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JULY 15, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: DOUG SOSNIK AND KAREN HANCOX
SUBJECT: 1996 GUBERNATORIAL AND SENATE RACES

Attached is a memo giving an update on the 1996 gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races.

While this memo is rather long, it will serve as a baseline for the races. Future updates will be shorter and provided on a regular basis.

*the
MEB
CML
Hld,
good
reference.*

*Julie, Josh, Allison -
Please do
not keep on desks.
Janie*

1996 Gubernatorial Races

DELAWARE

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Tom Carper

Republican: Janet Rzewniski

Governor Tom Carper (D) is up for re-election to a second term. He faces no challenge for the September 7 primary, and his only announced opposition in the general election is Delaware State Treasurer Janet Rzewniski (R). She will wage a very negative campaign against Governor Carper, whose approval rating has been roughly 70% since 1994. However, Carper should be easily re-elected. **Note:** The President attended a March 25 fundraiser in Washington that raised roughly \$90,000 for Governor Carper.

Likely Democratic.

INDIANA

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat: Frank O'Bannon

Republican: Stephen Goldsmith

The seat is open because Governor Evan Bayh (D) is term-limited. Lt. Governor Frank O'Bannon (D) and Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith (R) are their party's respective nominees. The most recent public poll, a Mason-Dixon poll conducted April 27-29, showed Goldsmith with a 40%-30% lead over O'Bannon. O'Bannon has some reason to be pleased with that showing. Indiana is a strongly Republican state and the poll was conducted days before the May 7 primary, in which Goldsmith, in a contested race, was advertising heavily while O'Bannon, unopposed for the Democratic nomination, aired only a small amount of advertising.

O'Bannon brings a number of strengths to the table, including Governor Bayh's strong record and continued immense popularity. O'Bannon clearly plans to tie himself very closely to Bayh, who has already appeared in TV spots on O'Bannon's behalf, and Bayh is personally engaged in the contest. O'Bannon has also proven to be a successful fundraiser. He has raised close to \$3 million and spent very little so far, putting him in better financial shape than any Democrat, including Governor Bayh, has ever been at this point in a gubernatorial race. (Goldsmith spent most of his war chest in the primary though there is little doubt he will easily be able to achieve at least parity with O'Bannon.)

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(Updated 7/10/96)

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Nonetheless, this race appears to be an uphill climb for O'Bannon. As mentioned above, Indiana remains one of the most Republican states in the country and, given that O'Bannon is considered by many to be a weak campaigner, there is some question about whether O'Bannon can convert Bayh's popularity into votes for himself. Still, O'Bannon has run a flawless campaign so far and the contest is eminently winnable.

Leans Republican.

MISSOURI

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Mel Carnahan

Republican: Margaret Kelly

Governor Mel Carnahan (D) is being challenged in his bid for a second term by state Auditor Margaret Kelly (R), a moderate. The most recent public poll, a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* poll of 400 residents conducted May 1-11, shows Carnahan with a 47%-33% lead over Kelly. Carnahan remains relatively popular and most observers give him the edge in the contest, though the race can by no means be taken for granted. He holds a decisive financial advantage at this point, with \$1 million in the bank compared to Kelly's \$250,000.

Taxes will be Carnahan's major vulnerability in the fall. Carnahan has been harshly attacked by Republicans for pushing through a \$310 million tax increase for school funding in 1993 without a vote of the people after campaigning the year before on a pledge that he would submit such a tax increase to a vote. Carnahan argues the tax increase was necessitated by a court ruling declaring the state's education funding system to be unconstitutional and that, absent the hike, funding for the state's schools would have been tied up in the courts. The Republicans argue that Carnahan should have waited until the litigation was further along before breaking his pledge on the tax increase. In a preview of the campaign to come, the state GOP aired ads against the Governor on this topic earlier this year, referring to him as "Tax Man Carnahan." Carnahan, however, scored a major victory in March when Amendment 4, a measure requiring a statewide vote on any tax or fee increase amounting to more than \$50 million, was passed by Missouri voters by a 2-1 margin. Carnahan was the measure's most vocal supporter. Hopefully, the measure's passage will provide some important political cover for Carnahan this November.

Leans Democratic.

MONTANA

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Chet Blaylock

Republican: Marc Racicot

Governor Marc Racicot (R) (pronounced "Rosco") was elected to office in 1992, winning with 51% of the vote. Vying for his second term, Racicot easily defeated former University of Montana law professor Rob Natelson in the June 4th Republican primary, and is heavily favored over Democratic gubernatorial nominee Chet Blaylock in the November general election. Racicot's moderate ideology and long-time Montana ties -- he was born in Thompson Falls, Montana -- have helped him to an insurmountable 73% approval rating among Montana voters. Shortly after the June primary, Racicot announced a vigorous re-election campaign, which could lead the popular Racicot to carry other GOP candidates on his coattails. The Montana state legislature is already overwhelmingly Republican. Racicot has been endorsed by the Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers.

A *Great Falls Tribune* and Montana TV poll conducted by Rochester Research Group between May 8 - 10 found Racicot leading Blaylock (D) by a substantial margin:

GENERAL ELECTION

Racicot 74%

Blaylock 17%

Solid Republican.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

OPEN -- Currently (R)

Democrats: Jeanne Shaheen, Sidney Lovell, Brian Woodworth

Republicans: Bill Zeff, Ovide Lamontagne, Al Rubega, Jeffery Howard, Fred Bramante

Primary: September 10

Governor Steve Merrill (R) is retiring after serving two terms. State Representative Jeanne Shaheen is the likely Democratic nominee and U.S. Representative Bill Zeff (R-01) is the likely Republican nominee.

Although Zeliff is favored to win the primary, the Republican primary race is heating up. In New Hampshire, there is a voluntary spending limit of \$500,000 for the primary. If a candidate collects 2,000 notarized petitions of registered voters and submits a \$5,000 check to the Secretary of State, then they are allowed to break the spending cap and spend an unlimited amount of money. Zeliff turned in 2,225 petitions to get his name on the ballot and submitted the \$5,000 and it is reported that he has spent more than \$500,000 in the primary. His most serious opponent, Ovide Lamontagne, is charging that 500 of the names Zeliff submitted are invalid and therefore should be kicked off the ballot for not having the required names to exceed the spending cap. Zeliff said July 1 that his campaign has reviewed the signatures, and agrees that there are not enough valid signatures. Zeliff argues, however, that the Secretary of State's office is supposed to notify a campaign of invalid signatures and grant them 24 hours in which to correct the problem -- Zeliff claims this never happened and should not be thrown off the ballot. The state Ballot Commission is holding a preliminary meeting July 1 to determine what to do -- aside from removing Zeliff from the ballot, they could leave him on the ballot and require him to abide by the spending cap. Lamontagne has said that if the commission does not throw Zeliff off the ballot, he will take it to the Supreme Court. The issue should be resolved by July 8 which is the date that ballots are printed.

Likely Democratic nominee Jeanne Shaheen has both the money and the organization to win the primary and mount a serious general election fight. Shaheen has made a move uncommon for Democratic candidates in New Hampshire and has taken the pledge to not impose broad base taxes should she be elected governor. This will help her in the general election by diffusing an issue for the Republican nominee to use against her. Shaheen's campaign will focus on deregulating utility companies, increasing competition for HMO's and education. A general election between Shaheen and Zeliff would be tight race. The most recent poll by the University of New Hampshire released June 18 shows Zeliff leading Shaheen 34% to 25%. However, this lead can mostly be attributed to Zeliff's name recognition as a Congressman.

Note: The Vice President attended a June 27 fundraiser in Washington for Shaheen which raised roughly \$100,000. Sidney Lovell went on the radio the following day and questioned why the Vice President would take sides in a Democratic primary. However, there does not seem to be much fallout beyond that.

Lean Republican.

NORTH CAROLINA

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Jim Hunt

Republican: Robin Hayes

Governor Jim Hunt (D) faced no opposition in the Democratic primary and holds a large lead against the Republican nominee, State House Majority Whip Robin Hayes. Nevertheless, Hunt is running scared, having lost a U.S. Senate race in 1984 in a Presidential election year. The President's strong numbers and Hunt strong, conservative record should make it very difficult for Hayes to win.

Hayes defeated Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot 50% to 46% in a nasty runoff that pitted the moderate and conservative wings of the Republican Party against each other. Hayes' campaign was able to keep Vinroot on the defensive by attacking him for his support of Planned Parenthood, which performs abortion, and for gun control. Vinroot attempted to move to the right during his campaign, but got caught in his own moderate record. The campaign showed that Hayes knows how to go for the jugular and will. In the general, Hayes will enjoy significant personal finances as the heir to the Cannon Mills textile fortune and the part-owner of a Mack Truck dealership. His family gave him more than \$1 million for the primary, although it is not clear that his bank account is unlimited. Hayes will also have the active support of the Christian Coalition, which helped him defeat Vinroot.

Likely Democratic.

NORTH DAKOTA

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Lee Kaldor

Republican: Ed Schafer

Governor Ed Schafer (R) is being challenged in his bid for a second term by Assistant House Minority Leader Lee Kaldor (D). Kaldor faces a steep uphill climb in this contest. Schafer has been popular throughout his term and leads Kaldor by a 61%-18% margin in the most recent public poll, conducted in early May.

Schafer has been dogged by a series of negative stories about his personal finances. Specifically, in 1992, while he was running for governor, he took out \$7 million in loans from various sources, including the state-run Bank of North Dakota and a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD, to start a fish farm. The business was a miserable failure and though he is personally very wealthy, he has been delinquent in paying back the loans. Although he repaid the Bank of North Dakota earlier this year -- clearly fearing the retaliation of North Dakota taxpayers -- he still has roughly \$3 million total in unpaid debt to HUD, private banks, vendors, etc. This is a clear vulnerability for Schafer, who ran for governor in 1992 promising to run the state like a business. Kaldor, however, does not appear to be poised to take advantage of this weakness. Schafer remains popular despite the story's thorough airing in the state press and Kaldor, whose campaign is not considered a serious threat in North Dakota, is having extreme difficulty raising the funds he needs to get the story out. Schafer will likely glide to another term.

