



*Tiber Creek Group's*  
**ELECTION OUTLOOK**

OCTOBER 13, 2026

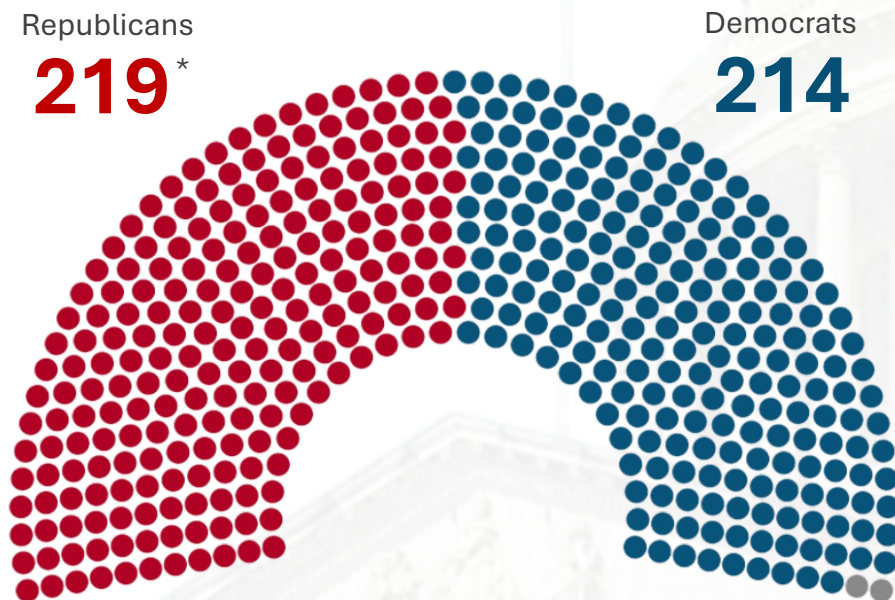


# The Political Environment

*Snapshot and Key Indicators*



# Balance of Power



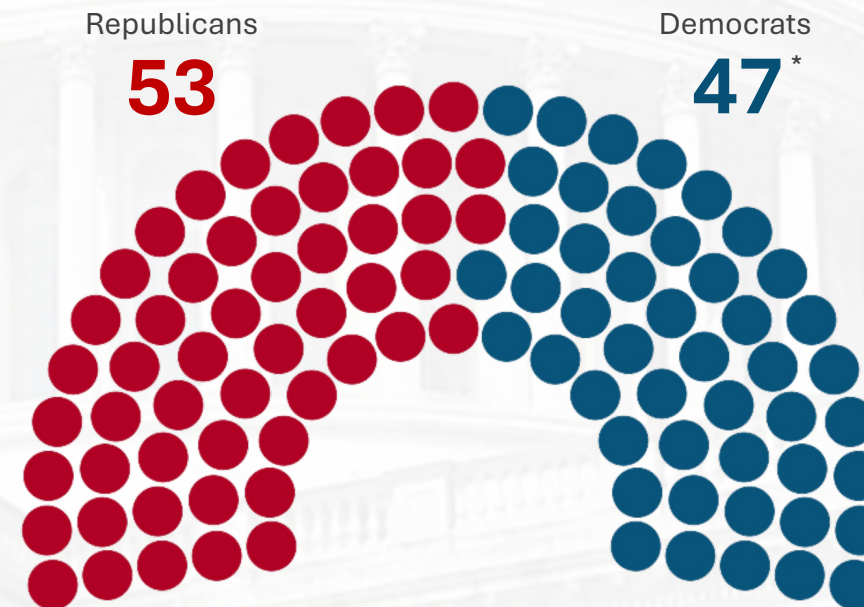
## House of Representatives

All **435** House seats are contested in 2026

Democrats must flip **3-4** seats currently held by Republicans to gain a majority

**2 Vacancies** (FL-20, TX-23)

*\*Includes Rep. Kevin Kiley (I-CA) who caucuses with Republicans*



## U.S. Senate

**35** Senate seats are contested in 2026

Races to Watch: **GA, MI, ME, NH, NC, OH, AK, TX, IA, KS**

*\*Includes 2 Independents who caucus with Democrats*

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# Congressional Turnover

As of 10/9/26

Not reflecting resignations and deaths

83<sup>\*</sup>

incumbents will not return to their seats next term, **a record number.**

12

Senators and

4 Democrats / 8 Republicans

71

U.S. Representatives

30 Democrats / 41 Republicans



39

retiring from public office

13

lost their primary elections

34

running for a different office, with 14 seeking governorships, 17 looking to make the jump from House to Senate, 1 running for State Senate, and 1 ran for state AG.

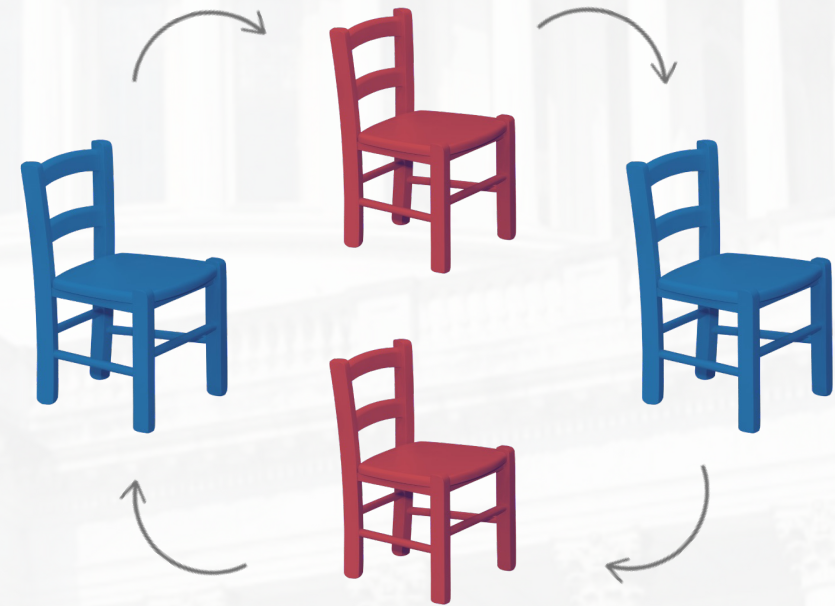
*\*Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) are not up for reelection but will resign if they win their governor races; as such, they are not included in the total. Sen. Michael Bennett (D-CO) lost his primary bid for governor and will keep his seat*

# 120<sup>th</sup> Congress: Committee Leadership Musical Chairs

The 120th Congress-elect will begin to organize within weeks of the election, setting off a **real-time musical chairs** of committee leadership.

