

BLOOMBERG GOVERNMENT PRESENTATION

Midterm Election Outlook

Presentation for the Public Affairs Council
Sept. 15, 2026

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About This Presentation

- ▶ General election just 49 days away
- ▶ Democrats more motivated than Republicans to vote during 2026 primaries
- ▶ Midterm elections often function as a referendum on the president and governing party's performance
- ▶ Democratic majority hopes hinge on winning states and districts that were pro-Trump in 2024
- ▶ Republican mid-decade redistricting, money make flipping House harder for Democrats

IN THIS ONPOINT

Issues driving midterms

Senate races to watch

House races to watch

Dates to watch

KEY DATES TO WATCH

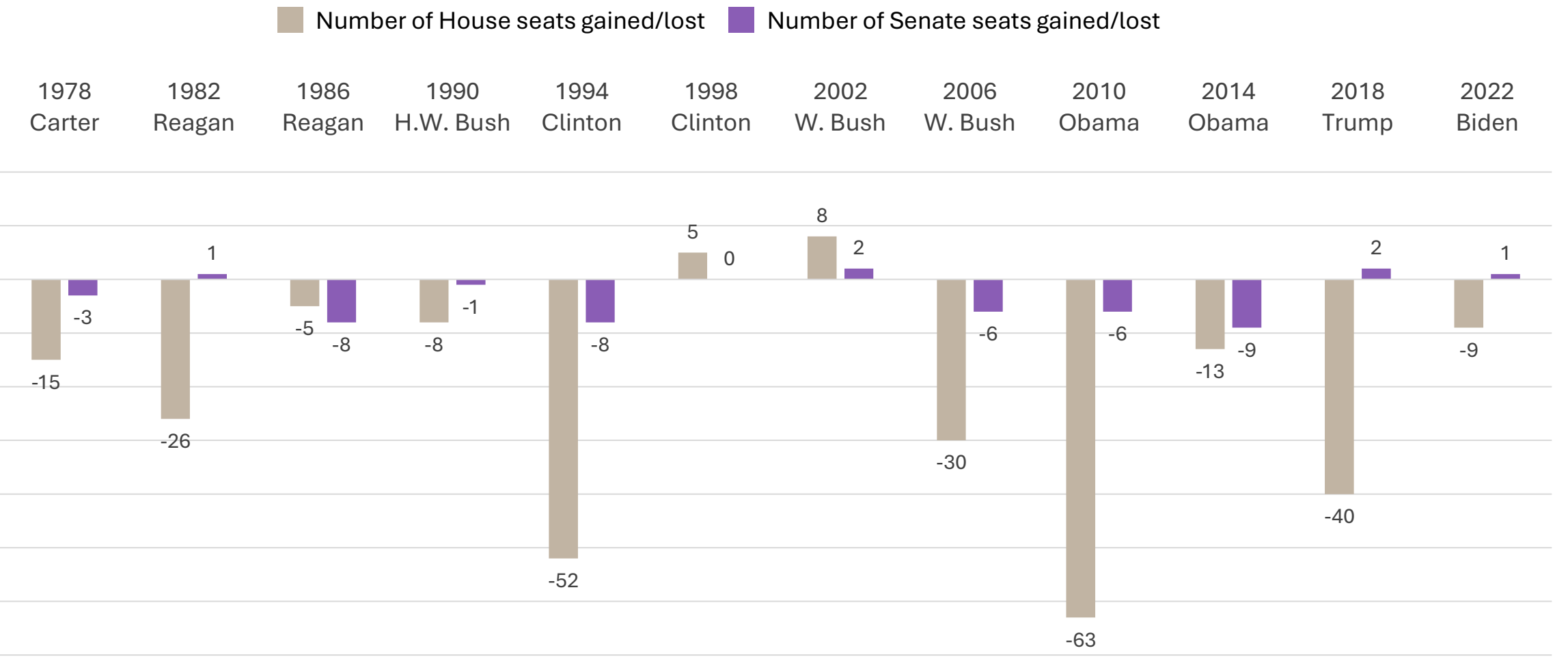
Nov. 3: Election Day

Jan. 3: Congress meets*

Topics Dominating the 2026 Midterms

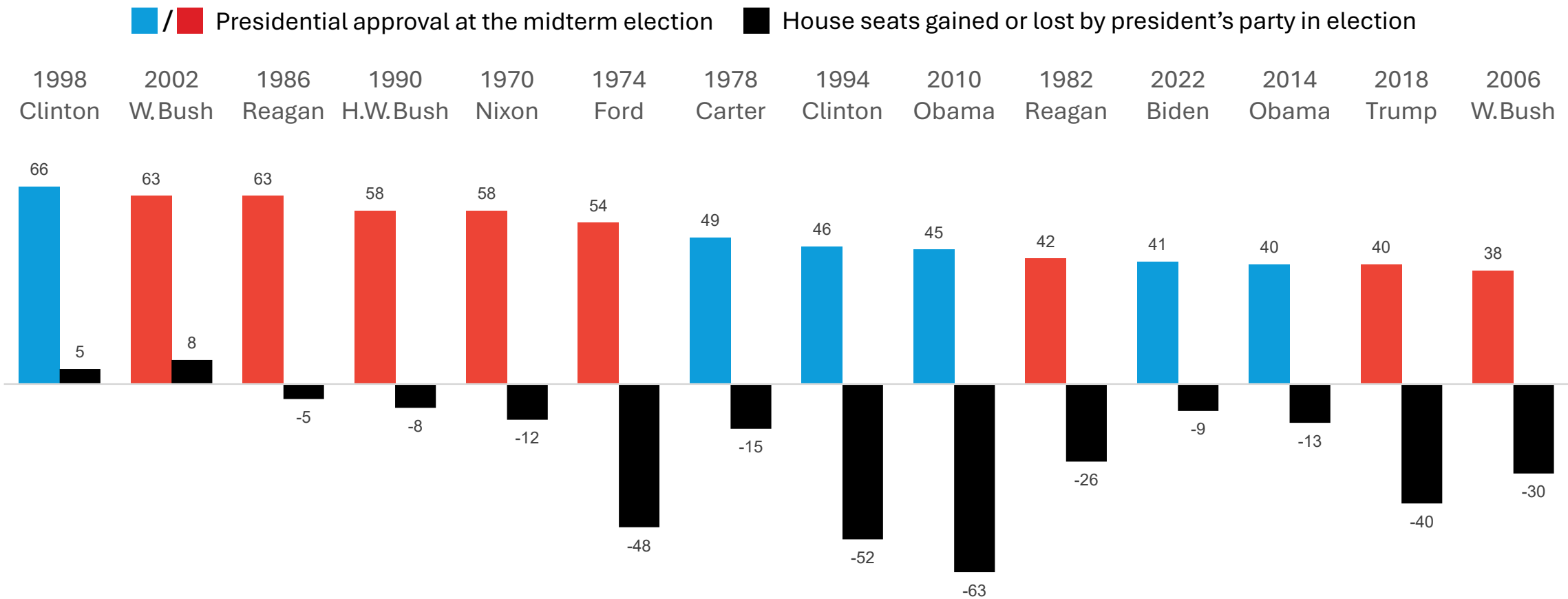
TRUMP	COSTS	ETHICS	DATA CENTERS / AI	SOCIALISM
Midterm elections are a report card on the president's job performance. Donald Trump's unpopularity poses a serious risk to Republican control of the House and Senate.	Voters say it's harder to afford essentials like groceries, housing, healthcare, utilities, and gas. Democrats say Trump policies – such as tariffs, Iran war – exacerbate the problem. GOP defends its 2025 tax-cut law.	Democrats have hit Trump and family on business moves. Bipartisan calls for stock trading limits for members of Congress and top federal officials, suspending congressional pay during government shutdowns, age and term limits for Congress.	Bipartisan opposition to data centers is rising amid concerns about water use and electricity rates and more generally about AI and the threat of job displacement.	Republicans trying to make the election less a referendum on one-party GOP rule and more of a contrast with Democrats they say are too extreme and captive to socialists.

Recent Presidents Took Hits on Hill in Midterms



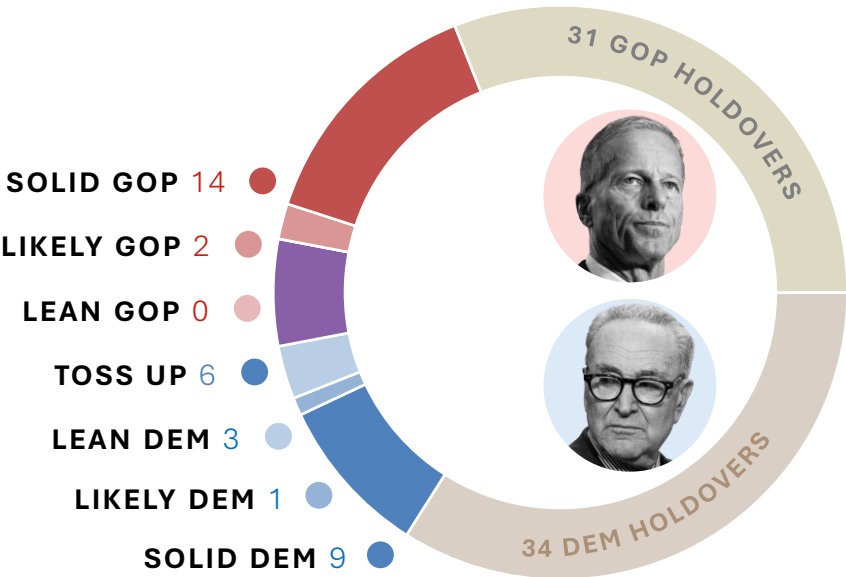
A President's Low Approval Rating Can Drag Down Party in Midterms

Donald Trump's approval rating was 39% in latest New York Times polling [average](#)

