Inside Elections

Nathan L. Gonzales

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2018 House Overview: Early Warning Signs for GOP

By Nathan L. Gonzales

After the 2016 elections, I've ruled out ruling things out.

Of course not every result has an equal chance of coming true, but I think it's OK to embrace uncertainty for a set of elections that won't take place for another year-and-a-half. Roughly the same people who were certain Hillary Clinton would be elected president 18 days from the 2016 election are now certain about what will happen (a Republican wipeout) in races 18 months from now. I don't think it's wise to be so confident about the outcome of the midterm elections at this stage.

But don't get me wrong. I believe Democrats are going to have a good or great year in the House in 2018. The out-party has the advantage of history (the president's party has lost an average of 33 House seats in 18 of the last 20 midterm elections) and the current dynamics (President Donald Trump's slumping job rating and Democratic candidates overperforming in special elections).

This week, we've changed our ratings in 19 districts, all in favor of Democrats and including adding nine seats to our list of competitive races. Any talk about "no district is safe" is hyperbole but with the combination of history, Trump's job rating, and anti-Trump enthusiasm, our ratings need to reflect a broader playing field with the possibility that more GOP seats are within Democratic reach.

A Democratic win in one or both of the upcoming Montana and Georgia special elections could inspire some Republicans to retire instead of suffering a career-ending loss next year. A few more GOP retirements similar to Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's exit would boost Democratic chances of gaining the 24 seats they need for a majority.

Thus far, Democrats are doing a good job of harnessing the anti-Trump energy into candidate recruitment and fundraising. But Democrats are poised to rely on a stable of first-time candidates, many of them veterans, who will run as political outsiders. And there is risk every cycle that first-time candidates never put together the campaign and money necessary to win.

In the face of some long odds, Republicans are encouraged by the distance between now and November 2018 because they believe the political dynamic can shift to something more favorable. But it all might just be a reprieve.



2018 House Ratings

Toss-Up (4R, 3D)

AZ 1 (O'Halleran, D) CA 49 (Issa, R)# GA 6 (VACANT, Price, R) MN 1 (Open; Walz, DFL)

Tilt Democratic (3D)

FL 7 (Murphy, D) NH 1 (Shea-Porter, D)# NV 3 (Rosen, D)

VA 10 Lean Democratic (3D, 1R) Lean

FL 13 (Crist, D) FL 27 (OPEN; Ros-Lehtinen, R) MN 7 (Peterson, DFL) MN 8 (Nolan, DFL)

Tilt Republican (5R) CO 6 (Coffman, R)#

MN 2 (Lewis, R)

TX 23 (Hurd, R)

NJ 5 (Gottheimer, D)

FL 26 (Curbelo, R) MT A-L (VACANT, Zinke, R)# NY 19 (Faso, R) VA 10 (Comstock, R)#

Lean Republican (12R)

AZ 2 (McSally, R)# CA 10 (Denham, R) CA 25 (Knight, R) CA 39 (Royce, R) CA 48 (Rohrabacher, R)# IA 1 (Blum,R) KS 3 (Yoder, R)# MN 3 (Paulsen, R)# NE 2 (Bacon, R) NY 22 (Tenney, R) PA 8 (Fitzpatrick, R) PA 16 (Smucker, R)

Likely Republican (17R)

CA 21 (Valadao, R)

CA 45 (Walters, R)#

CA 50 (Duncan, R)#

KS 2 (Open; Jenkins, R)#

IL 6 (Roskam, R)#

IL 13 (Davis, R)#

ME 2 (Poliquin, R)

MI 8 (Bishop, R)#

MI 11 (Trott, R)#

NJ 7 (Lance, R)

IA 3 (Young, R)

Likely Democratic (5D)

CA 7 (Bera, D) CA 24 (Carbajal, D) IA 2 (Loebsack, D) PA 17 (Cartwright, (D) WI 3 (Kind, D)

Dropped (1D)

IL 10 (Schneider, D)#

			NJ 11 (Frelinghuysen, R)#	
	GOP	DEM	NY 24 (Katko, R)	
115th Congress	241	194	PA 6 (Costello, R)	
Currently Solid	202	180	PA 7 (Meehan, R)	
Competitive	39	14	TX 7 (Culberson, R)	
Needed for majority	218		TX 32 (Sessions, R)#	
# moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans				

moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics

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House: Alabama - California

Alabama.

2nd District (Martha Roby, R, re-elected in 2016 with 49%). 2016 Presidential Winner: Trump 65%. The congresswoman was re-elected with less than 50 percent last year when a conservative write-in candidate received nearly 11 percent after Roby pulled her support from Trump because of the Access Hollywood tape. State Rep. Barry Moore is challenging her in next year's GOP primary, although 2016 write-in candidate Becky Gerritson might be a more formidable foe. Moore and Gerritson together might split the anti-Roby vote. Solid R.

5th District (Mo Brooks, R, running for Senate in 2017). Trump 65%. The congressman announced he's challenging appointed Sen. Luther Strange in the GOP primary in this year's special election. Brooks doesn't have to give up his House seat to do it.

Arizona.

1st District (Tom O'Halleran, D, elected 51%). Trump 48%. O'Halleran was elected to Democratic Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick's seat against a flawed candidate. Republicans are ready to unveil opposition research they didn't use last cycle along with the freshman's voting record and are hoping to secure a credible challenger who isn't broke after a late primary. GOP state Sen. Steve Smith is running and has support of Reps. Trent Franks and Andy Biggs. Toss-up.

2nd District (Martha McSally, R, re-elected 57%). Clinton 49.6%.

The congresswoman has proven to be one of the GOP's toughest incumbents, but Democrats are emboldened by McSally's vote in favor of the Republican health care plan in a Clinton district with a cheap media market. A crowded field of



Kyrsten Sinema

Democratic contenders is starting to emerge including former Rep. Kirkpatrick (who recently moved to Tucson), Billy Kovacs (operations manager for Tucson's historic Hotel Congress), state Rep. Randy Friese, 2016 nominee Matt Heinz (who lost to McSally 57-43 percent), 2016 candidate Victoria Steele (lost primary 53-47 percent), and others. Move from Likely R to Lean R.

