

Inside Elections

with

Nathan L. Gonzales

Nonpartisan Analysis

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2022 Election Preview: Close and Contested

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

With one month to go before Election Day, there's an emerging theme in the fight for Congress: it's close.

Not only do Republicans need a net gain of just one seat for Senate control and five seats for a House majority, but the individual contests are tight as well.

Republican and Democratic nominees are within 5 points or less of each other in at least a half-dozen Senate races and two dozen House races. A key question is whether those races split evenly between the two parties or break disproportionately in one direction in the final weeks.

For much of the cycle, it was easy to see Republicans winning the lion's share of the most competitive races based on President Joe Biden's mediocre job rating. But that's not a given anymore. There's a chance that undecided voters break toward Republicans as gas prices tick up again and dissatisfaction with the status quo reigns supreme. But it's also possible that pollsters are underestimating Democratic turnout in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision.

The overall fight for the Senate is close, as the GOP path to a majority is more narrow than expected. Republicans are feeling better about Pennsylvania, but North Carolina and Ohio are still close and at risk of a Democratic takeover, with the clock ticking on all three races.

Our Senate projection remains Republicans +1 seat to Democrats +1 seat. Two of the three outcomes within that likely range would result in Democratic control.

In the House, expect a Republican gain of between eight and 20 seats. But if late-deciding voters break for GOP candidates or polling has failed to pick up a swath of Republican voters once again, then GOP candidates could overperform.

If polling is accurate, it could be weeks before we know which party controls each chamber. There could be a significant number of uncalled races on election night, and it will take time to finish counting ballots and resolve court challenges. A delay in certifying races could keep the majority in suspense for longer than usual.

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2022 House Ratings

Toss-Up (12D, 6R)

AK AL (Peltola, D)#	MN 2 (Craig, DFL)	NY22 (Open; Katko, R)*	PA 8 (Cartwright, D)
CA 22 (Valadao, R)	NC13 (Open, R)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)	PA17 (Open; Lamb, D)
CO 8 (Open, New)	NE 2 (Bacon, R)	OH13 (Open; Ryan, D)	VA 2 (Luria, D)
IA 3 (Axne, D)	NJ 7 (Malinowski, D)	OR5 (Open; Schrader, D)	WA 8 (Schrier, D)
ME 2 (Golden, D)	NM 2 (Herrell, R)	PA 7 (Wild, D)	

Tilt Democratic (9D, 1R)

IL 17 (Open; Bustos, D)#	NV 3 (S. Lee, D)
KS 3 (Davids, D)	NH 1 (Pappas, D)
MI 3 (Open; Meijer, R)	NY19 (Open; Ryan, D)
MI 7 (Slotkin, D)	OR 6 (Open, New)*
MI 8 (Kildee, D)	VA 7 (Spanberger, D)
NV 1 (Titus, D)	

Tilt Republican (1D, 2R)

AZ 6 (Open; Kirkpatrick, D)
CA 27 (Garcia, R)*
NY 1 (Open; Zeldin, R)

Lean Democratic (12D, 2R)

CA 13 (Open; Harder, D)	<i>TX34 (Flores, R/Gonzalez, D)</i>
CA 47 (Porter, D)	TX 28 (Cuellar, D)*
CA 49 (Levin, D)*	
IL13 (Open; Davis, R)	
IN 1 (Mrvan, D)	
OH 9 (Kaptur, D)#	
NC 1 (Open; Butterfield, D)	
NV 4 (Horsford, D)	
NY 3 (Open; Suozzi, D)	
NY 17 (S. Maloney, D)*	
NY 18 (Open; Ryan, D)	
RI 2 (Open; Langevin, D)	

Lean Republican (4D, 5R)

AZ 1 (Schweikert, R)
AZ 2 (O'Halleran, D)
CA 45 (Steel, R)
IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)
IA 2 (Hinson, R)
MI 10 (Open; Levin, D)
MT 1 (Open, New)#
NY 2 (Garbarino, R)
TX 15 (Open; V. Gonzalez, R)
WI 3 (Open; Kind, D)

Likely Democratic (11D)

AZ 4 (Stanton, D)
CA 9 (Harder, D)
CO 7 (Open; Perlmutter, D)
CT 5 (Hayes, D)
GA 2 (Bishop, D)
IL6 (Casten, D)
IL14 (Underwood, D)
MD 6 (Trone, D)
NH 2 (Kuster, D)
NY 4 (Open; Rice, D)
OR 4 (Open; DeFazio, D)

Likely Republican (4D, 7R)

CA 3 (Open; McClintock, R)
CA 40 (Kim, R)
FL 5 (Rutherford, R)
FL 7 (Open; Murphy, D)
FL 13 (Open; Crist, D)
FL 15 (Open; Franklin, R)
FL 27 (Salazar, R)
GA6 (Open; McBeth, D)
NY 11 (Malliotakis, R)
TN 5 (Open; Cooper, D)
WA 3 (Open; Herrera Beutler, R)

	GOP	DEM
Solid	187	169
Likely/Lean/Tilt	24	36
Total	211	205
Toss-up	19	
Needed for majority	218	

moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics

Senate Updates

Alaska. Lisa Murkowski (R) appointed 2002, elected 2004 (49%), 2010 (39% as a write-in), 2016 (44%). The Senate Leadership Fund has begun a \$7.4 million ad blitz against Kelly Tshibaka, the Trump-endorsed challenger to Murkowski. The ads attack Tshibaka over a 2011 investigation into Tshibaka for overbilling hours when she worked for the federal government. Between SLF, another pro-Murkowski super



Pat Chesbro

PAC, an independent expenditure effort from a plumbing and pipefitting union, and Murkowski herself, the incumbent can count on \$8.5 million worth of TV ads in the closing weeks of the race, while Tshibaka has next-to-nothing reserved.

Trump's political operation has made noise about dipping into his super PAC funds to boost preferred candidates, but so far there's been no investment in this race. A recent public poll found a very close race, and Murkowski's fortunes look like they hinge on securing the vast majority of second-choice votes from the supporters of Democrat Pat Chesbro, who could secure between 10-15 percent in the first round. Solid Republican.

Alaska Survey Research (D), Sept. 25-27 (LVs)(online) — First Round: Murkowski (R) 41%, Tshibaka (R) 39%, Chesbro (D) 16%, Kelley (R) 4%. Second Round: Murkowski 42%, Tshibaka 41%, Chesbro 17%. Third Round: Murkowski over Tshibaka, 57% - 43%.

Arizona. Mark Kelly (D) elected 2020 special election (51%). Some outside groups, including the Heritage Foundation and the super PAC founded — but no longer funded — by venture capitalist Peter Thiel, are spending to support Blake Masters on air. But Democrats maintain an overwhelming spending advantage on air, with Senate Majority PAC showing \$18 million in reservations from now until Election Day and the Kelly campaign kicking in \$7 million. Masters is finally going back up on air but just with a mid-six figure buy. Democrats may not believe the substantial margins Kelly is showing in some

polling, but the incumbent clearly has an advantage heading into the final month of the campaign. Tilt Democratic.

YouGov for CBS, Sept. 30-Oct. 4 (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 51% - 48%.