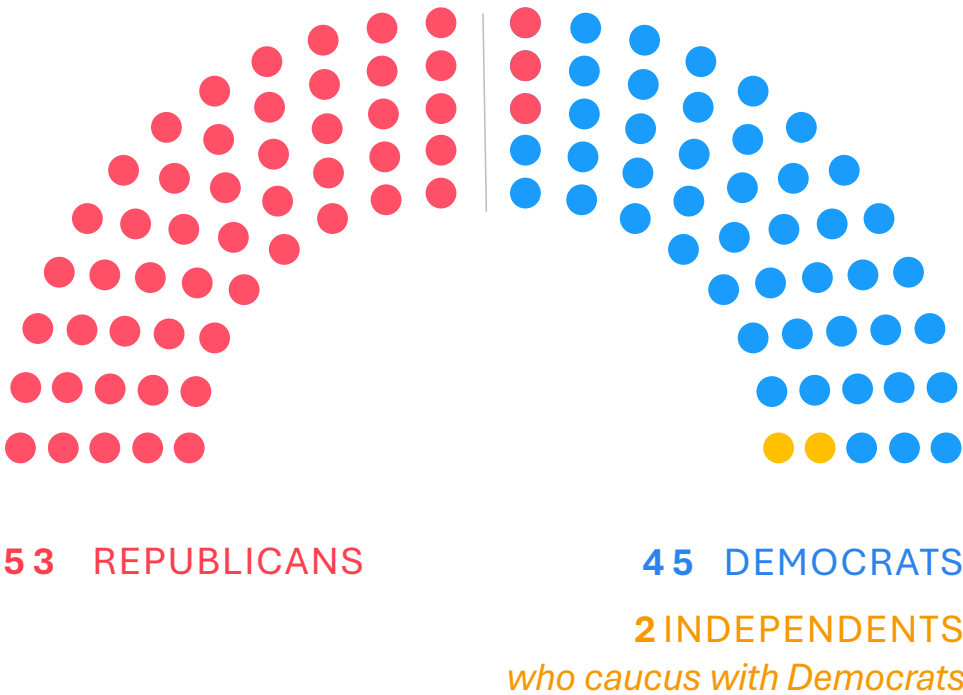


Republicans Defending Narrow Senate Majority

Race Ratings, Cook Political Report

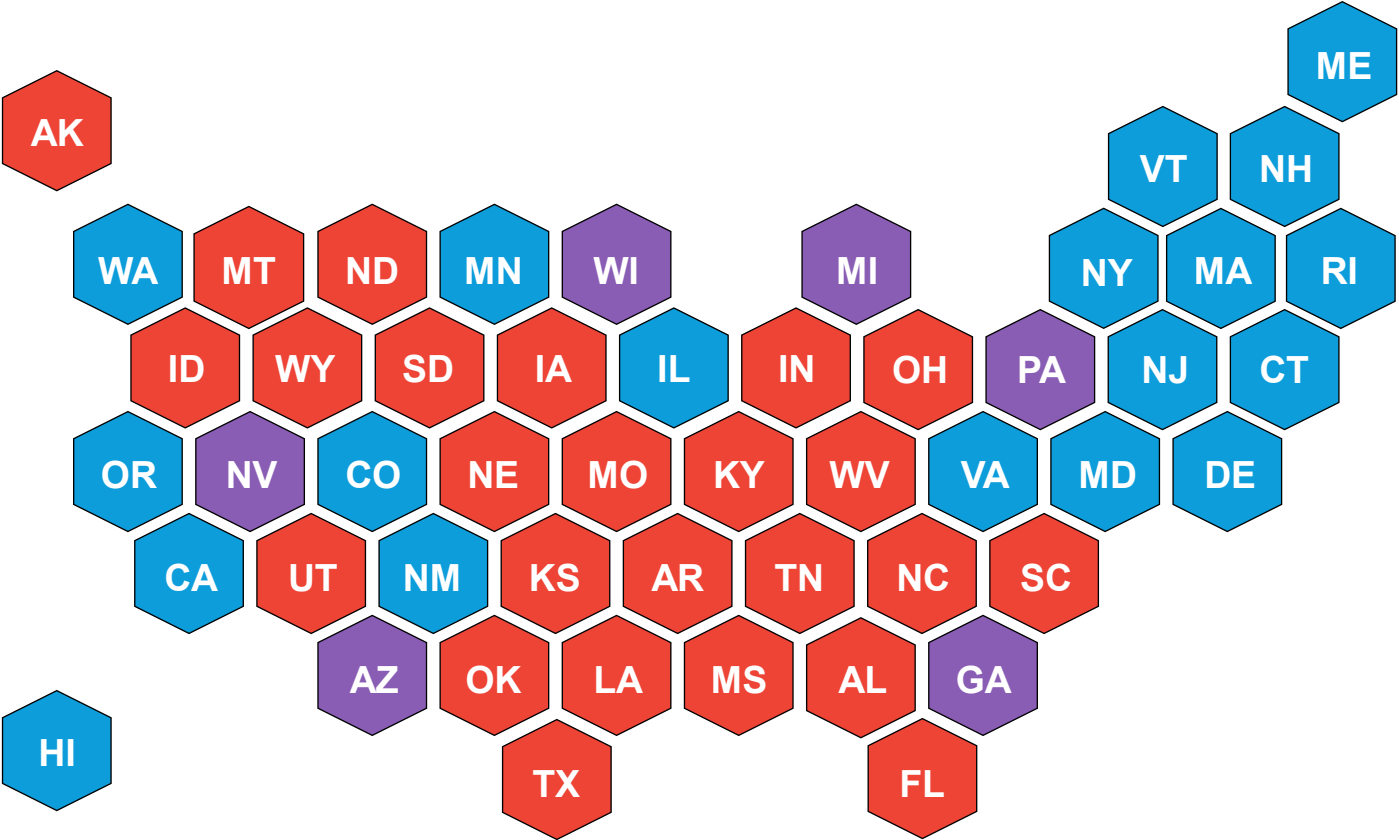
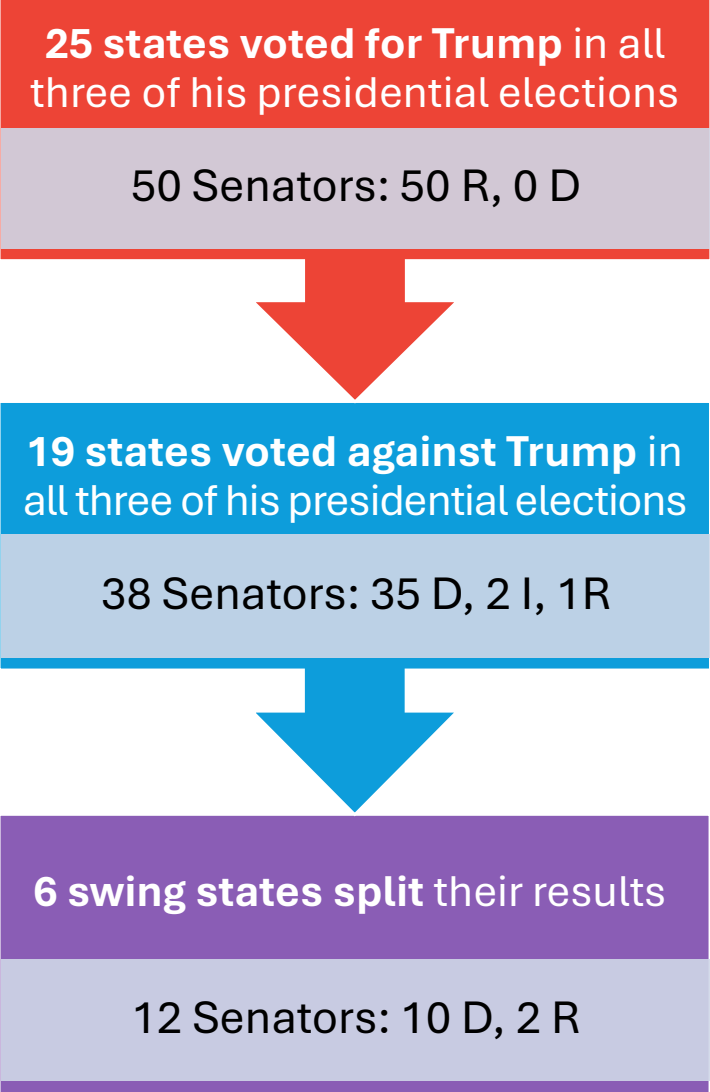


Senate Balance of Power

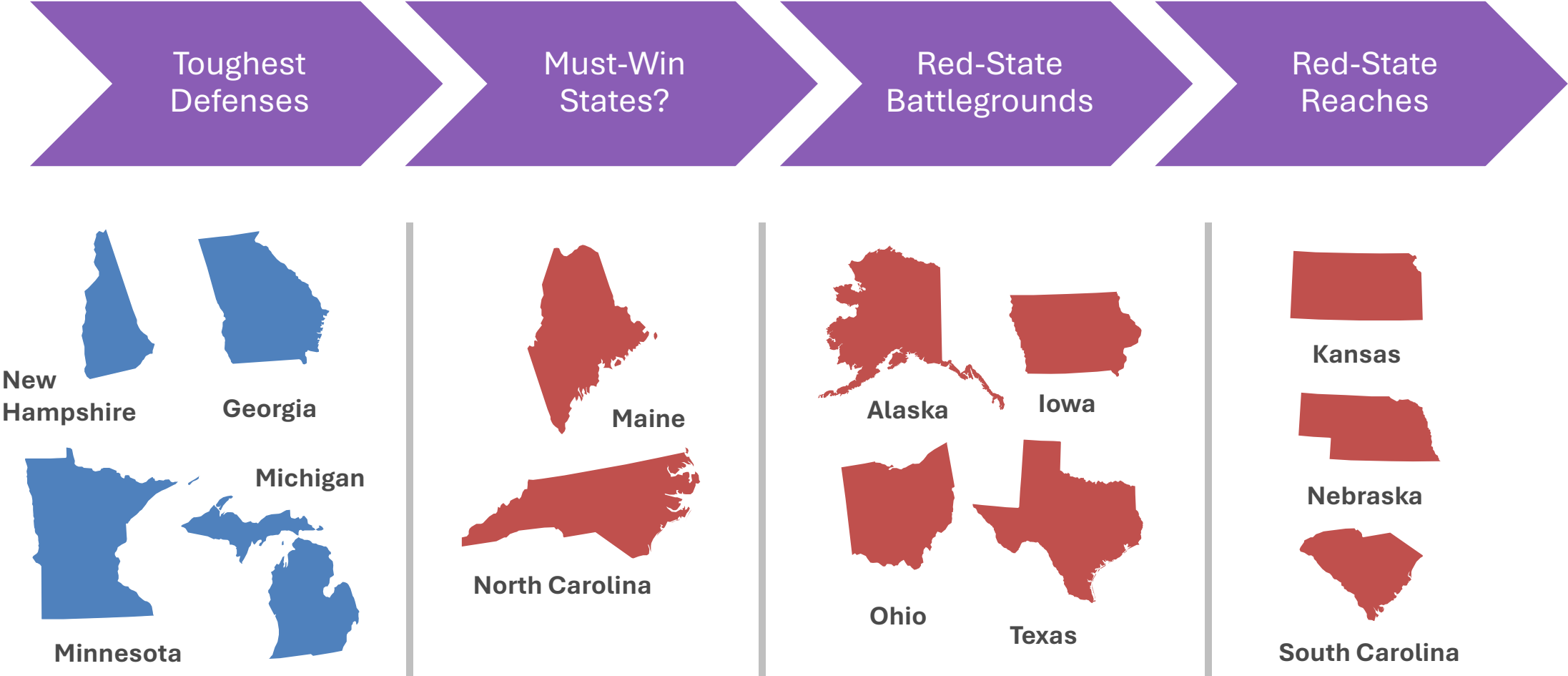


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Presidential and Senate Elections Have Moved in Tandem