Solid Republican.

UTAH

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Jim Bradley

Republican: Mike Leavitt

Governor Mike Leavitt (R) is seeking a second term in office, having won with 42% of the vote in a three-way race in 1992. Leavitt will face former Salt Lake County Commissioner Jim Bradley (D) in the November general election. Bradley filed his candidacy at the last minute, doing so, as he put it, "...to spare state Democrats the embarrassment of having Leavitt run unopposed in the general election." Leavitt, who enjoys approval ratings hovering at the 80% mark, is expected to easily defeat Bradley in the general election.

The most recent in this race, conducted for the Salt Lake City *Deseret News*, shows Bradley (D) trailing Leavitt by a large margin. The poll found 75% of those surveyed support Leavitt's re-election bid, compared to just 12% for Bradley. The poll also found that among Democrats, 32% favored Bradley, 55% supported Leavitt and 10% didn't have an opinion. The poll was conducted by Dan Jones & Associates and surveyed 608 Utah residents statewide between March 26 - 28.

Solid Republican.

VERMONT

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Howard Dean

Republican: to be determined

Governor Dean assumed office in 1991 following the death of his predecessor, Governor Richard Snelling (R). Dean had been Lt. Governor since 1986. Dean was elected to his first full term in 1992 with 75% of the vote. He was re-elected in 1994 with 70% of the vote and maintains a popularity rating hovering in the 70% range.

The late Governor Richard Snelling's wife, Lt. Governor Barbara Snelling (R), had been campaigning unopposed to be the Republican nominee to challenge Dean this fall. However, Snelling suffered a massive aneurysm April 13, and announced June 12 that she would not continue her campaign. Even with Snelling in the race, Dean was favored to win re-election without much of a problem. Republicans have until July 15 to find a candidate to replace Snelling as their nominee and are not having much luck. Reportedly, every political person the state Republican Committee has approached has declined to run against Governor Dean. Republicans had hope they could convince popular Attorney General Jeffery Amestoy (R) to run, but he declined. Republicans are now said to be focusing on recruiting a Vermont business leader to join the race. Most pundits agree that funding for a newcomer would be virtually nonexistent, adding to the hesitancy among potential candidates.

Note: The President attended a May 20 fundraiser in Washington for Governor Dean that raised roughly \$150,000.

Solid Democratic.

WASHINGTON

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat(s): Crowded Field

Republican(s): Crowded Field

Primary: September 17

Since the surprising retirement announcement of embattled incumbent Governor Mike Lowry (D) last February, the field of Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates has grown in both numbers and substance. However, the nominees will not be decided until September 17th, leaving all candidates plenty of time to attract media attention and campaign funds.

Although the filing deadline is still some three weeks away (July 26th), the Democratic primary field appears to be settled among three major candidates: Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, King County Executive Gary Locke, and former Rep. Jay Inslee. State Senator Nita Reinhart, considered a contender because of her strong ties to women's organizations, withdrew from the race last week, citing problems in fundraising due to the state's strict campaign finance laws. While many thought Reinhart would compete for the nomination as the only female candidate in the Democratic primary, the strong feminist records of the other male candidates appears to have neutralized Reinhart's gender advantage, thus leading to her withdrawal.

Among the remaining Democratic candidates, most observers believe this to be a two-way race between Locke and Rice. Gary Locke, the first Asian-American elected as King County Executive, is considered the slight favorite over his friend and sometime mentor, Norm Rice. Several factors appear to favor Locke in the primary. While Locke is largely considered more moderate than Rice in political ideology -- a fact which could hurt him among the more liberal Democratic primary voters -- his positioning on social issues has solidified his standing among hard-core Democratic constituencies. In addition, Locke's recent high profile fight with the owner of the Seattle Seahawks professional football franchise -- who threatened to move the team to Los Angeles -- was a high-stakes gamble that appears to have paid-off with the announcement that the team, now under new ownership, will permanently stay in King County. Finally, the mere fact that Locke was elected from a larger base of voters -- King County encompasses the city of Seattle, and well as surrounding suburbs -- points to Locke's apparent dominance in the primary.

Norm Rice may surprise the pundits, however. He too, recently gambled on a high-stakes confrontation. In a much publicized news conference, Rice took-on a conservative radio talk-show host who was spreading unsubstantiated personal allegations about Rice. Surrounded by his wife and family, Rice dramatically denounced the talk-show host and the radio station, which led to an apology by the station, and the dismissal of the talk-show host. Most observers hailed Rice's decision to publicly confront and debunk the rumors, and his candidacy appears to have gained much needed momentum since the press conference.

Former Rep. Jay Inslee could be a sleeper, if for no other reason than the fact that he hails from an area outside the Seattle metropolitan region. Should Locke and Rice split votes, as expected, from the Seattle area, Inslee could be the recipient of "non-urban" votes from the rest of the state, as a strong "anti-Seattle" bias exists in many parts of the state.

In the end, however, any successful Democratic gubernatorial candidate will need to win support from Washington State's powerful unions. Locke has had the most success, having been endorsed by the Washington State Federation of State Employees. Most key labor groups, however, have decided to stay neutral in the gubernatorial race. The Washington Education Association, with 65,000 members statewide, last month endorsed all three gubernatorial Democratic candidates, as well as GOP candidate Jim Waldo. Waldo, who is making education the centerpiece of his campaign, was the lone Republican among eight GOP contenders to win an endorsement.

The Republican field is made up of eight candidates which include state Senator Pam Roach, former state Senator Ellen Craswell, state Senate Minority leader Dan McDonald, state House Majority leader Dave Foreman, King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, attorney Jim Waldo, former GOP King County chairwoman Nona Brazier, and activist Bob Tharp. While most observers believe Maleng, Roach and Foreman will battle for the nomination, during the state GOP convention held last month, former state Senator Ellen Craswell, a strong conservative, received the most support among the religious conservatives and the pro-life activists who today appear to dominate the state GOP.

The most recent poll shows Washington State voters leaning heavily towards electing a Democrat as the next governor. According to a March poll, 46% of respondents say they will likely vote for the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, while only 22% say they will likely vote for the Republican nominee. The same poll also showed King County Executive Gary Locke leading the Democratic field with 24%, followed by Seattle Mayor Norm Rice with 15%, State Senator Nita Reinhardt, who has since withdrawn from the race, with 4% and former Congressman Jay Inslee with 3%. The poll was conducted by Evans/McDonough polling firm and surveyed 399 registered voters statewide.

Leans Democratic

WEST VIRGINIA

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Charlotte Pritt

Republican: Cecil Underwood

Former state senator Charlotte Pritt (D) became the Democratic nominee for Governor after beating state Senator Joe Manchin (D) in a divisive primary that saw labor opposing many Democratic legislators, including Manchin. She will take on former Governor Cecil Underwood (R), who was the youngest elected governor in 1956 and will become the oldest elected governor if elected at 74. Since the primary, Pritt leads Underwood, 49 percent to 44 percent, with a 3.4% margin of error.

The state Democratic party has taken several steps to heal the divisions between labor and many Democratic officials. Despite his deep dislike of Charlotte Pritt going back to her run against him in the governor's race four years ago, Governor Caperton (D) came out in support of the entire Democratic ticket, including Pritt. He has also met with her personally and expressed support. Pritt, who was endorsed by organized labor, the NEA, and environmental groups, has reached out to conservatives in the state by naming co-chairmen of the party: House Speaker Chuck Chambers and labor attorney Pat Maroney. Pritt has an excellent chance to win if she can mount a professional campaign. She still needs to hire a campaign manager, press secretary and finance director. In the primary, she was criticized for her micromanaging operations and praised for her grassroots organization. Pritt emphasized traditional liberal economic issues and largely avoids liberal social ones. She

advocates universal health care, opposes the construction of a pulp mill plant and a new highway, calls for an increase in the minimum wage, and calls for a reduction in food and gas taxes.

Former governor and current candidate Cecil Underwood (R) has pledged to run a "clean campaign" against Pritt. He is spending the summer months raising campaign funds and announced that he will have a Greyhound bus as a traveling campaign office. Underwood claims his experience, age, and dedication to "solve problems and create new opportunities" make him the better choice for governor, but he has remained virtually silent on the issues. If the state Democratic party can heal its divisions and Pritt mounts a real campaign, she should win this race.

Leans Democratic.

1996 Senate Races

ALABAMA

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat: Roger Bedford

Republican: Jeff Sessions

This election will determine who replaces Senator Howell Heflin (D), who is retiring after three terms. Observers believe that the Democratic nominee, State Senator Roger Bedford, will have an uphill battle against the Republican nominee, Jeff Sessions, who was first elected attorney general in 1994. Alabama has been voting Republican in federal races and Sessions is seen as popular politician, although inexperienced in elective politics. During the primary and runoff, Sessions took advantage of his position as the state's top attorney and his name recognition to avoid debates with his opponents. Bedford announced that he will challenge Sessions to debate in the fall campaign. Sessions can expect full support of the business community, while Bedford will continue to get backing from the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association. Polls currently favor Sessions, giving him a 46% to 36% lead, according to a Mason-Dixon poll conducted June 18-19.

