2018 House Ratings

Toss-Up (14R, 2D)
- CA 39 (Open; Royce, R)
- CA 48 (Rohrabacher, R)
- CO 6 (Coffman, R)
- IA 3 (Young, R)
- IL 6 (Roskam, R)
- KS 3 (Yoder, R)
- KY 6 (Barr, R)
- MI 11 (Open; Trott, R)
- MN 1 (Open; Walz, DFL)
- MN 2 (Lewis, R)
- MN 8 (Open; Nolan, DFL)
- NJ 3 (MacArthur, R)
- NY 19 (Faso, R)
- NY 22 (Tenney, D)
- TX 32 (Sessions, R)
- WA 8 (Open; Reichert, R)

Tilt Democratic (6R, 2D)
- IA 1 (Blum, R)
- AZ 2 (Open; McSally, R)
- CA 49 (Open; Issa, R)
- NH 1 (Open; Shea-Porter, D)
- NJ 11 (Open; Frelinghuysen, R)
- NV 3 (Open; Rosen, D)
- PA 7 (Vacant; Dent, R)
- VA 10 (Comstock, R)

Tilt Republican (16R)
- CA 10 (Denham, R)
- CA 25 (Knight, R)
- FL 26 (Curbelo, R)
- IL 12 (Bost, R)
- KS 2 (Open; Jenkins, R)
- ME 2 (Poliquin, R)
- MI 8 (Bishop, R)
- MN 3 (Paulsen, R)
- NV 3 (Open; Rosen, D)
- TX 7 (Culberson, R)
- WA 8 (Open; Reichert, R)

Lean Democratic (3D, 1R)
- AZ 1 (O’Halleran, D)
- FL 27 (Open; Ros-Lehtinen, R)
- PA 8 (Cartwright, D)
- PA 17 (Rothfus, R/Lamb, D)

Lean Republican (12R)
- CA 45 (Walters, R)
- IL 13 (Davis, R)
- NC 2 (Holding, R)
- NC 13 (Budd, R)
- NE 2 (Bacon, R)
- NY 27 (Open; Collins, R)
- OH 1 (Chabot, R)
- UT 4 (Love, R)
- VA 2 (Taylor, R)
- WA 5 (McMorris Rodgers, R)
- WI 1 (Open; Ryan, R)
- WV 3 (Open; Jenkins, R)

Likely Democratic (3R, 2D)
- FL 7 (Murphy, D)
- NJ 2 (Open; LoBiondo, R)
- NV 4 (Open; Kihuen, D)
- PA 5 (Vacant; Meehan, R)
- PA 6 (Open; Costello, R)

Likely Republican (25R, 1D)
- AR 2 (Hill, R)
- AZ 8 (Lesko, R)
- CA 44 (McClintock, R)
- CA 21 (Valadao, R)
- CA 50 (Hunter, R)
- FL 6 (Open; DeSantis, R)
- FL 15 (Open; Ross, R)
- FL 16 (Buchanan, R)
- FL 18 (Mast, R)
- GA 6 (Handel, R)
- GA 7 (Woodall, R)
- IA 4 (King, R)
- IN 2 (Walorski, R)
- MI 6 (Upton, R)

Dropped From List (1D)
- MN 7 (Peterson, DFL)

GOP DEM
- 115th Congress: 240 195
- Currently Solid: 162 186
- Competitive: 78 9

Needed for majority: 218

Moved benefiting Democrats: #
Moved benefiting Republicans: *
Takeovers in italics

InsideElections.com
Republicans’ Slumping Surveys. President Donald Trump’s job approval rating dipped across the board, which should be disconcerting for Republicans on the ballot this fall. Fundamentally, midterm elections are most often a referendum on the president. And if voters are dissatisfied with the president’s performance, they can’t vote against him, so they send a message by voting against the president’s party or support the other party to serve as a check on him in Washington.

Trump received a 36 percent approval rating in the latest CNN and ABC News/Washington Post polls, a 38 percent approval rating in the most recent ABC News/Washington Post, Quinnipiac Univ, NPR/Marist and Emerson College surveys, and 40 percent approval in the new Gallup poll, which are included in the latest RealClearPolitics average, amounting to an average of 41 percent approve/54 percent disapprove. It’s the widest gap for President Trump since April, but it comes less than two months before the election.

At the same time, the generic ballot has spiked for Democrats. A Quinnipiac Univ. poll conducted Sept. 6-9 showed Democrats leading by 14 points (52-38 percent), compared to its Aug. 9-13 poll that found Democrats leading by 9 points (51-42 percent). An NPR/Marist poll conducted Sept. 5-9 found Democrats leading by 12 points (50-38 percent) compared to its July 19-22 poll that found Democrats leading by 7 points (47-40 percent). The Real Clear Politics average now has Democrats leading 48-39 percent.

Of course 2016 should have been a reminder that we don’t have national elections in this country, and national polling includes voters who don’t live in competitive states or districts that will decide the majorities this year. That might give Republicans some comfort. But while the President has performed better in state and district level surveys, compared to his numbers nationally, the national polling could foreshadow trouble in future polling (which already isn’t great) and could put GOP candidates in jeopardy.

The President’s PAC. A few weeks ago, America First Action, the super PAC unofficially aligned with the president’s priorities, announced its first round of spending, totaling $12.5 million on TV, digital, and radio ads in 12 races between Labor Day and Election Day.

The list includes: Minnesota’s 1st and 8th Districts, Maine’s 2nd, North Carolina’s 13th, Michigan’s 8th and 11th, Pennsylvania’s 17th, West Virginia’s 3rd, New York’s 22nd and Texas’ 32nd, as well as the Senate races in Missouri and North Dakota.

Not only are all of those House races on our list of competitive races and mostly districts where President Trump is more popular than his national polling numbers, but many of them are key areas in states that could be critical to Trump’s 2020 re-election bid, should he choose to run again. For example, none of the nine competitive races in California are on this first round of targets.

Don’t Count Out the Kochs. At the end of July, the Koch network made news for potentially scaling back its spending in competitive races this fall. Billionaire Charles Koch said the group would be more selective in choosing candidates to support and hold candidates responsible for their commitments.

The lack of involvement was portrayed as potentially disastrous for GOP chances in the midterm elections, but there’s evidence that the Koch network won’t be quiet this fall again. For example, none of the nine competitive races in California are on this first round of targets.