Democrats Need Net Gain of Four Seats to Win Senate Control





ALASKA

Democrats see opening for first Senate victory in Alaska since 2008



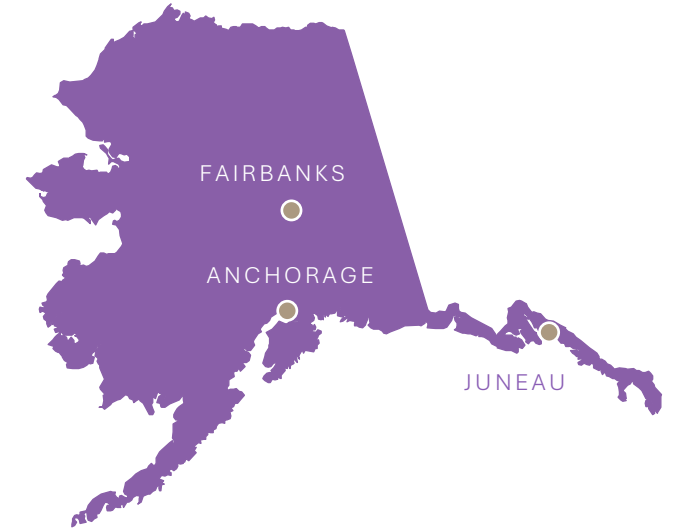
DAN SULLIVAN (R)

*Incumbent senator
seeking third term*



MARY PELTOLA (D)

*Former House member
for at-large district*



- ▶ Four-candidate general election will be conducted [by ranked-choice voting](#); may take days after Nov. 3 to determine winner
- ▶ Sullivan leads the Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Coast Guard, Maritime, and Fisheries
- ▶ Peltola [led Sullivan 49.5% to 41.4%](#) in all-candidate "tundra" primary Aug. 18 and is campaigning on "Fish, Family, Freedom"
- ▶ [Ballot includes](#) Republican Daniel J. Sullivan Jr., a little-known retired teacher not related to the senator

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



55%

TRUMP



41%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



54%

SULLIVAN



41%

GROSS



GEORGIA

Incumbent Ossoff is defending seat in a state that voted for Trump in 2024



MIKE COLLINS (R)

*Current House member
for Georgia's 10th district*



JON OSSOFF (D)

*Incumbent senator
seeking second term*



- ▶ Ossoff, the youngest senator at 39 years old, is the only Democrat seeking reelection in a state that voted for Trump
- ▶ Ossoff's anti-corruption message lacerates Trump White House's ethics
- ▶ Collins, son of ex-Rep. Mac Collins (R), was a House leader passing Laken Riley Act
- ▶ Ossoff led Collins, \$42.6 million to \$2.1 million, in campaign cash-on-hand June 30

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



2021 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS





IOWA

Democrats making serious takeover bid for seat of retiring GOP Sen. Joni Ernst



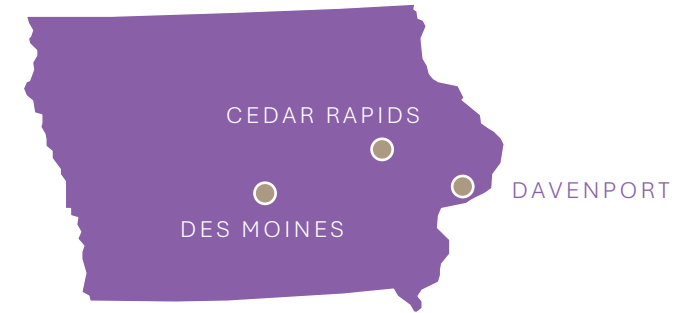
ASHLEY HINSON (R)

*Current House member
for Iowa's 2nd district*



JOSH TUREK (D)

*Current state House
member since 2023*



- ▶ Trump carried Iowa three times after it voted Democratic in six out of seven presidential elections from 1988 to 2012
- ▶ Hinson, a former Iowa TV broadcaster, outperformed Trump in 2024 to win third term in northeastern Iowa
- ▶ Turek is a Paralympic gold medalist in wheelchair basketball from a state legislative district that voted for Trump
- ▶ Hinson has money edge over Turek, who had a competitive primary

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



56%

TRUMP



43%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



52%

ERNST



45%

GREENFIELD



MAINE

Long-time incumbent Collins faces tough challenge despite turbulent Democratic primary



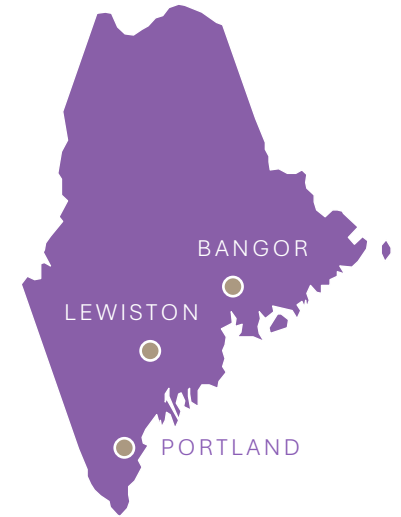
SUSAN COLLINS (R)

*Incumbent senator
who's seeking sixth term*



TROY JACKSON (D)

*Former state legislator,
began first term in 2003*



- ▶ Collins, only Republican senator from a state Trump lost three times, won comfortably in 2020 after trailing in public polls
- ▶ First elected in 1996, Collins is the longest-serving Republican woman in Senate history
- ▶ As Senate Appropriations chair, Collins has touted funding for Maine projects including Navy ships and fire stations
- ▶ Jackson, a former Republican and ex-logger, replaced Graham Platner as Democratic nominee July 25

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



45%

TRUMP



52%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



51%

COLLINS



42%

GIDEON



MICHIGAN

El-Sayed looks to keep Senate seat blue after bruising primary



MIKE ROGERS (R)

*Former House member
for Michigan's 8th district*



ABDUL EL-SAYED (D)

*Former director of Wayne
County health department*



- ▶ Sen. Gary Peters retiring; only open Democratic-held Senate seat in a state Trump carried in 2024
- ▶ El-Sayed, a progressive, edged center-left Rep. Haley Stevens in Democratic primary
- ▶ Rogers, a former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, narrowly lost 2024 Senate race to Elissa Slotkin
- ▶ El-Sayed a frequent target of attacks at Republican midterm convention

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



50%

TRUMP



48%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



48%

JAMES



50%

PETERS



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Republican with recognized family name could put race in play



JOHN SUNUNU (R)

Former senator and son and brother of governors



CHRIS PAPPAS (D)

Current House member for New Hampshire's 1st district

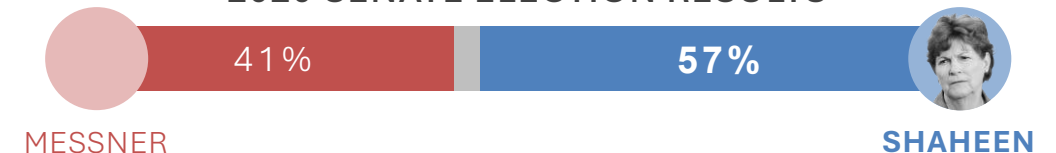


- ▶ Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's retirement creates more competitive race
- ▶ Pappas has won four House terms and outran top of Democratic ticket in 2024
- ▶ Sununu, older brother of ex-Gov. Chris Sununu, unseated by Shaheen in 2008; Sununu's father John also was governor
- ▶ Sununu didn't support Trump for 2024 GOP presidential nomination but won president's backing for Senate

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



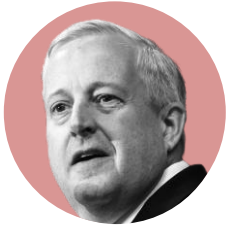
2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS





NORTH CAROLINA

Cooper, a top Democratic recruit, leads polls to flip seat of retiring Republican Sen. Thom Tillis



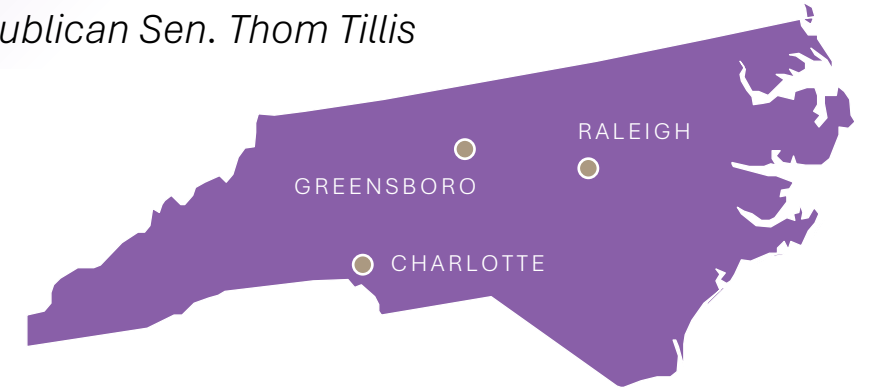
MICHAEL WHATLEY (R)

Former chair of Republican National Committee



ROY COOPER (D)

Former governor of North Carolina



- ▶ Cooper, 69, has won six statewide elections for attorney general or governor
- ▶ Cooper running on “Make Stuff Cost Less,” led Whatley \$20.7 million to \$3.5 million in cash-on-hand
- ▶ Trump ally Whatley, Republican super PACs attacking Cooper’s record on crime
- ▶ Competitive state where no Senate race winner since 1974 has topped 55%

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



51%

TRUMP



48%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



49%

TILLIS



47%

CUNNINGHAM



OHIO

Brown seeks return to Senate after 2024 general election defeat



JON HUSTED (R)

*Incumbent senator
seeking first full term*



SHERROD BROWN (D)

*Former senator seeking
to return to chamber*



- ▶ Husted, Ohio's former lieutenant governor, was appointed Jan. 2025 to Senate seat held by now-Vice President JD Vance
- ▶ Brown campaigning against data centers
- ▶ Cryptocurrency industry helped Bernie Moreno oust Brown in 2024
- ▶ Winner up for six-year term in 2028

