



Inside Elections

with

Nathan L. Gonzales

Nonpartisan Analysis

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2026 Senate Ratings

Toss-up (3)

MI Open (Peters, D)

Ossoff (D-Ga.)

NC Open (Tillis, R)

Tilt Democratic (1)

NH Open (Shaheen, D)*

Tilt Republican (1)

Collins (R-Maine)

Lean Democratic (0)

Lean Republican (1)

Husted (R-Ohio)

Likely Democratic (1)

MN Open (Smith, DFL)

Likely Republican (2)

IA Open (Ernst, R)

Cornyn (R-Texas)

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.)

Solid Republican (17)

AL Open (Tuberville, R)

KY Open (McConnell, R)

Capito (R-W.V.)

Cassidy (R-Lou.)

Cotton (R-Ark.)

Daines (R-Mont.)

Graham (R-S.C.)

Hagerty (R-Tenn.)

Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)

Lummis (R-Wyo.)

Marshall (R-Kan.)

Moody (R-Fl.)

Mullin (R-Okla.)

Ricketts (R-Neb.)

Risch (R-Idaho)

Rounds (R-S.D.)

Sullivan (R-Ak.)

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

CALENDAR

Nov. 4	Texas' 18th District Special Primary Election
Nov. 4	New Jersey & Virginia Gubernatorial Elections
Dec. 2	Tennessee's 7th District Special General Election
Dec. 8	Texas Candidate Filing Deadline

2026 Senate Overview: Republicans Holding On

By Nathan L. Gonzales & Jacob Rubashkin

While mid-decade redistricting has thrown the fight for the House into a state of uncertainty, the battle for the Senate majority has been remarkably stable. And nearly halfway through the cycle, Republicans are still favored to maintain control.

There's still uncertainty about who Republicans will nominate in Georgia against Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff. Gov. Janet Mills joined the race in Maine, where fellow Democrat Graham Platner is trying to endure a flurry of negative headlines before the party focuses on GOP Sen. Susan Collins. No Democrat has broken out of the pack in Michigan, where GOP former Rep. Mike Rogers is trying to rebound from his loss in 2024. And North Carolina has already boiled down to Democratic former Gov. Roy Cooper and former RNC Chairman Michael Whatley. But those four states have been at the core of the battlefield from the outset.

New Hampshire inched closer to that core when former Sen. John E. Sununu entered the race this week. But Republicans might have to overcome a challenging political environment and deal with a drawn out primary.

The small battlefield benefits Republicans. Democrats need at least two or more Republican-leaning states such as Ohio, Iowa, Texas, or Alaska to get more competitive either because of candidate-specific factors or the national political environment. In the first three, Democratic leadership successfully recruited their preferred candidates (as they did in North Carolina and Maine as well). But the hardest sell appears to be Alaska, which will only get competitive if Democrats can convince former Rep. Mary Peltola to run.

President Donald Trump's job rating has been mediocre for months, but it hasn't deteriorated to the point where GOP states are ready to fall into Democratic hands. There's still time for that movement to happen, but Democrats need a few lucky breaks along the way.

Inside Elections Podcast

Check out Nathan, Jacob, and expert guests discussing the latest congressional and presidential campaign news in a nonpartisan, data-driven, and accessible way. It's available on all major podcast platforms and YouTube.

Report Shorts

California's 3rd District. Former state Sen. Richard Pan is running as a Democrat against Rep. Kevin Kiley, in a district that could get much better for Democrats if voters approve a new congressional map this fall. The pediatrician and vaccine advocate could also switch to running in the 6th District if Rep. Ami Bera decides to run in the 3rd instead.

California's 11th District. Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener announced his bid for the San Francisco-area seat currently held by Rep. Nancy Pelosi. Pelosi, 85, has not announced whether she will seek re-election. If she doesn't, San Francisco Supervisor Connie Chan is a likely candidate as well. Solid Democratic.

Florida's 13th District. Former Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby will be the new executive director of the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics, replacing former North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp. Democrats dreamed of Kirby challenging GOP Rep. Anna Paulina Luna. But it doesn't look like that's happening. Likely Republican.

Kansas Redistricting. Republicans had basically given up trying to defeat Democratic Rep. Sharice Davids under the current lines so they are exploring redrawing the district to be more Republican. But they'll need to change it considerably considering Davids has proven to be a difficult out.

Louisiana Mayoral Election. New Orleans City Council President Helena Moreno was elected mayor of The Big Easy without a runoff. It's quite a rebound for Moreno, who lost a 2008 race for Louisiana's 2nd District against Democratic Rep. Bill Jefferson after the FBI found \$90,000 cash in the incumbent's freezer.

Massachusetts' 6th District. The seat is open due to Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton's run for the Senate against Democratic incumbent Ed Markey. Former Biden administration official Dan Koh is in and already raised \$800,000. State Rep. Tram Nguyen and others will take a look. Solid Democratic.

North Carolina Redistricting. Republicans passed a new map that makes the 1st District more Republican and makes Democratic Rep. Don Davis even more vulnerable. We'll have more detailed analysis online but we're also changing the rating of the race from Toss-up to Tilt Republican. **IE**

2026 House Ratings

Toss-Up (3D, 9R)

AZ 1 (Open; Schweikert, R)	CA 45 (Tran, D)	MI 7 (Barrett, R)	PA 7 (Mackenzie, R)
AZ 6 (Ciscomani, R)	CO 8 (Evans, R)	NE 2 (Open; Bacon, R)	TX 34 (Gonzalez, D)
CA 13 (Gray, D)	IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)	NY 17 (Lawler, R)	VA 2 (Kiggans, R)

Tilt Democratic (7D)

CA 47 (Min, D)
ME 2 (Golden, D)
MI 8 (McDonald Rivet, D)
NM 2 (Vasquez, D)
NY 4 (Gillen, D)
TX 28 (Cuellar, D)
WA 3 (Perez, D)

Tilt Republican (1D, 5R)

MI 10 (Open; James, R)
NC 1 (Davis, D)*
NJ 7 (Kean Jr., R)
PA 8 (Bresnahan, R)
PA 10 (Perry, R)
WI 3 (Van Orden, R)

Lean Democratic (15D)

CA 21 (Costa, D)	NV 3 (Lee, D)
CA 27 (Whitesides, D)	NV 4 (Horsford, D)
CA 49 (Levin, D)	NY 19 (Riley, D)
CA 9 (Harder, D)	NY 3 (Suozi, D)
FL 23 (Moskowitz, D)	VA 7 (Vindman, D)
IN 1 (Mrvan, D)	
MN 2 (Open; Craig, DFL)	
NH 1 (Open; Pappas, D)	
NJ 9 (Pou, D)	
NV 1 (Titus, D)	

Lean Republican (4R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)
CA 40 (Kim, R)
CA 41 (Calvert, R)
IA 3 (Nunn, R)

Likely Democratic (8D)

CA 25 (Ruiz, D)	PA 17 (Deluzio, D)
IL 17 (Sorensen, D)	
MI 3 (Scholten, D)	
NH 2 (Goodlander, D)	
NY 18 (Ryan, D)	
NY 22 (Mannion, D)	
OR 5 (Bynum, D)	