### Trump National Job Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>APPROVE</th>
<th>DISAPPROVE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6-9</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 9-12</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14-17</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABC/Washington Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 26-29</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8 -11</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 19</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Americans for Prosperity has been up with new television ads in the Wisconsin, Tennessee, Missouri, and Montana senate races. And on Monday, the network announced the launch of a new super PAC, Americans for Prosperity Action, which will be a sister organization to Americans for Prosperity, the nonprofit that leads the network’s grassroots operation, according to *The Washington Post*. The group seeks to elect candidates who align with its free-market policies.
Senate Report Shorts

Arizona. Open; Jeff Flake (R) not seeking re-election. GOP Gov. Doug Ducey appointed former Sen. Jon Kyl to late-Sen. John McCain’s vacant seat. The appointment could last until the end of the term in 2020, but Kyl left open the possibility of leaving the seat before then, after this Congress is over at the end of the year.

Kyl previously served in the Senate for 18 years before deciding against seeking re-election in 2012. Then-Rep. Jeff Flake won the open seat over Democrat Richard Carmona in a competitive race. In the short term, Kyl should give Republicans a reliable vote on important issues over the next few months, including the Supreme Court confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh.

But due to Kyl’s lack of commitment to serve until 2020, and with Arizona’s other Senate seat is up for election this year, there are myriad of scenarios in The Grand Canyon State.


If the McSally-loss-and-subsequent-appointment scenario materializes, she and Sinema wouldn’t be the first duo to face each other and then serve together. In Oregon, Democrat Ron Wyden defeated Republican Gordon Smith in a Jan. 1996 special election for the Senate. But Smith won a Nov. 1996 election for the state’s other Senate seat and the two men served together for more than a decade.

The 2018 Senate race remains a Toss-Up.

Fox News, Sept. 8-11 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Sinema over McSally 47%-44%, IDs: Sinema 52% favorable/35% unfavorable, McSally 47%/43%.

Delaware. Tom Carper (D) elected 2000 (56%), 2006 (70%), 2012 (66%) Sen. Tom Carper easily fended off challenger Kerri Evelyn Harris 65-35 percent in the Sept. 6 Democratic primary. Evelyn Harris’s campaign believed that Democratic turnout would total to 40,000 votes, meaning her win number would be around 20-25,000. But turnout ended up being double that — over 80,000 Democratic votes for the Senate primary. Harris surpassed her vote goal but it wasn’t enough. Fundraising might also have been a factor, considering Evelyn Harris raised $120,000 through Aug. 17 compared to $2.4 million by Carper. The senator will face Republican Rob Arlett in the general election. Solid D.

Florida. Bill Nelson (D) elected 2000 (51%), 2006 (60%), 2012 (55%). Democrats are encouraged because GOP Gov. Rick Scott has spent millions of dollars and the race isn’t over. Republicans are encouraged because Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson is struggling to keep pace with Scott. Now that Labor Day has passed, Democrats have the resources to litigate their case against the Republican (including health care, algae blooms, and being too close to Trump) and stay on television through Election Day. Even though Scott, 65, is finishing his eighth year as governor, he’s still a relative political outsider against Nelson, 75, who was first elected in the 1970s. Toss-up.

PPP (D/IVR) for EDGE Communications, Aug. 29-30 (RVs)--General Election ballot: Nelson over Scott 46%-45%.

St. Pete Polls, Aug. 29-30 (RVs)--General Election ballot: Scott and Nelson tied at 47%.

Florida Atlantic Univ., Aug. 16-20 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Scott over Nelson 45%-39%. Job Ratings: Scott 48% approve/33% disapprove, Nelson 35%/36%.

Indiana. Joe Donnelly (D) elected 2012 (50%). The race between Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly and Republican former state Rep. Mike Braun hasn’t gained a lot of national attention recently, but is still one of the most important races in the country. A majority of the data point to a narrow edge for the senator with less than two months to go. But the race

Continued on page 4

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<tr>
<th>2018 Senate Ratings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Toss-Up</td>
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<td>Donnelly (D-Ind.)</td>
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<td>Heller (R-Nev.)</td>
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<td>McCaskill (D-Mo.)</td>
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<td>Nelson (D-Fla.)</td>
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<td>AZ Open (Flake, R)</td>
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<td>Cruz (R-Texas)</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>Stabenow (D-Mich.)</td>
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<td>Warren (D-Mass.)</td>
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<td>Whitehouse (D-R.I.)</td>
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Takeovers in Italics, # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018
Mississippi Special. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R) appointed April 2018. Don’t be surprised if the fight for the Senate technically goes past Nov. 6. In Mississippi, all candidates will run together without partisan affiliation, and if no candidate gets a majority, then the top two finishers move to a Nov. 27 runoff.

Former Democratic Rep. Mike Espy is likely to finish first, followed by Hyde-Smith. State Sen. Chris McDaniel nearly toppled Sen. Thad Cochran in 2014, but just isn’t gaining enough traction in this race. President Trump was scheduled to campaign for Hyde-Smith in the state on Friday (which probably would have been the final nail in McDaniel’s coffin) but the event was postponed because of Hurricane Florence.

McDaniel is likely to finish third on Nov. 6.

If Democrats are within one seat of a majority, there’s a chance that everyone in the country descends upon Mississippi for the critical runoff. But Espy would be at a disadvantage as a Democrat in a state where President Trump received 58 percent. Solid R.


The Mellman Group (D) for Espy, Aug. 1-7 (LVs)--General Election Ballot: Hyde-Smith 29%, Espy 27%, McDaniel 17%. Runoff Ballots: Espy over Hyde-Smith 41%-38%, Espy over McDaniel 45%-27%. Hyde-Smith job rating: 35% approve/28% disapprove. IDs: Espy 41% favorable/24% unfavorable. McDaniel 32%/27%.

Triumph Campaigns for Y’all Politics (IVR), July 30-31 (LVs?)--General Election Ballot: Hyde-Smith 41%, Espy 27%, McDaniel 15%. Runoff ballots: Hyde-Smith over Espy 48%-34%, Espy over McDaniel 45%-26%. IDs: Hyde-Smith 41% favorable/33% unfavorable, McDaniel 16%/49%, Espy 33%/30%.

Missouri. Claire McCaskill (D) elected 2006 (50%), 2012 (55%).

