a GOP gain of three seats.) We expect Republicans to maintain their Senate majority. Democrats need to gain two seats.

A district-by-district analysis of the fight for the House is different. Republicans continue to struggle in the suburbs, but the third and fourth-tier races in GOP leaning districts don't look like ripening takeover targets. Democrats are still likely to win the majority, and our current projection remains a Democratic gain of 25-35 seats, but it doesn't look like historic gains for Democrats.

The final weeks are critical, not just because voters are starting to receive their ballots in the mail and potentially making up their minds, but also because we will see Democratic fundraising at work in a larger than normal volume of television ads in key races.

2018 House Ratings

Toss-Up (14R, 2D)

CA 10 (Denham, R)	MI 8 (Bishop, R)
CA 25 (Knight, R)	MN 1 (Open; Walz, DFL)
CA 39 (Open; Royce, R)	MN 8 (Open; Nolan, DFL)
CA 45 (Walters, R)	OH 12 (Balderson, R)#
IA 3 (Young, R)	PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)
KS 2 (Open; Jenkins, R)	TX 32 (Sessions, R)
KY 6 (Barr, R)	VA 7 (Brat, R)
ME 2 (Poliquin, R)	WA 8 (Open; Reichert, R)

Tilt Democratic (12R, 2D)

CA 48 (Rohrabacher, R)	NY 19 (Faso, R)
CO 6 (Coffman, R)	NY 22 (Tenney, R)
IL 6 (Roskam, R)	NV 3 (Open; Rosen, D)
KS 3 (Yoder, R)	VA 10 (Comstock, R)
MN 2 (Lewis, R)	
MN 3 (Paulsen, R)	
MI 11 (Open; Trott, R)#	
NH 1 (Open; Shea-Porter, D)	
NJ 3 (MacArthur, R)	
NJ 11 (Open; Frelinghuysen, R)	

Tilt Republican (9R)

FL 26 (Curbelo, R)
IL 12 (Bost, R)
NC 2 (Holding, R)
NC 9 (Open; Pittenger, R)
NC 13 (Budd, R)
NM 2 (Open; Pearce, R)
NJ 7 (Lance, R)
TX 7 (Culberson, R)
VA 2 (Taylor, R)

Lean Democratic (5R, 4D)

IA 1 (Blum, R)
AZ 1 (O'Halleran, D)
AZ 2 (Open; McSally, R)#
CA 49 (Open; Issa, R)
FL 27 (Open; Ros-Lehtinen, R)
NV 4 (Open; Kihuen, D)*
PA 8 (Cartwright, D)
PA 7 (Vacant; Dent, R)
PA 17 (Rothfus, R/Lamb, D)

Lean Republican (11R)

IL 13 (Davis, R)	WA 5 (McMorris Rodgers, R)
IL 14 (Hultgren, R)#	WI 1 (Open; Ryan, R)
NE 2 (Bacon, R)	WV 3 (Open; Jenkins, R)
NY 27 (Collins, R)	
OH 1 (Chabot, R)	
PA 10 (Perry, R)	
TX 23 (Hurd, R)*	
UT 4 (Love, R)	

Likely Democratic (3R, 1D)

FL 7 (Murphy, D)
NJ 2 (Open; LoBiondo, R)
PA 5 (Vacant; Meehan, R)
PA 6 (Open; Costello, R)

Likely Republican (24R, 1D)

AR 2 (Hill, R)	MI 6 (Upton, R)
AZ 8 (Lesko, R)	MI 7 (Walberg, R)
CA 4 (McClintock, R)	MTA-L (Gianforte, R)
CA 21 (Valadao, R)	NY 11 (Donovan, R)
CA 50 (Hunter, R)	NY 24 (Katko, R)
FL 6 (Open; DeSantis, R)	OH 14 (Joyce, R)
FL 15 (Open; Ross, R)	PA 14 (Open; Lamb, D)
FL 16 (Buchanan, R)	PA 16 (Kelly, R)
FL 18 (Mast, R)	TX 21 (Smith, R)
GA 6 (Handel, R)	TX 31 (Carter, R)
GA 7 (Woodall, R)	
IA 4 (King, R)	
IN 2 (Walorski, R)	

	GOP	DEM
115th Congress	240	195
Currently Solid	161	186
Competitive	79	9
Needed for majority	218	

moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics

More Analysis at InsideElections.com:

• Don't Sweat the Election Night Surprises

by Nathan L. Gonzales

• Education Takes Leading Role in Governor's Races

by Leah Askarinam

Senate Report Shorts

Arizona. Open; Jeff Flake (R) not seeking re-election. Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema enjoyed a narrow but consistent advantage over GOP Rep. Martha McSally in polls before and after the late August primary. But some more recent public and private data show that edge might be gone. Sinema had an advantage with two key groups in the most recent Fox News poll: women (winning them 50-41 percent) while McSally garnered support from a majority of men (49-43 percent) and Independents (42-29 percent).

McSally's recent television ad opened with talk about opioids and then shifted to drug cartels and border security, seemingly connecting the two issues. Appointed-Sen. Jon Kyl recorded an ad in support of McSally, drawing on border security and aiming his criticism at "resistance."

Republicans are still dealing with the fallout from Sinema being on television for weeks without being attacked. But this could be a race where Republicans benefit from a base boost from the Kavanaugh confirmation process. Toss-up.

ABC15/OH Predictive Insights, Oct. 1-2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: McSally over Sinema 47%-41%.

Fox News, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sinema over McSally 47%-45%. IDs: Sinema 48% favorable/41% unfavorable, McSally 46%/45%.

Suffolk Univ., Sept. 27-30 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sinema over McSally 45%-42%. IDs: Sinema 45% favorable/36% unfavorable, McSally 41%/43%.

NBC/Marist, Sept. 16-20 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sinema over McSally 48%-45%. IDs: Sinema 46% favorable/33% unfavorable, McSally 40%/42%.

SSRS for CNN, Sept. 11-15 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sinema over McSally 50%-32%.

Targetsmart, Sept. 8-13 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sinema over McSally 51%-46%. IDs: Sinema 42% favorable/36% unfavorable, McSally 37%/43%.

Fox News, Sept. 8-11 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sinema over McSally 47%-44%. IDs: Sinema 52% favorable/35% unfavorable, McSally 47%/43%.

Florida. Bill Nelson (D) elected 2000 (51%), 2006 (60%), 2012 (55%). Just a few weeks ago, it looked like the senator was struggling to keep

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Candidate Conversation



Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Wendy Rogers (D)

Arizona's 1st District -- Rating: Lean Democratic

Interview Date: Sept. 14, 2018

Date of Birth: July 24, 1954; Fort Knox, Ky.

Education: Michigan State Univ. (1976); Univ. of Alabama (M.S.W. 1977); Cal State-San Bernardino (Master's, 1986)

Elected Office: None; 2016 1st District candidate; 2014 9th District nominee; 2012 9th District candidate.