SSRS for CNN, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election

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2022 Senate Ratings

Toss-Up	
PA Open (Toomey, R)	Warnock (D-Ga.)
Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)	
Tilt Democratic	Tilt Republican
Kelly (D-Ariz.)	Johnson (R-Wisc.)
Hassan (D-N.H.)	NC Open (Burr, R)#
Lean Democratic	Lean Republican
	OH Open (Portman, R)#
Likely Democratic	Likely Republican
Bennet (D-Colo.)	Rubio (R-Fl.)
Murray (D-Wash.)	Lee (R-Utah)
Solid Democratic	Solid Republican
VT Open (Leahy, D)	AL Open (Shelby, R)
Blumenthal (D-Conn.)	MO Open (Blunt, R)
Duckworth (D-Ill.)	OK Open (Inhofe, R)
Padilla (D-Calif.)	Boozman (R-Ark.)
Schatz (D-Hawaii)	Crapo (R-Idaho)
Schumer (D-N.Y.)	Grossley (R-Iowa)
Van Hollen (D-Md.)	Hoeven (R-N.D.)
Wyden (D-Ore.)	Kennedy (R-La.)
	Lankford (R-Okla.)
	Moran (R-Kan.)
	Murkowski (R-Alaska)
	Paul (R-Ky.)
	Scott (R-S.C.)
	Thune (R-S.D.)
	Young (R-Ind.)

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ballot: Kelly over Masters, 51% - 45%.

Beacon(D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Sept. 22-26 (RVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 46% - 40%.

Colorado. Michael Bennet (D) appointed 2009, elected 2010 (48%), 2016 (50%). Bennet is getting a boost from two outside groups, the gun control group Giffords and a new super PAC called 53 Peaks, which won't have to disclose its donors until the middle of October. The groups, which together constitute the first major outside involvement in the race, will air a combined \$5 million in anti-Joe O'Dea ads, attacking the Republican nominee on abortion and guns. Bennet's numbers remain soft, but O'Dea hasn't been able to press an advantage yet. GOP primary runner-up Ron Hanks, who O'Dea defeated 54-46 percent, endorsed Libertarian nominee Brian Peotter. Likely Democratic.

Keating Research (D)/Magellan Strategies (R) for Healthier Colorado, Sept. 18-26 (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 46% - 36%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Sept. 20-24 (LVs)— General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 49% - 43%, Peotter 4%.

Emerson College for The Hill/KDVR, Sept. 18-19 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 46% - 36%.

Florida. Marco Rubio (R) elected 2010 (49%), 2016 (52%). Not much has changed in the Sunshine State. Democratic Rep. Val Demings no longer enjoys the spending advantage she had over the summer, with Rubio now matching her on TV ads. The latest spots from the Republican, in English and Spanish, attack Demings as a radical leftist and say she wants to "indoctrinate children and try and turn boys into girls." Demings has a biographical spot in Spanish and an English-language ad on abortion access. Likely Republican.

Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, Sept. 26-28 (LVs)— General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 47% - 41%.

Clarity Campaign Labs (D) for Progress Florida/Florida Watch, Sept. 22-27 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Demings and Rubio tied at 46%.

Siena College for Spectrum News, Sept. 18-25 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 48% - 41%.

Georgia. Raphael Warnock (D) elected 2020/Jan. 5, 2021 runoff (51%). A *Daily Beast* report that GOP nominee Herschel Walker pressured a then-girlfriend into

getting an abortion in 2009, and paid for the procedure, is the latest setback for the football legend. The story includes a receipt for the abortion, and a copy of a check from Walker as well as a "get well" card with his signature. In response



Herschel Walker

to the story, Walker's son, Christian Walker, a conservative star on TikTok, went public with further claims that the elder Walker was a deadbeat and violent toward him and his mother. Walker's ex-wife Cindy Grossman has previously accused him of choking her and holding a gun to her head.

Republicans are standing by Walker, with the NRSC and SLF putting out several defiant statements accusing Democrats of a smear campaign.

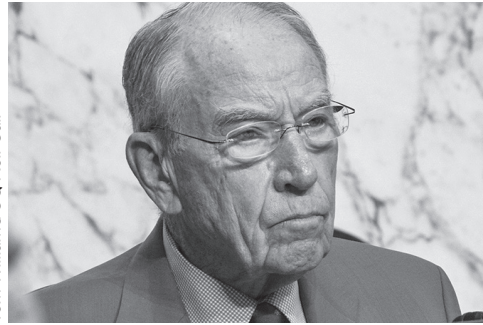
Walker himself denied the story and said he would sue the *Daily Beast* immediately, but his lawyer later walked back that threat. The magazine published a follow-up report that the woman was also the mother of one of the previously unreported children Walker acknowledged earlier this summer, but Walker still denies knowing who she is. Republicans in DC will not abandon Walker because without Georgia, the party's path back to the majority narrows significantly. Even if the GOP flips Nevada, the party would then have to hold Pennsylvania, where their prospects have perhaps brightened but are still precarious, as well as all of the other vulnerable seats. Walker is fortunate there's a runoff rule in Georgia to prevent Warnock from winning with a plurality. Toss-up.

Insider Advantage (R) for WAGA-TV, Oct. 4 (LVs)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 47% - 44%. Chase Oliver (L) 3%.

SurveyUSA for WXIA-TV, Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 50% - 38%.

Beacon(D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Sept. 22-26 (RVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 46% - 41%.

Iowa. Chuck Grassley (R) elected 1980 (54%), 1986 (66%), 1992 (70%), 1998 (68%), 2004 (70%), 2010 (64%), 2016 (60%). Grassley is flexing



Chuck Grassley

some financial muscle in the closing weeks of the race, with \$2.1 million in ad time reserved over the final five weeks of the race. Retired Admiral Mike Franken has been spending around \$250,000 on TV per week. The NRSC did a small coordinated buy

with Grassley last month, a sign that the committee is tracking the race, but the committee has nothing reserved for October. Solid Republican.

Cygnal (R) for Iowans for Tax Relief, Oct. 2-4 (LVs)— General election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 54% - 40%.

Nevada. Catherine Cortez Masto (D) elected 2016 (47%). With Herschel Walker in the news for all the wrong reasons, Nevada continues to be the most integral step on the path to a GOP majority. Recent public polling finds former state attorney general Adam Laxalt with a slight lead over Cortez Masto. But polling has underestimated Democrats in the state before. Democrats have a significant spending advantage on TV over the final weeks of the race, and it looks like they'll need it to get Cortez Masto over the finish line. Toss-up.

SSRS for CNN, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Laxalt over Cortez Masto, 48% - 46%. "None of these" 2%.

OH Predictive Insights (R) for the Nevada Independent, Sept. 20-26 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Laxalt over Cortez Masto, 45% - 43%. "None of these" 3%, Barry Rubinson (IAP) 1%, Neil Scott (L) 1%.

Insider Advantage (R) for American Greatness, Sept. 20 (LVs)— General election ballot: Laxalt over Cortez Masto, 46% - 43%.

New Hampshire. Maggie Hassan (D) elected 2016 (48%). Republicans are sticking by Don Bolduc, the retired Army brigadier general who insisted the 2020 election was stolen from Trump until

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moments after he won a contested GOP primary, when he reversed course and decided that it was not, in fact, stolen. But now, Bolduc says he doesn't have enough information to say whether the election was stolen or not. Bolduc's fundraising has picked up a bit since he won the primary, but he's still significantly under-resourced and will have to rely on the Senate Leadership Fund to help him close the mid-to-high single digit gap. Hassan has \$7.5 million in reservations over the final weeks of the race, and access to the lower candidate advertising rate. Tilt Democratic.

Data for Progress (D), Sept. 23-30 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 50% - 43%, Kauffman (L) 3%.

St. Anselm College, Sept. 27-28 (LVs)— General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 49% - 43%.

Suffolk Univ. for Boston Globe, Sept. 23-26 (LVs)(live caller)—General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 50% - 41%, Kauffman (L) 3%.