9th District (Kyrsten Sinema, D, re-elected 61%). Clinton 55%. Sinema recently said she is running for re-election, but also didn't rule out a Senate run. Even if the Tempe/suburban Phoenix seat is open, it doesn't look like a great GOP takeover opportunity in the current environment. Dr. Steve Ferrara (R), former chief medical officer of the Navy, is running. Solid D.

California.

7th District (Ami Bera, D, re-elected 51%). Clinton 52%. The congressman is always a target and has close races, but consistently wins. Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones, the 2016 GOP nominee, is not running again. Former Sheriff John McGinness was recruited to run last cycle (he declined), but could jump in this time. Likely D.

10th District (Jeff Denham, R, re-elected 52%). Clinton 49%. Democrats keep edging closer to defeating the congressman in this Central Valley district. On the Democratic side, investor Josh Harder (who hired former nominee Michael Eggman's campaign manager) and emergency room nurse Dotty Nygard are running, 2012 nominee / astronaut Jose Hernandez could jump in and former Riverbank mayor Virginia Madueno is mentioned. Riverbank (population 23,000) is split with the 9th District. Lean R, but could become more vulnerable.

21st District (David Valadao, R, re-elected 57%). Clinton 55%. The presidential performance keeps attracting Democrats to this southern Central Valley district, but Valadao just demolishes anyone in his path. Democrats need to find a candidate who can fight on local issues, including water, and drive a wedge between Hispanic voters and the congressman. Likely R.

22nd District (Devin Nunes, R, re-elected 68%). Trump 52%. Nunes has been drawn into the national spotlight as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and its role in potentially investigating the Trump Administration. Fresno County Deputy District Attorney Andrew Janz (D) is running and could develop into a credible challenger. Solid R.





Nathan L. Gonzales Editor & Publisher nathan@rothenberggonzales.com @ @nathanlgonzales

Robert Yoon Contributing Reporter & Analyst

Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales provides nonpartisan analysis of campaigns for Senate, House, governor and president. It does not endorse candidates.



Stuart Rothenberg Senior Editor stu@rothenberggonzales.com @stupolitics

Will Taylor Production Artist



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840 First Street NE, 3rd Floor Washington, DC 20002 202-546-2822

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House: Colorado - Florida

24th District (Salud Carbajal, D, elected 53%). Clinton 57%. Former Democratic Rep. Lois Capps used to struggle in midterm elections, but it's tough to see this seat flipping with Trump in the White House. Republican Justin Fareed, who lost last year by 6 points, may run again. Likely D.

25th District (Steve Knight, R, re-elected 53%). Clinton 50%. The congressman prevailed by 6 points in a targeted race in 2016. The expensive Los Angeles media market is challenging, but Democrats aren't giving up in this Simi Valley district. The Democratic field includes 2016 nominee Bryan Caforio, vulcanologist Jess Phoenix (who lives outside the district), and non-profit executive Katie Hill (who raised minimal money for a state senate race in 2016). But Democrats are waiting on a more prominent candidate to jump into the race. Lean R, but could get more competitive.

26th District (Julia Brownley, D), re-elected 60%). Clinton 58%. Former General Hospital and Melrose Place actor Antonio Sabato Jr. (R), 45, is running and likely to lose to the congresswoman in this Venturaarea seat. Solid D.

34th District (VACANT, D). Clinton 84%. *June 6, 2017 Special Election.* State Assemblyman Jimmy Gomez (D) finished first in the April 4 primary with 28 percent and will face off against fellow Democrat/Los Angeles City Planning Commissioner Robert Lee Ahn (19 percent) in next month's race to replace state Attorney General Xavier Becerra in this downtown district. With endorsements from Gov. Jerry Brown and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Gomez is the heavy favorite. Solid D.

39th District (Ed Royce, R, re-elected with 57%). Clinton 52%. The congressman won re-election easily last year, but the demographics of the district are shifting away from the GOP. Wall Street analyst-turn-pediatrician Mai-Khan Tran could develop into a top challenger, but Democrats are also waiting for a potentially more formidable foe to announced. Lean R.

45th District (Mimi Walters, R, re-elected with 59%). Clinton 49.8%. Clinton was the first Democratic presidential nominee to win Orange

County since 1936, and Democrats are excited about their prospects down the ballot. Local Republicans are no fans of Trump but aren't necessarily poised to punish the congresswoman. The Democratic field includes two Univ. of



Mimi Walters

California-Irvine law professors (Katie Porter and Dave Min) and former Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown aide Kia Hamadanchy, whose parents fled the Iranian revolution. Min used to work for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer while Porter has the support of Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

48th District (Dana Rohrabacher, R, re-elected 58%). Clinton 48%. A consistent retirement possibility, the congressman is also a unique target with a reputation for being too sympathetic toward Russia and it's unclear whether he is ready for a tough campaign. Wealthy realtor /

former Republican Harley Rouda and real estate broker Boyd Roberts are running but the biggest threat might be from biologist Hans Keirstead, who sold a stem cell research company for \$120 million and has potentially powerful stories to tell about people he's helped. Move from Likely R to Lean R.

49th District (Darrell Issa, R, re-elected 50%). Clinton 51%. The congressman defeated Democrat Doug Applegate in a late-breaking race in southern Orange County. Democrats used a combination of old opposition research and Clinton support to nearly topple the wealthiest Member of Congress. Applegate is running again but won't clear the field. Environmental attorney Mike Levin is running (but is from Orange County, which is a small part of the district) and Navy veteran/ developer Paul Kerr is seriously considering a run. Issa voted for the polarizing GOP health care plan and flipped off a Politico reporter. Democrats are gaining confidence. Move from Tilt R to Toss-up.

50th District (Duncan Hunter, R, re-elected). Trump 55%. The district shouldn't be vulnerable but the congressman is under investigation for potentially misusing campaign funds. Retired Navy Seal Josh Butner (D) is running, as is 28-year old Latino Arab American Ammar Campa-Najjar, who formerly worked for President Obama. Democrats need to hope that law enforcement doesn't remove the congressman before the 2018 elections, because a normal Republican should hold the seat. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

52nd District (Scott Peters, D, re-elected 57%). Clinton 58%. Republicans are always enticed by this seat, but Peters is a tough incumbent, particularly with past support from the Chamber of Commerce. Last year's GOP nominee, Denise Gitsham, isn't running again but Omar Qudrat is preparing to run. Solid D.