With about seven weeks to go, this looks like a neck-and-neck race. Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill and Republican state Attorney General Josh Hawley look locked in the mid or high 40s with a low number of undecided voters. Both candidates will likely be upside down by the end (their unfavorable rating being higher than their favorable rating). Hawley has the advantage of the race being in a state where President Trump won handily and McCaskill isn’t apparently concerned with demonstrating any work with the president. Toss-up.

Fox News, Sept. 8-11 (LVs)--General Election ballot: McCaskill over Hawley 44%-41%. IDs: McCaskill 48% favorable/49% unfavorable, Hawley 47%/44%.

NBC/Marist, Aug. 25-28 (LVs)--General Election ballot: McCaskill even with Hawley 47%-47%. McCaskill 44%, Hawley 40%, Japheth Campbell 5%, Jo Crain 3%. IDs: McCaskill 41% favorable/49% unfavorable, Hawley 36%/36%.

WPAi (R) for Club for Growth, Aug. 12-14 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Hawley over McCaskill 48%-41%. IDs: Hawley 41% favorable/36% unfavorable, McCaskill 45% favorable/49% unfavorable.

Continued on page 5

Mississippi.

Cindy Hyde-Smith

Continued from page 3

isn’t over. Donnelly has been able to maintain relatively good favorability numbers, but has also struggled to reach 50 percent.

Fox News, Sept. 8-11 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Braun over Donnelly 45%-43%. IDs: Donnelly 52% favorable/39% unfavorable, Braun 47%/38%.

NBC/Marist, Aug. 26-29 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Donnelly 44%, Braun 41%, Brenton 8%. Donnelly over Braun 49%-43%. IDs: Donnelly 48% favorable/31% unfavorable, Braun 39%/32%.

Trafalgar Group, July 31-Aug, 7 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Donnelly over Braun 51%-39%.

Kentucky. There’s not a race in the Bluegrass State this cycle, but the father of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s last opponent was just indicted. Veteran Democratic strategist Jerry Lundegar was indicted on allegations of making illegal contributions to the campaign of his daughter, Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundegar. She lost to McConnell 56-41 percent in 2014.

Massachusetts. Elizabeth Warren (D) elected 2012 (54%). State Rep. Geoff Diehl (who helped lead Trump’s presidential campaign in Massachusetts) won the GOP nomination in the Sept. 6 primary with 55 percent, defeating GOP donor Sean Kingston (27 percent) and former state Consumer Affairs director Beth Lindstrom (18 percent). He’ll lose the general election to Warren in November. Solid D.

Massachusetts (2020). Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton has been active in promoting House candidates around the country this cycle, but he is also said to be considering a primary challenge to Sen. Ed Markey in 2020, according to a weekend story in The New York Times. Moulton defeated Rep. John Tierney in the 2014 Democratic primary and would have to be taken seriously by the senator. It’s just another example of an anti-establishment fervor that is growing within the Democratic Party.

Michigan. Debbie Stabenow (D) elected 2000 (49%), 2006 (57%), 2012 (59%). Republicans have high hopes for John James, the retired Army Ranger and businessman, but his challenge to Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow hasn’t matured yet. Some GOP strategists believe James needs to be on television now, introducing himself and making the case against the senator, but he doesn’t have the resources yet to get it done. Solid D.

Strategic National, Sept. 8-9 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Stabenow over James 53%-35%. IDs: Stabenow 60% favorable/34% unfavorable, James 40%/41%, Trump 39%/45%.

Glergirff Group for Detroit News/WDIV-TV, Sept. 5-7 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Stabenow over James 56%-33%. IDs: Stabenow 54% favorable/31% unfavorable, James 21%/16%.

Minnesota. Tina Smith (DFL) appointed Jan. 2018. DFL Sen. Tina Smith has only been in office for 8 months after being appointed to replace Al Franken, so some Republicans thought she might be vulnerable. But Republican Karen Housley starts the general election sprint trailing Smith, and it’s not clear Republicans will have the money to invest in the race. Likely D.

Suffolk Univ., Aug. 17-20 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Smith over Housley 44%-37%.

NBC/Marist, July 15-19 (RVs)--General Election: Smith over Housley 49%-35%.

Continued on page 5
Montana. Jon Tester (D) elected 2006 (49%), 2012 (49%). Republicans publicized a survey which showed state Auditor Matt Rosendale leading Democratic Sen. Jon Tester by 2 points. The race is competitive but that poll looks like the most optimistic GOP view of the race at this stage. Trump looks likely to visit Montana often after Tester’s criticism of Ronny Jackson, the president’s choice to lead the Veterans Affairs Department. But it looks like Rosendale hasn’t fully capitalized on the opportunity. Democrats are blasting Rosendale for being inauthentic and an outsider. Tilt D.

WPAI (R), Aug. 20-22 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Rosendale over Tester 47%-45%. IDs: Rosendale 44% favorable/46% unfavorable, Tester 49%/46%.

Nebraska (2020). Deb Fischer (R) elected 2012 (58%). “Frankly, neither of these parties have a long term vision for the future of the country,” GOP Sen. Ben Sasse told CNN’s Jake Tapper on Sunday. The senator also said he regularly considers leaving the Republican Party to become an independent.

Sasse’s supporters say that this language is nothing new for the senator, who has had the luxury of being a vocal Trump critic while not facing an election this cycle. But Sasse will be up in 2020, and these comments sound like they’re coming from someone who might be setting up a future independent run for re-election or president.

It’s probably a good idea considering the path to victory for a Trump critic in a Republican primary is slim when the president is the most popular politician among base GOP voters. Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, for example, probably would have lost his primary if he had chosen to run for re-election after writing a book criticizing the President. Tennessee’s Sen. Bob Corker is also a vocal critic of the President and chose not to run for re-election, either.

Nevada. Dean Heller (R) appointed 2011, elected 2012 (46%). A growing number of Republicans are more optimistic about GOP Sen. Dean Heller surviving than the party holding the open seat in Arizona. But the senator continues to be in a politically precarious position, polling in the mid-40s. Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen is still getting known statewide but doesn’t have the baggage of some other candidates since she has less than two years of votes to be picked apart. Democrats are excited to see Heller shift to health care in his advertising because they believe that’s their winning issue. Toss-up.