Current Outlook: Rogers won a competitive GOP primary and will face Democratic Rep. Tom O'Halleran in November. The expansive 1st District, which covers most of the eastern half of the state, went for Donald Trump narrowly in 2016, giving Republicans a rare takeover opportunity. But some Republicans lost confidence in the race when Republican Tiffany Shedd didn't win the GOP primary and this cycle is proving to be challenging for the President's party.

Evaluation: Rogers is all-in on President Trump. From her campaign literature to her rhetoric, the candidate is proud to be running with the president. Rogers has an interesting story to tell as an Army brat who served as an officer in the Air Force for 20 years, including being one of the first women pilots. Arizona Rep. Martha McSally was a cadet when Rogers was a flight instructor at the Naval Academy. After she retired from the military in 1996, she ran a home inspection business with her husband. Now she flies around the district with her husband as he co-pilots and spends time cultivating the relationship with the Navajo Nation. Rogers plans to continue some themes from the primary including building the border wall, ending sanctuary cities, and protecting veterans. She also plans to highlight O'Halleran's vote against the GOP tax bill. If Hillary Clinton had won the White House, O'Halleran would be near the top of any list of vulnerable Members. But a combination of a midterm dynamic against Republicans and Rogers' lack of fundraising, makes it challenging for her to win this year.

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pace with GOP Gov. Rick Scott, but the polling appears to have shifted, with Nelson leading in a majority of public polling since our last issue, albeit by margins in the low single-digits. Democrats believe that Nelson's late-summer dip in polling was a calculated risk and that they survived being outspent for most of the summer. Now, Democrats can afford to come close to matching Scott on the airwaves.

This race, which is a must-win for Democrats to regain the majority, still looks like it will be decided by a couple of points in either direction. It's still unclear how Hurricane Michael will affect the political dynamic of the race. It could make it more difficult for politicians to communicate with voters in the Panhandle, and Scott has already been in the spotlight as he responds to the storm in his role as governor. Toss-up.

Florida Southern College, Oct. 1-5 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Scott over Nelson 46%-45%.

PPP (D)(IVR), Sept. 28-30 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Nelson over Scott 48%-44%. Job ratings: Nelson 41% approve/44% disapprove, Scott 39%/51%.

Strategic Research Associates, Sept. 17-30 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Nelson over Scott 45%-44%. IDs: Nelson 36% favorable/38% unfavorable, Scott 42%/38%.

Mason-Dixon, Sept. 24-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Nelson over Scott 47%-46%. IDs: Scott 42% favorable/42% unfavorable, Nelson 38%/37%.

Florida Chamber of Commerce, Sept. 19-24 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Nelson over Scott 48%-46%. Job ratings: Scott 50% approve/46% disapprove, Nelson 46%/41%.

Indiana. Joe Donnelly (D) elected 2012 (50%). The senator voted to confirm Neil Gorsuch early in Trump's term but voted against Kavanaugh on Saturday. "While I would gladly welcome the opportunity to work with President Trump on a new nominee for this critically important position, if Judge Kavanaugh's nomination comes before the full Senate for a vote under these circumstances, I will oppose it," Donnelly said in a statement explaining his decision. The move was a little surprising considering the President received 57 percent in Indiana in 2016, but it could be a sign that Donnelly is feeling more comfortable in his re-election bid or that the accusations against Kavanaugh were too much for him to support the judge.



Joe Donnelly

Sarah Silbiger/CQ Roll Call

In a debate on Monday, Donnelly dug into the argument that voters couldn't trust GOP nominee Mike Braun as an effort to undermine his outsider credentials, while Braun pointed to endorsements from conservative groups and to the need for a businessman in Congress. The parties are divided on their views of the race. But even when the senator is leading in the polls, it's usually in the mid to low-40s, which shouldn't be encouraging for the incumbent. This is another state where even a shift of a few points toward Republicans after Kavanaugh's confirmation could make a big difference. Toss-up.

Fox News, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Donnelly 43%, Braun 41%, Lucy Brenton (Libertarian) 6%. IDs: Donnelly 46% favorable/43% unfavorable, Braun 44%/41%.

Michigan. Debbie Stabenow (D) elected 2000 (49%), 2006 (57%), 2012 (59%). At the beginning of the cycle, Republicans hoped to defeat the senator, but it's just not coming together. Republican John James has an interesting profile and raised a considerable \$3.6 million in the third quarter, but it doesn't look like he is putting together the same coalition that helped President Trump narrowly carry the state in 2016. Republicans are at risk of losing the governorship as well. Solid D.

Glengriff Group for WDIV Local 4/Detroit News, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Stabenow over James 53%-35%. IDs: Stabenow 49%

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2018 Senate Ratings

Toss-Up			
Donnelly (D-Ind.)	Nelson (D-Fla.)		
Heller (R-Nev.)	AZ Open (Flake, R)		
McCaskill (D-Mo.)			
Tilt Democratic		Tilt Republican	
Manchin (D-W.Va.)	Heitkamp (D-N.D.)		
Tester (D-Mont.)			
Lean Democratic		Lean Republican	
Baldwin (D-Wis.)	TN Open (Corker, R)		
Likely Democratic		Likely Republican	
Brown (D-Ohio)	Cruz (R-Texas)		
Casey (D-Pa.)			
Menendez (D-N.J.)*			
Smith (D-Minn.)			
Solid Democratic		Solid Republican	
Cantwell (D-Wash.)	Barrasso (R-Wyo.)		
Cardin (D-Md.)	Fischer (R-Neb.)		
Carper (D-Del.)	Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)		
Feinstein (D-Calif.)	Wicker (R-Miss.)		
Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)	UT Open (Hatch, R)		
Heinrich (D-N.M.)			
Hirono (D-Hawaii)			
Kaine (D-Va.)			
King (I-Maine)			
Klobuchar (D-Minn.)			
Murphy (D-Conn.)			
Sanders (I-Vt.)			
Stabenow (D-Mich.)			
Warren (D-Mass.)			
Whitehouse (D-R.I.)			
		GOP	DEM
	115th Congress	51	49
	Not up this cycle	42	23
	Currently Solid	5	15
	Competitive	4	11
<i>Takeovers in Italics, # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans</i>			

Continued from page 3

favorable/32% unfavorable, James 22%/17%.

EPIC-MRA/Detroit Free Press, Sept. 21-25 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Stabenow over James 56%-33%.

Missouri. Claire McCaskill (D) elected 2006 (50%), 2012 (55%).

The senator voted against confirming Kavanaugh, but was always unlikely to support him, even before the sexual misconduct allegations, considering she voted against Gorsuch. McCaskill is locked in an even battle with GOP state Attorney General Josh Hawley. She explained that her vote was unrelated to the allegations of sexual misconduct against the Supreme Court pick, focusing on her concerns about his positions on “dark money.”



Claire McCaskill

Sarah Silbiger/CQ Roll Call

In most surveys, the candidates are running even in the mid- to upper-40s on the ballot test. But Republicans believe McCaskill has already consolidated nearly all of the Democratic vote while Hawley still has room to grow, and is even starting to pull ahead of the senator. It’s too early to know whether it’s a temporary bump or trend, but it matches the partisan trajectory of the state. Toss-up.

McLaughlin & Associates (R), Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hawley over McCaskill 52%-44%.