Colorado.

5th District (Doug Lamborn, R, re-elected with 62%). Trump 57%. State Sen. Owen Hill is challenging Lamborn in next year's primary and should be a formidable foe. But no matter who wins the GOP contest, the Colorado Springs district should remain in Republican hands. Solid R.

6th District (Mike Coffman, R, re-elected with 51%). Clinton 50%. Even after a convincing 8-point win in 2016, Coffman is a target again in this competitive district. Democratic attorney/retired Army Ranger Jason Crow is generating the most attention but attorney David Aarestad is running as well. The congressman has defeated everyone Democrats have thrown at him but this is the type of district that could fall in an anti-Republican wave. Move from Lean R to Tilt R.

7th District (Open; Ed Perlmutter, D, running for governor). Clinton 51%. The congressman's statewide bid creates an attractive open seat, particularly for Democrats. State Rep. Brittany Pettersen and state Sen. Andy Kerr are running while state Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp and state Sen. Dominick Moreno are interested. For the GOP, Jefferson County Commissioner Libby Szabo is looking. This used to be a competitive seat, but has shifted away from the GOP recently. Solid D.

Florida.

7th District (Stephanie Murphy, D, elected 52%). Clinton 51%. The congresswoman defeated GOP Rep. John Mica, who failed to adapt to modern campaigning. Republicans will make a strong effort to win the

House: Georgia - Illinois

seat back with a stronger candidate. State Sen. David Simmons is allbut-officially in, while state Rep. Mike Miller and Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs are mentioned as well. Tilt D.

13th District (Charlie Crist, D, elected 52%). Clinton 49.6%. Crist defeated GOP Rep. David Jolly (who was ostracized from the national party) in underwhelming fashion in a redrawn district that included all of Crist's home territory. Despite his trashed reputation in Washington, Jolly's indecision on a rematch has frozen the field of contenders in the district. Lean D.

18th District (Brian Mast, R, elected 54%). Trump 53%. Mast, a veteran and double amputee, took over Democratic Rep. Patrick

Murphy's seat in 2016 and will not be easy to defeat in a district that Trump carried against Clinton. But Democrats aren't going to give the congressman a pass in his first re-election. Retired Army Major Corinna Robinson (who lost a 2014 race



Brian Mast

to GOP Rep. Kristi Noem in South Dakota 67-33 percent), attorney/2016 candidate Jonathan Chane, and former JAG/2016 Senate candidate Pam Keith are interested, but Democrats have their eye on some potentially stronger candidates. Solid R for now.

25th District (Mario Diaz-Balart, R, re-elected 62%). Trump 49.6%. The Diaz-Balart name is popular in south Florida, but Democrats can't afford to rule out districts where Trump fell below 50 percent. They're casting the net wide for a credible challenger. Solid R.

26th District (Carlos Curbelo, R, re-elected 53%). Clinton 57%. Curbelo was a top target last cycle and won with some room to spare against a flawed candidate. Democrats are baffled by his (and Diaz-Balart's) votes for the GOP health care plan and believe Trump will tank his re-election chances. But some potential Democratic challengers are looking at the neighboring 27th District, which is now open because of Republican Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's retirement. Tilts R.

27th District (Open; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R, not seeking reelection). Clinton 59%. Democratic dreams of an open seat are now reality and this is now a top takeover opportunity. The fields are still settling but state Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez, Miami Beach City Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, and 2016 nominee Scott Furhman are running on the Democratic side while attorney Francisco Cerezo is considering a bid. For the GOP, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro is running, former Miami-Dade County School Board Member Raquel Regalado is likely, and Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera and Jeb Bush, Jr. are possibilities. The timing of the open seat probably couldn't be any better for Democrats. Lean D.

Georgia.

6th District (VACANT, R). Trump 48.3%. June 20, 2017 Special Election Runoff. Democrat Jon Ossoff finished first in the April 18 all-party

primary with 48 percent and will face Republican Karen Handel (20 percent) next month in what has become the most expensive House race in history. Ossoff has captured the Democratic angst and enthusiasm against President Trump and the 30-year-old former Capitol Hill staffer has raised over \$20 million in just a few months. This suburban Atlanta seat, vacated by HHS Secretary Tom Price, is the type of district Democrats need to win to regain the majority. But winning this seat isn't essential. Public and private polling show Ossoff and Handel locked in a tight race, and it's difficult to make a definitive projection considering the uncertainty of turnout. Toss-up.

Idaho

1st District (Open; Raul Labrador, R, running for governor). Trump 64%. Labrador, a founding member of the Freedom Caucus, is leaving Washington, setting up a competitive race for his seat. Democrat Walt Minnick won the district in the 2008 Obama wave, but most of the action this time is likely to be on the GOP side. Former Lt. Gov. David Leroy is interested. The attorney was elected in 1982, lost a close gubernatorial race in 1986, and lost the GOP primary for Congress in 1994. Former state school superintendent Tom Luna, state House Majority Leader Mike Moyle, state Sen. Bob Nonini, and state Rep. Luke Malek are potential candidates as well. Solid R.

Illinois.

6th District (Peter Roskam, R, re-elected 59%). Clinton 50%. This district hasn't received much attention since Roskam defeated DCCC darling Tammy Duckworth in 2006, but Democrats believe demographics and the congressman's record are pulling this back into play. There is no shortage of Democratic interest. Barrington Hills Planning Commissioner/breast cancer survivor Kelly Mazeski (who lost a state senate race 59-41 percent in 2016), former Naperville district school board member Suzyn Price, 2016 nominee Amanda Howland (who lost to Roskam 59-41 percent), and Carole Cheney, Illinois Rep. Bill Foster's district chief of staff, are likely to run. But the field may still grow. An early primary next year gives Democrats a chance to unite. Change from Solid R to Likely R.

10th District (Brad Schneider, D, elected 53%). Clinton 62%. Schneider defeated GOP Rep. Bob Dold to take back the suburban Chicago seat the two men have traded each cycle since 2010. Dold might be the only Republican who can win this seat but he has decided against a rematch. Former AIPAC Midwest political director Jeremy Wynes (R) is running, but has a challenging race, particularly with Trump in the White House. Move from Likely to Solid D.