North Carolina. Open; Richard Burr (R) not seeking re-election. Democrat Cheri Beasley has stayed afloat despite a barrage of negative ads from the Senate Leadership Fund, and she'll be getting some long-awaited backup from national Democrats in the closing weeks of the race. Senate Majority PAC will spend another \$4 million on her behalf after putting \$2.6 million behind an ad buy attacking GOP Rep. Ted Budd over a family investment gone bad. Between Beasley's own strong fundraising and help from SMP and EMILY's List affiliate Women Vote, the Democrat has kept pace with Budd and his big-spending allies at the Senate Leadership Fund. Polls show the race tied but with a large number of undecided voters. The slight GOP lean of the state continues to give Budd an advantage. But while Republicans had hoped to put this race away over the summer, it still looks headed for a photo finish. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.



Cheri Beasley

Courtesy Beasley Campaign

SurveyUSA for WRAL-TV, Sept. 28-Oct. 2 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 43% - 42%, Shannon Bray (L) 2%.

Cygnal (R) for John Locke Foundation, Sept. 23-28 (LVs)(live caller/sms)— General election ballot: Budd and Beasley tied at 44%, Bray 1%, Matthew Hoh (G) 1%.

Meredith College, Sept. 20-23 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Budd and Beasley tied at 41%, Bray 2%, Hoh 2%.

Ohio. Open; Rob Portman (R) not seeking re-election. Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan continues to weather millions of dollars in negative advertising from outside GOP groups including the Senate Leadership Fund. And Trump's newly formed super PAC, MAGA Inc, will reportedly start airing TV ads in Ohio this weekend. The congressman's strong fundraising — he pulled in \$17 million from July through September — has allowed him to return punches on TV, thanks to his access to a lower advertising rate as a candidate. Ryan is slated to outspend opponent J.D. Vance more than 5-to-1 on TV in the final weeks of the race. A union-funded super PAC is the only outside group

supporting Ryan, as national Democrats have largely steered clear of the race. While Republicans say they've succeeded in driving up Ryan's unfavorable ratings, the race is still effectively tied. As one GOP source says, "Everything has moved except the ballot." Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Siena College for Spectrum News, Sept. 18-22 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Ryan over Vance, 46% - 43%.

Marist College, Sept. 12-15 (RVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 46% - 45%.

Baldwin Wallace Univ., Sept. 12-15 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Ryan over Vance, 48% - 45%.

Pennsylvania. Open; Pat Toomey (R) not seeking re-election. This race has gotten increasingly nasty as Republicans step up their attacks on Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, even going as far as to accuse him of gang affiliations because of his tattoos. Fetterman has promoted reporting that GOP nominee Mehmet Oz conducted research at Columbia University that killed hundreds of dogs over several decades. The *Washington Post* recently ran a detailed look at Oz's history of promoting pseudoscience and questionable treatments on his TV show. The surgeon has begun to consolidate the GOP vote after a bruising primary but remains very unpopular statewide. Polls are closer than they were over the summer, but Fetterman still maintains a lead. Oz loaned his campaign another \$7 million to keep pace with Fetterman's grassroots fundraising operation. Toss-up.

Suffolk Univ. for USA Today, Sept. 27-30 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 46% - 40%, Erik Gerhardt (L) 2%.

Emerson College for The Hill/WHTM-TV, Sept. 23-26 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 45% - 43%.

Beacon(D)/Shaw(R) for Fox News, Sept. 22-26 (RVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 45% - 41%, Everett Stern (I) 3%.

Utah. Mike Lee (R) elected 2010 (62%), 2016 (68%). The Club for Growth continues to dominate the airwaves in the Beehive State. The anti-tax group is airing \$1.9 million in ads against independent candidate Evan McMullin over the final five weeks of the race. McMullin, who has the support of Democrats and is using Democratic consultants,



Evan McMullin

Courtesy McMullin Campaign

successfully convinced one Salt Lake City TV station to pull a Club ad because it deceptively edited past remarks of his (ads from outside groups are held to a higher standard of accuracy than candidate-sponsored ads) and is suing the

Club to have the ad taken down everywhere. McMullin is now on TV with a smaller buy, as is the pro-McMullin super PAC Put Utah First, which is airing an ad attacking Lee on veterans' issues. This race is getting chippy. Likely Republican.

Washington. Patty Murray (D) elected 1992 (54%), 1998 (58%), 2004 (55%), 2010 (52%), 2016 (59%). A new super PAC called Evergreen

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Principles PAC has started spending \$1.7 million on anti-Murray and pro-Tiffany Smiley ads. The group has not yet disclosed any donors. On the Democratic side, EMILY's List affiliate Women Vote has begun a \$1.2 million ad campaign supporting Murray, its second intervention in the race. Whatever momentum Smiley may have had over the summer appears to have abated with the Republican still down mid-single digits. If the cycle turns against Democrats again this race could heat up. Likely Democratic.

Emerson College, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Murray over Smiley, 51% - 42%.

Public Policy Polling, Sept. 27-28 (RVs)(IVR)— General election ballot: Murray over Smiley, 52% - 40%.

Wisconsin. Ron Johnson (R) elected 2010 (52%), 2016 (50%).

A spate of public polling confirms what Democrats had feared. GOP

attacks on Democratic nominee Mandela Barnes have driven the lieutenant governor's unfavorable ratings up and tempered his support overall. While Barnes had a real lead coming out of the Democratic primary, the race is now tied or with a slight Johnson advantage after weeks of GOP ads focusing on crime. But after weeks of being outspent on air, Democrats are for the moment at relative parity on future ad reservations. The evenly divided state is still sure to produce a close race, and Johnson's penchant for off-color remarks — just recently joking about the flag poles rioters used to beat police with on Jan. 6 — will give Democrats plenty of ammunition. Tilt Republican.

Public Policy Polling (D), Sept. 26-27 (RVs)(IVR)— General election ballot: Barnes and Johnson tied at 47%.

Beacon (D)/Shaw(R) for Fox News, Sept. 22-26 (RVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Johnson over Barnes, 48% - 44%.

FabrizioWard (R)/Impact (D) for AARP, Sept. 18-25 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Johnson over Barnes, 51% - 46%.



House Updates

Alaska.

At-Large (Mary Peltola, D). Trump 53%. The circumstances of this race haven't changed much since the special election in August, and that's good news for Peltola. Republicans Nick Begich III and Sarah Palin continue to attack each other, meaning nobody is attacking Peltola, who is popular across the state and now enjoys some incumbency benefits. She also has been significantly outspending her rivals on TV. The NRCC recently put up a siren icon on its Alaska webpage, alerting outside groups to this dynamic, but no groups have gotten involved yet, let alone with anti-Peltola messaging.

The incumbent is running a largely positive campaign, focused on her pro-fish agenda and support of abortion rights, as well as nodding to the important role energy extraction plays in the state's economy. In public and private polling Peltola consistently emerges victorious in the ranked choice system. The state's partisan lean will keep her vulnerable, but Republicans are running out of time to go on offense. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Arizona.

1st District (David Schweikert, R). Biden 50.1%. There's not a lot of activity in this district, which is entirely in Phoenix's expensive media market. Since the primary, neither candidate has aired any TV ads. The Pelosi-affiliated House Majority PAC has reserved over \$2 million for ads that will air at the end of the month, while Schweikert isn't getting any air cover from Republican outside groups. Lean Republican.

2nd District (Tom O'Halleran, D). Trump 53%. The congressman went up with his first TV ad at the end of September, a spot that contrasts O'Halleran's centrist persona with Eli Crane's MAGA ties, accusing the retired Navy SEAL of supporting white supremacists and wanting to outlaw abortions. But the congressman is not getting any significant back-up from outside groups, including the DCCC, and the NRCC has spent over \$1.7 million here. Lean Republican.