Suffolk Univ. for Reno Gazette-Journal, Sept. 5-10 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Rosen over Heller 42%-41%, Bakari (I) 2%, Hagan (L) 2%, Michaels (I) 2%. IDs: Heller 38%, favorable/42%, unfavorable, Rosen 31% favorable/36% unfavorable. Trump 45%, favorable/49% unfavorable.

PPP(D)(IVR) for Protect Our Care, Aug. 20-21 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Rosen over Heller 48%-43%.

New Jersey. Bob Menendez (D) appointed 2006, elected 2006 (53%), 2012 (58%). Democrats are taking Republican Bob Hugin’s spending seriously (he’s spent $8.6 million through June 30 and loaned his campaign $15.5 million), but aren’t seriously concerned about losing the seat yet. In 2002, Democrats replaced embattled Sen. Bob Torricelli with former Sen. Frank Lautenberg at the beginning of October in order to avoid the seat falling into GOP hands. It doesn’t appear to be the same situation this cycle. But Democrats are spending coordinated funds with Menendez, the senator’s favorability numbers are atrocious in district-level polling data. This seat could force Democrats to spend money they’d prefer to have elsewhere, but it’s not in jeopardy yet. Republicans don’t believe in it enough to spend their money, they just want to see Democrats squirm. Solid D.

Quinnipiac Univ., Aug. 15-20 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Menendez over Hugin 43%–37%. IDs: Menendez 29% favorable/47% unfavorable, Hugin 24%–20%. Job ratings: Menendez 40% approve/47% disapprove.

North Dakota. Heidi Heitkamp (D) elected 2012 (50%). The fundamental dynamic of the race hasn’t changed: Republicans are cautiously confident in GOP Rep. Kevin Cramer’s chances while Democrats believe in incumbent Heidi Heitkamp’s ability to win another difficult race. This seat could be critical for Democrats because a loss would likely force them to win in Tennessee or Texas to get to the majority. Tilt R.

Fox News Poll, Sept. 8-11 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Cramer over Heitkamp 48%–44%. IDs: Cramer 53% favorable/40% unfavorable, Heitkamp 52%/39%.

Ohio. Sherrod Brown (D) elected 2006 (56%), 2012 (51%). President Trump won The Buckeye State big in 2016, but the challenge to Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown has been slow to develop in 2018. There appears to be an internal game within the Republican Party. Some GOP strategists want to see Rep. Jim Renacci, the GOP nominee, write a big personal check to demonstrate his seriousness about the race. But that hasn’t happened yet. Meanwhile, Brown has been relatively unscathed for much of the cycle. Brown can’t take the race for granted, but the senator has the edge with time running out for Republicans to change the dynamic. Likely D.

Tennessee. Open; Bob Corker (R) not seeking re-election. The latest Marist College poll for NBC News showed former Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen leading GOP Rep. Marsha Blackburn, but a poll for Fox News showed the inverse. GOP strategists acknowledge that Bredesen is well-liked but believe the congresswoman is in a fundamentally better position in the race. This still feels like a race that Republicans will win in the end, but it won’t be easy. The same NBC poll showed the Republican dominating a credible Democrat in the gubernatorial race, which could be a sign of where the Senate race is headed. Lean R.

Fox News, Sept. 8-11 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Blackburn over Bredesen 47%-44%. IDs: Bredesen 54% favorable/36% unfavorable, Blackburn 51%/39%.

NBC News/Marist, Aug. 25-38 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Bredesen over Blackburn 48%-46%. IDs: Bredesen 61% favorable/22% unfavorable, Blackburn 46%/36%.

Texas. Ted Cruz (R) elected 2012 (56%). The race between GOP Sen. Ted Cruz and Democratic Rep. Beto O’Rourke might be the most publicized in the country, even if it’s not a first or second tier race. Private GOP concern about potentially being outspent has turned to public alarm by OMB Director Mick Mulvaney and others about the senator needing assistance.

Handicapping the race is difficult because there are approximately 10x more O’Rourke profiles than polls in the race. The Cruz campaign will survey but O’Rourke apparently doesn’t believe in pollsters, and

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neither national party is engaged enough to spend a lot of money on surveys. There is limited media polling but we’re largely left to the fundamentals of the state (which are Republican) and a lot of anecdotes (which would seem to favor O’Rourke).

We’re maintaining our rating for now, but this race could descend into a real headache for Republicans. Spending to defend Cruz was not planned in any Republican budgets at the beginning of the cycle when looking at the 2018 map, but it might be necessary to keep pace with O’Rourke. The head of Senate Majority PAC, the Democratic outside group, was non-committal about spending in the race, in a recent interview with The Washington Post. But money isn’t really O’Rourke’s challenge anyway, and having a national Democratic group spend outside money could hurt the congressman’s statewide brand and chances of winning. Texas could be to Republicans what New Jersey ends up being to Democrats—a costly contest but an eventual win. Likely R.

Candidate Conversation

Justin Fareed (R)
California’s 24th District — Rating: Solid Democratic

Interview Date: Sept.12, 2018
Date of Birth: May 28, 1988; Santa Barbara, Calif.
Education: UCLA (2010)
Elected Office: None; 24th District nominee (2016), candidate (2014)

Current Outlook: In July, the Fareed campaign released showing him trailing Democratic Rep. Salud Carbajal just 47-46 percent in this Santa Barbara district. It’s hard to imagine that this is the year Republicans knock off an incumbent in a seat Hillary Clinton carried with 57 percent, but Fareed has higher name ID than the typical challenger because of his previous runs and Republicans believe immigration is particularly salient. Still a long shot but worth watching.

Evaluation: Fareed is a former UCLA football player who helps oversee his family’s third-generation-owned cattle ranch and serves as president of a company (Pro Band Sports Industries) that designs and manufactures sports medical devices. He also previously worked in Washington, D.C. as a legislative aide for Rep. Ed Whitfield of Kentucky. In our interview, he focused on public safety and support for law enforcement, along with local issues like transportation and water infrastructure. Fareed enjoys talking policy over politics, and he believes that Congress needs to take a greater role in the actual work of governing. He avoided talking about President Donald Trump, instead focusing on individual votes that Carbajal took that he disagrees with, or pointing to a broken budget rather than taking a stance on the GOP tax bill. Fareed is personally compelling, friendly and confident (particularly for someone who has lost twice). A Democratic outside group spent early on the race, which is usually a sign of concern for Carbajal’s party, and Fareed outperformed Trump by 14 points in 2016. But Fareed will need an extraordinary set of circumstances to go against the grain of the cycle and win this race.

