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Collection:	Cheney Vice Presidential records			
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Subseries:	Misc. Outbox, 2006			
OA/ID Number:	00567			
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Presidential Materials Division

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. email	Brenda Becker to David Addington and Claire O'Donnell (1 page)	11/05/2006	P6/(b)(6)
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COLLECTION:

Cheney Vice Presidential Records
Office of the Staff Secretary
Miscellaneous Outbox, 2006
OA/Box Number: 00567

FOLDER TITLE:

November 5, 2006

2014-0011-F

AYM14

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

NICHOLS_C**609626**

FG038

Barcode Scanning SheetCollection Code: **VTRACK**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **11/5/2006**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **2006 MISCELLANEOUS OUT BOX MATERIALS
(UNCLASSIFIED) -- E-MAIL FROM LEA MCBRIDE -
ASSOCIATED PRESS - VP'S HUNTING TRIP ON ELECTION
DAY -- E-MAIL - MONDAY INTEL BRIEFING -- E-MAIL
FROM BRENDA BECKER - JEFF HAS SURGERY
TOMORROW -- NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM THE NEW
YORK TIMES - RACES TO WATCH: C ...**

A faint, circular stamp or watermark, possibly containing a date or official seal, located in the lower right area of the page.

Heiden, Debra

✓ 100916240

From: McBride, Lea A.
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 4:26 PM
To: Tutwiler, Lucy A.; Durkin, Charles P.; Heiden, Debra
Cc: O'Donnell, Claire M.; Addington, David S.
Subject: FYI

VICE PRESIDENT
HAS SEEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) _ Vice President Dick Cheney will spend Election Day on his first hunting trip since he accidentally shot a companion last February while aiming at a covey of quail on a private Texas ranch.

The vice president, after working at the White House on Monday morning, will head to South Dakota to spend several days at a private hunting lodge near Pierre. Lea Anne McBride, his press secretary, said it was an annual hunting outing and said Cheney spent Election Day in 2002 at the same lodge.

He will be accompanied by his daughter, Mary, and his political director, Mel Raines, who will help him keep track of the election returns, McBride said.

On a Feb. 11 hunting trip in Texas, Cheney shot attorney Harry Whittington in the torso, neck and face when he pulled the trigger on his 28-gauge shotgun. The vice president later called it "one of the worst days of my life" and said, "The image of him falling is something I'll never ever be able to get out of my mind."

The shooting was ruled an accident. Whittington was hospitalized for six days.

NOV 9 2006
OVP STAFF
SECRETARY RECEIVED

6091624

To: Aylward, Patrick S.; Bennett, Melissa S.; Dick, Denise Y.; DL-NSC-APNSA; DL-NSC-WHSR;
Dryden, Logan E.; Durkin, Charles P.; Heiden, Debra; Houston, LaRhonda M.; Keller, Karen
E.; Kleppe, Elizabeth W.; Larranaga, Elyssa Hijazi; Newton, Julia K.; Sherzer, David;
Tutwiler, Lucy A.; Weinstein, Jared B.; Wilmoth, Benton M.
CC: Keller, Karen E.
Sent: Fri Nov 03 17:40:24 2006
Subject: Monday Intel Briefing

At this point, we are NOT planning on doing Intel via SVTS on Monday 11/6. That is subject to change, and if it does, I will alert those on this distribution over the weekend.

Thank you.

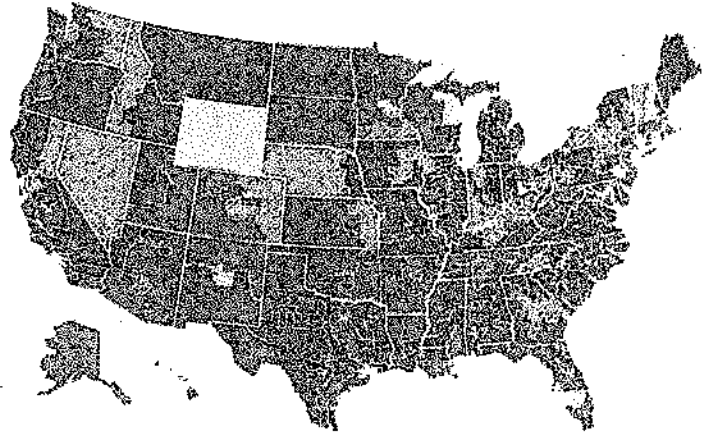
NOV 9 2006

THE 2006 CAMPAIGN: The Battlegrounds

Races to Watch: Congre

The House

Democrats stand their best chance in a decade of recapturing control of the House. To do so, they need to take 15 more seats than they have now. Below is a sampling of races to watch. It represents not necessarily the closest races, or those that will decide the outcome. Rather, it is a cross section of races from different parts of the country that are of interest for a variety of reasons. Cumulatively, they will provide a sense of how the election is unfolding on Tuesday night.



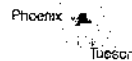
DEMOCRAT REPUBLICAN

Incumbents are in italics, with 2004 margin of victory in percentage points

ARIZONA'S FIFTH DISTRICT

Harry Mitchell

J.D. Hayworth
21.3 pct. pt.

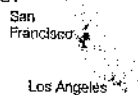


Mr. Hayworth, a six-term conservative Republican, has argued in favor of sealing the United States border, an issue that plays well in this Republican-dominated district. If Mr. Mitchell, a former mayor of Tempe, can take the seat, it will be an indicator of just how far the Democrats have come in traditionally Republican areas of the West.

CALIFORNIA'S 11TH DISTRICT

Gerald McNerney

Richard W. Pombo
22.5



Mr. Pombo, a seven-term incumbent, has been dogged by the scandal surrounding the lobbyist Jack Abramoff, who contributed to his campaigns and his political action committee. Mr. McNerney has also benefited this year from the Democratic Party's attention to the race and from a redrawn district that includes more Democrats.

CONNECTICUT'S FOURTH DISTRICT

Diane Farrell

Christopher Shays
4.9

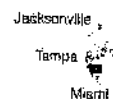


A rematch in which Mr. Shays, a nine-term incumbent, faces Ms. Farrell, whom he defeated in 2004. This year, Ms. Farrell has criticized Mr. Shays' support for the Iraq war, but Mr. Shays, a political moderate, has been more critical of the administration on Iraq than many other Republicans.

FLORIDA'S 13TH DISTRICT

Christine Jennings

Vern Buchanan

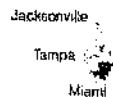


The 13th District is a highly symbolic House seat for Democrats, as it is held by Katherine Harris, the Republican who presided over the recount of presidential ballots in Florida in 2000. Ms. Harris is giving up the seat to run for the Senate. The race, between two political newcomers, has been one of the most expensive House races this year.

FLORIDA'S 16TH DISTRICT

Timothy Mahoney

Joe Negron

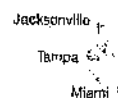


Mr. Mahoney was given virtually no chance to beat Representative Mark Foley. But after Mr. Foley resigned in disgrace in late September, Mr. Mahoney's chances appeared excellent. More recently, Republicans have rallied around Mr. Negron, a state representative chosen by party leaders to run for the seat.

FLORIDA'S 22ND DISTRICT

Ron Klein

E. Clay Shaw Jr.
27.5



Mr. Shaw, a 13-term incumbent, emphasizes his long tenure in the House and his possibility of leading the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Klein, a state senator, casts Mr. Shaw's seniority as a liability. The district has more registered Republican voters than Democrats, but it favored John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election.

GEORGIA'S EIGHTH DISTRICT

Jim Marshall
25.8

Mac Collins



After redistricting, Mr. Marshall finds himself in a much more Republican district. The race with Mr. Collins, a former member of the House, has been expensive and nasty. Republicans hope to pick up a House seat here, and President Bush has campaigned for Mr. Collins twice in recent weeks.

ssional Election Preview

Safe Dem. **198** Leaning Dem. **16** Tossup **16** Leaning Rep. **25** Safe Rep. **180**

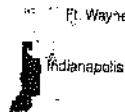
Analysis of races as of 6 p.m. Saturday

218 SEATS

DEMOCRAT REPUBLICAN

INDIANA'S EIGHTH DISTRICT

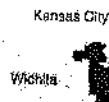
Brad Ellsworth **John Hostettler**
8.3 pct. pt.



Mr. Hostettler, a six-term incumbent, faces a tough challenge from Mr. Ellsworth, the sheriff of Vanderburgh County and a Democrat whose stance on social issues is conservative for his party. Mr. Hostettler, nonetheless, paints Mr. Ellsworth as "far to the left" and made the possibility of Nancy Pelosi becoming speaker a campaign issue.

KANSAS' SECOND DISTRICT

Nancy Boyda **Jim Ryun**
14.9



Mr. Ryun, a former track star and five-term incumbent, was considered a few weeks ago to be a nearly certain winner here. But Ms. Boyda, who lost to Mr. Ryun in 2004, has made gains to put the outcome in doubt. As a sign of the race's closeness, President Bush is scheduled to pay a visit to campaign on Mr. Ryun's behalf today.

KENTUCKY'S FOURTH DISTRICT

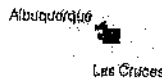
Ken Lucas **Geoff Davis**
10.5



This race is a rematch of the 2002 election, in which Mr. Lucas, then an incumbent, beat Mr. Davis. Two years later, Mr. Davis came back to take the seat after Mr. Lucas retired. With three House seats still in play in the state, Kentucky has become a late battleground in the fight for control.

NEW MEXICO'S FIRST DISTRICT

Patricia Madrid **Heather A. Wilson**
8.9



Ms. Madrid, the state attorney general, is trying to unseat Ms. Wilson, who is on the House Intelligence Committee, in a race largely driven by the war in Iraq and the intelligence failures that preceded it. But as in virtually all Southwestern races, immigration and border control are also prominent.

NEW YORK'S 26TH DISTRICT

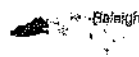
Jack Davis **Thomas M. Reynolds**
11.3



The shadow of the Foley scandal is long over this western New York district. Mr. Reynolds, a powerful Republican, faces Mr. Davis, a 73-year-old businessman who is largely financing his own campaign. Mr. Davis trailed substantially until Mr. Reynolds's role in the Foley case came under scrutiny; now the race is in play.