13th District (Rodney Davis, R, re-elected 60%). Trump 49.7%. Davis has proven to be a savvy incumbent but Democrats are taking a fresh run at his seat in this current environment. State Sen. Andy Manar and state Rep. Carol Ammons are potential candidates on the Democratic side. Perennial candidate David Gill is also running, and Democrats have to make sure he doesn't win the primary or run as a third-party candidate and complicate their plans. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

14th District (Randy Hultgren, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 49%. Six years ago, Democrats drew this district to elect a Republican, but they believe it's trending their way even though Trump carried the seat. High



House: Indiana - Maine

school teacher/Army veteran Victor Swanson (D), brother of comedian/ actor Andy Richter, is running. It would be an expensive fight in the Chicago media market. Solid R.

Indiana.

4th District (Todd Rokita, R, re-elected 65%). Trump 64%. The congressman is exploring a challenge to Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly. He would leave behind a GOP-leaning open seat which should attract a crowd of GOP contenders. Solid R.

6th District (Luke Messer, R, re-elected 69%). Trump 68%. The congressman is likely to challenge Donnelly and would also leave behind a GOP-leaning open seat. Solid R.

Iowa.

1st District (Rod Blum, R, re-elected 54%). Trump 49%. The congressman turned out to be more resilient than expected and the terrain in the Hawkeye State more friendly for Republicans, but Democrats aren't giving up. Democratic State Rep. Abby Finkenauer (D) is running and has the first opportunity to prove herself as a candidate. Blum made news when he abruptly walked out of an interview with a local reporter while surrounded by school kids. Lean R.

3rd District (David Young, R, re-elected 53%). Trump 49%. Despite being a Democratic target last cycle, Young won re-election by 13 points and outperformed Trump. Michael Sherzan, who lost in the 2016 Democratic primary, was in and then out for next year. Real estate company president Theresa Greenfield (D) is interested and attorney Anna Ryon could develop into an interesting candidate. Pete D'Alessandro, Bernie Sanders' Iowa caucus coordinator, is running. Likely R but could develop for Democrats.

Kansas.

2nd District (Open; Lynn Jenkins, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 56%. The combination of an open seat and a strong Democratic candidate (former state House Minority Leader Paul Davis) makes this an interesting race, even though Trump won handily. Davis lost the 2014 gubernatorial race to Gov. Sam Brownback, but carried this district 51-45 percent. Republicans won't nominate Brownback for this seat, but it's not guaranteed they'll have a strong candidate. State Sen. Steve Fitzgerald is running but the field is unsettled. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

3rd District (Kevin Yoder, R, re-elected 51%). Clinton 47.2%. Last cycle this seat was a an example of new territory where Democrats were challenging because of Trump's problems in the suburbs. Yoder prevailed but is likely to have a tough race again next year. 2016 Democratic nominee Jay Sidie is running but a stronger, new candidate is likely to emerge very soon and Democrats believe term-limited Brownback will still cast a shadow on the race. Likely R but could become more vulnerable.

4th District (Ron Estes, R, elected 2017 special election 53%). Trump 60%. GOP Rep. Mike Pompeo was confirmed to be Trump's CIA Director and state Treasurer Ron Estes (R) won the special election in the Wichita-based seat. But the margin was 20 points closer than the 2016 presidential race and Estes is likely to face a primary next year from state Senate President Susan Wagle. But the seat is not likely to be at risk in the general election. Solid R.

2018 Senate Ratings

Toss-Up Donnelly (D-Ind.) Manchin (D-W.Va.) Heitkamp (D-N.D.) McCaskill (D-Mo.) Tilt Democratic Tilt Republican Baldwin (D-Wis.) Nelson (D-Fla.) Tester (D-Mont.) Lean Democratic Lean Republican Brown (D-Ohio) Heller (R-Nev.) Casey (D-Pa.) **Likely Democratic** Likely Republican Kaine (D-Va.) Flake (R-Ariz.) Solid Democratic Solid Republican Cantwell (D-Wash.) Barrasso (R-Wyo.) Cardin (D-Md.) Corker (R-Tenn.) Carper (D-Del.) Cruz (R-Texas) Feinstein (D-Calif.) Fischer (R-Neb.) Gillibrand (D- N.Y.) Hatch (R-Utah) Heinrich (D-N.M.) Strange (R-Ala.) Wicker (R-Miss.) Hirono (D-Hawaii) King (I- Maine) Klobuchar (D-Minn.) Menendez (D-N.J.) Murphy (D-Conn.) GOP DEM Sanders (I-Vt.) 115th Congress 52 Stabenow (D-Mich.) Not up this cycle 43 Currently Solid Warren (D-Mass.) 7 Whitehouse (D-R.I.) Competitive 2

Kentucky.

6th District (Andy Barr, R, re-elected 61%). Trump 55%. Democrats are hoping a non-presidential year allows them to run a local race. Marine Lt. Col. Amy McGrath is set to retire on June 1 and likely to run. She's a former fighter pilot who flew 85 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and was former foreign policy adviser to California Rep. Susan Davis. A handful of other potential candidates are mentioned. Solid R, but could develop depending on Democratic candidate quality and the political environment.

Maine.

2nd District (Bruce Poliguin, R, re-elected 55%). Trump 51%. Poliquin has proven to be a tough incumbent, but Democrats aren't

48

23

15

10

House: Maryland - Nebraska

giving up. Part of the state is frozen until GOP Sen. Susan Collins definitively declines to run for governor. Poliquin could also run for governor, leaving an open seat. For now, construction company owner Jonathan Fulford, state Rep. Jared Golden and state Sen. Nate Libby are potential Poliquin foes. Likely R.

Maryland.

6th District (John Delaney, D, re-elected 56%). Clinton 56%. The congressman is expected to make a decision on a gubernatorial bid in June. State House Majority Leader Bill Frick and state Del. Aruna Miller look poised to run for an open seat. In either scenario, the seat is likely to remain in Democratic hands with a Republican in the White House. Solid D.

Michigan.

5th District (Dan Kildee, D, re-elected 61%). Clinton 49.7%. GOP strategists believe this district is slowly moving in their direction but Kildee's decision to run for re-election instead of governor delays takeover dreams. Solid D.