Both candidates needed runoffs to win their nominations. Bedford led the primary against second-place finisher U.S. Representative Glen Browder and political science professor Natalie Davis, and then defeated Browder in the runoff 63% to 37%. Browder was the initial favorite to win this race and was considered the more conservative, therefore stronger, candidate to run against Sessions. But he ran a weak campaign and was outraised 3-1 by Bedford. Bedford won the endorsement from Natalie Davis, the third place finisher, gaining valuable support from her large women following.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions won his runoff against millionaire businessman Sid McDonald 60% to 40%. Sessions received enormous support from traditional Republicans who were suspicious of McDonald's loyalty to the party; McDonald had served as a former Democratic state legislator and had made large donations to Democratic officials such as Representative Richard Gephardt and former Governor Jim Folsom.

Leans Republican.

ALASKA

Incumbent (R)

Democrat(s): Crowded Field

Republican(s) Ted Stevens and Dave Cuddy

Primary: August 27

Senator Ted Stevens (R) is seeking his fifth term in office, having won re-election in 1990 with 66% of the vote. Stevens greatest obstacle in 1996 comes not from whoever emerges as his Democratic opponent, but from primary battle against political newcomer and banker Dave Cuddy (R). Cuddy's strong ties to the conservative wing of the Alaska GOP have allowed a favorable comparison to the more moderate Stevens. While the wealthy Cuddy does not currently have much money in his campaign warchest, he can write a sizeable check at any time to compete with the nearly \$1.3 million that Stevens has on-hand. Despite the strong challenge, most observers feel that Stevens will prevail in the GOP primary, if for no other reason than the fact that most Alaskans feels he has fought hard to bring federal money into the state through his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Democrats have been unable to convince a well-funded, credible candidate to jump in the race, although seven candidates are competing for the Democratic nomination, including Lawrence Freieberger, Robert Gigler, Michael Beasley, Hank Blake and Frank Vondersaar, none of which filed an FEC first-quarter report. Stevens should easily win in the general election. The Alaska open primary will be held August 27.

Solid Republican.

ARKANSAS

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat: Winston Bryant

Republican: Tim Hutchinson

For the first time since reconstruction, Arkansas Republicans appeared likely to pick up a Senate seat -- until Governor Jim Guy Tucker decided to resign from office. Lieutenant Governor Mike Huckabee faced no opposition in the Republican primary on May 21 while the Democratic candidates were beating up on each other. The Democratic primary left two candidates, Attorney General Winston Bryant and state Senator Lu Hardin in a runoff, which Bryant won 55% to 45%. In June, Governor Jim Guy Tucker was convicted on charges of fraud and conspiracy and announced the following day that he would leave office by July 15. Huckabee decided to complete Tucker's term as Governor instead of making a run for the Senate, even though Huckabee had double digit leads over both Bryant and Hardin. Arkansas insiders speculate that a reason Huckabee decided to take Tucker's place is that he believes Senator Bumpers will retire in 1988, and Huckabee will run for Senate at that time.

With their best shot at placing a Republican in the U.S. Senate ascending to the governor's mansion, Republicans chose Congressman Tim Hutchinson as their new nominee as the state convention. Hutchinson was selected without any opposition.

There have been no public polls but observers believe Bryant holds a double-digit lead over Hutchinson. Hutchinson is very popular in the 3rd Congressional District, but less well known over the rest of the state. His brother Asa, an attorney and former state party chair, is vying to become the Republican nominee for Representative Hutchinson's seat when Republicans meet in a special district caucus on July 13. State Senator John Brown III is also interested in the nomination and may have the edge. Some Republicans are concerned that Asa's race will hurt Tim's chances of winning the senate race because of the possibility for confusion among voters. For Bryant, this turn of events has given him a leg up in what has been a political career marked by good fortune. He has run for a statewide election seven times and never lost.

Leans Democratic.

COLORADO

OPEN -- Currently (R)

Democrat(s): **Gene Nichol, Tom Strickland**

Republican(s): **Gale Norton, Wayne Allard**

Primary: **August 13**

The jockeying for the open seat of GOP incumbent Hank Brown, who is retiring, started even before Brown's somewhat unexpected announcement. Several Democratic candidates have been vying for the nomination -- Denver attorney Tom Strickland, former law school dean Gene Nichol and Denver Councilwoman Ramona Martinez -- with most observers believing Strickland to be the odds-on favorite. Two Republicans are battling for their party's nomination -- Rep. Wayne Allard and Attorney General Gail Norton.

Although Strickland entered the race with little statewide name identification -- he has never sought public office before this race -- he did come with strong fundraising credentials through his ties as a law partner to Norm Brownstein. This alone garnered him the label as early frontrunner.

Colorado's unusual nominating system has produced some interesting "twists" to the Democratic nomination. Candidates have two routes to use by which to make it to the August 13 primary ballot: garnering at least 30% support from caucus-goers, who officially cast their "ballots" at the June state convention, or candidates can petition their way onto the ballot. While all Democratic candidates, prior to the state convention, had publicly agreed to abide by the wishes of the delegates to the state convention, Ramona Martinez withdrew this pledge, and instead decided to petition her way onto the ballot. Her effort failed, however, as just last week, the Secretary of State's office announced that Martinez's petition fell far short of the required signatures. This leaves two candidates vying for the Democratic nomination: Tom Strickland and Gene Nichol.

At the state convention, Nichol tallied support from 45% of the delegates, while Strickland garnered support from 39%. While most neutral observers still expect the moderate Strickland

to win the nomination, he appears to have lost momentum to the "populist" Nichol, who is foregoing PAC contributions in the primary. Nichol is popular with party activists, but will probably be weak against Strickland in the last phase of the campaign because he has few campaign funds available. Strickland is expected to use his sizeable war chest to mount an aggressive television ad campaign to introduce himself to Colorado voters, and thus defeat Nichol in the primary.

On the Republican side, a classic battle is ensuing between the conservative Allard, and the moderate pro-choice Norton, Colorado's first female attorney general. While the conventional wisdom points to the more moderate Norton as the better general election candidate, Allard has a strong advantage in the GOP primary due to his close ties to the conservative wing of the state party, who clearly dominate GOP primary politics. Due to his strong appeal to the conservative base and his fundraising advantage, Allard is expected to win the GOP nomination.

While the Cook Political Report rates a general election match-up between Strickland and Allard as a "toss-up," most political observers on the ground agree that a close contest is in order, but say the advantage is clearly with Allard because of the more conservative tilt to Colorado's general election voters.

Toss-up.

DELAWARE

Incumbent (D)

Democrat:	Joe Biden
Republican:	Raymond Clatworthy, Vance Phillips, Wilfred Plomis
Libertarian:	Mark Jones

Senator Joe Biden (D) is running for re-election to a fifth term this year and should win easily. Republicans had pinned their hopes on State Senator Colin Bonini to take on Senator Biden since both Congressman Mike Castle (R) and former Governor Pete DuPont (R) both decided to not run. However, Bonini dropped out of the race in late January and endorsed Dover businessman Raymond Clatworthy who has \$200,000 of his own money to spend on the race. The Delaware GOP should now coalesce behind Clatworthy who faces minimal challenges from two other Republican candidates in the September 7 primary. Mark Jones, a young computer science professor and Libertarian Party member, announced January 21 that he will also run for the U.S. Senate, but his candidacy will have no significant impact on the race.

Solid Democratic.

GEORGIA

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat: Max Cleland
Republican: Johnny Isakson, Guy Millner
Primary: July 9
Runoff: August 6

Democrats have been able to gain the advantage in this race to replace retiring Senator Sam Nunn (D) by consolidating support for Max Cleland and avoiding an expensive, combative primary. By contrast, the Republicans had a primary fight among six candidates end in a runoff, which will take place August 6, between state Senator Johnny Isakson and businessman Guy Millner. It is very likely to be a heated race as Millner goes after conservative and religious right voters against Isakson's moderate postions. Cleland, a paraplegic who was paralyzed fighting in Vietnam, is one of the most popular statewide elected officials in Georgia, having received more votes over the past dozen years than any other politician -- including Sam Nunn. A recent poll put Cleland's favorable/unfavorable rating at 53%/9%. The Republicans made a tactical error by attacking Cleland over tapes of an explicit sexual telephone conversation he had with a girlfriend. Both conservatives and liberals defended Cleland for what were private conversations between unmarried, consenting adults. This has removed the issue for the fall.

Businessman Guy Millner, the 1994 gubernatorial nominee who lost to Governor Zel Miller by two percentage points, led a packed Republican field, winning the primary with 42% of the vote. Isakson came in second with 34%. Millner ran a county-based grassroots campaign with active organizations in all of Georgia's 159 counties. Millner has visited 60 percent of the state's counties. This grassroots effort is a clear indication that Millner is responding to criticisms of his 1994 gubernatorial race that he did not spend enough time campaigning in small towns. Isakson, the 1990 gubernatorial nominee, campaigned as a pro-choice moderate. He has run pro-choice ads (He supports a woman's choice but is personally opposed to abortion) and has advocated that the GOP moderate its pro-life plank. Day, an heir to the fortune from the sale of his family's business, the Day's Inn motel chain, spent lots of money on television promoting himself as the far-right candidate, winning 19% of the vote. During the primary, Isakson attacked Millner for failing to fully disclose his income tax returns. There are rumors that Millner did not pay any income taxes one year. The runoff takes place during the Olympics, which will pose a challenge for each campaign since few Georgians will be focusing on politics. Whoever wins, the nominee will have lost a month in what will likely be a nasty runoff. Millner is expected to win. As the nominee, he will have a personal fortune as the chief executive officer of Norell, one of the largest temp agencies in the country, to spend on the race.

Toss up.

IDAHO

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Walt Minnick

Republican: Larry Craig

Senator Larry Craig (R) is seeking a second term in office, having won in 1990 with 61% of the vote. Craig was elected to the Senate in 1990 when former Senator James McClure (R) retired after three terms in office.