West Virginia. Joe Manchin (D) elected 2010 special (53%), 2012 (61%). Guns are back in the spotlight in The Mountaineer State. Eight years ago, Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin aired a famous campaign ad in which he shot the so-called cap-and-trade bill, and he ran for a full term in 2012 with the endorsement of the National Rifle Association. This year, Manchin is back to shooting bills in ads, but this time it’s the GOP health care bill, and the NRA has endorsed the senator’s opponent, state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey.

But despite being the Democratic senator from the state that most heavily voted for Trump, Joe Manchin is leading state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey with less than two months to go. The race became a bit more clear-cut when the West Virginia Supreme Court ultimately ruled that the “sore loser law” prevented coal baron Don Blankenship from entering the race as a third-party candidate. Blankenship shifted from being a staunch Manchin critic to aiming his fire at Morrisey because of the GOP primary, so his presence on the ballot and in the race would have likely hurt Republican chances.

Morrisey will still need to come from behind to win and the race hasn’t developed as quickly as some Republicans would have liked. At least West Virginia is a quick trip from Washington, D.C., so President Trump might be a frequent visitor. At the beginning of the cycle, it was hard to believe Manchin would be in better shape than Bill Nelson in Florida, but that’s where we’re at. Tilt D.

Harper Polling (R)(IVR) for 35th PAC, Aug. 23-26 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Manchin over Morrisey 47%-41%. Trump job rating: 63% approve/36% disapprove.

WW MetroNews, Aug. 16-26 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Manchin over Morrisey 46%-38%. IDs: Manchin 43% approve/39% disapprove, Morrisey 31%/36%.

Wisconsin. Tammy Baldwin (D) elected 2012 (51%). Democrats vow to never take the state for granted again after GOP Sen. Ron Johnson came from behind to defeat former Sen. Russ Feingold in 2016. This year, Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin leads GOP state Sen. Leah Vukmir with less than two months to go before Election Day. The senator has endured millions of dollars in outside spending against her but benefited from a late competitive GOP primary, which kept the candidates more focused on their Republican opponent than the Democratic senator. The state is competitive enough that Baldwin can’t take this race for granted, but she has a distinct advantage in the race right now and GOP Gov. Scott Walker’s close re-election race signals that Wisconsin might not be as big of a midterm boom for the GOP as in past cycles. Lean D.

Suffolk Univ. for Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Aug. 18-24 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Baldwin over Vukmir 50%-42%.

Marquette Univ. Law, Aug. 15-19 (RVs)—General Election ballot (LVs): Baldwin over Vukmir 49%-47%. IDs (LVs): Vukmir 30% favorable/29% unfavorable, Baldwin 46%/42%.
House Report Shorts

Arizona’s 2nd District (Open; Martha McSally, R, running for Senate). Clinton 49.6%. Republicans are excited about their nominee, Lea Marquez Peterson, but it won’t be easy to hold Rep. Martha McSally’s open seat. Former 1st District Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick won a competitive Democratic primary. She took heat for moderate positions she held in the past, but those could help her in the general election. In this political environment, it will be difficult for Republicans to win open seats where Hillary Clinton prevailed over Trump. Tilt D.

California Gas Tax. GOP strategists have put a lot of stock in a gas tax repeal initiative on the ballot turning out conservative Republicans who might otherwise find little to support at the top of the ballot, considering the GOP doesn’t have a Senate candidate and the gubernatorial race isn’t expected to be particularly competitive.

According to polling conducted by GOP pollster Adam Probolsky, the gas tax repeal (Prop. 6) is set to fail statewide. It’s not that the gas tax is popular, but the language on the ballot connects the funding to road repair and transportation funding, making the issue personal to voters concerned about traffic and infrastructure.

That doesn’t mean the initiative can’t or won’t help GOP candidates. Prop. 6 is likely more popular in the competitive districts Republicans are defending than it is statewide. And GOP strategists only need to get their voters to polls based on the idea of repealing it, even if they ultimately vote against it when they read the language on the ballot.

California’s 25th District (Steve Knight, R, re-elected 53%). Clinton 50%. Some Democrats are increasingly confident that this race is a toss-up with non-profit executive Katie Hill waging a credible campaign against the congressman. Republicans know it’s a tough fight with the Chamber of Commerce including the 25th District in an ad buy to promote GOP incumbents, and outside groups are going negative against Hill. We’ll know in a couple of weeks whether the attacks are sticking to the Democrat. Tilt R for now.

California’s 48th District (Dana Rohrabacher, R, re-elected 58%). Clinton 48%. Democratic challenger Harley Rouda and Rohrabacher are locked in a tight race in this Orange County district, which probably isn’t good news for the incumbent. The congressman appears to be stalled in the low to mid-40s. This is the type of race Democrats need to win for a majority. Toss-up.

Siena/NY Times, Sept. 4-7 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Rouda and Rohrabacher tied at 45%. IDs: Rohrabacher 35% favorable/37% unfavorable, Rouda 27% favorable/15% unfavorable.

California’s 50th District (Duncan Hunter, R, re-elected 64%). Trump 55%. After news broke that Hunter had been indicted for misusing campaign funds, Democratic nominee Ammar Campa-Najjar released a poll showing a tied race. (A month before, the same pollster found Campa-Najjar trailing by 9 points.) But limited outside polling shows the congressman maintaining an advantage and some Democratic strategists still aren’t believers in the race. Hunter allegedly used campaign funds to pay for family vacations and private school tuition, so this race could still get worse for Republicans. Likely R.

Tulchin Research for Campa-Najjar, Aug. 27-30 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Campa-Najjar even with Hunter 46%-46%. Hunter ID: 36% favorable/45% unfavorable.

Survey USA for KGTV-TV San Diego (mixed mode), Aug. 22-26 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hunter over Campa-Najjar 47%-39%.

Tulchin Research for Campa Najjar, July 17-23 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Hunter over Campa-Najjar 51%-42%.

Florida’s 6th District (Open; Ron DeSantis, R, running for governor). Trump 57%. Democrats, excited about their candidate, believe this race could be a sleeper, an open seat contest that starts nearly even after a competitive Republican primary. Nancy Soderberg—who’s the CEO of an international consulting firm, a former White House National Security advisor and former UN Ambassador—won the Democratic nomination with 56 percent and started the general election with a financial advantage. Michael Waltz, a Green Beret, Special Forces officer, and advisor to the White House/Pentagon under the Bush administration—won the GOP nomination with 42 percent. On Aug. 8, Soderberg had $1.1 million cash on hand compared to Waltz’s $287,000. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

GQRR (D) for Soderberg, Sept. 4-6 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Waltz over Soderberg 47%-46%.

