

Inside Elections

With Nathan L. Gonzales

AUGUST 20, 2026

VOLUME 10, NO. 16

Florida Primary Results: Better Late Than Never

By Inshara Ali

With less than three months before the general election, Florida just hosted more than a dozen competitive primaries up and down the ballot that helped shape competitive November races and nominated a few likely new members of Congress.

Here's what happened:

Senate. Ashley Moody, R, appointed 2025. State Rep. Angie Nixon won the Democratic primary, 56-44 percent, over former NSC European Affairs Director Alex Vindman. The result is a significant upset: Nixon spent just \$700,000 to Vindman's \$9 million, and received a fraction of the news coverage of the retired Army lieutenant colonel, who played a major role in Trump's first impeachment. Now she will face the appointed senator, who has led in pre-primary polling. This marks Moody's first senatorial campaign after being appointed to fill Secretary of State Marco Rubio's seat in 2025, and she's weathering some negative headlines about the Hope Florida scandal. But Florida's Baseline of R+10.3 will make it a tough battle for the Democrat, and Republicans will be delighted to hit Nixon over her membership in the Democratic Socialists of America. Solid Republican.

Governor. Open; Ron DeSantis, R, term-limited. Democrat David Jolly and GOP Rep. Byron Donalds will face off in November after winning their primaries with 61 and 48 percent, respectively. In the GOP primary, Donalds led Lt. Gov. Jay Collins, former state House Speaker Paul Renner, and provocateur James Fishback from wire to wire, thanks to an early endorsement from Trump last year. Earlier this month, Donalds launched ads attacking Jolly over LGBT and transgender issues and said in a campaign speech that he will continue to lean on cultural differences against his opponent. Jolly represented Florida's 13th as a Republican and lost the seat in 2016 to former Gov. Charlie Crist (himself a former Republican and gubernatorial candidate). Jolly left the Republican Party in 2018 to register as an independent, citing differences with Trump, and switched his party registration in April 2025 to run as a Democrat in this race. He's chosen former Rep. Gwen Graham, who is also the daughter of former Florida Gov. Bob Graham, as his running

Continued on page 2



2026 House Ratings

Toss-Up (3D, 13R)

AZ1 (Open; Schweikert, R)	IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)	OH 7 (Miller, R)	TX 34 (Gonzalez, D)
AZ 6 (Ciscomani, R)	IA 3 (Nunn, R)	PA 7 (Mackenzie, R)	VA 2 (Kiggans, R)
CO 8 (Evans, R)	MI 7 (Barrett, R)	PA 8 (Bresnahan, R)	WA 3 (Perez, D)
FL25 (Moskowitz, D)	NY 17 (Lawler, R)	PA 10 (Perry, R)	WI 3 (Van Orden, R)

Tilt Democratic (5D, 3R)

CA 13 (Gray, D)	OH 1 (Landsman, D)
CA 48 (Open; Issa, R)	TX 28 (Cuellar, D)
NE2 (Open; Bacon, R)	
NJ 7 (Kean Jr., R)	
NM 2 (Vasquez, D)	
NY 4 (Gillen, D)	

Tilt Republican (2D, 3R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)
FL22 (Open; Frankel, D)
MI10 (Open; James, R)
OH 9 (Kaptur, D)
TX 15 (De La Cruz, R)#

Lean Democratic (6D, 1I)

CA6 (Open; Bera, D/Kiley, I)
CA 45 (Tran, D)#
NH1 (Open; Pappas, D)
NV 1 (Titus, D)
NV 3 (Lee, D)
NY 19 (Riley, D)
NY 3 (Suozzi, D)

Lean Republican (2D, 6R)

CO 5 (Crank, R)#	VA 1 (Wittman, R)
FL 14 (Castor, D)	
IA 2 (Open; Hinson, R)	
MI 4 (Huizenga, R)	
NC 1 (Davis, D)	
NC11 (Open; Edwards, R)	
PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)	

Likely Democratic (7D)

IN 1 (Mryan, D)
NH 2 (Goodlander, D)
MI 3 (Scholten, D)
NJ 9 (Pou, D)#
MN2 (Open; Craig, DFL)
NV 4 (Horsford, D)
VA 7 (Vindman, D)

Likely Republican (4D, 11R)

AK AL (Begich, R)	MT 1 (Open; Zinke, R)
AL 2 (Figures, D)	NV 2 (Open; Amodei, R)#
AZ 2 (Crane, R)	SC 1 (Open; Mace, R)#
CO 3 (Hurd, R)	TX23 (Vacant; Gonzales, R)
FL 7 (Mills, R)	TX 35 (Open; Casar, D)
FL 9 (Soto, D)	
FL 13 (Luna, R)	
FL 27 (Salazar, R)	
KY 6 (Open; Barr, R)#	
ME2 (Open; Golden, D)	

	GOP	DEM
Solid	185	184
Likely/Lean/Tilt	28	22
Total	213	206
Toss-up	16	
Needed for majority	218	

*Takeovers in Italics, # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans*

CALENDAR

Aug. 25	Georgia 13 Special Election
Aug. 25	South Carolina Senate Special GOP Runoff
Sept. 1	Massachusetts Primary
Sept. 8	New Hampshire, Rhode Island Primaries
Sept. 15	Delaware Primary

Continued from page 1

mate. The Democrats are hoping their bipartisan congressional histories will appeal to the red-leaning state in an unfavorable environment for Republicans, but it will be a hard-fought battle in a state that hasn't elected a Democrat for governor in over 30 years. Solid Republican.

Hart Research (D) for Democratic Governors Association, Aug. 10-13 (600 LV)(multimodal) — General election ballot: Jolly over Donalds, 46% - 45%.

2nd District. (Central Panhandle) Open; Neal Dunn, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 59%. Bay County attorney and Senate Judiciary Committee counsel Austin Rogers won the expensive GOP primary to succeed Dunn with 31 percent. He outpaced Panama City lawyer Keith Gross (16 percent), who previously ran a longshot primary bid against GOP Sen. Rick Scott in 2024 and loaned over \$12 million to this campaign. State GOP chairman Evan Power placed third with 16 percent.

International development contractor Amanda Marie Green won the Democratic nomination with 34 percent and is the underdog in a district Trump won by 18 points. Solid Republican.

7th District. (Northern Orlando suburbs and part of Daytona Beach area) Open; Cory Mills, R, lost renomination. Trump 56%. Navy veteran and former NASA Chief of Staff Bale Dalton won the Democratic nomination with 46 percent over nuclear power technician Marialana Kinter (36 percent) and former Rep. Alan Grayson (19 percent), and will face local WOFL newscaster Ryan Elijah after he defeated the incumbent, 47-34 percent. Mills was shunned by some GOP colleagues leading up to the primary as he faced a House Ethics investigation and reports of a DOJ investigation (which he denies). Dalton is a credible candidate but will have a much tougher time against Elijah than the messy Mills, and Republicans are breathing a sigh of relief after tonight's results. Likely Republican.

