

Inside Elections

With Nathan L. Gonzales

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Maine Senate: Troy's Odyssey

By Jacob Rubashkin

Maine's critical Senate race entered arguably its fifth distinct phase this week, as former state Senate President Troy Jackson emerged as the likely replacement Democratic nominee to take on GOP Sen. Susan Collins.

Jackson's rapid ascent comes just two weeks after the original Democratic nominee, Graham Platner, withdrew from the race after he was accused of sexual assault by an ex-girlfriend. Jackson's nomination, which will be formalized on Saturday, resets a must-win contest for Democrats in their quest to reclaim the Senate majority.

The Replacement Process

After Platner withdrew under pressure from state and national Democratic leaders, the Maine Democratic Party set in motion a two-step replacement process in which each county party would hold caucuses to nominate a total of 601 delegates to a statewide convention on July 25.

A number of Democrats threw their hats in the ring along with Jackson, most notably former state health director Nirav Shah and Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows. All three were coming off unsuccessful gubernatorial bids last month. Maine Beer Company owner Dan Kleban and unsuccessful 2nd District candidate Jordan Wood also jumped in — both men had briefly run for Senate last year.

For a fleeting moment, the prospect of an unpredictable nominating convention full of unpledged delegates captivated the state. But the suspense was largely sucked out of the process after Jackson turned in a dominant performance in the county-level caucuses, overseeing the selection of hundreds of delegates running on a "Jackson slate." That show of force pushed Shah, Bellows and Kleban to suspend their campaigns and turned the upcoming convention into a formality.

The New Nominee

Jackson's dominant performance in the hastily assembled nominating process speaks to his campaign's organizational strength, and the speed with which he locked down support surprised even his own allies.

Now he faces a much steeper challenge: standing up a general election campaign capable of ousting the formidable Collins with just three months to go before Election Day.

Jackson, 58, cuts a compelling profile with authentically working class bona fides. He hails from Aroostook County, Maine's vast, rural

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2026 Senate Ratings

Toss-up (3)

MI Open (Peters, D)
NC Open (Tillis, R)

Ossoff (D-Ga.)

Tilt Democratic (1)

NH Open (Shaheen, D)

Tilt Republican (2)

Collins (R-Maine)
Husted (R-Ohio)

Lean Democratic

Lean Republican (2)

IA Open (Ernst, R)
Sullivan (R-Ak.)

Likely Democratic (1)

MN Open (Smith, DFL)

Likely Republican (3)

TX Open (Cornyn, R)
Graham (R-S.C.)
Ricketts (R-Neb.)

Solid Democratic (9)

IL Open (Durbin, D)
Booker (D-N.J.)
Coons (D-Del.)
Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)
Lujan (D-N.M.)
Markey (D-Mass.)
Merkley (D-Ore.)
Reed (D-R.I.)
Warner (D-Va.)

Solid Republican (14)

AL Open (Tuberville, R)
KY Open (McConnell, R)
LA Open (Cassidy, R)
MT Open (Daines, R)
OK Open (Armstrong, R)
WY Open (Lummis, R)
Capito (R-WV.)
Cotton (R-Ark.)
Hagerty (R-Tenn.)
Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)
Marshall (R-Kan.)
Moody (R-Fl.)
Risch (R-Idaho)
Rounds (R-S.D.)

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

CALENDAR

July 28	South Dakota Primary Runoff
July 28	Georgia 13 Special Election
July 28	South Carolina Senate Special Candidate Filing Deadline
Aug. 4	Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Virginia and Washington Primaries
Aug. 6	Tennessee Primary
Aug. 8	Hawaii Primary
Aug. 11	Connecticut, Minnesota, Vermont and Wisconsin Primaries

Arizona Primary Results: Top House Races Take Shape

Arizona voters get a reprieve from a competitive U.S. Senate race this cycle, but the Grand Canyon State will host two House races at the center of the fight for the majority. Arizona also provided the latest opportunities to test the ability of the Democratic establishment to secure a candidate in an open seat or stave off a challenge to an incumbent from the left.

Governor. Katie Hobbs (D), elected 2022 (50%). As expected, 5th District Rep. Andy Biggs won the GOP nomination, 74-15 percent, over fellow Rep. David Schweikert, with 92 percent of the estimated vote counted. Biggs will face the governor in a very competitive general election. Biggs had President Donald Trump's endorsement and Schweikert's demonstrated ability to win re-election in a competitive House district didn't matter to primary voters. Arizona's swing state status should keep the race close. In 2022, Kari Lake came within a point of winning despite her polarizing approach. But Hobbs should have the edge in this race in this political environment. Toss-up.



Andy Biggs

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

1st District (Northeastern Phoenix and Scottsdale) Open; David Schweikert, R, lost GOP gubernatorial primary. Trump 51%. Former Arizona Cardinals kicker Jay Feeley won the GOP primary with 50 percent, approximately 14 points ahead of his nearest competitor, former state Rep. Joseph Chaplik. It's been a journey for Feeley, who was running in the 5th District before being encouraged by Trump to switch races.

On the Democratic side, physician/former state senator/2024 nominee Amish Shah beat former TV journalist/2024 candidate Marline Galán-Woods 40-34 percent. The DCCC had concerns about the quality of Shah's campaign and had endorsed Galán-Woods instead. But even though Shah is the nominee once again, this will be a top Democratic target in November. Toss-up.

2nd District (Northeastern Arizona) Eli Crane, R, re-elected 54%. Trump 57%. The congressman and former Navajo Nation president Jonathan Nez were both unopposed in their primaries and will face off again in the general election. Crane prevailed by 9 points in 2024, but Democrats are hoping an unpopular Republican president in the White House will change the equation. Likely Republican.

4th District (Eastern Phoenix suburbs of Mesa and Tempe) Greg Stanton, D, re-elected 53%. Harris 53%. While a handful of progressive challengers have knocked off incumbents or won competitive open-seat primaries in high-profile races around the country, Stanton easily turned back a challenge to his left. He won the Democratic primary, 62-38 percent, over Kai Newkirk. Solid Democratic.

5th District (Southeastern Phoenix suburbs of Gilbert and Chandler) Open; Andy Biggs, R, running for governor. Trump 59%. Former Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb won the Republican primary 58-42 percent over home builder Daniel Keenan. Lamb began the race as a significant favorite but had to weather fallout from accusations that he threatened several women who were telling the LDS church and the public about his alleged "swinging" lifestyle. Democrat Elizabeth Lee is still the underdog in a district Trump won by 20 points. Solid Republican.

6th District (Southeastern Arizona and eastern Tucson area) Juan Ciscomani, R, re-elected 50%. Trump 49.7%. There wasn't any



JoAnna Mendoza

Courtesy Mendoza Campaign

primary drama, but the general election is officially set between the congressman and Democrat Jo Mendoza. Republicans believe Mendoza is out of step with the district and too green as a candidate, but the political environment is very different

than 2024, when Trump finished narrowly ahead of Kamala Harris. Toss-up.

IE

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2026 Redistricting Review: Why There Are Fewer Competitive Seats

By Bradley Wascher

The redistricting wars have reached a ceasefire, at least for now. Over the past year, more than a dozen states have waged legislative and judicial battles to redraw their congressional maps — with 10 states ultimately adopting new lines.

The result is a nationwide map more favorable for Republicans than at the start of the cycle, with fewer competitive seats available for either party to potentially flip. But while the math may look slightly different, the fact remains that Democrats are favored to take back the House.

According to *Inside Elections* Baseline, 222 congressional districts now tend toward Republicans — assuming current lines hold in the 10 states with new maps — while 213 tend toward Democrats.

To be clear, this is not a reflection of the current House outlook: Baseline is a trimmed average of all federal and statewide elections over the past four election cycles, approximating a district’s typical partisanship in a neutral environment.

But it does mean the GOP has a small advantage baked into the new lines — a reversal of the 2024 maps, where Baseline favored Democrats in 220 districts compared to Republicans’ 215.