Likely Republican (1D, 11R)

AK AL (Begich, R)	PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)
AZ 2 (Crane, R)	TX 15 (De La Cruz, R)
CA 3 (Kiley, R)	TX 35 (Open; Casar, D)
CO 5 (Crank, R)	VA 1 (Wittman, R)
FL 13 (Luna, R)	WI 1 (Steil, R)
IA 2 (Open; Hinson, R)	
MI 4 (Huizenga, R)	

Pending New Map (3D)

OH 1 (Landsman, D)
OH 9 (Kaptur, D)
OH 13 (Sykes, D)

	GOP	DEM
Solid	184	172
Likely/Lean/Tilt	22	30
Total	205	203
Toss-up		12
Ohio map TBD		15
Needed for majority		218

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

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Alabama. Open; Tommy Tuberville (R) running for governor. Filing deadline Jan. 23. Primary May 19. Runoff (if necessary) June 16. This has been a crowded but quiet race for an open seat. State Attorney General Steve Marshall has been elected statewide, Rep. Barry Moore could get help from outside groups including Club for Growth and Senate Conservatives Fund, and former Navy SEAL Jared Hudson has an interesting profile but may not be able to raise enough money to compete. Auburn basketball coach Bruce Pearl took a serious look at the race, and would have attracted some national attention, but he's not running. Now, ESPN analyst Paul Finebaum may jump into the race. Former Tuberville aide Morgan Murphy and businessman Rodney Walker are also running on the Republican side. This race is looking for someone to break away from the pack, but no one has done it yet. On the Democratic side, Mobile construction CEO Kyle Sweetser is the most notable candidate. A former Republican who says he voted for Trump twice, he spoke at the DNC last year in support of Kamala Harris's candidacy. Solid Republican.

Quantus Insights (R), Oct. 13-14 (RVs)(sms) — GOP primary ballot: Hudson 27%, Marshall 24%, Moore 9%, Murphy 2%, Walker 2%.

The Alabama Poll (R), Aug. 24-46 (LVs)(live caller/text-to-web) — GOP primary ballot: Marshall 37%, Moore 16%, Hudson 7%, Walker 1%.

Alaska. Dan Sullivan (R), elected 2014 (48%) and 2020 (54%). Filing deadline June 1. Primary Aug. 18. Former Rep. Mary Peltola is still deciding whether to run for governor or for Senate, and is freezing the field while she makes up her mind. If she runs for Senate she will give Sullivan a fight — one recent Democratic-aligned poll even found her in the lead. But if she runs for governor she would arguably be the favorite to win. In the absence of Peltola, Senate Democrats would be hard-pressed to find a candidate who can replicate her winning coalition. Marine veteran/state trooper/ Anchorage Assemblyman Zac Johnson, state Sen. Forrest Dunbar, and US Army veteran Kyle Kaiser have all been mentioned as potential candidates. Solid Republican, but that will change if Peltola gets in.

Alaska Survey Research (D), Oct. 10-15 (LVs) — General election ballot: Peltola over Sullivan, 48% - 46%.

Arkansas. Tom Cotton (R), elected 2014 (57%) and 2020 (67%). Filing deadline Nov. 11. Primary March 3. Runoff (if necessary) March 31. Democratic seed farmer Hallie Shoffner raised \$663,000 in her first quarter in the race and has some national Democrats buzzing but faces almost impossibly steep odds in a state where Republicans have become fully dominant. Cotton had \$9.4 million in the bank on Sept. 30 as he stockpiles cash for a larger race in 2028. Solid Republican.

Colorado. John Hickenlooper (D), elected 2020 (54%). Filing deadline March 17. Primary June 30. Former state Rep. Janak Joshi and Marine veteran George Washington Markert are running for the GOP nomination. Neither are top-tier candidates. Both Joshi, a physician who lost the GOP primary for the 8th District last year, and Markert, who was recently endorsed by former Rep. Tom Tancredo, have loaned their campaigns \$100,000. But Hickenlooper had \$3.6 million on Sept. 30 and the state's partisan lean in his favor. Solid Democratic.

Delaware. Chris Coons (D), elected 2010 (57%), 2014 (56%), and 2020 (59%). Filing deadline July 14. Primary Sept. 15. No Republican has even filed to run against Coons. Solid Democratic.

Florida. Ashley Moody (R), appointed 2025. Filing deadline April 24. Primary Aug. 18. For the first time since 1994, when First Brother-in-Law Hugh Rodham lost to GOP Sen. Connie Mack III by 40 points, Florida is nowhere near the Senate battleground. Moody has consolidated support from all corners of the GOP and won't face primary challenges from Reps. Kat Cammack or the embattled Cory Mills. Former Brevard County School Board member Jennifer Jenkins is the only notable Democrat running. She first rose to prominence in 2020 by winning a hotly contested school board race against the co-founder of Moms for Liberty, and now runs a PAC intended as a counterweight to that group. Jenkins has been endorsed by 2024 nominee Debbie Mucarsel-Powell. But even as Democrats search for upset opportunities to claw back the Senate majority, Florida is not a part of the conversation, due to its significant rightward shift and the massive financial costs of running a statewide campaign. Solid Republican.

The Tyson Group (R) for Plymouth Union Public Advocacy, Oct. 1-3 (LVs) — General election ballot: Moody over Jenkins, 44% - 37%.

Georgia. Jon Ossoff (D), elected 2020 (51%). Filing deadline March 6. Primary May 19. Reps. Mike Collins and Buddy Carter are jockeying with former Tennessee Volunteers football coach Derek Dooley



Courtesy Dooley Campaign

Derek Dooley

for the inside track in this GOP primary field that party insiders say may not be settled yet. Carter's personal wealth gives him the initial financial advantage: he had \$3.9 million in campaign funds on Sept. 30 (including a \$2

million personal loan), more than Collins' \$2.3 million or Dooley's \$1.7 million. Dooley doesn't have a political base in the state, unlike his two elected opponents. But popular Gov. Brian Kemp is working the state on behalf of his childhood friend, who is also the son of legendary Georgia Bulldogs coach Vince Dooley. Collins might be building the best field organization, according to local Republicans.

All three are vying for an endorsement from Trump, who has kept his cards close to the chest. And there are still rumors that more people will jump in, potentially from the Atlanta business community. Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins also remains a possibility. The former GOP congressman and unsuccessful 2020 Senate candidate would only run if Trump asked him to and endorsed him.

Ossoff has long been one of Democrats' strongest fundraisers and is sitting on a \$21 million war chest as he navigates the politics of the purple state. Republicans have hit him on voting against funding the government during the shutdown, but the first-term Democrat has found an unlikely messaging ally in fellow Georgian Marjorie Taylor Greene, who has railed against her GOP colleagues for having "no solutions" on health care issues. Toss-up.