Fox News, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: (2-way) McCaskill even with Hawley 46%-46%. IDs: McCaskill 48% favorable/48% unfavorable, Hawley 47%/45%.

SSRS for CNN, Sept. 25-29 (LVs)—General Election ballot: McCaskill over Hawley 47%-44%, Japheth Campbell (L) 3%, Jo Crain (G) 1%. IDs: McCaskill 49% favorable/46% unfavorable, Hawley 43%/38%.

Remington Research (R) for Missouri Scout, Sept. 26-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hawley over McCaskill 48%-46%.

The Trafalgar Group (IVR)(mixed mode), Sept. 11-13 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hawley over McCaskill 47%-44%.

Montana. Jon Tester (D) elected 2006 (49%), 2012 (49%).

The senator has enjoyed a distinct but narrow advantage over GOP state Auditor Matt Rosendale for the last few months, but that lead will be tested in the final weeks. Democrats believe Tester’s brand will prevail, as usual, while GOP strategists are encouraged that Rosendale has narrowed the margin. Even though Tester became the face of the opposition to President Trump’s choice for veterans affairs secretary and voted against the confirmations of Gorsuch and Kavanaugh, the senator has intentionally highlighted bills the President has signed. This race could end up in Toss-up by Election Day, but remains Tilt D for now.

Benenson Strategy Group (D) for AARP, Sept. 6-16 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Tester over Rosendale 50%-43%. IDs: Tester 53% favorable/43% unfavorable, Rosendale 38%/47%.

Axis Research for NRSC (R), Sept. 17-19 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Rosendale even with Tester 44%-44%, Rick Breckenridge (L) 4%.

Nevada. Dean Heller (R) appointed 2011, elected 2012 (46%).

Republicans are increasingly confident in their incumbent even though he can’t put much distance, if any, between himself and Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen. Democrats believe Rosen is up a few points and are encouraged by the senator’s ad on health care (even though he’s attacking Rosen) because that’s the issue Democrats are counting on to deliver the House and Senate majorities. Heller is the only Republican running for re-election in a Clinton state, and he voted to confirm Kavanaugh, even though his vote didn’t receive much attention. Heller hasn’t been near 50 percent in polling, which isn’t a good sign for an incumbent, but he won his initial election without a majority. Toss-up.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 8-10 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Heller over Rosen 47%-45%. IDs: Rosen 36% favorable/43% unfavorable, Heller 42%/44%.

NBC/Marist, Sept. 30-Oct. 3 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Heller over Rosen 46%-44%.

North Dakota. Heidi Heitkamp (D) elected 2012 (50%). For months, Republicans have been bullish about defeating the senator, and then



Heidi Heitkamp

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Heitkamp voted against confirming Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Republicans took it as a sign that she knows she will lose to GOP Rep. Kevin Cramer and has nothing else to lose. Democrats believe it was a vote of conscience and believe

in the political durability of their incumbent, but understand there could be political consequences for her vote. Heitkamp started airing a television ad that reminded voters that she voted to confirm Neil Gorsuch and made the case she would have been open to voting for a less divisive nominee. Meanwhile, Cramer has landed in the spotlight with his own comments about the MeToo movement, arguing that it has gone “too far,” and it remains to be seen how North Dakota voters will respond.

Heitkamp has been counted out before and won, although recent public polling shows the race slipping out of reach for the senator. Democrats responded with a poll of part of the state, which showed Heitkamp exceeding her marks in the region compared to 2012 when she won narrowly. But it looks like Cramer might be posting larger margins in the more rural areas, compared to Heitkamp’s 2012 opponent. Tilt R.

Fox News, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Cramer over Heitkamp 53%-41%. IDs: Cramer 58% favorable/38% unfavorable, Heitkamp 48%-49%.

Strategic Research Associates, Sept. 17-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Cramer over Heitkamp 51%-41%. IDs: Heitkamp 43% favorable/41% unfavorable, Cramer 46%/37%.

New Jersey. Bob Menendez (D) appointed 2006, elected 2006 (53%), 2012 (58%).

A Stockton Univ. poll that found Menendez leading by just 3 points over GOP nominee Bob Hugin may have shocked Twitter, but Democrats aren’t yet nervous. It’s worth noting that since the Stockton poll,

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two additional public polls have found Menendez with a more comfortable — though still single-digit — lead. It's clear that Menendez won't win by being a likable candidate — his favorable ratings are abysmal in all public polling, probably due to him being indicted for bribery and corruption (the charges were later dismissed). But a Quinnipiac poll found Menendez above water in terms of his job rating, and Democrats are still working to ensure that voters know that Hugin is Trump's former state finance chairman (Trump received 41 percent) and tied to the pharmaceutical industry. The senator is still likely to win, but he's more vulnerable than his colleagues with a Solid rating. Move to Likely D.

Fairleigh Dickinson Univ., Sept. 26-30 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Menendez over Hugin 43%-37%. IDs: Menendez 35% favorable/53% unfavorable, Hugin 36%/30%.

Quinnipiac Univ., Sept. 25-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Menendez over Hugin 53%-42%. IDs: Menendez 34% favorable/53% unfavorable, Hugin 35%/27%. Menendez job rating: 46% approve/44% disapprove.

Stockton Univ., Sept. 19-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Menendez over Hugin 45%-43%. IDs: Menendez 30% favorable/54% unfavorable, Hugin 34%/21%.

Tennessee. Open; Bob Corker (R) not seeking re-election. Former Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen announced he would not vote to confirm judge Kavanaugh had he been in the Senate.

The move prompted MoveOn.org to rescind a six-figure investment in the race and Priorities USA, another Democratic outside group, to declare it wouldn't get involved. But having national Democratic groups publicly distance themselves from the race is probably good for Bredesen. (Also, in case you haven't heard, Taylor Swift endorsed him.)

Meanwhile, GOP Rep. Marsha Blackburn has slowly been closing the gap with the former governor, and is now leading in most surveys. The race didn't develop quite as quickly as some GOP strategists would have liked, but they still believe the GOP lean of Tennessee will deliver a victory. Blackburn held much of her money for the stretch run and has been on television with heavy ad buys for the last few weeks. Bredesen is still a credible candidate, but the window might be closing for Democrats to steal a seat. Lean R.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 8-11 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Blackburn over Bredesen 54%-40%. IDs: Blackburn 51% favorable/38% unfavorable, Bredesen 44% favorable/43% unfavorable.

Fox News, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Blackburn over Bredesen 48%-43%. IDs: Blackburn 50% favorable/41% unfavorable, Bredesen 51%/39%.

Triton Polling for Tennessee Star, Sept. 10-12 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Blackburn over Bredesen 48%-45%.

SSRS for CNN, Sept. 11-15 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Bredesen over Blackburn 50%-45%. IDs (RVs): Bredesen 52% favorable/24% unfavorable,



Marsha Blackburn

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Blackburn 41%/39%.

Fox News Poll, Sept. 8-11 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Blackburn over Bredesen 47%-44%. IDs: Bredesen 54% favorable/36% unfavorable, Blackburn 51%/39%.