4th District (Greg Stanton, D). Biden 54%. Stanton should win this race, but Democrats aren't taking any chances in this suburban Phoenix district. The DCCC released a new TV ad this week highlighting

restaurant owner Kelly Cooper's comments on Jan. 6 and the FBI — the Republican called for the release of Jan. 6 rioters from jail. Cooper sees those issues as a distraction from bigger issues such as the economy. Likely Democratic.

6th District (Open; Ann Kirkpatrick, D). Biden 49.3%. The contest between Republican Juan Ciscomani and Democratic state Sen. Kirsten



courtesy Ciscomani Campaign

Juan Ciscomani

Engel is shaping up to be a tighter race than both parties anticipated. While Ciscomani, a former adviser for Gov. Doug Ducey, has run as a relatively moderate candidate, Republicans' nominees in the competitive Senate

and governor's races could drag him down. Engel's latest ad says that Ciscomani, Blake Masters, and Kari Lake are "like peas in a pod" when it comes to their stances on abortion. Since a judge's ruling put a 19th century abortion law back in effect, the issue could have more salience. Tilt Republican.

California.

9th District (Josh Harder, D). Biden 55%. Harder is dominating the airwaves right now in this Central Valley district. His Republican opponent, Tom Patti, hasn't released any general election TV ads yet, and he had only \$368,000 on hand at the end of June. Harder had \$7.2 million in his war chest at that same point in the cycle. His latest ad criticizes Patti for taking COVID-19 relief loans while not voting to approve ARP funding as a county supervisor. Likely Democratic.

13th District (Open; Josh Harder, D, running in 9th District). Biden 54%. John Duarte's business practices are under scrutiny in new English and Spanish-language ads from the DCCC. One spot highlights a lawsuit

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his business faced for selling defective pistachio trees. Duarte's own campaign released a new spot where he promises to work across the aisle to bring water to the Valley. Lean Democratic.

22nd District (David Valadao, R). Biden 55%. The NRCC and the McCarthy-affiliated Congressional Leadership Fund are hammering Democratic state

Assemblyman Rudy Salas with ads over his votes to raise state taxes, and Valadao's new ad accuses him of being beholden to special interest groups. Salas, who announced raising \$1.2 million in the third quarter, is also

out with a new spot that lambastes Valadao for supporting legislation that would criminalize abortion. Toss-up.

27th District (Mike Garcia, R). Biden 55%. Former Democratic Assemblywoman Christy Smith released a poll that showed her leading Garcia 44-42 percent, within the margin of error. But despite the congressman running in a district that Biden won by double-digits, Republicans are bullish on Garcia's chances — mostly because he's running against an opponent who he bested in the special and regular elections in 2020. Even though this is a very competitive race, Garcia appears to have a slight edge, and the NRCC started its \$3.7 million ad buy this week. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Republican.

45th District (Michelle Steel, R). Biden 52%. In a district that's largely new to Steel, the congresswoman's primary task is introducing herself to new voters. She's airing biographical spots that describe her family's experience fleeing North Korea. Meanwhile, her campaign is sending mailers to voters in Little Saigon that accuse her Democratic opponent Jay Chen, who is Taiwanese American, of being a communist sympathizer. Lean Republican.

47th District (Katie Porter, D). Biden 55%. Porter has had a spate of bad headlines over the past month. Following a story about her housing deal with UC Irvine, news broke that Porter called the Irvine police force "a disgrace" for their handling of a violent confrontation at one of her town halls in 2021. Porter's campaign is out with a new contrast spot that highlights her efforts to lower gas prices and prescription drug costs. The congresswoman has a massive spending advantage over Scott Baugh, but the Club for Growth PAC is coming in with reinforcements worth \$1.2 million. Lean Democratic.

49th District (Mike Levin, D). Biden 55%. Brian Maryott isn't the candidate some Republican strategists wanted. But he's still mounting a serious challenge to Levin, who doesn't have the fundraising prowess of his colleagues like Porter. Axios reported that Maryott, who has the ability to self-fund his campaign, narrowly outraised Levin in the third quarter, reportedly raising \$1.1 million to the congressman's \$1 million. We'll know how much personal money Maryott injected into the race by Oct. 15, when third quarter FEC reports are due. But Levin has more outside support than Maryott — over the next five weeks, Democrats have \$3.9 million reserved here. This race may shape to be more competitive than both parties anticipated. Move from Likely Democratic to Lean Democratic.



David Valadao

Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Colorado.

8th District (Open; new). Biden 51%. Democrats are feeling better about this race than they did over the summer, when Republican state Sen. Barb Kirkmeyer appeared to have a high single-digit or even double-digit lead over Democratic state Rep. Yadira Caraveo. Democrats believe both Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. Jared Polis are going to win at the top of the ticket, creating a more clear path to victory for Caraveo, who had a strong third quarter with \$1.5 million raised. Democrats are hitting Kirkmeyer on abortion while Republicans believe Caraveo is vulnerable on energy policy — the oil and gas industry is a big employer in the district. This has been one of the most competitive districts since it was created last year. Toss-up.

Connecticut.

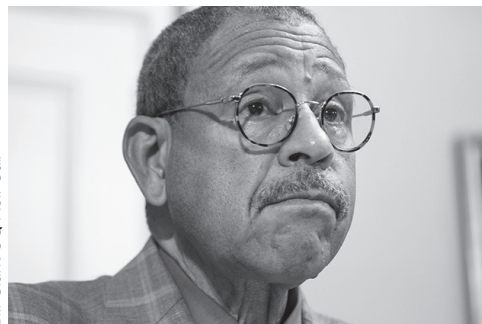
5th District (Jahana Hayes, D). Biden 55%. Republicans are still bullish on this race, energized by the opportunity to flip a seat in deep blue New England. Vice President Kamala Harris stumped for the congresswoman this week at an event highlighting the federal government's effort to defend abortion access — a sign that national Democrats are still concerned about this district, which Biden won by 11 points. Hayes is out with a new ad touting her support for veterans, and House Majority PAC is airing a contrast spot. The Congressional Leadership Fund has spent \$1.7 million on this race to support George Logan, a former state senator who's attempted to distance himself from the national GOP line on abortion and other issues. Likely Democratic.

Florida

27th District (Maria Elvira Salazar, R). Trump 49.8%. After an upset win in 2020, the congresswoman is in a decent position going into November. The new district moved a few points in Republicans' favor, and most polls have shown her consistently leading Democratic state Sen. Annette Taddeo, who dropped out of the governor's race to challenge Salazar. But the Taddeo campaign just released its own poll which showed the Democrat with a 1-point edge. This will likely be the most competitive congressional race in the Sunshine State — Congressional Leadership Fund announced that it's spending \$2 million in this South Florida district. Likely Republican.

Georgia

2nd District (Sanford Bishop, D). Biden 55%. In the Peach State's most competitive congressional district, Bishop appears to be the



Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Sanford Bishop

clear favorite. The congressman hit the campaign trail early, running on his ability to bring federal resources to the rural district. His latest TV ad features a retired general from Fort Benning, a military base in the district, talking about his

relationship with Bishop. And the DCCC has been on the air here for the past month. Republican Chris West just released his first TV ads, but GOP outside groups aren't likely to invest in this race. Likely Democratic.

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Illinois.

