

Inside Elections

with

Nathan L. Gonzales

Nonpartisan Analysis

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2024 Senate Overview: Three's Company

By Nathan L. Gonzales, Erin Covey, and Jacob Rubashkin

Republicans have yet another good opportunity to win control of the Senate in 2024. They just need some strong candidates to do it.

Considering the favorable Senate battlefield, narrow Democratic majority, and an unpopular Democratic president in the White House, GOP strategists are cautiously optimistic that they'll win the majority this cycle. And yet Republican candidates are not clamoring to run.

Of course it's still a year and a half before the elections, but the lack of contenders is striking compared to the circumstances and opportunities. The conditions should attract a crowd of GOP contenders, but that hasn't been the case thus far.

Even though Republicans have at least eight offensive targets, the GOP is laser-focused on three states: West Virginia, Montana, and Ohio. Yet, the Republican fields in all three places are either uncertain or lack a top-tier challenger.

There's also a surprising dearth of Republican candidates in states that Joe Biden carried narrowly in 2020 and will be presidential battlegrounds again in 2024, including Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. Yes, candidates have time to enter the race, but Republicans may not need top tier recruits if the political environment is working in their direction.

Democrats' path to retaining the majority relies on the strength of their incumbents, as it did in 2022. Their demonstrated electoral success and fundraising are critical, and delays in GOP candidates entering the race or competitive GOP primaries could allow Democratic incumbents to exploit those advantages.

But Democrats are also going to feel pressure from the top of the ballot. Biden will likely lose West Virginia, Montana, and Ohio, forcing candidates to overperform. But if Biden doesn't win Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin as he did in 2020, Democrats are unlikely to win all of those races, based on the alignment between presidential and congressional results.

The circumstances of the individual races look better for Democrats than the broader national perspective. But they have no margin for error.

Republicans will only need to defeat a single Democratic senator for a majority, if they win the presidential race, or two senators if Democrats keep control of the White House, giving the vice president a tie-breaking vote in a 50-50 Senate.

Republicans have an even better chance of gaining control than they did in 2022, but the party proved last cycle that it's possible to fumble good opportunities.

There are multiple paths to the majority for Republicans, but they'll have to take it from Democrats. It won't just be handed to them.

2024 Senate Ratings

BATTLEGROUND

Democratic-Held (8)

MI Open (Stabenow, D)
Baldwin (D-Wis.)
Brown (D-Ohio)
Casey (D-Penn.)
Kaine (D-Va.)
Manchin (D-W.V.)
Rosen (D-Nev.)
Tester (D-Mont.)

Republican-Held (0)

Independent-Held (1)

Sinema (I-Ariz.)

Solid Democratic (14)

CA Open (Feinstein, D)
Cantwell (D-Wa.)
Cardin (D-Md.)
Carper (D-Del.)
Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)
Heinrich (D-N.M.)
Hirono (D-Hawaii)
King (I-Maine)
Klobuchar (DFL-Minn.)
Menendez (D-N.J.)
Murphy (D-Ct.)
Sanders (I-Vt.)
Warren (D-Mass.)
Whitehouse (D-R.I.)

Solid Republican (11)

IN Open (Braun, R)
Barrasso (R-Wy.)
Blackburn (R-Tenn.)
Cramer (R-N.D.)
Cruz (R-Texas)
Fischer (R-Neb.)
Hawley (R-Mo.)
Ricketts (R-Neb.)
Romney (R-Utah)
Scott (R-Fla.)
Wicker (R-Miss.)

Takeovers in *Italics*, # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans

CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------|--|
| May 16 | Kentucky Governor Primary |
| Aug. 8 | Mississippi Governor Primary |
| Aug. 10 | Louisiana Governor Filing Deadline |
| Aug. 29 | Mississippi Governor Primary Runoff (if necessary) |

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Arizona. **Kyrsten Sinema (I) elected 2018 as a Democrat (50%). Filing deadline April 8.** Several unknown factors make it difficult to forecast Arizona's upcoming Senate race.

The incumbent senator has yet to announce her 2024 plans. Sinema's \$2.1 million fundraising haul this past quarter provides more evidence that she's seriously considering running for re-election, and the *Wall Street Journal* reported that she's begun strategizing about a potential timeline for her campaign. But a firm decision doesn't appear to be imminent. The senator has till next spring to make a final decision — the period for independent candidates to gather the more than 40,000 signatures they need to make the ballot starts March 10 and ends April 8.

Another potential candidate, 2022 GOP gubernatorial nominee Kari Lake, is also on the fence about running. Lake's fixation with baseless election fraud theories (both about her own election last November and the 2020 presidential election) alienates her from independents and more moderate Republicans in Arizona, but she remains popular with enough Republican voters to win a competitive primary.



Kyrsten Sinema

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb is so far the only Republican who has announced a Senate campaign. Though Lamb has aligned himself with the MAGA wing of the party, some Republican strategists believe he has the potential to win over a broader portion of the electorate than Lake. Aside from Lake and Lamb, a number of Republicans who ran in 2022 are considering running for the Senate: Republican Senate nominee Blake Masters, former Arizona Board of Regents member and gubernatorial candidate Karrin Taylor Robson, and solar power executive and Senate candidate Jim Lamon. Republicans believe Robson and Lamon are less likely to run than Masters, who's said publicly that he's "seriously considering" running for Senate. But Lake's decision will have a significant impact on these potential candidates' prospects.

And while Rep. Ruben Gallego has a clear path to the Democratic nomination, it's not clear how much outside help the progressive congressman will receive. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and the DSCC, Senate Democrats' official campaign arm, haven't signaled

whether they'd support Sinema if she ran for re-election. But prominent Democratic groups including EMILY's List have already broken with the senator as she's alienated the Democratic base in Arizona.

If Sinema does run, it's unclear whether she'd pull more votes away from Gallego or from the eventual Republican nominee — her approval rating is roughly the same among Democrats, Republicans, and independents. If Republicans nominate Lake (or someone similar), Sinema could make more inroads with moderate voters. But the GOP still has a slight advantage in the purple state, according to *Inside Election's* Baseline metric, and a more moderate Republican nominee would have a solid chance at winning, whether it's a two-way or three-way race. Battleground.

J.L. Partners, April 10-12 (RVs) — GOP primary ballot: Lake 38%, Robson 10%, Lamb 8%, Masters 7%, Abe Hamadeh 4%, Lamon 3%. Lake over Lamb, 54%-22%.

OH Predictive Insights, Jan. 31-Feb. 9 (RVs) — General election ballot: Gallego (D) 32%, Former Gov. Doug Ducey (R) 27%, Sinema (I) 17%. Gallego (D) 31%, Taylor-Robson (R) 24%, Sinema (I) 21%. Gallego 33%, Masters 24%, Sinema 22%. Gallego 34%, Lake 26%, Sinema 19%.