NORTH CAROLINA'S 11TH DISTRICT

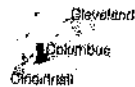
Heath Shuler **Charles H. Taylor**
9.8



The ability of conservative Democrats to make inroads in socially conservative districts may be measured in this western North Carolina district, where Mr. Shuler, a conservative Democrat and former National Football League quarterback, takes on Mr. Taylor, an eight-term incumbent.

OHIO'S 15TH DISTRICT

Mary Jo Kilroy **Deborah Pryce**
20.0



Ms. Pryce, a seven-term incumbent, has suffered from the Foley case. Just weeks before Mr. Foley's conduct became known, Ms. Pryce had listed him among five people she considered friends in Washington. Ms. Kilroy has focused on the issue, hoping it will swing votes in her direction or lead some conservatives not to vote at all.

OHIO'S 18TH DISTRICT

Zack Space **Joy Padgett**



The fallout of Republicans' ethics troubles is on display in the fight over the seat being vacated by Bob Ney. Mr. Ney, a Republican, pleaded guilty to taking illegal gifts from the lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Mr. Space, a lawyer, faces Ms. Padgett, a state senator in this historically Democratic, but more recently Republican, district.

TEXAS' 22ND DISTRICT

Nick Lampson **Shelley Sekula-Gibbs**



Mr. Lampson, a former representative who lost his seat to redistricting in 2003, faces Ms. Sekula-Gibbs, a dermatologist and Houston City Council member, to fill the vacant seat previously held by Tom DeLay, the former majority leader. Taking the seat would be a point of pride for Democrats.

Tammy
Duckworth

Peter J.
Roskam

Peoria
Springfield

Duckworth, a Democratic Iraq war veteran who lost her legs in combat, is locked in a dead heat with Mr. Roskam. Ms. Duckworth has been particularly outspoken in her criticism of the war in Iraq, while Mr. Roskam has focused on taxes and immigration.

The Senate

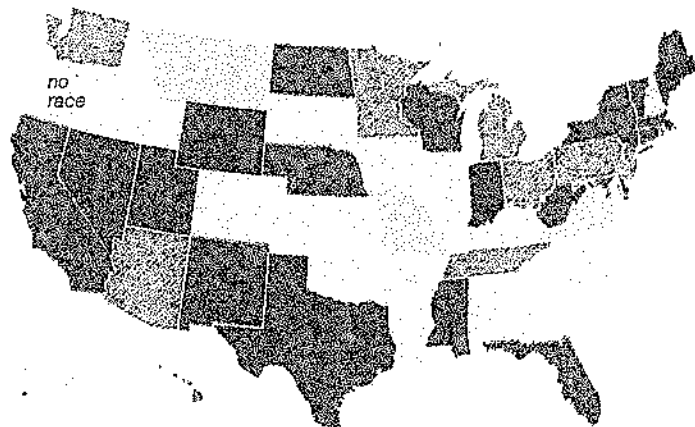
In the Senate, the Republicans will retain control unless the Democrats take six seats more than they currently hold. The races listed below are some of the Democrats' best chances to capture Republican seats. Also included is New Jersey, where Republicans believe they have a chance to take the seat held by Robert Menendez, a Democrat.

Sources for Senate race polls:

*CNN *Rutgers-Eagleon

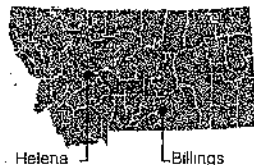
†Mason-Dixon †Muhlenberg College

Based on telephone polls conducted among likely voters. Likely voters are identified in different ways by different polling organizations. The margin of sampling error for all the polls is plus or minus 4 percentage points.



DEMOCRAT REPUBLICAN Incumbents are in *italics*

Montana



Maps show 2000 Senate results in each county, except where noted



Jon
Tester



Conrad
Burns

MARGIN
OF VICTORY, 2000

BURNS
3.3 percentage
points

RECENT
POLL

TESTER

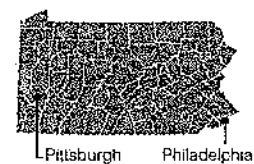
Oct. 31 - Nov. 2[†]

BURNS

47% **47%**

Mr. Burns, an 18-year incumbent, has not helped his chances for re-election with numerous verbal gaffes, including his telling a group of forest firefighters that they just "sit around." Mr. Tester, a state senator and farmer, has portrayed Mr. Burns as out of touch with Montana. Mr. Burns has also suffered from his association with the disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. But Mr. Burns has raised far more money than Mr. Tester, and President Bush made a last-minute stop in the state in an effort to help Mr. Burns. Recent polls show a dead heat.

Pennsylvania



Pittsburgh Philadelphia



Bob
Casey



Rick
Santorum

MARGIN
OF VICTORY, 2000

SANTORUM
6.9 percentage
points

RECENT
POLL

CASEY

Oct. 29 - Nov. 1[†]

SANTORUM

51% **43%**

Mr. Santorum appears increasingly likely to lose the seat he first won in 1994 to Mr. Casey, the state treasurer and son of a popular former governor. Mr. Santorum, the third-ranking Republican senator, has returned to national security as a central theme in the final stretch of the campaign. But Mr. Casey, a social conservative, has steadfastly campaigned on issues of central concern to the middle class, like health care and education, while relying on the unpopularity of the Iraq war to limit the effectiveness of Mr. Santorum's message.

Tennessee



Memphis Nashville Knoxville



Harold E.
Ford Jr.



Bob
Corker

MARGIN
OF VICTORY, 2000

BILL FRIST (R)
12.8 percentage
points

RECENT
POLL

FORD

Oct. 28-29^{*}

CORKER

44% **52%**

Mr. Ford, a fifth-term House member, takes on Mr. Corker, a former mayor of Chattanooga, in a fierce race for the seat being vacated by Bill Frist. The race's most memorable moment was a Republican Party-financed advertisement in which a white actress says she met Mr. Ford, who is black, at a Playboy party. The spot was criticized as injecting race into the campaign. In recent days, Mr. Corker appears to have pulled ahead.

Sources: Congressional Quarterly Voting and Elections Collection; The Almanac of American Politics 2006; Associated Press; analysis of races by The New York Times.

Gary
Trauner

Barbara
Cubin
13.4



WEEKS after an incident in which she told a third-party candidate in a wheelchair that he deserved to be slapped because of comments he made in a debate. If Mr. Trauner wins, it will be a sign of just how poorly the election has gone for Republicans: this seat was once held by Vice President Dick Cheney.

Safe Dem. 40* Leaning Dem. 8 Tossup 3 Leaning Rep. 2 Safe Rep. 47

*Senator Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut, running as an independent, has said he will vote with the Democrats.

50 SEATS

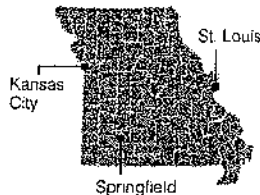
Safe seats include those for which there is no election this year.

DEMOCRAT

REPUBLICAN

Incumbents are in *italics*

Missouri



2002 results



Claire C.
McCaskill



Jim
Talent

MARGIN
OF VICTORY, 2002

TALENT
1.1 percentage
points

RECENT
POLL

Oct. 26-29*

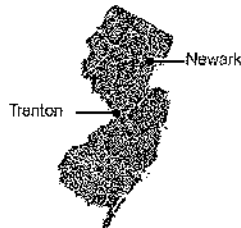
MCCASKILL

TALENT

49% 49%

Ms. McCaskill, the state auditor, is battling to take back a seat that once belonged to Mel Carnahan, a Democrat who died in a plane crash while campaigning in October 2000. Mr. Talent, who won the seat from Mr. Carnahan's widow in a special election in 2002, has been a reliably conservative voter. Ms. McCaskill has made stem cell research a central part of her campaign, running an advertisement with the actor Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, that became one of the most talked-about of the season.

New Jersey



Robert
Menendez



Thomas H.
Kean Jr.

MARGIN
OF VICTORY, 2000

JON S. CORZINE (D)
3.0 percentage
points

RECENT
POLL

Oct. 29-31§

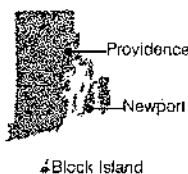
MENENDEZ

KEAN

46% 42%

The New Jersey tradition of no-holds-barred politics continues in the race between Mr. Menendez, the incumbent who was appointed when Jon S. Corzine left the seat to become New Jersey governor, and Mr. Kean, a state senator and son of the former New Jersey governor. Mr. Menendez has portrayed Mr. Kean as a close follower of President Bush, while Mr. Kean has repeatedly run advertisements questioning the ethics of Mr. Menendez. The race is the best chance for Republicans to take a seat held by a Democrat.

Rhode Island



Sheldon
Whitehouse



Lincoln
Chafee

MARGIN
OF VICTORY, 2000

CHAFEE
15.7 percentage
points

RECENT
POLL

Oct. 18-20†

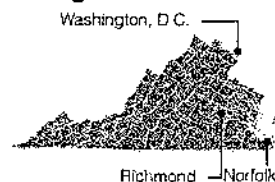
WHITEHOUSE

CHAFEE

48% 43%

Mr. Chafee, a moderate Republican in a strongly Democratic state, is struggling to turn aside a strong challenge from Mr. Whitehouse, a former state attorney general. Mr. Chafee is among the few Republicans who voted against the Iraq war, and he has distanced himself from the administration on the war and other issues. Democrats are counting on picking up the seat; polls show Mr. Whitehouse ahead, but Mr. Chafee, the son of a longtime senator, has the benefit of being extremely well known in the state.

Virginia



Jim
Webb



George
Allen

MARGIN
OF VICTORY, 2000

ALLEN
4.6 percentage
points

RECENT
POLL

Oct. 26-29*

WEBB

ALLEN

50% 46%

Mr. Allen, a first-term incumbent, faces a stiff fight from Mr. Webb, a writer and former secretary of the Navy under President Ronald Reagan. Mr. Allen was expected to retain his seat until a series of gaffes in the late summer, including using the word "macaca" to describe a Democratic operative of Indian descent. More recently, the Allen campaign has tried to portray Mr. Webb as hostile to women, using passages from military novels written by Mr. Webb.

Dissatisfaction With GOP Fuels Democratic Lead

ELECTION, From A1

denry, Republicans had hoped that the partisan gerrymandering of most House districts would protect their majority, but the number of competitive seats has continued to grow throughout the year, increasing the likelihood of a Democratic takeover.

Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, stopped short of predicting that Democrats will take the House, but said: "I'm playing defense in one or two districts and offense in 46. Like these odds. It rather be us than them."

Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman predicted his party will retain majorities in both the House and Senate. "The Senate is in a better place than it was a week ago," he said, noting that GOP candidates in several of the closest races have improved their positions. "I think that the House remains very competitive," he added, pointing to a strong turnout operation that could save many incumbents in tossup races.

Republicans are fighting three forces: opposition to the war in Iraq, declining approval of the president, and historically low ratings for a Congress that struggled to produce notable achievements and that was often mired in partisanship.

The Democratic swing in the House is most evident in states east of the Mississippi River, where scandals, retirements and disaffection with the war have combined to put almost three dozen Republican-held seats at risk.

Ohio, the swing state that assured Bush's second-term victory, has turned into a Republican killing field. Republicans face the loss of the governorship and a Senate seat, and five GOP House districts are in danger of switching. Republicans fear the loss of other statewide races and at least one house of the state legislature.

Other GOP danger areas include Pennsylvania, where a Senate seat and five House incumbents are at risk, and Indiana, where Democrats could pick up three House seats. In New York, where Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) and gubernatorial

by Republicans. The lone Democratic-held tossup is in Georgia.

The House has not changed hands without the Senate following suit since the popular election of senators began early in the 20th century. But the odds are steeper for the Democrats in their bid to take over the Senate, because they must win at least four states that Bush carried in 2000 and 2004, three of them with incumbent Republicans.

Democrats are favored to defeat Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum with state Treasurer Robert P. Casey Jr. and Ohio Sen. Mike DeWine with Rep. Sherrod Brown. Rhode Island Sen. Lincoln D. Chafee (R) has been trailing former attorney general Sheldon Whitehouse (D) in a state where Bush's popularity numbers are among the lowest in the nation.

Democrats have counted Maryland Sen. Conrad Burns (R) as the fourth likeliest pickup, but his race against state Senate Co-President Jon Tesler has narrowed in the final two weeks. A Mason Dixon poll yesterday showed the race tied.

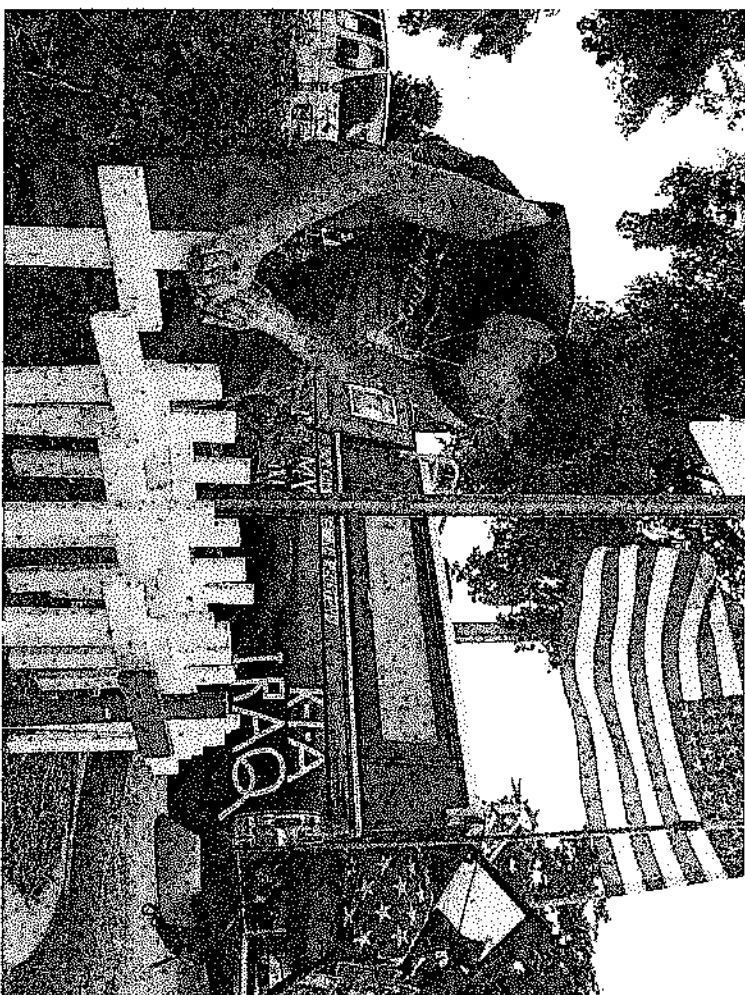
If Burns were to fall in Montana, Democrats still would have to prevail in two of the other three most competitive Republican-held states, in Virginia, Sen. George Allen (R) has been hurt by his own campaign gaffes, and Republicans are increasingly nervous that he will lose to Reagan administration Navy secretary James Webb, the Democratic nominee.

Republicans are more optimistic about former Chattanooga mayor Bob Corley winning the seat of retiring Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist against the challenge of Rep. Harold E. Ford Jr. Ford is described by many Democrats as their ablest candidate of the year, but he is going against the history of Tennessee, which has never elected an African American to the Senate.

In Missouri, neither Sen. James M. Talent (R) nor Democrat Claire McCaskill has been able to gain an advantage. McCaskill has a strong urban base in Kansas City and St. Louis but must hold down Talent's advantage in the rural areas, where Bush campaigned late last week.

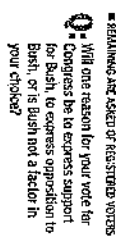
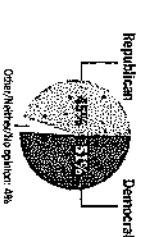
Maryland is one of four other states drawing significant opposition. In Delaware, Rep. Michael C. Caputo (D) is a veteran Baltimore politician.

CAMPAIGN 2006 | The Nation



In Miami, Carlos Arellano arranges crosses in memory of his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Alexander Scott Arellano. The Iraq war factors heavily in many

Midterms: A Referendum on Bush, Iraq and the Republican Congress?



was not worth fighting. Almost a third say the war is the top issue determining their vote, and three-quarters of them say they will vote for the Democrat in their district.

Bush's approval rating stands at 40 percent among all Americans and 43 percent among registered voters, a small but statistically insignificant increase in the past two weeks. About twice as many strongly disapprove of him as strongly approve. Independents favor Democrats by an 18-point margin, but that is less than the 28-point advantage Democrats enjoyed two weeks ago.

The poll also showed that the Republican strategy of trying to make Democrats an unacceptable alternative may be working, at least at the margins.

Two weeks ago, 55 percent said Democratic members of Congress deserved reelection. In the new poll, that slanted to 48 percent. But Republicans remain stuck in the high thirties on the same question.

The disconnect with Congress has bugged over into the governors' races. Six Republican House members are trying to move up to governors' mansions, and none has a clear path entering the final three days.

years, but scandals have left Gov. Bob Taft (R) with apoplexy in the terms. Republican Party of state I. Kenneth B. has struggled to reach 40 percent against Rep. Ted St (D).

In Massachusetts, another whose governorship Rep have controlled for more the decade, Clinton administration attorney general Deval (D) has a sizeable lead over Kerry Healey (R) for the seat.

Another Republican presidential

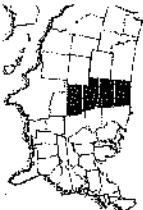
Another Republican presidential hopeful, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, is also likely to see a Democratic successor with state Attorney General Mike Beale leading his race. But Republicans are expected to hold the three big Sun Belt states: California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) has come back distributing on ballot initiative ago and has a big lead over Treasurer Phil Angelides. Gov. Rick Perry is trying to build field that includes county

Other GOP danger areas include Pennsylvania, where a Senate seat at five House incumbents are at risk, and Indiana, where Democrats could pick up three House seats. In New York, where Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) and gubernatorial candidate Eliot L. Spitzer (D) are using growing victory, Republicans are defending half a dozen House seats.

In Connecticut, Republicans are being worried about veteran Rep. J. L. Johnson and Christopher J. Johnson, who is only slightly more assured about Rep. Rob Simmons. Johnson appears to be the most endangered of the three.

The Iraq issue has dominated the immediate Senate race between Joseph I. Lieberman, who is running as an independent, and the man who beat him in the Democratic primary, businessman Ned Lamont. Lieberman's appeal to Republicans on his support of the war would help prop up the embattled OP House trio.

Republicans face difficulties in virtually every region. There are multiple opportunities for Democrats in Florida, Kentucky, Colorado, Minnesota and Arizona. Single seats are at stake in switching in California, Iowa, Illinois, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.



ANSAS: Infighting Undercuts GOP

Popular Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (D) appears headed for a second term without much of a challenge from state Sen. Jim Barrett (R), leaving the focus in this state on a rematch in the 2nd Congressional District between Rep. Jim Ryan (R) and Nancy Boyda (D). Ryan, who once held the world record for the mile in and competed in three Olympics, won with 56 per-

cent of the vote in 2004 but has a tougher race this year. Democrats gambled by putting late money into the race. Countering, Republicans plan to bring President Bush to the state today.

The real story in Kansas this year is turmoil inside the Republican Party after a decade of ideological warfare. The former chairman of the state Republican Party, Mark Parkinson, is running with Sebelius to be her lieutenant governor. Another party-witch, Paul Morrison, is the Democratic nominee for attorney general. He is in a close and easily race against Republican Phil Kline. Their defections reflect disillusionment among moderates with the state of the GOP.

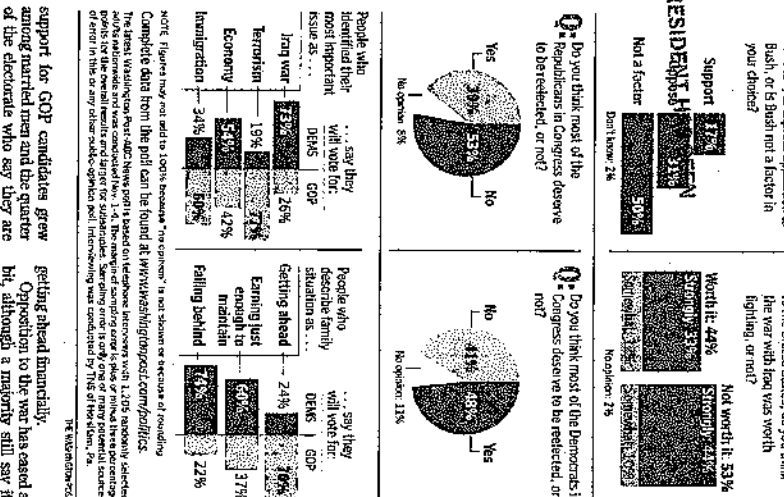
In 2004, Bush carried western Nebraska's 3rd District with 75 percent. Rep. Tom Osborne (R) won reelection with 57 percent. And yet, national Democrats say they may have a chance to pull off an upset for the

urban base in Kansas City and St. Louis but must hold down Barack Obama's base in the rural areas, where Bush campaigned late last week.