Quantus Insights (R), Sept. 9-12 (RVs)(sms/online panel) — GOP primary ballot: Collins 25%, Carter 20%, Dooley 7%. General election ballots: Ossoff over Carter, 40% - 37%; Ossoff and Collins tied at 38%; Ossoff over Dooley, 42% - 35%.

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Idaho. Jim Risch (R), elected 2008 (58%), 2014 (65%), 2020 (63%). Filing deadline March 6. Primary May 19. The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is well-positioned for a fourth term. Former Democratic state legislator Todd Achilles is running as an independent and reported \$123,000 in the bank on Sept. 30, compared to \$3.6 million for Risch. Perennial Democratic candidate David Roth had just \$26 in his account. Solid Republican.

Illinois. Open; Dick Durbin (D), not seeking re-election. Filing deadline Nov. 3. Primary March 17. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi continues to flex his financial muscle over opponents Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton and Rep. Robin Kelly. Krishnamoorthi, who has been preparing for a Senate run for a decade, reported \$18 million in the bank on Sept. 30, nearly ten times as much as Kelly (\$1.9 million) and twenty times Stratton (\$919,000). Krishnamoorthi isn't just sitting on the cash, either; he's already spent more than \$8 million on paid media, including running broadcast TV ads across the state's five biggest media markets since July. That's given him an early polling lead; campaign surveys show him running ahead of Stratton by double-digits, with Kelly further behind.

Stratton, who raised \$1 million from July through September, has big endorsements from Gov. JB Pritzker, Sen. Tammy Duckworth, and Chicago elder statesmen such as former Rep. Bobby Rush. But while Stratton's team talked a big game about Pritzker providing outside financial support, the billionaire Hyatt heir has yet to open his wallet to fund an outside group for Stratton. She did, however, receive an endorsement from EMILY's List recently, a rare move for the group in a primary with multiple pro-choice women running.

Kelly has struggled to gain traction, despite endorsements from many of her colleagues in the House. She is burning through the cash she stockpiled in her congressional account, raising just \$277,000 in the third fundraising quarter and spending \$500,000.

Stratton and Kelly have similar bases of support — both women have deep ties to the Black political establishment in Chicago — and risk splitting votes while Krishnamoorthi uses his financial advantage to compete everywhere, including in the less populated markets downstate. Pritzker's entrance into the race could change that dynamic, but with an early primary, Krishnamoorthi is in the driver's seat for now.

Former state GOP chairman Don Tracy is the most notable GOP candidate. He loaned his campaign \$2 million. Solid Democratic.

Public Policy Polling (D) for Juliana Stratton, Sept. 25-26 (LVs) — Democratic primary ballot: Krishnamoorthi 33%, Stratton 18%, Kelly 8%.

Change Research (D) for Raja Krishnamoorthi, Sept. 17-19 (LVs) — Democratic primary ballot: Krishnamoorthi 41%, Stratton 17%, Kelly 8%.

Iowa. Open; Joni Ernst (R), not seeking re-election. Filing deadline March 13. Primary June 2. This is only the second open Iowa senate seat since 1974. The Republican primary is all but over: Rep. Ashley Hinson has locked up support from national Republicans including Trump, whose endorsement should keep other potential candidates such as NATO Ambassador Matthew Whitaker out of the race. Hinson still has to get past former state Sen. Jim Carlin in the primary. The Army veteran won 27 percent in the 2022 GOP primary against Sen. Chuck Grassley, but had just \$1,727 in campaign funds on Sept. 30 compared to \$4 million for Hinson.

The Democratic field got a little smaller this week as Des Moines

School Board Chairwoman Jackie Norris dropped out. Norris, a former chief of staff to First Lady Michelle Obama and a fixture in Iowa Democratic politics, had been struggling to raise money despite her large Rolodex, and a burgeoning scandal surrounding the Des Moines school superintendent ultimately pushed her out of the race. State Rep. Josh Turek, a Paralympic gold medalist from Council Bluffs, is the preferred candidate of national Democrats and had the most money on hand at the end of September with \$651,000, followed by Iowa City state Sen. Zach Wahls with \$585,000. Mechanic and veteran Nathan Sage captured some national attention with his launch but has struggled to keep up the momentum and reported just \$268,000 in campaign funds. Full analysis of the race can be found in the Sept. 25 issue of *Inside Elections*. Likely Republican.

Kansas. Roger Marshall (R), elected 2020 (53%). Filing deadline June 1. Primary Aug. 4. Former financial executive Sandy Spidel Neumann is the latest Democrat to jump in the race, joining former



Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Sharice Davids

USDA official Christy Davis and immigration attorney Ann Parelkar in their longshot bids against Marshall. The one way this race could get more interesting is if Kansas Republicans redraw their congressional map to force Democratic

Rep. Sharice Davids out of her 3rd District. Davids, an attorney, former MMA fighter, and one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, regularly outperforms the partisanship of her district and has said she might run for Senate if her House seat is significantly altered. Solid Republican.

Kentucky. Open; Mitch McConnell (R), not seeking re-election. Filing deadline Jan. 9. Primary May 19. Former state Attorney General Daniel Cameron remains the polling frontrunner in a GOP primary that also includes Rep. Andy Barr and Lexington businessman Nate Morris, thanks to his high name ID from three statewide runs. But Cameron's fundraising has been remarkably sluggish. He reported raising just \$411,000 over the past three months and had \$629,000 in the bank on Sept. 30. Comparatively, Barr raised \$1.3 million, transferred another \$450,000 from his House account, and had \$6.6 million in the bank. Cameron's campaign has argued that he needs far less money to win because he's well-known and well-liked. Morris raised \$1 million and loaned his campaign another \$3 million, and has leaned into his relationships with younger Trump-world figures such as Donald Trump Jr. and Vice President JD Vance. But he continues to face criticism for his company's past DEI initiatives, and his poll numbers remain mired in the single digits.

The race has already seen nearly \$12 million in GOP spending, \$4.7 million of which is either pro-Barr or anti-Morris, and \$7.3 million in anti-Barr or pro-Morris ads. Neither Cameron nor any outside backers have waded in.

All three candidates are awkwardly distancing themselves from McConnell, the once-dominant force in GOP politics whose more

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frequent breaks from Trump have earned him the ire of rank and file Republican voters. But all three contenders are former McConnell interns and have long relationships with the outgoing senator.

On the Democratic side, 2020 nominee Amy McGrath is running again. She raised \$96 million running against McConnell six years ago but lost by 19 points. She joins state House Minority Leader Pam Stevenson (\$25,000 in campaign cash), Army veteran/former CIA officer Joel Willett (\$315,000) and attorney/former Secret Service agent Logan Forsythe (\$38,000) in the Democratic primary. There's also some chatter that horse trainer Dale Romans and former state Rep. and 2022 Senate nominee Charles Booker might run as well. Solid Republican.

UpONE Insights (R) for Andy Barr, Oct. 13-14 (LVs)(live caller) — GOP primary ballot: Cameron 42%, Barr 25%, Morris 10%.

coefficient (R) for Daniel Cameron, Oct. 8-10 (LVs) — GOP primary ballot: Cameron 39%, Barr 22%, Morris 8%

Public Opinion Strategies (R) for pro-Barr group, Sept. 2-4 (LVs) — GOP primary ballot: Cameron 37%, Barr 29%, Morris 8%.