Texas. Ted Cruz (R) elected 2012 (56%). Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke continues to raise money at a phenomenal rate but it's still unclear whether he can overcome the partisanship of the state. The



Ted Cruz

Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

congressman likely trails the senator by mid to upper-single digits but the margin is only part of the Democrat's challenge. He appears to have a ceiling of close to 46 percent, and winning each additional percentage point is progressively difficult.

Democratic strategists who want O'Rourke to win say that the congressman's refusal to attack Cruz could be his undoing. Meanwhile, Republicans have steadily driven up O'Rourke's negatives. Plus, while Democrats across the country believe their path to a majority relies on sustaining a conversation about health care, O'Rourke's campaign has been less intentional about highlighting Cruz's legislative record or his positions on policy. And outside his base of white, suburban voters, it's not clear that O'Rourke has the organization to turn out the surge in African-American and Hispanic voters he'll need to win.

We continue to acknowledge that O'Rourke has tapped into something different and has the fortune of running against a polarizing politician. But he's still running in Texas, for now. Likely R.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 8-11 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Cruz over O'Rourke 51%-43%. IDs: Cruz 51% favorable/42% unfavorable. O'Rourke 41% favorable/44% unfavorable.

Quinnipiac Univ., Oct. 3-9 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Cruz over O'Rourke 54%-45%. Abbott over Valdez 58%-38%. IDs: Valdez 31% favorable/29% unfavorable, Abbott 62%/32%. O'Rourke 45% favorable/47% unfavorable, Cruz 52%/44%.

Emerson College (mixed mode)(IVR), Oct. 1-5 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Cruz over O'Rourke 47%-42%. IDs: O'Rourke 50% favorable/38% unfavorable, Cruz 48%/44%.

West Virginia. Joe Manchin (D) elected 2010 special (53%), 2012 (61%). Manchin was the only Democratic senator to vote to confirm

Trump's pick for the Supreme Court, a move that prompted a personal shoutout from Brett Kavanaugh during his swearing-in ceremony with the President. Democrats are confident in Manchin's brand and his campaign's polling, which showed him with a double-digit lead over state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey. Morrisey's campaign released a poll showing him within a point of the senator. Manchin was always going to over-perform in West Virginia, but the race could get considerably closer if President Trump's supporters turn out en masse toward Morrisey. Tilt D.

Public Opinion Strategies (R), Oct. 7-9 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Manchin over Morrisey 41%-40%.

IE

Eighty-five Women Served in this Congress (of 435 House Members)

Fourteen are not seeking re-election...

	Sought Other Office (8)	Retired (5)	Deceased (1)
85-14=71	McSally (AZ 2)	Esty (CT 5)	Slaughter (NY 25)
	Sinema (AZ 3)	Ros-Lehtinen (FL 27)	
	Hanabusa (HI 1)*	Jenkins (KS 2)	
	Lujan-Grisham (NM 1)	Tsongas (MA 3)	
	Rosen (NV 3)	Shea-Porter (NH 1)	
	Noem (SDAL)		
	Black (TN 6) *		
	Blackburn (TN 7)		

*Lost primary nomination

...meaning 71 current congresswomen are running for re-election. But some open seats will be filled by women...

	Woman Nominee Heavily Favored (2)	Both Party Nominees Are Women (3)	Woman Nominee In Competitive Election (1)
71+5=76	CT 5 (Hayes, D)	AZ 2 (Kirkpatrick/ Peterson)	NV 3 (Lee/Tarkanian)
	MA 3 (Trahan, D)	FL 27 (Shalala/ Salazar)	
		NM 1 (Haaland/Arnold-Jones)	

...including open seats left by men not running for re-election...

	Woman Nominee Heavily Favored (8)	Both Party Nominees Are Women (4)	Woman In Competitive Election (11)
76+12=88	MA 7 (Pressley, D)	NM 2 (Torres Small/Herrell)	CA 39 (Cisneros/Kim) WA 8 (Schrier/Rossi)
	MI 13 (Tlaib, D)	MN 5 (Ilhan-Omar/Zielinski)	CA 49 (Levin/Harkey) WV 3 (Ojeda/Miller)
	NY 14 (Ocasio-Cortez, D)	MI 11 (Stevens/ Epstein)	FL 6 (Soderberg/Waltz)
	SC 1 (Arrington, R)	PA 5 (Scanlon/Kim)	FL 15 (Carlson/Spano)
	PA 4 (Dean, D)		NJ 11 (Sherrill/Webber)
	PA 6 (Houlahan, D)		PA 7 (Wild/Nothstein)
	TX 16 (Escobar, D)		PA 14 (Boerio/Reschenthaler)
	TX 29 (Garcia, D)		TX 6 (Sanchez/Wright)
		VA 5 (Cockburn/Riggelman)	

...So, counting re-elections and open seats, the next Congress will include a baseline of 88 women. In addition to the 12 women competing for open seats, 26 are challenging male incumbents in competitive races.

	GOP Women (1)	Democratic Women In Toss-Up or Democratic-Leaning Races (8)	Democratic Women In GOP-Leaning Races (17)
88+12+26=126	AZ 1 (O'Halleran/ Rogers)	CA 25 (Hill/Knight)	CA 4 (Morse/McClintock)
		IA 3 (Axne/Young)	FL 18 (Baer/Mast)
		KY 6 (McGrath/Barr)	FL 26 (Mucarsel-Powell/Curbelo)
		MI 8 (Slotkin /Bishop)	GA 7 (Bourdeaux/Woodall)
		VA 7 (Spanberger/ Brat)	IL 13 (Dirksen Londrigan/Davis)
		KS 3 (Davids/Yoder)	IL 14 (Underwood/Hultgren)
		MN 2 (Craig/Lewis)	MI 7 (Driskell/Walberg)
		IA 1 (Finkenauer/Blum)	MT 1 (Williams/Gianforte)
		NC 2 (Coleman/Holding)	
		NC 13 (Manning/Budd)	
		NE 2 (Eastman/Bacon)	
		NY 24 (Katko/Balter)	
		OH 14 (Rader/Joyce)	
		TX 7 (Fletcher/Culberson)	
		TX 23 (Ortiz Jones/Hurd)	
		TX 31 (Hegar/Carter)	
		VA 2 (Luria/Taylor)	

...and four congresswomen could lose to men.

	Democratic Male Challenger Favored (1)	Democratic Woman Incumbent Favored (1)	GOP Woman Incumbent Favored (2)
88-4=84	NY 22 (Brindisi/Tenney)	FL 7 (Murphy/Miller)	IN 2 (Hall/Walorski)
			UT 4 (McAdams/Love)

That all adds up to anywhere from 84-126 women who are likely to serve in the next Congress.

House Report Shorts

Arizona's 2nd District (Open; Martha McSally, R, running for Senate). Clinton 49.6%. Former Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick has high negatives from previous runs for office and a competitive primary, but it's still rough going for Republican Lea Marquez Peterson to win this open seat that Hillary Clinton carried in 2016. Move from Tilt D to Lean D.