8th District. (Cape Canaveral area) Mike Haridopolos, R. Trump 58%. The Trump-endorsed incumbent will face Democrat and former Brevard County school board member Jennifer Jenkins in November. While Haridopolos won his 2024 bid by 24 points, Jenkins is one of a few Florida Democrats hoping to capitalize on the state's mid-decade redistricting, which shifted the district several points to the left. Still, Haridopolos has the fundraising advantage at \$1.2 million cash on hand to the Democrat's \$108,000 as of July 29, and was up by 9 points in both his and Jenkins' internal polling. Solid Republican.

9th District. (Orlando suburbs and south-central Florida) Darren Soto, D. Trump 58%. Soto's name recognition in the areas he currently represents is beneficial, and the political environment favors Democrats. But the GOP still has the structural advantage from Gov. Ron DeSantis' redraw, which made this seat much more favorable to Republicans. Either former deputy assistant Secretary of Defense Dan Green or farmer Ben Butler will be the GOP nominee — Green leads Butler by 1 point, or 589 votes, with nearly all of the votes counted. Likely Republican.

11th District. (Western Orlando suburbs and The Villages) Open; Daniel Webster, not seeking re-election. Trump 57%. Democratic attorney and lobbyist James Pericola will face either HVAC company owner Joe Strada or former state Sen. Carey Baker in the Democrats' effort to flip the 11th blue. Strada outtraised all of his competitors in the GOP primary, pulling in \$5.2 million as of July 29, despite Baker receiving the incumbent's endorsement — now the two are separated by just 393 votes with 99 percent counted. While the district leans less towards Republicans post-redistricting, Trump still would have won the 11th by 16 points. Solid Republican.

12th District. (Pasco County and northwest Hillsborough County) Gus Bilirakis, R. Trump 57%. Bilirakis and former Hillsborough County commissioner Kim Overman advanced to the general election in a congressional seat that is noticeably bluer since DeSantis' redraw, going from Trump +34 to +15. But the seat still only contains a small portion of Tampa's Democrats and a much larger share of Republican voters. Overman beat Air Force Col. Darren McAuley, a physician who had outspent her significantly, by 5 points. Solid Republican.

14th District. (Southwest Tampa and southern Hillsborough), Kathy Castor, D. Trump 54%. Former state Rep. Mike Beltran will proceed to the general election against Castor, who is now somewhat of an underdog in a district that no longer includes a large portion of her Democratic base. Beltran beat his wealthier competitor Kevin Steele (46-30 percent) but this is still Castor's toughest race yet. Lean Republican.

16th District. (South St. Petersburg and southeastern Tampa Bay) Open; Vern Buchanan, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 56%. Sydney Gruters, the former executive director of the New College Foundation and the wife of Republican National Committee chairman Joe Gruters, easily won the GOP primary with 64 percent of the

Continued on page 3

Inside Elections

With Nathan L. Gonzales

609 H Street NE, 4th Floor
Washington, DC, 20002

202-546-2822



Nathan L. Gonzales
Editor & Publisher
nathan@insideelections.com
X@nathanlgonzales



Jacob Rubashkin
Deputy Editor
jacob@insideelections.com
X@jacobrubashkin



Inshara Ali
Reporter / Analyst
Inshara@insideelections.com
X@InsideElections



Bradley Wascher
Contributing Data Editor
bradley@insideelections.com
X@bradwascher

Nicholas Demba
Intern

Ashleigh Jones
Intern

Will Taylor
Production Artist
will@insideelections.com

Stuart Rothenberg
Founding Editor
stu@insideelections.com

X@InsideElections [facebook.com/InsideElections](https://www.facebook.com/InsideElections) [YouTube.com/@InsideElections](https://www.youtube.com/@InsideElections)

Copyright 2026, Inside Elections LLC. All rights reserved.

Continued from page 2

vote. Former Sarasota Mayor Kelly Kirschner won the Democratic nomination. He's a credible candidate in a very difficult district. Solid Republican.

19th District. (Naples and Cape Coral area) Open; Byron Donalds, R, running for governor. Trump 58%. Sun Broadcasting President Jim Schwartzel emerged victorious in a clown-car primary that included former North Carolina congressman Madison Cawthorn, pardoned-Jan. 6 rioter John Strand, former Illinois House and Senate GOP nominee/state Sen. Jim Oberweis, former New York congressman Chris Collins and former Illinois congressional nominee Catalina Lauf, who had been endorsed by Trump. Schwartzel, the most prominent candidate to hail from the district, won 29 percent of the vote. Attorney Victor Arias won the Democratic nomination at 46 percent but won't win the general election. Solid Republican.



Jim Schwartzel

Courtesy Schwartzel Campaign

20th District. (North Lauderdale and parts of inland Fort Lauderdale) Vacant; Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, D, resigned. Harris 68%. Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz won the Democratic nomination in a dramatic primary. The race was dominated by her controversial decision to run in the plurality-Black district after her 25th District was redrawn, and Cherfilus-McCormick resigned ahead of a House ethics probe into her campaign finances. Wasserman-Schultz won with 45 percent to former Broward County Mayor Dale Holness' 23 percent, organizer Elijah Manley's 14 percent, Cherfilus-McCormick's 9 percent, and former 2 Live Crew rapper Luther Campbell's 8 percent. Solid Democratic.

22nd District. (Inland Palm Beach and western suburbs to the Marco Island area across the Everglades) Open; Lois Frankel, D, running in the 23rd District. Trump 55%. Restaurant franchise owner/Marine veteran Casey Askar won the GOP primary with 31 percent, ahead of fintech investor Michael Carbonara and Keiser University vice chancellor Belinda Keiser. The race was expensive and combative — all three Republicans self-funded at least \$2.5 million. Askar, who lost a close and personally vicious 2020 primary to Byron Donalds in the 19th District, will face Democrat Pia Dandiya, a former Apple manager and high school principal who won her primary with 69 percent of the vote. Tilt Republican.

24th District. (Inland Miami Beach area and western Hollywood) Open; Frederica Wilson, D, not seeking re-election. Harris 69%. Miami-Dade Commissioner Oliver Gilbert won the Democratic nomination to succeed Wilson, narrowly outpacing state Sen. Shevrin Jones. Gilbert had the endorsement of the outgoing congresswoman but faced millions of dollars in negative advertising funded by cryptocurrency companies. Kendrick Meek Jr., the son of former Rep. Kendrick Meek, came in third, followed by physician Rudy Moise. Solid Democratic.

25th District. (Coastal Boca Raton to Miami Beach area) Jared Moskowitz, D. Trump 54%. Moskowitz defeated progressive challenger Oliver Larkin, 64 to 37 percent. Larkin had been endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America and rallied with Hasan Piker and Rep. Rashida Tlaib in the closing weeks of the race. Now Moskowitz will go up against GOP nominee Scott Singer, the Boca Raton mayor who outran state Rep. George Moraitis, 31-27 percent. The district was drawn by Republicans to elect a Republican. Toss-up.