Individually, the 2024 Baseline margin “flipped” toward Republicans in 12 districts between 2024 and 2026, while five seats moved into the Democratic column.

(There were also a couple of close calls or almost-flips, including Texas’s 34th District, where Democratic Rep. Vicente Gonzalez is fighting for re-election after his district’s Baseline tightened from D+17 to D+1.4.)

Another structural gain for the GOP: the median congressional district moved about 2 points toward Republicans in 2026 from 2024. According to Baseline, the “tipping-point” — or 218th — seat shifted from Washington’s 8th District (Baseline: D+0.4) to Arizona’s 1st District (Baseline: R+1.4).

This may be frustrating for Democrats, who expected the fight for the House to take place on friendly or neutral ground but now find themselves needing to win on Republican turf. But recent national polls show Democrats leading the generic congressional ballot by around 6 points — more than enough to pick up the three seats they need for a majority.

That highlights an interesting dynamic: How did the number of Democratic and Republican seats only modestly change between the 2024 and 2026 maps, while the median district drifted 2 points toward Republicans?

To explain it in race rating terms, mapmakers replaced Toss-up seats with Likely ones.

Across the 10 states that redrew their congressional maps this cycle (181 districts in total), the number of highly competitive seats — or districts with Baselines within 5 points for either party — was cut in half. Meanwhile, the number of districts within 5–20 points increased from 48 to 73.

This is a common redistricting tactic — and its own kind of balancing game. The way mapmakers see it, a seat with a partisan lean of 5 points could be easily lost in a wave year, while a 20-point district might be overkill and a waste of friendly voters that could be utilized

Districts That Flipped in 2026 Redistricting

Congressional seats where the partisan advantage changed, according to Baseline trimmed average of all federal and statewide elections, 2018–2024

District	Baseline Margin (2024 Map)	Baseline Margin (2026 Map)	Margin Flip
AL-02	10.8	-11.1	Toward R
FL-09	9.7	-15.3	Toward R
FL-14	12.4	-10.9	Toward R
FL-22	11.9	-4.8	Toward R
LA-06	13.4	-34.8	Toward R
MO-05	23.5	-17.1	Toward R
NC-01	0.6	-8.0	Toward R
OH-01	3.3	-5.0	Toward R
TN-09	44.0	-15.4	Toward R
TX-09	50.6	-10.8	Toward R
TX-32	25.7	-16.8	Toward R
TX-35	43.1	-6.7	Toward R
CA-01	-26.4	11.2	Toward D
CA-03	-8.9	6.4	Toward D
CA-41	-7.0	16.5	Toward D
CA-48	-20.5	0.2	Toward D
UT-01	-28.3	14.1	Toward D

Source: *Inside Elections* Baseline

to potentially take over a neighboring district. Over time, gerrymanderers on both sides have figured out that somewhere around 15 points is the “Lucy and the football” sweet spot. (If Charlie Brown ever were to connect, that would be a dummymander.)

This explains why, alongside a decrease in competitive districts, there was also a decline in safer seats, or those with Baselines greater than 20 points for either party. After all, to create those new D+15 and R+15 districts, reliable party voters have to come from somewhere.

Both parties shed safer seats: across the 10 states with new congressional maps for 2026, 59 districts favor Republicans by at least 20 points, down from 67 seats in 2024. The number of deep-blue Democratic districts dropped from 54 to 43.

All told, the 2026 changes to the national congressional map continue many of the trends seen in previous cycles. As we wrote in a redistricting recap in 2022, “only 34 districts would have voted for either Joe Biden or Donald Trump within 5 points, which is 17 fewer compared to the outgoing [2020] maps.” Updated for 2026, that figure has fallen to 32.

With more states set to consider redistricting efforts ahead of 2028 — including Georgia, New York, Maryland, and Wisconsin — both sides will continue to engage in cartographic shenanigans. The Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais* also rewrites the redistricting playbook by weakening Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

But for 2026, the lines have been drawn. The new House map may benefit Republicans, but the overall environment favors Democrats. **IE**

South Carolina Senate: Succession

By Inshara Ali

Less than two weeks after GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham's sudden passing, South Carolina's Senate race has drawn a crowd.

President Donald Trump has endorsed Darline Graham, the late senator's sister, a former vocational rehabilitation worker and now the incumbent after she was appointed by GOP Gov. Henry McMaster. But that hasn't stopped Reps. Ralph Norman and Russell Fry, businessman Mark Lynch or attorney Duke Buckner from throwing their hats into the ring.

The Timeline

Since Lindsey Graham won the GOP primary in June, a new nominee will be determined by a special primary election on August 11, with an August 25 runoff if a candidate doesn't receive a majority in the initial balloting.

Darline Graham's decision to seek a full term surprised some Republicans in the state, who expected her to serve only as a placeholder. "My understanding is that

she told Governor McMaster that she would accept the appointment to fill the rest of the term, not to be a candidate for it," state GOP chairman Drew McKissick told Politico last week.

In an interview with Sean Hannity this week, she confirmed she intends to run after Trump publicly urged her to jump into the race. But it doesn't look like she'll have the field to herself.



Darline Graham

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

The New Senator

After Lindsey and Darline lost both their parents in a 15-month period, the siblings became especially close. While attending the University of South Carolina in Columbia, Lindsey served as his sister's legal guardian, who was 13 at the time.

In comparison to her brother, Darline Graham has lived a private life, but she has worked in public service for nearly two decades. In 2019, Graham became commissioner and agency head of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, which serves South Carolinians who are blind or have low vision. She also serves on the states' Workforce Development Board and Works Management Committee and, earlier this year, was elected president of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind.

The senator's legal name is Darline Graham Nordone, but a spokesperson told NBC News she will go by Darline Graham in the Senate. Born Darlene Lettie Graham, she has said that when she was learning to spell, her brother taught her the "Darline" spelling she still uses in adulthood.

Darline Graham is the state's first female senator, and the first sibling to be appointed to replace a senator in American history.

She has a record of publicly supporting her brother's election bids, often by highlighting his support after their parents' passing. In 2002, she appeared in an ad for Lindsey's Senate campaign and continued to

support him in his 2014 and 2026 Senate bids. During his 2016 presidential bid, Darline Graham introduced him in his first campaign speech.

Darline Graham hasn't spoken extensively about her own political beliefs, beyond broad assurances that she'll carry on her brother's legacy. Her first two actions in the Senate were to take up her brother's co-sponsorship of a Russia sanctions package, and to sign onto the SAVE America Act supported by Trump but unlikely to pass Congress. On Wednesday, she announced her support for a raft of anti-abortion measures, a sign she is looking to shore up support on her right flank. Perhaps tellingly, in her interview with Fox News, she did say that she hopes to be more focused on affordability concerns, a break from brother's focus on national security.

Some Republican leaders in the state are questioning the new senator's eligibility to run on the GOP ticket.

Earlier this year, the South Carolina Republican Party adopted a rule that requires candidates for office to have voted in at least two of the past three statewide GOP primaries. Local outlet FITSNews has reported that Darline Graham voted in the 2024 GOP runoff but neither the 2022 nor 2024 GOP primaries. Her campaign, however, contends that she satisfies the rule, pointing to her votes in the 2026 primary and the 2024 and 2026 primary runoffs. Whether runoff votes count toward the rule's requirements remains unclear. Dorchester County Republican Party Chairman CJ Westfall has requested a formal review of whether Graham qualifies before the July 28 filing deadline but it's not clear if any is forthcoming.

The Other Republicans

Filing for the special election closes on July 28 but several hopefuls have already made their plans known.

Russell Fry first came to Congress in 2022 when he was Trump's



Russell Fry

Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

pick to oust incumbent Tom Rice, who voted to impeach the president following the January 6 insurrection. Since winning that GOP primary in South Carolina's northeastern 7th District by more than 26 points, Fry has enjoyed a close

relationship with the president. But it's unclear how his decision to go against Trump's preferred pick in this race will play out.

A state Election Commission ruling that South Carolina candidates can run for multiple offices simultaneously is convenient for Fry, who will now be conducting two campaigns at once. If he were to clinch the nomination, Fry would appear on the November ballot twice: once for the Solid Republican House seat he currently holds and once for the Senate.

Though the firebrand Rep. Nancy Mace has ruled out a run — much to some Republicans' delight — she's one of many who've criticized Fry's decision to vie for both seats. "If you're running for two

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offices at once, you've already told us who you are," Mace wrote on X. "That's not about politics anymore - that's about power."

Regardless, Fry is confident he will be "Trump's favorite U.S. Senator." He and contender Ralph Norman have called on their competitors to commit to a televised debate in Charleston ahead of the GOP primary.

Eyeing a second chance at statewide office, Norman is similarly unwavering in his intention to fill the seat. After placing third in the GOP gubernatorial primary in June, he announced his intention to run for Senate before the interim senator officially launched her bid. A lifelong resident of South Carolina's 5th District, which includes most of the South Carolina side of the Charlotte metropolitan area, Norman has represented the seat in Congress since 2017. He's received endorsements from Mace as well as Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Rick Scott of Florida. His geographic base and credible claim to be the strongest "movement conservative" in the race make him a formidable contender.

This will be Mark Lynch's second bid for the seat this cycle, having initially lost the GOP primary to Lindsey Graham, 57-29 percent. The owner of a family business and household goods showroom, he loaned \$5 million to his unsuccessful campaign and ended June with nearly \$600,000 on hand. Last October, the National Republican Senatorial Committee submitted a complaint to the FEC for allegedly failing to indicate disbursements for advertising services on time in the second quarter of last year. In 2020, Lynch ran for the state Senate in South Carolina's 12th District and lost to incumbent Scott Talley by 6 points.

Former Gov. Mark Sanford, who also served in Congress and briefly ran for president in 2020 and for the 1st District in 2026, formally announced his campaign on Thursday. Walterboro native and attorney Duke Buckner previously lost his 2024 bid for the state's 6th District to Democrat Jim Clyburn.

The General Election

Inside Elections previously moved the race from Solid Republican to Likely Republican based on the national environment created by Trump's low job approval rating and Lindsey Graham's high negatives. Part of that dynamic has clearly changed.

While Democrats won't get to run against Lindsey Graham, they could face someone who has spent very little time in the public eye. Being a generic Republican in South Carolina is an asset, but there's no guarantee how someone will act and react under the pressure and scrutiny of a US Senate race.

Physician Annie Andrews is a credible candidate for Democrats but will have to adjust to a very different race over the next three months. Her campaign released a survey from Public Policy Polling showing her leading Fry, Lynch and Sanford, while trailing Norman by 1 point (the survey did not test Darline Graham). While Andrews led some of her potential opponents, her low vote share against all of them doesn't bode well for her overall chances. The race needs time to develop, at least initially, there's less excitement on the Democratic side about a potential takeover without Lindsey Graham on the ballot. **IE**

House Report Shorts

Alaska At-Large. Nick Begich, R, elected 51%. Trump 55%.

Democratic pastor Matt Schultz suspended his campaign and endorsed independent Bill Hill, a Bristol Bay fisherman. "I am disappointed by Republican outside groups meddling in this race and by the lack of meaningful support from Democratic institutions," Schultz said in a statement after the NRCC encouraged outside GOP groups to back Schultz. Hill is an underdog against Begich but has outside allies. Likely Republican.

Alabama's 2nd District. (Montgomery and southeastern Alabama) Shomari Figures, D. Trump 57%. Trump endorsed state Rep. Rhett Marques

in the special primary election taking place in August. Marques faces Hampton Harris, who won the nonbinding GOP primary election that took place under the old 2nd District lines. An Impact Research poll for the DCCC



Rhett Marques

found Figures trailing Marques by 1 point. That may mean that Figures isn't totally out of the race, despite the district being redrawn to be significantly more Republican. But it's not a great sign to trail in your own poll against a less well-known opponent who hasn't even won his primary yet. Likely Republican.

Impact Research (D) for DCCC, June 22-25 (400 LV)— General election ballot: Marques over Figures, 45% - 44%.

Florida's 11th District. (Western Orlando suburbs and The Villages) Open; Daniel Webster, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 57%. Joe Strada, who founded an HVAC company, is the top contender for the GOP nomination thanks to his deep pockets and support from House Majority Leader Steve Scalise and Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan.

Also running are former Lake County property appraiser Carey Baker, and wealthy neurosurgeon Nizam Razack. Solid Republican.

Florida's 12th District. (Pasco County and northwest Hillsborough County) Gus Bilirakis, R. Trump 57%. Redistricting made Bilirakis' district considerably less Republican, and he has a credible opponent in Darren McAuley, a physician and colonel in the Air National Guard.

McAuley faces former Hillsborough County Commissioner Kim Overman in the Democratic primary. Bilirakis hasn't had a competitive election since 2006, when he won his first term. Solid Republican, but keep an eye out for this district. Solid Republican.

Louisiana's 5th District. (Northeast Louisiana) Open; Julia Letlow, R, running for Senate. Trump 66%. State Sen. Blake Miguez has an endorsement from Trump but has been dogged by reporting that he was accused of rape in 2007. He also lives far from the district, which is not a legal requirement but is a potential political vulnerability.

His strongest challenger is probably state Rep. Michael Echols, a talk radio host who — like Miguez — has personal resources he can spend on a campaign. Miguez has loaned his campaign \$3 million, Echols has chipped in \$2.4 million. Louisiana Board of Regents member Misti Cordell, state Rep. Gabe Firment and state Sen. Stewart Cathey are also running. Solid Republican.

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Louisiana's 6th District. (Southeast Louisiana, part of Baton Rouge) Open; Cleo Fields, D, not seeking re-election. Trump 65%.

The congressman announced Tuesday that he will not seek re-election. The 6th was redrawn by Republicans to favor Republicans in the wake of the Supreme Court's *Callais* decision, pushing Fields to run for the state Senate instead. The most notable Republican candidates include state Sen. Rick Edmonds, who previously was running in the 5th District, and Livingston Parish GOP committeeman Larry Davis. Solid Republican.

Maine's 2nd District. (Northern Maine) Open; Jared Golden, D, not seeking re-election. Trump 54%.

Most of the attention in the state has been about the Senate race and Democrats' switch from Graham Platner to Troy Jackson. But there's still an interesting race in the House. Maine is a Democratic state but the more rural 2nd District leans Republican, and the GOP is behind former Gov. Paul LePage. Democratic strategists didn't believe Matt Dunlap gave the party the best chance to win in November and they supported another candidate. But Dunlap just released a poll showing that he is still in the race. Likely Republican.

Tulchin Research (D) for Dunlap, July 11-16 (600 LV) – General election ballot: Dunlap over LePage, 49% – 48%.

Massachusetts' 4th District. (Western Boston suburbs and Bristol County) Jake Auchincloss, D, re-elected unopposed. Harris 58%.

Auchincloss released a survey to quiet any murmurs that he may face a serious challenge from AI researcher Jason Poulos, who is running to the incumbent's left. Solid Democratic.

GSG (D) for Auchincloss, June 25-29 (400 LV) – Primary election ballot: Auchincloss over Poulos 64% – 17%.

Massachusetts' 8th District. (Parts of Boston and southern suburbs) Stephen Lynch, D, re-elected unopposed. Harris 62%.

Lynch faces a challenge from Patrick Roath, a voting rights attorney with backing from former Gov. Deval Patrick, the AFT, and David Hogg's group Leaders We Deserve. Roath has outraised Lynch through June 30, \$1.1 million to \$817,000, but Lynch had three times as much stockpiled on June 30 thanks to unspent dollars from previous cycles. Solid Democratic.

Missouri's 2nd District. (Western St. Louis suburbs and exurbs) Ann Wagner, R. Trump 55%.