Craig is being challenged by businessman Walt Minnick (D) in the general election. Both candidates ran unopposed in the May 28 primary and both campaigns have estimated that they will spend between \$2 and \$3 million before the November general election.

Minnick, who is independently wealthy, is considered a strong challenger in this conservative and mostly Republican state. While distancing himself from traditional Democratic groups, Minnick has received and accepted the endorsements of the Idaho chapter of the American Postal Workers Union and the Idaho Education Association. The state's chapter of the AFL-CIO did not make a formal endorsement of Minnick, due in part to his support of the successful right-to-work campaign in Idaho that banned mandatory union membership as a condition of continued employment in the mid-1980s. Minnick also has the support of former Democratic Governors Cecil Andrus and John Evans, who are serving as Minnick's campaign co-chairmen.

In anticipation of a difficult general election, Craig last week began a statewide radio advertising campaign against Minnick. The radio blitz is expected to run for two weeks.

According to a Spokane-Spokesman Review poll, Craig currently holds a comfortable lead over Minnick. The poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon/PMR between May 16 - 18 and surveyed 802 registered voters statewide. (The poll also tested the independent candidacy of Mary Charbonneau (I).) The poll found:

GENERAL ELECTION

Craig	54%
Minnick	31%
Charbonneau	3%

CRAIG JOB PERFORMANCE

Excellent/good	57%
Fair/poor	39%

Likely Republican.

ILLINOIS

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat: **Dick Durbin**

Republican: **Al Salvi**

The seat is open because Senator Paul Simon (D) is retiring. Rep. Dick Durbin (D) is the Democratic nominee. In a stunning upset, archconservative millionaire trial attorney and former state Rep. Al Salvi (R) defeated Lt. Governor Bob Kustra (R) who was backed by Governor Edgar's organization for the GOP nod last March.

Although the race certainly cannot be taken for granted, the GOP's nomination of Salvi, a right-winger out of step with the state's traditionally moderate electorate, gives Durbin an edge in this race. Salvi's campaign is also reportedly plagued with organizational problems and has had great difficulty raising money since he won the primary.

Salvi will try to move to the center and paint Durbin as a tax-and-spend liberal while Durbin will try to tie Salvi's views to those of Newt Gingrich and otherwise paint Salvi as an extremist, especially on abortion, the issue for which the anti-choice Salvi was best known in the state legislature. In the above-mentioned *St. Louis Post Dispatch* poll Durbin leads Salvi 47%-27%. Durbin's campaign released his internal numbers to the press, showing him with a 45%-32% lead.

Leans Democratic.

IOWA

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: **Tom Harkin**

Republican: **Jim Ross Lightfoot**

Senator Tom Harkin (D) is being challenged by Rep. Jim Ross Lightfoot (R) in his bid for a third term. Lightfoot's surprise late entry into the race reshuffled a race that initially looked safe for Harkin. The most recent poll, a *Des Moines Register* Iowa Poll of 640 likely Iowa voters conducted June 19-25, is summarized below. The poll shows a significant tightening in the contest since the poll's April sample though Harkin's job performance numbers remain at record highs.

GENERAL ELECTION

	NOW	4/96
Harkin	50%	58%
Lightfoot	39%	32%

JOB APPROVAL
63% app/23% disapp
53% app/21% disapp

A National Republican Senate Committee poll released last week, meanwhile, reported Harkin and Lightfoot in a dead heat, with Harkin holding a bare 45%-44% lead, though most observers question the credibility of that poll. Harkin's internal polling shows him with a ten-point edge.

Although no one expects Harkin to win by a large margin, most observers still consider him to be the favorite in this contest. He is a superior and tireless campaigner and has had a strong organization in place for months. The senator has been doing a very effective job of staying in the public eye over the past few months, hammering away at the populist themes for which he is so well-known. Lightfoot, meanwhile, is considered a poor campaigner who has extreme difficulty staying on message. He has also had a tough time staying in the public eye since he won the primary.

Both candidates will be competitive financially. Harkin has been a very effective fundraiser, with more than \$2 million in the bank. Lightfoot spent most of the \$300,000 he raised before the June 4 primary on that race. However, given that Harkin is a favorite target among GOP contributors, Lightfoot will have little trouble raising the necessary resources for the contest, especially if he continues to post better-than-expected poll numbers such as those above.

Leans Democratic.

KANSAS - A

OPEN -- Currently (R)

Democrat: Sally Thompson

Republican: Pat Roberts

Primary: August 6

The seat is open because Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R) is retiring. Rep. Pat Roberts (R) and state Treasurer Sally Thompson (D) are the only major candidates. In a piece of very good news for the Thompson campaign, a Mason-Dixon poll of 827 registered Kansas voters conducted June 24-26 shows Roberts with only a 37%-35% lead over Thompson.

This poll indicates that this race is more competitive than previously believed. However, Roberts has a very large bank account and given his position as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, will be able to raise whatever amount he needs. Thompson, meanwhile, has had a very difficult time fundraising, a problem that will be exacerbated by the fact that there are now two Senate races as well as three open House races to compete for limited political funds in the state. She will need to tap into national Democratic money, especially from women's groups, to overcome this problem. Further, Thompson has been the subject of some rather negative publicity for mismanagement of the state's Municipal Investment Pools, which fall under the auspices of her office. In 1994-95, the pools suffered a \$20 million loss due to a rise in interest rates after the office made investments based on the assumption interest rates would rise or remain steady. Thompson even admitted to the press at the time that she did not have the experience to manage the pools, something which resulted in some scathing headlines that would likely be effective in a negative advertisement.

Finally, as you know, Kansas is a very Republican state with favorite son Bob Dole at the top of the 1996 ticket. As a result, Thompson still seems to face a steep uphill climb, especially as Roberts becomes better-known among Republican-minded Kansans.

Leans Republican.

KANSAS - B

Incumbent (appointed) (R)

Democrats: Joan Finney, Jill Docking

Republicans: Sheila Frahm, Sam Brownback

Primary: August 6

Then-Lt. Governor Sheila Frahm (R) was appointed to this seat upon Bob Dole's resignation from the Senate. She will be challenged in the August 6 GOP primary by freshman Rep. Sam Brownback (R), setting up a contest between Frahm, a moderate, pro-choice Republican in the Nancy Kassebaum mold, and Brownback, an archconservative with strong ties to the state's radical right, a major force in Kansas Republican politics.

Frahm has an edge in the primary but not necessarily a large one. A Mason-Dixon poll conducted June 24-26 reports that she leads by a 47%-24% margin. Given the saturation of glowing coverage she received when she took office -- Kansas papers were packed with biographical pieces filled with Republicans saying nice things about her -- a bounce would be expected. Brownback can by no means be counted out. His internal polling prior to Frahm's taking office showed the contest to be a two-point race. Frahm also starts the race with an empty bank account. Brownback, meanwhile, can transfer \$200,000 from his House account to the Senate race and is also personally very wealthy. His 1994 race showed he is not afraid to put his personal resources on the line when his political survival is at issue. The congressman has been on the air for weeks and Frahm will need to raise money quickly to get on the air soon. Brownback also benefits from being in tune with the increasingly right-wing bent of the state GOP. State Democrats would clearly prefer to run against Brownback. If Frahm wins the nomination, the Republicans will be strongly favored in this race.

Former Governor Joan Finney and stockbroker Jill Docking are competing for the Democratic nomination. Finney served a stormy term as governor from 1990-94 and did not seek re-election because she was likely to be defeated. As a result, she starts with a strong advantage in name recognition but a great deal of it is negative, even among Democrats, something which is reflected in the Democratic primary heat of the above-mentioned Mason-Dixon poll. The poll reports that the two candidates are locked in a dead heat, with Finney holding a bare 38%-36% lead. Given that over half of the primary electorate has no opinion of Docking, it seems that Docking, if she raises the funds to get her message out, may have the edge for the nomination. State Democrats would much prefer to run with Docking, who benefits both from being a fresh face and from being associated with one of the state's legendary political families. (Her husband is former Lt. Governor Tom Docking (D). Both her father-in-law and her grandfather-in-law were popular governors.)

If Docking is able to muster the resources, as expected, she is given a slight edge in the primary. A Docking-Brownback race is clearly the most favorable combination for the Democrats in the general election. Any other match-up would make this race a good bet for the Republicans. The Mason-Dixon poll's general election match-ups are listed below. Both Republicans beat both Democrats at the moment, with Frahm holding 17-18 point leads and the less well-known Brownback holding 5-6 point leads.

Frahm	49%	Frahm	41%
Finney	31%	Docking	24%
Brownback	38%	Brownback	34%
Finney	33%	Docking	28%

Leans/Likely Republican (Depending on primary outcome).

KENTUCKY

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Steve Beshear

Republican: Mitch McConnell

Former Lieutenant Governor Steve Beshear (D) will challenge Sen. Mitch McConnell (R) in Kentucky's U.S. Senate Race. The Democrats essentially cleared the primary field for Beshear, who has held statewide office as attorney general and lieutenant governor. Beshear lost in a bitter governor's primary to Wallace Wilkinson (D), who won the governorship in the general election that year. The bitterness remains as Wilkinson endorsed McConnell in May. Observers speculate that Wilkinson is angry that Beshear's law firm is representing people who are suing a failed insurance company that allegedly gave special treatment to Wilkinson when he was governor. In the primary, Beshear faced former Congressman Tom Barlow, who was unfunded and unsupported, and a retired Louisville police officer, and won the primary with 66% of the vote. The campaign has been focusing on raising money. Governor Paul Patton (D) is strongly backing Beshear and will help raise money for him. Some people have been concerned that the campaign has not been able to hire a campaign manager, but that is expected to happen very soon.