7th District (Tim Walberg, R, re-elected 55%). Trump 56%. The congressman is a perennial Democratic target but consistently wins. Democrat Gretchen Driskell (who lost to Walberg by 15 points last cycle) has been helping Ossoff in Georgia but could run again here. Solid R.

8th District (Mike Bishop, R, re-elected 56%). Trump 51%. Democrats had a rough time against the congressman last cycle when their nominee dropped out and the replacement lost by 17 points. This cycle, Democrats look poised to land former Dept. of Defense Official Elissa Slotkin, a more credible challenger. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

11th District (Dave Trott, R, re-elected 53%). Trump 49.7%. Democrats have struggled to find a credible challenger who can make the case against the congressman. Democrat Haley Stevens, former chief of staff for President Obama's Auto Task Force, is running and has impressed party strategists in the early going. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

Minnesota.

1st District (Open; Tim Walz, DFL, running for governor). Trump 53%. The congressman's gubernatorial bid leaves his party with a difficult open seat to defend. The Democratic field is still shaking out but could include state Sen. Nick Frentz and others. Republican Jim Hagedorn, who lost a closer-than-expected race to Walz in 2016, is running again but is unlikely to have the field to himself. State Rep. Nels Pierson and others are looking. Hagedorn has the support of Rep. Tom Emmer. This is a top GOP takeover opportunity. Toss-up.

2nd District (Jason Lewis, R, elected 47%). Trump 47%. For much of the cycle, Democrats were convinced that Lewis was unelectable because of his provocative statements from years as a talk radio show host. But Trump's performance as well as a third-party candidate complicated their plans. 2016 nominee Angie Craig looks poised to run again while state Sen. Dan Schoen, a former police officer, is exploring a run as well. This is a top Democratic takeover opportunity. Toss-up.

3rd District (Erik Paulsen, R, re-elected 57%). Clinton 51%.

Paulsen was a key part of the Democrats' narrative about surging in the suburbs and Trump anchoring Republican incumbents. But it didn't work in this suburban Twin Cities district. Democrats believe they've landed a top recruit with wealthy vodka and gelato tycoon Dean Phillips. He gives DFLers a potentially strong candidate with an outsider profile. It's a tough district for Paulsen, and Phillips looks committed to running a better campaign than the previous nominee. Move from Likely R to Lean R.

7th District (Collin Peterson, DFL, re-elected 53%). Trump 62%. Peterson is no stranger to GOP target lists, but he probably didn't expect Trump to carry his district with over 60 percent of the vote. Republicans were hoping for a retirement but Peterson is running for re-election. Dave Hughes (who lost 52-47 percent in 2016) is running again, but state Rep. Tim Miller is considering a run and would likely be a stronger candidate. Lean D.

8th District (Rick Nolan, DFL, re-elected 50%). Trump 54%. Nolan defeated wealthy Republican Stewart Mills last year for the second



consecutive cycle and in impressive fashion with Clinton losing to Trump at the top of the ticket. The congressman looks conflicted on whether to run for governor (a decision is supposed to come in July) and an open seat would be problematic for

Rick Nolan

Democrats. Mills has the right of first refusal on the GOP side. Lean D, unless it's an open seat.

Missouri.

2nd District (Ann Wagner, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 53%. The congresswoman is expected to run for the Senate against Democratic incumbent Claire McCaskill, leaving an open seat. Most of the fight to replace her will likely be in the GOP primary. Solid R.

Montana.

At-Large District (VACANT, R). Trump 57%. *May 25, 2017 Special Election.* Wealthy former software executive Greg Gianforte (who lost a close gubernatorial race in 2016) is facing off against Democratic musician Rob Quist in the race to replace Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in the House. Gianforte has a narrow but distinct advantage, but the result is going to be much closer than Trump's 21-point victory. Quist has enough baggage to keep some outside Democratic support on the sidelines. Move from Likely R to Tilt R.

Nebraska.

2nd District (Don Bacon, R, elected 49%). Trump 48%. The Republican defeated Democratic Rep. Brad Ashford in one of the closest races in the country. Now Ashford or his wife, attorney Ann Ferlich Ashford, look committed to running in 2018. Democratic enthusiasm



House: Nevada - New York

took a hit when they failed to defeat the Omaha mayor recently after the race generated some buzz. Lean R.

Nevada.

2nd District (Mark Amodei, R, re-elected 58%). Trump 52%. Democrats are hoping Amodei retires or runs for statewide office to give them a shot at this seat. The congressman does face former Assemblywoman Sharron Angle in the GOP primary. She ran unsuccessfully for this seat in 2006, unsuccessfully for the Senate in 2010 and 2016. Under the current circumstances, the seat should remain in GOP hands with Amodei. Solid R.

3rd District (Jacky Rosen, D, elected 47%). Trump 48%. Nevada was a rare bright spot for Democrats on Election Night, including Rosen winning GOP Rep. Joe Heck's open seat as he ran for the Senate. But she defeated perennial candidate Danny Tarkanian, who underperformed Trump and may have been the only Republican who could have lost the race. State Sen. Scott Hammond (R) is a potential candidate here or in the neighboring 4th District. Other candidates will look as well, particularly if Rosen decides to challenge GOP Sen. Dean Heller. Tilts D.

4th District (Ruben Kihuen, D, elected 49%). Clinton 49.5%. The Democrat defeated GOP Rep. Cresent Hardy, who was a surprise victor in 2014. This is supposed to be a Democratic district, but Clinton failed to top 50 percent. Republicans are likely to focus their effort on winning back the 3rd District. Solid D.

New Hampshire.

1st District (Carol Shea-Porter, D, elected 44%). Trump 48%. The former congresswoman avenged her 2014 loss by defeating GOP Rep. Frank Guinta. But her election percentage should set off alarm bells (particularly against Guinta, who had significant baggage). With a candidate other than Guinta, Republicans should have a shot at taking back this seat. Former state liquor commission enforcement and licensing director Eddie Edwards is running but state Sen. Andy Sanborn is likely to join him and state Rep. John Burt and former state HHS secretary / former gubernatorial candidate John Stephens may run as well. In the current environment, Shea-Porter should have a narrow advantage. Move from Toss-Up to Tilts D.