California's 10th District (Jeff Denham, R, re-elected 52%). Clinton 49%. Democrat Josh Harder raised \$3.5 million in the third quarter and received an endorsement from the *Modesto Bee*. The Bee's endorsement lamented Denham's connections to President Trump more than it expressed excitement about the Democratic nominee. Some GOP strategists are increasingly concerned about the congressman's prospects. Toss-Up.

California's 22nd District (Devin Nunes, R, re-elected 68%). Trump 52%. Democrat Andrew Janz raised \$4 million in three months (July, August, Sept.), which is a monstrous sum considering the congressman isn't particularly vulnerable. The district's fundamentals remain strong for the GOP, but we'll see if it can hold under a multi-million dollar ad buy for the duration of the campaign. Solid R.

SurveyUSA for ABC30, Sept. 20-25 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Nunes over Janz 55%-41%. Nunes job rating: 55% approve/40% disapprove.

Strategies 360 for Janz, Sept. 10-13 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Nunes over Janz 50%-44%.

California's 39th District (Open; Ed Royce, R, not seeking re-election). Clinton 52%. Royce left a vulnerable open seat that Clinton carried in 2016, but it may end up being Republicans' best chance to hold a seat in Orange County.

Republican Young Kim and Democrat Gil Cisneros are running close to even and it looks like CLF has successfully driven up the Democrat's negatives. But



Young Kim

Democrats are just starting making their case against Kim. That, and the political environment, could tip the race to Cisneros. Toss-up.

Tulchin Research (D)(mixed mode) for Cisneros, Sept. 28-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Cisneros over Kim 48%-47%.

California's 45th District (Mimi Walters, R, re-elected with 59%). Clinton 49.8%. Democrat Katie Porter is running even with (and sometimes slightly ahead of) the congresswoman. This is the type of suburban district that has been giving Republicans fits because of President Trump's unpopularity. Toss-up, but trending in the right direction for Democrats.

California's 48th District (Dana Rohrabacher, R, re-elected 58%). Clinton 48%. The congressman looks locked in the low to mid-40s against Democrat Harley Rouda. That's probably not a good position for the long-time incumbent. Some GOP strategists estimate that Rohrabacher (and other

vulnerable Republicans) should be at least a couple points ahead going into Election Day or risk a loss. It seems like it's been a while since Rohrabacher has had that kind of advantage. Tilt D.

California's 49th District (Open; Darrell Issa, R, not seeking re-election). Clinton 51%. Democrat Mike Levin continues to have an advantage over Republican Diane Harkey in this open seat, and at this point it would be a surprise if Democrats didn't win. Lean D.

California's 50th District (Duncan Hunter, R, re-elected 64%). Trump 55%. Democrat Ammar Campa-Najjar released another survey



Ammar Campa-Najjar

showing a tight race. But public polling from Monmouth University showed a completely different dynamic, including Hunter with comfortable leads in three scenarios. It looks like the GOP nature of the district is forgiving to the indicted congressman. Likely R.

Tulchin Research (D) for Campa-Najjar, Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hunter over Najjar 45%-44%.

Monmouth Univ., Sept 22-26 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hunter over Campa-Najjar 53%-38%. (Democratic surge): Hunter over Campa-Najjar 51%-40%. (Full voter sample) Hunter over Campa-Najjar 49%-41%. IDs: Hunter 35% favorable/33% unfavorable, Campa-Najjar 24% favorable/16% unfavorable.

Florida's 15th District (Open; Dennis Ross, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 53%. GOP state Rep. Ross Spano has the advantage over attorney Kristen Carlson in this under-the-radar race. The district leans Republican but the open seat and low name identification for the candidates appears to be throwing some uncertainty into the race. Likely R.

WPAi (R) for Club for Growth, Oct. 3-4 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Spano over Carlson 46%-39%. IDs: Spano 56% favorable/38% unfavorable, Carlson 25%/11%.

Bold Blue Campaigns (D), Sept. 22-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Spano over Carlson 49%-46%.

Florida's 16th District. (Vern Buchanan, R, re-elected 60%).

Trump 54%. Democrats believed the congressman's yacht purchase would be his undoing, but three recent polls showed Buchanan close to, at, or just above 50 percent against attorney David Shapiro. The race isn't over, but Republicans might have averted a headache for now. Likely R.

Public Opinion Strategies, Oct. 4-7 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Buchanan over Shapiro 52%-42%.

University of North Florida, Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Buchanan over Shapiro 49%-40%.

St. Pete Polls, Oct. 1 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Buchanan over Shapiro 50%-43%. IDs: Buchanan 48% favorable/38% unfavorable, Shapiro 38%/42%.

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Florida's 18th District (Brian Mast, R, elected 54%). Trump 53%. A recent poll for Democrat Lauren Baer's campaign showed her behind the congressman by just three points. But that looks like the most optimistic view of the race right now for Democrats. Baer will be well-funded, but Mast is proving to be a difficult foe and the district still leans Republican. Likely R.

Global Strategy Group for Baer, Sept. 26-30 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Mast over Baer 48%-45%. IDs: Baer 32% favorable/30% unfavorable, Mast 44%/39%.

Florida's 26th District (Carlos Curbelo, R, re-elected 53%). Clinton 57%. Democrats are feeling emboldened about Debbie Mucarsel-Powell's chances of knocking off the congressman. They believe she's closed the gap with Curbelo and might even be leading, but not all the data agrees. Tilt R.



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

DCCC IE, Sept. 27-Oct. 1 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Mucarsel-Powell over Curbelo 50%-48%.

GQRR (D) for Mucarsel-Powell, Sept. 23-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Mucarsel-Powell over Curbelo 49%-48%. IDs: Curbelo 47% favorable/40% unfavorable, Mucarsel-Powell 32% favorable/18% unfavorable.

Illinois' 13th District (Rodney Davis, R, re-elected 60%). Trump 49.7%. Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan raised nearly \$1.7 million in the last quarter and her campaign released a poll that showed her down just 1 point to the congressman. This is still a serious race in a state where the Republican governor is likely to get crushed in his re-election bid. Lean R.

GBA (D) for Londrigan, Oct. 1-4 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Davis over Londrigan 49%-48%.

Illinois' 14th District (Randy Hultgren, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 48.7% Democratic nurse Lauren Underwood is running a competitive race against the congressman. She hasn't received a lot of attention and hadn't been the best fundraiser early in the cycle, but public polls show her within striking distance. The district was drawn to be a GOP vote-sink, but it's not a friendly place for President Trump. Move from Solid R to Lean R.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 3-8 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hultgren over Underwood 47%-43%. IDs: Hultgren 31% favorable/27% unfavorable, Underwood 31% favorable/14% unfavorable.

Iowa's 3rd District (David Young, R, re-elected 53%). Trump 49%. Four third-party candidates (including one from the Legal Marijuana Now Party) will likely draw enough votes collectively to lower the threshold for victory. Democrat Cindy Axne is running even with or slightly ahead of the congressman. This increasingly looks like a Democratic pickup. Toss-up.

Siena for New York Times, Sept. 27-30 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Axne over Young 44%-43%. IDs: Young 38% favorable/40% unfavorable, Axne 35% favorable/30% unfavorable.