Maryland is one of four other states drawing significant GOP attention. Rep. Baltimore Democrat (D) is a veteran Baltimore politician running in a Democratic state in a Democratic year. But Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele (R) has proved to be a strong campaigner in the tight race to succeed retiring Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes (D).

In New Jersey, the race between appointed Sen. Robert Menendez (D) and Republican state Sen. Thomas H. Kean Jr. has been dominated by corruption charges stemming from Menendez's library in Hudson County, as elsewhere in the Northeast, the war in Iraq weighs heavily in this Democratic state.

The parties see long-shot chances in two other states. In Michigan, Republicans threw a bunch of late money behind Oakland County Sheriff Mele Bouchard in his bid to defeat Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D). In Arizona, Democrats see Sen. Jon Kyl (R) potentially vulnerable in his race against developer Jim Pederson (D). Among interesting new faces likely to join the Senate next year are Rep. Bernie Sanders (IV) and Republican County Attorney Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota.



THE PLAINS

sent, which Osborne vowed to run for governor. Rancher Scott Kleeb (D) has run a sound campaign, and state Sen. Adrian Smith (R) appears to have taken victory for granted following his tough primary win. Still, the demographics of this district make a Democratic upset unlikely.

Gov. David Heineman (R) is cruising to victory over businessman David Hahn (D). Sen. Dean Nelson (D), who won his seat with just 51 percent in 2000, is expected to win easily over wealthy businessman Pete Ricketts (R).

NORTH DAKOTA: Unruffled Senate Race

Sen. Conrad (D), a 20-year veteran of politics, was spared of reelection when Republican failed to persuade Gov. John Hoeven (R) to challenge him. Former Dwight Gooding is the kind of polite opponent any senator would love to have.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Abortion Politics

Gov. Mike Rounds (R), who backed the new state law banning abortions except to save a woman's life, has minimal opposition from former state Rep. Jack Billington (D).



Gov. Mike Rounds - RECORD

But Republicans are expected to hold the three big Sen. Bill and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) has come back to thrashing on ballot initiatives a ago and has a big lead over Treasurer Phil Angelides. T Gov. Rick Perry is trying to fend field that includes country star Richard Atkins (Republican). In Florida, where Gov. Jeb Bush is term-limited, state Atty General Charlie Crist (R) had a narrow lead over Rep. Jim T. (D) and will get a Monday 1 from the president who will patron in the conservative Republican.

Republican hopes of deter Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell and Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm have soured. Ken holds a comfortable lead over the Pittsburgh Steelers while rock Lynn Swann, Granholm faced a funded challenger in business Dick DeWee, who sought to call on the state's weak economy. she has moved ahead in the month.

In Illinois, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fitzgerald has been investigated the administration of Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D) and has indicted his son, but state Treasurer Dan Rostenbom (R) has struggled overcome the barrage of negative verding unleashed by the governor.

Washington Post polling director Jon Cohen, Post political researcher Zachary A. Goldberg and WashingtonPost.com staff writer Chris Cillizza contributed to this report.

CAMPAIGN 2006 | The Nation



THE MIDWEST

ILLINOIS: Indictments Fuel GOP Campaign

Federal and state prosecutors are circling around Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D), and indictments of his associates are creating almost daily headlines, with charges of fraud, kickbacks and pay-to-play contracts. Still, he remains in front of opponent Judy Baar Topinka (R) the state treasurer. She was hammered so hard by Blagojevich's negative ads coming out of a divisive spring primary that her disapproval score is higher than his. A late surge has brought Topinka into a competitive position. Green Party candidate Rich Whitney is winning some newspaper endorsements and may break into double digits.

The banner House race, for the seat of retiring International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde (R), pits Tammy Duckworth (D), an Iraq war veteran who lost both legs when her helicopter was shot down, against state Sen. Peter Roskam (R). Both candidates have received millions from the national parties. Despite the strong GOP organization in the suburban Chicago district, the race is close.

Freshman Rep. Melissa Bean (D), who scored an upset in 2004 in another Chicago suburb, is holding on against investment banker Dave McSweeney (R), who is financing his own campaign.

Late in the campaign, Democrats sensed at least an outside chance against Rep. Mark Kirk (R), with Dan Seals (D), a black businessman. The affluent district north of Chicago is strongly against the Iraq war and President Bush.

In a downstate district vacated by retiring Rep. Lane Evans (D), Phil Hare, Evans's longtime local aide, is strongly favored over former TV reporter Andrea Zingales (R).

INDIANA: A Red State Looking Blue

The Hoosier State is positioned to provide Democrats with as many as three pickups in their battle for control of the House as the unpopularity of Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) threatens to undermine GOP candidates.

Rep. John Hostettler (R) appears finished in his race against Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth (D) in the southern 8th District. His refusal to run a modern campaign — he does almost no fundraising and employs no paid consultants — has served him well in past races, but not in this one. Barring disaster, Ellsworth will take this seat back for Democrats.

In the neighboring 9th District, Rep. Mike Sodrel (R) and former representative Baron Hill (D) are

locked in one of the closest races in the country. Sodrel defeated Hill by 1,500 votes two years ago, while Daniels and Bush were overwhelmingly carrying the district. Sodrel and Hill have run solid campaigns, and the national parties are loath to predict a winner.

The most surprising race in Indiana is in the 2nd District, where 2004 nominee Joe Donnelly (D) is poised to upset Rep. Chris Chocola (R). After a somewhat lackluster race two years ago, Donnelly has emerged as a far better candidate in this election while Chocola has been slow to react to the competitiveness of the race. Polling shows Donnelly over 50 percent, and Republicans acknowledge that Chocola has little hope of holding his office.

The coming catastrophe for Indiana Republicans in the House is not mirrored in the upper chamber. Sen. Richard Lugar (R) is cruising to a sixth term with no challenger.

IOWA: Opportunities for Democrats

It has been 40 years since Democrats held the governorship and both houses of the legislature in the Hawkeye State, but that could be the outcome after Tuesday.

Gov. Tom Vilsack (D) is leaving office and is expected to seek a 2008 presidential nomination. Secretary of State Chet Culver (D) has the advantage over Rep. Jim Nussle (R) in the contest to succeed him.

Nussle, chairman of the House Budget Committee, has learned this is not a good year to be associated with the House. Bush tried to rally Republicans with a Friday stopover, but a poll in the Des Moines Register today showed Culver leading 52 percent to 43 percent.

In Nussle's 1st District, in eastern Iowa, Democratic trial lawyer Bruce Braley (D) has enjoyed a widening lead over businessman Mike Whalen (R). Republicans are gloomy about Whalen's chances.

In the 3rd District, state Sen. Jeff Lamberti is one of the few GOP challengers in a competitive race, but he is still an underdog against Rep. Leonard Boswell (D).

The state Senate is evenly divided, and Republicans hold a two-seat margin in the state House. Both could be in Democratic hands come January.

MICHIGAN: Incumbency vs. Wealth

Once apparently doomed by the dismal economic situation of the auto industry, Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D) has rallied, putting her wealthy but politically inexperienced opponent, Dick DeVos (R), on the defensive about job outsourcing by his family company, formerly known as Amway. DeVos and his wife, Betsy, a former state GOP chairman, have built a state-of-the-art organization. The race is close, but late polls show a consistent Granholm lead.

The GOP saw a vulnerability in Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D) and invested heavily in her challenger, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard (R), but polls give Stabenow a clear lead.

Tim Walberg (R), a minister and former state legislator who had Club for Growth backing when he beat freshman Rep. Joe Schwarz (R), a leading moderate, in the August primary, went to sleep for weeks and woke up to find himself in a new race. Nevertheless, his lead has since widened. Democrats are not high on their



Michael J. Fox campaigned in Ohio for Senate candidate Sherrod Brown and in Missouri for other Democratic candidates. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, advocates stem cell research, an issue that may help Democrats.

MINNESOTA: Democrats Storming State

In a Democratic year in this Democratic-leaning state, Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R), one of the brightest young Republicans, is struggling to survive a challenge from Attorney General Mike Hatch (D), an aggressive opponent carrying some intraparty scars. Peter Hutchinson, the former Democratic official running as an Independence Party reformer, is edging up toward 10 percent of the vote — which hurts Hatch and boosts Pawlenty's chances.

The race to succeed retiring Sen. Mark Dayton (D) has turned into a walkover for Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar (D), a feisty protégé of Walter Mondale, over Rep. Mark Kennedy (R).

Democrats hope the tide will enable Tim Walz (D), a teacher and National Guard veteran, to upset Rep. Gil Gutknecht (R). But their prospects have faded for the seat Kennedy is leaving, where Patty Wetterling (D), a retreat from 2004, is facing state Sen. Michele Bachmann (R), whose church supporters have raised eyebrows by claiming divine support for their candidate.

MISSOURI: A GOP Senate Seat at Risk

Missouri is home to one of the country's highest-profile Senate races. For months, polls have shown Sen. Jim Talent (R) and state auditor Claire McCaskill (D) within two or three points of each other. Going into Election Day, that is still the case. The outcome will likely hinge on voter turnout. McCaskill needs a strong Democratic wave on Tuesday — and needs to attract many undecided voters — while Talent's fortunes will rely on Missouri Republicans' expansive voter-mobilization program. The GOP program was set into motion with a visit by Bush last week.

The state features a stem cell ballot initiative that both candidates hope will get out their constituencies. The initiative received increased attention after the McCaskill campaign launched an ad featuring actor Michael J. Fox showing tremors brought on by Parkinson's. Fox encouraged voters to back McCaskill because of her support for the stem cell measure.

OHIO: Rebelling Against Republicans

The state that delivered Bush a second term seems

Rep. Bob Ney (R) have damaged the GOP brand in the state, adding to the party's troubles nationwide.

Rep. Ted Strickland (D) is heavily favored to win the governorship Tuesday over Secretary of State Kenneth D. Blackwell (R); the only question that remains is what the margin will be. Similarly, Rep. Sherrod Brown (D) is widely acknowledged as the likely victor against Sen. Mike DeWine (R) as polls show the Democrat with a high-single-digit or even a low-double-digit lead.