13th District (Open; Rodney Davis, R, lost 15th District primary). Biden 54%. Nikki Budzinski is getting out in front of potential GOP attacks with a TV ad that features a police officer talking about Budzinski's support for law enforcement and opposition to defunding the police. Democrats are outspending Republicans on the airwaves — Budzinski, who reportedly raised \$1 million in the third quarter, has back-up from House Majority PAC and EMILY's List, while Regan Deering is on her own so far. The DCCC has moved TV ad reservations from this district to the 17th, a sign that they feel relatively confident in Budzinski's prospects. Lean Democratic.

17th District (Open; Cheri Bustos, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. Democrats appear to have course-corrected in this Quad Cities seat. Outside ads have been successful in driving up GOP nominee Esther Joy King's negatives, and Democratic nominee Eric Sorensen's fundraising has picked up pace. The latest polling shows Sorensen with a persistent lead, a change from over the summer when this race was tied. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.



Eric Sorensen

Courtesy Sorensen Campaign

Indiana.

1st District (Frank Mrvan, D). Biden 53%. Republicans are still bullish on this race — Air Force veteran Jennifer-Ruth Green posted a strong fundraising quarter with more than \$1 million raised, and the Congressional Leadership Fund has been on the air for over a month. But Mrvan continues to have the edge. House Majority PAC, which has nearly \$4 million for TV ads reserved in this district, just went on the air this week with a spot that contrasts the two candidates. Lean Democratic.

Iowa.

1st District (Marianette Miller-Meeks, R). Trump 50.4%. Democratic state Rep. Christina Bohannon is touting her support from local law enforcement in the wake of GOP attack ads tying her to the "defund the police" movement. So far, Bohannon is on her own as Democratic outside groups have yet to get involved in this race. In a district that Trump narrowly carried in 2020, Miller-Meeks is the favorite. Lean Republican.

2nd District (Ashley Hinson, R). Trump 51%. Democratic state Sen. Liz Mathis is a strong fundraiser and is fairly well-known in the region thanks to her time in the state Senate and her background in local broadcast news. But Hinson is still favored to win, and the Congressional Leadership Fund is providing significant air cover during the next five weeks — the GOP group has reserved over \$1.2 million for TV ads. Lean Republican.

3rd District (Cindy Axne, D). Trump 49%. In one of the tightest races in the nation, polls show things haven't moved much since this summer. Republican state Sen. Zach Nunn released a poll that showed

him narrowly leading Axne, 46-44 percent, and an earlier September poll from Axne's campaign showed the candidates tied at 47 percent. In contrast with the vast majority of Republican candidates, Nunn has gone on offense on the issue of abortion, saying in a new TV ad that he supports abortion ban exemptions if the life of the mother is at risk. The congresswoman has hammered Nunn with ads featuring a clip of Nunn asserting that all abortions "should be illegal in this country" during a primary debate. Toss-up.

Kansas.

3rd District (Sharice Davids, D). Biden 51%. One of Amanda Adkins' latest ads diverges a bit from the usual GOP talking points as she calls for increasing paid parental leave. Meanwhile, Democrats continue to hammer Adkins for her ties to former Gov. Sam Brownback, and Davids has released a spot featuring an endorsement from a former mayor who calls himself a "lifelong Republican." With Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly faring better than expected in her own re-election race, Kansas Democrats are doing as well as they could be in a midterm cycle that should favor Republicans. Tilt Democratic.

Maine.

2nd District (Jared Golden, D). Trump 52%. Right now, the hottest topic in this race concerns Maine's lobster industry. Former GOP Rep. Bruce Poliquin criticized Golden last week for accepting a campaign donation from the executive director of an aquarium that runs a conservation group that called the lobster industry a threat to rare whales. In response, the congressman proposed a bill to defund the aquarium. But Poliquin has led with the issue in his latest TV ad, which accuses Golden of losing touch with Maine issues. Toss-up.

Michigan.

3rd District (Open; Peter Meijer, R, lost in primary). Biden 53%. Reporting that John Gibbs argued against women's suffrage in college is the subject of one of Hillary Scholten's latest ads (he says the writings were satirical). In another ad, Scholten calls on Democrats to stop spending too much. Meanwhile, the Congressional Leadership Fund released positive ads for Gibbs, a sign that the Republican might not have the money to air his own ads. Tilt Democratic.

7th District (Elissa Slotkin, D). Biden 50%. Slotkin, one of the Democratic party's most disciplined campaigners, was forced to respond to reports that she rents a Lansing house owned by a business executive who donated to her campaign and who works in government relations for a firm that has benefitted from grants supported by Slotkin. The situation is now the topic of the latest Congressional Leadership Fund ad. Meanwhile, Barrett faces attacks from Slotkin and the DCCC over his position on abortion, which he's attempted to pivot away from since the primary. Tilt Democratic.

8th District (Dan Kildee, D). Biden 50%. Thanks to a competitive governor's race and a ballot initiative to protect abortion access, Michigan Democrats have more reasons to turn out, which should benefit downballot candidates such as Kildee. Paul Junge commissioned a poll in September that showed him leading by 1 point, within the margin of error, but Republican strategists are still bearish on Junge's chances after he was one of Republicans' weaker nominees in 2020. He'll get more backup from the NRCC, which started airing ads attacking Kildee this week. Tilt Democratic.

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Minnesota.

2nd District (Angie Craig, DFL). Biden 52%. History is repeating itself in Minnesota's most competitive district. In 2020, the race between Craig and Tyler Kistner was upended by the death of a third party candidate. Craig narrowly won the race, but the deceased candidate, still on the ballot, won 6 percent of the vote, and Kistner mounted an ultimately unsuccessful legal challenge to the election results. On Wednesday, news broke that Legal Marijuana Now nominee Paula Overby had died. Five weeks out from the election, it's unclear if the party will put forward a candidate to replace her. But nonetheless, this development could have significant ramifications on the rematch between Craig and Kistner. Toss-up.

Montana

1st District (Open; new). Trump 52%. Attorney Monica Tranel, the Democratic nominee, put out a poll from Impact Research showing former GOP Rep.

Ryan Zinke with just a 2-point lead, 45-43 percent; the survey also pegged Zinke's popularity at a weak 39 percent favorable/54 percent unfavorable. Both Tranel and Zinke are engaged on TV, with Zinke taking aim at



Monica Tranel

Courtesy Tranel Campaign

Tranel's work as a defense attorney. The top spender in the race is Big Sky Voters, a local Democratic super PAC running ads on the various investigations Zinke faced while U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The partisan lean of the district favors Zinke, but he clearly has some unique baggage that's making this race more difficult for Republicans than anticipated. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Nebraska.

2nd District (Don Bacon, R). Biden 52%. Bacon is a fixture on lists of the most vulnerable House Republicans, and this year is no exception. House Majority PAC started airing ads this week calling the congressman "obsessed with abortion." But Republicans are still outspending Democrats 3-to-1 over the next five weeks. Democratic state Sen. Tony Vargas is proving to be a stronger challenger than Bacon's previous opponent. Toss-up.

Nevada.

1st District (Dina Titus, D). Biden 53%. Though Nevada's 1st and 4th districts are politically similar, Republicans appear more confident in their chances here. The Congressional Leadership Fund has spent over \$8 million to topple Titus, who represented a much safer district before redistricting. Her Republican opponent Mark Robertson isn't on TV yet, and he's facing attacks from the House Majority PAC and the DCCC for his stance on abortion. Tilt Democratic.

3rd District (Susie Lee, D). Biden 52%. April Becker's efforts to contest her 2020 state legislative election loss are the target of Lee's latest TV ad. With a photo of Lee superimposed over footage of Jan. 6 rioters,

the ad's narrator calls Becker a "2020 election denier." House Majority PAC's \$3.9 million ad buy started this week, with a spot focused on abortion. Tilt Democratic.