Louisiana. Bill Cassidy (R), elected 2014 (56%) and 2020 (59%).

Cassidy is vulnerable thanks to his vote to convict Trump following the January 6 insurrection, but has worked overtime to repair that relationship — see his recent trip to the White House where he picked up a signed MAGA hat. That's kept Trump out of the GOP primary so far, to Cassidy's benefit. And if the senator can woo Trump into an endorsement, that likely puts the race to bed. Until then, he'll have to contend with state Treasurer John Fleming and state Sen. Blake Miguez.

Fleming continues to play tricks with his campaign finance reports, loaning himself \$2 million to boost his topline number and then paying back the loan at the end of the quarter (he did the same thing three months ago).



Bill Cassidy

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

He ostensibly had \$2.1 million in the bank as of Sept. 30 compared to Cassidy's \$9.5 million. Fleming's campaign recently released polling showing him leading Cassidy, a sign that the incumbent still has a ways to go to stabilize the race. Some GOP strategists are more impressed with Miguez, a competitive pistol shooter who had \$2.5 million in the bank at the end of September (including a \$1 million loan). And Rep. Julia Letlow is also still a potential candidate. She would be the most formidable Cassidy opponent, and recently took herself out of the running to be president of Louisiana State University.

On the Democratic side, former Gov. John Bel Edwards shot down speculation he might run. Solid Republican.

JMC Analytics & Polling (R) for Fleming, Oct. 15-17 (LVs)(live caller/sms) — GOP primary ballot: Fleming 25%, Cassidy 23%, Named others 17%.

Maine. Susan Collins (R), elected 1996 (49%), 2002 (58%), 2008 (61%) 2014 (69%), and 2020 (51%). Filing deadline March 15. Primary June 9. What had been one of the sleepest races on the Senate battleground has exploded onto the national stage over the past few

weeks. Multi-hyphenate Graham Platner, a Marine veteran, oysterman, former bartender at Capitol Hill watering hole Tune Inn, and competitive pistol shooter, burst from obscurity with a launch video produced by the same team behind New York's Zohran Mamdani. His gruff populism has been a hit among grassroots donors and has drawn major crowds as the first-time candidate barnstorms the state; he reported raising \$3.2 million through the end of September and had \$2.2 million in the bank.

Outgoing Gov. Janet Mills is now also in the race, with endorsements from top Democrats in Washington, DC including Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and DSCC Chairwoman Kirsten Gillibrand. Mills raised \$1 million in her first 24 hours and some national strategists see her as the party's best chance to oust Collins given her track record of electoral success and deep Maine roots. But she's already facing concerns about her age (at 77 she would be the oldest freshman elected senator in history) and past positive statements about Collins, some of which have already appeared in GOP ads. Mills says she'll only serve one term if elected.

The day after Mills jumped in, CNN reported on Platner's old Reddit posts, including disparaging comments toward police officers and rural white voters. Since then, other outlets have reported on other embarrassing or offensive posts he made. Platner released a five-minute video apologizing for many of his past comments and explaining that at the time he suffered from depression and PTSD. But it's not obvious at all how he'll weather the coming weeks as more stories emerge, such as his tattoo of a Nazi "Totenkopf" symbol. Platner says he got the tattoo while drunk and deployed overseas, and never knew its meaning; he had it covered up this week. Maine Beer Company founder Dan Kleban was briefly a candidate but dropped out to support Mills. Democratic political operative Jordan Wood, who served as the chief of staff to California Rep. Katie Porter, is also running and reported \$920,000 in campaign funds on Sept. 30. He has struggled to gain traction in the race even as he positions himself as a younger and less controversial option.

Collins has yet to officially announce her re-election bid (she usually waits until December) but is sitting on \$6.7 million. While Maine is the most Democratic state represented by a Republican in the Senate, and the senator may not be starting this race as strong as previous ones, Collins has proven herself a tough out. With the uncertainty surrounding the Democratic primary, she enters the fall with a slight edge. Tilt Republican.

Univ. of New Hampshire, Oct. 16-21 (LVs)(online panel) — Democratic primary ballot: Platner 58%, Mills 24%, Wood, 1%, David Costello 1%.

Massachusetts. Ed Markey (D) elected 2013 special (55%), 2014 (62%), and 2020 (66%). Primary Sept. 15, 2026. For the second time this decade, Markey will face a primary challenge from a younger and more moderate colleague. After coming from behind to defeat Rep. Joe Kennedy III in 2020, Markey now contends with Rep. Seth Moulton, a Marine veteran who represents the suburbs north of Boston. Moulton is making a generational argument against the 80-year-old Markey, who rallied progressives such as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders to boost him six years ago. Markey has been in Congress since 1976, two years before Moulton was born.

Markey begins with a slight financial advantage over Moulton (\$2.6 million to \$2.1 million on Sept. 30) but that was before the congressman got into the race. Moulton made some headlines by swearing off money and support from pro-Israel group AIPAC, while Markey has taken some veiled shots at Moulton's comments about trans kids playing sports. Solid Democratic.

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Michigan. Open; Gary Peters (D), not seeking re-election. Filing deadline April 21. Primary Aug. 4. The Democratic primary is essentially a three-way jump ball between Rep. Haley Stevens, state Sen. Mallory McMorrow, and former Wayne County health department director Abdul El-Sayed, with at most a slight edge to Stevens thanks to her higher name ID and existing resources. While all three are raising similar amounts of money, Stevens reported \$2.6 million in the bank on Sept. 30 (including \$1.5 million rolled over from her House account), El-Sayed had \$1.8 million, and McMorrow had \$1.5 million. McMorrow has raised the most since jumping in the race but is also the biggest spender, leaning into digital fundraising based on her brand among national grassroots donors.

El-Sayed's more progressive policies and endorsements from leaders such as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has some national Democrats concerned about his ability to win a general election. The Columbia and Oxford-educated physician is keeping a focus on healthcare issues, but his campaign landed in hot water recently when a fundraising email sent on October 7 called out Israel's invasion of Gaza and AIPAC's involvement in the Senate race but did not mention Hamas's attack on Israel two years ago. Gaza looms large in the race; El-Sayed has been the candidate most critical of Israel, while McMorrow's position has shifted over the course of the contest and she recently called Israel's actions a genocide. Stevens is a longtime backer of Israel who benefitted from millions of dollars in pro-Israel financial support during her 2022 primary election. It's not clear how AIPAC and its allies will fully engage in this contest but allies of all three contenders anticipate it will happen.

Former Rep. Mike Rogers is the presumptive GOP nominee after coming up just short in 2024. He had \$2.7 million in the bank on Sept. 30, and Republicans see this race as one of the two best pickup opportunities on the map. Toss-up.

Minnesota. Open; Tina Smith (DFL), not seeking re-election. Filing deadline June 2. Primary Aug. 11. Rep. Angie Craig is dominating the money race in the DFL primary, with \$3 million in campaign cash as of Sept.

30. Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan reported \$853,000. Flanagan does have support from prominent progressives such as state Attorney General Keith Ellison and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and would be the first Native American woman to serve in the Senate.

An internal poll from Flanagan showed that Republicans could seriously compete in the Land of 10,000 Lakes — if only they had a candidate. The poll showed Flanagan and Craig both outpacing a generic Republican by low single digits, and was intended to show that Flanagan can win a general election. But some national strategists were puzzled by Flanagan's decision to release a poll showing Republicans so competitive. However, Republicans have struggled to recruit a top-tier candidate. The current field includes retired Navy SEAL Adam Schwarze, former NBA player/conspiracy theorist Royce White, and



Angie Craig

Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Navy veteran and 2022 3rd District nominee Tom Weiler.

Republicans attempted to recruit former NBA player Willie Burton, who played for the University of Minnesota, but he declined to run. And Baird Vice Chairman John Taft (a descendant of President William Howard Taft) had been planning to run but now seems unlikely to go for it. That leaves former NFL reporter Michelle Tafoya as the highest-profile potential candidate. State Rep. Jim Nash, who represents some outer ring Twin Cities suburbs, has said he's considering a bid as well. And the *Star Tribune* lists two-time state senate candidate Kathleen Fowke as another option. Fowke lost two bids for a Minnetonka district but ran 11 points ahead of the presidential margin in 2024. Likely Democratic.

Mississippi. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R), appointed 2018, elected 2018 special (54%) and 2020 (54%). Filing deadline Feb. 2. Primary March 10. Runoff (if necessary) April 7. While Mississippi is low on Democratic priority lists, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer is one of the state's biggest believers in Washington, DC, and recruited Lowndes County District Attorney Scott Colom into the race. Colom's nomination to a federal judgeship was blocked by Hyde-Smith during the Biden administration. Hyde-Smith reported \$2.3 million in campaign funds on Sept. 30, while Colom had \$576,000 after his first month in the race. Republican physician Sarah Adlakha is also running but with Hyde-Smith sitting on an endorsement from Trump, the GOP primary should be uneventful. Any Democrat faces steep odds in the Magnolia State thanks to highly polarized racial voting patterns. Solid Republican.

Montana. Steve Daines (R), elected 2014 (58%) and 2020 (55%). Filing deadline March 9. Primary June 2. Former state Rep. Reilly Neil is running in the Democratic primary and reported \$15,365 in the bank on Sept. 30. Michael Black Wolf, a historical preservation officer with the Fort Belknap Indian Community, is also running. While many other names have been floated on the Democratic side, nobody else is making moves to run at the moment. Daines had \$3.9 million on Sept. 30. Solid Republican.

Nebraska. Pete Ricketts (R), appointed 2023, elected 2024 special (63%). Filing deadline March 1. Primary May 12. Labor leader Dan Osborn's second run as an independent faces steeper odds than his 2024 bid. Ricketts won't be caught sleeping and has a much stronger brand in the state than Sen. Deb Fischer, who Osborn came within 8 points of ousting despite the state's heavy GOP lean. The billionaire former governor also has virtually endless resources to pour into the race if necessary, while Fischer was a weaker fundraiser. Osborn reported \$516,000 in campaign cash on Sept. 30, and appears to have coordinated successfully with the Nebraska Democratic Party to avoid Democrats fielding their own nominee. Solid Republican.

New Hampshire. Open; Jeanne Shaheen (D), not seeking re-election. Filing deadline June 12. Primary Sept. 8. Former Sen. John E. Sununu announced a comeback bid in New Hampshire on Wednesday, boosting Republican chances of winning the open seat. Unlike some Senate candidates, Sununu won't struggle with name identification. He's the son of former governor John H. Sununu and the older brother of former Gov. Chris Sununu. He also held this Senate seat himself for one term and represented half of the state in the House for six years.

But there's no guarantee that Sununu will win the primary. Former

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Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown has been in this race for months and has a previous statewide bid under his belt after losing to Shaheen by 3 points in 2014. More importantly, Brown is ready to prosecute his case by pointing out Sununu's past opposition to Trump. Sununu supported Ohio Gov. John Kasich in the 2016 presidential primary and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's primary challenge to Trump in 2024. The day before the New Hampshire primary, Sununu wrote an opinion piece entitled, "Donald Trump is a loser."

New Hampshire's nonpresidential primaries are late, so if the GOP feud continues until Sept. 8, 2026, Rep. Chris Pappas, the likely Democratic nominee, would have an early opportunity to focus on the general election. That said, Sununu defeated Sen. Bob Smith in a late primary in 2002 and still won that November, in a good year for Republicans around the country.

Sununu is a serious candidate in a competitive state in a race without an incumbent. But he could face a challenging political environment and will be on the defensive for his post-Senate lobbying work. While New Hampshire didn't get as much attention as the seven swing states in the 2024 presidential election, it's very competitive. Harris finished ahead of Trump by 3 points, which made it closer than Arizona. And Democrats here have just a 2.3-point Baseline advantage. Shift from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

co/efficient (R), Oct. 9-13 (LVs)(live caller/sms)— General election ballots: Pappas over Brown, 49% - 39%; Pappas over Sununu, 45% - 42%.

Univ. of New Hampshire Survey Center, Sept. 17-23 (LVs)(online panel)— General election ballots: Pappas over Brown, 52% - 37%; Pappas over Sununu, 49% - 43%.

New Jersey. Cory Booker (D), elected 2013 special (55%), 2014 (56%), and 2020 (57%). Filing deadline March 23. Primary June 2. Booker reported \$21.3 million in the bank on Sept. 30 and no Republicans are running against him. That may change if Republicans have a good election night next month. Alina Habba, whose appointment as acting US Attorney for New Jersey is disputed and the subject of ongoing litigation, is one potential candidate. So are former Tabernacle Mayor Justin Murphy and former state Sen. Ed Durr, the trucker who knocked off a sitting state Senate president but lost re-election and later flamed out in the 2025 GOP gubernatorial primary. Solid Democratic.

New Mexico. Ben Ray Luján (D), elected 2020 (51%). Filing deadline Feb. 3. Primary June 2. Some Republican strategists are holding out hope that Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull will switch from the gubernatorial race to the Senate race. But Hull made his run for governor official this week and seems set for now on pursuing that job. Luján reported \$3.1 million in the bank on Sept. 30. Solid Democratic.

North Carolina. Open; Thom Tillis (R) not seeking re-election. Filing deadline Dec. 19. Primary March 3. Runoff (if necessary) May 12. The general election matchup is effectively set more than a year ahead of the midterms: Democratic former Gov. Roy Cooper will face off against former RNC chairman Michael Whatley in one of the most competitive Senate races of the cycle and a must-win for Democrats. Cooper starts with a few advantages. He has much higher name recognition than Whatley, thanks to his six statewide election victories (Whatley has never run for office before), and is a strong fundraiser. Cooper reported \$8.6 million in campaign cash on Sept. 30 compared to just \$1.1 million for Whatley.