McConnell is considered vulnerable after two terms in Washington, DC, where he has become the proverbial insider. He has all but officially moved out of the state to live in Washington. He opposes term limits and campaign finance reform. A June 21 Democratic State Party poll had Beshear only six points behind Sen. McConnell. The *Louisville Courier Journal* reported last week has the race as a dead heat, with 46% of voters for McConnell to 45% for Beshear. Only 60% of those polled knew Beshear's name. Still, this will be a tough race to win.

Leans Republican.

LOUISIANA

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrats: Mary Landrieu, Richard Ieyoub

Republicans: Jimmy Hayes, Chuck McMains, Bill Linder, Peggy Wilson, Woody Jenkins and State Rep. David Duke

Primary: September 21

Louisiana holds an open primary in which people vote for candidates regardless of party and the top two vote-getters compete in a runoff. The polls show that Mary Landrieu (D), former state Treasurer and unsuccessful candidate for Governor last year, leads all other candidates by large margins. The winner will replace Senator Bennett Johnson, who is retiring this year after four terms in the Senate. On the Democratic side, the 1995 gubernatorial race, which divided on racial lines and elected a Republican as governor, is the backdrop for the primary and general election. Landrieu placed third in the 1995 primary behind U.S. Representative Cleo Fields, and then refused to endorse him in the runoff. Fields had accused her of being racist when her campaign said she was the only Democrat in the race who could win in the general election. Senator John Breaux initially urged Landrieu to run for Senate this year; Congressman William Jefferson and Fields pushed Attorney General Ieyoub to run. Ieyoub (D) has been surprisingly quiet as Landrieu's campaign moves into high gear. Many political pundits think Ieyoub had been holding back until the Justice Department ruled on Louisiana's new Congressional redistricting plan, which it recently upheld. Fields no longer has a majority black district and will, in effect, be out of a job. Fields' support is currently behind Ieyoub, but he has not removed himself as a possible candidate. He said he will announce his plans by "mid to late June," but has yet to make an announcement. It is very unlikely that he will run for the Senate. He is working behind the scenes to help Ieyoub, and, more to the point, hurt Landrieu with African American voters.

With Landrieu and Ieyoub as the only two Democratic candidates, it is possible that the two will end up in a runoff, ensuring the seat will remain Democratic. The GOP field has six candidates splitting the Republican vote and the vote of crossover Democrats. Republican contenders include Congressman Jimmy Hayes, State Representative Chuck McMains, Metairie businessman Bill Linder, and New Orleans City Councilwoman Peggy Wilson, State Representative Woody Jenkins and State Rep. David Duke. The primary is September 21.

Toss-up.

MAINE

OPEN -- Currently (R)

Democrat: Joe Brennan
Republican: Susan Collins
Independents: John Rensenbrink, Steve Bost

Former Governor Joe Brennan (D) will face Susan Collins (R), the 1994 gubernatorial nominee, in the general election. The general election race between Brennan and Collins will be tight. Both candidates will be well funded and the race will be a toss-up. Brennan's campaign has been working to tighten their organization. The DSCC was in Maine for four days last week working with the Brennan campaign on their campaign structure and fundraising plan. Also last week, Brennan hired a campaign manager and pollster (Penn & Schoen) and began actively seeking fundraisers. If everything comes together, then Brennan stands a good chance of winning in the fall.

Collins has been positioning herself as the heir-apparent to retiring Senator Bill Cohen's moderate legacy. She is pro-choice, opposes the death penalty, supports gay rights, and said recently that she would have voted against the ban on late-term abortions.

The NBC affiliate in Maine conducted a bullet poll June 10 (the day before the primary) and found Collins leading Brennan 54% to 42% in a head to head matchup. However, two days after the primary, the same NBC affiliate conducted a telephone poll finding Collins leading Brennan 47% to 42% with 11% undecided. Considering the high percentage of unenrolled and independent voters in Maine, both polls were interesting in that the undecideds were so low. Three independent candidates will appear on the November ballot for the Senate race: Bowdoin Professor John Rensenbrink representing the Green Party, former state Senator Steve Bost representing the Reform Party and the Taxpayer's Party will field a candidate.

Note: Collins and Brennan were last pitted against each other during the 1994 gubernatorial race. Brennan lost that race to now-Governor Angus King by one percentage point with Collins placing third. Brennan lost a comeback bid for Governor in 1990 as well. Some Democrats have privately speculated that Brennan's having two statewide losses will hurt his chances against Collins. However, the *Portland Press Herald* reported the morning after the primary that a large number of Democrats cited Brennan's experience as the main reason for voting for him. Brennan also has the strong backing of labor in Maine which will have an impact in the general election. Nonetheless, some pundits are giving Collins the edge in the race, thinking that she will have the support of the numerous moderate suburban voters who supported King in 1994.

Toss-up.

MASSACHUSETTS

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: John Kerry

Republican: Bill Weld

Senator John Kerry is seeking re-election to a third term this year. In 1984 he won the seat with 55% of the vote and in 1990, he won a second term with 57% of the vote. He faces Governor Bill Weld (R) in what will be a brutal general election. Both men are moderates and popular in the very independent Massachusetts. They have scheduled a series of seven debates. They already debated three and none of the debates resulted in a clear winner.

The first debate featured Weld attacking Kerry for his opposition to the death penalty and Kerry assailing Weld for "Draconian" welfare policies and calling him a crony of Newt Gingrich.

In the second debate, held June 3, the central issues discussed included economic security, corporate downsizing, tax policy, education, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the minimum wage. Weld continued his attempts to paint Kerry as a tax-and-spend liberal who has stood in the way of vital reforms in welfare, and who is soft on crime. Weld accused Kerry of helping to kill a bill that would have required welfare recipients to work 16 hours a week, and he blasted Kerry for casting a decisive vote against a balanced federal budget.

At the time of their first debate, polls showed Kerry and Weld running almost even, but Weld has since dropped slightly in the polls. Most pundits agreed that Weld needed a strong showing in the second debate to get things back on track following a couple of months of stagnation in his campaign and a slew of bad press stemming from the state government. The state government has caught flack recently following the early release of 700 sex offenders from state prisons, the Department of Social Services allowing convicted criminals to become foster parents, and millions of dollars in uncashed tax payments costing the state \$20,000 in interest per day as the most recent in a series of bad press. However, Weld made no headlines in the second debate and most pundits called it a draw. One good piece of news for Weld is that Boston's Channel 7 conducted a poll of viewers following the debate finding that if the "election were held tomorrow," Weld would receive 43% to Kerry's 40%. Of those polled, 39% said Weld won the debate, 31% said Kerry and 30% were unsure.

No bombs dropped in the third debate which took place on July 2. The Boston Globe reports that the debate did, however, give voters "their clearest picture yet of the candidates' sharply differing views on national issues, from taxes to crime, to the plight of the elderly, to what children learn or don't learn, in school." Weld stuck to his three core issues going after Kerry on taxes, crime and welfare. Weld portrayed himself as a fiscal conservative and told the viewers, "I don't raise taxes so I can spend more money," and he reminded them that he had cut taxes 12 times in Massachusetts. Weld also went after Kerry for supporting an increase in the gasoline tax. Kerry portrayed himself as a friend of working people and focused on who could be trusted to do the job. He continually went after Weld's connections to Gingrich and other Republicans and questioned whether Weld could be trusted on such issues as crime and Social Security reform.

Senator Kerry has been receiving bad press in recent weeks over his scant record of charitable donations which totaled less than 1% of his annual income from 1990 to 1995. The press has been examining and reporting on Kerry's personal financial status and have shown that Kerry lives a relatively lavish and secure lifestyle, while indicating that he has neglected to give reasonable amounts to charity.

Lt. Governor Paul Cellucci (R) is becoming a liability to Governor Weld in the Senate race, as there are signs that some Massachusetts voters are not comfortable with Cellucci becoming Governor should Weld win the Senate race. This group of voters could cast their ballots for Senator Kerry. In addition, Weld could suffer from a group of voters who like the job he has done as Governor and will therefore vote for Kerry to keep Weld in his current post. Both of these groups of people could cause a problem for Weld in what is sure to be a very tight race.

The *Boston Globe* reported last week that Weld may have substantial support from the gay and lesbian community in his race against Senator Kerry this fall. Weld had the support of gays and lesbians in 1990 when he first ran for Governor and has taken strides since then to maintain their support. The article cites some actions taken by Weld as governor, including his formation of the Governor's Commission of Gay and Lesbian Youth, his signing a pioneering gay student rights bill, and his support of state funding to train human service agencies to deal with gay youth. In addition, Weld has appointed gays to high profile positions and has proposed that anti-hate crime laws apply to anti-gay crimes. Weld's position as a pro-gay friendly governor has also won him the attention of national gay and lesbian groups -- the Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay group, recently hosted a fundraiser for Weld in Washington, bringing in \$25,000 for his campaign. The *Globe* article reports that there is a perception among some Massachusetts gays that although Kerry's votes are good for gays roughly 90% of the time, he has not been an advocate for gays and lesbians. Kerry has pushed for an elimination of the ban on gays in the military and he has co-sponsored a bill to reauthorized federal funding for AIDS treatment. Both candidates oppose same-sex marriages.

Toss-up.

MICHIGAN

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Carl Levin

Republicans: Ronna Romney, Jim Nicholson

Primary: August 6

Senator Carl Levin (D) is seeking a fourth term this year. Ronna Romney, a Detroit radio talk show host who came close to beating now-Senator Spencer Abraham in last year's GOP Senate primary, and moderate businessman Jim Nicholson (R) are competing in the August 6 GOP primary. Romney, who has led the little-known Nicholson by large margins in most

GOP primary polls to date, has long been considered the frontrunner and, to a large extent, is still viewed as such in the press. However, a consensus is emerging among political observers that Nicholson may actually hold the edge.