Ney's 18th District, which usually favors Republicans, appears to be a near-certain takeover for Democratic candidate Zack Space. After Ney removed himself from the ballot, the GOP selected state Sen. Joy Padgett (R) as his replacement, but she has struggled with ethical questions of her own.

In nearby Columbus, Rep. Deborah Pryce (R) is facing her toughest opponent since coming to Congress in 1993. Franklin County Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy (D) has successfully linked Pryce to Washington Republicans and appeared to be pulling away as recently as two weeks ago.

Rep. Steve Chabot (R) is locked in a similarly tight race against Cincinnati City Council member John Cranley (D) in the southern 1st District. Chabot has held this swing seat since 1994, but the district's significant black population — 27 percent, according to the 2000 census — makes it winnable for Democrats.

Two Democratic-held open seats are almost certain to stay Democratic. In the 6th District, state Sen. Charlie Wilson (D) overcame a ballot error in the primary to put a once-promising race for the GOP out of reach. Lawyer Betty Sutton (D) won a competitive primary in the Akron area 13th District and is headed for victory.

WISCONSIN: Neck-and-Neck for Governor

Always a battleground, Wisconsin has a very tight governor's race, pitting Gov. Jim Doyle (D), a liberal, against conservative Rep. Mark Green (R). Doyle has battled a Republican legislature and suffered some scandals in his administration, but is defending the state's support of embryonic stem cell research, some of which Green opposes. Doyle holds a small lead, within the race dependent on him matching GOP turnout.

Wealthy Sen. Herb Kohl (D) secured off all real opposition and is far in front of lawyer Robert Lorge (R). In the close race to succeed Green, John Gard (R), speaks

KEY RACES

RACE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT
Ill. 6th Dist.	Peter Roskam	Tammy Duckworth
Ind. 9th Dist.	Rep. Mike Sodrel	Baron Hill
Minn. 1st Dist.	Rep. Gil Gutknecht	Tim Walz
Minn. gov.	Gov. Tim Pawlenty	Mike Hatch
Mo. Senate	Sen. Jim Talent	Claire McCaskill

Dist.	Rep.	Dem.
Ind. 9th Dist.	Rep. Mike Sodrel	Baron Hill
Minn. 1st Dist.	Rep. Gil Gutknecht	Tim Walz
Minn. gov.	Gov. Tim Pawlenty	Mike Hatch
Mo. Senate	Sen. Jim Talent	Claire McCaskill
Ohio 1st Dist.	Rep. Steve Chabot	John Cranley

Tim Walberg (R), a minister and former state legislator who had Club for Growth backing when he beat freshman Rep. Joe Schwarz (R), a leading moderate, in the August primary, went to sleep for weeks and woke up to find himself in a new race. Nevertheless, his lead has since widened. Democrats are not high on their nominee, organic farmer Sharon Renier (D), and have not invested in the race.

son's. Fox encouraged voters to back McCaskill because of her support for the stem cell measure.

OHIO: Rebelling Against Republicans

The state that delivered Bush a second term seems poised to send his party a stern rebuke two years later. Scandals surrounding outgoing Gov. Bob Taft (R) and

state's support of embryonic stem cell research, some of which Green opposes. Doyle holds a small lead, with the race dependent on him matching GOP turnout. Wealthy Sen. Herb Kohl (D) scared off all real opposition and is far in front of lawyer Robert Lorge (R). In the close race to succeed Green, John Gard (R), speaker of the Wisconsin House, has an edge over physician Steve Kagen (D), who is financing much of his race.



THE NORTHEAST

CONNECTICUT: House Incumbents Nervous

It's a rare occurrence in politics these days when more than half of a state's congressional delegation is in electoral jeopardy. But in Connecticut, GOP Reps. Rob Simmons, Chris Shays and Nancy Johnson all face serious challenges on Tuesday, with most independent observers predicting at least one of them will fall.

Johnson appears to be the most imperiled. Her longevity — she has held her seat since 1983 — may be working against her, as state Sen. Chris Murphy (D) has labeled her part of the problem in Washington. Johnson has spent more than \$4 million on her reelection, but polls show her support still hovering in the 40s.

Shays's reelection has turned into a referendum on Iraq policy as his opponent, 2004 nominee Diane Farrell (D), has focused almost exclusively on the issue in her ads. Shays remains well liked in his affluent southwestern Connecticut district, but his support for the war in Iraq may lead voters to opt for Farrell. Polling shows a jump ball.

Simmons's 2nd District is, by the numbers, the worst of the three for Republicans. John Kerry won it by 10 points in 2004. Former state representative Joe Courtney (D) is much improved as a candidate since his race in 2002. But Simmons has run an extremely competent race, and even Democrats consider this seat the least likely of the three to switch hands.

In August, many concluded that Sen. Joe Lieberman's political career was over. Deserted by Democratic primary voters for his position on the war, the three-term senator lost to first-time candidate Ned Lamont. On primary night, Lieberman announced he would run as an independent. He turned the focus of the race from a debate over Iraq to a discussion of Lamont's lack of political experience. In doing so, Lieberman has probably ensured himself another term.

Gov. Jodi Rell (R) is expected to defeat her challenger,

New Haven Mayor John DeStefano (D).

MAINE: Beleaguered but Safe Governor

Gov. John Baldacci (D) looked vulnerable a few months ago, in part because his many rivals were taking advantage of the state's Clean Election Act to draw public money to match his privately funded campaign.

But state Sen. Chandler Woodcock (R) has been a weak opponent, and state Rep. Barbara Merrill (I) and Green Party candidate Pat LaMarche are way behind. Baldacci is likely to win but may not hit 50 percent.

Sen. Olympia Snowe (R) will probably do far better than that in winning her third term over former Jean Hay Bright.

MASSACHUSETTS: The First Black Governor?

Retiring Gov. Mitt Romney (R), off in pursuit of the GOP presidential nomination, has left his party looking at a likely defeat in the race to pick his successor. As Romney's home-state ratings have tumbled, Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey (R) has fallen further behind Deval Patrick (D), the Clinton administration assistant attorney general for civil rights.

Patrick, who would be Massachusetts's first black governor, came roaring out of a three-way primary and has withstood heavy attacks from Healey on his record as a criminal defense lawyer.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Vulnerable House Seats

This was the only state that went from Republican to Democratic in 2004, and Democrats would like to keep the momentum going. Gov. John Lynch (D) has been running away from Jim Coburn (R), which leaves all the attention on two Republican House members.

The most vulnerable is 2nd District Rep. Charlie Bass (R), who is in a tossup against 2004 opponent Paul Hodes (D).

In the 1st District, Rep. Jeb Bradley (R) remains the favorite to defeat Democrat Carol Shea-Porter, a critic of the Iraq war and upset winner in the primary. But this race, too, has narrowed.

NEW YORK: Democrat Sails to Statehouse

The Empire State could have a near-purge of Republican elected officials on Tuesday. With Gov. George Pataki (R) retiring to ponder a presidential run, state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer (D) is sailing to victory over state Rep. John Faso (R) to become the first Democrat to sit in the statehouse in 12 years.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) is a shoo-in to win a



Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) campaigned for House candidate Diane Farrell on Oct. 13. Farrell has made her campaign against the GOP incumbent a referendum on the Iraq war and the Bush presidency.

second term over former Yonkers mayor John Spencer (R). Still, she has spent heavily in the race, widely considered preparation for a presidential bid.

Republicans are at risk of losing up to five House seats. Most endangered is the 24th District, where Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R) is retiring. Oneida County District Attorney Michael Arcuri (D) has an edge over state Sen. Ray Meier (R). National Republicans ran an ad accusing Arcuri of calling a sex line on the taxpayers' dime, but it turned out to have been a misdialed number, and Meier distanced himself from the ad. Democrats, meanwhile, branded Meier as a tax-raiser early in the campaign.

In the 20th District, lawyer Kirsten Gillibrand (D) has been gaining ground on Rep. John Sweeney (R). The district still has a small Republican advantage but has been polling Democratic. Sweeney's visit to a fraternity party received substantial attention, and in the past week a newspaper reported that his wife once called authorities to say he was trying to rough her up.

Democrats are investing heavily to win the 25th District, where Rep. James Walsh (R) is trying to thwart a challenge from former House staffer Dan Maffei (D).

In the 26th District, Rep. Tom Reynolds, who is captain of the GOP's House campaign, has been hurt by the congressional page scandal. But Reynolds is maintaining a small advantage over 2004 candidate Jack Davis (D).

Less likely to change is the 29th District, where Rep. Randy Kuhl (R) seems on track to quash former Navy officer Eric Massa (D). New York City Council member Yvette Clark (D) is headed to represent central Brooklyn, replacing retiring Rep. Major Owens (D).

RHODE ISLAND: Tough Challenge to Senator

Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R) isn't your average Republican. He was the lone GOP vote against the use-of-force resolution on Iraq and didn't even cast his vote in 2004 for the current president, choosing to write in a vote for President George H.W. Bush. But Chafee is feeling the burden of the current President Bush in his reelection race against ex-state attorney general Sheldon Whitehouse (D), as state and national Democrats argue that Chafee is out of step with the typical Rhode Island voter. Chafee, despite his low-key demeanor, has proven a resilient campaigner, having dispatched a primary challenge from Cranston Mayor Steve Laffey. Republicans hold out some hope, but poll after poll shows Whitehouse up.

Gov. Don Carcieri (R) is likely to survive a tougher-than-expected race from Lt. Gov. Charlie Fogarty (D).

VERMONT: Crumbling GOP Opportunity

For much of the election cycle, House Republicans said that Adjutant Gen. Martha Rainville, a well-liked public figure, was positioned to take the at-large open seat against state Sen. Peter Welch (D). But as the national environment has deteriorated for the GOP, so too have its hopes of an upset.

Rep. Bernie Sanders (I) has faced a smooth ride for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Jeffords (D). Businessman Richard Tarrant (R) has spent millions on his campaign but gained no traction. Sanders, like Jeffords, is expected to caucus with the Democrats.

KEY RACES

RACE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT
Conn. 5th Dist.	Rep. Nancy Johnson	Chris Murphy
Conn. 4th Dist.	Rep. Chris Shays	Diane Farrell
N.H. 2nd Dist.	Rep. Charlie Bass	Paul Hodes
N.Y. 20th Dist.	Rep. John Sweeney	Kirsten Gillibrand
R.I. Senate	Sen. Lincoln Chafee	Sheldon Whitehouse

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THE PACIFIC

ALASKA: Alternatives to the Status Quo

In one of the more stunning rebukes this year, Republican primary voters denied Gov. Frank Murkowski the chance to serve a second term. Murkowski, who served in the Senate before returning home four years ago as governor, finished third in the August primary.