27th District. (Miami and southern suburbs) Maria Elvira Salazar, R. Trump 57%. Former CBS News Miami anchor Elliott Rodriguez defeated prosecutor Robin Peguero in the Democratic primary, 54 to 47 percent, while the incumbent won the GOP nomination by 81 percent. Salazar has been among the most eager Republicans in Congress to distance herself from some of Trump's immigration policies, but Rodriguez is hoping to capitalize on a Democratic rebound among Hispanic voters to put this race in play. Likely Republican. **IE**

Governor Report Shorts

Alaska. Open; Mike Dunleavy (R), term-limited. Two Democrats have secured their spots in the general election as Alaska continues to tally votes: former state Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (22 percent) and former state Sen. Tom Begich (20 percent). Two additional candidates will win a spot on November's ranked choice ballot; currently in third and fourth place are Republicans Bernadette Wilson at 10 percent and Dave Bronson at 8 percent, but former state Attorney General Treg Taylor is just behind at 7 percent. A Democratic upset is possible, but Republicans still maintain an edge in the state. Likely Republican.

Connecticut. Ned Lamont (D), elected 2018 (49.4%), 2022 (56%). Lamont endured a primary challenge from progressive state Rep. Josh Elliott, winning 68-32 percent. Twenty years ago, Lamont defeated Sen. Joe Lieberman in the Democratic primary by running to the incumbent's left. Lamont faces GOP state Sen. Ryan Fazio in the general election. There's always a chance of some fatigue for governors seeking a third term, but Lamont is the favorite. Solid Democratic.

Hawaii. Josh Green (D), elected 2022 (63%). The incumbent fended off three primary challengers with 89 percent of the vote, and will face Republican contractor Gary Cordery in November. Green is the heavy favorite in this race, and the state has only elected two Republican governors: William Quinn in 1959 and Linda Lingle in 2002 and 2006. Solid Democratic.

Idaho. Brad Little (R), elected 2018 (60%), 2022 (61%). Former state Supreme Court Justice John Stegner is running as an independent after spending his judicial career as a Republican. Little has long had detractors on his right flank, and was held to just 59 percent of the vote in the GOP primary against an underfunded opponent best known for running a conservative-themed restaurant in Eagle, Idaho. But Stegner is running to the middle, and may be trying to ease Democratic nominee Terri Pickens out of the race. Little won a three-way race with 60 percent in 2022, so complex general elections are nothing new to him. Solid Republican.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Change Research (D) for Stegner (I), July 28–30 (1,213 LV)— General election ballot: Little 48%, Pickens 27%, Stegner 11%; Little over Stegner, 47% - 34%.

Minnesota. Open; Tim Walz (DFL), not seeking re-election. Sen. Amy Klobuchar won the DFL nomination comfortably with 90 percent and will face Republican state House Speaker Lisa Demuth in the general election. Demuth (43 percent) finished well ahead of MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell (33 percent), who was endorsed by President Donald Trump, and Kendall Qualls (21 percent), who won the state party endorsement. Walz isn't leaving office on a wave of popularity, but Klobuchar is the considerable favorite in November. Likely Democratic.

New Mexico. Open; Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), term-limited. Former Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima, who was running as an independent, dropped out of the race and endorsed Republican/former Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull. Miyagishima was having trouble qualifying for the ballot. It's still a tough road for Hull against former Interior Secretary/former congresswoman Deb Haaland in a Democratic year in a Democratic state. Likely Democratic.

McLaughlin & Associates (R) for Hull, July 13–15 (400 LV) — General election ballot: Haaland over Hull, 46% - 45%.

Ohio. Open; Mike DeWine (R), term-limited. GOP nominee Vivek Ramaswamy and his allied super PAC have spent roughly \$20 million on negative advertising, largely unanswered, against Democratic nominee Amy Acton since early June. But the former health department director, who only began advertising on TV in mid-August, has weathered the deluge, with public and private polling continuing to show a tied race. Democrats have won the summer in Ohio for several elections before falling short in the autumn, but Acton, along with Sherrod Brown, looks as competitive as any statewide candidate since 2018. Lean Republican.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw & Co. Research (R) for Fox News, Aug. 6–10 (1,008 RV)(live caller/text-to-web)— Ramaswamy over Acton, 50% - 48%.

Tulchin Research (D) for John Kulewicz Attorney General campaign, July 29–Aug. 4 (600 LV)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 46% - 44%.

The New York Times/Siena Univ., June 15–28 (601 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Ramaswamy and Acton tied at 47%.

Tennessee. Open; Bill Lee (R), term-limited. Sen. Marsha Blackburn won the GOP nomination and is likely to be the next governor of the Volunteer State, but her performance exhibited more of the Beltway drag. Blackburn received roughly the same percentage of the vote as her Colorado colleague, Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet, but she got to run against two opponents rather than facing a one-on-one matchup. Blackburn received 43 percent, followed by Rep. John Rose (33 percent) and state Rep. Monty Fritts (23 percent). Rose may have also suffered from voters' lack of faith in Washington, DC. Democrats nominated Memphis City Councilor Jerri Green, but Blackburn is the heavy favorite. If elected, she'd get to appoint her successor in the Senate. Keep an eye on Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, a former WWE wrestler under the name of Kane. Solid Republican.

Texas. Greg Abbott (R), elected 2014 (59%), 2018 (56%), 2022 (55%). Democratic state Rep. Gina Hinojosa has been able to stay close to the incumbent for much of the race, but Abbott is in the be-

ginning stages of unleashing his financial advantage. If he's not able to put some distance between himself and his challenger in the next couple weeks, then it shows Republicans have deeper problems in the Lone Star State. Likely Republican.

Emerson College for Nexstar, August 9–10 (1,000 LV) (online panel/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 49% - 45%.

Cygnal (R), July 29–31 (800 LV)— General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 49% - 46%.

Vermont. Phil Scott (R), elected 2016 (53%), 2018 (55%), 2020 (69%), 2022 (71%), 2024 (73%). Amanda Janoo, the co-founder of the Wellbeing Economic Alliance of Vermont, won a narrow Democratic primary victory over nonprofit CEO Aly Richards, 49–47 percent. Janoo is a heavy underdog against Scott, a popular liberal Republican. The more competitive race will be for lieutenant governor, where former Lt. Gov. Molly Gray is attempting to win her old job back from Republican incumbent John Rodgers. Solid Republican.

Univ. of New Hampshire, July 15–20 (954 LV)(online panel/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Scott 44%, Janoo 33%, Goodband 2%.

Wisconsin. Tony Evers (D), not seeking re-election. In a race with more twists and turns than a ride at Mt. Olympus, Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley emerged victorious over state Rep. Francesca Hong in the Democratic primary, 39.8 percent to 39.3 percent. The win is a stunning comeback for Crowley, who dropped out of the race just a month ago in an effort to consolidate the vote behind Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez and arrest the surging momentum of Hong, a democratic socialist. But then Rodriguez dropped out, Crowley jumped back in and former Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes dropped out instead. Evers himself deserves a lot of credit for Crowley's win — he endorsed him and barnstormed the state, telling anyone who would listen that Hong was too far to the left to win a general election. Hong's old tweets and rocky national interviews didn't help her case in the closing days either. While her loss is a blow to progressives on a high after the Michigan Senate primary, moderate Democrats shouldn't overread the results or ignore the anti-establishment anger rippling through their party. If just a few thousand votes had gone the other way, the narrative would have been completely different.

Crowley will face Rep. Tom Tiffany, who won his primary against nominal opposition, in one of the most competitive gubernatorial races in the country. Toss-up.