One reason for Nicholson's edge is that although Governor Engler is publicly remaining neutral, Nicholson has the backing of a number of Governor Engler's top supporters, including Dan Pero, Engler's top political operative, who is serving as Nicholson's campaign manager and Mike Murphy, who is handling Nicholson's media. Even with Engler officially neutral, the support of his operation could be critical in turning out the vote in the GOP primary. However, what really attracted notice was Nicholson's recent launch of a heavy barrage of TV advertisements -- two biographical spots, one focusing on his family life, the other on his business success -- at a relatively early point in the primary campaign. Nicholson, who owns PVS Chemical, is very wealthy and is mostly self-financing his campaign. Many observers view his decision to launch such an aggressive buy shows that he is serious about committing the resources necessary to win the contest. Romney, meanwhile, has had a difficult time fundraising and will not be able to launch nearly as aggressive a media campaign. Nicholson is pro-choice and a moderate while Romney is right-wing and anti-choice and Romney has tried to keep the campaign focused on the abortion issue. Romney has also hit Nicholson for not voting in 1992. Michigan voting records show that Nicholson did not vote in that election but Nicholson contends election authorities may have mistakenly credited his son, who shares his name, with voting on their records instead of the candidate. Romney's best hope appears to be a low-turnout primary dominated by right-wing activists whom she has been courting assiduously. Engler's organization is expected to work hard to avoid such a scenario.

Either Romney or Nicholson could give Levin a tough race. Levin's campaign clearly fears Nicholson more because of his moderate, non-political profile and because of the considerable resources he will be able to bring to the table. Levin's campaign has been very effective at fundraising -- his next FEC report will show about \$2.2 million in the bank -- but could find itself considerably outspent if Nicholson wins the primary.

The most recent public poll, an EPIC/MRA poll of 858 voters conducted June 20-25, is summarized below.

GENERAL ELECTION		LEVIN JOB
Senator Carl Levin (D)	52%	52% positive
Ronna Romney (R)	29%	34% negative

That poll did not test Levin vs. Nicholson. However, a Mason-Dixon poll of 808 registered voters conducted May 30-June 1 showed Levin with a 52%-24% lead over Nicholson. (He led Romney 49%-34% in that poll.)

Leans Democratic.

MINNESOTA

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Paul Wellstone

Republicans: Rudy Boschwitz, Bert McKasy

Primary: September 10

Senator Paul Wellstone (D) is seeking a second term this year. His campaign has had a rough going over the past for months. One reason is it now appears that former Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R) will have a far easier time capturing the GOP nomination than was initially expected. The state GOP is dominated by the radical right and it had long been assumed that former state Commerce Commissioner Bert McKasy (R), who spent months concentrating on wooing conservative GOP activists, would win the endorsement of the state GOP at its convention in early June. However, in a big surprise, McKasy failed to win the necessary 60% support to capture the endorsement and with it the credibility and fundraising and political assistance McKasy badly needs against the much better-known and better-funded Boschwitz. McKasy's failure to win the convention was such a blow he almost withdrew from the race. McKasy has opted to stay in the race but his campaign is so crippled that Boschwitz is mostly free to spend his time and resources firing away at Wellstone.

The NRSCC and the state GOP, meanwhile, have been running a relentless TV and radio campaign against Wellstone, attacking him as one of Congress' most liberal members on welfare reform and government spending and as a hypocrite for his successful fundraising, given that Wellstone made campaign finance reform (and Boschwitz's large war chest, specifically) one of his central issues in the 1990 campaign. The Republicans also appear to have had some success in hitting Wellstone for his equivocation on the issue of whether to permit expanded use of motorized vehicles, specifically motorboats and snowmobiles, at Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Voyageurs is located in the Iron Range, home to conservative Democrats who form an important part of any winning Democratic coalition in the state. Such a move is unpopular, however, with environmentalists in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and the Republicans clearly hope to drive a wedge through these two essential components of the Wellstone vote.

The pounding Wellstone has taken from the Republicans appears to have taken its toll. Though Wellstone's poll numbers have long fluctuated, state Democrats have become especially worried in the wake of the most recent public poll, a *St. Paul Pioneer Press* poll conducted May 16-18. That poll showed Wellstone with only a 42%-40% lead over Boschwitz even as it showed the President with a 56%-34% lead over Dole. (Internal Democratic polling shows Wellstone with a similarly small lead.) At this point, state Democrats believe that a an extremely strong GOTV operation and long coattails at the presidential level will be necessary to save Wellstone. Given that Wellstone's operation is very good at driving turnout, that Boschwitz himself is a highly flawed candidate and that the President remains popular in the state, however, such an outcome remains highly possible.

Toss-up.

MISSISSIPPI

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: James Hunt
Republican: Thad Cochran

Senator Cochran has taken opposition in the general election against James Hunt, a retired factory worker and farmer. Cochran will win a fourth term.

Solid Republican.

MONTANA

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Max Baucus
Republican: Dennis Rehberg

Senator Max Baucus (D) is seeking his fourth term in office. Baucus was re-elected in 1990 with 68% of the vote. While Baucus did not have a primary opponent, he was the target of four separate advertising campaigns primarily including the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee (NRSCC).

Baucus will face Lieutenant Governor Dennis Rehberg (R) and student loan investigator Becky Shaw (I) in the general election. The conservative Rehberg easily defeated two opponents in the June 4 primary and immediately began attacking the Democratic incumbent. Rehberg announced his campaign will focus heavily on Baucus's record as a three-term Senator and contended that Baucus has waffled on many issues and has "lost touch" with Montanans. Early in his campaign, Rehberg pledged he would only serve two terms as a senator. During the first debate held last month, the main issue centered around negative attack ads that continue to run against Baucus, funded by the NRSCC. Rehberg asked Baucus to sign a clean campaign pledge, which Baucus agreed to, only after Rehberg announced that the NRSCC ads violated the clean campaign pledge. Baucus also vowed to make sure any third party ads run against Rehberg that violate the pledge are pulled from TV or radio.

Baucus continues to lead Rehberg in fundraising, with the last finance report showing Baucus with \$3.5 million to Rehberg's \$750,000.

According to the latest poll for the *Great Falls Tribune*, Baucus leads Rehberg by a small and perhaps decreasing margin. The poll was conducted by the Rochester Research Group and surveyed 768 adults statewide between May 8 - 10 and found:

GENERAL ELECTION

Baucus	50%
Rehberg	42%

The Cook Political Report rates this race as a "toss up." However, most observers on the ground predict that Rehberg's strong conservative leanings may turn-off more general election voters than expected. Thus, the conventional wisdom is that Baucus should fend off this challenge, albeit without some strong difficulty.

Toss-up.

NEBRASKA

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat: Ben Nelson

Republican: Chuck Hagel

The seat is open because Senator Jim Exon (D-NE) is retiring. Governor Ben Nelson (D) will face off in November against businessman Chuck Hagel (R), a decorated Vietnam War veteran. Nelson is extremely popular, re-elected in 1994 with 74% of the vote, and most observers give him the edge in the race. However, many Democrats are concerned that Nelson's campaign has been taking the race for granted, to the point of believing he is unbeatable. That is not the case: Nebraska is a Republican state and Hagel is an attractive candidate with significant personal wealth at his disposal for the contest. (Nelson, too, is very wealthy.) The most recent public poll, a Mason-Dixon poll of 846 registered voters conducted May 6-8, showed Nelson with a 49%-35% lead over Hagel. A Nelson campaign internal poll, conducted after the May 14 primary, showed Nelson with only a ten point lead. Hagel may have received a bounce from his landslide win over Attorney General Don Stenberg (R) in the GOP primary but Nelson should be running much further ahead at this point in the cycle. National and state Democrats believe, however, that the poll has served as a sobering wake-up call for Nelson and his campaign.

The race is quiet at the moment, with the candidates squabbling mostly through state party surrogates. The state GOP is hitting Nelson for violating his 1994 signed campaign pledge that he would not seek re-election, a charge that does not appear to be sticking. State Democrats are assailing Hagel as a former lobbyist who moved to the state only recently in order to mount a Senate bid.

Leans Democratic.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Incumbent (R)

Democrats: John Rauh, Dick Swett

Republicans: Bob Smith

Primary: September 10

Senator Bob Smith (R) is up for re-election to a second term. Former Congressman Dick Swett (D) and 1992 Senate nominee John Rauh (D) are in a tight race for the Democratic nomination, but Swett should win. A general election battle between Swett and Smith would be a tough fight as both candidates will be well financed. Although recent polls give Smith an edge, most pundits believe that if the President does well in New Hampshire, a Democrat could win the Senate seat. Dole now appears weak in New Hampshire.

A New Hampshire poll conducted May 31 - June 4 surveyed 536 registered voters finding that although Smith leads both possible Democrats in head to head matchups, he garners less than 50% of the vote in each scenario -- he would defeat John Rauh 45% to 27% and Swett 44% to 38%.

Likely Republican.

NEW JERSEY

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat: Bob Torricelli

Republican: Dick Zimmer

Torricelli ran unopposed in the June 4 Democratic primary to replace retiring Senator Bill Bradley (D). On the Republican side, Zimmer won a three-way primary race against Passaic County Freeholder Richard DuHaime (R) and State Senator Dick LaRossa (R). Zimmer was the frontrunner throughout the GOP primary which presented him the opportunity to virtually ignore his primary challenges and focus on the general election against Torricelli. Zimmer was, however, forced to spend money on ads during the primary which his campaign would rather have avoided. **Note:** The GOP primary battle began to create a division along cultural lines in the New Jersey GOP which could have repercussions in the general election. The conservative factions of the New Jersey GOP did not feel Zimmer, who is pro-choice, had the conservative credentials and therefore threw their weight behind DuHaime and LaRossa.