7th District (Stephanie Murphy, D, elected 52%). Clinton 51%. State Rep. Mike Miller won the GOP primary with 54 percent, defeating Durable Safety Products CEO Scott Sturgill. A public poll from late August showed Murphy ahead by just 1 point, but Miller had just $233,000 in the bank on Aug. 8 compared to Murphy’s $1.6 million. And strategists on either side aren’t talking about the race. Move from Lean D to Likely D.

St. Pete Polls, Aug. 30 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Murphy over Miller 47%-46%.

Florida’s 15th District (Open; Dennis Ross, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 53%. Attorney Kristen Carlson won the Democratic primary with 53 percent, and state Rep. Ross Spano won the GOP primary with 44 percent. Carlson could benefit from Gillum at the top of the ballot, but she had just $51,000 cash on hand on Aug. 8. Spano had just $111,000 but the district leans Republican. This was a sleeper race until the Carlson campaign released a poll showing her with a narrow lead. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

GQRR (D) for Carlson, Sept. 4-8 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Carlson over Spano 48%-47%. Generic ballot: GOP over Dem 48%-47%.

Florida’s 16th District. (Vern Buchanan, R, re-elected 60%). Trump 54%. As expected, attorney David Shapiro won the Democratic primary. The congressman probably made his re-election more difficult by buying a yacht on the same day he voted for the GOP tax bill, but he still had $2.1 million cash on hand Aug. 8 to help him. Shapiro, who had $440,000, released a poll showing a close race, but it’s still an uphill battle for Democrats. Likely R.

ALG Research (D) for Shapiro, Aug. 22-26 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Buchanan over Shapiro 48%-44%. Buchanan ID: 36% favorable/39% unfavorable.

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Florida’s 18th District (Brian Mast, R, elected 54%). Trump 53%. Former State Department appointee Lauren Baer will face Mast in November, and some Democrats believe her campaign has ramped up since the primary in a district that Barack Obama carried in 2008. But public data has been pretty much nonexistent, and it’s hard to tell if the narrative matches what’s actually happening on the ground. Republicans are confident in the incumbent’s chances. Likely R.

Florida’s 26th District (Carlos Curbelo, R, re-elected 53%). Clinton 57%. As expected, non-profit group consultant Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, who lost a 2016 race for state Senate by 8 points, won the Democratic nomination. But even with $1.2 million cash on hand (as of Aug. 8), Democrats acknowledge that the incumbent makes this a tough race, considering they released a poll showing the congressman with the lead. Tilt R.

GBA (D) for DCCC IE, July 16-22 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Curbelo over Mucarsel-Powell 48%-41%.

Florida’s 27th District (Open; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R, not seeking re-election). Clinton 59%. Former University of Miami President/former Clinton Health & Human Services secretary Donna Shalala won the Democratic primary with 32 percent, won the Democratic nomination. But even with $1.2 million cash on hand (as of Aug. 8), Democrats acknowledge that the incumbent makes this a tough race, considering they released a poll showing the congressman with the lead. Tilt R.

 Florida’s 27th District (Open; Ileana Ro-Lehtien, R, not seeking re-election). Clinton 59%. Former University of Miami President/former Clinton Health & Human Services secretary Donna Shalala won the Democratic primary with 32 percent, won the Democratic nomination. But even with $1.2 million cash on hand (as of Aug. 8), Democrats acknowledge that the incumbent makes this a tough race, considering they released a poll showing the congressman with the lead. Tilt R.

GGA (D) for DCCC IE, July 16-22 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Curbelo over Mucarsel-Powell 48%-41%.

Florida’s 27th District (Open; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R, not seeking re-election). Clinton 59%. Former University of Miami President/former Clinton Health & Human Services secretary Donna Shalala won the Democratic primary with 32 percent, won the Democratic nomination. But even with $1.2 million cash on hand (as of Aug. 8), Democrats acknowledge that the incumbent makes this a tough race, considering they released a poll showing the congressman with the lead. Tilt R.

GGA (D) for DCCC IE, July 16-22 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Curbelo over Mucarsel-Powell 48%-41%.

Illinois’ 6th District (Peter Roskam, R, re-elected 59%). Clinton 50%. Public and private data show GOP Rep. Peter Roskam locked in a tight race with Democrat Sean Casten. Republicans are starting to unleash their opposition research book against Casten, but the congressman has to run for re-election in a suburban district that does not like President Trump. This has been a very static race, which probably isn’t good news for Roskam since he hasn’t been above 50 percent. Toss-up.

Siena/NYT, Sept. 4-6 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Roskam over Casten 45%-44%. IDs: Roskam 36% favorable/38% unfavorable, Casten 30% favorable/18% unfavorable.

Iowa’s 1st District (Rod Blum, R, re-elected 54%). Trump 49%. GOP Rep. Rod Blum can’t shake Democratic state Rep. Abby Finkenauer. He’s consistently polling in the low to mid-40s, which isn’t a great place for an incumbent in a district the president won narrowly. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Dem.

Iowa’s 3rd District (David Young, R, re-elected 53%). Trump 49%. A recent poll by Emerson college showed GOP Rep. David Young leading Democratic business owner Cindy Axne by 16 points. But that survey doesn’t match private data, which shows a much closer contest. Blum may be a weaker candidate than Young, but they both look like they’re in serious electoral trouble. Move from Tilt R to Toss-Up.

Emerson College e-Poll (mixed mode), Sept. 6-8 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Young over Axne 47%-31%.

2nd District (Open; Lynn Jenkins, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 56%. Democrat Paul Davis is running neck-and-neck with Republican Paul Watkins. Both men are still relatively unknown, but Davis had a significant cash advantage on June 30. The fundamentals of the district are still decent for Republicans, but the circumstances around the race (the candidates and political environment) seem to favor Democrats. Tilt R.