The winner was Sarah Palin, the former mayor of Wasilla. Given the Republican leanings of the state, Palin's victory gave GOP officials hope that they could retain the governor's office, and initial polls showed her with a wide lead over former governor Tony Knowles (D). But Knowles has bounced back, aided by support from the business community. Palin remains a narrow favorite.

CALIFORNIA: A Tough Governor to Unseat

Though he looked like a 97-pound weakling a year ago, after voters rejected all four of his initiatives in a special election he had called, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) has regained his title as the toughest guy in California politics, as he heads for a big victory over state Treasurer Phil Angelides (D), who has not been

able to mobilize his party after a divisive primary. Schwarzenegger, who rebuilt his reputation by conciliating the Democratic legislature while Bush White House veterans took over and ran a textbook campaign, is likely to have a new mandate to challenge — or work with — the legislature.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) has had only a token challenge from former state senator Richard Mountjoy (R), her little-known opponent.

The key House race pits House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R) against engineer Jerry McNerney (D). Pombo defeated McNerney handily in 2004, but environmental organizations have come after the incumbent hard this year, and it's a horse race.

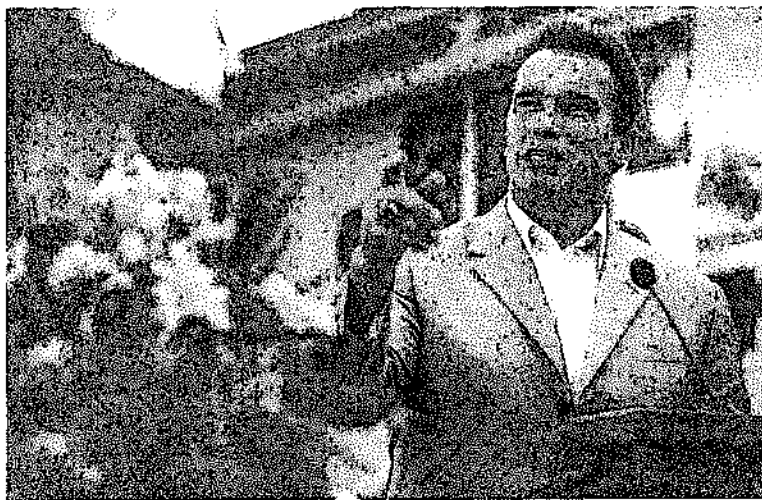
There are substantial but less-threatening challenges to Rep. John Doolittle (R) from Air Force veteran Charlie Brown (D) and to Rep. Brian Bilbray (R) from his old rival, educator Francine Busby (D). The seat of retiring House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (R) is ticketed for his protégé, state assembly Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, over educator Sharon Beery (D).

HAWAII: Three Races Locked Up

Democratic Sen. Daniel Akaka and Republican Gov. Linda Lingle are in no trouble in their reelection campaigns. Rep. Ed Case (D) tried to unseat the 82-year-old Akaka in the primary but failed. Case's solidly Democratic 2nd District seat will probably go to former lieutenant governor Mazie Hirono (D).

OREGON: Credible Republican Challenger

Democrats have taken a strong lead in early applications for ballots in the mail-in election, raising their



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger addressed students at a Sacramento high school — a stop that a less confident candidate might not be making the week before Election Day. Schwarzenegger expects a big win Tuesday.

hopes that Gov. Ted Kulongoski (D) can withstand the credible challenge of Portland lawyer Ron Saxton (R) and win a second term.

Kulongoski had a tough first four years, feuding with the legislature and with labor, but late polls show him seven points or more ahead.

WASHINGTON: Dwindling Chance for GOP

It looked for many months as if Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell's seat would be a top opportunity for the GOP to pick up a Senate spot. With a tiny margin of victory the last time around, she also seemed headed for a brutal primary against antiwar challengers.

But she brought those challengers into her cam-

paigned and appears on track to defeat Mike McGavick (R), a former insurance-company executive who has spent \$2.5 million on the race.

McGavick has suffered for a campaign strategy that involved disclosing a drunken-driving arrest and other personal foibles.

In the 8th District, in Seattle's suburbs, Rep. Dave Reichert (R) is trying to fend off a challenge from former Microsoft executive Darcy Burner (D). Burner, who has no legislative record, has tried to tie Reichert to President Bush, an unpopular figure in this Democratic-leaning district.

But Reichert, popular in the district, has stressed his independence, and he appears to have a slight lead in the final days.

KEY RACES

RACE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT
Alaska gov.	Sarah Palin	Tony Knowles
Calif. 11th Dist.	Rep. Richard Pombo	Jerry McNerney
Calif. 4th Dist.	Rep. John Doolittle	Charlie Brown
Wash. 8th Dist.	Rep. Dave Reichert	Darcy Burner



THE SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA: Conservative Fights for His Seat

Gov. Janet Napolitano (D), a rising star as the first female chair of the National Governors Association, is cruising to a second term over conservative think tank president Len Munsil (R).

Sen. Jon Kyl (R) has faced a stiffer challenge from developer and former state Democratic Party chairman Jim Pederson, who has sunk millions into his race and has been bolstered by late funds from the national party. But with heavy emphasis on measures against illegal immigration and support for Bush on Iraq, Kyl seems to have

Randy Graf, the Club for Growth conservative who won the GOP nomination when two moderates split most of the primary votes but whose stands were extreme enough to cost him Kolbe's support.

After six terms, Rep. J.D. Hayworth (R) is fighting for his political life after losing the endorsement of the Arizona Republic, which called him a "bully" for his aggressive advocacy of conservative positions. His opponent, legislator and former state Democratic Party chairman Harry Mitchell, is the strongest Democrat to test Hayworth in this Republican-leaning district.

Rep. Rick Renzi (R) has been hit with conflict-of-

Richardson will probably pivot early next year to a run for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

OKLAHOMA: Solid Hold on Governorship

Gov. Brad Henry (D) is heavily favored for a second term over Rep. Ernest Istook (R), his conservative challenger. Istook's seat is likely to go to 12-year veteran Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin (R) over surgeon David Hunter (D).

TEXAS: A GOP Comeback for DeLay's Seat?

When House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R) resigned from Congress this year and courts ruled that the GOP could not put another candidate's name on the ballot, former representative Nick Lampson (D) appeared to have a free ride to Congress from the 22nd District. But the fortunes of a GOP-backed write-in candidate, Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, have been rising in this heavily Republican district.

National Republicans have been spending heavily to offset Lampson's huge fundraising lead, and Sekula-Gibbs' campaign has been in the front stretch for a



been bolstered by late runs from the national party, but with heavy emphasis on measures against illegal immigration and support for Bush on Iraq, Kyl seems to have landed off Pederson and secured a third term.

The seat of retiring Rep. Jim Kolbe, a Republican moderate, is likely to switch to the Democrats. In a battle of two former legislators, Gabrielle Giffords (D) is leading

Mitchell, the strongest Democrat to test Hayworth in this Republican-leaning district.

Rep. Rick Renzi (R) has been hit with conflict-of-interest investigations by the Justice Department in a land deal that netted a partner \$3 million, but he appears to be leading lawyer Ellen Simon (D) in a huge rural district where it is difficult for a newcomer to campaign.

NEW MEXICO: Republicans Grow Confident

A close race is nothing new to Rep. Heather Wilson (R). Since winning a 1998 special election in her Albuquerque area district, she has been at or near the top of Democrats' target list in each subsequent election. They have recruited their strongest candidate against Wilson yet, state Attorney General Patricia Madrid, and the contest has been tied for months. Of late, the GOP is more confident that Wilson will eke out another narrow win.

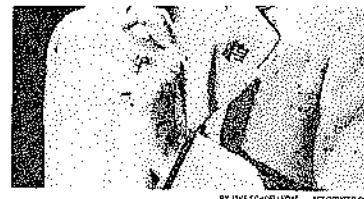
Gov. Bill Richardson (D) is set to win a second term easily over former state GOP chairman John Dendahl.

publican district.

National Republicans have been spending heavily to offset Lamson's huge fundraising lead, and Sekula-Gibbs's campaign was boosted in the final stretch by a visit to Sugar Land by Bush. Still, her campaign is hampered by the difficulty voters might have in inputting her name on electronic voting machines.

In the 17th District, Rep. Chet Edwards (D) appears likely to repel a challenge from Iraq war veteran Van Taylor (R). Similarly, in the redrawn 23rd District, in San Antonio's suburbs, Rep. Henry Bonilla (R) has an edge in a close contest with former representative Ciro Rodriguez (D). But there are several other candidates, and Bonilla needs at least 50 percent to avoid a runoff.

Gov. Rick Perry (R) is likely to stay in office for a second full term in a campaign that has featured some of the most colorful characters in recent history. His chief Democratic opponent is former representative Chris Bell, but getting more attention have been independent candidates Kinky Friedman, an author and musician, and state



Rep. Heather Wilson (R-N.M.) has been fending off the toughest challenger she has encountered, the state attorney general. The race has been close for months.

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, who wanted to be called "Grandma" on the ballot.

There is little doubt that Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R) will defeat a token Democratic opponent, lawyer Barbara Ann Radnofsky.

KEY RACES

RACE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT
Ariz. 5th Dist.	Rep. J.D. Hayworth	Harry Mitchell
Ariz. Senate	Sen. Jon Kyl	Jim Pederson
N.M. 1st Dist.	Rep. Heather Wilson	Patricia Madrid
Tex. 22nd Dist.	Shelley Sekula-Gibbs	Nick Lamson



THE ROCKIES

COLORADO: Chances for Democratic Gains

Two-term Gov. Bill Owens (R) is term-limited, and Democrat Bill Ritter is running well ahead of Rep. Bob Beauprez (R) in the race to succeed him. Beauprez originally looked like the stronger of the two candidates, but he got badly bruised in an early intraparty conflict and never recovered. Ritter, a former Denver district attorney and an abortion opponent, is benefiting as the state goes from red to purple.

Beauprez's 7th District seat in the Denver suburbs is likely to go to the Democrats, with Ed Perlmutter now leading Rick O'Donnell (R). Democrats pounded O'Donnell for having written years ago that Social Security should be abolished. He recanted, but the damage was done.