4th District (Steven Horsford, D). Biden 53%. In the next five weeks, Democrats are set to spend over \$5 million on the airwaves for Horsford, and House Majority PAC is up on TV with a new spot this week that features women criticizing Republican Sam Peters for his stance on abortion. But Peters is on his own — Republican outside groups aren't getting involved in this race, and he only had \$165,000 on hand at the end of June. Lean Democratic.

New Hampshire.

1st District (Chris Pappas, D). Biden 52%. The Congressional Leadership Fund spent nearly \$2 million against former White House aide Karoline Leavitt in the GOP primary, but now will spend just as much boosting her ahead of the general election. Democrats have a significant spending advantage, and Pappas himself has 10 times as much ad time reserved over the fall as Leavitt. Tilt Democratic.

2nd District (Ann McLane Kuster, D). Biden 54%. The latest public poll from Saint Anselm College shows Kuster leading former Hillsborough County Treasurer Bob Burns by double digits, affirming the congresswoman's clear advantage. Likely Democratic.

New Jersey.

7th District (Tom Malinowski, D). Biden 51%. Malinowski's campaign released a poll conducted by GQR with the incumbent tied with former state Sen. Tom Kean, Jr. at 48 percent. That's basically where the campaign had the race in January of this year, despite significant spending on both sides. That may be because both candidates are well known, and voters are set in their opinions. While some wrote off Malinowski as soon as New Jersey's new maps were released, the incumbent is still kicking. Toss-up.

New Mexico.

2nd District (Yvette Herrell, R). Biden 52%. A poll from Gabe Vasquez's campaign shows this race is in a similar place that it was in July, with both candidates statistically tied. But since that poll was conducted, news that Vasquez anonymously told a local reporter that he supported defunding the police threatens to jeopardize his chances with more moderate voters in a district Biden won by 6 points. The Congressional Leadership Fund went up with an ad using the clip of Vasquez this week. Meanwhile, the DCCC has released a new ad accusing Herrell of co-sponsoring a bill in the state Legislature that would have criminalized abortion. Toss-up.

New York.

1st District (Open; Lee Zeldin, R, running for governor). Biden 49.4%. Democrat Bridget Fleming picked up an endorsement from the Police Conference of New York, the state's largest police union. She's the only Democrat running for Congress to receive the group's support. It's another boost to the former prosecutor's efforts to run against Nick LaLota on a pro-police message. But she still has to make up ground against the Navy veteran, who's struggled to fundraise but is counting on Zeldin to put in a strong performance at the top of the ticket. Tilt Republican.

3rd District (Open; Tom Suozzi, D, lost Democratic gubernatorial

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primary). Biden 53.4%. Democrat Robert Zimmerman is out with a bevy of 15-second ads: one positive spot and two negative spots attacking George Santos for his position on abortion and Jan. 6. The Jan. 6 ad references a clip of Santos saying he helped cover the legal fees of rioters at the Capitol. Outside groups haven't started spending here yet. Lean Democratic.

4th District (Open; Kathleen Rice, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 57%. A March poll from Hempstead town board member Anthony D'Esposito showing him up 12 points over former Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen was an outlier. D'Esposito will do better than Republicans have in recent years, but it doesn't look like he'll win. Likely Democratic.



Anthony D'Esposito

Courtesy D'Esposito Campaign

11th District (Nicole Malliotakis, R). Trump 53%. A new poll from Siena College finds Malliotakis 6 points ahead of former Democratic Rep. Max Rose, 49-43 percent, in this Staten Island district. That margin would be a respectable showing for the former one-term member in a tough political environment, and it's significantly better for him than the 15-point deficit Malliotakis' pollster found in June. But it's not nearly enough to win. Likely Republican.

17th District (Sean Patrick Maloney, D). Biden 54%. While Maloney still has the edge in this district — he had \$2 million in his war chest at the end June — polling shows a closer race than Democrats anticipated. One NRCC poll, reported by the *New York Post*, shows Lawler leading Maloney by 4 points. The congressman released a TV ad this week that accuses Lawler of having an extreme stance on abortion and gun laws. So far, the Congressional Leadership Fund is the only outside group that's gotten involved. Move from Likely Democratic to Lean Democratic.

18th District (Pat Ryan, D). Biden 53%. Ryan released a poll that showed him leading his Republican opponent, state Assemblyman Colin Schmitt, 47-40 percent. While the new district is slightly bluer than the old 19th District that Ryan won in August, Republicans still have a narrow lead on the generic ballot, according to Ryan's poll. The congressman has a new ad out highlighting his West Point experience. Lean Democratic.

19th District (Open; Pat Ryan, D, running in the 18th District). Biden 51%. A new Siena College poll finds attorney Josh Riley with a 5-point lead over Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, 46-41 percent. That's a rosier picture for the Ithaca lawyer than private polling would suggest, but it's a reflection of the redrawn district's more Democratic lean. GOP gubernatorial nominee Lee Zeldin and Gov. Kathy Hochul are knotted up at the top of the ticket. Tilt Democratic.

22nd District (Open; John Katko, R, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. Democrat Francis Conole is either tied with or behind Republican Brandon Williams. A recent Siena College poll found Conole trailing Williams by 5 points, and while private data shows the race closer, it's simply not where the Navy vet needs to be in this district that was redrawn to be an easier pickup for his party. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

North Carolina.

1st District (Open; G.K. Butterfield, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. Trump waded into this race by endorsing embattled GOP nominee Sandy Smith, but that's not necessarily an advantage in a district Biden won by a decent margin. The DCCC is airing a spot highlighting the various domestic violence accusations against Smith, while Democratic nominee Don Davis, a state senator, is running a positive spot about his religious upbringing and work as a Presbyterian minister. Smith had close to zero campaign funds earlier in the summer. Lean Democratic.

13th District (New, R). Biden 50%. Bo Hines is still embracing Trump's support in this swing district, appearing at a rally with the former president two weeks ago. At the same time, he's attempted to dodge comparisons to GOP Rep. Madison Cawthorn, who is the focus of the latest House Majority PAC spot. Meanwhile, state Sen. Wiley Nickel is running to the middle, touting a new endorsement from the North Carolina Police Benevolent Association. Nickel has faced criticism for work done by his law firm in ads from the NRCC and the Congressional Leadership Fund. Toss-up.

North Dakota.

At-Large. (Kelly Armstrong, R). Trump 65%. There's been a recent, bipartisan flurry of polling in this race, which until now has flown



Cara Mund

Courtesy Mund Campaign

lower than under the radar. At issue is the independent candidacy of Cara Mund, a former Miss North Dakota, Miss America, and recent Harvard Law School graduate who launched her campaign in August. The Democratic

nominee dropped out (he says after pressure from party elders), leaving Mund, a former Republican running on a pro-abortion rights platform, as the sole challenger to Armstrong.

The poll released by the state Democratic-NPL party shows Armstrong with just a 4-point lead over Mund. Two surveys released by the Armstrong campaign show the incumbent with a larger lead, with his support floating around 50 percent while Mund is in the 30s. Armstrong won his last race with 69 percent of the vote, and this looks like the most competitive general election of his career. Mund entered the race after the latest FEC filing deadline, so we won't know how much money she has at her disposal for another week. Given the state's overwhelming GOP lean, Mund will need significant resources to have a shot of winning. This is worth keeping an eye on. Solid Republican.

Ohio.

1st District (Steve Chabot, R). Biden 54%. Attack ads are flying in this district, which became more Democratic after redistricting. The NRCC is on the air with a spot that accuses Cincinnati Councilman Greg Landsman of supporting defunding the police. The DCCC has an abortion-focused attack ad that calls the congressman "obsessed" with banning abortion. Landsman put out a poll from mid-September

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showing him leading Chabot by 3 points. Toss-up.