New Jersey.

3rd District (Tom MacArthur, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 51%. Democrats targeted MacArthur early in the cycle because of Trump's performance but are now emboldened after the congressman's role in reviving the House Republicans' health care plan. Some Democratic strategists are still hoping MacArthur decides to challenge indicted Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez. Former Obama National Security Council aide Andrew Kim is running, but still faces a tall task against a wealthy incumbent in a district covered by expensive media markets (57 percent Philadelphia and 43 percent New York City). Keep as Solid R for now.

5th District (Josh Gottheimer, D, elected 51%). Trump 49%. GOP Rep. Scott Garrett appeared to do everything in his power to make himself vulnerable, and Gottheimer took advantage of it. Now the new Democratic incumbent is adjusting to life representing a Trump district

and will likely face a Republican with less baggage. Despite initial reports, state Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi has not ruled out a bid. Warren County Freeholder Jason Sarnoski is running and state party chairman Sam Raia is considering it. Toss-up, but Republicans need to land a credible challenger.

7th District (Leonard Lance, R, re-elected 54%). Clinton 49%. Lance is a throwback in style to the old Northeast Republicans, but Democrats are hoping he gets lumped in with a national party that is more conservative. Clinton carried the district against Trump, and Democrats are trying to land a top recruit. Bank vice president Linda Weber (D) is worth keeping an eye on but other Democrats are running. Likely R.

11th District (Rodney Frelinghuysen, R, re-elected 58%). Trump 49%. The presidential performance caused Democrats to target the race initially, but the congressman's recent unforced error spurred greater interest. Frelinghuysen alerted a local bank CEO that one of his employees was a Democratic activist. She eventually resigned and the congressman has taken his lumps in the media. Democrats also believe they have a top candidate in retired Navy helicopter pilot and former federal prosecutor Mikie Sherrill. She also has a law degree and a Master's from London School of Economics. State Assemblyman John McKeon is also interested but he is up for re-election this year, giving Sherrill time to bolster her campaign. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

New Mexico.

1st District (Open; Michelle Lujan Grisham, D, running for governor). Clinton 52%. The Albuquerque-based district hasn't been competitive in years, and probably won't be next year even with an open seat, so the Democratic primary is critical. Albuquerque voters will select a mayor this year and Democratic party strategists expect the second-place candidate in that race to leverage the loss into becoming the frontrunner for Congress. But recently former state party chairwoman Debra Haaland is running (she would be the first Native American woman in Congress), as are Albuquerque City Councilor Pat Davis and former University of New Mexico Iaw school dean Antoinette Sedillo Lopez. Former U.S. Attorney Damon Martinez (D) is considering a bid as well. Solid D.

2nd District (Steve Pearce, R, re-elected with 63%.) Trump 50%. Unless Pearce runs for governor, which he is considering, there probably won't be a lot to see here. The long-term Hispanic growth of the area probably gives Democrats an opportunity. But it doesn't look like it's there yet. Solid R.

New York.

1st District (Lee Zeldin, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 55%. Early last cycle, Democrats had high hopes for knocking off Zeldin. But Trump turned into an asset rather than a liability for the congressman, who trounced a once-touted candidate. Democrats are targeting Zeldin again. Brookhaven National Laboratory scientist Elaine DiMasi is running and Independence Party Assemblyman Fred Thiele (who caucuses with Democrats) is a potential challenger, but there is at least one more Democratic candidate exploring a run behind the scenes. Solid R for now.

3rd District (Tom Suozzi, D, elected 53%). Clinton 52%. Republican Jack Martins fell short in his bid to take over Democratic Rep. Steve

House: North Carolina - Oregon

Israel's open seat. Martins is running for county executive but Republicans have their eye on another challenger. Solid D for now.

11th District (Dan Donovan, R, re-elected 62%). Trump 54%. Democrats have been addicted to this seat since it was held by GOP Rep. Michael Grimm. It's the kind of seat that Democrats probably win in a wave, but there is little evidence they'd win a hand-to-hand local battle. There is a potentially attractive Democratic challenger (from the right part of the district this time) exploring the race behind the scenes. Donovan voted against the GOP health care plan. Solid R.

18th District (Sean Patrick Maloney, D, re-elected 56%). Trump 49%. Trump won the Hudson Valley district in a surprise, but the congressman will be difficult to beat. Despite Trump's performance, it's hard to see how Republicans beat Maloney with an unpopular Republican in the White House. Solid D unless the seat comes open or Republicans land a stellar candidate.

19th District (John Faso, R, elected 54%). Trump 51%. Faso struggled for much of the 2016 cycle against Democrat Zephyr Teachout but Clinton's late collapse helped Faso in the end. The Democratic opportunity is attracting candidates including Gareth Rhodes (a young former aide to Gov. Andrew Cuomo), local hospital executive Sue Sullivan, businessman Brian Flynn and potentially attorney Antonio Delgado. Teachout is not running for Congress again, but there is another candidate who might jump in and shake things up. Tilt R.

22nd District (Claudia Tenney, R, elected 47%). Trump 55%. Tenney has more than her share of Republican and Democratic critics,

but she navigated a competitive open seat race. Democrats believe she starts the race with higher negatives than the typical freshman, and she appeared to benefit from thirdparty candidate Martin Babinec. But she could be



Claudia Tenney

somewhat insulated by Trump's strength, but Democrats have their eye on a potentially strong recruit. Lean R.

24th District (John Katko, R, re-elected 61%). Clinton 49%. The district looks like a top takeover target on paper, except Katko is one of Republicans' strongest incumbents and Democrats don't have a natural challenger. We're back to waiting for term-limited Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner to decide after declining to run previously. Likely R for now.

27th District (Chris Collins, R, re-elected 67%). Trump 60%. The congressman was one of Trump's earliest and only surrogates on the Hill throughout the campaign, and it's not surprising now that we've seen the President's performance in the Buffalo-based district. But Collins is now under investigation by the Office of Congressional Ethics and that could shake up the race. Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, who lost to Collins in 2012 in a redrawn district, was never on the verge of challenging the congressman in 2018, but Democrats have their eye on another

candidate. Based on the district fundamentals (Mitt ROmney won by a dozen points), Solid R until Democrats land a credible challenger.