But Democrats have struggled in federal North Carolina races, falling just short in every Senate and presidential contest since 2008. And the Tar Heel State is highly inelastic, so both parties have high floors and low ceilings. Toss-up.

Harper Polling (R) for Carolina Journal, Sept. 14-15 (LVs)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Cooper over Whatley, 46% - 42%.

Change Research (D) for Carolina Forward, Sept. 2-8 (LVs)— General election ballot: Cooper over Whatley, 48% - 41%.

Ohio. Jon Husted (R), appointed 2025. Filing deadline Feb. 4. Primary May 5. Senate Democratic leadership successfully recruited former Sen. Sherrod Brown into a comeback bid after he fell 4 points short in his 2024 re-election. Venture capitalist Fred Ode is also running as a Democrat and wrote his campaign a \$5 million check.



Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Jon Husted

Brown puts the Ohio race on the map but still starts as an underdog, after losing to a flawed candidate as an incumbent. Brown and his allies are hopeful that an improved political environment will help him turn the tide, and that Brown won't be

buried under a mountain of outside spending as he was last cycle, when Republican groups poured \$250 million into the Buckeye State. Brown is still a strong fundraiser, and already has more in the bank (\$5.9 million on Sept. 30) than Husted (\$5 million) but the partisan lean of the state is not working in his favor. If Democrats want to take back the majority, Ohio is likely a crucial piece to that puzzle after North Carolina and Maine. Lean Republican.

YouGov for Bowling Green State University, Oct. 2-14 (RVs)(online)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 49% - 48%.

Emerson College, Aug. 18-19 (RVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Husted over Brown, 50% - 44%.

Oklahoma. Markwayne Mullin (R), elected 2022 special (62%). Filing deadline April 3. Primary June 16. Martial arts instructor/former police officer Troy Green and nurse N'Kiyla "Jasmine" Thomas are the most notable Democrats running against Mullin, who is a regular face in conservative media and shouldn't have any problems winning a full term. Solid Republican.

Oregon. Jeff Merkley (D), elected 2008 (49%), 2014 (56%), and 2020 (57%). Filing deadline March 10. Primary May 19. Merkley is running for re-election, had \$5.1 million in his campaign account on Sept. 30 and Republicans haven't shown any interest in challenging him. Solid Democratic.

Rhode Island. Jack Reed (D), elected 1996 (63%), 2002 (78%), 2008 (73%), 2014 (71%), and 2020 (67%). Filing deadline June 24. Primary Sept. 8. Thirty-year-old elder care worker Connor Burbridge, who is waging a longshot Democratic primary bid against Reed, reported just \$2,649 in campaign funds on Sept. 30. Reed, 75, had slightly

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more cash on hand with \$2.9 million and looks like a sure shot for re-election to a sixth term. Solid Democratic.

South Carolina. Lindsey Graham (R), elected 2002 (54%), 2008 (58%), 2014 (55%), and 2020 (54%). Filing deadline March 30. Primary June 9. Runoff (if necessary) June 23. Former Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer suspended his longshot GOP primary campaign against Graham after just a month in the race, but Greenville appliance store owner Mark Lynch is still running.

Lynch loaned his campaign \$5 million earlier this year but has not raised much money since then, and Trump's endorsement of Graham (\$14.5 million in the bank on Sept. 30) gives the incumbent a huge advantage. Paul Dans,

a former Heritage Foundation official who led the writing of Project 2025, is also in the race.

Physician Annie Andrews is the highest-profile Democrat in the race but would face a steep climb if she wins the nomination. She previously ran for the 1st District in 2022. She had \$1.2 million in the bank on Sept. 30. Former 4th District House candidate Brandon Brown and 2022 Senate candidate Catherine Fleming Bruce are also running. Solid Republican.

Quantus Insights (R), Oct. 1-4 (RVs)(sms/IVR/live caller)— GOP primary ballot: Graham 58%, Lynch 15%, Dans 7%.



Annie Andrews

Courtesy Andrews Campaign

South Dakota. Mike Rounds (R), elected 2014 (50%) and 2020 (66%). Filing deadline March 31. Primary June 2. Runoff (if necessary) July 28. Former state trooper Julian Beaudion is running as a Democrat, and 2022 Democratic Senate nominee Brian Bengs is running as an independent; each had around \$30,000 in campaign funds at the end of September. Trump endorsed Rounds (\$2.8 million in cash-on-hand) earlier this year despite previously swearing he would never support the senator. Solid Republican.

Tennessee. Bill Hagerty (R), elected 2020 (62%). Filing deadline March 10. Primary Aug. 6. No Democrats have even filed to run against Hagerty. Solid Republican.

Texas. John Cornyn (R), elected 2002 (55%), 2008 (65%), 2014 (62%), and 2020 (55%). Filing deadline Dec. 8. Primary March 3. Runoff (if necessary) May 26. Establishment Republicans are excited that Cornyn has closed the gap with state Attorney General Ken Paxton in the primary, but the four-term senator is still extremely vulnerable. The shift in the race has been from Paxton losing ground, not Cornyn getting dramatically better, despite nearly \$30 million in TV ad spending over the summer. The senator was at 40 percent in a spring survey conducted by allies that found him trailing by 16 points and 39 percent in a more recent poll that showed him running even.

Trump remains a wild card. His support is often the difference maker in Republican primaries, but he hasn't made a decision in this race. "I'd rather not comment on it right now," he said at the end of August. "I like

both guys. They're both friends of mine, and they're both good and very different."

The primary is now a three-way race that includes Rep. Wesley Hunt. That almost guarantees no candidate will receive a majority next March and the top-two finishers will move to a May runoff. That could still be challenging for Cornyn to grow from the mid-30s in a three-way race to a majority of the vote in a runoff. Cornyn and his allies enjoy a significant financial advantage, but it's hard for incumbents to dramatically improve after being in office for a couple decades. Hunt has to raise more money to raise his profile beyond the Houston area.

Some Republicans believe Paxton puts the seat at risk of a Democratic takeover due to his baggage including a public divorce, past impeachment over bribery allegations, home mortgage questions and other issues. But Paxton would have to lose significant Republican support in the general election and the public bedwetting about Texas Republicans losing House seats with Paxton at the top of the ticket seems to be rooted less in the numbers (considering GOP candidates would need to lose districts Trump carried by between 15 and 22 points under the doomsday scenario) and more in pushing the president to back Cornyn.

Democrats have a primary as well. It looks like the nomination will come down to former Rep. Colin Allred, who lost to Ted Cruz in 2024, and state Rep. James Talarico, but astronaut Terry Virts, a retired Air Force colonel and former International Space Station commander, is running as well. Thanks to his 2024 run, Allred has the advantage of higher name I.D. in an expensive state to advertise. But Talarico has been getting more national attention in this race and had a hot fundraising start. It will be up to him to translate that into votes. Republicans are trying to tempt Rep. Jasmine Crockett into the race, but the congresswoman has said she wouldn't seriously look at it without a clear path to victory in the general election.