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R) narrowly won the 4th District in 2004 and is in a tossup race against Democrat Angie Paccione this year. A Democratic group spent more than \$500,000 against Musgrave, forcing national Republicans to come to her defense. President Bush came in yesterday to help her. National Democrats launched ads late Friday.

In the 5th District, Republican Doug Lamborn won a nasty primary but ruptured relations with retiring Rep. Joel Hefley (R), putting himself in jeopardy against former Air Force officer Jay Pawcett (D). But the district is

heavily Republican.

IDAHO: A Surprising Showing by Democrats

Idaho is usually strongly Republican, but this year is so competitive that Vice President Cheney made a rescue visit on Thursday. The governorship, held by a seat-warmer since Dirk Kempthorne (R) became secretary of interior, was supposed to go to Rep. Butch Otter (R), who had been lieutenant governor for many years. But Otter dithered and allowed newspaper publisher Jerry Brady (D), who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2002, to catch him in the polls. Now that the GOP is mobilized by the threat, Otter may be winning it.

State Rep. Bill Sali (R), the Club for Growth candidate, won a six-way primary for Otter's seat with 26 percent of the vote and has struggled ever since. Sali's opponent, Boise business executive Larry Grant (D), has run ads filled with quotes from GOP leaders denouncing Sali for his actions in the legislature. With Boise's growth drawing in more Democrats, this race could be close.

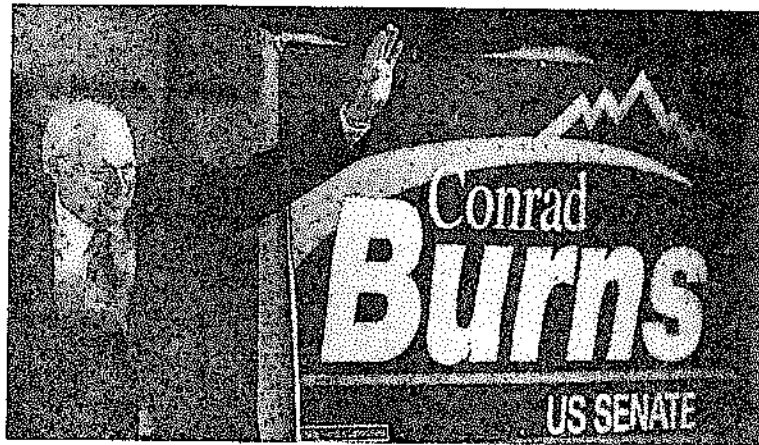
MONTANA: Tough Race, but GOP Sees Hope

Sen. Conrad Burns (R) has been running uphill all year, but Republicans suddenly think this could be a bright spot for them on Tuesday.

Burns was dogged early by connections to convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff and dug himself deeper into a hole with a series of verbal gaffes. His opponent, state Senate President Jon Tester (D), is of the same mold as Democratic Gov. Brian Schweitzer and for most of October had a narrow but clear lead. But Republicans have pounded Tester on taxes, and the party is counting on late visits by Bush and Cheney to produce a big GOP turnout. Democrats say their get-out-the-vote operation is very strong. This is a tossup.

NEVADA: Scandal Makes Race Competitive

Rep. Jim Gibbons's (R) gubernatorial campaign ap-



Vice President Cheney stumped in Montana last week for the Senate incumbent and a House candidate, part of an eleventh-hour effort to stem Republicans' congressional losses. Democrats expect good turnout in the state.

peared to be on cruise control until late last month, when allegations of inappropriate behavior with a woman in Las Vegas surfaced. Gibbons has denied any wrongdoing, but the damage is done. His race with state Sen. Dina Titus is now a jump ball, with Republicans acknowledging that the trend line does not look good.

In the 2nd District, which Gibbons is leaving, Nevada Secretary of State Dean Heller (R) faces a surprisingly strong challenge from University of Nevada Regent Jill Derby (D). Democrats were more optimistic about Derby's chances a week or so ago and say the district's strong Republican bent makes this a long shot.

The 3rd District, which takes in much of Las Vegas's fast-growing suburbs, could be very competitive; Bush won it 50 percent to 49 percent in 2004. But Rep. Jon Porter (R) won easily two years ago. Tessa Hafen (D), a former aide for Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, has run a credible campaign but probably needs a strong national wind to end up ahead.

Sen. John Ensign (R) is heavily favored for a second term as Jack Carter (D), son of former president Jimmy Carter, has run a less-than-stellar campaign.

UTAH: Solid Incumbents for Senate, House

Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch, a 30-year political veteran, is assured of a win against business executive Pete Ashdown (D). Rep. Jim Matheson (D) is having a relatively easy time against state Rep. LaVar Christensen (R).

WYOMING: A Gaffe? Still Favored to Win

Rep. Barbara Cubin (R) is facing an unexpectedly strong challenge from school-board commissioner Gary Trauner (D) but is likely to pull out a win because Wyoming is heavily Republican. Her campaign was not helped when she told a third-party candidate who uses a wheelchair, "If you weren't sitting in that chair, I'd slap you across the face." She said the quote is inaccurate, but she apologized.

Sen. Craig Thomas (R) is expected to cruise to victory over retired Navy mechanical engineer Dale Grountage (D), as is Gov. Dave Freudenthal (R) over lawyer and 2002 challenger Ray Hankins (D).

KEY RACES

RACE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT
Colo. 4th Dist.	Rep. Marilyn Musgrave	Angie Paccione
Idaho 2nd Dist.	Rep. Mike Simpson	Jim Hansen
Mont. Senate	Sen. Conrad Burns	Jon Tester
Nev. gov.	Rep. Jim Gibbons	Dina Titus
Nev. 3rd Dist.	Rep. Jon Porter	Tessa Hafen

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THE MID-ATLANTIC

DELAWARE: Focus is on Attorney General

In a state that loves its incumbents, Sen. Tom Carper (D) has barely had to bother with the opposition from Temple University professor Jan Ting (R). More attention has focused on the effort by Beau Biden (D), son of Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), to win the attorney general's race against Ferris Wharton (R), a 23-year veteran of the state Justice Department.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Two Shoos-Ins

D.C. Council member Adrian Fenty, who defeated the council chairman, Linda Cropp, in the Democratic primary in September, is assured to be the next mayor of the District. Washington's longtime delegate to Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), is unopposed.

MARYLAND: Close Despite Party Imbalance

If the 2006 election is hard for the GOP anywhere, it would seem that it would be Maryland, where voter registration is so lopsided: 55 percent Democratic, 29 percent Republican. But the races for governor and senator are extremely competitive.

Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. hopes to become the state's first GOP governor in 50 years to win a second term and has spent heavily to stress a moderate approach to governing. Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley (D) has led Ehrlich in every public poll but has been on the defensive against attacks that he has done a poor job fighting crime and fixing schools.

The Senate race is to replace Paul S. Sarbanes (D), the longest-serving senator in Maryland history. President Bush and strategist Karl Rove handpicked Lt. Gov. Michael Steele (R) for his engaging personality and as a symbol of the party's efforts to reach out to African Americans. He faces Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D), whose more-than-40-year career in politics began when he was elected to the state legislature while in law school.

Steele has been the more stylish campaigner, but Cardin has not let voters forget that Steele's views on abortion and the war are not in line with most Marylanders'.

KEY RACES

RACE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT
Md. gov.	Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.	Martin O'Malley
N.J. Senate	Tom Kean Jr.	Sen. Bob Menendez
Pa. 8th Dist.	Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick	Patrick Murphy
Pa. 6th Dist.	Rep. Jim Gerlach	Lois Murphy
Va. Senate	Sen. George Allen	James Webb

There is likely to be little change in Maryland's congressional delegation, including that a Sarbanes should still be in it. Lawyer and community activist John Sarbanes (D), the senator's son, is favored to win Cardin's seat.

NEW JERSEY: Dueling Political Loyalties

There was some grumbling when Gov. Jon Corzine (D) named then-Rep. Bob Menendez as his replacement in the Senate last year, and those concerns have been magnified this fall. In a strongly Democratic state, Menendez has struggled against state Sen. Tom Kean Jr. (R), son of the former governor.

Kean has focused on corruption, charging that Menendez is under federal investigation, an allegation the incumbent calls scurrilous. Menendez has run against the war and Bush. Kean has tried to mute the issue by calling for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. Menendez appears to be narrowly ahead.

In the 7th District, state Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D) is challenging Rep. Mike Ferguson (R), who could fall if Democrats have a big night Tuesday.

NORTH CAROLINA: 1 Seat Safe, 1 in Play

After a decade in Congress, Rep. Charles Taylor (R) is in jeopardy of losing his 11th District seat. Taylor has spent nearly \$3 million of his money to attack former NFL quarterback Heath Shuler (D), but nothing seems to be sticking. Shuler's down-home ads have cast him as a solid conservative — a necessity in this GOP-leaning western North Carolina district where Bush won with 57 percent in 2004.

In the 8th District, Rep. Robin Hayes (R) is heavily favored over Larry Kissel (D) despite the even partisan split of the district.

PENNSYLVANIA: Besieged GOP Incumbents

Football Hall of Fame receiver Lynn Swann (R) stumbled at the start of his race against savvy Gov. Ed Rendell (D) and, although he has become a strong candidate, is unlikely to overtake the incumbent.

In the Senate race, Rendell helped Democrats avoid a primary fight, engineering a clear field for state Treasurer Bob Casey Jr. to challenge conservative Sen. Rick Santorum, who is seen as the most vulnerable GOP incumbent. Santorum is the more dynamic candidate, but Casey has a solid lead.

Five Republican House members are in competitive races. The most likely to lose are Curt Weldon in the 7th District and Don Sherwood in the 10th District. Weldon has been damaged by an FBI investigation into whether he used his power to steer contracts to his daughter's consulting firm. Sherwood just paid about \$500,000 to settle a lawsuit from a former mistress who accused him of choking her. Weldon faces retired Navy Vice Adm. Joe Sestak (D), and Sherwood faces Chris Carney (D), a



Virginia Republican Sens. George Allen, right, and John Warner stopped last week at a company that tracks traffic, where Allen tried to turn his reelection campaign away from the racial and religious issues that have plagued him.



Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele was chosen by the White House to run to replace a retiring senator.

Penn State University associate professor.

Rep. Jim Gerlach has a tough rematch against Lois Murphy (D) in the 6th District, in the Philadelphia suburbs. He is well-liked, but the war and the political climate have made the race a tossup.