Platform Communications for Badger Battleground, Aug. 12–13 (500 LV)(live caller) — General election ballot: Crowley over Tiffany, 48% - 44%.

GBAO (D) for Protect Our Wisconsin, July 30 - Aug. 3 (800 LV) — General election ballot: Crowley over Tiffany, 47% - 44%.

Wyoming. Open; Mark Gordon (R), term-limited. Republican state Sen. Eric Barlow won the GOP nomination with 45 percent, while 30 percent went to the Trump-endorsed Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder and 24 percent to Marine veteran Brent Bien. Barlow is much more aligned with the outgoing Gordon than Degenfelder or Bien, who both had support from the Wyoming Freedom Caucus, which represents the most conservative wing of the state party. Barlow will face Kenneth Casner, who was the only Democrat running in the gubernatorial race. Wyoming is deeply red with a Baseline of R +44.9, and the Democrat has yet to raise any money. Solid Republican.

House Report Shorts

Alabama's 2nd District. (Montgomery and southeastern Alabama) Shomari Figures, D. Trump 57%. A DCCC poll found Figures running neck-and-neck with GOP opponent Rhett Marques, despite the district being redrawn to elect a Republican. The poll also found former Sen. Doug Jones leading Sen. Tommy Tuberville in the gubernatorial race by 3 points in the district. Likely Republican.

DCCC Analytics (D) for DCCC, July 29-30 (421 LV)(live caller/text-to-web) — General election ballot: Figures and Marques tied at 46%.

Alaska At-Large. Nick Begich, R, elected 51%. Trump 55%.

The incumbent (46 percent) and independent Bill Hill (31 percent) will advance to Alaska's general election.

Republicans are hoping to portray the independent as a secret Democrat; the Bristol Bay fisherman has declined to say who he'll caucus with if elected but the DCCC did put out a statement supporting



Bill Hill

Courtesy Hill Campaign

him this week. Democrat Matt Schultz received 8 percent of the primary vote, despite dropping his bid ahead of the election and endorsing Hill. Another Democrat, perennial candidate Eric Hafner, is at 4 percent despite being incarcerated in New York and never having been to Alaska. The incumbent has the advantage here, but the state's independent-minded electorate and absence of a major Democrat on the ballot will make things interesting. Likely Republican.

Data for Progress (D), July 28-Aug. 4 (605 LV)(sms/web panel)—General election ballot: Begich over Hill, 47% - 37%.

California's 14th District. (Southern East Bay) Vacant; Eric Swalwell, D, resigned. State Sen. Aisha Wahab is running slightly ahead of former Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez in the special election to succeed Swalwell. She leads 51-49 percent with a bit more than half of the vote counted. That represents a big improvement for Hernandez from the special primary, when she trailed 38-17 percent. Her jump is in part thanks to nearly \$2.5 million in spending by AIPAC's super PAC, which supported Hernandez. Wahab received some support from American Priorities, which supports pro-Palestinian candidates. The special election isn't the end of the story either; Wahab and Hernandez will face each other in the general election in a slightly different district that includes a bit more of Dublin. Solid Democratic.

California's 21st District. (Fresno area) Jim Costa, D. Harris 52%. Costa, 74, isn't a particularly strong incumbent. He won just 42 percent of the vote in the all-party primary, with 15 percent going to other Democratic candidates, and NOTUS reported earlier this year that in 2023 he had been accused of making inappropriate advances to congressional interns (the House Ethics Committee dismissed the case for lack of evidence). But a favorable political environment is more than enough to keep Costa afloat, especially as national GOP groups look elsewhere following California's mid-decade redistricting.

Republican opponent Kyle Kirkland, who owns a local casino and was the longtime chairman of Steinway Musical Instruments, hasn't put any of his personal wealth into his campaign and trailed Costa, \$937,000 to \$18,000, in cash-on-hand on June 30. Move from Likely Democratic to Solid Democratic.

California's 34th District. (Downtown Los Angeles and nearby neighborhoods) Jimmy Gomez, D. Harris 73%. The House Ethics Committee acknowledged it had opened an investigation into Gomez over allegations of sexual misconduct, two months after CNN first reported on the existence of the inquiry. Gomez previously admitted to "personal mistakes outside [his] marriage" but denied breaking any House rules or laws. He faces a general election challenge from progressive Angela Gonzales-Torres, who won 31 percent of the vote in the all-party primary and is backed by Justice Democrats. In his last three Democrat-vs-Democrat races, Gomez has never won by double-digits, so this is a contest to watch even though it doesn't affect the majority. Solid Democratic.

California's 45th District. (Western Orange County) Derek Tran, D. Harris 51%. Tran received an endorsement from the California Fraternal Order of Police, even though his Republican opponent, former Cerritos Mayor Chuong Vo, spent three decades as a police officer. Tran enjoyed a \$3.3 million to \$75,000 cash-on-hand advantage over Vo as of June 30; that means the Republican will need lots of outside help to break through in the brutally expensive Los Angeles media market. With other California districts looking more competitive, this one is not a priority. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

Colorado's 5th District. (Colorado Springs area) Jeff Crank, R, elected 55%. Trump 53%. Army veteran and Democratic political operative Jessica Killin continues to poll closely to Crank, and had a financial advantage over the Republican as of June 30. Colorado Springs continues to march leftward and the political environment for Colorado Republicans is expected to be brutal with minister Victor Marx leading the ticket as gubernatorial nominee. Killin is a stronger opponent than Crank faced in 2024, and at least two third-party candidates will appear on the ballot as well. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Connecticut's 1st District. (Hartford area) Open; John Larson, D, lost renomination. Harris 61%. Adding to the growing list of House incumbents losing primaries, former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin defeated Larson 54-33 percent. The result wasn't a surprise, but also doesn't fit neatly into the narrative about progressive challengers knocking off incumbents. Larson, 78, had progressive bona fides but Bronin, 47, made a generational case about the need for change and Democratic primary voters responded. He'll be a member next year. Solid Democratic.

Hawaii's 1st District. (Honolulu) Ed Case, D, re-elected 65%. Harris 62%. The incumbent decisively beat his Democratic challenger, progressive state Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, 59-37 percent, and is expected to return to Congress next year. Solid Democratic.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Idaho's 1st District. (Idaho Panhandle and western Boise area) Russ Fulcher, R, re-elected 71%. Trump 71%. Retired Air Force Major General Sarah Zabel is running as an independent against Fulcher. A former Republican, Zabel left the party in 2018 when she retired from her post as director of information technology acquisition process development in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. Democrats nominated Kaylee Peterson, a jeweler who has lost back-to-back races to Fulcher by 45 and 46 percent. As long as Peterson is in the race, there's nothing interesting here. If she drops out and Zabel starts raising money, the dynamic could shift though Fulcher is still the heavy, heavy favorite. Solid Republican.

Change Research (D) for John Stegner gubernatorial campaign (I), July 28-29 (606 LV)— General election ballot: Fulcher 48%, Peterson 27%, Zabel 5%; Fulcher over Zabel, 46% - 26%.

SurveyUSA for Sarah Zabel (I), July 7-14 (700 RV) (multimodal) — General election ballot: Fulcher 45%, Peterson 35%, Zabel 6%.