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



55%

TRUMP



44%

HARRIS

2024 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



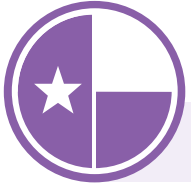
50%

MORENO



46%

BROWN



TEXAS

Trump's backing helped staunch ally win nomination despite electability concerns



KEN PAXTON (R)

Texas attorney general and former state lawmaker



JAMES TALARICO (D)

Member of Texas House since 2018



- ▶ Paxton trounced Sen. John Cornyn in May runoff after receiving Trump's endorsement
- ▶ Talarico, a seminarian, vying to become first Texas Democrat since 1988 to win Senate race
- ▶ Paxton was impeached by GOP state House in 2023 but acquitted in Senate
- ▶ Trump's MAGA Inc. super-PAC spending \$10 million to help Paxton narrow fundraising deficit

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



56%

TRUMP



42%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



54%

CORNYN



44%

HEGAR



LONGER SHOTS TO WATCH

Rising blue tide could lift Democrats in Trump strongholds like Kansas, while GOP sees competitive race in Minnesota

KANSAS



Incumbent Sen. ROGER MARSHALL (R) versus pastor ADAM HAMILTON (D)

- ▶ 2024 presidential result: **Trump +16**
- ▶ Democrats last won a Kansas Senate race in 1932, but faltering agriculture economy gives Hamilton an opening

NEBRASKA



Incumbent Sen. PETE RICKETTS (R) versus Navy veteran and industrial mechanic DAN OSBORN (I)

- ▶ 2024 presidential result: **Trump +20**
- ▶ Osborn came within 7 points of ousting Sen. Deb Fischer (R) in 2024

MINNESOTA



Lt. Gov. PEGGY FLANAGAN (D) versus ex-TV reporter MICHELE TAFOYA (R)

- ▶ 2024 presidential result: **Harris +4**
- ▶ Sen. Tina Smith (D) isn't seeking reelection; Flanagan trounced more moderate Rep. Angie Craig in primary

SOUTH CAROLINA

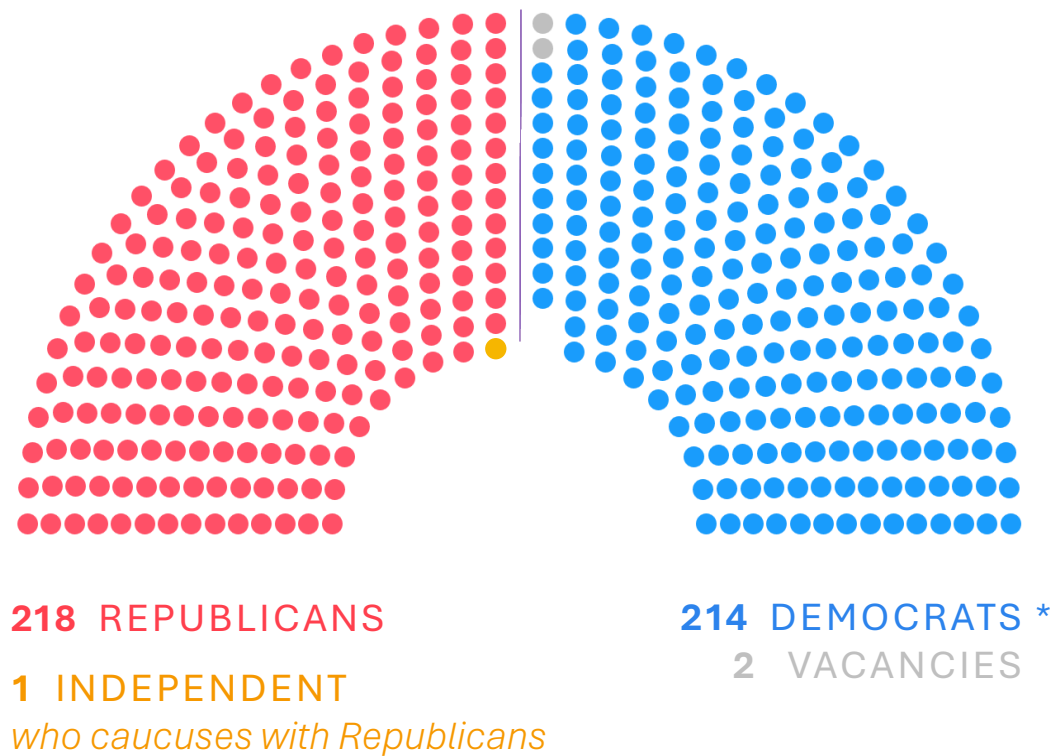


Incumbent Sen. DARLINE GRAHAM (R) versus pediatrician ANNIE ANDREWS (D)

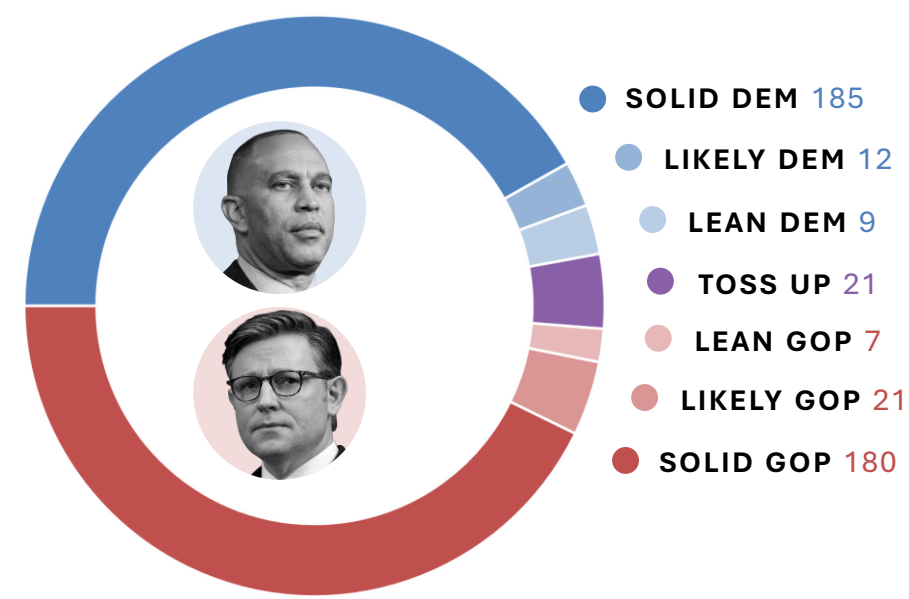
- ▶ 2024 presidential result: **Trump +18**
- ▶ Graham defending former seat of late brother Lindsey, who beat big-spending Jaime Harrison (D) by 10 points in 2020

House Control Likely Comes Down to a Few Dozen Seats

House Balance of Power



Race Ratings, Cook Political Report



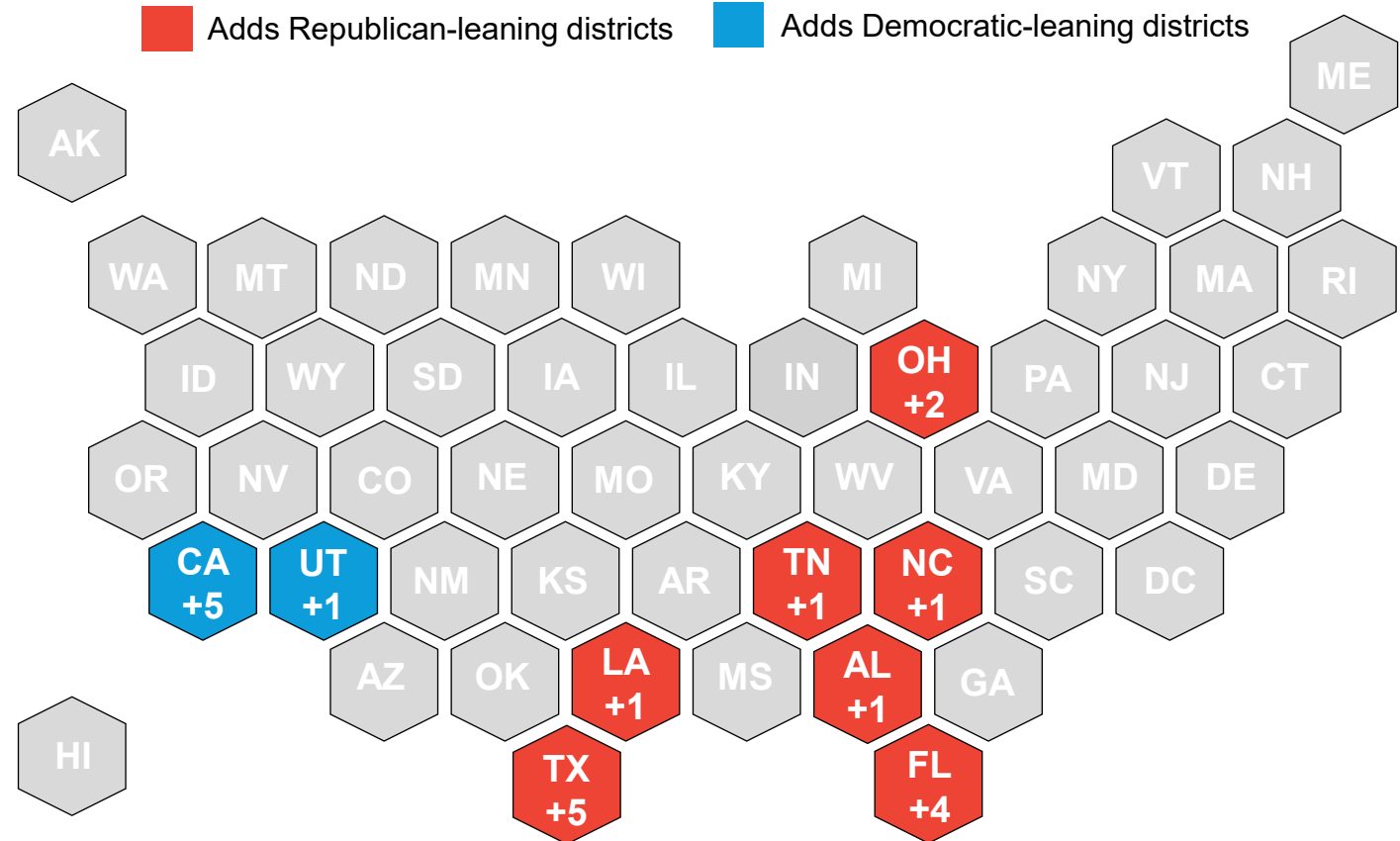
Nine States Successfully Implemented Redistricting for 2026

Redistricting Landscape

- ▶ **Republicans** successfully redrew 15 Democratic-held districts to be more GOP-friendly
- ▶ **Democrats'** new map in California could add 5 seats
- ▶ Court-ordered map in **Utah** could net Democrats one seat