North Carolina.

9th District (Robert Pittenger, R, re-elected 58%). Trump 54%. The federal investigation into the congressman closed without charges, but Democrats aren't letting Pittenger off the hook. The party is poised to land an interesting recruit: solar energy financier Dan McCready, who is a Duke University and Harvard Business School graduate that served in Iraq with the Marines. The congressman could also be vulnerable again in a primary considering he won in 2016 by 134 votes. Solid R but worth watching.

North Dakota.

At-Large District (Kevin Cramer, R, re-elected 69%). Trump 64%. Republicans cooled on Cramer's Senate prospects, which makes it likely he runs for re-election. In spite of his comments about women's fashion, he's in fine shape at this point. Solid R.

Ohio.

1st District (Steve Chabot, R, re-elected 59%). Trump 51%. This doesn't look like a great opportunity on paper, but Democrats are recruiting one of the most well-known local politicians: Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune. African-American state Rep. Alice Reece (D) may also run and a third potential candidate could attract Democratic interest from outside the district. It's still only a Democratic scenario, but it could develop into a legitimate opportunity. Solid R.

7th District (Bob Gibbs, R, re-elected 64%). Trump 63%. Former retired Navy pilot/Yale law school graduate Ken Harbaugh (D) is exploring a challenge to Gibbs. If the Democratic candidate with the same last name as the University of Michigan head football coach wins an Ohio seat that Trump won by 30 points, that will tell you all you need to know about the cycle. Solid R.

13th District (Tim Ryan, D, re-elected 68%). Clinton 51%. Ryan announced he would not run for governor, taking away a key element of any GOP takeover plan. Solid D.

16th District (Open; Jim Renacci, R, running for governor). Trump 56%. The open seat gives Democrats a small window of opportunity, but the fight is still likely to be on the Republican side. State Rep. Christina Hagan, 29, is running and could be a welcome addition to a GOP conference who lacks female Members. Solid R.

Oklahoma.

1st District (Open; Jim Bridenstine, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 61%. The congressman told a local group back in 2015 that he would abide by his three-term limit pledge and candidates are starting to make moves based on that assumption. Former Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris is running and retired Army intelligence officer Andy Coleman and businessman Kevin Hern may run as well. Solid R.

Oregon.

5th District (Kurt Schrader, D, re-elected 53%). Clinton 48%. This Willamette Valley district always looks like an attractive GOP target on



House: Pennsylvania - Texas

paper, but Republicans haven't been able to find the right candidate to win in nearly 20 years. Solid D.

Pennsylvania.

3rd District (Mike Kelly, R, unopposed in 2016). Trump 61%. The congressman is seriously considering a U.S. Senate run and could leave his Northwest Pennsylvania seat open. A host of Republicans would run in that scenario, as might former Erie Mayor Rick Fillipi. Solid R.

6th District (Ryan Costello, R, re-elected 57%). Clinton 48%. The congressman was on the outskirts of Republican concern last cycle but Democrats are making a more concerted effort this time, particularly with Chrissy Houlahan (D), executive of the And1 footwear company. Construction company Bob Dettore (D) is also running and Lindy Li is interested in running in a Southeast PA district again. She ran in 2016 and was an impressive fundraiser, but didn't make the ballot. Likely R, but this is the type of suburban/exurban district Democrats need to win.

7th District (Pat Meehan, R, re-elected 60%). Clinton 49%. This might be another must-win seat for Democrats with a tough GOP incumbent. The close partisanship and demographics point to a competitive race, but Meehan will be hard to beat without a wave. Realtor/small business owner Elizabeth Moro, attorney Dan Muroff (who received 10 percent in 2016 primary in 2nd District), and bioengineer Molly Sheehan (doesn't live in district) are running. Likely R.

8th District (Brian Fitzpatrick, R, elected 54%). Trump 48%. At one point in the fall, Democrats were convinced that this suburban Philadelphia seat would go heavily for Clinton and help the party down the ballot. But Trump ended up carrying the district and GOP Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick's brother Brian won the open seat. Democrats are still recruiting. Lean R.

16th District (Lloyd Smucker, R, elected 54%). Trump 51%. GOP Rep. Joe Pitts's open seat was supposed to be the bellwether for a Democratic wave last cycle. It was, just not in the direction Democrats wanted. Christina Hartman, the 2016 Democratic nominee, overperformed initial expectations and could run again. Lean R.

17th District (Matt Cartwright, D, re-elected 54%). Trump 53%. Republicans may have missed their opportunity to defeat the congressman when Trump won the district by 10 points. GOP strategists think they've zeroed in on a strong challenger, but they won't sneak up on Cartwright this time. Likely D.

South Carolina.

5th District (VACANT, R). Trump 57%. *June 20, 2017 Special Election*. GOP Rep. Mick Mulvaney resigned his seat to become Trump's director of the Office of Management and Budget. Former State Rep. Ralph Norman edged out state Sen. Tommy Pope in Tuesday's primary runoff, although the race went to a recount. Norman had support from Club for Growth, former Sen. Jim DeMint, and a small donation from former governor/United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley. Pope had the backing of Rep. Trey Gowdy and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Norman will face former Goldman Sachs executive Archie Parnell (D) next month. Democrats haven't done much in this race, particularly compared to the Georgia and Montana elections. Solid R.

South Dakota.

At-Large District (Open; Kristi Noem, R, running for governor). Trump 62%. The open seat gives aspiring Republicans a top prize. Former public utilities commissioner Dusty Johnson, also a former chief of staff to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, is likely to run and Secretary of State Shantel Krebs is considering a bid as well. Solid R.

Tennessee.

6th District (Diane Black, R, re-elected 71%). Trump 73%. The congresswoman is likely to run for governor, leaving behind an open seat and spawning a crowded GOP primary. State Rep. Judd Matheny and state Sens. Mae Beavers, William Lamberth, and Farrell Hail are potential contenders. Black won her initial primary in 2010 with 30 percent of the vote. Solid R.

Texas.

A July trial could force Republicans to redraw the congressional map, but we're analyzing races under current lines until a new map is implemented.