California. **Dianne Feinstein (D) elected 1992 Special (54%), 1994 (47%), 2000 (56%), 2006 (59%), 2012 (63%), 2018 (54%). Dec. 8, 2023.**

Amid questions surrounding her cognitive health, Feinstein announced in February that she wouldn't seek re-election next year. Then in March, the 89-year-old Democrat was diagnosed with shingles, and has been recovering in California for nearly two months, hamstringing Democrats' efforts to move nominees through the Judiciary Committee. Feinstein asked Schumer to temporarily replace her on the committee, but Republicans blocked the move, and pressure is beginning to mount on the incumbent to resign from her position entirely. California Rep. Ro Khanna was the first House member to call on her to resign, while other members of the delegation, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have pushed back on that suggestion. In 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom said he would appoint a Black woman to the Senate if Feinstein resigned. While Newsom could change his mind, allies of Rep. Barbara Lee, who is already running for the seat, believe he could appoint her in such a situation. California Secretary of State Shirley Weber would be another option.

In the meantime, the Senate race has begun to heat up. Lee and fellow Reps. Adam Schiff and Katie Porter are all vying for spots in the general election, in what could be one of the most expensive Senate races this

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Nathan L. Gonzales

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609 H St NE 4th Floor, Washington, 20002
202-546-2822



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



Jacob Rubashkin
Reporter & Analyst
jacob@insideelections.com
@jacobrubashkin



Erin Covey
Reporter & Analyst
erin@insideelections.com
@ercovey

Ryan Matsumoto
Contributing Analyst
ryan@insideelections.com

Bradley Wascher
Contributing Analyst
bradley@insideelections.com

Will Taylor
Production Artist
will@insideelections.com

Stuart Rothenberg
Senior Editor
stu@insideelections.com

@InsideElections facebook.com/InsideElections

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cycle. Both Schiff and Porter are fundraising powerhouses, pulling in \$6.5 million and \$4.5 million through March 31, respectively. Lee has never been a strong fundraiser — she raised just \$1.4 million in the first three months of the year — and will likely have to rely in part on help from a super PAC that has been spun up to support her. She also begins with lower name recognition than her opponents. Both Schiff and Lee have earned formidable endorsements, Lee from half of California’s statewide elected officials and many Bay Area mayors, and Schiff from much of the congressional delegation including Pelosi. Porter has fewer ties to the state’s political establishment.



Barbara Lee

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Republican Eric Early, who ran for Congress in 2020 against Schiff, and placed third in the 2022 state attorney general race, is running as well. If he can consolidate GOP support, that would likely ensure him a spot in the general election. But it’s not obvious if he’ll be able to do so, with five other lesser-known GOP candidates already filing to run and potentially many more on the way. In 2022’s Senate election, 10 Republicans appeared on the ballot. Republican Mark Meuser, who like Early was a former statewide nominee, won 15 percent of the vote. That was good enough to make it to the general election, but only because there was just one Democrat on the ballot. With three Democrats likely splitting between 60 and 65 percent of the primary vote, Early will likely need to muster 20 percent or more of the vote to progress to the general election. Solid Democratic.

Connecticut. Chris Murphy (D) elected 2012 (55%), 2018 (60%). Filing deadline June 11, 2024. Murphy reported \$5.8 million in the bank on March 31 and has no announced opponents. Republicans came up short in all of their targeted Nutmeg State races last year. Solid Democratic.

Delaware. Tom Carper (D) elected 2000 (56%), 2006 (70%), 2012 (66%), 2018 (60%). Filing deadline July 9, 2024. At 75 years old, Carper is still publicly undecided about running for a fourth term. If he runs again, he will be the prohibitive favorite, though there’s always the possibility he could face a primary challenger from his left flank. Carper, who has held statewide office since 1977, doesn’t seem to be in a rush; he raised less than \$200,000 in the first three months of the year. If he does retire, then Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester is a natural successor. Delaware also has an open gubernatorial race next year, so aspiring Democrats will have options. Solid Democratic.

Florida. Rick Scott (R) elected 2018 (50%). Filing deadline July 22, 2024. After a brutal midterm election cycle, Democratic prospects in the Sunshine State remain dim. Democrats haven’t won a Senate race here since 2012, when then-Sen. Bill Nelson won re-election. Though Scott has never won an election by more than 1.2 points, the state’s rightward shift since 2018 gives him a clear advantage this cycle.

Democrats have yet to find a candidate to take on Scott. Former Rep.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, who was ousted in 2020 by Republican Carlos Giménez from her South Florida district, is considering running. The 52-year-old Ecuadorian immigrant currently works as a senior adviser for Giffords, a gun violence prevention organization. Former Rep. Stephanie Murphy, a Blue Dog Democrat who represented Orlando before deciding not to seek re-election last year, hasn’t ruled out a

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2024 House Ratings

Toss-Up (4D, 8R)

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| CA 13 (Duarte, R) | NY 3 (Santos, R) |
| CA 27 (Garcia, R) | NY 4 (D’Esposito, R) |
| CO 8 (Caraveo, D) | NY 17 (Lawler, R) |
| MI 7 (Open; Slotkin, D) | NY 22 (Williams, R) |
| NJ 7 (Kean Jr., R) | OR 5 (DeRemer, R) |
| NM 2 (Vasquez, D) | WA 3 (Perez, D) |

Tilt Democratic (3D)

| |
|-------------------------|
| CA 47 (Open; Porter, D) |
| PA 7 (Wild, D) |
| PA 8 (Cartwright, D) |

Tilt Republican (7R)

| |
|----------------------|
| AZ 1 (Schweikert, R) |
| AZ 6 (Ciscomani, R) |
| CA 22 (Valadao, R) |
| IA 3 (Nunn, R) |
| MI 10 (James, R) |
| NY 19 (Molinaro, R) |
| VA 2 (Kiggans, R) |

Lean Democratic (14D)

| |
|----------------------|
| AK AL (Peltola, D) |
| CT 5 (Hayes, D) |
| IL 17 (Sorensen, D) |
| ME 2 (Golden, D) |
| MI 3 (Scholten, D) |
| MN 2 (Craig, DFL) |
| NV 1 (Titus, D) |
| NV 3 (Lee, D) |
| NH 1 (Pappas, D) |
| NY 18 (Ryan, D) |
| OR 6 (Salinas, D) |
| PA 17 (Deluzio, D) |
| VA 7 (Spanberger, D) |
| WA 8 (Schrier, D) |

Lean Republican (6R)

| |
|-----------------------|
| CA 41 (Calvert, R) |
| CA 45 (Steel, R) |
| CO 3 (Boebert, R) |
| NE 2 (Bacon, R) |
| NY 1 (LaLota, R) |
| TX 15 (De La Cruz, R) |

| | GOP | DEM |
|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Solid | 172 | 168 |
| Likely/Lean/Tilt | 25 | 29 |
| Total | 197 | 197 |
| Toss-up | | 12 |
| Ohio/North Carolina | | 29 |
| Needed for majority | | 218 |