The documents linked represent **anticipated changes** in committee leadership and membership between the 119<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup> Congress under a **Republican majority**.

As we get closer to November, we will keep you updated on **informed speculation** and “**known-knowns**.”



Please click [here](#) for TCG's 120<sup>th</sup> Senate outlook.

Please click [here](#) for TCG's 120<sup>th</sup> House outlook.

# Incumbent Losses

As of 10/9/26

*Louisiana*



**Sen. Bill Cassidy**

*Defeated by Rep. Julia Letlow*

*Texas*



**Sen. John Cornyn**

*Defeated by Ken Paxton*

*TX-02*



**Rep. Dan Crenshaw**

*Defeated by Steve Toth*

*KY-04*



**Rep. Thomas Massie**

*Defeated by Ed Gallrein*

*TN-05*



**Rep. Andy Ogles**

*Defeated by Charlie Hatcher*

*FL-07*



**Rep. Cory Mills**

*Defeated by Ryan Elijah*

# Incumbent Losses

As of 10/9/26

TX-33



**Rep. Julie Johnson**

*Defeated by Colin Allred*

TX-18



**Rep. Al Green**

*Defeated by Christian Menefee*

NY-10



**Rep. Dan Goldman**

*Defeated by Brad Lander*

CT-01



**Rep. John Larson**

*Defeated by Luke Bronin*

CO-01



**Rep. Diana DeGette**

*Defeated by Melat Kiros*

NY-13



**Rep. Adriano Espaillat**

*Defeated by Darializa  
Avila Chevalier*

MI-13



**Rep. Shri Thanedar**

*Defeated by Donovan  
McKinney*

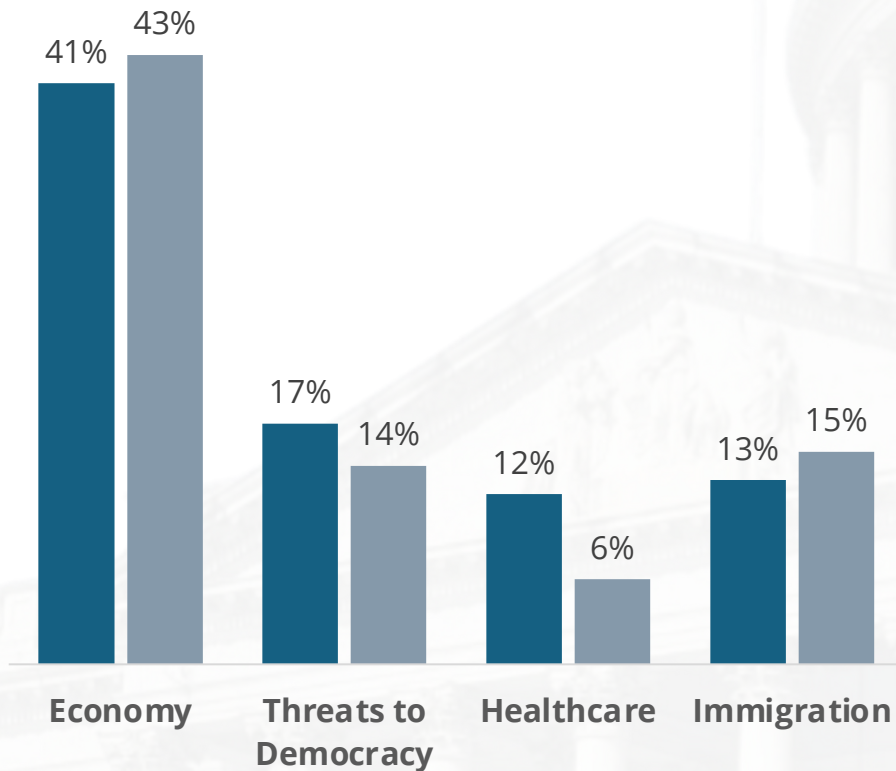


**Sen. Michael Bennet (CO)** became the first sitting senator to lose a gubernatorial primary since 2010. Since he is not in cycle, **he will remain in the Senate.**

# The Electorate

## Top Issues Facing the U.S.

■ 2026 ■ 2024



President Trump has a **32% approval rating** among likely voters.

In September 2024, the **economy** was the most important issue to voters, followed by immigration, threats to democracy, and healthcare.

In September 2026, the **economy** remains the top issue for voters, followed by **threats to democracy** and then healthcare.

**Affordability** is a key issue for the midterm elections, with the cost of healthcare, groceries, and gasoline/transportation topping the list of economic concerns for U.S. adults.\*\*

*When asked about the most important issues determining their vote...*

**42%**

said the **war in Iran**

**38%**

said **tariff policy**

**35%**

said **jobs and AI regulation** (tie)

**23%**

said **data centers**

\*Emerson College polling Sept 21-22 (2026) and Sept 3-4 (2024)

\*\*Approval rating from Ipsos/Reuters Sept 17-20

\*\*\*KFF polling April 14-19, 2026

# Rise of Progressive Candidates

Progressive challengers have **unseated incumbents** and **defeated party-backed candidates** in solid Democratic districts and have narrowly secured primary victories in a few key swing seats.

## Issue Platform

Medicare for All, housing affordability, immigration and criminal justice reform, data centers, and U.S. support for Israel have become the **focal issues of the progressive wing** of the Democratic party.

## Voter Demographics

Progressive candidates in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and New York have done well with **young, white, college-educated, and higher income voters** but have struggled to gain the support of **older Americans, Black and Latino voters, and moderates**.

## Fundraising & Spending

Despite moderate Senate candidates in Florida, Michigan, and Minnesota Senate races having significant financial advantages from outside spending groups – and name recognition and party support – **progressive candidates won** with small-dollar donations and grassroots efforts.