Illinois' 4th District. (Southwestern Chicago and parts of inner western suburbs) Open; Chuy Garcia, D, not seeking re-election. Harris 63%. A survey conducted by the Bullfinch Group for the Independent Center found a fluid four-way race between outgoing Rep. Garcia's chief of staff Patty Garcia (34 percent), Republican Lupe Castillo (15 percent), Lyons Mayor Chris Getty (9 percent), and Working Class Party nominee Ed Hershey (4 percent). Patty Garcia ruffled feathers in the district after she clinched the Democratic nomination without any opposition thanks to Chuy Garcia's last-minute withdrawal from the race. Getty, a Democrat, launched his independent bid in response. Two other



Patty Garcia

Courtesy Garcia Campaign

Democrats, Chicago Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez and political strategist Mayra Macias, were denied ballot access as independents after failing to turn in sufficient valid signatures. Sigcho-Lopez is appealing the decision. The 4th has a Republican Baseline of 26.6 percent, so even if Castillo — who has not raised any money for her campaign — can consolidate the GOP vote, that still won't be enough for a win. Hershey was on the ballot in 2024 and won 5 percent, leaving 70 percent of the vote up for grabs between Garcia and Getty. Solid Democratic.

The Bullfinch Group for the Independent Center, July 31-Aug. 3 (653 RV)(live caller/sms)— General election ballot: Garcia 34%, Castillo 15%, Getty 9%, Hershey 4%.

Kansas' 2nd District. (Topeka, Kansas City, and parts of eastern Kansas) Derek Schmidt, R, elected 57%. Trump 59%. Veteran, rancher and veterinarian Don Coover was unopposed in the Democratic primary and will now face Schmidt in November. This district remains off the board but Coover's intriguing profile makes it one to watch. Solid Republican.

Kansas' 4th District. (Wichita and south central Kansas) Ron Estes, R, re-elected 65%. Trump 61%. Democratic nominee Katy Tyndell is a Stanford-educated attorney who works for the Wichita oil and gas company her grandfather founded half a century ago. That's a compelling profile but hasn't translated into financial strength yet. She'll need money and a wave election to compete in such a difficult district. Solid Republican.

Kentucky's 6th District. (Greater Lexington area) Open; Andy Barr, R, running for Senate. Trump 57%. A DCCC Analytics poll conducted July 29-30 found Democrat Zach Dembo and Republican Ralph Alvarado tied at 47 percent. That might be a little rosy for Dembo, whose own polling a month earlier found Alvarado with a 3 point lead, 42-39 percent. But Barr has clearly made this district look more Republican than it acts in other races. Now that he's not running for re-election, that could give Democrats an opportunity in a favorable political environment — though his presence at the top of the ticket as the GOP's Senate nominee can't hurt Alvarado. Dembo has shown some greenness as a first-time candidate; Republicans seized on a recent interview clip in which he poked fun at his inability to hold down a job. But in this political environment, he's making the race interesting. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Michigan's 1st District. (Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula) Jack Bergman, R, re-elected 59%. Trump 60%. Bergman weathered a feud with a handful of state GOP legislators in his district to win 74 percent of the primary vote. Former Jones Day attorney Callie Barr is the Democratic nominee again; she lost to Bergman 59-38 percent in 2024 but is hoping that frustration with Congress helps her perform better against the 79-year-old incumbent this time around. Solid Republican.

Minnesota's 1st District. (Southern Minnesota) Brad Finstad, R, re-elected 59%. Trump 55%. Teacher Jake Johnson is running a credible campaign against Finstad, and has outraised the incumbent since the beginning of the year. A strong performance from Sen. Amy Klobuchar in the state's gubernatorial race could lift Democratic fortunes even in more difficult parts of the state. But Finstad starts the stretch run in good shape. Solid Republican.

Minnesota's 2nd District. (Southern Minneapolis-St. Paul suburbs) Open; Angie Craig, DFL, running for Senate. Harris 52%. The DFL-endorsed former state Sen. Matt Little (47 percent) defeated primary challengers state Sen. Matt Klein (30 percent) and state Rep. Kaela Berg (17 percent). Little, who ran as an unabashed progressive, will face state Sen. Eric Pratt, who was unopposed in the Republican primary. Likely DFL.

Nevada's 2nd District. (Reno area and northern Nevada) Mark Amodei, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 56%. Under normal circumstances the 2nd District shouldn't be competitive for Democrats. But the combination of a favorable political environment and unique candidate dynamics is making the vast, rural seat look at least a little intriguing. Republicans nominated Air Force veteran David Flippo, who previously waged unsuccessful races for state House and US House in Southern Nevada's Clark County. Flippo beat Amodei's preferred successor, former state Sen. James Settlemeyer, in the GOP primary, and Amodei has been vocal about his displeasure, refusing to endorse Flippo and casting aspersions on his connection to the district. Democratic nominee

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Teresa Benitez-Thompson, the former state Assembly majority leader, is a credible candidate but will need to raise more money to build out her campaign team. While she and Flippo reported similar amounts in the bank at the end of June, the Republican has personal resources to put into his campaign. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

New Hampshire's 1st District. (Eastern New Hampshire) Open; Chris Pappas, D, running for Senate. Harris 50%. The Republican field got a little clearer as local GOP leader Melissa Bailey dropped out and endorsed auto dealer Anthony DiLorenzo, who is backed by Trump. DiLorenzo still has to get past ironworks owner Holly Noveletsky and state Rep. Brian Cole in the late primary. On the Democratic side, former Portsmouth city councilor Stefany Shaheen and Marine veteran Maura Sullivan have been up on TV since the beginning of July. VoteVets has also spent nearly \$1 million to boost Sullivan. There might be room for a progressive candidate to shoot the gap between the two better-funded frontrunners, but that lane is crowded as well. Army National Guard officer and former Airbnb lawyer Christian Urrutia is the best-funded progressive candidate and the only one airing broadcast TV ads. But state Rep. Heath Howard has backing from several local officeholders and the regional DSA chapter. Lean Democratic.

New Jersey's 9th District. (Urban North Jersey and western New York City suburbs) Nellie Pou, D, elected 51%. Trump 49%. Pou is in a tougher re-election than she anticipated when she stepped in to fill the late Bill Pascrell's spot on the ticket in 2024. But things don't look as dire for her as they did in the immediate aftermath of 2024, when Trump carried her district and the longtime state legislator came within a few points of losing to an underfunded conspiracy theorist perennial candidate. Private polling shows Pou comfortably ahead of her GOP opponent, Clifton Councilwoman Rosie Pino. And with \$1.7 million in the bank on June 30, Pou is in a much better financial position than in 2024, when she had just two months to raise and spend \$490,000. Pino had less than \$40,000 in the bank on June 30 and can't expect help from outside groups in the pricey New York media market. Move from Lean Democratic to Likely Democratic.



Nellie Pou

Courtesy Pou Campaign

North Carolina's 11th District. (Western North Carolina) Open; Chuck Edwards, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 54%. State Rep. Jennifer Balkcom will replace Rep. Chuck Edwards for the GOP pick for the 11th District after the House Ethics committee into Edwards' "persistent unprofessional and inappropriate conduct" towards two young female staffers.