Likely Democratic (12D)

| |
|----------------------|
| CA 49 (Levin, D) |
| FL 9 (Soto, D) |
| FL 23 (Moskowitz, D) |
| IN 1 (Mrvan, D) |
| KS 3 (Davids, D) |
| MD 6 (Trone, D) |
| MI 8 (Kildee, D) |
| NV 4 (Horsford, D) |
| NH 2 (Kuster, D) |
| TX 28 (Cuellar, D) |
| TX 34 (Gonzalez, D) |
| VA 10 (Wexton, D) |

Likely Republican (12R)

| |
|------------------------|
| CA 3 (Kiley, R) |
| CA 40 (Kim, R) |
| FL 13 (Luna, R) |
| FL 27 (Salazar, R) |
| IA 1 (Miller-Meeke, R) |
| IA 2 (Hinson, R) |
| MT 1 (Zinke, R) |
| PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R) |
| PA 10 (Perry, R) |
| SC 1 (Mace, R) |
| WI 1 (Steil, R) |
| WI 3 (Van Orden, R) |

Ohio and North Carolina ratings are being withheld pending new maps.

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campaign either — she seriously considered running against GOP Sen. Marco Rubio last cycle. No one in Florida’s current congressional delegation appears interested in making the jump. Florida Democrats have floated a few other politicians at the state level who could run: state Sen. Shevrin Jones, state Reps. Anna Eskamani and Fentrice Driskell, former Hillsborough County State Attorney Andrew Warren, and Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer.

Meanwhile, Scott has drawn a primary challenge from Keith Gross, a wealthy attorney from central Florida. In his announcement video, Gross calls himself “someone that isn’t getting rich by riding fraud and corruption,” alluding to Scott’s company paying a \$1.7 billion fine after pleading guilty to charges related to Medicare fraud. But Gross’ campaign is running into potential legal trouble. Solid Republican.

Hawaii. **Mazie Hirono (D) elected 2012 (63%), 2018 (71%). Filing deadline June 4, 2024.** The 75-year-old senator announced in February that she’d run for re-election, and she’s heavily favored to win a third term in deep blue Hawaii. The progressive isn’t expected to face any serious intra-party opposition, and the political make-up of the state makes it incredibly unlikely that a Republican could present a serious challenge in the general election. Solid Democratic.

Indiana. **Open; Mike Braun (R) not seeking re-election. Filing deadline February 2024.** The race to succeed Braun initially looked like it was shaping up to feature a contentious Republican primary as several ambitious Hoosiers eyed the open Senate seat. But Rep. Jim Banks, whose House leadership hopes sputtered out last year, succeeded in clearing the primary field, giving him a relatively smooth path to the upper chamber in this solidly Republican state. Banks raised \$1.2 million in the first three months of the year and had \$2.3 million in the bank at the end of March.

Banks’ prospective opponents, ranging from former Gov. Mitch Daniels to his colleague Rep. Victoria Spartz, all decided not to run. The congressman already had the backing of the anti-tax Club for Growth, and after Daniels announced he wouldn’t run, endorsements from former President Donald Trump, Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Barrasso, and the NRSC quickly followed. The committee, which has typically stayed out of intra-party battles, is engaging in GOP primaries this cycle under Sen. Steve Daines’ leadership, and the group’s early support of Banks was the first sign of its new tactic.

Some Indiana Democrats are hoping that former Sen. Joe Donnelly will make a comeback. Donnelly, the last Democrat to be elected statewide, is currently serving as Biden’s ambassador to the Vatican. Another prominent Indiana Democrat, former White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain, made it clear he had no interest in the seat, telling *Politico* “absolutely not” when asked if he’d consider running. Trump won the Hoosier State by 16 points in 2020, and any Democrat would have a steep climb to the Senate in 2024. Solid Republican.

Maine. **Angus King (I) elected 2012 (53%), 2018 (54%). Filing deadline March 15.** King still hasn’t elaborated on his plans since December, when his office indicated he was going to run again. He raised just \$222,000 in the first quarter of 2023. One Democrat has filed, Brunswick environmental consultant David Costello, but that doesn’t mean much for King’s odds. He’s won two three-way races with a

majority of the vote, and Maine’s new ranked-choice voting system means the Democratic-caucusing independent can count on ultimately consolidating the vote from whatever Democrat appears on the ballot. If the 79-year-old King changes his mind and retires, there could be a competitive Democratic primary in which 2nd District Rep. Jared Golden would start out strong — though 2020 Senate nominee Sara Gideon still has \$4.7 million left in her campaign account and could run again. Solid Independent.

Maryland. **Ben Cardin (D) elected 2006 (54%), 2012 (56%), 2018 (65%). Filing deadline Jan. 19.** Cardin said in January he’d announce his plans in February or March, but he’s been mum since. However, he raised just \$15,000 in the first three months of 2023, a paltry sum that set off a renewed round of retirement rumors. The ultimate decision

may rest with his wife Myrna, several Democratic operatives say.

If Cardin does retire, there could be a heated primary between Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and wealthy 6th District



Courtesy Prince George’s County, MD

Angela Alsobrooks

Rep. David Trone. Rep. Jamie Raskin, who gained national attention for his role in the impeachment hearings, could also run, though his recent cancer diagnosis — and the prospect of a committee chairmanship if Democrats take back the House — could keep him out of the race. Rep. John Sarbanes is a possibility too; his father held this seat for three decades. Montgomery County Councilman Will Jawando could be a longshot candidate, though if Raskin runs for Senate then Jawando would be well-positioned to run for Raskin’s House seat. Solid Democratic.

Massachusetts. **Elizabeth Warren (D) elected 2012 (54%), 2018 (60%). Filing deadline May 28, 2024.** Warren announced her re-election bid and shouldn’t have a problem winning a third term. Former Gov. Charlie Baker would be a dream candidate for Republicans, but he just started a new job as president of the NCAA and would have trouble in a primary even if he did run. Baker’s lieutenant governor Karyn Polito might be an interesting candidate as well, but would face similar difficulties winning over a conservative primary electorate. Solid Democratic.

Michigan. **Open; Debbie Stabenow (D) not seeking re-election. Filing deadline April 23, 2024.** Michigan has a deep bench of ambitious Democratic politicians who could have run for this open Senate seat. But Democratic Rep. Elissa Slotkin, a former CIA analyst who represents one of the most competitive congressional districts in the country, has solidified her position as the clear frontrunner for the Democratic nomination — partially thanks to the efforts of Stabenow and Schumer, who worked to ensure their preferred candidate wouldn’t have to devote too many resources on a contentious primary.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, state Sen.