**Electability** becomes more important in races that could determine House and Senate control, and progressive left candidates face a greater challenge of winning over moderate, older, or independent voters – those who tend to be more reliable in the general election.

# Mail-In Voting

As of 9/28/26

In March 2026, President Trump signed an executive order directing the **U.S. Postal Service to verify voter eligibility** and requiring states to submit lists of voters eligible for mail-in ballots.

A federal judge issued two separate injunctions blocking the order.

The Supreme Court lifted the first injunction on a technicality. However, on August 28, the same federal judge imposed a **14-day restraining order blocking USPS from implementing its finalized mail ballot rule**.

The Supreme Court **denied the Administration's emergency application to lift the injunction** blocking the USPS mail ballot rule but will **allow it to use the revamped federal voter eligibility database**.

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 14399

**Directs** DHS and the Social Security Administration to compile and transmit State Citizenship Lists to state election officials at least 60 days before a federal election

**Directs** USPS to establish uniform mail-ballot standards, including barcode tracking

**Requires** states to notify USPS 90 days prior to a federal election on whether they will allow mail or absentee ballots, and provide a list of mail-ballot recipients 60 days before the election

**Prohibits** USPS from transmitting mail-in or absentee ballots from individuals not on a State-specific list

**Instructs** the DOJ to prioritize investigating election officials who provide ballots to ineligible individuals

# Election Dynamics

*Looking to 2026 and 2028*



# Recent Rating Changes

## HOUSE

### LEAN D → LIKELY D

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| NE-02 | Open (Bacon) |
| NV-03 | Lee          |
| NY-03 | Suozzi       |
| NY-04 | Gillen       |

### TOSS UP → LEAN D

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| IA-01 | Miller-Meeks |
| IA-03 | Nunn         |
| PA-07 | Mackenzie    |
| PA-10 | Perry        |
| WA-03 | Perez        |

## SENATE

### LEAN R → TOSS UP

**KANSAS**  
Marshall (R) | Toss Up  
*Trump + 16.2*

### LEAN R → TOSS UP

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| IA-02 | Open (Hinson) |
| MI-04 | Huizenga      |
| NC-01 | Davis         |
| VA-01 | Wittman       |

### LIKELY R → LEAN R

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| KY-06 | Open (Barr)   |
| ME-02 | Open (Golden) |
| PA-01 | Fitzpatrick   |

### TOSS UP → LEAN D

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
Open | Lean D  
*Harris + 2.8*

# Midterm Trends in the House



The House has changed party control **18** times since 1856.

**1994**

Republicans gained **54 seats**, ending 40 years of Democratic control.

**2010**

GOP gained **63 seats**, the largest victory in a midterm since 1938.

**2022**

Republicans **narrowly recaptured** control of the U.S. House in the 2022 midterms by a slim margin.

**2006**

Democrats gained **31 seats**, flipping control from Republicans.

**2018**

Democratic turnout during President Trump's first term led the party to gain **41 seats**.

# Midterm Shifts and Presidential Approval

**2006****37%**

-31 seats

**233 - 202****2010****46%**

-63 seats

**242 - 193****2018****41%**

-41 seats

**235 - 199****2022****38%**

-9 seats

**222 - 213****2026****32%****? - ?**

Despite President Biden's low approval rating in 2022, post-2020 redistricting and increased voter turnout in response to *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* helped incumbent Democrats overperform Biden's margins in their districts and offset Republican pickups.

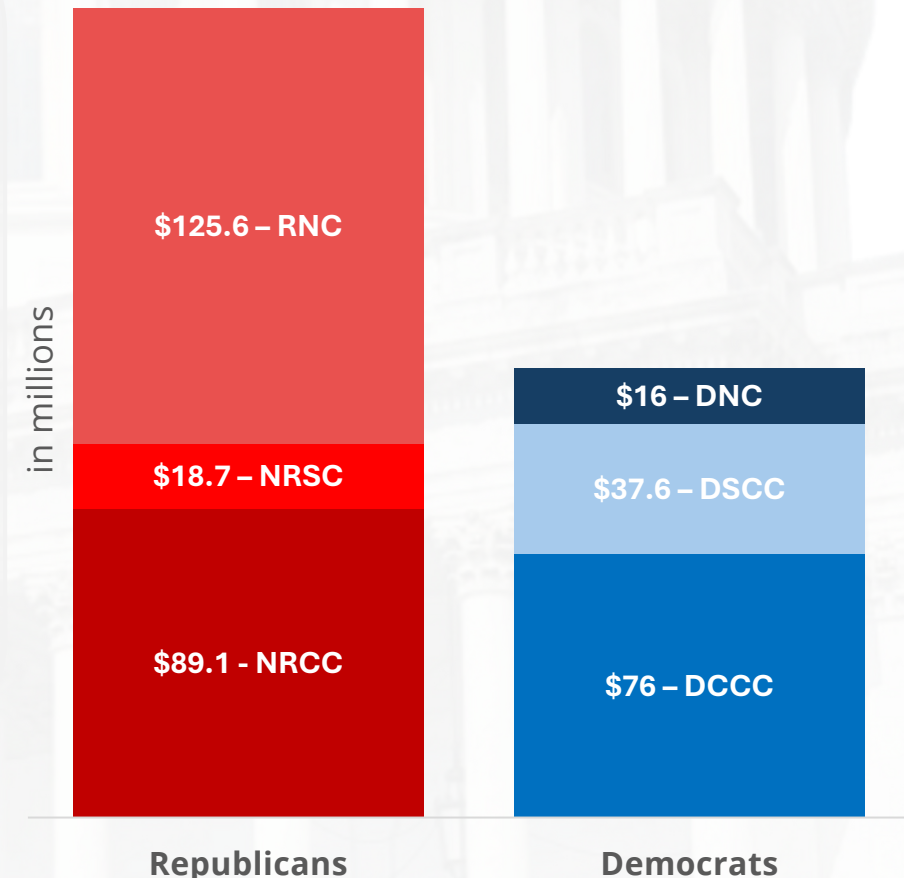
# Fundraising

A June 2026 Supreme Court ruling struck down limits on coordinated spending between party committees and candidates, allowing committees to direct unlimited funds toward candidate campaigns.