Balkcom ran for the 117th House district, which constitutes most of Henderson County, after former state Rep. Tim Moffitt — whose name was also floated as the GOP pick for Senate this cycle — launched his bid to fill Edwards' empty seat in the North Carolina Senate after Edwards' first successful congressional bid in 2022. Balkcom won the GOP primary by less than 200 votes, and defeated Democrat Michael

Incumbents Defeated in 2026 Primaries

14 incumbents have failed to win renomination so far, with a few states remaining

State	Office/District	Name	Party	Vote Share
Louisiana	Senate	Bill Cassidy	Republican	25%
Texas (Runoff)	Senate	John Cornyn	Republican	36%
Colorado	1st District	Diana DeGette	Democratic	40%
Connecticut	1st District	John Larson	Democratic	33%
Florida	7th District	Cory Mills	Republican	34%
Kentucky	4th District	Thomas Massie	Republican	45%
Michigan	13th District	Shri Thanedar	Democratic	48%
New York	10th District	Dan Goldman	Democratic	34%
New York	13th District	Adriano Espaillat	Democratic	46%
Tennessee	5th District	Andy Ogles	Republican	47%
Texas	2nd District	Dan Crenshaw	Republican	41%
Texas	23rd District	Tony Gonzales	Republican	42%
Texas (Runoff)	18th District	Al Green	Democratic	31%
Texas (Runoff)	33rd District	Julie Johnson	Democratic	46%

Source: Nicholas Demba, Inside Elections

O'Shea, 59 to 41 percent, in the general election. Despite Balkcom's conservative history in the state legislature, including her votes to ban abortions in the state and against gender-affirming care for the incarcerated, records show she voted in the 2012 and 2016 Democratic primaries. The Assembly reported Balkcom changed her party affiliation from Libertarian to Democrat in 2005 and switched to the Republican party in 2016.

Balkcom's nomination is mixed news for Democratic challenger Jamie Ager, who stood to benefit from Edwards' scandal. Democratic internal polling had Ager with a single-point lead over Edwards, 45 to 44 percent, a margin signaling a competitive election in a district with a Baseline of R+9.6. Lean Republican.

Ohio's 7th District. (Southern Cleveland suburbs) Max Miller, R. Trump 55%. The serious accusations of domestic abuse against Miller make this a winnable race for Democratic ironworker Brian Poindexter. In the immediate aftermath of the latest allegations, which Miller denies, the congressman's support has fallen sharply. But now that Miller has made clear he will be on the ballot this fall, Republicans may begin to fall back in line. Miller can afford some defections but not many. Toss-up.

Bedrock Polling (D) for Iron Workers International/The Next 50, Aug. 7-10 (866 LV)(sms/online panel)— General election ballot: Poindexter over Miller, 43% - 35%.

co/efficient (R), Aug. 5-6 (615 LV)— General election ballot: Poindexter over Miller, 47% - 33%.

Tavern Research, Aug. 4-5 (635 LV)(online panel/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Poindexter over Miller, 54% - 46%.

Ohio's 15th District. (Southwestern Columbus area) Mike Carey, R. Trump 55%. A Hart Research poll for the campaign of Democrat Don Leonard, a former college professor, found Leonard trailing Carey by 4 points but with a large share of the vote going to Libertarian Brennan Barrington. A previous Democratic poll showed Leonard with 40 percent. Those numbers aren't enough to win, and Democrats are likely to invest in several other Ohio races before this one. Solid Republican.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Hart Research Associates (D) for Don Leonard, Aug. 6-9 (401 LV)—
General election ballot: Carey 41%, Leonard 37%, Barrington 10%.

Hart Research Associates (D) for House Majority PAC, June 23-25—
General election ballot: Carey 45%, Leonard 40%, Barrington 3%.

Pennsylvania's 7th District. (Lehigh Valley) Ryan Mackenzie, R, elected 51%. Trump 51%. The state Green Party and local Democrats are attempting to stop Bethlehem sales professional Andrew Tupone from appearing on the ballot as the Green Party nominee after he filed petitions to run. Tupone, a registered Republican until earlier this year, ran for a local judgeship as a Republican in 2021 and Democrats accuse him of being part of a GOP-led ploy to siphon off votes from Democratic nominee Bob Brooks in a close general election. Tupone denies the charge and has retained a prominent Republican elections lawyer to fight the challenge. Toss-up.

South Carolina's 1st District. (Coastal South Carolina and Charleston suburbs) Open; Nancy Mace, R, ran for governor. Trump 56%. Retired Navy Vice Admiral Nancy Lacore has leveraged her military service and firing by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to become a strong fundraiser, and ended June with a \$412,000 to \$78,000 advantage over Charleston



Nancy Lacore

Courtesy Lacore Campaign

County councilor Jenny Costa Honeycutt. This is still a district drawn to elect a Republican, but the race is worth watching. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

GQR (D) for HMP, July 15-22 — General election ballot: Honeycutt 43%, Lacore 41%, Reeside 5%, Ellis 2%. Honeycutt over Lacore, 50% - 48%.

Tennessee's 5th District. (Nashville suburbs up to northwest Tennessee down to Memphis) Open; Andy Ogles, R, lost primary. Trump 61%. Former state Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher defeated the congressman, 53-47 percent. Trump recently reiterated his endorsement of Ogles, but it wasn't enough, particularly when the redrawn district had a lot of new territory. Former Gov. Bill Haslam and current Gov. Bill Lee endorsed Hatcher. Democrats have high hopes for Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder. But Republicans drew his city out of the district and the mayor limped out of the primary. He won 41-33 percent over Yolanda Cooper-Sutton. Much of the Democratic optimism in the race centered on Ogles being vulnerable, but now that he's gone, so might Democratic chances of flipping the seat. Solid Republican.

Tennessee's 9th District. (Part of Memphis and rural southern Tennessee) Open; Steve Cohen, D, not seeking re-election. Trump 60%. State Sen. Brent Taylor won the GOP primary by 20 points and is poised to win the newly drawn district that Republicans targeted during the redistricting process. That's why the long-time Democratic congressman declined to run. Democrats have an interesting nominee in state Rep. Justin Pearson. He was one of the "Tennessee Three" Democratic lawmakers disciplined by the Republi-

can majority in 2023 in a gun-control protest. But Taylor is the favorite to come to Congress next year. Solid Republican.

Texas' 15th District. (McAllen in the Rio Grande Valley to the outer San Antonio metro area) Monica De La Cruz, R. Trump 58%.

Private polling continues to show this race incredibly close. Republicans believe that their hits on Pulido, especially his bandmember's criminal past, will ultimately take down the Tejano music star. But Pulido's celebrity and charisma has put him squarely in contention, and the political environment in South Texas looks more like 2020 than 2024. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Normington, Petts & Associates (D) for HMP, July 23-27— General election ballot: Pulido over De La Cruz, 51% - 45%

Virginia's 5th District. (Charlottesville and western Southside Virginia) John McGuire, R, elected 58%. Trump 56%. Former congressman Tom Perriello announced a comeback bid for his old seat last December, but he faces a steeper climb after the redistricting effort that would have transformed the seat into a blue leaning district was struck down. He won the Democratic primary with 80 percent of the vote. McGuire easily won re-nomination after former Rep. Bob Good passed on a rematch. Solid Republican.