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Mallory McMorro, and Reps. Haley Stevens and Debbie Dingell have all ruled out campaigns over the past two months, putting Slotkin in a strong position to win the Democratic nomination. Her only potential opponents are actor Hill Harper and State Board of Education member Pamela Pugh. Harper, who's known for his roles on *CSI: NY* and *The Good Doctor*, is moving toward a Senate announcement. Pugh, who also served as the Chief Public Health Advisor in Flint, is likely to run as well. Both Pugh and Harper could win



Elissa Slotkin

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

support from Black political leaders in the state, some of whom have expressed concern about the lack of Black Democratic representation in the state's congressional delegation. But Slotkin has a head start in fundraising (she raised \$3 million this past quarter) and has locked up early endorsements from Democratic outside groups EMILY's List and End Citizens United.

The potential Republican primary field is much murkier. Several Republicans who ran in last cycle's gubernatorial race have been floated as potential Senate candidates. James Craig, a former police chief of Detroit, told the *Detroit News* that he's taking a "real critical look" at running. But Craig's gubernatorial campaign was riddled with organizational issues last year — he didn't even make the GOP primary ballot due to fraudulent petition signatures. Former Rep. Peter Meijer, who was ousted by a Trump-endorsed challenger in 2022, is weighing a campaign as well. He would be a stronger Republican candidate in a general election, but he could have trouble getting through a primary given his vote to impeach Trump in 2021. Republican strategists believe Tudor Dixon, the gubernatorial nominee last cycle, isn't likely to run. But businessman Kevin Rinke, who came in second place in the primary, could run. Other names floated include Reps. Lisa McClain and Bill Huizenga, and state Sen. Ruth Johnson. Rep. John James, Republicans' Senate nominee in 2018 and 2020, is planning to run for re-election in his House seat. The only Republican who's filed to run so far is Michigan State Board of Education member Nikki Snyder. Battleground.

Minnesota. Amy Klobuchar (DFL) elected 2006 (58%), 2012 (65%), 2018 (60%). Filing deadline June 4, 2024. Republicans' attempts to compete in the North Star State have fallen short over the past few cycles — Democrats control every statewide office and the state Legislature after 2022. And Klobuchar has a history of outperforming Democrats; in 2018, she ran several points ahead of the Democratic nominees for governor, attorney general, and the Senate special election. But with the right recruit, Republicans believe they could force Democrats on defense next November. Solid Democratic.

Mississippi. Roger Wicker (R) appointed 2007, elected 2008 special (55%), 2012 (57%), 2018 (59%). Filing deadline March 1. There's one declared Democratic candidate against Wicker: Vicksburg attorney Ty Pinkins, an Army veteran who worked at the Mississippi Center for Justice. Democrats in the Magnolia State are focused on beating

Gov. Tate Reeves in this year's election, not on Wicker. But if their nominee, Brandon Presley, can knock off Reeves, then the race against Wicker might attract some more attention, given how few offensive opportunities Democrats have elsewhere. Solid Republican.

Missouri. Josh Hawley (R) elected 2018 (51%). Filing deadline March 2024. Hawley hasn't formally announced his 2024 plans yet but looks like he's running for re-election. Earlier this month he told Fox News that he'd have "more to say on [2024] in coming days and weeks." Despite his polarizing national reputation, Hawley should be in a strong position to win re-election in a state that Trump won by 15 points in 2020.

Democrat Lucas Kunce, a Marine veteran who ran for Missouri's open Senate seat last cycle, announced he was challenging Hawley early this year. He raised \$1.1 million in the first quarter of the year, in comparison to the senator's \$600,000. But Kunce has a long way to go before he can prove that Missouri will be competitive this cycle. Solid Republican.

Montana. Jon Tester (D) elected 2006 (49%), 2012 (49%), 2018 (50%). Filing deadline March 11. Tester is running for re-election, which is a major boost to Democratic hopes of retaining this seat and Senate control. The three-term farmer from Big Sandy is popular in the state, and he was the top fundraiser of any Senate incumbent in the first three months of the year, pulling in \$5 million.

The GOP field is unsettled. 2nd District Rep. Matt Rosendale looks likely to run, with backing from the anti-tax Club for Growth but not from other Washington Republicans wary of repeating his 2018 loss to Tester. Gov. Greg Gianforte and Sen. Steve Daines (Tester's colleague and the chairman of the NRSC) are actively recruiting Tim Sheehy, a retired Navy SEAL and government contractor, into the race. Sheehy is personally wealthy and GOP strategists like that he doesn't have a voting record. But he hasn't made a final decision.

If Sheehy opts against running, those backing him would look instead to state Attorney General Austin Knudsen (it's unlikely both would run). Rep. Ryan Zinke, who has been angling for this seat since 2016, now appears unlikely to toss his hat in the ring.

Rosendale raised just \$127,000 in the first three months of the year, an underwhelming sum, and might have to rely on outside support from the Club against a wealthy opponent such as Sheehy. And Trump might intervene as well, after Rosendale publicly snubbed him on the floor of the

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2024 Gubernatorial Ratings

BATTLEGROUND

| Democratic-Held (1) | Republican-Held (1) |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| NC Open (Cooper, D) | Sununu (R-N.H.) |
| Solid Democratic (2) | Solid Republican (7) |
| DE Open (Carney, D) | IN Open (Holcomb, R) |
| Inslee (D-Wash.) | MO Open (Parson, R) |
| | WV Open (Justice, R) |
| | Burgum (R-N.D.) |
| | Cox (R-Utah) |
| | Gianforte (R-Mont.) |
| | Scott (R-Vt.) |

Takeovers in italics, # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans

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House of Representatives during the Speaker election. Rosendale recently traveled to Mar-a-Lago but has refrained from endorsing Trump in 2024.

Republicans briefly explored a plan to reconfigure next year's Senate race into a top-two race that would have excluded minor-party candidates from appearing on the ballot. It was a transparent attempt to hurt Tester, who twice has won election with a plurality of the vote while a Libertarian candidate won a sizable percentage; the change would have applied only to the Senate race, not any of the state's other elections, and only in 2024. But the proposal has stalled in the state legislature.



Jon Tester

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Montana's political lean makes it difficult for any Democrat to win statewide, but Tester has overperformed the top of the ticket before. In 2020, Biden only received 1 percent less of the vote in Montana than Barack Obama did in 2012, when Tester won re-election. Battleground.

Nebraska. Deb Fischer (R) elected 2012 (58%), 2018 (58%). Filing deadline Feb. 15. Fischer plans to run for re-election in 2024, and she shouldn't face serious challenges from her right or her left. Her newly-appointed colleague, GOP Sen. Pete Ricketts, is more likely to have a competitive GOP primary. Solid Republican.