Kansas' 2nd District (Open; Lynn Jenkins, R, not running for re-election). Trump 56%. Democrat Paul Davis and Republican Steve Watkins remain locked in the battle for the open seat and are running even in the low to mid-40s. The district is still favorable to President Trump and Republicans, but Watkins keeps taking media hits to his resume and credibility. After a scathing critique of his business record, the most recent story questioned his exploits climbing Mt. Everest and racing in the Iditarod. But he could benefit from a shout-out at Trump's Kansas rally Oct. 6. "Steve is a great veteran, he is a patriot, and a proud West Point graduate. That means he is very smart." Toss-up but looking like a takeover.

Emerson (mixed mode)(IVR), Sept. 26-28 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Davis over Watkins 35%-31%.

Siena for New York Times, Sept. 13-15 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Davis over Watkins 45%-44%. IDs: Davis 37% favorable/27% unfavorable, Watkins 21% favorable/26% unfavorable.

Kansas' 3rd District (Kevin Yoder, R, re-elected 51%). Clinton 47%. Democrat Sharice Davids raised \$2.7 million in the last quarter compared to Yoder's \$1.1 million. Yoder, who's running for re-election in a district that Hillary Clinton carried, skipped Trump's rally — a wise move considering the president's unpopularity in the area. Tilt D.

Emerson (mixed mode)(IVR), Sept. 26-28 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Davids over Yoder 47%-41%.

Kentucky's 6th District (Andy Barr, R, re-elected 61%). Trump 55%. In 2006, Iraq War veteran Tammy Duckworth was one of the most



Andy Barr

high-profile candidates in the country. She announced her candidacy on This Week with George Stephanopoulos and got to run for an open seat in the Chicago suburbs, not far from the district represented by DCCC Chairman Rahm Emanuel.

Democrats gain 30 seats that cycle in a political wave against President George W. Bush, and Duckworth lost to Republican Peter Roskam.

This cycle, Democrat Amy McGrath could be on the same trajectory. After her bio video went viral among donors and activists, the former Marine pilot became one of the Democratic rock stars. In the third quarter of this year, she raised an incredible \$3.65 million in her challenge to the congressman. But Republicans have been effectively driving up McGrath's negatives and McGrath's reluctance to go negative on Barr could cost her the race, according to Democratic strategists who want her to win. A few weeks ago, Barr looked liked political roadkill. Now he looks like a slight favorite. Toss-up.

Public Opinion Strategies (R) for Barr, Oct. 6-8 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Barr over McGrath 48%-46%.

Garin Hart Yang (D) for McGrath, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: McGrath over Barr 51%-44%.

Michigan's 8th District (Mike Bishop, R, re-elected 56%). Trump 51%. Democrat Elissa Slotkin raised an impressive \$2.6 million

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from July through September and continues to be a strong challenger to the incumbent. This is the type of district that has been getting better for Democrats this cycle, but this race isn't over. Toss-up.

Siena for New York Times, Sept. 28-Oct. 3 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Bishop over Slotkin 47%-44%. IDs: Slotkin 34% favorable/27% unfavorable, Bishop 40%/38%.

Public Opinion Strategies (R) for Bishop, Sept. 16-18 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Bishop over Slotkin 45%-43%.

Michigan's 11th District (Open; Dave Trott, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 49.7%. Parties' track records defending open seats lost by their president

the cycle before is not good, and this might be a similar challenge considering Trump's performance. Democrat Haley Stevens had the advantage over Republican Lena Epstein in limited public polling. But



Haley Stevens

President Trump's low job approval rating isn't an encouraging sign either for the GOP. Move from Toss-up to Tilt D.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 1-6 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Stevens over Epstein 45%-38%. IDs: Stevens 27% favorable/13% unfavorable, Epstein 22% favorable/22% unfavorable.

Minnesota's 1st District (Open; Tim Walz, DFL, running for governor). Trump 53%. Republican Jim Hagedorn is running even or slightly ahead of Democrat Dan Feehan. Neither candidate appears to be lighting the world on fire, but one of them will win. And the district is favorable to Republicans, even though the outgoing congressman is a Democrat. A GOP win here would cancel out a loss elsewhere. Toss-up.

Minnesota's 2nd District (Jason Lewis, R, elected 47%). Trump 47%. The congressman's campaign released a poll which showed him with a narrow advantage, but that looks like an outlier. DFL nominee Angie Craig is positioned to avenge her 2016 loss. Tilt D.

Siena for New York Times, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Craig over Lewis 51%-39%. IDs: Craig 39% favorable/31% unfavorable, Lewis 31% favorable/42% unfavorable.

WPAi (R) for Lewis, Aug. Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Lewis over Craig 46%-43%.

SurveyUSA (mixed mode) for KSTP, Sept. 17-23 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Craig over Lewis 48%-45%.

Minnesota's 8th District (Open; Rick Nolan, DFL, lost for lieutenant governor). Trump 54%. Republican Pete Stauber and DFLer Joe Radinovich are locked in a close race in Republicans' best takeover opportunity anywhere in the country. Toss-up.

Victoria Research (D) for Radinovich, Sept. 27-30 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Radinovich over Stauber 45%-44%.

Montana's At-Large District (Greg Gianforte, R, elected 2017 special election 49.7%). Trump 57%. Democratic nominee Kathleen Williams raised \$2.1 million in the third quarter, an impressive haul. But it's hard to imagine that Montana voters will select two Democrats on this year's ballot, and it's more likely they vote for Democratic Sen. Jon Tester than Williams. Likely R.

Benenson Strategy Group (D) for AARP, Sept. 6-16 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Gianforte over Williams 46%-45%. IDs: Gianforte 41% favorable/48% unfavorable, Williams 37% favorable/23% unfavorable.

Nevada's 4th District (Open; Ruben Kihuen, D, not seeking re-election). Clinton 49.5%. Republicans remain somewhat optimistic about former GOP Rep. Cresent Hardy's ability to defeat former Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford. The district is more Democratic than the neighboring 3rd District, but Republicans have specific attacks on the former congressman and his lobbying connections since he was defeated in 2014. HMP is on television with a \$1 million ad buy attacking Hardy for his time in the state Legislature. Move from Likely D to Lean D.

New Jersey's 3rd District (Tom MacArthur, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 51%. Republicans believe the congressman is in better shape than the public polls show, but he still appears to be mired in the mid-40s at best. This race certainly isn't over, but Democrat Andrew Kim has an excellent opportunity to take over this district. Tilt D.

New Jersey 7th District (Leonard Lance, R, re-elected 54%). Clinton 49%. The congressman has been counted out before and prevailed



Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Leonard Lance

but this is a different environment with a polarizing GOP president in the White House. Republicans have been trying to drive up Democrat Tom Malinowski's negatives, but this remains a close race. Tilt R.

Siena for New York Times, Sept. 17-21 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Lance over Malinowski 45%-44%. IDs: Lance 36% favorable/33% unfavorable, Malinowski 32% favorable/20% unfavorable.

