Inside Elections

With Nathan L. Gonzales

OCTOBER 29, 2026 VOLUME 10, NO. 21

This issue brought to you by

NAIFA Political Action Committees

2026 Senate Ratings

Toss-up (4)	
IA Open (Ernst, R)#	Marshall (R-Kan.)#
Sullivan (R-Ak.)	Collins (R-Maine)
Tilt Democratic (4)	**Tilt Republican (2)**
MI Open (Peters, D)	Ricketts (R-Neb.)#
NH Open (Shaheen, D)	Graham (R-S.C.)#
TX Open (Cornyn, R)#	
Husted (R-Ohio)#	
Lean Democratic (2)	**Lean Republican**
MN Open (Smith, DFL)	
NC Open (Tillis, R)	
Likely Democratic (1)	**Likely Republican (3)**
Ossoff (D-Ga.)#	LA Open (Cassidy, R)#
	Moody (R-Fl.)
	Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)#
Solid Democratic (9)	**Solid Republican (10)**
IL Open (Durbin, D)	OK Open (Armstrong, R)
Booker (D-N.J.)	MT Open (Daines, R)
Coons (D-Del.)	WY Open (Lummis, R)
Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)	KY Open (McConnell, R)
Lujan (D-N.M.)	AL Open (Tuberville, R)
Markey (D-Mass.)	Capito (R-W.V.)
Merkley (D-Ore.)	Cotton (R-Ark.)
Reed (D-R.I.)	Hagerty (R-Tenn.)
Warner (D-Va.)	Risch (R-Idaho)
	Rounds (R-S.D.)

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

CALENDAR

Nov. 3	Election Day
Nov. 21	National Women's Soccer League Championship Final
Nov. 10	Last day for California ballots to arrive
Nov. 18	Alaska tabulates ranked-choice ballots
Dec. 12	Louisiana House runoff elections (if necessary)
Dec. 18	Dune Part 3/Avengers: Doomsday release date
Jan. 3	New Congress sworn in
Jan. 25	College Football Playoff championship game
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day/Super Bowl LXI

2026 Election Overview: GOP Faces Midterm Backlash

By Nathan L. Gonzales, Jacob Rubashkin and Inshara Ali

President Donald Trump led Republicans to the mountaintop in 2024, but now he's the anvil around the neck of the party as the GOP struggles to maintain control of Congress in the midterms.

What Republicans thought was a permanent coalition collapsed under the weight of the president's unpopular policy decisions, from the war with Iran to tariffs on friendly countries. Trump's political mortality is being exposed by an electorate frustrated by the economy.

The president's approval rating has slumped to the point where his party is defending some deep red territory including Kansas and South Carolina that were previously unthinkable Democratic targets. The difference between a good night for Democrats and a historic wave rests with GOP voters conflicted between disappointment in the president and the threat of Democratic control.

While there's a high degree of certainty about the direction of the election, there's a high degree of uncertainty about the magnitude of Democratic gains. There's a very thin line between Republicans narrowly holding a slew of places that are typically solid, and narrowly losing a bunch of races they haven't had to worry about in years.

In the Senate, our projection is a Democratic gain of 4-6 seats, which is above the four they need for a majority. It's certainly possible that Republicans narrowly retain control, but it's not the most likely result. In the House, our projection is a Democratic gain of 20-30 seats, with higher gains possible. They need a net gain of three for a majority. Continued concern about affordability has expanded the map of competitive races.

Republican optimism is rooted in faith in the party turnout machine, the unpopular Democratic brand, the disbelief in polls and the belief that even disappointed GOP voters will still show up and vote Republican on Election Day.

In the end, a Democratic resurgence will likely be led by Hispanic voters in Texas and Florida Black voters in the South and rural White voters in the Plains and Midwest. The coalition won't be permanent, nor will it signal a deep love for the Democratic Party. But it could be enough to deliver majorities this year.