- ✓ Entering September, **Republicans had \$233.4 million** across the party, House, and Senate committees. **Democrats had a combined \$129.6 million** cash on hand.
- ✓ Despite the GOP's overall committee cash advantage, **Democratic candidates have outraised Republican opponents** in competitive House and Senate races.
- ✓ Between Labor Day and Election Day, **Republican candidates and outside groups have outspent Democrats in competitive Senate races**, pledging to spend more than \$557 million to Democrats' \$343 million in advertisements. Republicans have reserved \$257 million for competitive House races and Democrats have \$224 million reserved.
- ✓ Cook Political Report's move of Georgia's Senate race to "Likely D" for the final weeks of the 2026 campaign – amid **Sen. Jon Ossoff's (D) sizable fundraising advantage** – signals that the contest is no longer viewed as competitive.

## Committees' Cash on Hand – September

FEC reports as of 8/31/26



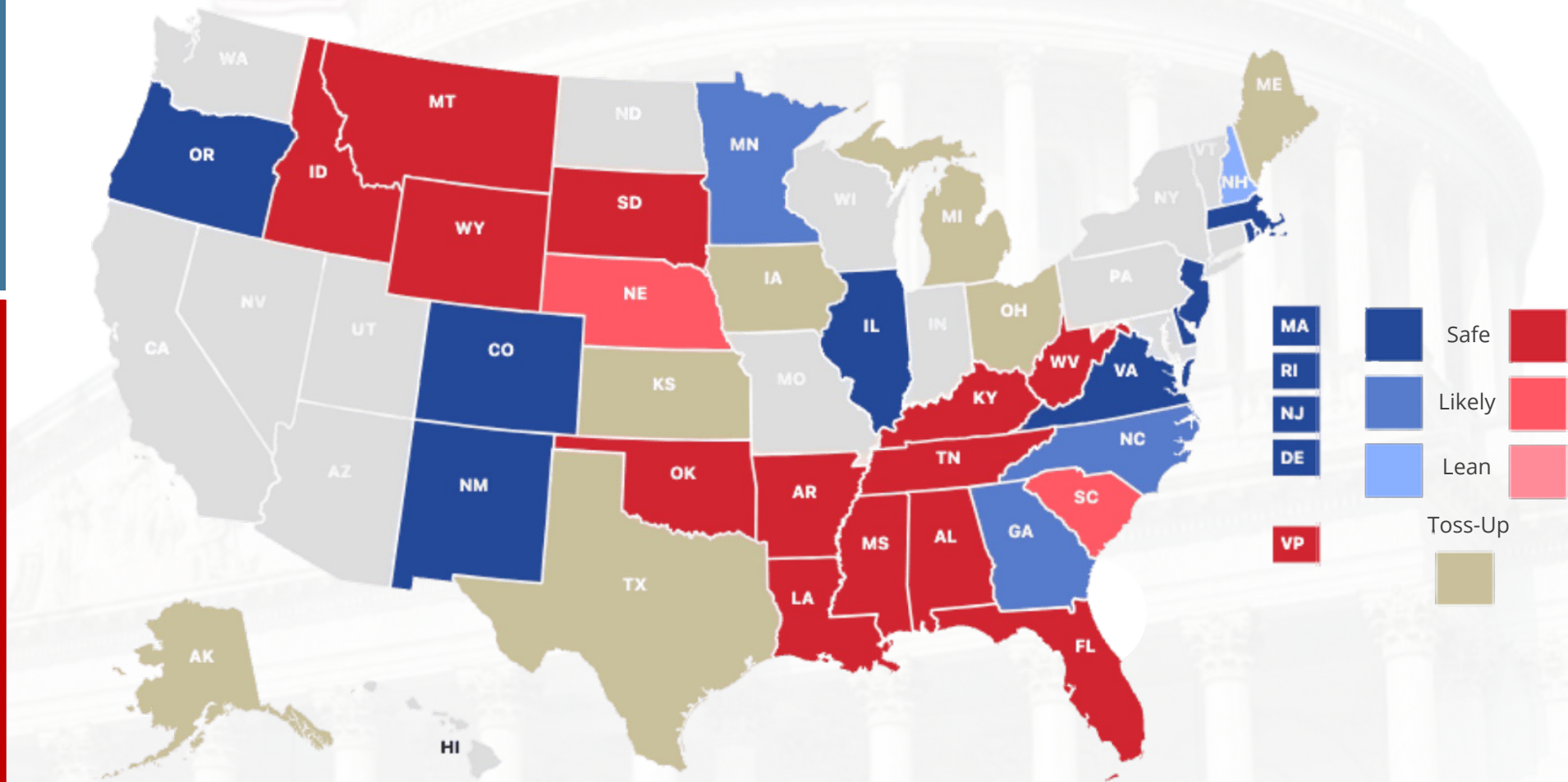
# 120<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS: SENATE PROJECTIONS

## 13 Democrat Seats

- 9** Solid Democrat
- 2** Likely Democrat  
(MN, GA)
- 1** Lean Democrat  
(NH)
- 1** Toss-Up  
(MI)

## 22 Republican Seats

- 13** Solid Republican
- 2** Likely Republican  
(NE, SC)
- 6** Toss-Up  
(ME, OH, AK, IA, TX, KS)
- 1** Likely Democrat  
(NC)



Up in 2026: **13** Democrats | **22** Republicans

# Senate Races to Watch

*Democrats need a net gain of 4 seats to win the majority.*

## Toss Up Races



MAINE

Collins (R) | Toss Up  
*Harris + 6.9*



ALASKA

Sullivan (R) | Toss Up  
*Trump +15*



OHIO

Husted (R) | Toss Up  
*Trump +11*



IOWA

Open | Toss Up  
*Trump + 13.3*



KANSAS

Marshall (R) | Toss Up  
*Trump + 16.2*



TEXAS

Open | Toss Up  
*Trump + 14*



MICHIGAN

Open | Toss Up  
*Trump + 1.4*

## Competitive Races



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Open | Lean D  
*Harris + 2.8*



NORTH CAROLINA

Open | Likely D  
*Trump + 3.2*

# Zoom In: Senate Races to Watch

TOSS UP



MAINE

**Current Polling**Sen. Susan Collins (R) **46%**

v.

