MAKING WAVES

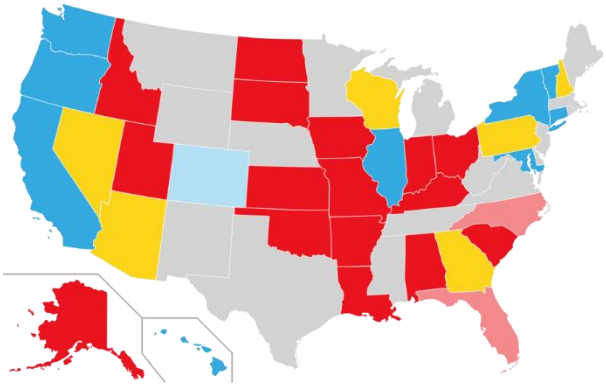
GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE
L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

U.S. Election

With just 4 weeks to go before the general election in the United States, the polls could not be any tighter. Both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives are within a few seats from turning over to the Republican party but the political winds are with the Democrats. A change in leadership in both houses could dramatically change the dynamics in Washington and impact our Great Lakes agenda as partisan gridlock could return to the Capitol.

A summer of mass shootings and the overturn of Roe vs. Wade has created two hot button issues for the midterms. Establishment Republicans like Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have also shown concern over the weakness of the field of Republican candidates going into the election.

Polarization has been specifically impactful on the Republican side with many primaries producing candidates that appear to be harder to elect in November.



As of today, according to the Real Clear Politics Senate Map, there are seven seats that are too close to call. Here are some of the seats that are up for grabs in the U.S. Senate in our region:

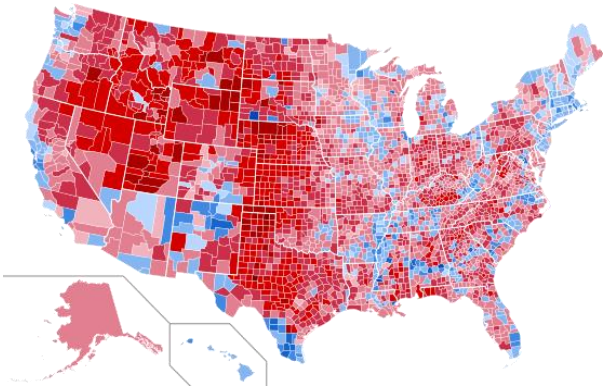
1. Pennsylvania - Republican Pat Toomey announced his retirement from the Senate last year. The race is heating up with former T.V. Commentator Mehmet Oz facing off against Democratic Lt. Governor John Fetterman. Fetterman currently leads in the polls but the race is expected to tighten.
2. Wisconsin - Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) looks more vulnerable than just a few weeks ago with CNN predicting the seat now looks more likely to flip than it did in the middle of the summer. Democratic Lt. Governor Mandela Barns now holds a 51% to 44% lead in the latest

polls. However, the state of Wisconsin is a true swing state so polls here are also expected to tighten.

3. Ohio- Republican Rob Portman is giving up his Senate seat in November and the race to succeed him is extremely close. Democratic Rep Tim Ryan is facing off against Republican nominee J.D. Vance. Typically, Ohio would be considered a stronghold for Republicans. However, Representative Ryan is running a strong campaign and is out fundraising his opponent. Ryan has raised six times more by the end June.

Other races up for grabs this year include:

1. Nevada - Incumbent Democratic Senator Catherine Cortez faces former Republican Attorney General Adam Laxalt, the grandson of the former Governor and Senator of Nevada. Polls here are tight.
2. Georgia - Incumbent Democrat Senator Ralphael Warnock is facing former football superstar Herschel Walker. Polls here show a dead heat.
3. Arizona - Incumbent Democratic Senator Mark Kelly is defending his seat from Republican Blake Masters. The incumbent is currently leading the race by a small margin.
4. New Hampshire - Incumbent Democratic Senator Maggie Hassan is competing against Republican nominee, Retired Army Brig. General Don Bolduc. Bolduc lacks financial resources and his position as a "kind of a conspiracy theorist-type candidate" is making it harder for him to attract independent voters he will need to win.
5. North Carolina - Incumbent Republican Richard Burr is retiring. Democratic nominee Cheri Beasley has outraised GOP Representative Ted Budd by $6 million. Still Beasley faces an uphill battle in a state Trump carried twice.



On the House side, there are 33 seats up for grabs, 27 of which are held by the Democrats. One of the strongest advocates for the Great Lakes, Representative Marcy Kaptur, is in a fight for her political future now that she has been redistricted.

We have also seen a turnover of Midwest Republican members who have been particularly supportive of the Great Lakes including: Representative John Katko (R-NY), Representative Fred Upton (R-MI), and Representative Anthony Gonzolez (R-OH).

We have yet to see how a possible Republican lead in the House and Senate will impact our agenda. Only time will tell. Our policy staff is actively planning on reaching out to new leadership if the House and Senate do change hands.