Missouri

- ▶ Multi-track litigation reached US Supreme Court, which blocked GOP-drawn map that would have added a Republican district at the expense of Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver



Note: US Supreme Court stay on challenges to Missouri maps leave 6-2 GOP ratio intact for Nov. 3 election; districts could be redrawn later

Sources: [“Midterm Redistricting Wars Cool as 2028 Fights Start Simmering,”](#) Bloomberg Government; [“US Supreme Court Blocks Missouri GOP-Backed Voting Map Again,”](#) Bloomberg

Toss-Ups in Districts Held by a Republican (16)

Arizona	California	Colorado	Iowa	Michigan	New Jersey
AZ-01 Open (incumbent David Schweikert (R) lost primary for governor) AZ-06 Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R) running for re-election	CA-22 David Valadao (R) running for re-election	CO-08 Rep. Gabe Evans (R) running for re-election	IA-01 Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R) running for re-election IA-03 Zach Nunn (R) running for re-election	MI-07 Tom Barrett (R) running for re-election MI-10 Open (incumbent John James (R) running for governor)	NJ-07 Tom Kean (R) running for re-election
New York	Ohio	Pennsylvania	Virginia	Wisconsin	
NY-17 Mike Lawler (R) running for re-election	OH-07 Max Miller (R) running for re-election	PA-07 Ryan Mackenzie (R) PA-08 Rob Bresnahan (R) PA-10 Scott Perry (R) All running for re-election	VA-02 Jen Kiggans (R) running for re-election	WI-03 Derrick Van Orden (R) running for re-election	

Toss-Ups in Districts Held by a Democrat (5)

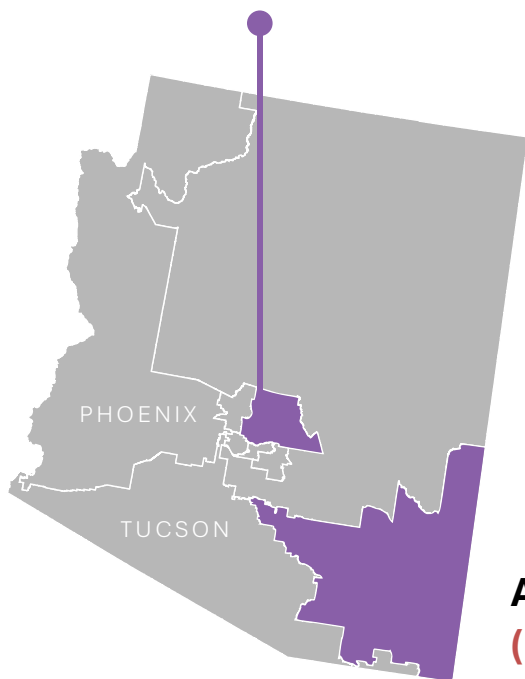
Florida	Ohio	Texas	Washington
FL-14 Kathy Castor (D) running for re-election FL-25 Jared Moskowitz (D) running for re-election	OH-09 Marcy Kaptur (D) running for re-election	TX-34 Vicente Gonzalez (D) running for re-election	WA-03 Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D) running for re-election

Districts That "Lean" Democratic or Republican

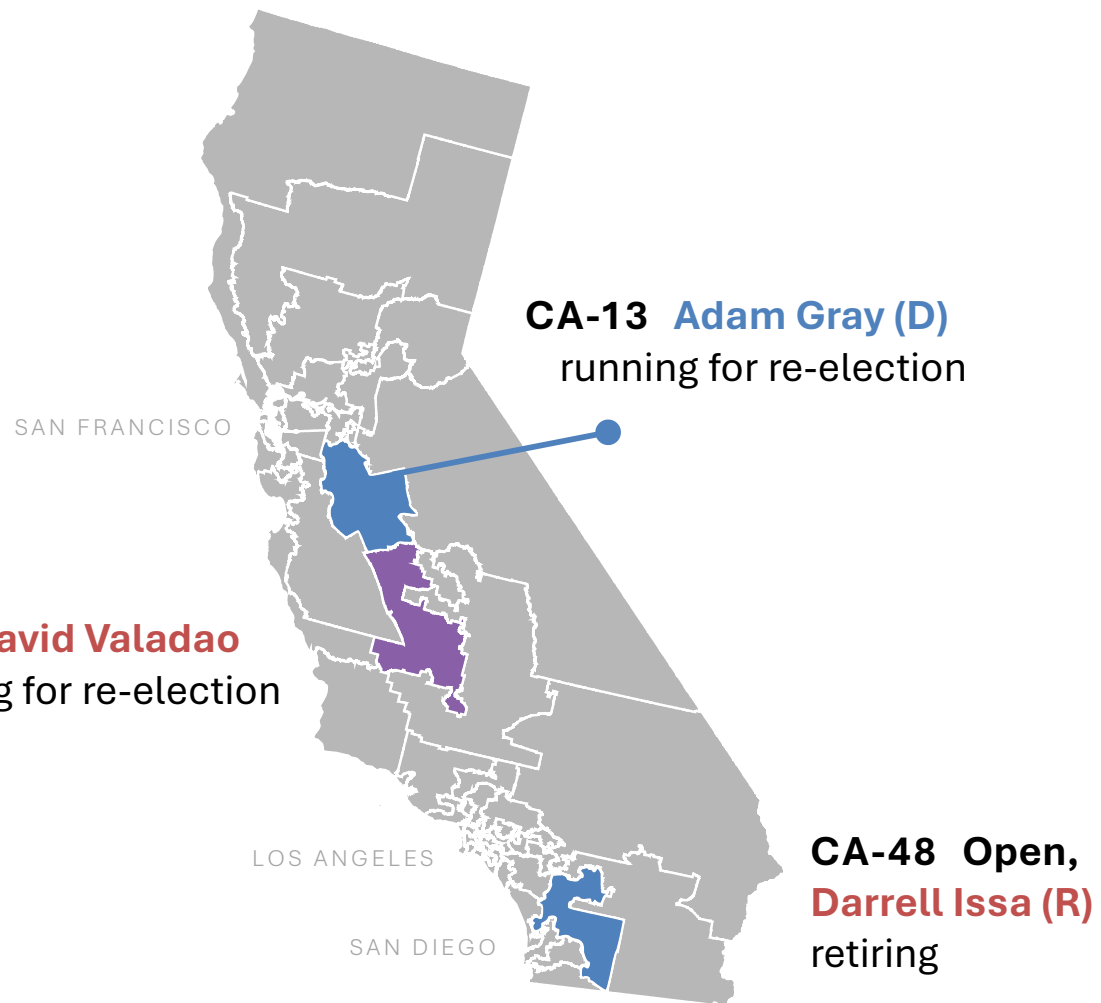
California	Florida	Iowa	Michigan	Nebraska	Nevada
CA-13 Adam Gray (D) running for re-election CA-48 Open (Darrell Issa (R) retiring)	FL-22 Open (incumbent Lois Frankel (D) running in a different district)	IA-02 Open (Ashley Hinson (R) running for Senate)	MI-04 Bill Huizenga (R) running for re-election	NE-02 Open (Don Bacon (R) retiring)	NV-03 Susie Lee (D) running for re-election
New Mexico	New York	North Carolina	Ohio	Texas	Virginia
NM-02 Gabe Vasquez (D) running for re-election	NY-03 Tom Suozzi (D) running for re-election NY-04 Laura Gillen (D) running for re-election	NC-01 Don Davis (D) running for re-election NC-11 Open (incumbent Chuck Edwards (R) not running for re-election)	OH-01 Greg Landsman (D) running for re-election	Leans R: TX-15 Monica De La Cruz (R) running for re-election Leans D: TX-28 Henry Cuellar (D) running for re-election	VA-01 Rob Wittman (R) running for re-election

LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP

AZ-01 Open, incumbent **David Schweikert (R)** lost primary for governor



AZ-06 **Juan Ciscomani (R)** running for re-election



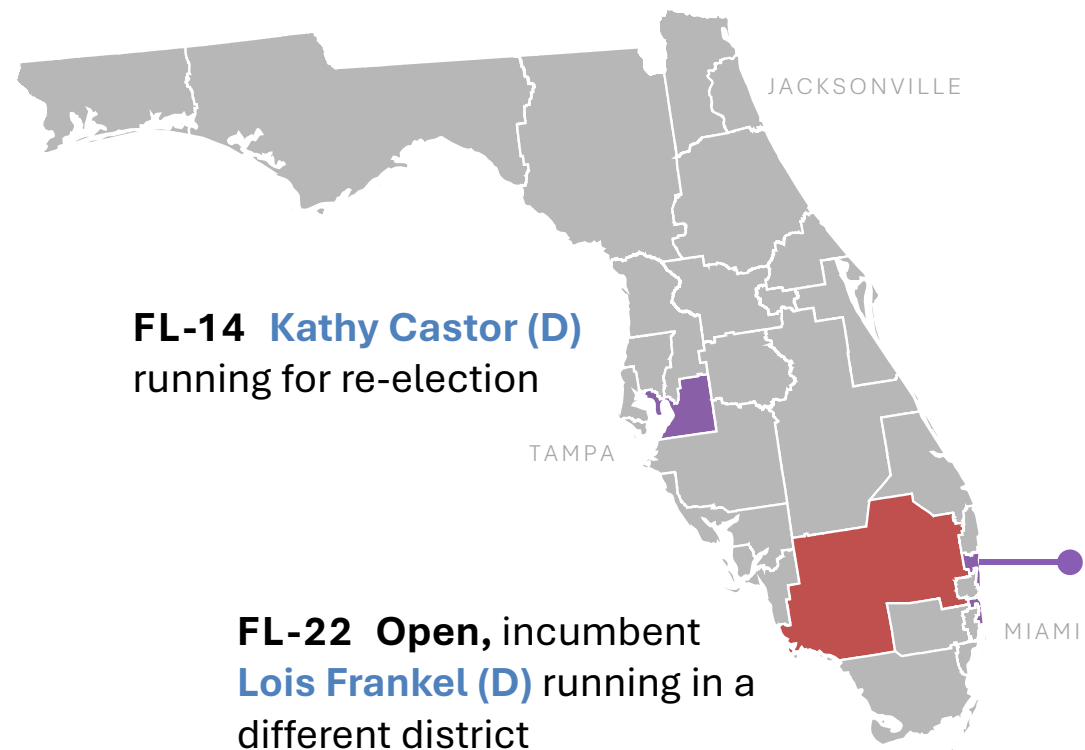
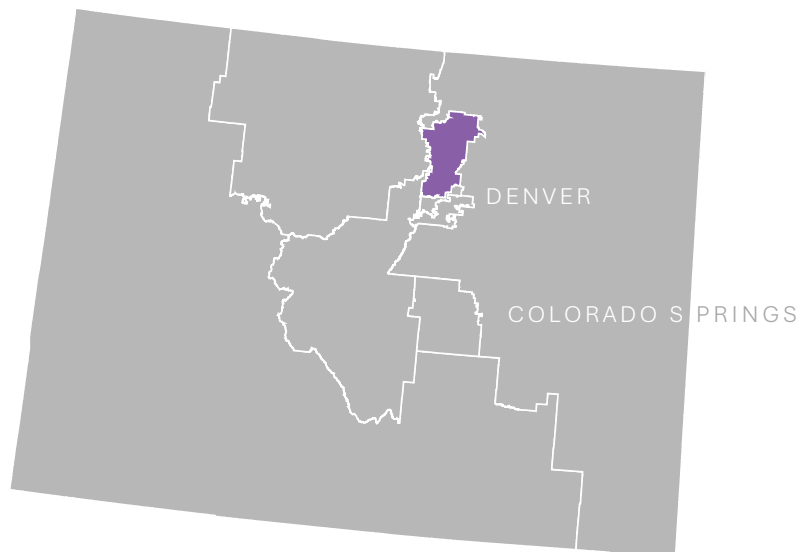
CA-13 **Adam Gray (D)** running for re-election