Monmouth Univ., Sept. 13-17 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Malinowski over Lance 46%-43%. IDs: Lance 35% favorable/21% unfavorable, Malinowski 26% favorable/14% unfavorable.

New Jersey's 11th District (Open; Rodney Frelinghuysen, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 49%. Democrat Mikie Sherrill raised \$2.3 million in the third quarter, bringing her fundraising total to \$7 million through the end of September. Those are phenomenal numbers for a first-time House candidate, and it's also a reason why she has an advantage over Republican Jay Webber. It will be hard for him and Republicans to keep pace in the final weeks. Tilt D.

Monmouth Univ., Oct. 3-7 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sherrill over Webber 48%-44%. IDs: Sherrill 45% favorable/15% unfavorable, Webber 35%

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favorable/21% unfavorable.

Jay Webber campaign, Sept. 24-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sherrill over Webber 46%-43%.

New Mexico's 2nd District (Open; Steve Pearce, R, running for governor). Trump 50%. Democrat Xochitl Torres Small and Republican Yvette Herrell are locked in a competitive race for the open seat. It looks like Herrell has opened up a narrow advantage, the district itself leans Republican and the GOP nominee could benefit from the congressman's run for governor at the top of the ballot. But some GOP strategists are concerned about nominating a non-Hispanic candidate in a district with a growing Hispanic population. Lean R.

Tarrance (R) for Herrell, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Herrell over Torres-Small 49%-45%.

Siena for New York Times Sept. 13-18 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Torres Small over Herrell 46%-45%. IDs: Herrell 23% favorable/20% unfavorable, Torres Small 33% favorable/17% unfavorable.

Albuquerque Journal, Sept. 7-13 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Herrell over Torres Small 48%-41%.

New York's 1st District (Lee Zeldin, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 55%. Democrats are excited about the congressman's full support for President Trump. But it's still not clear Trump is a liability in a district he carried by more than a dozen points in 2016. Democrat Perry Gershon's path is complicated by a Working Families party candidate on the ballot, as well as Kate Browning, who ran in the Democratic primary but is on the ballot as a Women's Equality candidate. Solid R.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 4-8 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Zeldin over Gershon 49%-41%. IDs: Zeldin 48% favorable/35% unfavorable, Gershon 29% favorable/27% unfavorable. Trump job rating: 51% approve/43% disapprove.

New York's 22nd District (Claudia Tenney, R, elected 47%). Trump 55%. Republican efforts to hold this seat hinge on the congresswoman's ability to match the GOP partisanship of the district. The seat still leans Republican but Tenney has been underperforming against Democratic state Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi. The make-up of the district might be strong enough to pull Tenney across the line for another term, and this might be the type of district where a Kavanaugh-inspired boost in Trump's approval ratings pushes Tenney over the edge. Tilt D.

New York's 24th District (John Katko, R, re-elected 61%). Clinton 49%. The congressman has the blessing and curse of representing an inexpensive media market. Katko has been able to carve out his own identity in the Syracuse area that is separate from the

national party. Even though he has won easily in the past, Democrats still believe Dana Balter has a chance. She raised \$1.5 million in the third quarter and HMP is on television on her behalf. Clinton won the district in 2016 and Obama won it twice, so this is the type of district that should be within reach for Democrats. But it hasn't received a lot of attention this cycle because of Katko's reputation. Watch to see if the NRCC gets involved. That would be a sign the GOP is really concerned. Lean R.

North Carolina's 9th District (Open; Robert Pittenger, R, lost renomination). Trump 54%. After knocking off the congressman in



Dan McCready

the GOP primary, Mark Harris has been locked in a tight race with Democrat Dan McCready. McCready doesn't get the headlines and profiles compared to some of his challenger colleagues around the country, but he's quietly put together

a strong campaign. McCready has been a strong fundraiser before it became normal for Democratic candidates, but Harris put \$1 million of his own money into the race for ads. The district has a Republican lean but potentially not in this environment. Tilt R.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 1-5 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Harris over McCready 47%-42%. IDs: McCready 34% favorable/19% unfavorable, Harris 34% favorable/20% unfavorable.

North Carolina's 13th District (Ted Budd, R, re-elected 56%). Trump 53%. There is a growing difference of opinion on this race depending on the partisan perspective. Republicans acknowledge that the congressman is in a tight race. Some Democrats believe Kathy Manning has moved into the lead. She should enjoy a financial advantage in the final weeks of the race, which could make the difference in a close contest. Tilt R.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 3-8 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Budd over Manning 47%-41%. IDs: Budd 37% favorable/29% unfavorable, Manning 31% favorable/23% unfavorable.

Ohio's 1st District (Steve Chabot, R, re-elected 59%). Democrat Aftab Pureval raised \$1.5 million in the third quarter but has been deflecting allegations that he misused funds for his re-election race for county clerk for his congressional campaign. It looks like Republicans have driven up Pureval's negatives and Chabot has a narrow lead going into the final month.

Siena for New York Times, Sept. 27-Oct. 1 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Chabot over Pureval 50%-41%. IDs: Chabot 44% favorable/38% unfavorable, Pureval 40% favorable/36% unfavorable.

Ohio's 12th District (Troy Balderson, R, elected 50% in Aug special election). Trump 53%. Democrat Danny O'Connor raised \$6 million in the last quarter, which includes \$2.3 million since the early August special election. The congressman hasn't been in office long enough to enjoy the

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CALENDAR

Nov. 4	Movie Night: <i>True Colors</i> at Miracle Theatre (DC), 6pm
Nov. 6	General Election
Nov. 27	Mississippi Senate Special Runoff
Feb. 3, 2020	Iowa Caucuses

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benefits of higher name I.D. and won't be the sole focus of the national Republican Party. Move from Tilt R to Toss-up.

Pennsylvania's 1st District. (Brian Fitzpatrick, R, elected 54%). Clinton 49%. There's a difference of opinion on this race as Democrats believe Scott Wallace's sustained ad presence in the expensive Philadelphia media market has helped him surge to even with the congressman. But Republicans and limited public polling show Fitzpatrick with a narrow advantage. Toss-up.

Monmouth Univ., Sept. 27-Oct. 1 (LVs)—General Election ballot (standard midterm): Fitzpatrick over Wallace 50%-46%. IDs: Fitzpatrick 50% favorable/28% unfavorable/ Wallace 38%/28%.

Pennsylvania's 17th District. (Keith Rothfus, R and Conor Lamb, D). Trump 49%. It's hard to find anyone who thinks Democratic Rep. Conor Lamb will lose to GOP Rep. Keith Rothfus in this redrawn seat. The final result may not be a blowout, but it's clear that Lamb benefitted from the high-profile special election that allowed him to boost his standing in the region. Lean D.

Texas' 23rd District (Will Hurd, R, re-elected 48%). Clinton 49.8%. Of the GOP incumbents facing re-election in districts Hillary Clinton carried, Hurd may have the biggest advantage in terms of his personal brand. Democrat Gina Ortiz Jones has a heavy lift ahead of her to mobilize rural voters—including Hispanic voters who are critical to a Democratic victory—in a geographically expansive district. Move from Tilt R to Lean R.