9th District (Marcy Kaptur, D). Trump 51%. A new Associated Press story found that Republican J.R. Majewski was demoted for drunk driving on an Air Force base in Japan in 2001, not because of a fight in a dormitory like the GOP nominee claimed, and that contrary to previous claims he never recovered his rank. This comes on the heels of a report that, despite Majewski claiming to have served in combat in Afghanistan, military records indicate he was stationed in Qatar, with no mention of Afghanistan. Majewski maintains he was in Afghanistan on classified missions. The NRCC withdrew its ad buy here, and Majewski has little by way of his own campaign funds to draw upon. House Majority PAC still has \$750,000 in ad buys scheduled. Expect Democrats to run through the finish line here given how much the fundamentals favor Republicans in the district, Majewski's flaws aside. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

13th District (Open; Tim Ryan, D, running for U.S. Senate). Biden 51%. As Republicans pull out of the 9th District, this open seat has become the GOP's best offensive opportunity in Ohio. The Congressional Leadership Fund increased the group's buy here, airing an ad last week that accuses Emilia Sykes of enabling domestic violence abusers through her bail reform legislation. The intense ad uses recordings of 911 calls from domestic abuse victims. Madison Gesiotto Gilbert released her own TV ad this week, a spot that focused on bringing manufacturing jobs to Ohio. Toss-up.

Oregon.

4th District (Open; Peter DeFazio, not seeking re-election). Biden 55%. Democrats' ads attacking Alek Skarlatos for his position on abortion have forced the Republican on defense. In his latest spot, Skarlatos promises "to protect women's health care" without sharing specifics on his abortion stance. Val Hoyle is facing her own attacks from the Congressional Leadership Fund that hit her for supporting tax raises. Likely Democratic.

5th District (Open; Kurt Schrader, D, lost in primary). Biden 53%. Despite the state's Democratic lean, Oregon continues to look like one of Republicans best

pick-up opportunities. Among the three competitive congressional districts, the 5th remains the most competitive. Since defeating Schrader in the primary, attorney Jamie McLeod-Skinner hasn't been



Lori Chavez-DeRemer

Courtesy Chavez-DeRemer Campaign

able to gain a clear lead over Lori Chavez-DeRemer, the former mayor of Happy Valley. The Congressional Leadership Fund has spent \$4.7 million in the race, airing ads almost exclusively focused on crime. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

6th District (Open; New). Biden 55%. Republican Mike Erickson is threatening legal action if he loses what's shaping up to be a surprisingly competitive race. Erickson has accused Democratic state Rep. Andrea Salinas of making false statements about his 2016 DUI charge in her ads, enough basis for him to challenge the election results under Oregon

law. At the same time, House Majority PAC and the DCCC are airing ads focused on allegations that Erickson paid for a girlfriend's abortion in 2001, a story that hurt his 2008 bid for the 5th District. Despite facing this barrage of negative ads, a poll from Erickson's campaign at the end of September showed him leading Salinas, 44-39 percent. Tilt Democratic.

Pennsylvania.

7th District (Susan Wild, D). Biden 49.7%. Republicans' struggles in the races for governor and Senate could drag down candidates like Lisa Scheller in this suburban district. Facing attack ads from Wild and Democratic outside groups that accuse her of shipping her company's jobs overseas, Scheller is on defense, airing ads featuring her employees. Toss-up.

8th District (Matt Cartwright, D). Trump 51%. Despite Cartwright's independent brand, Republicans are doing all they can to tie him to



Jim Bognet

Courtesy Bognet Campaign

President Biden, whose birthplace of Scranton is in this district. Jim Bognet's latest ad uses a clip of the president saying "Cartwright is the real reason I'm here" during an August trip to the district. The congressman is airing ads highlighting

Bognet's work for a firm that lobbied on behalf of the Saudi government. Toss-up.

17th District (Open; Conor Lamb, D, lost U.S. Senate primary). Biden 52%. Summer Lee, the progressive Democratic nominee in the 12th District next door, is the subject of the latest TV ad from the Congressional Leadership Fund in this Pittsburgh-based swing district. The spot attacks voting rights attorney Chris Deluzio for donating to Lee's campaign. Meanwhile, Jeremy Shaffer, a former Ross Township Commissioner, is responding to attack ads that accuse him of shipping his business's jobs overseas. A poll from the DCCC showed DeLuzio leading Shaffer, 49-43 percent, though private polling has shown a tighter race. Toss-up.

Rhode Island.

2nd District (Open; Jim Langevin, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 56%. Now that the general election has begun in earnest following the Ocean State's late primary, Democratic nominee Seth Magaziner is picking up steam against his GOP opponent Allan Fung. As the former mayor of Cranston, and a two-time gubernatorial nominee, Fung began the race with a solid base of support and crossover appeal, but there could be a ceiling to his share of the vote given the partisan lean of the district. Even when Fung won this district in the 2014 gubernatorial contest, he did so with the help of a third-party candidate taking about 20 percent of the vote. Lean Democratic.

Texas.

15th District (Open; Vicente Gonzalez, D, running in the 34th District). Trump 51%. Monica De La Cruz is just now facing attack ads from Michelle Vallejo's campaign, which released a TV ad last week targeting the Republican for her position on abortion. Vallejo's not getting any cover from Democratic outside groups right now, but House

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Majority PAC has \$1.5 million reserved here for the end of the month — though those reservations could be repurposed for the neighboring 34th District. Lean Republican.

28th District (Henry Cuellar, D). Biden 53%. House Democrats' most conservative member has a contentious battle ahead of him. Cuellar has been quite critical of Biden's handling of border security, attempting to distance himself from the national party. After struggling with fundraising initially, Cassy Garcia reportedly raised over \$1.5 million in the third quarter.



Henry Cuellar

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

And Cuellar's FBI raid earlier this year is back in the spotlight with the NRCC's latest ad. Strategists remain skeptical of polling in South Texas, but signs point to Republicans' growing strength in the region. Move from Likely Democratic to Lean Democratic.

34th District (Mayra Flores, R, Vicente Gonzalez, D). Biden 57%. Flores is at the vanguard of GOP victories in South Texas. While the partisan lean of this district favors Democrats, Gonzalez, who has represented the 15th District since 2017, had to spend time and money raising his profile in this district. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus' BOLD Pac started spending here at the end of September, airing TV ads that tie Flores to the Jan. 6 rioters and highlight her conservative positions on abortion and guns. Lean Democratic.

Virginia.

2nd District (Elaine Luria, D). Biden 50%. Since Republicans started spending more here, private polling shows that GOP state Sen. Jen Kiggans may have the edge now. The state senator's latest ad features Gov. Glenn Youngkin, whose 2021 campaign became the blueprint for Republican candidates in the commonwealth. Luria continues to batter Kiggans with ads calling her extreme on abortion; one of Luria's latest

spots uses a clip of Kiggans calling the issue a "shiny object." Toss-up.

7th District (Abigail Spanberger, D). Biden 52%. After being heavily outspent by Spanberger, Yesli Vega's getting backup from the NRCC and the Congressional Leadership Fund, who went on the air this week. She also reportedly raised \$1.5 million in the third quarter after struggling with fundraising initially. Spanberger, who raised over \$2 million in the third quarter, continues to hit Vega over a comment she made questioning if rape victims can become pregnant — her latest ad features a woman from Prince William County who says Vega's comment makes her "sick." Democrats in the district believe that Spanberger's re-election odds are contingent on turning out voters in Prince William County, which is new to Spanberger's district after redistricting. Tilt Democratic.