The 8th District race pits Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick against Patrick Murphy (D), a 33-year-old Iraq veteran. The race is also considered a tossup, but some Democrats doubt Murphy can win without considerable help from a Democratic wave.

Rep. Melissa Hart began sending out an SOS when her race against Jason Altmire (D) in the 4th District began to tighten a few weeks ago. She retains an advantage and of the five at-risk Republicans is seen as the least likely to lose. But her campaign is nervous.

VIRGINIA: Unexpectedly Close Senate Race

What was supposed to be a reelection formality for Sen. George Allen (R) and a tune-up for the 2008 presidential-nomination race has turned into one of the na-

tion's closest and most watched Senate campaigns. Allen sees his political future threatened by James Webb (D), who was secretary of the Navy under President Ronald Reagan and who opposed the war in Iraq even before it began.

Allen's problems are largely self-inflicted: He called an Indian American "macaca," he has been accused of routinely using racial epithets when he was in college, and his acknowledgment of his Jewish heritage was awkward. All badly damaged Allen's image.

Webb has been hurt by charges that a 1979 article denouncing the role of women in combat and at the Naval Academy was sexist and demeaning to women. Allen also criticized sex scenes from some of Webb's novels.

Allen thinks his 25 years in Virginia politics will help get his supporters to the polls; Webb is banking on a motivated electorate unhappy with Bush and Washington. Republicans are pessimistic about this race.

In House races, Rep. Thelma Drake (R) and Virginia Beach revenue commissioner Phil Keenan (D) are in a close race in the normally Republican Tidewater district. In Northern Virginia, Rep. Frank Wolf (R) is receiving a strong challenge from a Georgetown University dean, Judy Feder (D), but Democrats think Wolf will be difficult to dislodge.

WEST VIRGINIA: GOP Window Slams Shut

Just a few months ago, Democratic Rep. Alan Mollohan's political career appeared to be in jeopardy. Allegations that he had steered millions of federal dollars to friends and family were splashed across the pages of national newspapers. Democrats pivoted to attack state Del. Chris Wakim (R) on his ethical transgressions, neutralizing the issue and virtually ensuring a 13th term for the incumbent.

Speaking of long-tenured politicians, Sen. Robert Byrd (D) is cruising to a ninth term against John Raese (R).



THE SOUTH





THE SOUTH

ALABAMA: No 'Miracle' Expected

After beating a religious-right opponent in the primary, Gov. Bob Riley (R) is on his way to a second term. His opponent, Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley (D) said it would take "a minor miracle" for her to win.

ARKANSAS: Presidential Politics Weigh In

Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) is leaving the statehouse after 10 years and 110 pounds. Huckabee's dramatic weight loss has made him a national figure for physical fitness and health advocacy. It has also contributed to speculation that he will run for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination.

State Attorney General Michael Beebe (D) and former representative Asa Hutchinson (R) are battling to succeed Huckabee. President Bush is coming in to boost Hutchinson's campaign on the eve of the election, but Beebe recently welcomed favorite son and former president Bill Clinton, and the odds strongly favor the Democrat.

FLORIDA: Crucial and Excruciating to GOP

Florida is the epicenter of two Republican debacles this year. One is the Mark Foley scandal, the other the dismal Senate campaign of Rep. Katherine Harris (R). Both have made the climate more difficult for Republicans in an otherwise red state.

Harris, best known for her role as Florida secretary of state during the 2000 presidential-election recount, has been such a weak candidate that Sen. Bill Nelson (D) is coasting to a second term and has helped put a better gloss on the Democratic brand in the process.

In the race to succeed Gov. Jeb Bush (R), Attorney General Charlie Crist (R) came out of the primary as the favorite, and he has heavily outspent his less-known rival, Rep. Jim Davis (D). But polls have tightened. The president will campaign Monday in the conservative Florida Panhandle in an eleventh-hour effort to keep this presidential battleground in GOP hands.

Three Republican-held House seats are in jeopardy. When Foley resigned over sexually explicit messages to former House pages, his 16th District seat became vulnerable, in part because Foley's name will still be on the ballot. Democrat Tim Mahoney gained an immediate advantage, but the GOP stand-in, state Rep. Joe Negron, has fought back, and the national party put considerable money into the race. It's a tossup.

Rep. Clay Shaw (R) has faced a succession of challenging races in the 22nd District, and this year may be his toughest, against state Sen. Ron Klein. Shaw has distanced himself from Bush and even ran a radio ad touting his cooperation with President Bill Clinton, who was coming to the area to raise money for Klein.

Harris's district is the other one Democrats are targeting. Auto dealer Vern Buchanan (R) has called in both President Bush and first lady Laura Bush to help him stave off businesswoman Christine Jennings. Democrats were more confident two weeks ago. Republicans worry, knowing this is the kind of race they need to win

to keep the majority.

Davis's 11th District seat is likely to stay Democratic, with Hillsborough County Commissioner Kathy Castor his successor. In the 9th District, state Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R) is favored to succeed his father, Michael Bilirakis (R), but that race is more competitive.

GEORGIA: Republicans' Cause for Hope

The Peach State is one of the few bright spots for Republicans nationally.

Former representatives Max Burns (R) and Mac Collins (R) have run solid campaigns as they seek to unseat Reps. John Barrow (D) and Jim Marshall (D), respectively.

Barrow defeated Burns in the 12th district in 2004, 52 percent to 48 percent, and, after redistricting organized by the Republican legislature, the party is increasingly optimistic about its chances there. This district could be one of the few Democratic losses on Tuesday.

The redistricting landed Marshall in the 8th District, which in its new form would have given Bush 61 percent in 2004. But Marshall has focused on solidifying his base around Macon and in spite of Collins's strong campaign is now a slight favorite.

Gov. Sonny Perdue (R) is a strong favorite to defeat Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor (D) and claim a second term.

KENTUCKY: Ambitious Democratic Bids

The 4th District race, between Rep. Geoff Davis (R) and former representative Ken Lucas (D), is the marquee race in the state, pitting two able politicians against one another in this conservative-minded northern Kentucky seat. Lucas held the seat from 1999 to 2005 and has led in most polls, but Republicans have long insisted they will win here. Polling casts the race as close, with a slight edge to Davis.

Rep. Anne Northup (R) is targeted by Democrats every cycle. Her Louisville-area seat was carried by the last two Democratic presidential nominees and has a significant black vote. But Northup wins regularly, relying on unparalleled fundraising and a knack for discrediting her opponents. Former alternative newspaper executive editor John Yarmuth (D) is not the strongest of Northup's recent challengers, but he is running in the best national environment for Democrats in recent memory.

The victory by 2nd District Rep. Ron Lewis (R) in a 1994 special election signaled the year's Republican wave that swept Democrats from the House majority. Democrats are hoping state Rep. Mike Weaver (D) can pull off an upset against Lewis, but this district's strong Republican tilt makes a Democratic win unlikely.

LOUISIANA: Inquiry Could Sway Voters

A year after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, the congressional race in the 2nd District is turning more on the conduct of Rep. William Jefferson (D) than on the aftermath of the historic storm. Jefferson is the subject of a federal corruption investigation.



BY MARK HENRIBREY — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. Harold Ford Jr. has tried to keep his Senate campaign in Tennessee on message, linking the Republican incumbent to the Iraq war. His opponent, though, ran ads that made issues of Ford's race and family history.

The trouble has made it difficult for Jefferson to clear the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff. On his trail are state Rep. Karen Carter (D) and former New Orleans councilman Troy Carter (D). A runoff between Karen Carter and Jefferson would be a tossup.

Katrina's impact has been greater in the 3rd District, where Rep. Charlie Melancon (D) has helped get federal support. He looks likely to hold on to his seat against 2004 candidate state Sen. Craig Romero (R).

MISSISSIPPI: Veteran Stands Strong

Sen. Trent Lott (R), eyeing a possible return to a leadership position and bragging of 34 years in Congress, has encountered few problems in turning back the challenge from state Rep. Erik Fleming (D).

SOUTH CAROLINA: Likely Wins for Each

Gov. Mark Sanford (R) has battled the legislature throughout his four years and now is fighting a member of the Democratic minority, state Sen. Tommy Moore (D), for a second term. But everything favors Sanford in this Republican-leaning state.

The challenge to Rep. John Spratt (D) from state Rep. Ralph Norman (R) drew early national money, but Republicans no longer see an opportunity.

TENNESSEE: A Racially Charged Campaign

Gov. Phil Bredesen (D) is far ahead in his bid for reelection, but the Volunteer State is home to one of the most fascinating — and competitive — Senate races in the country, pitting Rep. Harold Ford Jr. (D) of Memphis against former Chattanooga mayor Bob Corker (R).

Ford is seeking to become the first African American senator from the South since Reconstruction. Months ago, Republicans were worried by his skills as a candidate, and he has run, by Democratic and Republican accounts, a nearly flawless race. Campaigning as a Democratic centrist, he has tried to neutralize some of the issues that often trip up Democrats in the South while putting pressure on Corker over the Iraq war.

KEY RACES

RACE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT
Fla. gov.	Charlie Crist	Rep. Jim Davis
Fla. 22nd Dist.	Rep. Clay Shaw	Ron Klein
Ga. 12th Dist.	Max Burns	Rep. John Barrow
Ky. 4th Dist.	Geoff Davis	Ken Lucas
Tenn. Senate	Bob Corker	Rep. Harold Ford Jr.

The Republicans have hammered Ford as a high-living playboy to paint him as out of step with the state's conservative voters. Their attacks caused an uproar in the final weeks when a party-sponsored ad that showed a young, white woman — clearly an actress — winking and saying, "Harold, call me." Democrats accused Republicans of trying to play the race card, and some Republicans agreed.

Corker was in some trouble earlier in the fall, until the White House and other Republicans in Washington forced a shake-up in his campaign. Ford will need a substantial turnout among African Americans and increased support among women to win. The race remains close, with a slight tilt to Corker.

There are no competitive House races. State Sen. Steve Cohen (D) is running to succeed Ford in the heavily Democratic 9th District, while state Rep. David Davis (R) is heading for the 1st District seat of retiring Rep. Bill Jenkins (R).

The 50-state roundup was reported and written by Washington Post staff writers David S. Broder and Dan Balz, Washington Post political researcher Zachary A. Goldfarb, and washingtonpost.com staff writer Chris Cillizza. Washington Post staff writer Robert Barnes contributed to this report.