In just a few days, the page will turn to 2028, where there's more uncertainty. If the country continues down the path of pessimism, there could be a replay of 2006 and 2008 when Democrats enjoyed consecutive successful cycles. But a more optimistic electorate could result in something close to 2012, when Democrats rebounded from the 2010 red wave to gain seats in the House, Senate and win the White House. Only time will tell.

House Report Shorts

Alabama's 2nd District. (Montgomery and southeastern Alabama) Shomari Figures, D. Trump 57%. State Rep. Rhett Marques has the lean of the district in his favor, but that may not be enough in a year where the president is deeply underwater and Black voter turnout is elevated. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Remington Research Group, Oct. 23-25 (642 LV)— General election ballot: Marques over Figures, 48% - 46%.

Arizona's 2nd District. (Northeastern Arizona) Eli Crane, R, re-elected 55%. Trump 57%. Arizona continues to look like a trouble spot for Republicans across the board. GOP gubernatorial nominee Andy Biggs never kicked his campaign into high gear, and for the first time in 12 years there isn't a Senate race to drive turnout. Jonathan Nez is an underdog but will do better than his 9-point loss last year and could pull off an upset if GOP voters don't show up. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.



Courtesy Nez Campaign

Jonathan Nez

Emerson College for Poll Vault, Oct. 12-14 (345 LV)— General election ballot: Nez over Crane, 50% - 48%.

Arizona's 6th District. (Southeastern Arizona and eastern Tucson area) Juan Ciscomani, R, re-elected 50%. Trump 49.7%. Democrat JoAnna Mendoza's background as a Marine drill instructor who grew up in poverty has allowed her to withstand significant GOP attacks against socially progressive stances and comments she made during a previous run for office. While some Republicans believe Ciscomani will outperform his polling as in previous years, he's an underdog heading into Election Day. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

California's 6th District. Kevin Kiley, I/Open; Ami Bera, D, running in 3rd District. Harris 53%. In a different year, Kiley's gambit of running as an independent might have worked in this light blue district. But state Sen. Richard Pan is on his way to winning this seat next week. Move from Lean Democratic to Likely Democratic.

California's 34th District. (Downtown Los Angeles and nearby neighborhoods) Jimmy Gomez, D. Harris 73%. Gomez may be an underdog against progressive Angela Gonzalez-Torres. An anti-AI group has spent more than $1 million boosting Gonzalez-Torres and hitting Gomez, who has won close elections against fellow Democrats before. Solid Democratic.

Univ. of South California, Oct. 16-24 (423 LV)(email)— General election ballot: Gomez over Gonzalez-Torres, 51% - 45%.

Center for Strategic Politics for Gonzalez-Torres, Oct. 8-12 (416 LV) (SMS)— General election ballot: Gonzalez-Torres over Gomez, 48% - 38%.

California's 45th District. (Western Orange County) Derek Tran, D. Harris 51%. Democrats don't have an overwhelming advantage in the district, but Republicans don't have the resources to boost Chuong Vo against the congressman in this environment. Move from Likely Democratic to Solid Democratic.

Colorado's 4th District. (Eastern Colorado and Denver exurbs) Lauren Boebert, R, re-elected 54%. Trump 58%. Boebert isn't running a robust campaign and opponent Eileen Laubacher has a massive spending advantage. This is the most Republican district in the state, but Boebert is not popular and the gubernatorial and Senate races are not competitive for Republicans, so GOP voters may not turn out. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Impact Research (D) for Invest in Tomorrow Coalition (anti-Boebert), Sept. 21-24 (403 LV)— General election ballot: Boebert over Laubacher, 45% - 40%, Douglas Mangeris (I) 9%.