Troy Jackson (D) **50%****Fundraising**Collins **\$19 Million**Jackson **\$7 Million****Voter Turnout****60.8%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **40%**

TOSS UP



ALASKA

**Current Polling**Sen. Dan Sullivan (R) **43%**

v.

Mary Pelota (D) **50%****Fundraising**Sullivan **\$11.7 Million**Pelota **\$18.5 Million****Voter Turnout****50.2%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **41%**

TOSS UP



OHIO

**Current Polling**Sen. John Husted (R) **46%**

v.

Sherrod Brown (D) **49%****Fundraising**Husted **\$14.3 Million**Brown **\$38.6 Million****Voter Turnout****47.1%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **38%**

TOSS UP



IOWA

**Current Polling**Rep. Ashley Hinson (R) **48%**

v.

Josh Turek (D) **47%****Fundraising**Hinson **\$10.2 Million**Turek **\$6.3 Million****Voter Turnout****51.9%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **40%**

# Zoom In: Senate Races to Watch

TOSS UP



KANSAS

**Current Polling**Sen. Roger Marshall (R) **45%**

v.

Adam Hamilton (D) **45%****Fundraising**Marshall **\$6.2 Million**Hamilton **\$4.2 Million****Voter Turnout****47.6%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **40%**

TOSS UP



TEXAS

**Current Polling**Ken Paxton (R) **45%**

v.

James Talarico (D) **51%****Fundraising**Paxton **\$9.2 Million**Talarico **\$68.6 Million****Voter Turnout****41.8%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **40%**

TOSS UP



MICHIGAN

**Current Polling**Abdul El-Sayed (D) **50%**

v.

Mike Rogers (R) **49%****Fundraising**El-Sayed **\$14.5 Million**Rogers **\$11 Million****Voter Turnout****58.9%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **40%**

LEAN D



NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Current Polling**Rep. Chris Pappas (D) **50%**

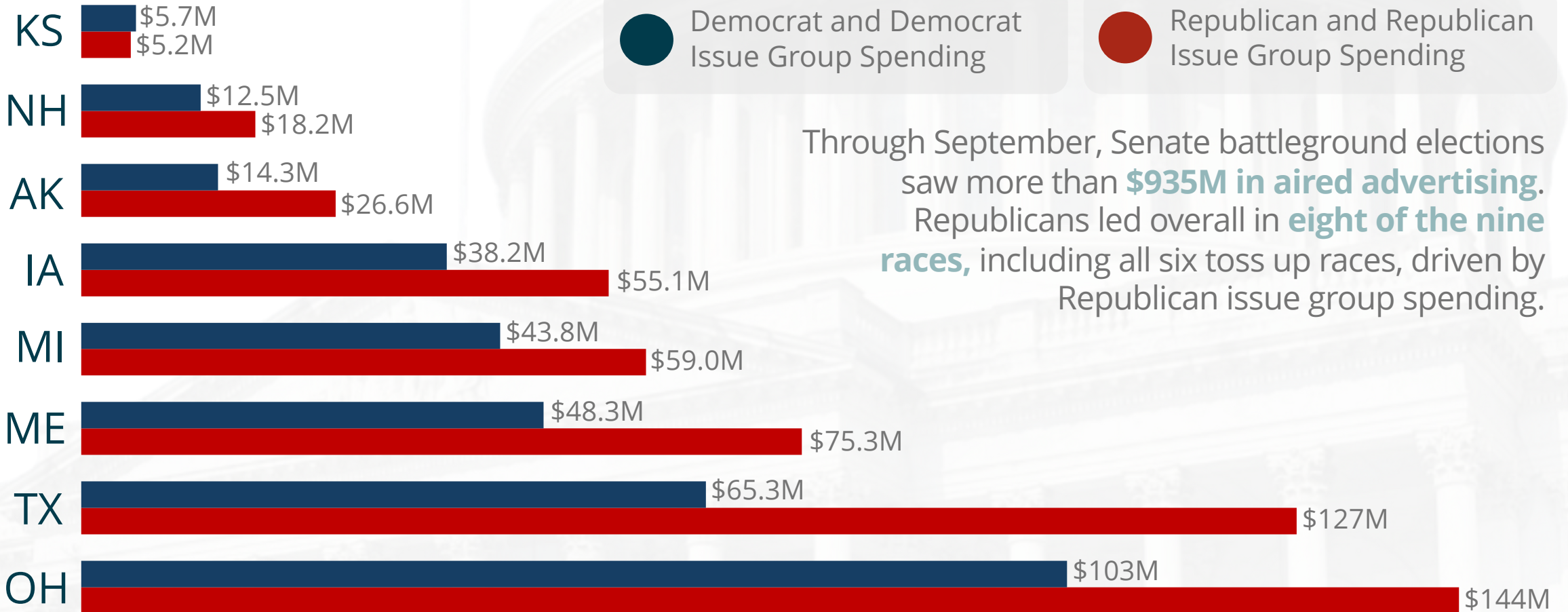
v.

John Sununu (R) **42%****Fundraising**Pappas **\$15.4 Million**Sununu **\$4.2 Million****Voter Turnout****56.3%** of eligible voters in  
the 2022 midterm electionTrump Approval Rating **38%**

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# Senate Battleground Ad Spending