The general election between Torricelli and Zimmer will be a very tight race, with the ultimate outcome a toss-up. The day after securing their party's nominations, Zimmer and Torricelli began defining each other for their general election matchup. Both men are portraying themselves as moderates who are concerned with the middle class. Torricelli continually attacks Zimmer for his extreme record on gun control, the environment and school prayer. In addition, Torricelli will go after Zimmer for a close association with Newt Gingrich, pointing out recently that Zimmer votes with Gingrich when he "knows that it damages the environment, and education and Medicare, and the quality of life of middle-income people in the state of New Jersey." Zimmer says repeatedly on the campaign trail, "Bob Torricelli is too liberal for New Jersey," and said his own campaign will focus on "less government, lower taxes, less spending and more personal responsibility." Zimmer and Torricelli are both pro-choice, therefore, abortion will not be an issue in the general election.

A New Jersey Eagleton Poll released June 24 found Torricelli leading Zimmer 39% to 31% with 30% undecided. Torricelli leads Zimmer 44% to 25% among women, but Zimmer leads Torricelli 36% to 33% among men. The poll shows that neither candidate has much name recognition and that most voters have not formed a firm opinion on either candidate.

Torricelli has been endorsed by the New Jersey Environmental Federation and the Sierra Club -- New Jersey's two largest environmental groups. Perot voters are emerging as a key group that both Torricelli and Zimmer will be targeting. The New Jersey chapter of United We Stand America's Trade Policy Team publicly announced support June 17 for Torricelli who voted against NAFTA in 1994. In a press release that same day, Torricelli said that so far, NAFTA has cost 35,000 American jobs. Zimmer, however, drew public praise June 24 from some other members of the New Jersey chapter of United We Stand, America.

Although UWSA did not endorse Zimmer's candidacy for the open U.S. Senate seat, they praised his position on campaign finance reform. Both candidates have their eyes on New Jersey Perot voters who gave Ross Perot 16% in the state in 1992, and could be a determining factor in their Senate battle. Zimmer has had support of Perot voters in his previous House races -- they supported him 2-1 over his Democratic challenger in 1994. UWSA is currently pushing a campaign finance reform measure that would place a cap on House races at \$600,000 and on Senate races at \$5.5 million. Both Zimmer and Torricelli are expected to exceed this amount in their campaigns.

Note: The President attended a May 7 fundraiser for Torricelli which raised \$2 million for the New Jersey Democratic Party, Torricelli for Senate and the New Jersey Coordinated Campaign.

Toss-up.

NEW MEXICO

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Art Trujillo

Republican: Pete Domenici

Senator Pete Domenici (R) is seeking his sixth term in office. Domenici won election to this office in 1972 and in his last two Senate races, Domenici set state records winning with 72% of the vote in 1984 and 73% in 1990. Domenici re-election campaign war chest stands at \$1.3 million. The moderate Domenici enjoys substantial support from Democrats throughout the state, which makes any Democratic nominee's task even more daunting. In addition, several state law enforcement associations announced their support of Domenici before the June 4 primary.

Former Santa Fe Mayor Art Trujillo (D) won the Democratic primary and will face Domenici in the November general election. Trujillo is considered a weak candidate, with no strong fundraising base and worse, a string of personal setbacks, including two DWI convictions, the most recent of which having come less than five years ago.

Domenici should easily retain his seat.

Solid Republican.

NORTH CAROLINA

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Harvey Gantt

Republican: Jesse Helms

Senator Jesse Helms (R) faces a rematch against the former mayor of Charlotte, and his 1990 Senate opponent, Harvey Gantt in his bid for re-election to his fifth term in the Senate.

In the Democratic primary, Gantt and Charlie Sanders squared-off in one of the most heated contests this year. The race turned more on the question of which candidate has the best chance to unseat the 74-year-old Helms than on any other issue. Gantt carried the majority of African-American voters while only receiving about one-third of the white vote in the primaries. His victory was nonetheless impressive as he was able to avoid a runoff with a 53% - 41% victory. Gantt ran an aggressive campaign that attacked Sanders, who gave money to George Bush and had not registered as a Democrat until the 1990s, for not being a loyal Democrat.

For Gantt to beat Helms, he will have to run a strong field campaign that gets out the black vote while winning 35% or more of the white vote. Some observers believe that the state registration has changed in Gantt's favor. There are 600,000 new voters, many of whom are from out of state and who some observers believe will not respond to Helm's message. Post-election polls show that Gantt leads Helms with 50% support among likely voters, a threshold he never broke in 1990. Yet many people think polls involving black candidates are unreliable because white voters may not tell the truth about who they are supporting. In addition, Gantt must raise a substantial amount of money very quickly -- a task he had no trouble doing in the 1990 campaign. This will be a difficult race for Gantt to win. Many believe that his liberal positions, such as

opposition to the death penalty and his support of gun control, may hurt him. Also, six years later, Helms may appear less extreme to moderate voters in comparison to the Republican Congress.

Leans Republican.

OKLAHOMA

Incumbent (R)

Democrats: James Boren, Don McCorkle, Jeffrey Tollett

Republican: James Inhofe

Primary: August 27

Many observers believed that first-term Senator Inhofe (R) was vulnerable against a strong candidate. Democrats tried to convince Tulsa Mayor Susan Savage to run, but she did not want to be far away from her two teenage daughters. On March 22nd, ex-state Rep. James Bryant (D), who had announced in February his candidacy to challenge Inhofe, dropped out of the race because of his inability to raise the \$2 million goal he set for a viable challenge. Announced Democrats still in the race include: political humorist and educator Jim Boren (a cousin of Senator David Boren), minister Jeffrey Tollett and State Representative Don McCorkle. McCorkle is the frontrunner, but does not look good on television. Boren, a humorist of sorts, is running a very grass-roots oriented campaign appearing on many of the local talk-radio shows in the state. Neither Boren, Tollett, nor McCorkle are considered to have a chance against Inhofe.

Solid Republican.

OREGON

OPEN -- Currently (R)

Democrat: Tom Bruggere

Republican: Gordon Smith

Businessman and political newcomer Tom Bruggere emerged the winner of the May 21st Democratic primary over two-time candidate Harry Lonsdale. Bruggere captured 54% of the vote. On the Republican side, Senate President and 1996 Senate special election nominee Gordon Smith won his party's nomination with 79% of the vote.

This election is considered a toss-up, although the edge goes to Democratic nominee Bruggere, due to the Democratic leanings of this liberal to moderate state. Smith brings a known public persona into this race, as his high-profile defeat to Senator Ron Wyden last January exposed his strong conservative leanings as well as many negatives, such as

his controversial management of his frozen foods empire. However, Smith has worked hard over the past several months to moderate his positions, particularly on issues important to Oregon general election voters such as cuts in Medicare.

Apparently, the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee (NRSCC) believes Bruggere will be a difficult opponent to beat in the general election, as they waged an unprecedented negative attack on Bruggere prior to the May primary. Most in-state observers believe that the NRSCC was hoping to knock-off Bruggere in the primary, in order for Smith to face the vulnerable Harry Lonsdale in the general election. Their gamble backfired however, as Bruggere publicly exposed the NRSCC effort, and parlayed it into additional support for his candidacy.

While Bruggere is considered a strong candidate, if not the favorite in the general election, he will have to overcome a lack of statewide name identification -- this will be Bruggere's first try at elected office -- as well as rookie mistakes that seem to plague first-time candidates.

Smith will undoubtedly tout his record of accomplishment in the state senate, and will attempt to convince Oregon voters that his conservatism has been moderated since his last and recent senate outing. The Cook Political Report rates this match-up as a "toss up" and most observers on the ground agree. However, having been through a recent divisive and contentious senate campaign, Oregon voters appear ready for a positive campaign based on issues. The candidate who meets this desire is the likely winner in November. Based on all accounts, Bruggere, as of today, appears to have the upperhand.

According to a poll conducted after the May 21st primary, Bruggere was leading Smith, 47% to 35%. The poll was conducted by Bardsley and Neidhardt for KPT-TV of Portland. The poll surveyed 600 registered voters statewide.

Toss-up.

RHODE ISLAND

OPEN -- Currently (D)

Democrat:	Jack Reed
Republican:	Nancy Mayer
Primary:	September 10

Senator Claiborne Pell (D) is retiring after six terms. Representative Jack Reed (D-02) is unchallenged for the Democratic nomination to fill this seat. State Treasurer Nancy Mayer (R) is his likely Republican challenger for the general election. She faces a primary challenge from businessman Tom Post, who was a candidate for the Senate in 1994, but Mayer is favored to win. Recent polls show Reed with a comfortable lead and pundits give him the edge in the general election.

The Brown University poll released June 20 shows Reed leading Mayer in a head to head matchup 50% to 25% with 25% undecided.

The RNC has launched an aggressive ad blitz against Reed that has been running for seven weeks. They have spent roughly \$350,000 thus far which is a significant amount of money in a one-media market state like Rhode Island. The most recent ad was launched this week and will run through July 3. The ads label Reed as liberal and attack him for failing to support welfare reform and a balanced budget amendment. The Reed campaign has responded to these ads -- launching a roughly \$50,000 ad that charges "Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole and the national Republicans have brought their negative politics into Rhode Island to smear Jack Reed." The ad defends Reed's record on the balanced budget and welfare reform and notes his votes against tax cuts for the wealthy. In addition to his response, the Rhode Island press has called some of the RNC ads "false" and questioned Nancy Mayer for allowing the RNC to air them. The Rhode Island NBC affiliate decided not to air any of the future RNC ads saying that their claims could not be substantiated.

Mayer will likely focus her energies in the general election on Reed's record on deficit reduction. In a study by the bipartisan Concord Coalition which analyzed the votes of all Members of Congress on a series of deficit reduction items, Reed is listed in the bottom 10% of the House. As state Treasurer, Mayer is hoping to benefit by using this issue.