Expedition Strategies (D) for Perriello, Jul 29-Aug.1 (602 LV)— McGuire over Perriello, 47% - 44%

Washington's 5th District. (Eastern Washington) Michael Baumgartner, R, elected 61%. Trump 54%. Baumgartner will face Democrat Carmela Conroy in a rematch of his 2024 race, after independent firefighter Nate Powell failed to advance to the general election. A super PAC had spent \$1.4 million to boost Powell's candidacy but he finished in third with 16 percent. That was 3 points behind Conroy, a former Foreign Service officer and chairwoman of the Spokane Democratic Party. Baumgartner is the heavy favorite but can't afford to rest on his laurels after capturing just 47 percent of the vote in the all-party primary as the only Republican on the ballot. Two years ago, Republicans in the 5th District primary combined for 61 percent of the vote — the same share that Baumgartner went on to receive in the general election. Solid Republican.

Wisconsin's 1st District. (Southeastern Wisconsin) Bryan Steil, R, re-elected 54%. Trump 51%. An Impact Research poll commissioned by Democratic nominee Mitchell Berman found a surprisingly close race on the eve of the primary. Democratic strategists have considered this district a recruitment hole but Berman, a nurse at the Department of Veterans Affairs, is hoping to change that perception. A late primary puts him in a difficult position financially — he had just \$151,000 on July 22 compared to Steil's \$6.3 million. Solid Republican.

Impact Research (D) for Berman, Aug. 6-9 (400 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Steil over Berman, 49% - 48%.

Wisconsin's 3rd District. (Southwestern Wisconsin) Derrick Van Orden, R, re-elected 51%. Trump 53%. Democrat Rebecca Cooke overcame a summertime scare to defeat Eau Claire City Council president Emily Berge, 61-39 percent. Cooke, the 2024 nominee, vastly outraised Berge. But a statewide groundswell of progressive enthusiasm lifted Berge into contention. Cooke, who hasn't always had the best relationships with the region's progressive leaders, began advertising on TV and reminded voters she was endorsed by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Now she'll face Van Orden in a highly competitive rematch. Toss-up.

IE

Senate Report Shorts

Alaska. Dan Sullivan (R), elected 2014 (48%) and 2020 (54%).

It may be some time before the final general election ballot is set in the Last Frontier. Not only does Alaska take a long time to count ballots cast across its far-flung reaches, but candidates who make the top-four general election also have a window to withdraw their name from contention. Sullivan and former Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola locked down spots in the general election with 43 and 48 percent of the vote, respectively. But both parties spent time and money trying to help their favored spoiler candidates claim the other two spaces on the ballot. Republicans have spent to boost a handful of perennial Democratic and Green candidates, while Democrats have spent to boost other Republicans. And there's the enduring mystery of the "other" Dan Sullivan, a teacher from Petersburg who shares a name with the incumbent and who Republicans accuse of being a Democratic "dirty trick." He looks likely to claim a spot in the general election with 2 percent. Only Sullivan (the senator) and Peltola are viable candidates, but the final composition of the ballot could affect how the ranked-choice general election plays out.

Peltola shook up her campaign team on the eve of the primary, removing several top aides in moves her spokesman downplayed to the New York Times. The changes were reported on after, but came before, Peltola rejected an endorsement from former Vice President Kamala Harris. Lean Republican.

Data for Progress (D), July 28-Aug. 4 (605 LV)(SMS/web panel)
— General election ballot: Peltola 47%, Dan S. Sullivan 41%, Dan J. Sullivan Jr. 4%, Heikes 3%.

Georgia. Jon Ossoff (D), elected 2020 (51%). Ossoff's invocation of Trump's personal assistant Natalie Harp at a campaign rally sent online commentators into a tizzy but it's not the kind of development that alters the trajectory of an election. The first-term senator's massive financial advantage over Rep. Mike Collins — \$42 million to \$2 million as of June 30 — isn't going away anytime soon, and Collins trails both a generic Republican, and gubernatorial nominee Rick Jackson, in private and public polling. Tilt Democratic.

InsiderAdvantage (R) for James Magazine, Aug. 16-17 (800 LV)—
General election ballot: Ossoff over Collins, 50% - 43%.

Fabrizio Ward (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, July 13-16 (1,060 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Ossoff over Collins, 52% - 43%.

Idaho. Jim Risch (R), elected 2008 (58%), 2014 (65%), 2020 (63%). Democratic nominee David Roth dropped out, which is a boost for independent Todd Achilles, a former Democratic state lawmaker and Army veteran hoping to replicate the success of other independents such as Nebraska's Dan Osborn and Utah's Evan McMullin. Risch is 83 and has held some political office for 52 years, including a brief stint as governor. He reported \$3.5 million in the bank on June 30 to Achilles' \$194,000, but the independent hopes to scale up his fundraising now that he's the only game in town. Idaho is among the most Republican states in the country and Achilles has a lot of ground to make up. A decent chunk of the anti-Risch vote is also scattering to independent perennial candidate Natalie Fleming and Libertarian Matt Loesby. Solid Republican.

Peak Insights for Risch (R), Aug 11-13 (500 LV)(live caller)— General

election ballot: Risch 52%, Achilles 18%, Fleming 9%, Loesby 2%.

Change Research (D) for John Stegner gubernatorial campaign (I), July 28-29 (606 LV)— General election ballot: Risch 45%, Achilles 21%, Fleming 8%, Loesby 2%.

Kansas. Roger Marshall (R), elected 2020 (53%). A new GOP super PAC has begun hitting pastor Adam Hamilton on the airwaves after he won the Democratic primary. Hamilton is also on TV with an introductory spot about how he's in the middle of the political spectrum, and doesn't mention his party affiliation. It's undeniable Marshall's numbers are soft across the state, and Trump is treading water as well. But there may be a ceiling on any Democrat's support in a Kansas Senate race. If Hamilton can weather this round of GOP attacks, this race could move to a more competitive category. For now, it's Solid Republican.

GBAO (D) for Hamilton, July 8-13 (600 LV)(live caller/text-to-web) —
General election ballot: Marshall over Hamilton, 47% - 43%.

Public Policy Polling (D) for Senate Majority PAC, August 7-8 (569 RV) — General election ballot: Marshall over Hamilton, 46% - 45%.

Maine. Susan Collins (R), elected 1996 (49%), 2002 (58%), 2008 (61%) 2014 (69%), and 2020 (51%). Republicans have turned their attention to new Democratic nominee Troy Jackson, who has been the Democratic standard bearer for nearly a month. The parties are racing to define him on the airwaves: GOP super PACs have run a suite of negative ads tying Jackson to Graham Platner and highlighting accusations that Jackson bullied fellow lawmakers in the state Senate, while Jackson is airing two ads introducing himself and discussing his hardscaple upbringing. Public and private polling shows Jackson with a slight lead over Collins, but it may take a few weeks to see if the GOP hits against him take a toll. If Jackson can preserve his lead into September, this race may make it to a toss-up. Tilt Republican.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Aug. 6-10 (1,000 RV)(multimodal) — General election ballot: Jackson over Collins, 48% - 46%.