Nebraska Special. Pete Ricketts (R) appointed 2023. Filing deadline Feb. 15. Nebraska's former governor was sworn into office in January after being appointed by his successor, Republican Gov. Jim Pillen. Ricketts now has to run in the 2024 special election to finish the rest of former Sen. Ben Sasse's term, which ends in 2026.

Ricketts has provoked Trump's ire before, and could face a primary challenge on his right in 2024. The former president backed Charles Herbster in the 2022 gubernatorial primary against Pillen, Ricketts' preferred successor. But Herbster, a cattle producer, was accused of sexual assault by several women during the primary and ultimately lost to Pillen by 4 points. Herbster said he's considering running against Ricketts but hasn't announced a campaign yet. John Glen Weaver, a retired Air Force veteran who ran for Nebraska's 1st District last cycle, announced he was challenging Ricketts, but has yet to file with the FEC. Solid Republican.

Nevada. Jacky Rosen (D) elected 2018 (50%). Filing deadline March 15. Nevada's junior senator recently announced she'd run for re-election, and Democrats feel cautiously optimistic about Rosen's odds in 2024. But the Silver State remains one of the most evenly divided states in the country, and Rosen should have a competitive race regardless of who Republicans nominate.

The list of Republicans looking at this race is fairly short. Sam Brown, who ran for the Republican nomination in last cycle's Senate race, is considering running again. Brown, an Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient, ran a relatively strong campaign against former Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt, who had consolidated support from GOP leaders early on in the cycle. April Becker, an attorney from

Las Vegas who challenged Democratic Rep. Susie Lee in 2022, is also weighing a Senate bid. Becker lost to Lee by 4 points in Nevada's most competitive House district, and lost a competitive state senate race the previous cycle. State Senate Minority Leader Heidi Gansert, who's served in the state Legislature for 18 years, didn't commit to running for re-election in 2024 and has been mentioned as a potential U.S. Senate candidate as well. Battleground.

New Jersey. Bob Menendez (D) appointed 2006, elected 2006 (53%), 2012 (58%), 2018 (54%). Filing deadline March 25. After Menendez beat federal corruption charges in 2017, he issued a warning "to those who were digging [his] political grave so they could jump into [his] seat." The senior senator is facing another federal investigation (no charges have been filed yet), and while the state's major players — such as Reps. Mikie Sherrill, Josh Gottheimer, and Andy Kim — aren't touching the Senate race, Menendez does have a challenger. Roselle Park Mayor Joseph Signorello is challenging Menendez and focusing explicitly on the senator's legal troubles. In 2018, a no-name, unfunded challenger won 40 percent of the primary vote versus Menendez, so the senator has to take the race seriously. But at the moment he doesn't seem to be in dire straits. Solid Democratic.

New Mexico. Martin Heinrich (D) elected 2012 (51%), 2018 (54%). Filing deadline Feb. 6. Heinrich told *Politico* last year that he was "putting all the pieces together" to run again, but has been quiet since. Democrats expect him to run again, but he also reportedly has his eye on the governor's mansion in 2026, and there's a small chance he forgoes a 2024 Senate bid to focus on that instead. Heinrich reported raising \$1.2 million in the first three months of 2023 and had \$1.9 million in the bank at the end of March.

Republicans haven't won a statewide race since 2014. Highly touted recruit Mark Ronchetti lost back-to-back bids for Senate and governor in 2020 (45.6 percent) and 2022 (45.6 percent). He recently posted on Facebook "There's a lot of stuff we've been working on behind the scenes. We're announcing one of those things here soon." Former GOP Gov. Susana Martinez was making the rounds at conservative events late last year. But she left office unpopular and under a cloud of scandals, and GOP strategists in Washington, D.C. are skeptical she'll run. Solid Democratic.

New York. Kirsten Gillibrand (D) appointed 2009, elected 2010 (63%), 2012 (72%), 2018 (67%). Filing deadline April 2024. Gillibrand is running again, and while there's no sign she'll face a serious primary challenge, rumors will abound that either former Gov. Andrew Cuomo or Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez will run against her. But Cuomo is still deeply unpopular among Democrats, and Ocasio-Cortez already has a powerful perch as one of the most prominent politicians in the country.

Another progressive favorite, former Rep. Mondaire Jones, looks more likely to run for his old House seat than challenge Gillibrand. Republicans had a great election cycle in New York but didn't win any statewide races, and it's unlikely they'll start doing so in a presidential year. Democrats in the state are pushing to redraw the court-instituted congressional maps put in place last year. If they're successful, Democrats in the state legislature could try to displace one or more GOP House members by making their districts more Democratic. Those members might then take a closer look at the Senate race. Solid Democratic.

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North Dakota. Kevin Cramer (R) election 2018 (55%). Filing deadline April 8. There hasn't been any movement here since 2006 Democratic-NPL secretary of state nominee Kirstin Hedger filed to run as an independent all the way back in 2021. One thing that could shake up this race is if Gov. Doug Burgum forgoes a third term to run for president and Cramer decides to run for governor. But we're a long way away from that. Solid Republican.

Ohio. Sherrod Brown (D) elected 2006 (56%), 2012 (51%), 2018 (53%). Filing deadline Dec. 20. Republicans' path to the Senate majority runs through three Republican-leaning states: West Virginia, Montana, and Ohio. Among these states, Ohio has had the closest contests for the past few cycles — in 2022, Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan came 6 points away from defeating Republican J.D. Vance, and Trump won the state by 8 points in 2020. But the Buckeye State has been slipping away from Democrats over the past several years, and Brown, the only Ohio Democrat left who holds a statewide office, will likely face his most difficult Senate race yet in 2024.

The Republican primary is expected to feature at least three serious Republican candidates: state Sen. Matt Dolan, Cleveland businessman Bernie Moreno, and Secretary of State Frank LaRose. Dolan came in third place with 23 percent in the GOP primary for Ohio's open Senate seat last cycle, after he distinguished himself as the only candidate willing to criticize Trump for his false claims of election fraud. Whether Dolan can win a GOP primary remains an open question, but his personal wealth and more moderate image would make him a formidable opponent in a general election. Dolan, whose family owns the Cleveland Guardians baseball team, loaned his campaign \$3 million in the first quarter of the year. Moreno, another 2022 candidate who dropped out before the primary, announced this month that he was running again. Though he's not as wealthy as Dolan, the former luxury car salesman also has the ability to fund his campaign. Moreno appears to be angling for the Trump blessing in 2024, and shortly before his campaign announcement Trump posted on Truth Social that Moreno "would not be easy to beat." LaRose has yet to announce a campaign but is expected to run. He'd enjoy an advantage as the only statewide elected official in the primary, but his fundraising abilities are untested.