This race only gets Democratic interest in the general election if Paxton is the GOP nominee. And even then, Democrats will weigh whether it's worth the heavy financial investment. Likely Republican.

YouGov for University of Houston/Texas Southern University, Sept. 19-Oct. 1 (LVs)(online)— GOP primary ballot: Paxton 34%, Cornyn 33%, Hunt 22%.

Deep Root Analytics (R) for pro-Cornyn group, Sept. 22-28 (LVs)— GOP primary ballot: Cornyn 33%, Paxton 28%, Hunt 21%.

University of Texas at Tyler, Sept. 17-24 (LVs)(live caller/online panel)— GOP primary ballot: Paxton 31%, Cornyn 29%, Hunt 14%. General election ballot: Cornyn over Allred, 43% - 37%. Cornyn over Talarico, 41% - 35%. Allred over Paxton, 41% - 38%. Paxton over Talarico, 38% - 37%. Talarico over Hunt, 37% - 36%. Hunt over Allred, 38% - 37%.

Virginia. Mark Warner (D), elected 2008 (65%), 2014 (49%), and 2020 (56%). Filing deadline April 2. Primary June 16. State Sen. Bryce Reeves is the only notable GOP candidate vying to deny Warner a fourth term, but he begins as a heavy underdog. While Reeves has a compelling background as a retired Army Ranger and narcotics detective who won a swing seat 14 years ago, he has struggled in past runs for higher office, losing GOP primaries for lieutenant governor in 2017 and the 7th congressional district in 2022. An upset in state elections next month might encourage national Republicans to take a look at Warner, but for now there's not much interest in this race. Solid Democratic.

West Virginia. Shelley Moore Capito (R), elected 2014 (62%) and 2020 (70%). Filing deadline Jan. 31. Primary May 12. Former state

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Rep. Derrick Evans, who breached the Capitol on January 6, 2021 and was later pardoned by Trump for his role in the insurrection, dropped out of the GOP primary against Capito to challenge 1st District Rep. Carol Miller instead.

Capito still faces state Sen. Tom Willis in the primary. Willis, a former Army Special Forces officer, ran for Senate in 2018 and won 10 percent in the GOP primary. He made a far bigger splash when he ousted state Senate President Craig Blair in a 2024 primary that turned on trans issues and illegal immigration. Willis is running to Capito's right and calls himself a "Christian Constitutional Conservative." He had just \$156,000 in the bank on Sept. 30 while Capito had \$4.1 million, and the senator secured

an endorsement from Trump in May, before Willis jumped in the race.

Democrat Zach Shrewsbury is running again after placing second in the 2024 Democratic Senate primary with 36 percent. The Marine veteran attracted some national progressive attention in that race but would be a heavy underdog against Capito. Solid Republican.

Wyoming. Cynthia Lummis (R), elected 2020 (73%). Filing deadline May 29. Primary Aug. 18. Lummis has an endorsement from Trump and \$1.6 million in the bank. A potential challenge from wealthy investor Reid Rasner hasn't materialized; Rasner received 25 percent against Sen. John Barrasso in the 2024 GOP primary and filed to run again in 2026, but also filed to run for governor. Solid Republican. **IE**

Senate Fundraising 2026

STATE	CANDIDATE	RAISED CYCLE TO DATE	PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS	CASH ON HAND (SEPT. 30, 2025)	STATE	CANDIDATE	RAISED CYCLE TO DATE	PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS	CASH ON HAND (SEPT. 30, 2025)
AK	Dan Sullivan, R	\$5,815,700	\$0	\$4,760,090	MI	Haley Stevens, D	\$4,634,520	\$0	\$2,617,800
AL	Barry Moore, R	\$747,020	\$0	\$557,280	MI	Abdul El-Sayed, D	\$3,556,510	\$7,000	\$1,844,280
AL	Steve Marshall, R	\$813,110	\$0	\$555,550	MI	Mallory McMorrow, D	\$3,793,650	\$80	\$1,453,820
AL	Jared Hudson, R	\$536,330	\$0	\$357,040	MI	Mike Rogers, R	\$3,419,230	\$0	\$2,701,620
DE	Chris Coons, D	\$4,578,390	\$0	\$3,516,350	MN	Angie Craig, D	\$4,289,740	\$373,000	\$2,953,400
FL	Jennifer Jenkins, D	\$171,740	\$0	\$165,730	MN	Peggy Flanagan, D	\$2,241,210	\$1,000	\$835,690
FL	Ashley Moody, R	\$4,024,250	\$0	\$3,640,240	MN	Adam Schwarze, R	\$474,830	\$0	\$167,920
GA	Jon Ossoff, D	\$45,260,970	\$0	\$21,355,210	MN	Royce White, R	\$520,790	\$0	\$105,170
GA	Derek Dooley, R	\$1,850,610	\$0	\$1,705,110	MS	Scott Colom, D	\$569,710	\$25,000	\$576,140
GA	Mike Collins, R	\$2,467,290	\$65,000	\$2,318,720	MS	Cindy Hyde-Smith, R	\$3,960,270	\$0	\$2,341,590
GA	Buddy Carter, R	\$2,504,510	\$2,000,000	\$3,896,450	NC	Roy Cooper, D	\$10,876,860	\$0	\$8,558,460
IA	Josh Turek, D	\$1,002,970	\$0	\$651,980	NC	Michael Whatley, R	\$1,357,270	\$0	\$1,126,900
IA	Zach Wahls, D	\$1,300,650	\$20	\$585,040	NE	Dan Osborn, I	\$1,296,620	\$0	\$502,400
IA	Nathan Sage, D	\$1,110,750	\$0	\$268,770	NE	Pete Ricketts, R	\$2,578,760	\$0	\$1,192,800
IA	Ashley Hinson, R	\$3,256,930	\$0	\$4,053,480	NH	Chris Pappas, D	\$4,276,970	\$0	\$2,612,760
IA	Jim Carlin, R	\$21,960	\$151,970	\$1,730	NH	Scott Brown, R	\$968,490	\$0	\$802,760
ID	Jim Risch, R	\$2,228,020	\$0	\$3,615,410	OH	Sherrod Brown, D	\$7,006,270	\$0	\$5,945,890
IL	Raja Krishnamoorthi, D	\$24,497,850	\$0	\$18,088,250	OH	Fred Ode, D	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$4,721,330
IL	Juliana Stratton, D	\$2,056,920	\$0	\$919,770	OH	Jon Husted, R	\$5,810,640	\$0	\$5,027,780
IL	Robin Kelly, D	\$2,734,390	\$0	\$1,981,890	SC	Annie Andrews, D	\$2,824,950	\$0	\$1,198,720
KS	Roger Marshall, R	\$3,224,740	\$0	\$3,368,790	SC	Lindsey Graham, R	\$14,022,470	\$0	\$14,508,930
KY	Pamela Stevenson, D	\$261,530	\$0	\$24,860	SC	Paul Dans, R	\$165,550	\$134,680	\$96,670
KY	Andy Barr, R	\$5,107,530	\$0	\$6,686,810	SC	Mark Lynch, R	\$265,560	\$5,050,000	\$4,757,880
KY	Nate Morris, R	\$999,480	\$3,027,000	\$1,070,460	SD	Mike Rounds, R	\$2,579,710	\$0	\$2,818,420
KY	Daniel Cameron, R	\$1,304,450	\$0	\$629,750	TN	Bill Hagerty, R	\$12,583,600	\$0	\$4,609,970
LA	Bill Cassidy, R	\$9,975,060	\$0	\$9,505,350	TX	James Talarico, D	\$6,267,610	\$0	\$4,958,640
LA	Blake Miguez, R	\$2,021,060	\$1,011,250	\$2,546,970	TX	Colin Allred, D	\$4,786,790	\$0	\$1,790,640
LA	John Fleming, R	\$494,360	\$6,155,000	\$2,079,380	TX	Terry Virts, D	\$398,280	\$50,000	\$152,380
MA	Ed Markey, D	\$4,414,790	\$0	\$2,662,200	TX	John Cornyn, R	\$8,933,300	\$0	\$6,014,480
MA	Seth Moulton, D	\$1,532,900	\$0	\$2,125,110	TX	Ken Paxton, R	\$4,204,850	\$0	\$3,182,780
ME	Graham Platner, D	\$3,245,680	\$0	\$2,240,920	TX	Wesley Hunt, R	\$1,479,820	\$0	\$1,515,130
ME	Jordan Wood, D	\$2,824,420	\$260,790	\$920,470	VA	Mark Warner, D	\$15,895,700	\$0	\$11,826,000
ME	Daira Smith-Rodriguez, D	\$188,830	\$160,000	\$155,530	WV	Shelley Moore Capito, R	\$3,959,960	\$0	\$4,130,510
ME	Susan Collins, R	\$7,725,860	\$0	\$6,702,110	WV	Derrick Evans, R	\$977,620	\$0	\$61,160
					WV	Tom Willis, R	\$25,180	\$175,000	\$156,360