Through September 30



# 120<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS: HOUSE PROJECTIONS

**216**

## Democrat Seats

**182** Solid Democrat

**3** *Solid Republican*

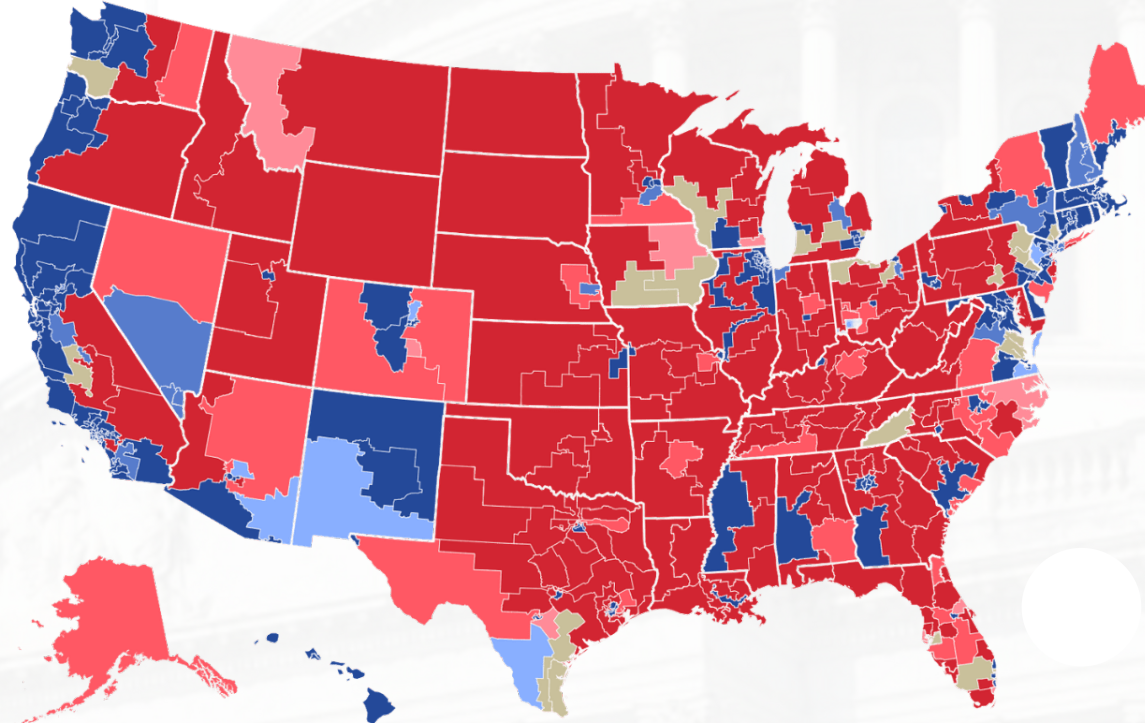
**15** Likely Democrat

**3** *Likely Republican*

**5** Lean Democrat

**2** *Lean Republican*

**6** Toss-Up



Projected Total:

**201** Republican **213** Democrat **21** Toss-Ups

**218** needed for majority

**219**

## Republican Seats

**171** Solid Republican

**3** *Solid Democrat*

**15** Likely Republican

**1** *Likely Democrat*

**7** Lean Republican

**7** *Lean Democrat*

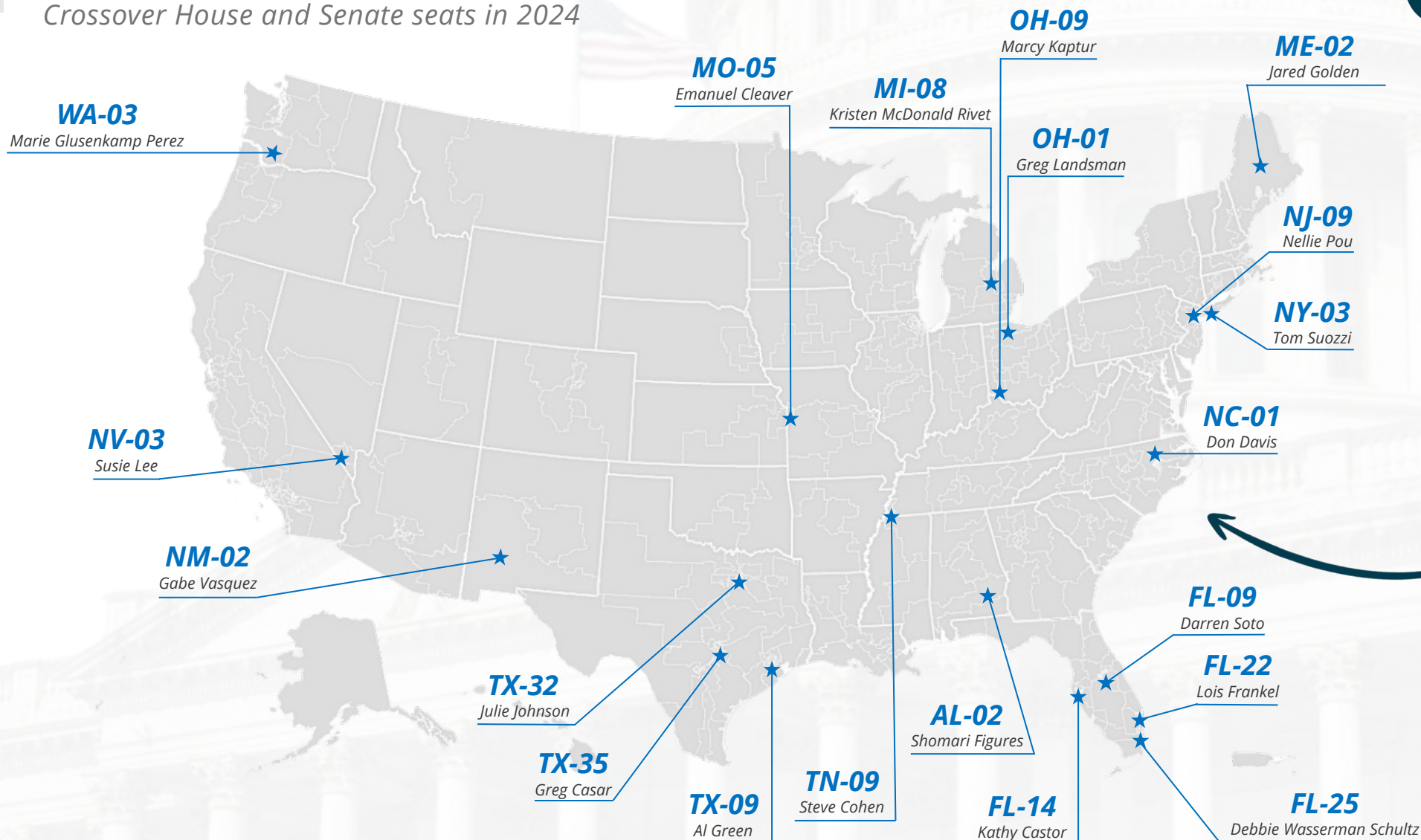
**15** Toss-Up

# Election Year Dynamics

Crossover House and Senate seats in 2024



**Jon Ossoff (GA)** is one of two Democratic senators defending seats in states won by Trump; the other, **Gary Peters (MI)**, is not seeking reelection.