Sherrod Brown

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Others, including Rep. Warren Davidson, are eyeing the race too. "It's safe to say I'm actually very actively looking at the race every day," Davidson recently told *Politico*. The Club for Growth is hoping Davidson gets in the race — but even with the Club's financial support, it might be difficult for the congressman to compete with self-funders like Moreno and Dolan and candidates better known statewide like LaRose. Wealthy businessman Mike Gibbons, who ran for Senate in 2018 and 2022, could run again too.

Unlike in Montana and West Virginia, the NRSC doesn't appear

to have a preferred candidate in the race, and Republican strategists largely believe any of the three likely frontrunners would be solid nominees against Brown. If the primary turns into the kind of crowded, bitter contest that defined Ohio's Senate race last cycle, it could leave Republicans in a weakened position going into the general election. But unlike in 2018, when the GOP left Rep. Jim Renacci on his own, whoever becomes the party's nominee will have significant financial support from outside Republican groups. Battleground.

Pennsylvania. Bob Casey, Jr. (D) elected 2006 (59%), 2012 (54%), 2018 (56%). Filing deadline Feb. 2024. Democrats can breathe a sigh of relief now that Casey has announced his 2024 campaign. The longtime senator and son of Pennsylvania Gov. Bob Casey Sr. has a last name that's worth political gold, and he's won six statewide elections in the Keystone State. But like the rest of his Senate class, he's also had the advantage of running in cycles that favored Democrats.

Though Republicans acknowledge that unseating Casey won't be easy, they believe they have a strong potential contender in David McCormick, who narrowly lost the GOP nomination for Senate last cycle to Dr. Mehmet Oz. The former hedge fund CEO and Bush administration appointee is personally wealthy and would have the ability to self-fund a campaign in a state with multiple expensive media markets. McCormick appears to be moving toward a campaign — he's started a PAC to support Republican candidates and is hiring campaign operatives, and his book tour keeps him in the spotlight.

But state Sen. Doug Mastriano is also mulling another campaign, and most Republican operatives believe he would be a disastrous nominee. Mastriano lost to now-Gov. Josh Shapiro by 15 points last November after failing to run a professional campaign and doubling down on messages that were out of step with most Pennsylvania voters. But he remains popular with the GOP base, and his 2022 primary performance shows he has the ability to get close to 50 percent in a primary.

If McCormick doesn't run, Republicans in D.C. might look to state Treasurer Stacy Garrity as a back-up option. Conservative commentator Kathy Barnette, who came in third place in the 2022 Senate primary, is working for GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, and fourth-place finisher Carla Sands hasn't taken many concrete steps toward another campaign. Battleground.

Franklin & Marshall College, March 27-April 7 (RVs) — General election ballot: Casey (D) over McCormick (R) 42%-35%. Casey (D) over Mastriano (R) 47%-31%.

Public Policy Polling (D), March 9-10 (LVs) — GOP primary ballot: Mastriano over McCormick 42%-28%. Mastriano 39%, McCormick 21%, Barnette 11%.

Rhode Island. Sheldon Whitehouse (D) elected 2006 (54%), 2012 (65%), 2018 (61%). Filing deadline June 26, 2024. Whitehouse is running and will win. The big race in the Ocean State is to replace Rep. David Cicilline when he leaves office later this spring. Solid Democratic.

Tennessee. Marsha Blackburn (R) elected 2018 (55%). Filing deadline April 4. The Volunteer State has spent the past few weeks in the national political spotlight, after the GOP-controlled state Legislature voted to expel two Black lawmakers who were protesting the chamber's inaction on gun laws following a deadly school shooting in Nashville. The expulsion provoked widespread outrage, as it's only happened

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three other times in the state's history. State Sen. Gloria Johnson, the third lawmaker who protested in the chamber but narrowly escaped expulsion, might challenge Blackburn in 2024. But the Republican senator remains strongly favored to win re-election in the red state, which Trump won by 23 points in 2020. Solid Republican.

Texas. Ted Cruz (R) elected 2012 (56%), 2018 (51%). Filing deadline Dec. 11, 2023. Democrats came tantalizingly close to a statewide win in Texas in 2018, when then-Rep. Beto O'Rourke lost to Cruz by just 2.6 points. But Texas Democrats have struggled to make significant gains since then, and their bench of prospective candidates is slim.

Rep. Colin Allred, who unseated Republican Rep. Pete Sessions in a Dallas-based district in 2018, is one of the few who could compete with Cruz. The Democratic congressman is actively weighing a campaign, though he's yet to comment publicly on his 2024 plans. Allred's colleague Rep. Marc Veasey told *Inside Elections* in March that he hadn't "really heard of anyone else that would be credible that's thinking about running." After the latest round of redistricting, the congressman represents a comfortably Democratic district and could have a long career ahead of him in the House.

State Sen. Roland Gutierrez, who represents a district that stretches from San Antonio to Uvalde, has signaled that he's interested in challenging Cruz, but probably won't announce a decision until the legislative session ends. Another potentially strong candidate, former San Antonio Mayor and former HUD Secretary Julián Castro, appears less likely to challenge Cruz. A few other Democrats have been floated as potential candidates: outgoing Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and 33-year-old state Rep. James Talarico. And after running for office for the past five years, O'Rourke is taking a backseat. His campaign against Gov. Greg Abbott last cycle sputtered out, and the incumbent defeated O'Rourke by 11 points.

Cruz remains a polarizing figure (and is less popular than Abbott), and the senator is attempting to moderate his image ahead of his re-election campaign. Democrats in D.C. are also pointing to the senator's relatively low cash on hand (\$3.3 million) as a sign of his vulnerability. But the party has a steep climb ahead of them if they want to compete in the Lone Star State. Solid Republican.

Utah. Mitt Romney (R) elected 2018 (63%). Filing deadline March 21. Romney filed paperwork for re-election but that doesn't mean he's officially running, and the former presidential nominee has remained coy about his 2024 plans. A recent OH Predictive Insights survey found his favorability rating among Republicans was just barely positive — a result of his many high-profile breaks with the party over Trump. That means that if he does run, he could face a serious primary challenge from his right flank. Former Rep. Jason Chaffetz, now a Fox News commentator, is a potential candidate, as are state Attorney General Sean Reyes and state Sen. Mike Kennedy, who Romney defeated in the 2018 GOP primary. But the contender furthest along is state House Speaker Brad Wilson, who launched an exploratory committee in mid-April. No matter the nominee, the Beehive State is Solid Republican.

Vermont. Bernie Sanders (I) elected 2006 (65%), 2012 (71%), 2018 (67%). Filing deadline May 30, 2024. Sanders will be 83 on Election Day, but if he runs for a fourth term, he won't have an issue winning. If he forgoes a bid, newly-elected Rep. Becca Balint would begin a Democratic primary in a strong position. Solid Democratic.