Kansas’ 3rd District (Kevin Yoder, R, re-elected 51%). Clinton 47%. Sharice Davids was a late entry into the race and somewhat of a surprise primary winner, but the Democratic challenger is in a strong initial position against the congressman. The district appears to be taking a stand against the President and Yoder might suffer the consequences. We’ll see if GOP attacks on Davids stick like they did against Amy McGrath in Kentucky, but Democrats believe that by immediately going on air with a response, she’s been able to withstand the attacks. The race isn’t over but move from Tilt R to Toss-Up.

Kentucky’s 6th District (Andy Barr, R, re-elected 61%). Trump 55%. A few weeks ago, Democrat Amy McGrath was in solid position to knock off GOP Rep. Andy Barr as she came out of the Democratic primary with high, favorable name identification. But after weeks of attacks from Barr and Congressional Leadership Fund, McGrath’s unfavorable rating has climbed and Barr might even have a narrow advantage again.

A new Siena College poll for The New York Times had the congressman with a 47-46 percent edge, which matches some private data. CLF also released September polling and June polling to show Barr’s improvement. Those still aren’t great numbers for an incumbent, but it shows movement in his direction compared to earlier in the summer. Some Democratic strategists believe McGrath needs to go negative on Barr, which her campaign hadn’t done yet (at least before our publishing deadline). Toss-up.

Siena/New York Times, Sept. 6-8 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Barr over McGrath 47%-46%. IDs: McGrath 51% favorable/38% unfavorable, Barr 47% favorable/45% unfavorable.

Fabrizio Lee (R) for CLF, Sept. 4-6 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Barr over McGrath 49%-45%. McGrath ID: 45% favorable/34% unfavorable.

Maine’s 2nd District (Bruce Poliquin, R, re-elected 53%). Trump 51%. It looks like GOP Rep. Bruce Poliquin has the lead over Democratic state Sen. Jared Golden, but the congressman isn’t likely to surpass 50 percent. If he falls short, the race will move through Maine’s new ranked choice process, where Poliquin’s prospects are less certain. Move from Lean R to Tilt R.

Massachusetts’ 7th District (Open; Mike Capuano, D, defeated in primary). If it weren’t for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s victory over Joe Crowley, Boston City Council Member Ayanna Pressley’s victory over Capuano would have made more news. Her 59-41 percent win was still impressive, and she’ll be a member of Congress next year in this heavily Democratic district. Solid D.

Michigan’s 6th District (Fred Upton, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 51%. A couple new public polls show Democrat Matt Longjohn within

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striking distance of the congressman. Upton always seems to create late buzz about being vulnerable each cycle but always prevails. We’ll see if this year is any different. Likely R.

PPP (D)(IVR), Sept. 4-5 (RVs)--General Election ballot: Upton over Longjohn 45%-41%.

GSG (D) for Longjohn, Aug. 24-29 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Upton 47%, Longjohn 41%, Young 3%. (2-way) Upton over Longjohn 49%-44%. IDs: Upton 42% favorable/40% unfavorable, Longjohn 22%/8%.

Minnesota’s 1st District (Open; Tim Walz, DFL, running for governor). Trump 53%. Republicans have few legitimate takeover opportunities, but this rural district is one of them. Jim Hagedorn is at least narrowly ahead of Dan Feehan in the open seat race to replace Walz, who is the DFL nominee for governor. Both House candidates are still relatively unknown even though this is Hagedorn’s fourth bid for the seat. Fundamentals of the district are Republican but the cycle is not. Toss-up.

Harper Polling (R) for Hagedorn, Aug. 23-26 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Hagedorn over Feehan 47%-33%. Generic ballot: GOP over Dem 43%-38%.

Minnesota 7th District (Collin Peterson, DFL, re-elected 53%). Trump 62%. It’s tough for Republicans to walk away from a Democratic-held district where the president did so well, but Peterson has been a stalwart for his party. Republican David Hughes ($6,000 cash on hand on July 25) is not defeating the congressman ($1.3 million) this year. Move from Likely D to Solid D.

Minnesota’s 8th District (Open; Rick Nolan, DFL, lost for lieutenant governor). Trump 54%. The latest Siena College poll for the New York Times showed DFL nominee Joe Radinovich with a 1-point lead over Republican Pete Stauber (44-43 percent), but a majority of the other data in the race points to a Stauber advantage. President Trump won the district handily and the open seat could be coming at the right time for Republicans. Toss-up.

Siena/New York Times, Sept. 6-9 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Radinovich over Stauber 44%-43%. IDs: Radinovich 30% favorable/18% unfavorable, Stauber 28% favorable/27% unfavorable.

Nebraska’s 2nd District (Don Bacon, R, elected 49%). Trump 48%. This race has received much attention after teacher Kara Eastman knocked off former Rep. Brad Ashford in the Democratic primary. Ashford had the moderate reputation for the competitive district while Eastman’s progressive profile was viewed as too far to the left. But Eastman is within striking distance of Bacon, although the congressman is still well-liked and CLF has demonstrated a commitment to winning this race on the ground and on the air waves. Lean R.

Nevada’s 3rd District (Open; Jacky Rosen, D, running for Senate). Trump 48%. & 4th District (Open; Ruben Kihuen, D, not seeking re-election). Clinton 49.5%. According to Jon Ralston at The Nevada Independent, the NRCC has shifted its television ad reservations meant to help Republican Danny Tarkanian against Democrat Susie Lee to double-down on the 4th District, where former GOP Rep. Cresent Hardy is taking on former Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford.

The 4th District is more Democratic (and rated Likely Democratic), but Hardy has defeated Horsford once before (in 2014) and GOP strategists like the opposition research against Horsford. It’s also possible that the NRCC believes Tarkanian’s closer relationship to the President (Trump convinced him to switch from the Senate race), could inspire an outside group affiliated with the president’s priorities to play in the 3rd District (rated Tilt Democratic).

New Hampshire’s 1st District (Open; Carol Shea-Porter, D, not seeking re-election). Trump 48%. Executive Councillor Chris Pappas won the Democratic primary on Tuesday with 42 percent, ahead of Department of Veterans Affairs official Maura Sullivan (30 percent). There were nine Democratic candidates who received less than 10 percent, including Levi Sanders (2 percent), son of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. On the Republican side, former state liquor commission enforcement and licensing director Eddie Edwards won the nomination with 48 percent, ahead of state Sen. Andy Sanborn (42 percent). If Pappas wins the general election, he’ll be the state’s first openly gay congressman. If Edwards wins, he’ll be New Hampshire’s first black congressman. Tilt D.