CA-22 **David Valadao (R)** running for re-election

CA-48 Open, **Darrell Issa (R)** retiring

LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP

CO-08 **Gabe Evans (R)** running
for re-election



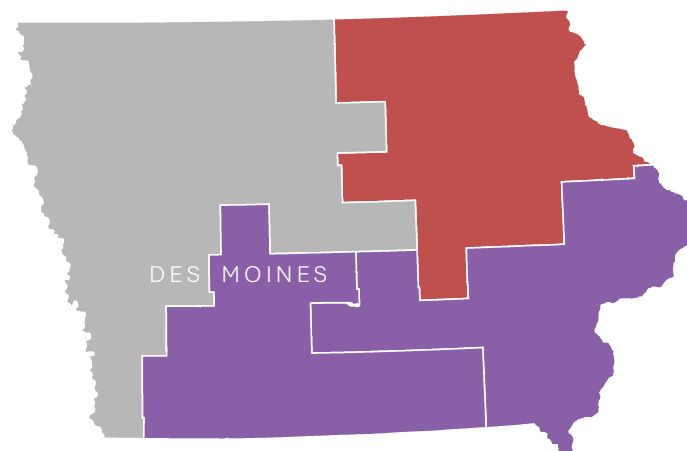
FL-14 **Kathy Castor (D)**
running for re-election

FL-22 **Open**, incumbent
Lois Frankel (D) running in a
different district

FL-25 **Jared
Moskowitz (D)**
running for re-
election

LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP

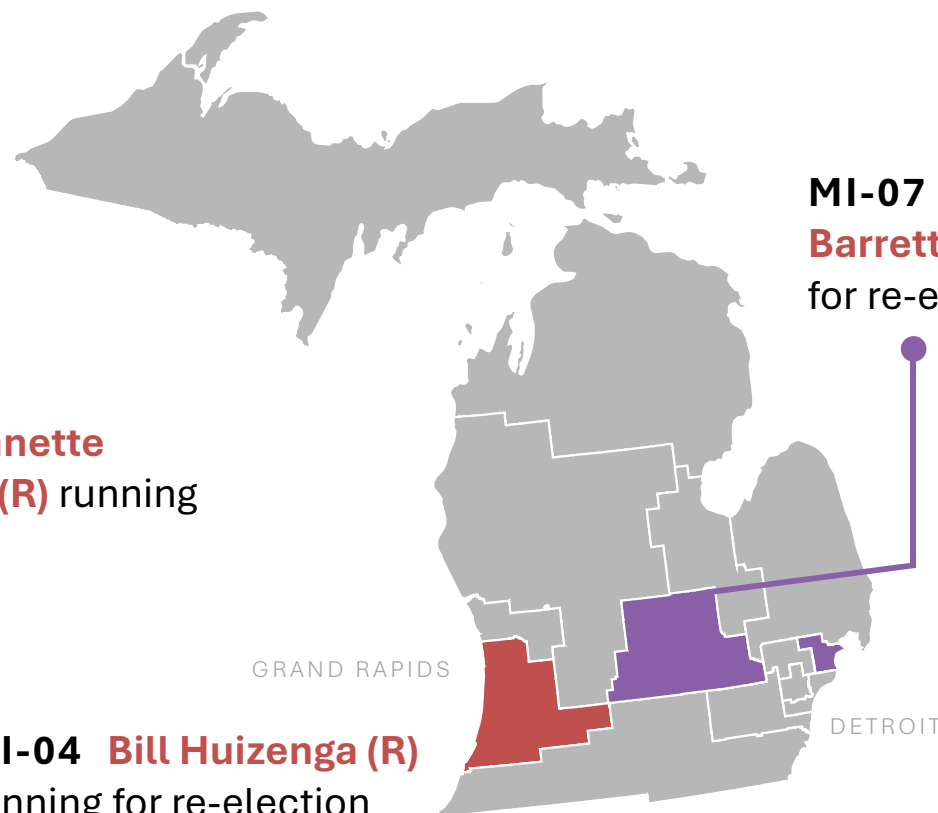
IA-02 Open, **Ashley Hinson**
(R) running for Senate



IA-03 **Zach Nunn** (R)
running for re-election

IA-01 **Mariannette**
Miller-Meeks (R) running
for re-election

MI-04 **Bill Huizenga** (R)
running for re-election

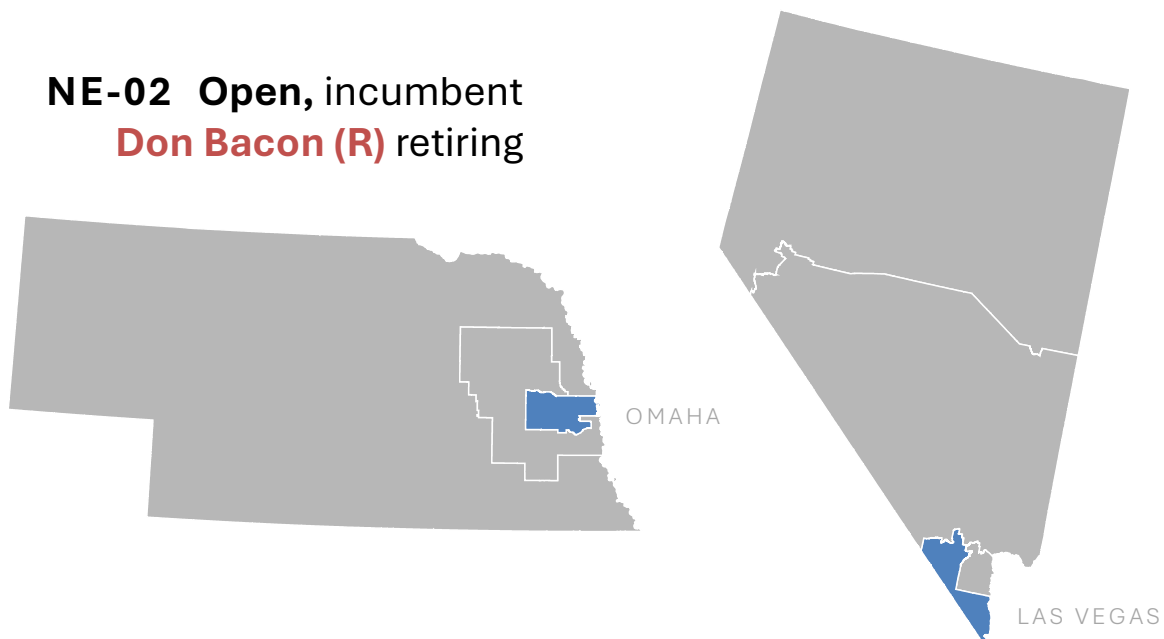


MI-07 **Tom**
Barrett (R) running
for re-election

MI-10 Open,
incumbent
John James (R)
running for
governor

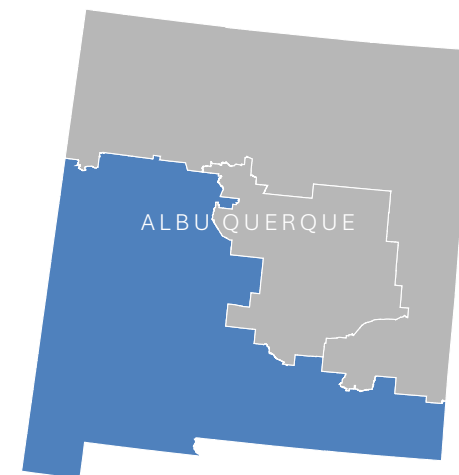
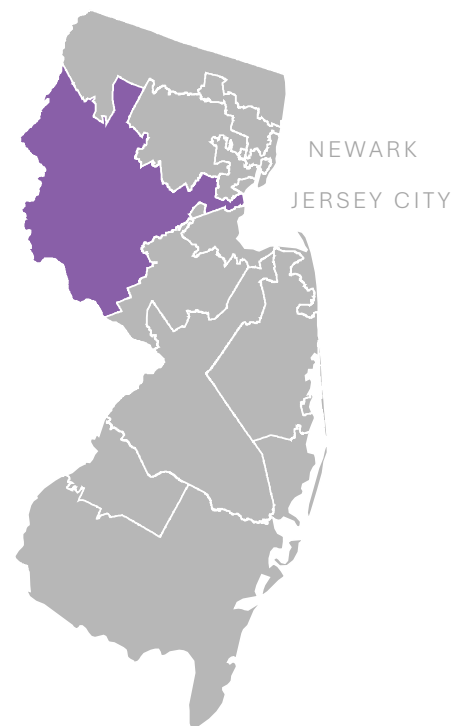
LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP

NE-02 Open, incumbent
Don Bacon (R) retiring



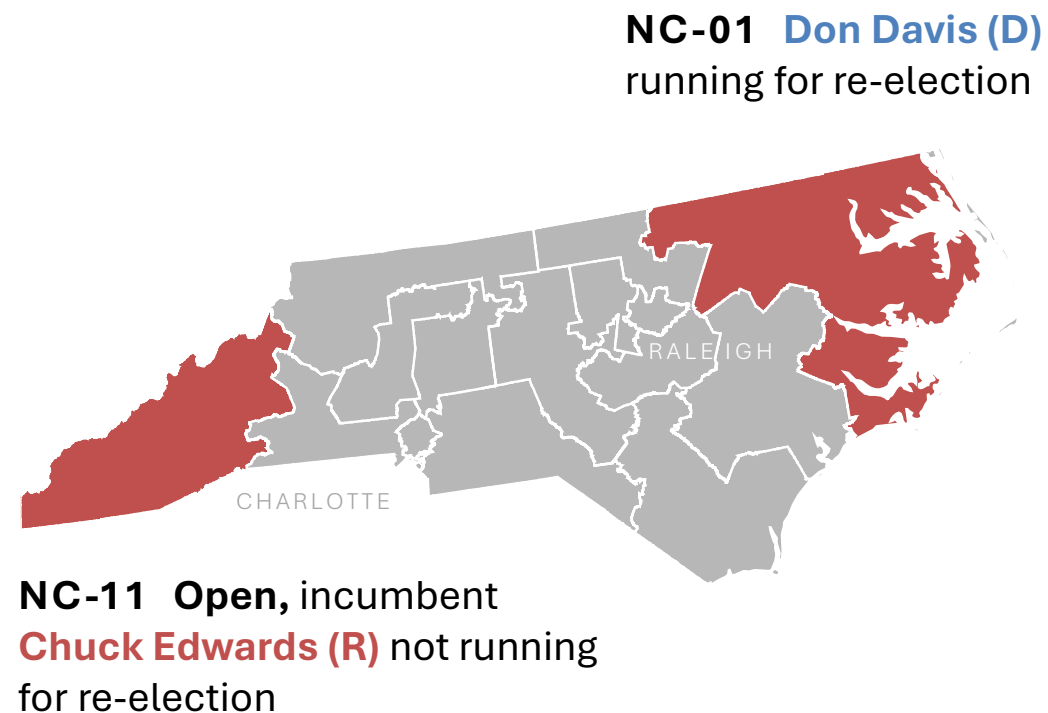
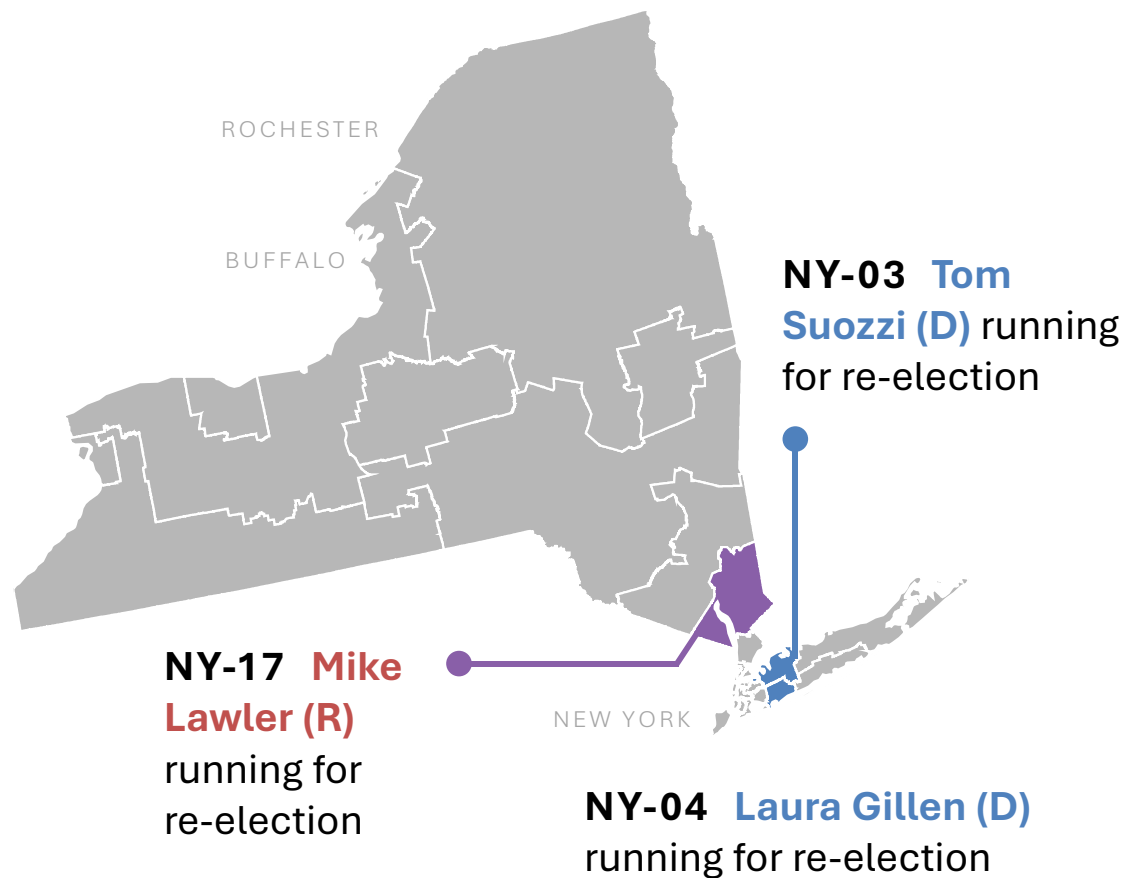
NV-03 Susie Lee (D)
running for re-election

NJ-07 Tom Kean (R)
running for re-election



NM-02 Gabe
Vasquez (D) running
for re-election

LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP



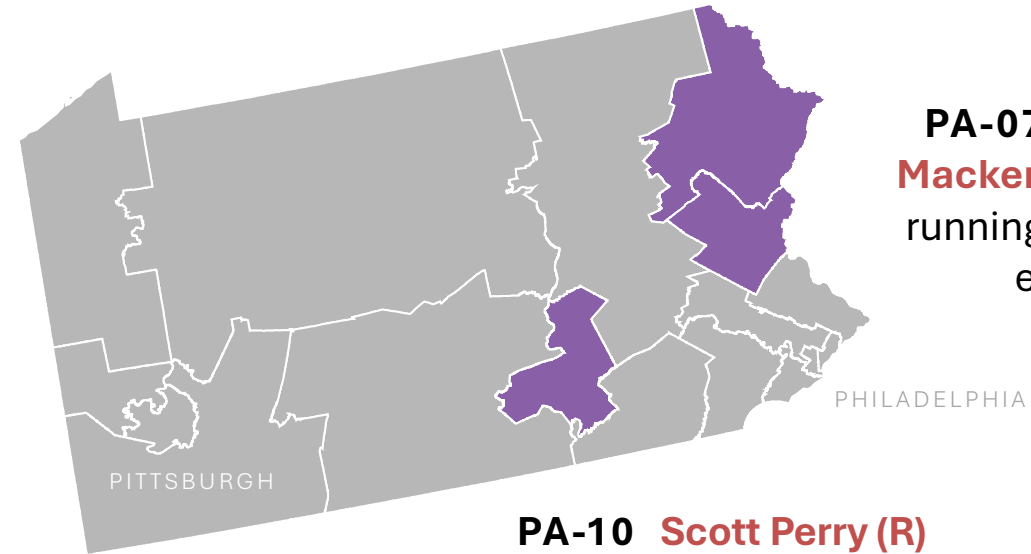
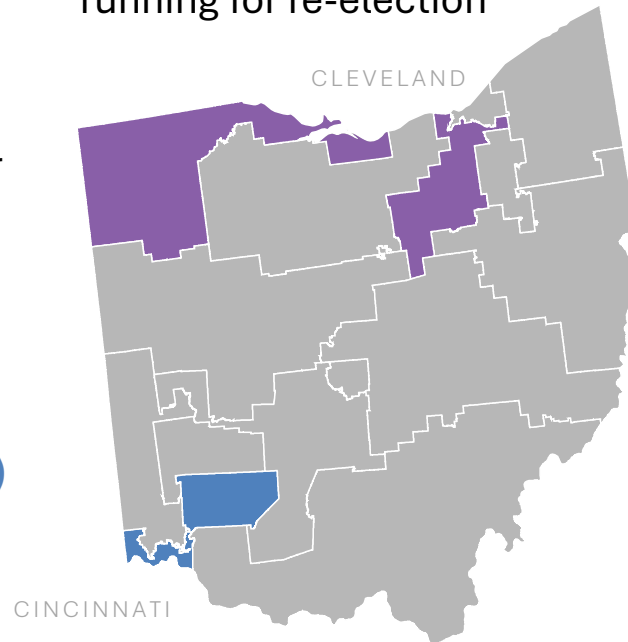
LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP

PA-08 Rob Bresnahan (R)
running for re-election

OH-07 Max Miller (R)
running for re-election

OH-09
Marcy Kaptur
(D) running for
re-election

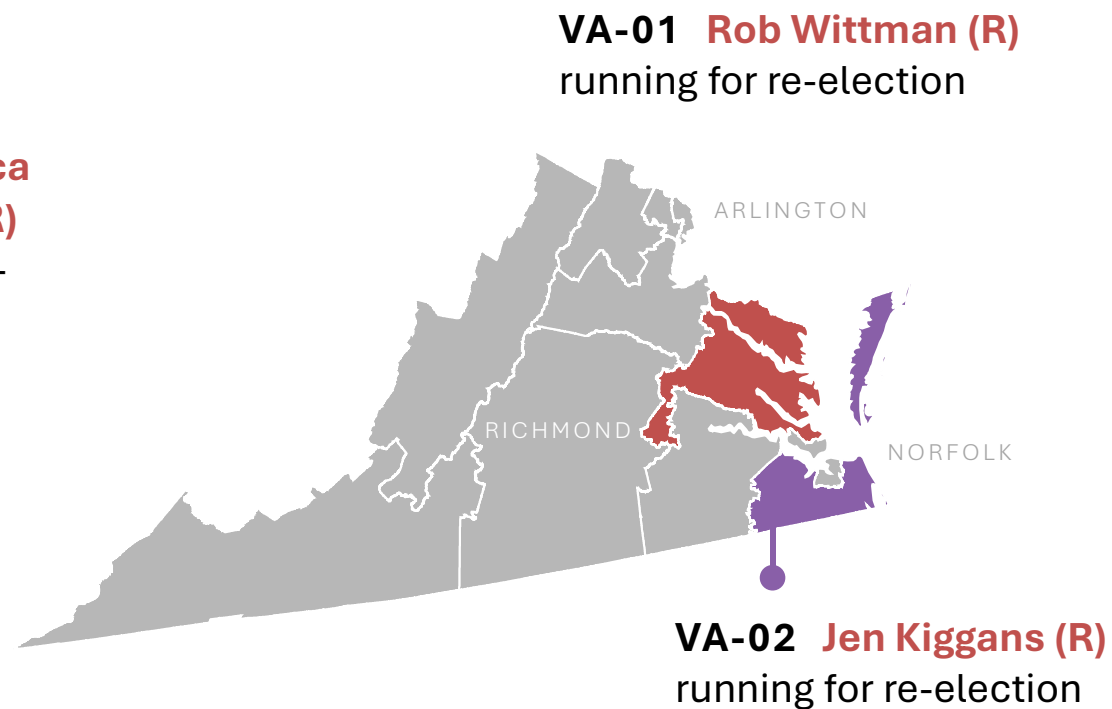
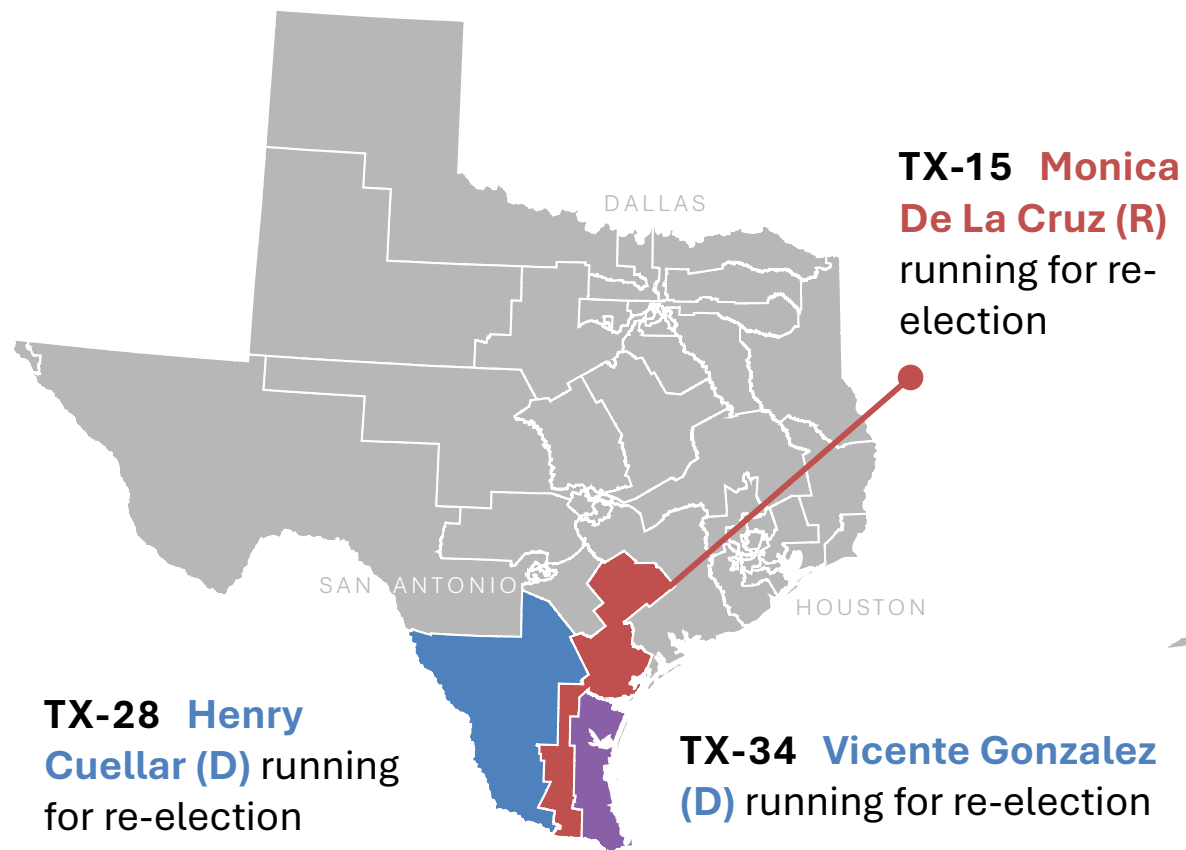
OH-01 Greg
Landsman (D)
running for re-
election



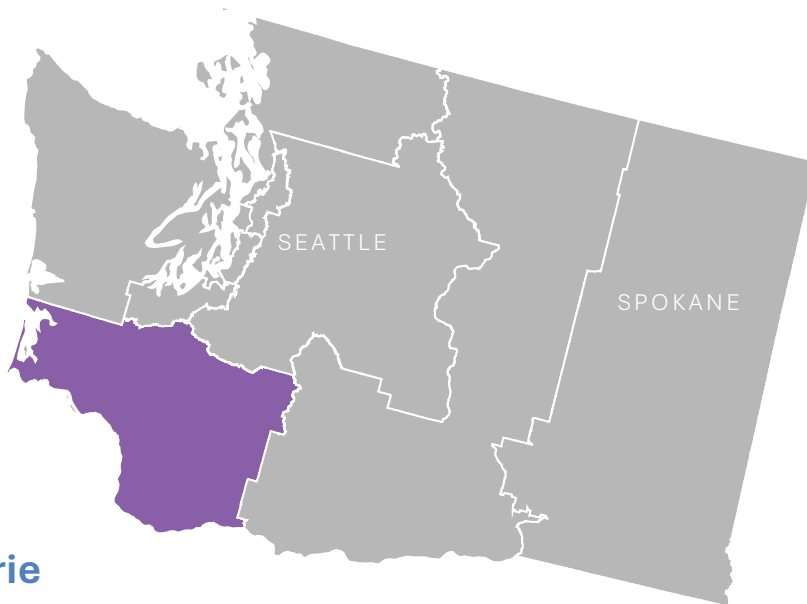
PA-07 Ryan
Mackenzie (R)
running for re-
election

PA-10 Scott Perry (R)
running for re-election

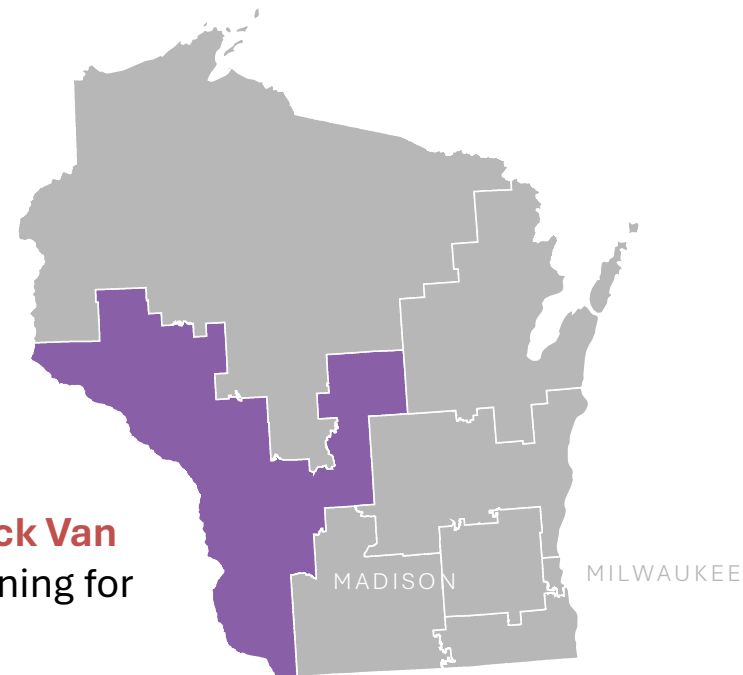
LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP



LEAN DEM TOSSUP LEAN GOP

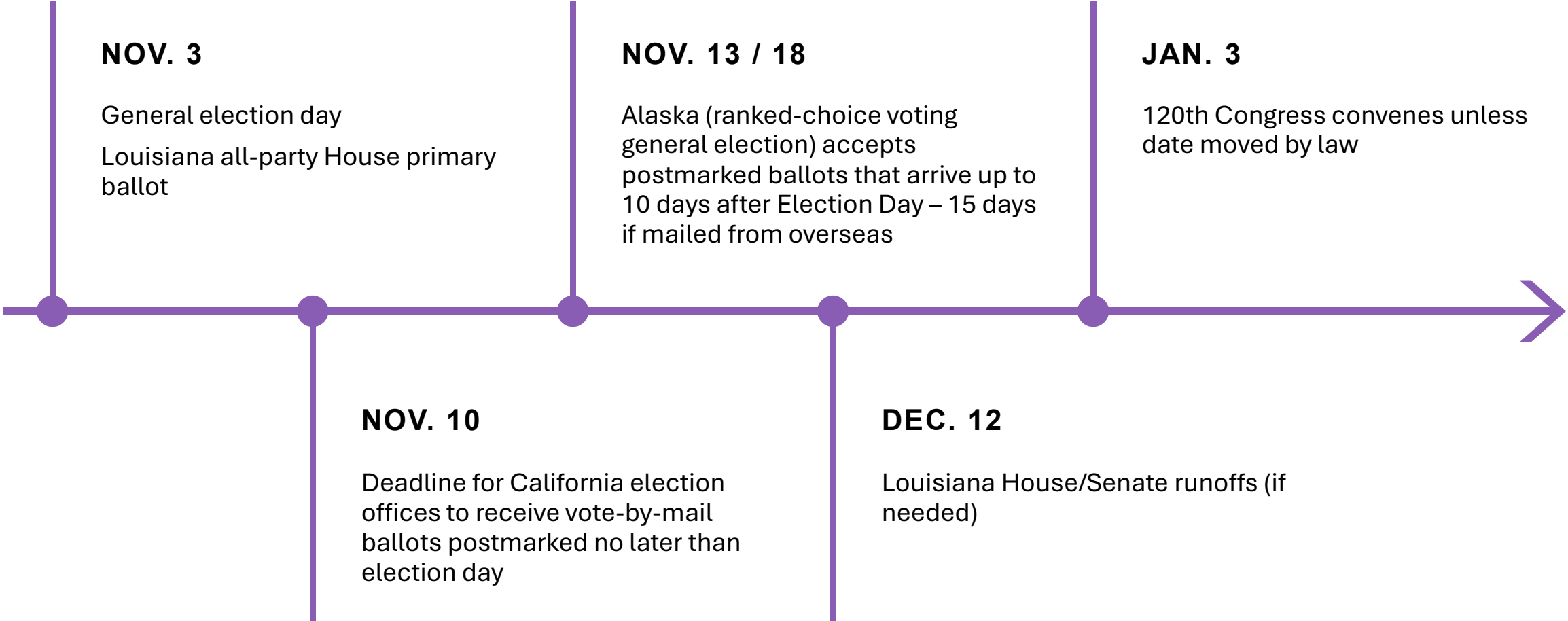


WA-03 Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D)
running for re-election



WI-03 Derrick Van Orden (R) running for re-election

Dates to Watch



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