Hart Research (D) for Senate Majority PAC, July 27-Aug. 1 (802 LV)—
General election ballot: Jackson over Collins, 49% - 45%.

Michigan. Open; Gary Peters (D), not seeking re-election.

Everyone is trying to get a handle on the post-primary situation after former health official Abdul El-Sayed won the Democratic primary. Former Rep. Mike Rogers is trying to capitalize on El-Sayed's progressive reputation by trying to attract moderate Democrats, but the 2024 GOP nominee also has to contend with an unpopular Republican president in the White House. Toss-up.

Susquehanna Polling and Research, Aug. 11-17 (800 LV)(live caller)—
General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 46% - 39%.

Fabrizio Ward (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, Aug. 9-11 (877 LV) (live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 48% - 47%.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Aug. 6-10 (1,006 RV) (multimodal)— General election ballot: Rogers over El-Sayed, 51% - 47%.

GBAO (D) for Senate Majority PAC, Aug. 6-10 (800 LV)(live-caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 50% - 44%.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Minnesota. Open; Tina Smith (DFL), not seeking re-election.

Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan won the DFL nomination, 59-40 percent, over Rep. Angie Craig. Craig was better-known in DC circles for winning and representing a fairly competitive district that combined suburban and rural areas, but Flanagan's progressive reputation met the moment in the primary. Flanagan will face former NFL sideline reporter Michele Tafoya (who won the GOP primary with 53 percent) in what could be a competitive race. In this political environment, Flanagan has the edge, though outside GOP groups may be tempted to spend here if they can tie Flanagan to the fraud scandal that pushed Gov. Tim Walz away from running for a third term. Craig could still find her way to the Senate next year if Sen. Amy Klobuchar wins the open gubernatorial race and appoints her as her successor. Likely DFL.

SurveyUSA for KSTP-TV, Aug. 13-17 (661 LV)— General election ballot: Flanagan over Tafoya, 46% - 41%, Marisa Simonetti (I) 1%, Rebecca Whiting (L) 1%.

Montana. Open; Steve Daines (R), not seeking re-election.

Democratic nominee Alani Bankhead resisted calls to drop out of the race ahead of the state's deadline to withdraw from the ballot. That leaves a four-way race between Bankhead, GOP nominee Kurt Alme, Libertarian Kyle Austin, and independent Seth Bodnar, a former Green Beret and president of the University of Montana who is supported by many of the state's major Democratic groups and former Sen. Jon Tester. Bodnar and his allies are planning to go negative on Bankhead, who doesn't have the resources to defend herself in paid media. But with both candidates on the ballot, it's hard to see how this race ends up as anything but a win for Alme, even with just a plurality. Solid Republican.

Hart Research for Forward Montana (pro-Bodnar), Aug. 1-4 (800 LV)— General election ballot: Alme 45%, Bodnar 30%, Bankhead 15%, Austin 6%.

Tavern Research, July 23-27 (517 LV)— General election ballot: Alme 49%, Bodnar 25%, Bankhead 24%, Austin 2%.

GQR for Contours Inc., July 23-26 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Alme 41%, Bodnar 27%, Bankhead 22%, Austin 6%.

The Bullfinch Group for the Independent Center, July 13-16 (793 LV)— General election ballot: Alme 36%, Bodnar 24%, Bankhead 22%.

South Carolina. Darline Graham (R), appointed 2026. Runoff

Aug. 25. Darline Graham (33 percent) and Rep. Ralph Norman (25 percent) are moving on to the August 25 special primary runoff after finishing ahead of Rep. Russell Fry (20 percent), former Gov. Mark Sanford (15 percent) and Mark Lynch (6 percent), who lost to Lindsey Graham in the initial primary earlier this year. Darline Graham has had President Donald Trump's support from the beginning but it's clear primary voters are evaluating more factors. Norman has a geographic base of support and has been talking to GOP primary voters for months considering his ultimately unsuccessful run for governor. Graham or Norman will face pediatrician Annie Andrews in what could be a competitive general election. Likely Republican.

South Dakota. Mike Rounds (R), elected 2014 (50%) and 2020 (66%). Democratic nominee Julian Beaudion dropped out of the race, leaving independent Brian Bengs as the sole opponent to Rounds. Bengs, a former Park Ranger and Navy/Air Force veteran, ran for South Dakota's other Senate seat as a Democrat in 2022, winning just 26 percent of the

2026 Senate Ratings

Toss-up (1)

MI Open (Peters, D)

Tilt Democratic (3)

NC Open (Tillis, R)

NH Open (Shaheen, D)

Ossoff (D-Ga.)

Lean Democratic

Likely Democratic (1)

MN Open (Smith, DFL)

Solid Democratic (9)

IL Open (Durbin, D)

Booker (D-N.J.)

Coons (D-Del.)

Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)

Lujan (D-N.M.)

Markey (D-Mass.)

Merkley (D-Ore.)

Reed (D-R.I.)

Warner (D-Va.)

Tilt Republican (3)

IA Open (Ernst, R)

Collins (R-Maine)

Husted (R-Ohio)

Lean Republican (2)

TX Open (Cornyn, R)

Sullivan (R-Ak.)

Likely Republican (2)

Graham (R-S.C.)

Ricketts (R-Neb.)

Solid Republican (14)

AL Open (Tuberville, R)

KY Open (McConnell, R)

LA Open (Cassidy, R)

MT Open (Daines, R)

OK Open (Armstrong, R)

WY Open (Lummis, R)

Capito (R-W.V.)

Cotton (R-Ark.)

Hagerty (R-Tenn.)

Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)

Marshall (R-Kan.)

Moody (R-Fl.)

Risch (R-Idaho)

Rounds (R-S.D.)

*Takeovers in Italics, # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans*

vote against John Thune. This race has the potential to get interesting but Bengs has to raise more money first. He reported just \$51,000 in the bank on June 30. In Rounds' first run for Senate, he won with a bare 50-percent majority against a divided field of Democrat Rick Weiland and independent Larry Pressler, who had served for many years in Congress as a Republican. South Dakota's become about 8 points more Republican since then, according to Inside Elections Baseline. Solid Republican.

Public Opinion Strategies (R) for Rounds, July 6-9 (500 LV)(live call)— General election ballot: Rounds over Bengs, 56% - 33%.

Tennessee. Bill Hagerty (R), elected 2020 (62%). The senator ran unopposed in the primary and will face staffing consultant Marquita Bradshaw in the general election. Bradshaw won the Democratic primary on Thursday with 55 percent in her third run for a Tennessee Senate seat. She lost the 2020 general election to Hagerty 62-35 percent, the 2024 Democratic Senate primary to state Rep. Gloria Johnson, and is on track to lose for a third time this fall. Hagerty had a \$5.2 million to \$1,000 cash-on-hand advantage on July 17 and gets to run in a state where Donald Trump finished ahead of Kamala Harris by 30 points. Solid Republican.

Wyoming. Open; Cynthia Lummis (R), not seeking re-election. GOP Rep. Harriet Hageman (65 percent) and former Democratic state Rep. James Byrd (79 percent) advanced to the November election. A Democrat hasn't won a U.S. Senate race in Wyoming since 1970, and the Trump-endorsed Hageman will be a senator next year. Solid Republican.