Texas' 31st District (John Carter, R, re-elected with 58%). Trump 54%. MJ Hegar is one of the highest-profile Democratic challengers in country after her biographical video, "Doors," went viral among activists and donors nationwide. So the congressman's end of September poll, which showed him leading by 21 points, was met with some skepticism.

But an early October poll by Siena for the *New York Times* showed Carter up by 15 points and President Trump with a positive job rating. The data demonstrates the district is going to make the race tougher for Hegar than what some people expected. But she could also enjoy a spending advantage in the final weeks of the race. Likely R.

Siena for New York Times, Oct. 1-5 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Carter over Hegar 53%-38%. IDs: Carter 45% favorable/24% unfavorable, Hegar 27% favorable/15% unfavorable.

Texas' 32nd District (Pete Sessions, R, re-elected 71%). Clinton 49%. The North Dallas district remains Democrats' best opportunity in



Courtesy Colin Allred

Colin Allred

Texas, despite the fact Hillary Clinton carried two other districts with similar margins. Democrats believe that Sessions entered the race with higher negatives than originally known. And while Democratic candidate Colin Allred may not have the same

national profile as the two women running the 7th District (Lizzie Pannill Fletcher) and the 23rd District (Ortiz-Jones), it seems that Allred has had more success locally. Toss-up.

Utah's 4th District (Mia Love, R, re-elected 54%). Trump 39%. The congresswoman is locked in a tight race with Democrat Ben McAdams. She appears to be in the mid-40s and President Trump has never been popular in the district, even though it is conservative territory. GOP strategists continue to believe that Mitt Romney's Senate bid will buoy Love to victory next month. Mail-in ballots started to hit homes on Tuesday. Lean R. **IE**

MOVIE NIGHT

TRUE COLORS

A story of friendship, power and betrayal as Peter Burton (John Cusack) runs for Connecticut's 4th District with help from his college roommate Tim Gerrity (James Spader). (1991)

Sunday, Nov. 4, 6pm

The Miracle Theatre

535 8th Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

**First 20 subscribers to mention Inside Elections at the box office get a free ticket. After that, subscribers pay a discounted rate of \$5.*

Gubernatorial Report Shorts

Arizona. Doug Ducey (R), elected 2014 (53%). The governor and his GOP allies are enjoying a tremendous spending advantage on television in the final weeks of the campaign — \$13 million to \$500,000. It's tough to see how Democrat David Garcia is going to overcome that dynamic in a state President Trump carried in 2016. It looks like Democrats are shifting their attention to the secretary of state race, in which the Democratic nominee is airing positive ads about working with the governor. Move from Lean R to Likely R.

Fox News, Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Ducey over Garcia 55%-37%.

SSRS for CNN, Sept. 11-15 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Ducey over Garcia 49%-46%.

Illinois. Bruce Rauner (R), elected 2014 (50%). Based on the most recent polling, Rauner has been unsuccessful in restoring his image ahead of Election Day. Since the beginning of August, he hasn't cracked 32 percent in a public survey. Democrat J.B. Pritzker has yet to break 50 percent, but that shouldn't provide much comfort to Republicans. Move from Lean D to Likely D.

Victory Research, Sept. 27-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Pritzker over Rauner 47%-32%.

Southern Illinois Univ, Sept. 24-29 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Pritzker over Rauner 49%-27%, McCann 4%, Jackson 4%.

Illinois Broadcasters Association, Sept. 5-13 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Pritzker over Rauner 44%-27%, McCann (C) 6%, Jackson (L) 4.3%.

Michigan. Open; Rick Snyder (R), term-limited. Back in April, we moved Michigan from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic as it became apparent that Republicans would struggle to hold the governorship in a midterm even though President Trump won the state narrowly. That's exactly what's happening. Republican state Attorney General Bill Schuette is trailing former state Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer without a clear path to victory. Move from Tilt D to Lean D.

Mitchell Research for Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Sept. 30-Oct. 7 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Whitmer over Schuette 46%-38%.

Glengariff Group for WDIV Local 4/Detroit News, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Whitmer over Schuette 47%-35%.

EPIC/MRA/Detroit Free Press, Sept. 21-25 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Whitmer over Schuette 45%-37%, Bill Gelineau (L) 2%.

Minnesota. Open; Mark Dayton (DFL) not seeking re-election.

DFL Rep. Tim Walz has a clear advantage over Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson, who knocked off former Gov. Tim Pawlenty in the Republican primary. Move from Lean D to Likely D.

NBC/Marist Poll, Sept. 30-Oct. 4 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Walz 51%, Johnson 36%, Josh Welter (L) 6%.

Mason-Dixon for Star Tribune/Minnesota Public Radio, Sept. 10-12 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Walz over Johnson 45%-36%.

South Dakota. Open; Dennis Daugaard (R) term-limited.

Democratic state Sen. Billie Sutton released another poll which showed him in the lead over GOP nominee/Rep. Kristi Noem. Democrats believe

that they managed to inoculate Sutton from attacks by introducing him early in the cycle. But Sutton will now have to sustain a new round of attack ads as Republicans start to take the threat of a Democrat winning a statewide race in South Dakota more seriously. GOP strategists admit that the race is close but that the undecided voters are disproportionately Republicans. Noem carries the weight of Washington with her as a Member of Congress and negatives from a bruising campaign. But the sheer weight of partisanship in the state is still in her favor. Move from Likely R to Lean R.

ALG (D) for Sutton, Sept. 20-24 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Sutton over Noem 45%-42%, Libertarian 3%. Sutton ID: 53% favorable/13% unfavorable.

IE

2018 Gubernatorial Ratings

Toss-Up	
Reynolds (R-Iowa)	Walker (R-Wis.)
Tilt Democratic	Tilt Republican
<i>FL Open (Scott, R)</i>	GA Open (Deal, R)
<i>ME Open (LePage, R)</i>	KS Open (Colyer, R)
<i>NV Open (Sandoval, R)</i>	OH Open (Kasich, R)
	<i>Walker (I-Alaska)</i>
Lean Democratic	Lean Republican
Brown (D-Ore.)	Sununu (R-N.H.)
<i>MI Open (Snyder, R)#</i>	SD Open (Daugaard, R)#
Raimondo (D-R.I.)	OK Open (Fallin, R)
CO Open (Hickenlooper, D)	
CT Open (Malloy, D)	
<i>NM Open (Martinez, R)</i>	
Likely Democratic	Likely Republican
MN Open (Dayton, DFL)#	Ducey (R-Ariz.)*
<i>Rauner (R-Ill.)#</i>	Hogan (R-Md.)
Wolf (D-Pa.)	TN Open (Haslam, R)
Solid Democratic	Solid Republican
Cuomo (D-N.Y.)	Abbott (R-Texas)
Ige (D-Hawaii)	Baker (R-Mass.)
CA Open (Brown, D)	Hutchinson (R-Ark.)
	Ivey (R-Ala.)
	McMaster (R-S.C.)
	Ricketts (R-Neb.)
	Scott (R-Vt.)
	ID Open (Otter, R)
	WY Open (Mead, R)
# moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics	