

Inside Elections

with

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Nonpartisan Analysis

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2022 Senate Overview: The Slog to the Majority

By Nathan L. Gonzales & Jacob Rubashkin

Republicans are set up for sweeping success in the midterm elections, but it's turning out to be a race by race slog to the Senate majority for the GOP.

With a slumping economy and concerns about inflation, high gas prices, the supply chain, crime, and immigration, voters are poised to punish the party in power. And it's no secret that Joe Biden's political standing is weak. For more than eight months, a majority of Americans have disapproved of the job he's doing as president.

Yet even with the wind at their backs, capturing the net gain of just one seat they need for control of the Senate is proving to be a difficult task for Republicans.

Democratic and Republican strategists agree that most Democratic incumbents and candidates are overperforming Biden's job rating in key states. One of the most important factors of the entire cycle is whether Democrats can retain that distance from Biden or if Republicans are able to saddle Democratic candidates with the unpopular president in the final four months. Control of the Senate depends on it.

Republicans are wrestling with the dichotomy of pressing into states such as Colorado and Washington, that could be within reach in a good midterm political environment, while also having to worry about states such as Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Missouri. Those are states that shouldn't be a concern in a good political environment, but where there's work to be done because of damaged, flawed, or unknown nominees, or where the party needs to consolidate after a primary.

Even though the specific path to the majority isn't clear, Republicans are still optimistic. Democrats may have some distance from Biden, but vulnerable incumbents aren't well above 50 percent and the bulk of the advertising has yet to take place. There are few signs that the economy will rebound significantly between now and November, and Democrats are still in charge.

The Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is a wildcard. Most newsworthy, or even historic events, don't end up persuading partisan voters. But there's a clear divide within the Republican Party. On one side, there are those who are rejoicing about a long-awaited decision. On the other are GOP candidates trying to be more circumspect, because they are running in competitive races where severe penalties for an abortion at any stage of pregnancy could be a significant political liability.

Our most likely projection is still a net gain of 1-3 seats for Republicans. But Democrats maintaining control is not out of the question, nor is a Republican gain of a handful of seats.

2022 Senate Ratings

Toss-up

Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)
Kelly (D-Ariz.)

Warnock (D-Ga.)

Tilt Democratic

Hassan (D-N.H.)

Tilt Republican

PA Open (Toomey, R)
Johnson (R-Wisc.)

Lean Democratic

Lean Republican

NC Open (Burr, R)

Likely Democratic

Bennet (D-Colo.)*
Murray (D-Wash.)*

Likely Republican

Rubio (R-Fl.)

Solid Democratic

VT Open (Leahy, D)
Blumenthal (D-Conn.)
Duckworth (D-Ill.)
Padilla (D-Calif.)
Schatz (D-Hawaii)
Schumer (D-N.Y.)
Van Hollen (D-Md.)
Wyden (D-Ore.)

Solid Republican

AL Open (Shelby, R)
MO Open (Blunt, R)
OH Open (Portman, R)
OK Open (Inhofe, R)
Boozman (R-Ark.)
Crapo (R-Idaho)
Grassley (R-Iowa)
Hoeven (R-N.D.)
Kennedy (R-La.)
Lankford (R-Okla.)
Lee (R-Utah)
Moran (R-Kan.)
Murkowski (R-Alaska)
Paul (R-Ky.)
Scott (R-S.C.)
Thune (R-S.D.)
Young (R-Ind.)

moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics

CALENDAR

July 19	Maryland Primary
Aug. 2	Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Washington Primaries
Aug. 4	Tennessee Primary
Aug. 9	Connecticut, Minnesota, Vermont, Wisconsin Primaries

Too Early to Know Whether Roe Reversal Will Impact Midterms

By Nathan L. Gonzales

The Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade is a historic event, but it will take at least a few weeks, if not longer, to know whether it is an election-changing event.

Arguably the worst time to measure the political impact of an event is while it is still going on. The second worst time would be the immediate aftermath. The best option is to wait for the event to settle, let voters wrestle with it, and give enough time for pollsters to hear from those voters.

Of course there's an appetite for immediate reaction, so there are already at least two surveys helping shape the early narrative.

Fifty-six percent of registered voters opposed the Supreme Court's decision, compared to 40 percent who supported it, according to the latest NPR/PBS Newshour/Marist poll conducted on the Friday of the decision and the following Saturday.

Similarly, 49 percent disapproved of the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and 40 percent supported it in the latest Politico/Morning Consult poll, conducted that Friday and Saturday as well.

This sentiment should not be a surprise and doesn't guarantee the decision will alter the trajectory of the midterm elections. A majority of Americans have opposed overturning Roe going back more than 30 years, according to Gallup. But there's always been more nuance to abortion-related polling.

Going back to 1996, a majority of adults have been in support of legal abortion in the first trimester but less than 30 percent of adults were comfortable with it in the second trimester and less than 15 percent in support of legal abortion in the third trimester. Through that lens, the Supreme Court decision in the Dobbs case, which bans abortion after 15 weeks is close to the majority position.

At a higher level, the court's decision to rescind the previously agreed on right to an abortion is the bigger issue and driving outrage among Democrats.

Subsequent state laws being enacted go farther and are more restrictive than the Mississippi law and are outside of the mainstream view on the issue. To the extent their candidates or officials take "always" or "never" approaches to access to abortion, neither the Democratic Party nor the Republican Party represent a majority of Americans.

In order for abortion to make an impact on the midterm elections, it probably needs to boost President Joe Biden's political standing, since midterms are typically a referendum on the sitting president.

I'm skeptical the Dobbs decision will do it because nothing has affected his job rating in a significant way in nearly a year. Any changes to Biden's standing will likely be related to the economy. Right now, a majority of Americans disapprove of the job he is doing and his rating has been static.

Of course it's possible that this Supreme Court decision is so big that it breaks that trend in some way. Rather than spurring a macro change in the political environment, it's more likely that the decision impacts a series of individual races that could have broader implications because of the narrow majorities. GOP candidates may stumble when being asked about new, restrictive state laws or stumble when talking about women's bodies in general. Democratic candidates, meanwhile, risk staking out positions that are more liberal than a majority of the electorate.

There was some buzz that the Democratic overperformance in Tuesday's special election in Nebraska's 1st District was caused by Democratic anger over Roe's reversal. But it's not only wise to proceed with caution when drawing too many conclusions from a single special election, it's probably wiser to proceed even more cautiously when projecting a specific motive onto a slice of voters in a single special election.

Overall, Democrats may be encouraged that public sentiment is already on their side.

The Marist poll showed Democrats with a sizable 7-point edge (48 percent to 41 percent) on the generic congressional ballot. Some reporters compared it to the April Marist survey which showed Republicans with a 3-point advantage. But the Marist poll has consistently been friendly to Democrats. It gave Democrats an 8-point edge way back in September and even a 5-point advantage (47 percent to 42 percent) more recently in May.

As with any polling data, the best thing to do is look at multiple polls for the trend. And when doing so, Republicans still have the edge on the generic ballot. They had 2-point leads in both the RealClearPolitics and FiveThirtyEight national averages that included the recent Marist survey.

We've all learned to be open-minded about election outcomes after a couple of public misses. But as it still stands, we are headed for a typical midterm election in which the president's party is likely to suffer losses, until there's solid evidence to the contrary. **IE**

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Alabama. Open; Richard Shelby (R) not seeking re-election. In one of the cycle's most topsy-turvy primaries, the ultimate winner was Katie Boyd Britt, the former Shelby chief of staff and president of the Alabama Business Council who had the support of much of the DC GOP establishment. Britt trounced 5th District Rep. Mo Brooks, 63-37 percent, in the June 21 runoff. Brooks was the race's early favorite with Trump's endorsement, but faltered as another candidate, veteran Mike Durant, picked up steam, and Trump rescinded his endorsement of Brooks. While the congressman rebounded enough to win a spot in the runoff over Durant, it wasn't enough to topple Britt. Solid Republican.

Alaska. Lisa Murkowski (R) appointed 2002, elected 2004 (49%), 2010 (39% as a write-in), 2016 (44%). Aug. 16 primary. Murkowski benefitted from the sole notable Democrat in the race, state Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson, dropping out. That should clear the way for Murkowski to consolidate most of the Democratic vote early on in the state's unique, top-four ranked-choice election system. Her main competition remains Trump-endorsed Kelly Tshibaka, a former commissioner of the state Department of Administration. And Trump is scheduled to go to Alaska on July 9 for a rally to boost her candidacy.



Lisa Murkowski

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Murkowski had \$5.3 million in the bank on March 31 compared to \$968,000 for Tshibaka, and will be able to count on support from the McConnell-aligned NRSC and SLF outside groups. A Murkowski-aligned Super PAC is already on the air with an ad attacking Tshibaka over her stance on mail-order contraceptives. The senator is still relying on Democrats to rank her high enough to win, but Murkowski's path is clearer than it was even a few months ago. Solid Republican.

Arizona. Mark Kelly (D) elected 2020 special election (51%). Aug. 2 primary. Republicans are still sorting through an increasingly nasty primary, with entrepreneur/Peter Thiel acolyte Blake Masters (endorsed by Trump) and solar energy CEO Jim Lamon going toe-to-toe on TV and in the headlines. Lamon, a wealthy self-funder, has spent \$6 million on TV ads so far, and Masters' allies at the Club for Growth and a Thiel-funded Super PAC have spent \$6 million on TV as well. Masters is the leading in polling, but the first-time candidate has had some missteps while campaigning, like when he argued in favor of privatizing Social Security in a clip that will appear in Democratic ads if he's the nominee.

All the negative advertising could create room for a third candidate, state Attorney General Mark Brnovich, to squeak through despite losing his frontrunner status months ago. Two other candidates, retired General Mick McGuire and corporation commissioner Justin Olson, have struggled to gain traction.

Kelly is already in general election mode and has been on air since February, and the Schumer-aligned group Majority Forward is also airing \$5.8 million in pro-Kelly ads over the summer. But Kelly, who reported a massive \$23.3 million in the bank on March 31, doesn't have the airwaves to himself. GOP groups such as the NRSC and McConnell-affiliated One

Nation are spending \$8.5 million on anti-Kelly ads over the summer so the incumbent can't define himself entirely on his own terms before there's a GOP nominee. Toss-up.

Public Policy Polling (D), June 28 (LVs)— GOP primary ballot: Masters 29%, Brnovich 15%, Lamon 10%, McGuire 5%.

Change Research (D) for Future Majority, June 24-27 (RVs)— General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 48% -39%. Kelly over Lamon, 47% - 41%.

Trafalgar Group (R), June 7-9 (LVs)— GOP primary ballot: Masters 29%, Brnovich 24%, Lamon 17%, McGuire 4%, Olson 4%.

Arkansas. John Boozman (R) elected 2010 (58%), 2016 (60%). Boozman's biggest hurdle was avoiding a runoff in the GOP primary, where he faced a well-funded challenge from gun range owner Jan Morgan and former NFL player/veteran Jake Bequette. Boozman cleared the runoff threshold with 58 percent of the vote, setting him up to defeat Democratic nominee Natalie James in the fall. Solid Republican.

California. Alex Padilla (D) appointed Jan. 2021. Padilla placed first in the state's all-party primary with 54 percent. In the fall, he'll face GOP attorney Mark Meuser, who finished second in the primary with 15 percent. Padilla defeated Meuser, 65-35 percent, in the 2018 secretary of state race, and shouldn't have much difficulty dispatching him a second time. Solid Democratic.

Colorado. Michael Bennet (D) appointed 2009, elected 2010 (48%), 2016 (50%). Construction company owner Joe O'Dea won the



Joe O'Dea

Courtesy O'Dea campaign

GOP nomination, giving Republicans a credible challenger in a race that could break their way if the political environment remains in their favor. Democrats spent millions of dollars boosting another Republican, state Rep. Ron Hanks, in the

primary because he would have been a weaker candidate in the general election. Outside GOP groups would have paused before backing Hanks, who was on the Capitol grounds on Jan. 6, 2021 and has a history of controversial remarks.

Not only did Democrats not get their preferred opponent, but O'Dea looks more moderate after all of their spending painting Hanks as the true conservative in the GOP race. Biden won the state by 13.5 points, and Bennet gets to run on a ticket with popular Gov. Jared Polis. But O'Dea's nomination opens the doors for Republicans to compete. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

Global Strategy Group (D) for ProgressNow Colorado, June 2-8 (RVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 49% - 36%.

Connecticut. Richard Blumenthal (D) elected 2010 (55%), 2016 (63%). Aug. 9 primary. Connecticut remains just outside the fringes of the battlefield. A decade ago Republicans made serious efforts here but fell short both times. Former U.S. Ambassador to Chile Leora Levy and former state House minority leader Themis Klarides are running credible campaigns. Perennial candidate Peter Lumaj, who was the party's

nominee for secretary of state in 2014, is running as well. Blumenthal did go up on TV with an abortion-focused ad this past week, but he should be fine unless the bottom truly falls out for Democrats. Solid Democratic.

Emerson College/The Hill, May 10-11 (RVs)(IVR/online)— General election ballot: Blumenthal over Levy, 52% - 36%. Blumenthal over Klarides, 50% - 40%. Blumenthal over Lunnaj, 51% - 35%.

Florida. Marco Rubio (R) elected 2010 (49%), 2016 (52%).

Democratic Rep. Val Demings is keeping pace with GOP Sen. Marco Rubio in fundraising.

They both raised \$30 million through March 31 and had \$13 million in the bank. But keeping pace in the money race understates the difficult path ahead for the congresswoman.



Val Demings

Republicans have won all but one statewide race in Florida, albeit sometimes narrowly, over the last decade. And this cycle is shaping up to be a good one for Republicans overall. At the top of the ticket, GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis is trying to make a re-election statement ahead of a future presidential run. Demings is running a serious race, but Rubio is the heavy favorite. In fact, Democrats might relegate Florida in favor of Missouri if that state's scandal-plagued former governor, Eric Greitens, wins the GOP primary. Likely Republican.

Public Policy Polling (D) for Giffords PAC, May 26-27 (RVs)— General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 47% - 41%.

Georgia. Raphael Warnock (D) elected 2020/Jan. 5, 2021 runoff (51%).

Herschel Walker, the 1982 Heisman Trophy-winning former Georgia football star, won a dominant victory in the GOP primary over lesser-known candidates. Now he's coming under an onslaught of negative advertising, opposition research, and unflattering stories, including about three children he had out of wedlock while also decrying absent Black fathers. Warnock and his allies are hammering a message that Walker is unfit to serve as a senator, pulling together various professional and personal issues rather than simply focusing on the accusations of domestic violence that Walker's primary opponents tried to make an issue.

Republicans are happy with Walker's fundraising — he reported \$7.1 million in the bank on May 8 — but Warnock remains one of Democrats' best moneymen, with \$23 million in campaign funds on May 8. Setting aside the most recent public poll, which looks like an outlier, this race is close and likely to continue that way until Election Day. Georgia's racially polarized voting patterns (the vast majority of white voters vote Republican and the vast majority of the substantial Black population vote Democratic) means both candidates have high floors and low ceilings to their support. Toss-up.

Change Research (D) for Future Majority, June 24-27 (RVs)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 48% - 44%.

Quinnipiac Univ., June 23-27 (RVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 54% - 44%.

Moore Information Group (R) for Walker campaign, June 11-16 (LVs)(live

caller)— General election ballot: Warnock and Walker tied at 47%.

East Carolina Univ., June 6-9 (RVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Warnock and Walker tied at 47%.

Hawaii. Brian Schatz (D) appointed 2012, elected 2014 (70%), 2016 (74%). Aug. 13 primary. Several Republicans, most notably state Rep. Bob McDermott, filed to take on Schatz. None of them will beat the incumbent. The senator had \$4 million in the bank on March 31, at which point none of the Republicans had any money. Solid Democratic.

Idaho. Mike Crapo (R) elected 1998 (70%), 2004 (99%), 2010 (71%), 2016 (66%). Crapo won his primary with just 67 percent, though second-place finisher Scott Trotter, who owns a sign-making business, won just 11 percent. Crapo will defeat Democratic nominee David Roth, who runs a youth-centered nonprofit in Idaho Falls. The senator had \$5.8 million in the bank on April 27 compared to Roth's \$4,000. Solid Republican.

Illinois. Tammy Duckworth (D) elected 2016 (55%). Attorney Kathy Salvi won the GOP nomination on Tuesday and will face Duckworth in the fall. Kathy is married to a former state representative who lost to Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin in 1996. In 2006, Salvi finished second in the GOP primary in suburban Chicago's 8th District, which was then represented by Democratic Rep. Melissa Bean. In this general election, Salvi is certainly the underdog against Duckworth, who had \$7.6 million to \$74,000 cash advantage on June 8 and is running for re-election in a state Biden won by 17 points. Solid Democratic.

Indiana. Todd Young (R) elected 2016 (52%). Young will face Thomas McDermott, the longtime mayor of Hammond (population 76,000) in the fall. Young had \$6.1 million in his campaign account on April 13 compared to \$88,000 for McDermott. Hoosier Democrats are more focused on the state's open secretary of state race than they are on this contest. Solid Republican.

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

Retired three-star Admiral Mike Franken scored a minor upset in the Democratic primary, defeating former Rep. Abby Finkenauer, 55-40 percent. Finkenauer's campaign had struggled with ballot access and staff retention, and



Mike Franken

had been badly outspent on paid media in the weeks leading up to the election. But Franken is still the underdog against Grassley, who has never won re-election with less than 60 percent of the vote. Solid Republican.

Change Research (D) for Franken campaign, April 6-11 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 45% - 42%.

Kansas. Jerry Moran (R) elected 2010 (70%), 2016 (62%). Aug. 2 primary. Sunflower state Democrats are focused on re-electing Gov.

Laura Kelly and Rep. Sharice Davids, not unseating Moran. Former Kansas City mayor Mark Holland is the highest-profile Democratic candidate. Solid Republican.

Kentucky. Rand Paul (R) elected 2010 (56%), 2016 (57%). The matchup is set between Paul and former state Rep. Charles Booker, who became a progressive darling after nearly winning the 2020 Senate nomination. But Booker hasn't been able to raise the level of funds he did during his first run, and on April 27 he had just \$474,000 in the bank compared to Paul's \$8.7 million.



Charles Booker

Courtesy Booker Campaign

It's already tough for any Democrat to win in Kentucky, and the financial disadvantage makes it even more difficult — especially when Booker's theory of the case is turning out lower-propensity voters. Solid Republican.

Louisiana. John Kennedy (R) elected 2016 (60%). July 22 filing deadline. Nov. 8 jungle primary. Dec. 10 runoff (if needed). Two Democrats are taking on Kennedy: Navy veteran/commercial pilot Luke Mixon, who has support from Gov. John Bel Edwards and the state party chairwoman, and activist/2021 2nd District candidate Gary Chambers. Several eye-catching digital ads from Chambers — in one, he lights a Confederate flag on fire — garnered him national attention and boosted his fundraising numbers. But Kennedy will be hard to beat, especially with \$14 million in the bank on March 31. Solid Republican.

Maryland. Chris Van Hollen (D) elected 2016 (61%). July 19 primary. Van Hollen suffered a stroke in May but is back to work on the Hill. He faces no notable GOP opposition. The top fundraising candidate, entrepreneur James Tarantin, had \$95,000 in the bank on March 31 compared to Van Hollen's \$5.5 million. Solid Democratic.

Missouri. Open; Roy Blunt (R) not seeking re-election. Aug. 2 primary. It's all about the upcoming Republican primary and whether former Gov. Eric Greitens wins the nomination. Because of the plethora of professional and personal problems surrounding the former governor, the latest being allegations from his ex-wife of physical and emotional abuse and domestic violence, Democrats sense a takeover opportunity in a state that votes for Republicans under almost any other conditions.

Greitens is the frontrunner in the race, polling with approximately 25-30 percent of the vote, while the former governor's detractors are divided among state Attorney General Eric Schmitt, Rep. Vicky Hartzler, Rep. Billy Long and some other lower-tier candidates. There's no runoff in Missouri, so a candidate can win with a plurality of the vote.

Republicans who want to stop Greitens hope to consolidate the field. But the consensus is that that is not likely to happen at this point. Each candidate sees enough of a path to stay in the race.

This week, a new outside group, Save Missouri Values, began airing TV ads against Greitens. And some of Greitens' critics believe there are persuadable voters who remain unaware of his various problems (or his past political history as a Democrat). The sense is that Greitens will

win the primary if no one tries to bring him down, and even then he still might win in spite of any effort. If Greitens loses, Schmitt and Hartzler look like the top contenders for the nomination.

Democrats have a primary of their own between Marine veteran Lucas Kunce and philanthropist/Anheuser Busch heiress Trudy Busch Valentine. Kunce was the early frontrunner, but Busch Valentine has started a more aggressive TV ad campaign. Democrats can see a path to victory with either candidate, as long as Greitens is the nominee. If Greitens is the nominee, the race would be more competitive but he would still be the initial frontrunner. Former US Attorney for Western Missouri John Wood, who most recently served as an investigator on the January 6 committee, is running as a conservative independent; he has backing from former GOP Sen. Jack Danforth and a Super PAC seeded with \$5 million. Solid Republican.

Remington Research (R) for Missouri Scout, June 22-23 (LVs)(IVR) — GOP primary ballot: Schmitt 25%, Greitens 20%, Hartzler 19%, Long 8%, Mark McCloskey 5%, David Schatz 2%.

Emerson College, June 2-5 (LVs)(mixed mode) — GOP primary ballot: Greitens 26%, Schmitt 20%, Hartzler 16%, Long 8%, McCloskey 4%, Schatz 0%.

Nevada. Catherine Cortez Masto (D) elected 2016 (47%). Former state attorney general Adam Laxalt won the GOP primary with 56 percent, over a strong challenge from veteran Sam Brown (34 percent). Laxalt now begins in a strong position against Cortez Masto, who is seen by strategists in both parties as the most vulnerable Democratic senator this cycle. Democrats believe Cortez Masto has recovered from a slump earlier this year and is running even with Laxalt, but that's not a great place for an incumbent, especially when the political environment will be in Republicans' favor. There's some hope among Democrats that Nevada's pro-choice lean could boost Cortez Masto in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Toss-up.

Change Research (D) for Future Majority, June 24-27 (RVs) — General election ballot: Cortez Masto over Laxalt, 46% - 43%.

McLaughlin & Associates (R) for Battle Born Values, April 18-20 (LVs) (mixed mode) — General election ballot: Laxalt over Cortez Masto, 47% - 46%.

OH Predictive Insights (R) for the Nevada Independent, April 1-9 (RVs) (online) — General election ballot: Cortez Masto over Laxalt, 43% - 35%.

New Hampshire. Maggie Hassan (D) elected 2016 (48%). Sept. 13 primary. Republicans are no closer to settling on a nominee to take on Hassan. The top-fundraising GOP candidate is state Senate President Chuck Morse, who had \$671,000 in the bank on March 31. Londonderry Town Manager Kevin Smith is also running, as are retired Army General Don Bolduc, bitcoin millionaire Bruce Fenton, and business/financial consultant Vikram Marshamani. Hassan has already started advertising on TV, and outside money is flowing too: GOP-aligned group One Nation has \$7.5 million reserved over the coming month, while Democratic group Majority Forward has \$3.8 million. EMILY's List has also begun airing abortion-focused TV ads. Morse is the only GOP candidate who has reserved air time thus far, to begin in August. Even though Republicans don't have a top-tier candidate, New Hampshire tends to swing in the direction of the national environment. Tilt Democratic.

Change Research (D) for Future Majority, June 24-27 (RVs) — General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 49% - 40%.

New York. Chuck Schumer (D) elected 1998 (55%), 2004 (71%), 2010 (66%), 2016 (70%). The majority leader will face former Newsmax

TV host Joe Pinion in the general election. While Schumer might not put up the 40-point victories he's managed in the past, he'll still win handily. Pinion had just \$4,536 in the bank compared to Schumer's \$37.5 million. Solid Democratic.

North Carolina. Open; Richard Burr (R) not seeking re-election. This race has begun to heat up following the primary victories of Rep. Ted Budd and former state Supreme Court chief justice Cheri Beasley. Budd's allies at the NRSC have spent \$4.3 million on TV ads attacking Beasley, while Democratic Senate Majority PAC has responded with \$1.9 million defending Beasley. The initial NRSC ad became the subject of controversy after several TV stations stopped airing it due to factual inaccuracies. The committee adjusted the ad slightly and re-aired it, but some Republicans believe the initial misstep gave Beasley ammunition to call all GOP attacks against her false. While public and private polling shows a close race now, this race still isn't as high a priority for either party as Pennsylvania or Wisconsin.



Ted Budd

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

The current skirmish in North Carolina is important to the fall battle for the Senate majority. While there's concern that GOP nominee/Rep. Ted Budd still has to build and craft his statewide profile after the primary, Republicans are hoping to push this race off of the battleground of competitive races. That would allow groups, such as the McConnell-aligned Senate Leadership Fund, which has \$25 million in fall TV ad reservations, to shift their money to other key contests. Lean Republican.

Cygnal (R) for John Locke Foundation, June 17-19 (LVs)(live caller/text) — General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 45% - 40%.

SurveyUSA for WRAL-TV, June 8-12 (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Beasley over Budd, 44% - 40%.

North Dakota. John Hoeven (R) elected 2010 (76%), 2016 (78%). Hoeven will face Democratic-NPL nominee Katrina Christiansen, an engineering professor at University of Jamestown, in the fall. The senator had \$3.3 million in the bank on May 25 compared to Christiansen's \$18,000. Democrats won't be winning any races in North Dakota anytime soon. Solid Republican.

Ohio. Open; Rob Portman (R) not seeking re-election. Republicans are confident they'll hold the seat but admit they have some work to do. Author/GOP nominee J.D. Vance needs to consolidate Republican voters and repair some of the damage he incurred from the attacks in the competitive May primary. As the GOP candidates fought amongst themselves through the spring, Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan was on television defining himself for the general election. Even post-primary, Ryan has maintained a strong TV presence.

It will still be an uphill climb for Ryan in a state where no Democrat except for Sen. Sherrod Brown has won statewide in years — and where Biden's job rating is underwater by close to 20 points. Vance is still in the driver's seat, and he's the GOP nominee in a GOP state in a good GOP

year. But if he doesn't bounce back soon, this could get more competitive. Solid Republican.

GrowProgress (D) for Innovation Ohio, May 30-June 3 (RVs)(online) — General election ballot: Ryan over Vance, 44% - 41%.

Suffolk Univ./USA Today, May 22-24 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 42% - 39%.

Oklahoma. James Lankford (R) elected 2014 special (68%), 2016 (68%). The senator defeated a spirited challenge from pastor Jackson Lahmeyer 69-26 percent. Cybersecurity professional Madison Horn and attorney Jason Bollinger will face off in the August runoff for the Democratic nomination. But the most interesting race, the primary challenge to Lankford, is over. Solid Republican.

Oklahoma Special. Open; Jim Inhofe (R), resigning. August 23 runoff. Rep. Markwayne Mullin and former state House Speaker T.W. Shannon will face off in the August primary runoff. Mullin finished well ahead of the crowded field on Tuesday with 44 percent, followed by Shannon at 18 percent. But it will be an all-new race in two months. Inhofe's chief of staff, Luke Holland, finished well behind with 11 percent, and former state attorney general/former Trump EPA administrator Scott Pruitt even further behind him with just 5 percent. Mullin or Shannon will defeat former Democratic Rep. Kendra Horn in the general election. Solid Republican.

Oregon. Ron Wyden (D) elected 1996 special (48%), 1998 (61%), 2004 (63%), 2010 (57%), 2016 (56%). Republicans likely tossed away any chance they had at making Wyden sweat when they nominated Q-Anon promoter and perennial candidate Jo Rae Perkins for the second time in two cycles. Perkins, who beat businessman Darin Harbick 33-31 percent in the primary, lost to Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkeley, 57-39 percent, in the 2020 election. Even in a great GOP year, Republican outside groups might look elsewhere to make an investment. Wyden had \$8.1 million in the bank on April 27 compared to Perkins' \$6,000. Solid Democratic.

Pennsylvania. Open; Pat Toomey (R) not seeking re-election. The general election is set between Democratic Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz. Oz sustained significant damage to his profile during the GOP primary, and he trails Fetterman in early matchups. GOP strategists aren't too worried about Oz's high negatives because it's Republicans who opposed him in the primary and that they need to convince to come home to the GOP column.

Democrats were happy the GOP primary turned nastier than their own, but Fetterman has been off the campaign trail after suffering a stroke a few days before the primary. Democrats aren't worried yet about it, although there doesn't appear to be a set date for him to start campaigning again, and believe the race will largely be played out in TV ads. But there might come a point when Fetterman is unable to cultivate his populist image if he's not out among the people in his gym shorts and hooded sweatshirt. Republicans should hold their own open seat in this environment, but this is a competitive race. Tilt Republican.

Fabrizio Ward (R) and Impact Research (D) for AARP, June 12-19 (LVs) (mixed mode) — General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 50% - 44%.

Cygnal (R), June 16-17 (LVs)(live caller/text) — General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 48% - 44%.

Suffolk Univ./USA Today, June 10-13 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 46% - 37%.

South Carolina. Tim Scott (R) appointed 2013, elected 2014 special (61%), 2016 (61%). Scott will face Democrat Krystle Matthews in the fall, and he'll win easily without having to spend much of the \$24 million he had stashed in his campaign account as of May 25. That money may get deployed in another, more high-profile race in 2024. Solid Republican.

South Dakota. John Thune (R) elected 2004 (51%), 2010 (unopposed), 2016 (72%). Thune's Democratic opponent is former Northern State University professor Brian Bengs. South Dakota once elected Democrats, but right now it doesn't, especially not against popular Republicans with \$16.1 million in the bank on May 18. Solid Republican.

Utah. Mike Lee (R) elected 2010 (62%), 2016 (68%). Lee won the GOP primary on Tuesday with 62 percent and by more than 30 points, but that doesn't mean he's a sure bet for re-election. Utah Democrats chose not to nominate a candidate and are instead backing an independent candidate: Former CIA officer / House GOP staffer Evan McMullin.

McMullin, who received 22 percent of the vote in Utah in the 2016 presidential race as an independent candidate, is trying to build a coalition of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans who want to defeat the senator. That coalition likely includes at least 25 percent of Republicans, and 38 percent of GOP primary voters chose another candidate against Lee this week.

Of course Democrats don't want Lee to win re-election, but there might be a limit to their support for McMullin, who is committed to not caucusing with either party on Capitol Hill and has some traditionally conservative positions in his past that might rankle some Democrats. McMullin needs to raise more money to build his profile and bring together the coalition, and there's limited evidence that GOP voters are upset with Lee enough to risk a Democratic majority, but there's a plausible scenario here. Solid Republican.

WPAi (R) for Lee campaign, June 14-16 (LVs)— General election ballot: Lee over McMullin, 52% - 33%.

Dan Jones & Associates for Desert News, May 24-June 4 (RVs)— General election ballot: Lee over McMullin, 41% - 37%.

Vermont. Open; Pat Leahy (D) not seeking re-election. Aug. 9 primary. GOP leaders have coalesced around former US Attorney

Christina Nolan, but she's a substantial underdog against Rep. Peter Welch, who has represented the state in the at-large congressional district for nearly two decades. Bitcoin investor / former child star Brock Pierce is self-funding an independent bid with \$700,000 so far. Solid Democratic.

Univ. of New Hampshire, April 14-18 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Welch over Nolan, 62% - 27%.

Washington. Patty Murray (D) elected 1992 (54%), 1998 (58%), 2004 (55%), 2010 (52%), 2016 (59%). August 2 all-party, top-



Courtesy Smiley Campaign

Tiffany Smiley

two primary. Republicans haven't won a U.S. Senate race in Washington since 1994, but the conditions might be ripe for an upset this year. Republicans in D.C. and in the state have rallied around former triage nurse / veterans advocate

Tiffany Smiley. And Democrats are taking her seriously; the senator is already airing attack ads against Smiley, including tying her to Trump by showing a picture of the two of them in the Oval Office.

Biden won the state by nearly 20 points in 2022 and Murray still had a sizable cash advantage on March 31 (\$7.9 million to \$2.5 million). And the senator is trying to leverage her financial edge to define Smiley with early negative ads before she gets much more traction. But this race is getting some buzz, particularly as Republicans labored through the primary in Colorado. Smiley is still a long shot, but the race is likely to get more competitive and draw spending from outside groups. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

Tarrance Group (R) for Smiley, June 14-19 (LVs)— General election ballot: Murray over Smiley, 48% - 43%.

Public Policy Polling (D) for Northwest Progressive Institute, June 1-2 (LVs) (mixed mode)— General election ballot: Murray over Smiley, 51% - 40%.

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STATES WITH POST-LABOR DAY TV AD RESERVATIONS

STATE	DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE	DSCC	SENATE MAJORITY PAC (D)	TOTAL DEMOCRATIC	GOP CANDIDATE	NRSC	SENATE LEADERSHIP FUND (R)	TOTAL GOP	GRAND TOTAL	
Georgia	\$22,460,575	\$6,468,900	\$29,789,645	\$58,719,120		\$0	\$6,375,514	\$29,424,498	\$35,800,012	\$94,519,132
Pennsylvania	\$0	\$3,169,355	\$26,689,890	\$29,859,245		\$0	\$5,063,903	\$21,481,262	\$26,545,165	\$56,404,410
Arizona	\$9,295,199	\$5,019,492	\$22,009,693	\$36,324,384		\$0	\$6,261,846	\$10,538,973	\$16,800,819	\$53,125,203
Nevada	\$8,749,625	\$9,284,587	\$18,899,003	\$36,933,215		\$0	\$326,326	\$14,069,839	\$14,396,165	\$51,329,380
Wisconsin	0	\$816,960	\$12,545,226	\$13,362,186		\$0	\$2,919,986	\$11,002,705	\$13,922,691	\$27,284,877
New Hampshire	\$11,365,120	\$4,301,464	\$0	\$15,666,584	\$322,744	\$6,348,114	\$0	\$6,670,858	\$22,337,442	
North Carolina	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,833,834	\$21,833,834	\$21,833,834	
Alaska	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$795,200	\$0	\$8,222,301	\$9,017,501	\$9,017,501	
Ohio	\$7,513,945	\$0	\$0	\$7,513,945	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,513,945	

Source: Kantar/CMAG, as of June 30, 2022

Continued from page 7

Wisconsin. Ron Johnson (R) elected 2010 (52%), 2016 (50%). **Aug. 9 primary.** Johnson is the most vulnerable Republican senator in the country, and he can't stay out of the headlines. Even his allies admit his job approval rating is lower than they'd like it to be. And a recent Jan. 6 investigation hearing revealed that Johnson's staff was involved in trying to get slates of fake electors to Vice President Mike Pence on or before Jan. 6. The senator's recollection of the event evolved over the course of a couple of days.

Johnson is in a weakened position, but Biden only won the state narrowly in 2020 and his poor job approval rating is casting a shadow over all Senate and House races. Democrats have more than a month before they even have a nominee. The top contenders include Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, Milwaukee Bucks executive Alex Lasry and state Treasurer Sarah Godlewski. Barnes has been the leader but interested observers broadly view it as a three-way race. Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson is also running. Johnson is vulnerable but may end up being saved by the cycle. Tilt Republican. **IE**

Kansas Redistricting: Why Not Split Wyandotte?

By Bradley Wascher

A drawn-out redistricting process in Kansas resulted in few alterations overall to its congressional map, but the state's only Democratic-held seat will likely be even more competitive this November.

Kansas is no stranger to dramatic redistricting cycles, and this most recent round proved no different. Earlier in February, Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed the plan drawn by GOP mapmakers, but her veto was then overridden by Republican supermajorities in the state Legislature.

And so began the map's trip through the state courts, in which a district judge initially struck down the plan for diluting the influence of Democratic Black and Hispanic voters. (The new lines split Wyandotte County, home to Kansas City, between the 2nd and 3rd districts.) But in May, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the original map could stand, meaning these will be the lines used for the next decade.

The new map retains its three districts that are reliably Republican. But the Democratic-held 3rd District, already a top target, will almost surely become one of the GOP's prime pickup opportunities this year.

Republicans currently hold a 3R-1D advantage in the House delegation. If the GOP does indeed flip the 3rd District, Democrats will once again be shut out of Kansas's congressional representation, as they had been for much of the past decade pre-2018.

1st District

The big 1st (appropriately nicknamed the "Big First") spans western and north-central Kansas, connecting communities from Garden City to Salina to Manhattan. The district now reaches farther toward the state's eastern border, picking up Jefferson County as well as parts of Jackson County and Douglas County (containing Lawrence, and the University of Kansas) in exchange for several rural counties. The district preferred Republicans by an average of 28.8 points, according to a composite of all statewide and federal races in Kansas between 2016 and 2020 calculated by Inside Elections. Trump would have carried the 1st by 31 points in 2020, meaning freshman GOP Rep. Tracey Mann should have little problem securing his second term. Initial Rating: Solid Republican

2nd District

The 2nd covers much of eastern Kansas and includes Topeka. The district is less compact compared to its previous configuration — its shape now somewhat resembles the numeral 2 — as it loses Lawrence and gains the northern half of Wyandotte County (and with it, portions

Rating Kansas' New Districts

DISTRICT	INCUMBENT	INITIAL RATING
1st	Tracey Mann, R	Solid Republican
2nd	Jake LaTurner, R	Solid Republican
3rd	Sharice Davids, D	Toss-up
4th	Ron Estes, R	Solid Republican

of Kansas City). The 2nd voted for Republican candidates by an average of 14.5 points in the composite of 2016-2020 elections, while Trump would have won by 16 points in 2020. Freshman Republican Rep. Jake LaTurner, the former state treasurer, faces a Democratic challenger in the form of Navy Reserve officer Patrick Schmidt, but this seat is still very favorable for the GOP. Solid Republican.

3rd District

By far Kansas's smallest district in terms of area, the 3rd is also the state's most competitive. The district, still keeping Johnson County and Overland Park, now fills all of Miami County, also picking up rural Franklin and Anderson counties. But it crucially loses much of Kansas City in the northern half of Wyandotte County. In total, these changes make the district approximately 6 points more favorable for Republicans: Biden would have carried the new 3rd by just over 4 points in 2020, compared to nearly Biden+11 under the current lines.

As a result, Democratic Rep. Sharice Davids finds herself in a tough re-election bid. Amanda Adkins, the former state GOP chairwoman who lost to Davids in 2020, 54-44 percent, is running again — and this time, Adkins will probably have a favorable national environment at her back. With an average partisanship of R+1.3 in the 2016-2020 composite, the 3rd could be one of Republicans' premier places for a pickup come November. Toss-up.

4th District

The 4th, located in south-central Kansas, contains Wichita alongside smaller cities such as Newton and El Dorado. The only change was the addition of precincts in Pawnee County to meet population targets. The 4th voted for Republicans by an average of 20.8 points in the 2016-2020 elections composite, and Trump carried the district by 22 points in 2020. Republican Rep. Ron Estes, who first won the seat in a 2017 special election to replace former Trump administration official Mike Pompeo, is on track for his third full term. Solid Republican. **IE**

Report Shorts

California

22nd District. Now that all but the last couple hundred ballots have finally been counted, GOP Rep. David Valadao can breathe a brief sigh of relief. The incumbent will outpace fellow Republican and former Fresno City councilor Chris Mathys by just 1,226 votes, after Democrats started spending to boost Mathys. Valadao can't spend too long on his laurels, though. Now he faces a competitive general election against Democratic state Assemblyman Rudy Salas, who placed first with 45 percent of the vote. Toss-up.

37th District. Former Los Angeles city councilor Jan Perry barely beat out Culver City Mayor Daniel Lee for the second general election spot in this race, running just 571 votes ahead of him. Perry will face state Sen. Sydney Kamlager in the fall. All are Democrats. Solid Democratic.

Colorado

Governor. Colorado University Regent Heidi Ganahl won the GOP primary over former Parker Mayor Greg Lopez, 54-46 percent. Lopez had significant personal and political baggage, but even with Ganahl as their nominee Republicans face a steep climb against popular Democratic Gov. Jared Polis. Solid Democratic.

3rd District. Polarizing GOP Rep. Lauren Boebert turned back a challenge from state Sen. Don Coram, 66-34 percent.

Coram had run as a more moderate and understated alternative to the bombastic Boebert. Former Aspen City Councilman Adam Frisch narrowly won the Democratic nomination, 43-42 percent, over progressive favorite Sol Sandoval. Boebert will be tough to beat. Solid Republican.



Lauren Boebert

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

5th District. GOP Rep. Doug Lamborn survived a primary challenge from state Rep. Dave Williams, though he did so in characteristically underwhelming fashion. Lamborn, who faces an ongoing ethics investigation over potential misuse of official resources, notched just 47 percent of the vote, 13 points ahead of Williams. But that was enough to win the primary, which is the real contest in this district. Solid Republican.

7th District. Democratic nominee state Sen. Brittany Petterson will finally get her chance at this suburban Denver district. First she'll have to get through energy executive Erik Aadland, who won the GOP primary with 48 percent. Likely Democratic.

8th District. This will be one of the most competitive House races in the state and potentially the country. Pediatrician/state Rep. Yadira Caraveo, a Democrat, and state Sen. Barb Kirkmeyer, who won the GOP primary with 39 percent, will attempt to be the first representative from this new district north of Denver. Democrats spent some money to try to get Weld County Commissioner Lori Saine as their opponent because they viewed her as easier to beat, but she placed third with just 21 percent. Toss-up.

Illinois

Governor. Democrats got their preferred opponent, state Sen. Darren Bailey, in this race, but it didn't come cheap. Gov. JB Pritzker and his allies at the Democratic Governors Association spent a combined \$41 million

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2022 House Ratings

Toss-Up (10D, 7R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)	KS 3 (Davids, D)	NM 2 (Herrell, R)	PA 8 (Cartwright, D)
CA 27 (Garcia, R)	ME 2 (Golden, D)	NY 19 (Open; Delgado, D)	VA 2 (Luria, D)
CA 45 (Steel, R)	MI 3 (Meijer, R)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)	WA 8 (Schrier, D)
CO 8 (Open, New)	NC 13 (Open, R)	OH 9 (Kaptur, D)	
IA 3 (Axne, D)	NJ 7 (Malinowski, D)	PA 7 (Wild, D)	

Tilt Democratic (8D, 1R)

IL 17 (Open; Bustos, D)	NV 3 (S. Lee, D)
MI 7 (Slotkin, D)	NY 22 (Open; Katko, R)
MI 8 (Kildee, D)	PA 17 (Open; Lamb, D)
MN 2 (Craig, DFL)	VA 7 (Spanberger, D)
NH 1 (Pappas, D)	

Tilt Republican (4D, 1R)

AZ 6 (Open; Kirkpatrick, D)
MI 10 (Open; Levin, D)
NY 1 (Open; Zeldin, R)
OH 13 (Open; Ryan, D)
TX 15 (Open; V. Gonzalez, D)

Lean Democratic (7D, 1R)

CA 47 (Porter, D)	OR 5 (Open; Schrader, D)
IL 13 (Open; Davis, R)	
NC 1 (Open; Butterfield, D)	
NV 1 (Titus, D)	
NV 4 (Horsford, D)	
NY 3 (Open; Suozzi, D)	
NY 18 (Open; Maloney, D)	

Lean Republican (2D, 3R)

AZ 1 (Schweikert, R)
AZ 2 (O'Halleran, D)
NE 2 (Bacon, R)
NY 2 (Garbarino, R)
WI 3 (Open; Kind, D)

Likely Democratic (19D)