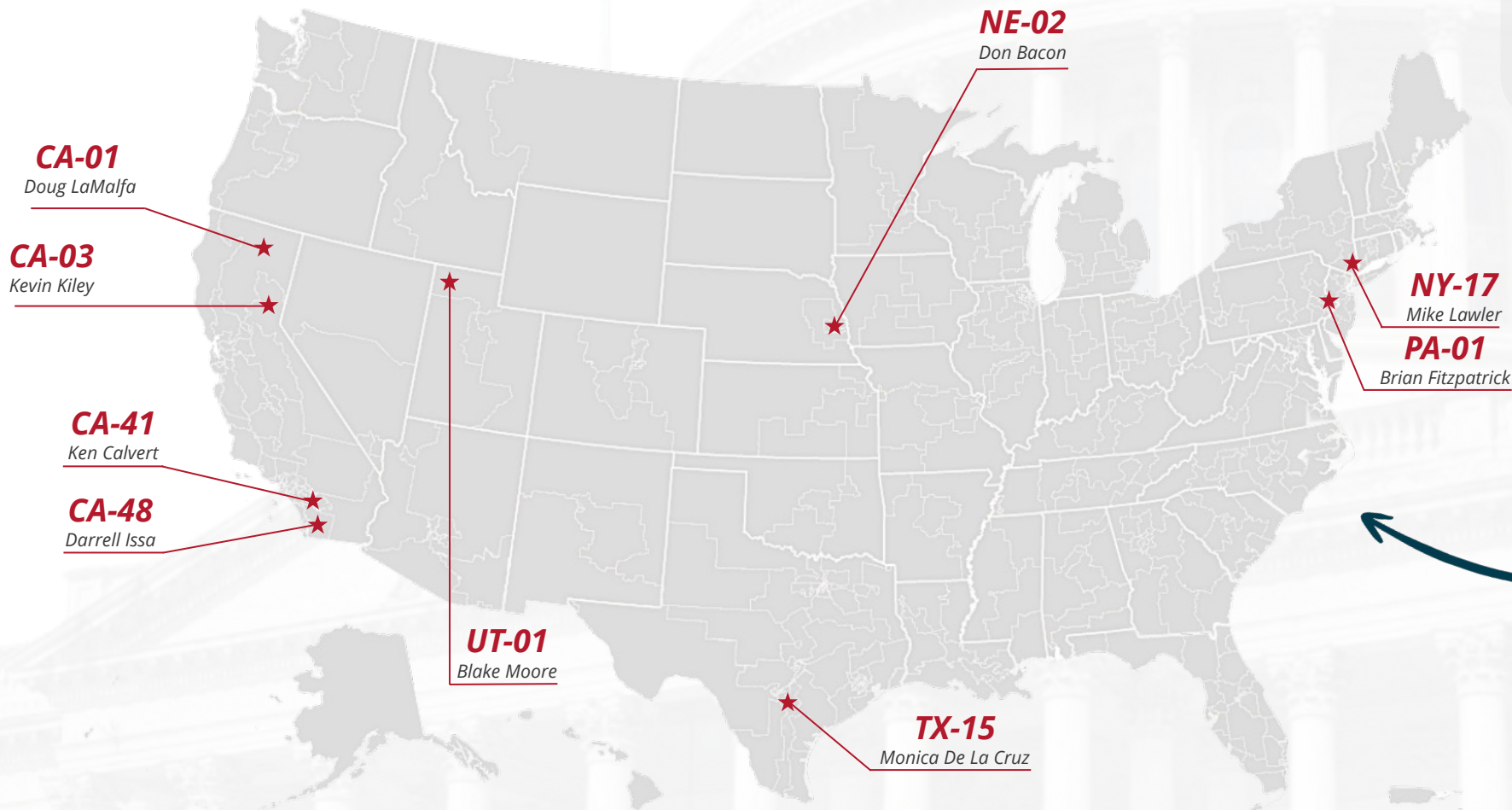


## 20

House Democrats  
in Trump districts

# Election Year Dynamics

Crossover House and Senate seats in 2024



**Susan Collins (ME)**

is the only GOP Senator defending a seat in a state won by Harris.

**9**

House Republicans  
in Harris districts

# House Races to Watch

## LEAN DEMOCRAT

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| AZ-01        | Open (Schweikert)   |
| CA-13        | Gray                |
| CA-48        | Open (Issa)         |
| <b>IA-01</b> | <b>Miller-Meeks</b> |
| <b>IA-03</b> | <b>Nunn</b>         |
| NE-02        | Open (Bacon)        |
| NJ-07        | Kean Jr.            |
| NM-02        | Vasquez             |
| OH-01        | Landsman            |
| <b>PA-07</b> | <b>Mackenzie</b>    |
| <b>PA-10</b> | <b>Perry</b>        |
| TX-28        | Cuellar             |
| <b>WA-03</b> | <b>Perez</b>        |

## TOSS UP SEATS

|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| AZ-06        | Ciscomani            |
| CA-22        | Valadao              |
| CO-08        | Evans                |
| FL-14        | Castor               |
| FL-22        | Open (Frankel)       |
| FL-25        | Moskowitz            |
| <b>IA-02</b> | <b>Open (Hinson)</b> |
| <b>MI-04</b> | <b>Huizenga</b>      |
| MI-07        | Barrett              |
| MI-10        | Open (James)         |
| <b>NC-01</b> | <b>Davis</b>         |
| NC-11        | Open (Edwards)       |
| NY-17        | Lawler               |
| OH-07        | Miller               |
| OH-09        | Kaptur               |
| PA-08        | Bresnahan            |
| TX-15        | De La Cruz           |
| TX-34        | Gonzalez             |
| <b>VA-01</b> | <b>Wittman</b>       |
| VA-02        | Kiggans              |
| WI-03        | Van Orden            |

## LEAN REPUBLICAN

|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| CO-05        | Crank                |
| FL-13        | Luna                 |
| FL-27        | Salazar              |
| <b>KY-06</b> | <b>Open (Barr)</b>   |
| <b>ME-02</b> | <b>Open (Golden)</b> |
| MT-01        | Open (Zinke)         |
| <b>PA-01</b> | <b>Fitzpatrick</b>   |
| TX-35        | Open (Casar)         |
| WI-01        | Steil                |

# Zoom In: House Races to Watch

TOSS-UP



FL-25

**Current Polling**Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D) **40%**

v.

Scott Singer (R) **38%****Ad Spending and Reservations****\$42.2 Million****2024 Presidential Election****Trump +9.2**

TOSS-UP



NC-01

**Current Polling**Rep. Don Davis (D) **47%**

v.

Laurie Buckhout (R) **39%****Ad Spending and Reservations****\$38.8 Million****2024 Presidential Election****Trump +11.6**

LEAN D



IA-01

**Current Polling**Rep. Miller-Meeks (R) **35%**

v.

Christina Bohannon (D) **40%****Ad Spending and Reservations****\$37.4 Million****2024 Presidential Election****Trump +8.4**

TOSS UP



MI-07

**Current Polling**Rep. Tom Barret (R) **47%**

v.

Will Lawrence (D) **49%****Ad Spending and Reservations****\$35.4 Million****2024 Presidential Election****Trump +1.3**

# Zoom In: House Races to Watch

TOSS UP



WI-03

**Current Polling**Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R) **46%**

v.

Rebecca Cooke (D) **50%****Ad Spending and Reservations****\$31.6 Million****2024 Presidential Election****Trump +7.4**

TOSS UP



NY-17

**Current Polling**Rep. Mike Lawler (R) **46%**

v.

Cait Conley (D) **48%****Ad Spending and Reservations****\$32.7 Million****2024 Presidential Election****Harris +0.6**

TOSS UP



TX-34

**Current Polling**Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D) **45%**

v.

Eric Flores (R) **42%****Ad Spending and Reservations****\$30.8 Million****2024 Presidential Election****Trump +10.1**

# Redistricting: Latest Updates

As of 10/9/26



The Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, **limiting the scope and scale of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act**. The decision requires evidence or at least **“a strong inference” of discriminatory intent** in the drawing of legislative lines to prove that a map unfairly discriminates against minority voters.



The decision opened the door for southern states, including Alabama and Tennessee, to **redraw congressional maps**.

While the 2026 redistricting battle has largely concluded, several states are positioning themselves for new districts ahead of 2028.



Georgia and Mississippi are expected to revisit their maps, while Democrats in Colorado and New York are in the process of amending their state constitutions to give them **full control of the redistricting process**. Redrawn maps are still **subject to legal challenges** and must **withstand judicial scrutiny**.

# Redistricting

Recently, a mid-decade redistricting battle has emerged as parties compete for control of the House in 2026. Ohio was the only state mandated to redraw its maps this year.

| State          | How many seats could flip? | Status of new map                        |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Texas          | GOP +3-5                   | Signed into law                          |
| Missouri       | GOP +0                     | Blocked by U.S. Supreme Court            |
| Florida        | GOP +4                     | Signed into law                          |
| Ohio           | GOP +0-3                   | Bipartisan commission enacted new map    |
| North Carolina | GOP +1                     | State legislature enacted new map        |
| California     | Dem +3-5                   | Enacted through statewide ballot measure |
| Utah           | Dem +1                     | Enacted through court order              |
| Virginia       | Dem +0                     | Struck down by VA Supreme Court          |
| Tennessee      | GOP +1                     | Signed into law                          |
| Louisiana      | GOP +1                     | Signed into law                          |
| Alabama        | GOP +1                     | Signed into law                          |

# Redistricting: Potential Scenarios

## Potential Democrat Flips

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| CA-01 | Gallagher    |
| CA-06 | Kiley        |
| UT-01 | Open (Moore) |

## Potential Republican Flips

|       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| AL-02 | Figures        |
| LA-06 | Open (Fields)  |
| TN-09 | Open (Cohen)   |
| TX-09 | Open (Green)   |
| TX-32 | Open (Johnson) |
| TX-35 | Open (Casar)   |

*\*Rep. Kiley is an independent but caucuses with Republicans.*

## Potential Outcome: GOP net +3

**Missouri:** After a new map flipped the 5<sup>th</sup> District into a safe Republican seat, Missouri's Supreme Court directed officials to revert to old district lines. On September 10, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with opponents of the new map, clearing the way for Missouri to keep the districts drawn after the last census. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected another appeal on September 25.

**Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee** signed new maps into law, each flipping a Democratic district in the state into a safe Republican seat.

**Florida:** The state's new map gives Republicans the opportunity to flip four seats, but the races remain highly competitive. The new 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Districts shifted 21 and 18 points, respectively, to the GOP.

Cook Political Report estimates Democrats would need to win **at least twenty percent of toss up seats** to flip control of the House.

# Gubernatorial Elections to Watch

## INCUMBENT RACES



ARIZONA  
Hobbs | Lean D  
Trump + 5.5



OREGON  
Kotek | Lean D  
Harris + 14.3



NEVADA  
Lombardo | Toss Up  
Trump + 3.1



TEXAS  
Abbott | Lean R  
Trump + 14

## OPEN SEAT RACES



MICHIGAN  
Open | Lean D  
Trump + 1.4



WISCONSIN  
Open | Toss Up  
Trump + 0.8



KANSAS  
Open | Lean R  
Trump + 16.2



IOWA  
Open | Lean D  
Trump + 13.3



ALASKA  
Open | Toss Up  
Trump + 15



GEORGIA  
Open | Toss Up  
Trump + 2.2



OHIO  
Open | Toss Up  
Trump + 11



FLORIDA  
Open | Lean R  
Trump + 13

# Election Year Disrupters

*What to lookout for in the second half of 2026 and beyond...*



AI and  
Data Centers



China



Trade



War in  
Iran



Affordability



The  
Unknown

# Look **WAY** Ahead: 2028 Senate Races

**34** Senate seats are up for regular election in 2028—**15** are held by Democrats while **19** are held by Republicans.

*These seats were last contested in the 2022 midterms. Higher voter turnout in a presidential election year may affect the competitiveness of key Senate races.*