Washington.

3rd District (Open; Jaime Herrera Beutler, R, lost in primary). Trump 51%. Thanks to polling that shows Republican Joe Kent leading by only single digits, this race is now on Democrats' radar. But so far, outside groups haven't spent any money. Democrat Marie Gluesenkamp Pérez's initial TV spot features her in her auto shop, telling Washingtonians that she'll be an independent voice for them. Kent has not aired any TV ads since the primary. Likely Republican.

8th District (Kim Schrier, D). Biden 52%. The DCCC went up on TV this week with a spot that features a recording of Matt Larkin expressing support for a national abortion ban and saying he opposes exceptions for rape and incest. The committee's buy is worth \$1.7 million, while the NRCC has \$2.3 million parked in this district for later this month. Schrier, a pediatrician who flipped this seat in 2018, has made abortion rights central to her campaign. Toss-up.

Wisconsin.

3rd District (Open; Ron Kind, D, not seeking re-election). Trump 51%. Derrick Van Orden's presence at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 is back in the spotlight thanks to a new ad from Democratic state Sen. Brad Pfaff. In the TV spot, a retired Army veteran questions Van Orden's patriotism (Van Orden, a retired Navy SEAL, has said that he left the area once the protest became violent). But Van Orden is outspending Pfaff on the airwaves 5 to 1, and Republicans remain confident that they can flip this purple district. Lean Republican. **IE**

Gubernatorial Updates

Oklahoma. Kevin Stitt (R), elected 2018 (54%). Stitt should win re-election in a state as bright red as Oklahoma. But he's going to have to work harder for it than the state's partisan lean suggests. Two recent polls show Stitt in a margin-of-error race with state Superintendent of Education Joy Hofmeister, who left the GOP to join the Democratic Party last year. Oklahomans have also been inundated with anti-Stitt TV ads from a patchwork of outside groups, and since the primary, Democrats have outspent Republicans 6-to-1 on air in Oklahoma. Independent expenditure groups Imagine This Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Project have combined for nearly \$4 million in spending, including ads hammering Stitt on corruption allegations stemming from administration of COVID-19 relief funds.

Hofmeister went up on air in mid-August while Stitt didn't make

it back on TV until early September. The governor also weathered ferocious attack ads during the GOP primary, primarily targeting him on crime. The spots were aired by a group that does not have to disclose its donors but GOP sources say is funded at least in part by the state's Native American tribes, which have clashed repeatedly with Stitt over issues of tribal sovereignty (Stitt, who is Cherokee, is the first enrolled member of any tribe to be governor of a state).

In 2018, Stitt faced a credible Democratic opponent in former state Attorney General Drew Edmondson. Polls showed a close race, but Stitt ultimately won by 12 points despite a strong year for Democrats nationwide. Hofmeister may be aided by the presence of two third-party candidates on the ballot — Libertarian Natalie Bruno and former GOP

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state Sen. Ervin Yen, running as an independent — who could lower the threshold to win below 50 percent.

Stitt reported twice as much cash in the bank (\$932,000) on August 8 as Hofmeister did (\$485,000), but both candidates are spending roughly the same amounts on TV. This could be one to watch in the coming weeks. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Amber Integrated (R) for KOCO-TV, Sept. 19-21 (LVs)(live caller/online) — General election ballot: Stitt over Hofmeister, 47% - 44%, Bruno 2%, Yen 1%.

SoonerPoll for KWTW/KOTV, Sept. 2-7 (LVs) — General election ballot: Stitt over Hofmeister, 44%-43%, Yen 4%, Bruno 3%.

Oregon. Open; Kate Brown (D), term-limited. Statewide polling in the three competitive House districts have consistently shown Republican Christine Drazan and Democrat Tina Kotek locked in the mid-30s with independent Betsy Johnson around 20 percent. Despite waves of spending on both sides of the aisle and in favor of Johnson, the race hasn't budged in months.



Christine Drazan

Courtesy Drazan Campaign

That's probably good news for a Republican Party that hasn't won the governorship in decades. Drazan doesn't have much of a chance of getting 50 percent in the Democratic-leaning state, but she's getting close to 40 percent, which is what Trump received in 2020 and is probably enough to win this race. Drazan received a boost when Nike founder Phil Knight, who had been bankrolling Johnson's campaign, cut her a check for \$1 million to close out the race. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

Emerson College, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Drazan over Kotek, 36% - 34%, Johnson 19%.

Clout Research (R), Sept. 23-26 (LVs) — General election ballot: Drazan over Kotek, 39% - 35%, Johnson 16%.

DHM Research for The Oregonian, Sept. 23-24 (LVs) — General election ballot: Drazan over Kotek, 35% - 33%, Johnson 21%.

Pennsylvania. Open; Tom Wolf (D), term-limited. State Sen. Doug Mastriano's campaign continues to flounder — the beleaguered Republican now says he will fast and pray for forty days to boost his

efforts. His last major patron, the Jeff Yass-backed Commonwealth Leaders Fund, has pulled its support. With the Republican Governors' Association having long abandoned him, that leaves Mastriano with no allies and a significant spending disadvantage against Josh Shapiro, the Democratic state attorney general. Shapiro has already spent \$24 million on TV, while Mastriano has spent zero dollars, and the Democrat has another \$8 million in reservations. With little money and fewer friends, Mastriano's path to victory is fast closing. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

Suffolk Univ. for USA Today, Sept. 27-30 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Shapiro over Mastriano, 48% - 37%.

Emerson College for The Hill/WHTM-TV, Sept. 23-26 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Shapiro over Mastriano, 51% - 41%.

Beacon(D)/Shaw(R) for Fox News, Sept. 22-26 (RVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Shapiro over Mastriano, 51% - 40%.



2022 Governor Ratings

Toss-up (3D, 1R)

AZ Open (Ducey, R)

OR Open (Brown, D)*

Kelly (D-Kan.)

Evers (D-Wisc.)

Tilt Democratic (2D)

Tilt Republican (1R)

Whitmer (D-Mich.)

Kemp (R-Ga.)

Sisolak (D-Nev.)

Lean Democratic (3D)

Lean Republican

Mills (D-Maine)

Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.)

PA Open (Wolf, D)#

Likely Democratic (1D, 2R)

Likely Republican (3R)

MA Open (Baker, R)

Dunleavy (R-Alaska)

MD Open (Hogan, R)

DeSantis (R-Fl.)

Walz (DFL-Minn.)

Stitt (R-Okla.)#

Solid Democratic (7D)

Solid Republican (12R)

HI Open (Ige, D)

NE Open (Ricketts, R)

Newsom (D-Calif.)

Ivey (R-Ala.)

Polis (D-Colo.)

Little (R-Idaho)

Lamont (D-Conn.)

Reynolds (R-Iowa)

Pritzker (D-Ill.)

Noem (R-S.D.)

Hochul (D-N.Y.)

DeWine (R-Ohio)

McKee (D-R.I.)

McMaster (R-S.C.)

Lee (R-Tenn.)

Abbott (R-Texas)

Scott (R-Vt.)

Sununu (R-N.H.)

Gordon (R-Wyo.)

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

CALENDAR

Oct. 15	Third quarter FEC deadline
Oct. 21	Taylor Swift <i>Midnights</i> release
Oct. 28	World Series begins
Nov. 8	Election Day
Dec. 6	Georgia Senate Runoff (if necessary)
Jan. 6	Kentucky Governor filing deadline
Jan. 9	College Football National Championship
Feb. 12	Super Bowl LVII
March 30	MLB Opening Day
May 16	Kentucky Governor primary