Virginia. Tim Kaine (D) elected 2012 (53%), 2018 (57%). Filing deadline April 11. Three Republicans are running against Kaine, though that number could increase. Attorney and conservative commentator Jonathan Emord has an endorsement from former Rep. Ron Paul and reported \$194,000 in the bank on March 31. Former Congressional staffer and Bronze Star recipient Eddie Garcia had just \$9,644 in the bank at the end of March. A more credible candidate might be former Club for Growth vice president Scott Parkinson, who is working with the same consulting team that powered Gov. Glenn Youngkin to his upset victory in 2021. Parkinson is also a former chief of staff to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. That gives him stronger ties to the party establishment, but it might not be the best resume for a leftward-trending state such as Virginia.

Hung Cao, a Navy veteran and 2022 10th District nominee, could run as a more moderate option. Youngkin is another potential candidate,



Courtesy Hung Cao Campaign

Hung Cao

but if he's going to be on the ballot in 2024, it's more likely as a presidential candidate than Senate hopeful. Since Virginia gubernatorial elections are held in odd years, he wouldn't have to give up his job to run. At the moment, it looks like Lt. Gov.

Winsome Sears and state AG Jason Miyares are both more interested in running for governor in 2025 than the Senate in 2024. This race begins on the edge of the battleground, and is one place where Trump at the top of the ticket could hurt the GOP Senate nominee. Battleground.

Washington. Maria Cantwell (D) elected 2000 (49%), 2006 (57%), 2012 (60%), 2018 (58%). Filing deadline May 17, 2024. Cantwell has yet to officially announce her 2024 plans, but last October she told *Politico* that she planned to run for a fifth term. The senator raised \$1.7 million in the first three months of the year and had \$1.6 million in the bank at the end of March. But she also has personal money to spend. If she does run, she'll be strongly favored to win re-election in the Evergreen State.

Washington's top-two primary process, where all candidates regardless of party run on the same ballot, almost guarantees that Cantwell would face a Republican in the general election. Last cycle, Republicans were excited about Tiffany Smiley's campaign, but Smiley ultimately lost to Democratic Sen. Patty Murray by 15 points. Smiley hasn't indicated whether she'd run again for Senate. Former GOP Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler is interested in running for office again, but she appears to be more likely to run for governor in 2024. Still, the Democratic firm Public Policy Polling conducted a survey that showed Cantwell leading Herrera Beutler, 50-35 percent. Solid Democratic.

West Virginia. Joe Manchin (D) elected 2010 special (53%), 2012 (61%), 2018 (49.6%). Filing deadline Jan. 26. The biggest question is if Manchin will seek re-election. If he doesn't run, Democrats don't have a real chance to hold this seat. In such a closely divided chamber, his decision will have an outsized impact on Democrats' ability to hold the Senate. But Manchin seems in no rush to divulge his plans, recently

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stating that he would make up his mind by the end of the year. Notably, though, the Democrat has been picking more high-profile fights with the White House lately — if he runs, he'll need to create significant distance between himself and Biden in order to win.

The only Republican in the field right now is Rep. Alex Mooney, who represents the northern half of the state. But many GOP and Democratic strategists expect Gov. Jim Justice — who is being heavily courted by Republicans in Washington — to enter the race. The term-limited Justice is ubiquitous in the state, where he once was the wealthiest man and where he won one term as a Democrat and then another as a Republican. But he's been dragging his feet on an entrance, blowing past several self-imposed deadlines to announce whether he'll run.

The Senate Leadership Fund, which is aligned with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, has been urging Justice to run, releasing a poll that shows him dominating the GOP primary and beating Manchin in a general election (while Mooney would trail the Democrat). SLF's advocacy wing has also launched \$1 million in anti-Manchin TV ads. Democrats might need to go on TV before Manchin announces his intentions, so GOP attacks don't go unanswered for too long.

Justice would be a formidable candidate in the primary. But the governor has a reputation as a wildcard — he kept observers guessing about his commitment

to his 2020 re-election campaign until late that year — and it's not obvious if he's in a position to flex much financial muscle. His well-documented financial struggles in recent years, including hundreds of millions of dollars in debt, may



Jim Justice

Courtesy Office of Jim Justice

affect his ability to self-fund a race, as some Republicans hoped he might. He is exploring a sale of his energy company Bluestone Resources, which could help him with liquidity.

But Justice is popular, and early polling shows that he'd begin with a substantial lead over Mooney, whose base is in the state's Eastern Panhandle and is not well-known in the southern half of the state. A primary battle between the two could turn nasty, with Mooney's allies prepared to target Justice's business deals as well as his support for Biden's infrastructure bill. Last year, Mooney — a member of the conservative Freedom Caucus — used the infrastructure bill to great effect in his member-vs.-member primary against Justice-endorsed Rep. David McKinley. The Club for Growth has endorsed Mooney and pledged to spend \$10 million to support him; the Senate Conservatives Fund is also backing the congressman. State Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, the 2018 GOP nominee, is running for governor.

Republican strategists believe that Justice would be a safer bet against Manchin, if the incumbent decides to run again, given that he has won statewide before and might have more appeal to the independents and less ideological, older voters that have kept Manchin afloat even as the state has raced rightward. Mooney also has unique baggage after he moved to West Virginia from Maryland for the purpose of running for office in 2014.

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First Quarter Senate Fundraising