AZ 4 (Stanton, D)
CA 13 (Open; Harder, D)
CA 49 (Levin, D)
CO 7 (Open; Perlmutter, D)
CT 5 (Hayes, D)
GA 2 (Bishop, D)
IL 6 (Casten, D)
IL 14 (Underwood, D)
IN 1 (Mrvan, D)
MD 6 (Trone, D)
NC 6 (Manning, D)
NC 14 (Open, New)
NH 2 (Kuster, D)
NM 3 (Leger Fernandez, D)
NY 4 (Open; Rice, D)
NY 17 (S. Maloney, D)
OR 4 (Open; DeFazio, D)
OR 6 (Open, New)
RI 2 (Open; Langevin, D)
TX 34 (Flores, R/Gonzalez, D)
TX 28 (Cuellar, D)

Likely Republican (5D, 10R)

AK AL Special (Vacant, R)
CA 3 (Open; McClintock, R)
CA 40 (Kim, R)
CA 41 (Calvert, R)
FL 5 (Rutherford, R)
FL 7 (Open; Murphy, D)
FL 13 (Open; Crist, D)
FL 15 (Open; Franklin, R)
FL 27 (Salazar, R)
GA 6 (Open; McBeth, D)
IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)
IA 2 (Hinson, R)
MT 1 (Open, New)
NY 11 (Malliotakis, R)
PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)
TN 5 (Open; Cooper, D)

	GOP	DEM
Solid	187	168
Likely/Lean/Tilt	25	37
Total	212	205
Toss-up	18	
Needed for majority	218	

moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics

Continued from page 9

boosting Bailey and attacking his main opponent in the GOP primary, Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin. Despite spending \$30 million himself, Irvin couldn't withstand the barrage and placed a distant third with 15 percent, while Bailey won 58 percent. Bailey is one of the most conservative legislators in the state, and has proposed lopping Chicago off from the rest of Illinois. Solid Democratic.

1st District. Jonathan Jackson, a college professor and the son of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., won a crowded Democratic primary to succeed retiring Rep. Bobby Rush. Jackson won 28 percent and will win in the fall in this deeply Democratic district. Chicago Alderman Pat Dowell placed second with 19 percent. Solid Democratic.

3rd District. State Rep. Delia Ramirez trounced Chicago Alderman Gilbert Villegas, 66-24 percent, in a Democratic primary that saw significant outside spending. The Working Families Party spent big to back Ramirez, the more progressive of the two candidates, while Villegas had backing from VoteVets. This is a new, majority-Hispanic seat anchored by Chicago. Solid Democratic.

6th District. In a clash of colleagues, it was Rep. Sean Casten who emerged victorious over Rep. Marie Newman, 68-29 percent. Casten put up a wide margin despite currently representing less of the new district than Newman does. But Newman was hampered by an ongoing ethics investigation. Republicans nominated Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau. Democrats should win in this district but Biden won it by just 11 points, putting it on the edge of the battlefield. Likely Democratic.

7th District. Longtime Rep. Danny Davis barely defeated progressive challenger Kina Collins, who was endorsed by Justice Democrats. Davis won 52-46 percent just two years after turning back Collins by a much wider 60-14 percent margin. Solid Democratic.

13th District. Former Office of Management and Budget staffer Nikki Budzinski easily won the Democratic primary and will be favored to flip this central Illinois district that was redrawn to be much more favorable to Democrats. She'll likely face philanthropist Reagan Deering, who narrowly leads former prosecutor Jesse Reising in a race not yet called (although Reising has conceded). Lean Democratic.

15th District. In the state's second member vs. member primary, Trump-endorsed Rep. Mary Miller bested Rep. Rodney Davis, 58-42 percent. Davis caught flack from the primary base after voting for the original, bipartisan independent Jan. 6 commission proposed last year. Miller is a controversial freshman representative who has made headlines for saying "Hitler was right about one thing" and celebrating the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* as a victory for "white life" (her staff says the latter was a slip of the tongue). Solid Republican.



Mary Miller

17th District. Meteorologist Eric Sorenson won 38 percent in the Democratic primary, enough to secure the nomination over former state Rep. Litesa Wallace (23 percent). He'll face 2020 nominee/ Army reservist Esther Joy King, who nearly won this seat last cycle. Democrats in Springfield redrew this seat to be slightly more favorable to Democrats but in the current national environment it is very much in play. Tilt Democratic.

New York

Governor. Kathy Hochul, who ascended to the state's top spot last year after Andrew Cuomo resigned due to mounting scandals, easily won her party's nomination for a full term. Hochul put up dominant numbers across the board, winning 68 percent of the vote and every single county in the state. New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams placed second with 19 percent, while Long Island Rep. Tom Suozzi finished third. On the GOP side, 1st District Rep. Lee Zeldin won 44 percent in a crowded field that included Andrew Giuliani (23 percent), former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino (19 percent) and businessman Harry Wilson (15 percent), who ran in a more moderate lane. Solid Democratic. Due to delays in the redistricting process, congressional primaries aren't until August 23.

Oklahoma

Governor. Gov. Kevin Stitt easily won renomination despite a dark money group spending more than \$4 million on ads highly critical of his tenure. In the fall, he'll face state superintendent of education Joy Hofmeister, who recently left the GOP to run in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, which she won 61-39 percent over former state Sen. Connie Johnson. Solid Republican.

2nd District. The wide-open race to succeed Rep. Markwayne Mullin ended in a pileup in eastern Oklahoma, with five candidates winning between 10 and 15 percent of the vote in the GOP primary. State Rep. Avery Frix came out on top, with 14.7 percent of the vote. He'll advance to a runoff against former state Sen. Josh Brecheen, who won 13.8 percent. Muskogee, Oklahoma chief of police Johnny Teehee placed third with 13 percent. The August 23 runoff will be the real contest in this deeply Republican district. Solid Republican.

Virginia

2nd District. National Republicans got their preferred candidate to take on Rep. Elaine Luria in state Sen. Jen Kiggans, who like Luria is a Navy veteran. Kiggans, who won a very close state Senate race in 2019, defeated Navy veteran Jarome Bell, 56-27 percent. Bell had called for the execution of "all involved" in the alleged rigging of the 2020 election against Donald Trump. Luria begins with a financial advantage but Kiggans will have the political environment in her favor. Biden would have carried the district by just 2 points. Toss-up.

7th District. Prince William County Supervisor Yesli Vega won the GOP primary with 29 percent over state Sen. Bryce Reeves and four others. The former police officer will now face Democratic Rep. Abigail



Abigail Spanberger

Spanberger in one of the most competitive races anywhere in the country this fall. Biden would have won the district by 7 points in the fall, giving the congresswoman some breathing room. But she only currently represents one-quarter of the redrawn district and Republican Glenn Youngkin won it by 6 points in his 2021 gubernatorial win. Tilt Democratic.