New Jersey’s 3rd District (Tom MacArthur, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 51%. Some GOP strategists believe the wealthy congressman needs to open up his checkbook soon, not just to attack Democrat Andy Kim but to re-establish some of his own name I.D. The two men appear to be locked in a dead heat in the mid-40s, which isn’t great for the incumbent in a good Democratic year. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Monmouth Univ., Aug. 7-9 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Kim over MacArthur 45%-44%.

New Mexico’s 2nd District (Open; Steve Pearce, R, running for governor). Trump 50%. Democratic attorney Xochitl Torres Small and Republican Yvette Harrell are still relatively unknown in an expansive district in southern New Mexico. Torres Small has been on television with upbeat ads focused on water issues, and some GOP strategists are concerned that Harrell, an Anglo state legislator, doesn’t match up well in a contest between their profiles. Pearce may have made this district look more Republican than it really is. Move from Lean R to Tilt R.

New York’s 22nd District (Claudia Tenney, R, elected 47%). Trump 55%. President Trump is still popular in this upstate New York district and the seat has a GOP lean to it, but Republican Rep. Claudia Tenney is struggling to consolidate Republican support against Democratic Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi. Toss-up.

Siena for Spectrum News, Aug. 20-26 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Brindisi over Tenney 46%-44%.

New York’s 24th District (John Katko, R, re-elected 61%). Clinton 49%. Democrats haven’t given up on defeating the congressman. A public survey showed the congressman with a big advantage over Democrat Dana Balter, but other data paint a different picture. It’s also a cheap media market (Syracuse), so we’ll see if Democrats dump in some money to see if they can finally defeat Katko. Likely R.

Siena Research, Aug. 20-23 (LVs)--General Election ballot: Katko over Balter 54%-39%.
North Carolina Map. In a blow to Democrats, North Carolina’s courts ruled that the current House maps will remain in place through November’s midterm elections. While the courts ruled that the current maps were unconstitutional last month, judges determined that writing new maps ahead of November would depress turnout and confuse voters, according to Roll Call’s Bridget Bowman.

Some GOP operatives were already concerned about turnout on their side considering there is nothing else on the ballot, besides the House races, to drive conservatives to the polls. Neither of the two senate seats nor the gubernatorial race takes place this year. Plus, fallout from Hurricane Florence remains to be seen, whether it be how elected officials handle the response or how displaced citizens are and for how long.

North Carolina’s 2nd District. There’s growing GOP concern about the congressman’s re-election chances against Democrat Linda Coleman, and Democratic polling confirms it. Coleman’s fundraising was underwhelming through June 30, but Holding’s wasn’t much better and he had yet to spend big from his own wallet. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

GQRR (D) for Coleman, Aug. 23-27 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Coleman over Holding 45%-44%, Mathieu 5%.

North Carolina’s 9th District (Open; Robert Pittenger, R, lost renomination). Trump 54%. Some GOP operatives give Dan McCready credit for running a great campaign with the right tone that a Democrat needs to win. He’s running in the vein of Conor Lamb, moderate message and messenger, even if it’s Democratic policies. Republican Mark Harris is still playing catch up to McCready in fundraising after knocking off the incumbent in the primary. Tilt R.

Pennsylvania’s 17th District. (Keith Rothfus, R and Conor Lamb, D). Trump 49%. Democratic Rep. Conor Lamb has the advantage over GOP Rep. Keith Rothfus in this newly-drawn district in western Pennsylvania. Republicans might consider writing this one off as a lost cause in the weeks ahead, but giving Lamb a free ride to a full term (without trying to drive up his negatives) might have consequences for the GOP down the line if he challenges Sen. Pat Toomey in 2022. Lean D.

Texas’ 22nd District. (Pete Olson, R, re-elected 60%). Trump 52%. This race has received scant attention this cycle, but some Democrats believe it could be a sleeper. They’re especially excited about the Democratic nominee, Sri Preston Kulkarni, a former Foreign Service officer in the U.S. State Department who served in multiple countries (including Iraq). He worked with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, serving as an advisor on foreign policy and defense as a Pearson fellow. The congressman had a $253,000-to-$89,000 cash on hand advantage on June 30. Solid R.

Utah’s 4th District (Mia Love, R, re-elected 54%). Trump 39%. GOP Rep. Mia Love came under scrutiny from the Federal Election Commission for raising more than $1 million for a primary race that never materialized. It’s, at a minimum, a flurry of negative headlines at a time when she’s already engaged in a competitive general election race against Democrat Ben McAdams. For months, the race didn’t get much attention, but now it’s back in the spotlight. And recent public polls show a close race. Lean R.

Dan Jones & Assoc. For UtahPolicy.com, Aug. 22-Sept. 6 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Love over McAdams 49%-46%. Love job rating: 50% approve/47% disapprove.

Lighthouse Research for Utah Debate Commission, Aug. 11-27 (RVs)—General Election ballot: Love over McAdams 48%-38%.

Mellman Group (D) for McAdams, Aug. 20-23 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Love over McAdams 46%-44%.

Virginia’s 2nd District (Scott Taylor, R, elected 61%). Trump 49%. GOP Rep. Scott Taylor’s re-election numbers looked relatively solid before his staff got caught allegedly gathering signatures for a third party candidate. Now the office is embroiled in a full-blown scandal and some Republican strategists are concerned that the congressman is unaware of the seriousness of the situation. Democrat Elaine Luria is running a credible race in a district that Gov. Ralph Northam carried by 4 points in his 2017 race (51-47 percent), and she could take advantage of the opportunity. Lean R, but could easily get worse for the GOP.

Virginia’s 7th District (Dave Brat, R, re-elected 58%). Trump 51%. A fight over the improper release of the Democratic candidate’s full official personnel file from her time working for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service has dominated the narrative in the race. America Rising obtained the documents, and CLF is airing ads criticizing Abigail Spanberger’s work at an Islamic school in Virginia. It’s unclear whether the ads will hurt Spanberger or backfire on the Republicans and still unclear whether the congressman is ready for this tough race. Tilt R.

Siena/New York Times, Sept. 9-12 (LVs)—General Election ballot: Brat over Spanberger 47%-43%. IDs: Brat 44% favorable/30% unfavorable, Spanberger 37% favorable/22% unfavorable. Trump job rating: 47% approve/46% disapprove.