Totals in key races through March 31, 2023

| STATE | CANDIDATE | RAISED Q1 2023 | CASH ON HAND |
|-------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| AZ | Ruben Gallego (D) | \$3.7 million | \$2.7 million |
| AZ | Kyrsten Sinema (I) | \$2.0 million | \$9.9 million |
| CA | Katie Porter (D) | \$15.5 million | \$9.5 million |
| CA | Adam Schiff (D) | \$6.5 million | \$24.7 million |
| CA | Barbara Lee (D) | \$1.3 million | \$1.2 million |
| CT | Chris Murphy (D) | \$2.3 million | \$5.8 million |
| DE | Tom Carper (D) | \$193,000 | \$607,000 |
| FL | Rick Scott (R) | \$903,000 | \$2.8 million |
| HI | Mazie Hirono (D) | \$355,000 | \$1.1 million |
| IN | Jim Banks (R) | \$1.2 million | \$2.3 million |
| MA | Elizabeth Warren (D) | \$801,000 | \$2.8 million |
| MD | Ben Cardin (D) | \$14,000 | \$995,000 |
| ME | Angus King (I) | \$222,000 | \$433,000 |
| MI | Elissa Slotkin (D) | \$3.1 million | \$2.3 million |
| MI | Nikki Snyder (R) | \$59,000 | \$55,000 |
| MN | Amy Klobuchar (D) | \$1.6 million | \$2.2 million |
| MO | Lucas Kunce (D) | \$1.1 million | \$696,000 |
| MO | Josh Hawley (R) | \$585,000 | \$4.0 million |
| MS | Roger Wicker (R) | \$1.1 million | \$3.5 million |
| MT | Jon Tester (D) | \$5.0 million | \$7.0 million |
| ND | Kevin Cramer (R) | \$668,000 | \$936,000 |
| NE | Deb Fischer (R) | \$482,000 | \$1.8 million |
| NE | Pete Ricketts (R) | \$402,000 | \$368,000 |
| NJ | Bob Menendez (D) | \$1.1 million | \$6.6 million |
| NJ | Joe Signorello (D) | \$37,000 | \$35,000 |
| NM | Martin Heinrich (D) | \$1.1 million | \$1.9 million |
| NV | Jacky Rosen (D) | \$2.4 million | \$6.0 million |
| NY | Kirsten Gillibrand (D) | \$1.4 million | \$6.3 million |
| OH | Sherrod Brown (D) | \$3.5 million | \$5.8 million |
| OH | Matt Dolan (R) | \$3.3 million* | \$3.3 million |
| PA | Bob Casey (D) | \$438,000 | \$3.2 million |
| RI | Sheldon Whitehouse (D) | \$737,000 | \$1.9 million |
| TN | Marsha Blackburn (R) | \$1.4 million | \$4.8 million |
| TX | Ted Cruz (R) | \$1.3 million | \$3.3 million |
| UT | Mitt Romney (R) | \$111,000 | \$604,000 |
| VA | Tim Kaine (D) | \$1.5 million | \$4.8 million |
| VT | Bernie Sanders (I) | \$783,000 | \$9.7 million |
| WA | Maria Cantwell (D) | \$1.7 million | \$1.6 million |
| WI | Tammy Baldwin (D) | \$2.1 million | \$3.9 million |
| WV | Joe Manchin (D) | \$238,000 | \$9.7 million |
| WV | Alex Mooney (R) | \$505,000 | \$1.4 million |
| WY | John Barrasso (R) | \$748,000 | \$5.0 million |

*Includes \$3 million personal loan

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But in a presidential year, Manchin will be in for the fight of his life no matter who the GOP nominee is. Battleground.

National Public Affairs (R), March 14-17 (LVs)— GOP primary ballot: Justice over Mooney, 55%-24%.

Tarrance Group (R) for Senate Leadership Fund, Feb. 5-7 (LVs)— GOP primary ballot: Justice 53%, Morrissey 21%, Mooney 10%. General election ballot: Justice (R) over Manchin (D), 52%-42%. Manchin (D) over Mooney (R), 55%-40%.

Wisconsin. Tammy Baldwin (D) elected 2012 (51%), 2018 (55%). Filing deadline June 1, 2024. Republicans are far away from

having a nominee to take on Baldwin, who recently announced her re-election bid. Some GOP strategists would love to have Rep. Mike Gallagher as their standard-bearer. But while the Marine veteran with degrees from Princeton and



Tammy Baldwin

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Georgetown has a sterling resume, it's not obvious he's interested in running for Senate right now. And even if he did, he might have some trouble in a GOP primary because of anti-Trump stances he's taken in the past. Rep. Tom Tiffany recently confirmed he is exploring a run for Senate, and has purchased the "thomastiffanyforsenate.com" domain name.

Also exploring a bid is real estate developer Eric Hovde, who placed second behind former Gov. Tommy Thompson in the crowded GOP Senate primary more than a decade ago and also considered running for governor last year. Hovde is personally wealthy and spent \$6 million on his 2012 bid. Former staffing company CEO Scott Mayer is another possible candidate, but he doesn't sound enthusiastic, telling NBC that "If no one else comes up to the plate, then I might do it." Meanwhile, Baldwin had \$3.9 million in the bank on March 31. Battleground.

Wyoming. John Barrasso (R) appointed 2007, elected 2008 special (73%), 2012 (76%), 2018 (67%). Filing deadline May 31, 2024. Barrasso hasn't announced his 2024 plans, but would be in line for a higher leadership position (likely the whip job) if and when McConnell leaves office. If Barrasso does run, he'll win. Solid Republican. **IE**

2023 Gubernatorial Ratings

Toss-up (1D)

Beshear (D-Ky.)

Lean Democratic

Lean Republican (1R)

LA Open (Edwards, D)

Likely Democratic

Likely Republican (1R)

Reeves (R-Miss.)

Solid Democratic

Solid Republican

*Takeovers in italics, # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans*

Report Shorts

California's 47th District. Former Rep. Harley Rouda ended his comeback bid after suffering a traumatic brain injury. The Democrat was angling to succeed Rep. Katie Porter, who is running for Senate. That leaves state Sen. Dave Min as the most notable Democrat in the race, though attorney Joanna Weiss and spin studio owner Dom Jones are also running. Republicans in the district are lining up behind 2022 nominee Scott Baugh. Tilt Democratic.

Illinois' 7th District. Longtime Democratic Rep. Danny Davis hasn't announced his 2024 plans, and has filed for re-election. But that didn't stop Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin from announcing she was forming an exploratory committee for Davis' seat. Her announcement anticipates a retirement from Davis, saying, "Whenever [Davis] should choose to retire, I will be running to succeed him and continue his legacy of service." Last cycle, progressive candidate Kina Collins came 7 points away from defeating the congressman in the primary. Solid Democratic.

Indiana's 3rd District. Former Rep. Marlin Stutzman has launched a campaign for his old seat, which he gave up when he ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in 2016. The former House Freedom Caucus member will have to get through a competitive GOP primary first — former Allen County Circuit Judge Wendy Davis and state Sen. Andy Zay are both running. Rep. Jim Banks is leaving the seat to run for the Senate. Solid Republican.

Kentucky Governor. State Attorney General Daniel Cameron and his allies began advertising on TV at the beginning of April, after opponent Kelly Craft had the airwaves to herself for the first three months of the year. Cameron and Craft, who previously served as Ambassador to the United Nations, are seeking the GOP nomination against Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear. Craft has outspent Cameron significantly but still trails in polling. State Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles is in third and has not started advertising on TV, but had nearly \$1 million to spend in the final six weeks before the May 16 primary. Toss-up.

Michigan's 10th District. Emily Busch, a gun safety advocate whose son survived the mass shooting at Oxford High School, entered the Democratic primary for GOP Rep. John James' seat. James is one of the most vulnerable Republican House members in 2024, and the primary for the Democratic nomination could get crowded. Financial planner Diane Young is running, and former Macomb County Judge and 2022 nominee Carl Marlinga is considering running again. Tilt Republican.

New York's 3rd District. Embattled Rep. George Santos announced he would seek re-election. The Republican has come under fire for fabricating most of his biography and is reportedly under multiple investigations at the state and federal levels. Santos raised just \$5,333 in the first three months of the year and would need a miracle to make it out of the GOP primary. Toss-up. **IE**