Source: FEC, The Downballot

The Most Evenly-Divided Counties in the Country

By Bradley Wascher

If you count the number of swing states on two hands, you will have more than a few fingers to spare. Not so at the county level.

For the first time, *Inside Elections* has calculated Baseline scores for all 3,142 counties in the United States (excluding Kalawao County, Hawaii, the nation’s tiniest). Thirty-eight of those, or around 1 percent, were within a single point, making them the nation’s most evenly divided counties.

Inside Elections’ Baseline is a novel and unparalleled metric available at the county level. Baseline approximates what a “typical” Democrat or Republican might receive in an election by combining all federal and state election results over the past four election cycles into a single trimmed mean.

Of these 38 evenly-divided counties, 27 voted for Trump in 2024. Seventeen flipped from Biden to Trump.

Five of the seven major battleground states (all except Nevada and Pennsylvania) had counties represented in the list. These swing communities stretch from the industrial mid-Atlantic to the Pacific coast and offer a window into America’s electoral and demographic diversity. They include rapidly growing Sun Belt metro hubs, historically conservative suburbs that have become competitive, heavily Black rural counties, Midwestern counties anchored by towns or small cities, college campuses, and remote Native-American areas.

For full analysis of each region and all of the most evenly-divided counties, go to [Inside Elections.com](https://insideelections.com). Here’s just one of them.

Working-Class Midwest and East Coast

Many counties in the Midwest were built on manufacturing and small industry. Demographically, these places tend to be whiter and less college-educated Rust Belt communities that reliably backed Donald Trump in the past three elections.

Take Macomb County, Mich., an ancestral battleground and bellwether located northeast of Detroit, that voted for Barack Obama twice before swinging 16 points toward Trump in 2016. In recent cycles, Macomb has backed Democrats in midterms and Republicans in presidential years. The county’s Baseline margin flipped from D+0.3 in 2022 to R+0.8 in 2024.

Mower County, Minn., and Winneshiek County, Iowa, both backed Obama by double digits then voted for Trump three times — and according to Baseline, Republicans now have a 0.8-point advantage in both counties.



Inside Elections Podcast

Nathan, Jacob and expert guests discuss the latest election news in a nonpartisan, data-driven and accessible way.

Episode 57: Nathan and Jacob and Alex Seitz-Wald of the Midcoast Villager break down the races for Senate, 2nd District and governor in Maine.

Episode 56: Nathan, Jacob and Steve Kornacki of NBC News talk about the midterm elections, trust in polling, the NFL and Kentucky Derby.

Episode 55: Nathan, Jacob and Gabby Birenbaum of the Texas Tribune analyze the GOP Senate primary and the fallout from redistricting in the Lone Star State.

2024 Inside Elections Baseline: Most Evenly-Divided Counties

State	County	Democrat %	Republican %	Difference
IL	McLean County	47.8	48.7	R +0.96
VA	Prince Edward County	49.3	50.1	R +0.84
MI	Macomb County	48.4	49.2	R +0.83
CA	Riverside County	49.5	50.3	R +0.79
IA	Winneshiek County	48.8	49.5	R +0.77
MN	Mower County	47.5	48.2	R +0.73
IL	Sangamon County	48.0	48.7	R +0.72
AK	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	46.9	47.6	R +0.67
NJ	Gloucester County	48.6	49.2	R +0.62
WV	Monongalia County	48.9	49.5	R +0.60
IL	Winnebago County	48.0	48.5	R +0.56
MS	Marshall County	49.5	50.1	R +0.54
ME	Kennebec County	48.1	48.4	R +0.37
CA	Merced County	49.7	50.0	R +0.33
MN	Mahnomen County	47.4	47.6	R +0.22
MS	Pike County	49.7	49.9	R +0.22
NY	Orange County	49.2	49.4	R +0.17
KS	Shawnee County	48.9	49.0	R +0.13
NC	Nash County	49.7	49.8	R +0.08
IA	Scott County	49.1	49.1	R +0.07
WI	Kenosha County	49.1	49.2	R +0.05
GA	Sumter County	49.8	49.8	R +0.01
WI	Vernon County	49.2	49.1	D +0.07
CA	Orange County	50.0	49.8	D +0.12
AZ	Maricopa County	49.8	49.6	D +0.14
NJ	Atlantic County	48.9	48.8	D +0.15
UT	Salt Lake County	46.9	46.7	D +0.23
CA	San Bernardino County	50.0	49.7	D +0.25
MI	Leelanau County	49.2	48.9	D +0.26
LA	Caddo Parish	49.8	49.4	D +0.38
MS	Oktibbeha County	50.0	49.5	D +0.47
IN	St. Joseph County	49.3	48.8	D +0.52
NJ	Cumberland County	49.1	48.6	D +0.55
ID	Latah County	49.6	48.9	D +0.67
MT	Roosevelt County	49.3	48.6	D +0.78
MD	Kent County	49.5	48.6	D +0.92
AR	Crittenden County	49.7	48.7	D +0.94
NC	New Hanover County	50.2	49.2	D +0.99

Note: margin discrepancies due to rounding
Source: Bradley Wascher, Inside Elections