Democrat Fred Wellman released a poll in May showing a close race, but the veteran and prolific anti-Trump social media poster needs to get through a primary first before he can start convincing national Democrats that this is a real pickup opportunity. Solid Republican.

FM3 Research (D) for Wellman, May 26-31 (600 LV)— General election ballot: Wagner over Wellman, 44% – 41%.

Michigan's 7th District. (Lansing area and northwestern Detroit exurbs) Tom Barrett, R, elected 50%. Trump 49.8%.

Sen. Elissa Slotkin endorsed retired Navy SEAL Matt Maasdam in the Democratic primary, and she is appearing in an ad from VoteVets backed by \$475,000 in the closing weeks of the race. Slotkin's support for Maasdam isn't a surprise for political observers — they share a political consulting team — but it could be a boost in the senator's old district. Former ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink is the top fundraiser in the field and had been the polling frontrunner but her support seems to

2026 House Ratings

Toss-Up (3D, 11R)

AZ1 (Open; Schweikert, R)	IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)	PA 8 (Bresnahan, R)	WA 3 (Perez, D)
AZ 6 (Ciscomani, R)	MI 7 (Barrett, R)	PA 10 (Perry, R)	WI 3 (Van Orden, R)
CO 8 (Evans, R)	NY 17 (Lawler, R)	TX 34 (Gonzalez, D)	
FL25 (Moskowitz, D)	PA 7 (Mackenzie, R)	VA 2 (Kiggans, R)	

Tilt Democratic (6D, 3R)

CA 13 (Gray, D)	NY 4 (Gillen, D)
CA 45 (Tran, D)	OH 1 (Landsman, D)
CA 48 (Open; Issa, R)	TX 28 (Cuellar, D)
NE2 (Open; Bacon, R)	
NJ 7 (Kean Jr., R)	
NM 2 (Vasquez, D)	

Tilt Republican (2D, 3R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)
FL 22 (Open; Frankel, D)
IA 3 (Nunn, R)
MI 10 (Open; James, R)
OH 9 (Kaptur, D)

Lean Democratic (7D, 1I)

CA 6 (Open; Bera, D/Kiley, I)	NY 3 (Suoizzi, D)
NH 1 (Open; Pappas, D)	
NJ 9 (Pou, D)	
NV 1 (Titus, D)	
NV 3 (Lee, D)	
NY 19 (Riley, D)	

Lean Republican (2D, 5R)

FL 14 (Castor, D)	VA 1 (Wittman, R)
MI 4 (Huizenga, R)	
NC 1 (Davis, D)	
NC 11 (Edwards, R)	
PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)	
TX 15 (De La Cruz, R)	

Likely Democratic (8D)

IN 1 (Mrvan, D)
CA 21 (Costa, D)
NH 2 (Goodlander, D)
MI 3 (Scholten, D)
MI 8 (McDonald Rivet, D)
MIN 2 (Open; Craig, DFL)
NV 4 (Horsford, D)
VA 7 (Vindman, D)

Likely Republican (4D, 11R)

AK AL (Begich, R)	ME 2 (Open; Golden, D)
AL 2 (Figures, D)	MT 1 (Open; Zinke, R)
AZ 2 (Crane, R)	OH 7 (Miller, R)
CO 3 (Hurd, R)	TX 23 (Vacant; Gonzales, R)
CO 5 (Crank, R)	TX 35 (Open; Casar, D)
FL 7 (Mills, R)	
FL 9 (Soto, D)	
FL 13 (Luna, R)	
FL 27 (Salazar, R)	
IA 2 (Open; Hinson, R)	

	GOP	DEM
Solid	188	182
Likely/Lean/Tilt	27	24
Total	215	206
Toss-up	14	
Needed for majority	218	

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

have stagnated or slipped in several private polls after pro-Maasdam groups aired nearly \$2 million in negative ads targeting her. Lansing organizer William Lawrence, who is running in a more progressive lane, is enjoying a surge as well. He received endorsements from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed, who rallied for him this week. But he's also facing some pushback for comments he made about Black political leaders, which caused the Congressional Black Caucus to start running radio ads against him. At this point any of the three candidates could emerge victorious in a few weeks. Toss-up.

GQR (D) for Brink, June 22-27 (400 LV)(live caller)— Democratic primary ballot: Brink 30%, Lawrence 23%, Maasdam 17%.

Michigan's 10th District. (Macomb County) Open; John James, R, running for governor. Trump 52%.

Trump endorsed Army veteran Mike Bouchard, Jr. to succeed James, leading former prosecutor Robert Lulgjuraj to drop his bid for the GOP nomination. On the Democratic side, former Commerce Department official Eric Chung is

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the first candidate to begin advertising on TV, with a six-figure buy in the Detroit media market. EMILY's List, which supports former Macomb County assistant prosecutor Christina Hines, released a Hart Research survey showing Hines leading the primary field with 42 percent, ahead of Chung and Pontiac Mayor Tim Greimel, the third candidate in the race. Tilt Republican.

Hart Research (D) for EMILY's List (pro-Hines), July 7-9 (400 LV)(live caller/sms)— Democratic primary ballot: Hines 42%, Chung 19%, Greimel 16%. Image ratings: Hines 52% favorable/7% unfavorable, Chung 48% favorable/7% unfavorable, Greimel 40% favorable/8% unfavorable.

Michigan's 13th District. (Detroit and southwestern suburbs) Shri Thanedar, D, re-elected 69%. Harris 69%. A Data for Progress poll for Justice Democrats showed

Thanedar running a few points ahead of state Rep. Donovan McKinney. Thanedar has support from Minority Leader Ha-keem Jeffries while McKinney is backed by Justice Democrats and progressives including Rep. Rashida Tlaib and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Thanedar won his previous primaries with 28 percent (2022) and 55 percent (2024). Solid Democratic.

Data for Progress (D) for Justice Democrats (pro-McKinney), July 9-15 (324 LV)— Democratic primary ballot: Thanedar over McKinney, 46% - 42%.

Nebraska's 1st District. (Lincoln and rural eastern Nebraska) Mike Flood, R, re-elected 60%. Trump 55%. Journalist Austin Ahlman dropped his independent bid, citing the return of his father's cancer. Ahlman was running on a progressive platform and would have likely split the anti-Flood vote with the Democratic nominee, former State Department official Chris Backemeyer. Backemeyer remains an underdog but this is a race with sleeper potential due to the effects of tariffs on the Nebraska economy. Solid Republican.

Pennsylvania's 8th District. (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and northeastern Pennsylvania) Rob Bresnahan, R, elected 51%. Trump 54%. The Map Soaper owner Leila Hazou, who received just less than 1 percent in the 2024 Senate race as the Green Party candidate, jumped into this competitive race. That could complicate things for Scranton Mayor Paige Cognito, the Democratic nominee. But Democrats are still confident that the congressman is extremely vulnerable, particularly with Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro running very strongly at the top of the ticket. Toss-up.

Lake Research Partners (D) for House Majority PAC, June 18-23 (400 LV)— General election ballot: Cognito over Bresnahan, 47% - 45%.

Texas' 35th District. (San Antonio suburbs) Open; Greg Casar, running in 37th District. Trump 55%. Former Bexar County Sheriff's Deputy Johnny Garcia outraised GOP nominee Carlos De La Cruz in the second quarter. That's a hopeful sign for the Democrat,

who has faced questions about his fundraising ability and needed significant outside help to get through a primary runoff against an anti-Semitic opponent propped up by GOP groups. Garcia also reshuffled his campaign team after the runoff, bringing on a new campaign manager. Likely Republican.

Washington's 3rd District. (Southwestern Washington)

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, D, re-elected 52%. Trump 49.9%. A recent Democratic survey confirms private surveys which show the congresswoman is in a real fight against Republican John Braun. Even though progressives have expressed their discontent with Perez, they are likely to vote in November and they aren't likely to support Republicans. Toss-up.

Emerson College for the Northwest Progressive Institute (D), July 8-10 (500 LV) - General election ballot: Braun over Gluesenkamp Perez 45% - 44%.

Washington's 5th District. (Eastern Washington) Mi-

chael Baumgartner, R, elected 61%. Trump 54%. Independent Nate Powell, a firefighter and Marine veteran, is getting some outside help from a dark money group that has also backed independent Senate candidates Dan Osborn and Seth Bodnar in Nebraska and Montana, respectively. Fire House PAC, funded entirely by dark money group Contours, Inc. has spent \$200,000 boosting Powell. Carmela Conroy, the 2024 Democratic nominee, is also running in the all-party primary. Solid Republican.

Wyoming At-Large. Harriet Hageman, R, running for

Senate. Trump 72%. A dozen Republicans are running to succeed Hageman but only three appear to have a path to victory: State Sec-



Jillian Balow

retary of State Chuck Gray, activist Steve Friess, and former state superintendent of public instruction Jillian Balow.

Gray is the nominal polling frontrunner but has made plenty of enemies at home and in Washington, DC, and there

could be an AI-funded effort against him in the closing weeks of the race due to his anti-data center stances. Friess, the son of the late billionaire Wyoming investor Foster Friess, has spent \$2 million of his own money on the race already and has close ties to Republicans in DC thanks to his and his father's political involvement (Trump endorsed the elder Friess for governor in 2018). Balow comes from the more pragmatic wing of the party affiliated with outgoing Gov. Mark Gordon, which doesn't represent a majority of the electorate but might be enough to help her in a crowded field. Her lack of financial resources makes her a longer shot than the other two.

Rancher Frank Chapman and investor/perennial candidate Reid Rasner have dominated the airwaves over the past month but private polling doesn't show either of them gaining traction, and both candidates are paring down their advertising reservations in the final weeks of the race. Also running are state Sen. Bo Biteman, former state Rep. John Romero-Martinez, and Army veteran David Giralto, who was a staffer for Sen. Cynthia Lummis. Solid Republican.

Governor Report Shorts

Colorado. Open; Jared Polis (D), term-limited. Sitting House members, from Dusty Johnson in South Dakota to Randy Feenstra in Iowa to Nancy Mace and Ralph Norman in South Carolina, have struggled to translate their electoral success in Congress to gubernatorial primaries this year. That streak now extends to the upper chamber, as Sen. Michael Bennet was defeated by state Attorney General Phil Weiser in the Democratic primary. Weiser captured 57 percent of the vote to Bennet's 43 percent.

Bennet began the race as the front runner thanks to his three high-profile Senate bids and national fundraising network. But Weiser outflanked the senator by casting himself as the more anti-Trump candidate. Reps. Brittany Pettersen, Jason Crow and Joe Neguse must also be disappointed considering no one will be appointed by Bennet to the Senate seat.

Ministry leader Victor Marx narrowly won the GOP primary over state Sen. Barb Kirkmeyer. Some Republicans fret that Marx, who was unable or unwilling to admit how many people he'd killed in what will go down as one of the strangest interviews in election history, could be a drag on the GOP ticket. Solid Democratic.

Michigan. Open; Gretchen Whitmer (D), term-limited. Primary

Aug. 4. Former state Attorney General Mike Cox dropped out of the race and endorsed

Rep. John James, who still faces wealthy businessman Perry Johnson in the Republican primary. James has lost a couple statewide races, has some residual name I.D. and support from President Donald Trump, but



John James

states have been known to nominate and elect "random rich guys" before. Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is the Democratic frontrunner ahead of what should be a very competitive general election. Benson should have the edge in this midterm political environment, but the state has flipped between Republican and Democratic governors going back to the 1980s. Tilt Democratic.

Glengariff Group, Inc. for Detroit News/WDIV-TV, July 8-11 (500 LV) (live caller) – Democratic primary ballot: Benson over Swanson 72% – 12%.

OnMessage Inc. for James (R), June 28-30 (800 LV) – GOP primary ballot: James 46%, Johnson 21%, Cox 14%.

Minnesota. Tim Walz (DFL), not seeking re-election. Primary

Aug. 11. Trump officially endorsed MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell in the GOP primary, making it more likely that one of the nation's most prominent election deniers is the Republican standard bearer this fall. Lindell, who has spent millions of dollars in fruitless attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election, faces state House Speaker Lisa Demuth and healthcare tech executive Kendall Qualls, who was endorsed by the state GOP last month. If Lindell is the nominee, he can expect to be walloped by Sen. Amy Klobuchar in the general election, which could affect the GOP's ability to defend their state House

2026 Governor Ratings

Toss-up (3D, 2R)

GA Open (Kemp, R)
IA Open (Reynolds, R)
KS Open (Kelly, D)

WI Open (Evers, D)
Hobbs (D-Ariz.)

Tilt Democratic (1D)

MI Open (Whitmer, D)

Tilt Republican (1R)

Lombardo (R-Nev.)

Lean Democratic (1D)

OR (Kotek, D)

Lean Republican (1R)

OH Open (DeWine, R)

Likely Democratic (4D)

ME Open (Mills, D)
NM Open (Lujan-Grisham, D)
MN Open (Walz, DFL)
Hochul (D-N.Y.)

Likely Republican (1R)

AK Open (Dunleavy, R)

Solid Democratic (9D)

CA Open (Newsom, D)
CO Open (Polis, D)
Green (D-Hawaii)
Healey (D-Mass.)
Lamont (D-Ct.)
McKee (D-R.I.)
Moore (D-Md.)
Pritzker (D-Ill.)
Shapiro (D-Penn.)

Solid Republican (13R)

AL Open (Ivey, R)
FL Open (DeSantis, R)
OK Open (Stitt, R)
SC Open (McMaster, R)
TN Open (Lee, R)
WY Open (Gordon, R)
Abbott (R-Texas)
Ayotte (R-N.H.)
Huckabee Sanders (R-Ark.)
Little (R-Idaho)
Pillen (R-Neb.)
Rhoden (R-S.D.)
Scott (R-Vt.)

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

majority and win other downballot races. Likely Democratic.

SurveyUSA for KSTP, July 15-20 (478 LV)— GOP primary ballot: Lindell 35%, Demuth 26%, Qualls 11%.

Nebraska. Jim Pillen (R), elected 2022 (60%). Former GOP state Sen. Brett Lindstrom began collecting signatures for an indepen-



Brett Lindstrom

dent gubernatorial bid. It's not obvious if Lindstrom will make the ballot, and if he does, Nebraska political observers disagree on how he'll affect the race. Lindstrom placed a close third in the 2022 GOP gubernatorial primary but also has good

relationships with some state Democratic leaders. The Democratic nominee, state Sen. Lynne Walz, has shown no sign she would bow out in favor of Lindstrom. Pillen has dealt with some negative headlines surrounding a no-bid contract he recommended to a friendly lobbyist, and his chief political strategist, Axiom's Jessica Flanagan, departed his campaign earlier this year. A three-way race between Pillen, Walz and Lindstrom could be unpredictable but the partisan lean of the state still keeps the governor in the driver's seat. Solid Republican.

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Wisconsin. Tony Evers (D), not seeking re-election. Primary Aug. 11. Uncertainty abounds in the Democratic primary to succeed Evers. First, Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley dropped out and endorsed Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, a welcome sign for more establishment-friendly Democrats looking for the field to consolidate against democratic socialist state Rep. Francesca Hong. But then Rodriguez dropped out after revealing her campaign manager had mismanaged her finances. That left Hong and former Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes as

the two leading candidates (state Rep. Kelda Roys and former state Secretary of Administration Joel Brennan are also running). But Crowley quickly re-entered the race, this time with Evers' backing. He'll have three weeks to marshal resources and outside help but remains an underdog against the more progressive Hong and Barnes. GOP Rep. Tom Tiffany awaits the winner in the general election. Toss-up.

Public Policy Polling (D) for Crowley, July 20-22 (708 LV)— Democratic primary ballot: Hong 35%, Barnes 15%, Crowley 14%, Roys 5%, Brennan 3%.

*Impact Research (D) for Barnes, July 18-20 (621 LV)— Democratic primary ballot: Hong 39%, Barnes 26%, Crowley 11%, Roys 7%, Brennan 6%. **IE***

House 2nd Quarter Fundraising in Toss-up & Tilt Races

Totals through June 30, 2026

District	Candidate	Raised Cycle to Date (excluding personal)	Personal Contribution	Cash on Hand	District	Candidate	Raised Cycle to Date (excluding personal)	Personal Contribution	Cash on Hand
AZ-01	Jay Feely (R)	\$2,195,520	\$330,000	\$794,475	MI-10	Christina Hines (D)	\$1,161,111	\$0	\$192,615
AZ-01	Amish Shah (D)	\$1,399,539	\$430,655	\$401,745	MI-10	Tim Greimel (D)	\$1,222,407	\$7,000	\$505,241
AZ-06	JoAnna Mendoza (D)	\$7,354,599	\$0	\$3,260,752	MI-10	Justin Kirk (R)	\$164,108	\$299,100	\$252,770
AZ-06	Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R)	\$6,172,867	\$0	\$4,135,163	NE-02	Denise Powell (D)	\$2,668,287	\$52,823	\$997,390
CA-13	Rep. Adam Gray (D)	\$4,191,397	\$0	\$2,072,111	NE-02	Brinker Harding (R)	\$2,034,386	\$3,500	\$1,048,623
CA-13	Kevin Lincoln (R)	\$2,237,084	\$0	\$837,885	NJ-07	Rebecca Bennett (D)	\$4,272,034	\$0	\$1,445,694
CA-22	Randy Villegas (D)	\$2,645,560	\$0	\$571,792	NJ-07	Rep. Tom Kean Jr. (R)	\$4,927,984	\$0	\$3,634,205
CA-22	Rep. David Valadao (R)	\$4,927,602	\$0	\$3,365,587	NM-02	Greg Cunningham (R)	\$1,510,080	\$0	\$794,187
CA-45	Rep. Derek Tran (D)	\$4,981,277	\$0	\$3,257,398	NM-02	Rep. Gabe Vasquez (D)	\$3,784,102	\$0	\$2,378,703
CA-45	Chuong Vo (R)	\$495,763	\$0	\$74,876	NY-04	Rep. Laura Gillen (D)	\$5,097,222	\$0	\$3,843,824
CA-48	Marni von Wilpert (D)	\$2,174,872	\$0	\$825,012	NY-04	Jeanine Driscoll (R)	\$264,824	\$0	\$226,274
CA-48	Jim Desmond (R)	\$2,258,836	\$0	\$1,230,031	NY-17	Cait Conley (D)	\$4,310,457	\$7,000	\$1,319,156
CO-08	Rep. Gabe Evans (R)	\$5,393,673	\$0	\$3,880,463	NY-17	Rep. Michael Lawler (R)	\$8,172,046	\$0	\$4,841,306
CO-08	Manny Rutinel (D)	\$4,336,988	\$0	\$601,232	OH-01	Rep. Greg Landsman (D)	\$4,633,250	\$0	\$3,610,214
FL-22	Michael Carbonara (R)	\$2,094,751	\$3,772,598	\$1,342,487	OH-01	Eric Conroy (R)	\$1,187,472	\$326,141	\$443,595
FL-22	Belinda Keiser (R)	\$213,868	\$3,016,318	\$1,887,282	OH-09	Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D)	\$4,303,416	\$0	\$3,491,668
FL-22	Casey Askar (R)	\$1,510	\$2,500,000	\$2,236,244	OH-09	Derek Merrin (R)	\$1,198,953	\$310,000	\$511,443
FL-22	Pia Dandiya (D)	\$1,848,603	\$247,000	\$1,365,384	PA-07	Bob Brooks (D)	\$2,389,965	\$3,500	\$1,018,423
FL-22	David Burck (R)	\$204,955	\$0	\$79,385	PA-07	Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R)	\$4,357,405	\$0	\$2,938,717
FL-25	Daniel Franzese (R)	\$1,477,467	\$1,000,062	\$1,109,080	PA-08	Paige Coggnetti (D)	\$4,609,589	\$0	\$3,406,710
FL-25	Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D)	\$2,657,093	\$0	\$1,888,446	PA-08	Rep. Rob Bresnahan (R)	\$5,179,050	\$55,536	\$2,608,048
FL-25	Scott Singer (R)	\$1,420,932	\$574,010	\$957,798	PA-10	Janelle Stelson (D)	\$6,364,069	\$0	\$4,478,639
FL-25	Oliver Larkin (D)	\$541,945	\$0	\$192,977	PA-10	Rep. Scott Perry (R)	\$5,194,925	\$0	\$2,845,976
FL-25	George Moraitis (R)	\$720,849	\$118,491	\$532,018	TX-28	Rep. Henry Cuellar (D)	\$1,917,452	\$314,500	\$1,129,604
FL-25	Joe Kaufman (R)	\$631,593	\$0	\$527,451	TX-28	Tano Tijerina (R)	\$1,399,881	\$0	\$765,166
FL-25	Raven Harrison (R)	\$236,446	\$542,000	\$111,953	TX-34	Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D)	\$3,773,915	\$0	\$2,532,412
IA-01	Christina Bohannon (D)	\$7,044,745	\$7,000	\$5,425,318	TX-34	Eric Flores (R)	\$2,297,745	\$577,245	\$683,332
IA-01	Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R)	\$7,208,271	\$0	\$4,691,481	VA-02	Elaine Luria (D)	\$4,435,271	\$8,010	\$3,565,596
IA-03	Sarah Trone Garriott (D)	\$5,293,773	\$0	\$3,859,683	VA-02	Rep. Jennifer Kiggans (R)	\$5,843,429	\$0	\$3,592,183
IA-03	Rep. Zach Nunn (R)	\$4,869,249	\$0	\$3,568,369	WA-03	Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D)	\$6,183,270	\$0	\$3,905,263
MI-07	Rep. Tom Barrett (R)	\$6,180,398	\$0	\$2,957,329	WA-03	John Braun (R)	\$1,970,028	\$10,834	\$1,450,415
MI-07	Bridget Brink (D)	\$2,873,770	\$20,000	\$1,106,758	WA-03	Brent Hennrich (D)	\$258,757	\$0	\$17,782
MI-07	William Lawrence (D)	\$977,373	\$13,071	\$570,489	WI-03	Rebecca Cooke (D)	\$1,970,028	\$0	\$2,456,680
MI-07	Matt Maasdam (D)	\$2,079,674	\$0	\$548,440	WI-03	Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R)	\$7,289,146	\$0	\$4,684,610
MI-10	Eric Chung (D)	\$1,869,998	\$7,000	\$1,066,970	WI-03	Emily Berge (D)	\$685,564	\$1,053	\$108,578
MI-10	Michael Bouchard (R)	\$1,386,621	\$0	\$1,077,901					

Source: National Journal, Federal Election Commission, Inshara Ali, Ashleigh Jones

Senate Report Shorts

Georgia. Jon Ossoff (D), elected 2020 (51%). Ossoff is consistent-ly at or above 50 percent in most polling and his fundraising prowess continues with a \$40 million cash on hand advantage over GOP Rep. Mike Collins at the end of the second quarter. But Georgia is still a swing state and the Supreme Court's recent campaign finance decision will allow Republicans to use their institutional fundraising edge to bridge the gap. Of course Republicans want to knock off Ossoff, but they might have a better chance in Michigan or even New Hampshire. Toss-up.

Fabrizio Ward (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, July 13-16 (1,060 LV)— General election ballot: Ossoff over Collins, 52% - 43%.

Kansas. Roger Marshall (R), elected 2020 (53%). Primary Aug. 4. United Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton raised \$3.6 million through June 30, outpacing Marshall by nearly \$3 million. Hamilton still has to make his way through a crowded Democratic primary that also includes former USDA official Christy Davis, state Sen. Patrick Schmidt and Army veteran Noah Taylor.

A super PAC called the 1861 Initiative has spent nearly \$1 million boosting Taylor. 1861 has ties to a web of Democratic dark money groups that has also supported independent candidates Seth Bodnar and Dan Osborn,



Adam Hamilton

as well as more moderate Democratic and Republican candidates in state-level offices in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. Hamilton was recently endorsed by former Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Despite the state's GOP lean, Marshall has middling approval ratings and has ruffled some feathers in the business community with his credit card bill. Democrats are still burned from the 2020 race, which looked competitive but ultimately ended in an 11-point Marshall win over state Sen. Barbara Bollier. But don't be surprised if Kansas polls competitively closer to November. Solid Republican.

GBAO (D) for Hamilton, July 13-16 (600 LV)(live caller/sms)— Democratic primary ballot: Hamilton 30%, Davis 13%, Taylor 10%, Schmidt 4%, Erik Murray 2%, Anne Parelkar 1%, Sandy Spidel Neumann 1%, Jason Hart 1%, Kevin Latz 1%, Damon Anderson 0%.

Michigan. Open; Gary Peters (D), not seeking re-election. Primary Aug. 4. The Democratic primary is heating up as the Democratic establishment lines up behind Rep. Haley Stevens and the more

progressive wing of the party is emboldened for former Wayne County health official Abdul El-Sayed. Sitting senators in Michigan typically don't get involved in primaries, but Peters came off the sidelines to endorse Stevens. Well-funded progressive candidates have been doing well in primaries across the country, but there's some concern



Abdul El-Sayed

that El-Sayed is too liberal for the swing state and Stevens has been working hard to gain traction with Black voters, who typically make up one quarter of the electorate. Stevens' allies are also outspending El-Sayed's support on television. It's not clear either of them has a distinct advantage at this point. The winner will face former congressman/2024 Senate nominee Mike Rogers in a very competitive general election. Toss-up.

Tulchin Research (D) for Fighting for Michigan (pro-El-Sayed), July 13-15 (500 LV)— Democratic primary ballot: El-Sayed over Stevens, 56% - 40%.

Glengariff Group, Inc. for Detroit News/WDIV-TV, July 8-11 (500 LV) (live caller)— Democratic primary ballot: Stevens over El-Sayed, 48% - 41%.

Montana. Open; Steve Daines (R), not seeking re-election.

A poll from a group supporting independent Seth Bodnar confirms that the race looks uncompetitive as long as Bodnar and Democrat-



Alani Bankhead

ic nominee Alani Bankhead remain in the race. The Hart Research survey, conducted for Montana Freedom PAC, found GOP nominee and former US Attorney Kurt Alme leading the field with 47 percent, followed by Bodnar with 25 percent and Bankhead with 22 percent. The poll argues that Bodnar would fare better against Alme in a head-to-head matchup than Bankhead, but the Air Force veteran has made clear she's not dropping out even as state Democratic leaders plead for consolidation. Solid Republican.

Hart Research (D) for Montana Freedom PAC (pro-Bodnar), June 18-24 (800 LV)— General election ballot: Alme 47%, Bodnar 25%, Bankhead 22%; Alme over Bodnar, 47% - 45%; Alme over Bankhead, 49% - 43%.

Nebraska. Pete Ricketts (R), appointed 2023, elected 2024 special (63%). Democratic nominee Cindy Burbank officially withdrew from the race. The move was expected, as Burbank had been clear she planned to clear a path for independent Dan Osborn to take on Ricketts. While some Republicans made noise about taking legal action to force Burbank to remain on the ballot, those challenges did not ultimately materialize. Likely Republican.

Inside Elections Podcast

Episode 75: Nathan, Jacob, Inshara and Daniela Altimari of Roll Call discuss another Democrat who could lose their primary soon: Connecticut's John Larson.

Episode 74: Manu Raju of CNN reveals to Nathan and Jacob how Democrats and Republicans on the Hill really feel about the upcoming midterms.

Senate 2nd Quarter Fundraising Update

Totals through June 30, 2026

State	Candidate	Raised Cycle to Date (excluding personal)	Personal Contributions	Cash on Hand	State	Candidate	Raised Cycle to Date (excluding personal)	Personal Contributions	Cash on Hand
AL	Barry Moore (R)	\$3,737,329	\$50,000	\$627,788	MN	Tom Weiler (R)	\$54,610	\$165,259	\$145,530
AK	Mary Peltola (D)	\$15,575,539	\$0	\$6,094,872	MN	Royce White (R)	\$649,510	\$0	\$48,231
AK	Dan Sullivan (R)	\$11,188,420	\$0	\$8,303,687	MS	Scott Colom (D)	\$2,359,728	\$25,193	\$847,046
AR	Tom Cotton (R)	\$13,601,049		\$9,931,884	MS	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)	\$5,458,311	\$0	\$2,535,896
AR	Hallie Shoffner (D)	\$2,269,113		\$863,578	MT	Alani Bankhead (D)	\$52,307	\$6,522	\$21,485
CO	John Hickenlooper (D)	\$11,072,371	\$0	\$2,083,870	MT	Kurt Alme (R)	\$1,984,861	\$0	\$1,450,719
CO	Mark Baisley (R)	\$136,397	\$2,200	\$50,021	MT	Seth Bodnar (I)	\$3,238,150		\$977,779
DE	Chris Coons (D)	\$6,669,193		\$4,705,684	NE	Pete Ricketts (R)	\$5,937,619	\$5,295,888	\$6,910,970
FL	Alex Vindman (D)	\$14,595,387	\$0	\$7,307,305	NE	Dan Osborn (I)	\$5,751,951	\$0	\$2,421,487
FL	Angie Nixon (D)	\$625,119		\$118,576	NH	Chris Pappas (D)	\$13,378,997	\$0	\$5,183,321
FL	Ashley Moody (R)	\$10,802,230	\$0	\$8,421,236	NH	Karishma Manzur (D)	\$206,903	\$25,000	\$48,998
GA	Jon Ossoff (D)	\$97,986,263	\$0	\$42,587,451	NH	Scott Brown (R)	\$1,943,325	\$0	\$735,811
GA	Mike Collins (R)	\$7,344,349	\$0	\$2,079,981	NH	John Sununu (R)	\$3,662,252	\$0	\$2,672,646
ID	David Roth (D)	\$8,642	\$0	\$1,051	NJ	Cory Booker (D)	\$33,504,255	\$0	\$23,060,940
ID	Jim Risch (R)	\$4,431,093	\$0	\$3,535,956	NJ	Justin Murphy (R)	\$27,316	\$815	\$123
ID	Todd Achilles (I)	\$681,745		\$194,226	NM	Ben Ray Lujan (D)	\$8,277,478	\$0	\$4,396,754
IL	Juliana Stratton (D)	\$5,906,599	\$0	\$1,107,958	NM	Larry Marker (R)	\$33,525	\$0	\$11,850
IL	Don Tracy (R)	\$459,890	\$2,000,000	\$1,512,424	NC	Roy Cooper (D)	\$34,975,789	\$0	\$20,717,567
IA	Josh Turek (D)	\$6,276,527	\$0	\$2,362,314	NC	Micheal Whatley (R)	\$11,272,504	\$0	\$3,461,698
IA	Ashley Hinson (R)	\$10,217,845	\$0	\$6,749,491	OH	Sherrod Brown (D)	\$38,566,234	\$0	\$16,229,741
KS	Patrick Schmidt (D)	\$244,347	\$0	\$24,912	OH	Jon Husted (R)	\$14,350,624	\$0	\$9,418,818
KS	Adam Hamilton (D)	\$3,628,660	\$50,050	\$2,597,698	OK	Jim Priest (D)	\$316,147	\$40	\$43,591
KS	Noah Taylor (D)	\$155,769	\$0	\$10,867	OK	N'kiya Thomas (D)	\$57,969	\$0	\$254
KS	Jason Hart (D)	\$51,127	\$30,131	\$18,217	OK	Kevin Hern (R)	\$4,903,579	\$5,050,000	\$2,491,910
KS	Sandy Spidel Neumann (D)	\$106,266	\$203,500	\$74,878	OR	Jeff Merkley (D)	\$7,893,849	\$0	\$6,828,404
KS	Rodger Marshall (R)	\$6,139,958	\$0	\$5,326,447	OR	David Brock Smith (R)	\$120,760	\$0	\$28,980
KS	Christy Davis (D)	\$194,388		\$85,910	RI	Jack Reed (D)	\$4,216,738	\$0	\$3,642,761
KY	Charles Booker (D)	\$1,099,509	\$0	\$309,623	RI	Raymond McKay (R)	\$163,693	\$0	\$2,745
KY	Andy Barr (R)	\$9,981,055	\$0	\$2,305,546	SC	Annie Andrews (D)	\$10,804,041	\$0	\$4,119,295
LA	Jamie Davis (D)	\$1,973,549	\$10,000	\$479,104	SD	Julian Beaudion (D)	\$3,078	\$0	\$228,295
LA	Julia Letlow (R)	\$6,210,121	\$0	\$1,427,072	SD	Mike Rounds (R)	\$4,586,805	\$0	\$4,586,805
ME	Susan Collins (R)	\$18,930,078	\$0	\$11,038,115	SD	Brian Bengs (I)	\$782,049	\$0	\$51,405
MA	Ed Markey (D)	\$7,548,479	\$0	\$2,227,617	TN	Bill Hagerty (R)	\$15,846,969	\$0	\$5,649,494
MA	Seth Moulton (D)	\$6,200,074	\$0	\$2,614,871	TX	James Talarico (D)	\$68,555,930	\$0	\$21,548,155
MA	John Deaton (R)	\$445,147	\$1,053,414	\$726,604	TX	Ken Paxton (R)	\$9,240,578	\$0	\$1,755,294
MI	Abdul El-Sayed (D)	\$12,222,407	\$0	\$2,730,129	VA	Mark Warner (D)	\$24,923,005	\$0	\$16,154,714
MI	Haley Stevens (D)	\$10,963,774	\$0	\$3,418,802	VA	Bert Mizusawa (R)	\$169,765	\$171,454	\$51,419
MI	Mike Rogers (R)	\$10,582,463	\$0	\$5,665,578	WV	Shelley Moore Capito (R)	\$6,492,251	\$0	\$4,377,201
MN	Angie Craig (D)	\$11,932,560	\$0	\$5,036,060	WY	Harriet Hageman (R)	\$2,023,908		\$963,842
MN	Peggy Flanagan (D)	\$6,040,663	\$3,500	\$1,565,604					
MN	Michele Tafoya (R)	\$4,666,301	\$3,038	\$2,080,632					
MN	Adam Schwarze (R)	\$1,354,222	\$40,000	\$211,222					

Source: National Journal, Federal Election Commission, Inshara Ali, Ashleigh Jones

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northern reach, where he was born to a 16-year-old mother, earned an associate's degree from the University of Maine, Kent, and worked as a logger.

He's difficult to pin down politically, having run for office first as a Republican in 2000, then as an independent in 2002, and finally and since 2004 as a Democrat. For much of his early political career he

staked out socially conservative positions on abortion and gay marriage, but changed his stances on both issues in the 2010s. For the past decade, he has been closely aligned with democratic socialist Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who he



Susan Collins

Bill Clark/CO Roll Call

voted for as a superdelegate in the 2016 Democratic presidential primaries and supported in 2020.

At the same time, he held onto his northern Maine state Senate district even as it voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 and 2020 elections by 7 and 11 points, respectively. Each time he outran the top of the ticket margin by double-digits.

But Jackson has struggled to harness his appeal in his bids for higher office. In 2014, he ran for Maine's open 2nd District but fell flat in the Democratic primary, losing by 58 points to fellow state Sen. Emily Cain. More recently, he placed third in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, despite the progressive energy coursing through the state thanks to Platner's candidacy (Platner had said he was ranking Jackson first on his gubernatorial ballot).

Now he'll have a chance to show that his difficulties in primaries won't carry over to a general election — and a chance to prove that a progressive who supports Medicare for All, abolishing ICE, and who labels Israel's actions in Gaza a genocide, can win a critical swing seat.

Jackson's campaign team includes media consultant Raghu Devaguptapu of TKO, pollsters Luke Martin and Brian Stryker of Impact Research, and direct mail consultant Isaac Goldberg of BerlinRosen.

How It Plays Out

Democrats are in a stronger position with Jackson than they would have been with Platner, especially by the end of the oysterman's campaign. But Collins is a tough out even for a candidate without Platner's baggage. Her deep political roots and long track record of bringing money back to Maine, detailed in the May 21 issue of *Inside Elections*, have helped her outrun the state's Democratic partisan lean for decades.

For her part, Collins' strategy is not likely to deviate from the race she planned to run against Platner, one with a relentless focus on the many projects she's supported in the state and the influence she wields as the powerful chairwoman of the Senate appropriations committee.

However, while Republican outside groups are eager to dig into Jackson's voting record in the state legislature, some GOP admakers are no doubt mourning the lost chance to highlight Platner's vulnerabilities now that he's no longer the nominee.

Republican outside groups have already spent \$40 million boost-

ing Collins on the airwaves, and have another \$60 million in spending planned for the fall. Democratic outside groups have committed \$24 million in fall spending.

Jackson will need to spin up a significant fundraising operation practically overnight. In addition to the outside spending advantage enjoyed by the GOP, Collins herself has an \$11 million head start as of June 30. Jackson started with an empty bank account and no national donor network, though Collins' status as public enemy number one among Democratic grassroots donors should help Jackson fundraise. (His campaign says it has raised \$1 million in its first two weeks.)

One immediate question will be if Jackson can establish his own political identity separate from Platner, who credited Jackson with paving the way for his own candidacy and whom Jackson endorsed early in the Senate primary.

Jackson's connection to Platner clearly helped ease his path to the Senate nomination last week. In the general election, it may keep Platner's strongest supporters from abstaining entirely after their candidate was pushed out of the race. And even though Jackson lacks Platner's charisma or speaking ability on the stump and on camera, their ideological overlap could help him reap the benefit of the grassroots energy Platner awoke across the state.

But it's also a relationship he'll have to handle deftly as Republicans leverage clips of his praise for the now-damaged Platner to disqualify him in the general election. Republicans also may make use of recent stories detailing Jackson's temper and penchant for heated argu-



Courtesy Jackson Campaign

Troy Jackson

ments while in the state legislature, that some of his former colleagues said rose to the level of bullying and physical intimidation (characterizations Jackson disputes).

Overall, though, Democrats are glad to have a candidate with

fewer distractions that complicate the message against Collins: that she no longer delivers for the state amid the rising cost of goods and health-care, and that her sway over GOP policymaking is diminished, as seen by the Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and ICE actions in Maine that saw a federal agent kill an unarmed legal Maine resident.

A handful of surveys taken in the days following Platner's exit show a competitive race between Jackson and Collins. A University of New Hampshire poll taken July 15-20 found Jackson leading Collins, 49-46 percent. A July 7-8 survey conducted by Z to A Research for allies of Shah put Collins ahead of Jackson, 48-47 percent.

The Bottom Line

The dust still needs time to settle from Platner's withdrawal and Jackson's ascension. Moving on from a damaged nominee is good news for Democrats, but those positive developments shouldn't overshadow Collins' longstanding strength in the state and her ability to peel off critical pieces of the Democratic coalition. That said, Collins is more vulnerable this cycle than she ever has been before.

For now, *Inside Elections* is maintaining its Tilt Republican rating, though that could change as the general election begins in earnest over the coming weeks.

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