For her part, Mayer has received recent criticism from Rhode Island Republicans who feel she is not visible enough on the campaign trail, and the state GOP dealt her a harsh blow when they came within one vote of denying her the endorsement for the nomination. The Rhode Island GOP Chair had to break a 7-7 tie between Mayer and 1994 primary candidate Tom Post (R) at the June 18 nominating meeting. The nominating committee recommends to the state GOP who to endorse at the state convention which was held June 27. Mayer denied that the vote was a rebuff of her candidacy, saying that it could be attributed to her ideological differences with the nominating committee who preferred Post's conservatism. However, some GOP leaders said that the vote was a message to Mayer that she should not take the state GOP's support for granted as she looks to a general election match-up with Representative Jack Reed (D-02). However, Mayer does have the support of Governor Lincoln Almond (R) and Senator John Chafee (R) and Post has had a difficult time raising money.

Lean Democratic.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Elliot Close

Republican: Strom Thurmond

Senator Thurmond, 93, is considered vulnerable in a state that has been his for the taking for 50 years. Thurmond's age continues to trouble both constituents and Senate peers. *Newsweek* reported that many of Senator Thurmond's colleagues are worried that he cannot handle the job. Unidentified fellow Senators are unnerved by Thurmond's almost complete dependence on his staff. During meetings, he sometimes becomes disoriented and inadvertently, has even read the stage directions his staff scribbled in the margins, telling him to pause or look up. Nevertheless, this will be a tough race for the Democratic nominee, Elliot Close (D), to win. Close has some advantages: as a textile heir he has a personal fortune to spend on the race. Close himself is refusing direct PAC contributions. He also has been spared the need to use age as an issue since Thurmond's primary opponent raised it repeatedly in ads. Close, who has vowed to run a civil, mud-free campaign, said he would serve a maximum of two six-year terms. He will refuse any congressional pension or taxpayer-paid health care, vote for a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget, support an increased minimum wage and term limits and advocate a ban on PAC donations.

Sixty percent of South Carolina voters think Thurmond is too old to run again. Thurmond also has received criticism from Democratic officials for receiving rides and protection from the State Law Enforcement Division. Despite Thurmond's age and criticisms, he has the lockstep support of the GOP in this overwhelmingly Republican state.

Leans Republican.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Tim Johnson

Republican: Larry Pressler

Senator Larry Pressler (R) is being challenged in his bid for a fourth term by Rep. Tim Johnson (D). Johnson, who has won five terms to the state's at-large congressional seat, usually by wide margins, is a very strong candidate and this race will likely be one of the most competitive of the cycle. With the exception of the NRSC's extensive paid advertising against Johnson, the race has been mostly quiet so far. The NRSC, clearly sensing Pressler's vulnerability, has been feeding South Dakota voters a steady diet of negative advertising on Johnson, accusing the congressman of hiding a liberal record on balancing the budget and workfare. The Chamber of Commerce has also been airing spots defending Senator Pressler on Medicare.

There have been no recent public polls on this contest. The NRSCC recently released a poll of 400 likely voters conducted June 9-10 showing Pressler with a 46%-38% lead, though many observers doubt the credibility of the NRSCC poll. Johnson's most recent internal poll, conducted in late April, showed him with a 44%-38% lead.

Toss-up.

TENNESSEE

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Houston Gordon, Ashley King

Republican: Fred Thompson

Primary: August 1

The mood in Tennessee has changed dramatically in the last two years. Democrats believe they have a candidate, Houston Gordon (D), a trial lawyer, who has a shot to defeat Senator Fred Thompson (R). Gordon has taken opposition in the primary against a weak candidate, Ashley King. Other potential opponents were cleared so that he could focus on fundraising and mounting a fall campaign. Gordon is positioning himself as a conservative Democrat who is in tune with average Tennesseans. At his announcement, Gordon, 49, said, "I am a Christian, I am a Democrat, and I own a gun." Thompson has raised lots of money and remains popular in state. He has begun to distance himself from Dole. He did not attend any of the Dole events in state. Whether Gordon can tie Thompson to Newt Gingrich and the radicals in Congress is unclear. Many observers believe Thompson will be very difficult to defeat even in the current more favorable environment.

Likely Republican.

TEXAS

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Victor Morales

Republican: Phil Gramm

Incumbent Sen. Phil Gramm (R) faces challenger Victor Morales (D), a high school Civics teacher from Mesquite. Since Morales has no staff, Sen. Bob Kerrey has loaned the candidate his press secretary, Greg Weiner, whose Texas experience includes working in Sen. Krueger's press office during his Senate campaign against Kay Bailey Hutchison. Morales won the primary with his cellular phone and a pickup truck adorned with a "Morales for Senate" sign that he drove across Texas. The purpose of Morales' primary rallies was simply to raise enough gas money to get to the next stop. Low turnout for the primary and the Hispanic vote also helped him squeak past his runoff opponent, Congressman John Bryant.

Gramm easily won the primary nomination after dropping out of the Presidential race. However, his favorability/unfavorability rating is not good (41% /39%; only 46% of people say they'll vote for him in the fall.) In a poll taken on June 19, Morales had 33% of the vote against Gramm's 47%. Both camps claimed to be pleased with the results, but poll director Ty Meighan said Morales is in striking distance, and that "Gramm should be a little worried." Nevertheless, Gramm's reputation and his \$3.5 million in cash on hand gives him a big edge in the race. In order to survive Phil Gramm's negative ads and ability to shape the issues in his

favor, Morales will have to mount a more sophisticated campaign without losing his outsider image. The DSCC and state Democrats have been reaching out to his campaign. Morales is expected to help President Clinton's reelection by inspiring Hispanics to turn out for the general election and vote Democratic.

Likely Republican.

VIRGINIA

Incumbent (R)

Democrat: Mark Warner

Republican: John Warner

U.S. Senator John Warner (R) will seek a fourth term in a campaign against 41-year-old multimillionaire businessman Mark Warner (D). Warner routed James C. Miller III in the Republican primary by a 2-to-1 margin, a sizeable victory that may not bode well for candidate Mark Warner. But in winning in a primary rather than a caucus, Warner handed a defeat to the Republican right wing which may not come out for him strongly in the fall. Challenger Mark Warner also "beat" Senator John Warner on June 26 in their first head-to-head confrontation: a lottery that determined Mark Warner's name will appear first on the ballot this November. Ordinarily, no one would pay much attention to the candidate's ranking on the ballot, but in the all-Warner Senate race, it could translate into important votes for Mark Warner. Under Virginia law, the ballot will identify neither which Warner is the incumbent nor which is the Republican or the Democrat. This leads some party officials and campaign observers to say that the first Warner listed is the most likely to benefit.

Mark Warner has launched a television advertising campaign designed to introduce himself to Virginia voters. He is worth an estimated \$100 million from cellular phone investments and has never held an elected office. Bumper stickers across Virginia read "Mark not John" and the older Warner's retort, "Make our mark for John." Senator Warner has been criticized for his voting record, which many claim has not been consistent with Republican principles. The supposed 'icing on the cake' was his failure to support Ollie North. Since the lottery on Wednesday, there has been no polling, but Senator Warner is reportedly leading by 5 percentage points.

Leans Republican.

WEST VIRGINIA

Incumbent (D)

Democrat: Jay Rockefeller

Republican: Betty Burks

Senator Jay Rockefeller faces nominal opposition in the general election. He spent the last few years clearing the field and now should not have any problems holding onto his seat. He soundly defeated Bruce Barilla, a Concord College janitor who ran a token campaign against choice and gay rights in the primary. In the general election, he faces Betty Burks, a Republican political novice who ran unopposed in the primary. Rockefeller, who seeks his third term, leads Burks 69% to 13%.

Solid Democratic.

WYOMING

OPEN -- Currently (R)

Democrat: Kathy Karpan

Republican(s): Crowded Field

Primary: August 20

Since the surprise retirement announcement of Senator Alan Simpson (R), Republicans have tried in vain to form a consensus around one candidate. Their efforts have failed, as a field of six candidates emerged to vie for the GOP nomination. On the Democratic side, to no one's surprise, former Secretary of State and '94 gubernatorial candidate Kathy Karpan has emerged as a strong candidate who should give any GOP nominee a strong challenge in the general election. Nevertheless, because of the strong conservative leanings of this state, the Republican nominee will largely be considered the favorite.

Among the Republicans, state Senator Mike Enzi and Casper surgeon Dr. John Barrasso, a national RNC committeeman, have the most name recognition. While Barrasso is considered the favorite, Enzi could surprise him, due to his history of electoral success in the state -- he was elected to the Wyoming House of Representative prior to his election as a state senator -- and his base of support coming from outside of Casper, from which Barrasso hails.

Coinciding with Karpan's entry into the Senate race, the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee (NRSCC) released a poll which showed that in a generic match-up, Wyoming voters would support any GOP candidate in the election over a Democratic candidate. The poll showed that 50% of the respondents would support the GOP candidate, while only 29% would support the Democratic candidate. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) countered with its own survey, which showed that of the 400 people surveyed in their poll, most would support Karpan over the three announced GOP candidates, including GOP frontrunner John Barrasso. The state primary will be held on August 20th. Karpan recently began a 12 city campaign swing, embarking on the a theme to "fight for Wyoming's working families."

A straw poll taken at the May GOP state convention shows strong support among the party faithful for the top two candidates:

	<u>Votes</u>
Enzi	156
Barrasso	149
Meier	67
Meenan	37
McConigley	27
Coen	12
Jackowski	6

The Cook Political Report lists this race as "lean Republican." The conventional wisdom on the ground is that if Karpan runs a strong general election race, she could challenge, although most believe that in the end, the Republican nominee will likely emerge as the winner.

Leans Republican.