3rd District (Open; Sam Johnson, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 55%. Trump didn't win the district overwhelmingly but Democrats don't have it on their target list. GOP state Sen. Van Taylor (who lost a challenge to Democratic Rep. Chet Edwards in 2006) will be a top contender because of his personal money and because he represents 94 percent of the congressional district in the Legislature. Solid R.

7th District (John Culberson, R, re-elected 56%). Clinton 49%. Democrats can smell a targeted race -- in a district Clinton carried



-- against a longtime incumbent who won with an underwhelming margin. Democrats are hoping local nonprofit director Alex Triantaphyllis, MD Anderson cancer researcher Jason Westin, attorney Lizzie Pannill

John Culberson

Fletcher, attorney Collin Cox or Laura Moser (who has been living in Washington, D.C.) develop into a top-tier challenger. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Culberson should be able to raise money, but Democrats will test whether he is up for a tough race. Likely R.

16th District (Open; Beto O'Rourke, D, running for Senate). Clinton 68%. The congressman is challenging GOP Sen. Ted Cruz and leaving behind heavily Hispanic and Democratic seat anchored by El Paso. El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar looks like the initial frontrunner, but state Rep. Cesar Blanco would be a credible candidate (though he might defer to Escobar). Solid D.

23rd District (Will Hurd, R, re-elected 48%). Clinton 49.8%. Hurd proved why many Republicans consider him to be one of their toughest incumbents by winning re-election against former Rep. Pete Gallego while Trump lost the border district. But that won't stop Democrats from

House: Utah - Wisconsin

taking another shot at the congressman. State-level USDA executive director Judy Canales is a potential candidate and Gallego may run again but Democratic strategists have their eyes on another contender. Toss-up.

32nd District (Pete Sessions, R, re-elected 71%). Clinton 49%. Democrats didn't even field a candidate against the congressman last year, but Clinton carried the district and the party has set their sights on the seat. Former Clinton campaign staffer Ed Meier (who was going to head her transition team) is running along with civil rights attorney Colin Allred, who played football at local Hillcrest High School and briefly in the NFL. Children's Medical Center Senior Vice President and General Counsel Regina Montoya is also mentioned. Painter/former President George W. Bush is a constituent. Move from Solid R to Likely R.

Utah.

3rd District (Open; Jason Chaffetz, R, not seeking re-election). Trump 47%. Chaffetz announced his resignation, effective June 30 but the timing of a special election is unclear. The early list of possible candidates includes Utah Valley University President Matt Holland, Provo Mayor John Curtis, former presidential candidate Evan McMullin, state House Speaker Greg Hughes, state Sen. Deidre Henderson (a former Chaffetz campaign manager), and state Rep. Dan McCoy. Don't be deceived by Trump falling below 50 percent in the district since Clinton received 23 percent of the vote. Solid R.

Virginia.

2nd District (Scott Taylor, R, elected 61%). Trump 49%. Democrats are hoping the new congressman moves too far to the right during his first term and Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine runs strong in this battleground region of the commonwealth. Democrats need a strong challenger and some help from the national climate. Solid R.

10th District (Barbara Comstock, R, re-elected 53%). Clinton 52%. The competitive suburban district will continue to receive a lot of



attention because of its proximity to Washington, D.C. Comstock overperformed Trump, but the President might be digging himself a deeper hole. State Sen. Jennifer Wexton is running, has support from Reps.

Barbara Comstock

Don McEachin and Gerry Connolly, and strategists are encouraged by her Loudoun County base. But she won't clear the primary field. Even though First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe declined to run, Lindsey Stover (former Texas Rep. Chet Edwards' chief of staff), former Fairfax Education Association teachers' union president Kimberly Adams and Army veteran Daniel Helmer are running. Local Democratic leaders will decide this fall whether the nominee will be chosen by a primary or convention, but Wexton should have the advantage in either scenario. Move from Lean R to Tilts R.

Washington.

5th District (Cathy McMorris Rodgers, re-elected 60%). Trump 52%. Spokane City Council President Ben Stuckart (D) is challenging McMorris Rodgers, the most senior woman in Republican congressional leadership. Former state Senate majority leader Lisa Brown just stepped down as chancellor at Washington State University and may run as well. Some Democrats believe she'd be the stronger candidate. Solid R but worth keeping an eye on.

8th District (Dave Reichert, R, re-elected 60%). Clinton 48%. Democratic excitement grew when Reichert was floated as a potential new director of the FBI, but until he leaves the seat, the former sheriff will be difficult to topple. Solid R.

West Virginia.

1st District (David McKinley, R, re-elected 69%) Trump 68%. McKinley is unlikely to jump into the potentially crowded GOP Senate race against Joe Manchin, but he might have a competitive re-election against attorney Ralph Baxter (D), who has some personal money. Solid R.

2nd District (Alex Mooney, R, re-elected 58%). Trump 66%. Democrats have a scenario where the non-presidential year allows them to win a local election in the middle swath of West Virginia. It's probably not going to happen unless they get a candidate who can buck the national party label. Solid R.

3rd District (Open; Evan Jenkins, R, running for Senate). Trump 73%. State Republican Party chairman Conrad Lucas and former state Rep. Rick Snuffer (who lost to Democratic Rep. Nick Rahall 54-46 percent in 2012) are two of the first GOP candidates to jump into the open seat race. State Del. Rupie Phillips, a Democrat-turned-Independent-turned-Republican, is also running. Democratic state Sen. Richard Ojeda has an interesting story and track record, but probably not enough to overcome the lean of the district. Solid R.

Wisconsin.

3rd District (Ron Kind, D, ran unopposed). Trump 49%. Republicans probably wish they recruited a candidate last year against Kind considering Trump defeated Clinton in the district. Republican Dan Kapanke, who lost to Kind by about 4 points in 2010, may run again, but Republicans are really waiting for an open seat. Likely D.

CALENDAR 2017

May 25	Montana's At-Large District Special General Election
June 6	California's 34th Special General Election
June 6	New Jersey Gubernatorial Primary Elections
June 13	Virginia Gubernatorial Primary Elections
June 20	Georgia's 6th Special Runoff Election
June 20	South Carolina's 5th Special General Election
August 15	Alabama Senate Special Primary Election
Sept. 26	Alabama Senate Special Runoff Election
Nov. 7	Virginia, New Jersey Gubernatorial Elections