Colorado's 5th District. (Colorado Springs area) Jeff Crank, R, elected 55%. Trump 53%. A month ago, Republicans believed they had righted this race and sufficiently fried Democratic nominee Jessica Killin's image. But a worsening environment has kept this race competitive. Democratic gubernatorial nominee Phil Weiser should carry this district. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Continued on page 3

Inside Elections
With Nathan L. Gonzales

609 H Street NE, 4th Floor
Washington, DC, 20002

202-546-2822



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



Jacob Rubashkin
Deputy Editor
jacob@insideelections.com
@jacobrubashkin



Inshara Ali
Reporter / Analyst
Inshara@insideelections.com
@InsideElections



Bradley Wascher
Contributing Data Editor
bradley@insideelections.com
@bradwascher

Nicholas Demba
Intern

Will Taylor
Production Artist
will@insideelections.com

Stuart Rothenberg
Founding Editor
stu@insideelections.com

@InsideElections facebook.com/InsideElections YouTube.com/@InsideElections @InsideElections

Copyright 2026, Inside Elections LLC. All rights reserved.

Continued from page 2

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 19-20 (577 LV)— General election ballot: Crank and Killin tied, 47% - 47%.

Global Strategy Group (D) for Killin, Oct. 14-18 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Killin over Crank, 43% - 38%, Mitchell (American Constitution Party) 4%, Elworth (L) 3%. Killin over Crank, 46% - 44%.

Colorado's 8th District. (Northern Denver suburbs and Greeley area) Gabe Evans, R, elected 49%. Trump 49.6%. This district is designed to hold incredibly competitive and close races, and this year has been similarly hard fought. But a swing toward Democrats among Hispanic voters and a looming wipeout at the top of the ticket for Republicans puts Evans on the defensive against former state Rep. Manny Rutinel. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

McLaughlin & Associates for Enhancing American Competitiveness (pro-Evans), Sept. 16-17 (400 LV)— General election ballot: Evans over Rutinel, 48% - 46%.

Florida's 14th District. (South Tampa and eastern suburbs) Kathy Castor, D. Trump 55%. Castor has a small but consistent edge over former state Rep. Mike Beltran. The district was drawn to elect a Republican but a favorable environment plus two decades of noncontroversial congressional representation are helping keep Castor afloat. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Emerson College for Poll Vault, Oct. 12-14 (315 LV) — General election ballot: Castor over Beltran, 48% - 43%.

Florida's 22nd District. (Inland Palm Beach and western suburbs to the Marco Island area across the Everglades) Open; Lois Frankel, D, running in the 23rd District. Trump 55%. Open seats, even ones such as this one drawn to elect a Republican, are proving a challenge for the GOP. Democrat Pia Dandiya is at least a coin flip to defeat Republican Casey Askar. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Florida's 25th District. (Coastal Boca Raton to Miami Beach area) Jared Moskowitz, D. Trump 54%. A poll from former Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer showing him ahead of Moskowitz looks like an outlier. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 26-27 (523 LV) — General election ballot: Moskowitz over Singer, 47% - 41%.

National Research (R) for Singer/NRCC, Oct. 12-15 (400 LV)— General election ballot: Singer over Moskowitz, 49% - 42%.

Kansas' 2nd District. (Topeka, Kansas City, and parts of eastern Kansas) Derek Schmidt, R, elected 57%. Trump 59%. Democrat Don Coover is an untraditional nominee, but the 75-year-old rancher, veterinarian, and former Army captain is benefitting from a favorable national political environment, strong statewide Democratic candidates, and a GOP opponent that hasn't laid a glove on him. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

DCCC Targeting & Analytics (D) for DCCC, Oct. 19-20 (639 LV)— General election ballot: Schmidt over Coover, 49% - 46%.

Kansas' 4th District. (Wichita and south central Kansas) Ron Estes, R, re-elected 65%. Trump 61%. Wichita is giving Sen. Roger Marshall difficulty in the Senate race. A pro-Estes super PAC isn't taking any chances and started airing negative ads against Democratic nominee Katy Tyndell. Solid Republican.

2026 House Ratings

Toss-Up (4D, 9R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)
CO 5 (Crank, R)#
FL 22 (Open; Frankel, D)#
IA 2 (Open; Hinson, R)
KY 6 (Open; Barr, R)#
MI 4 (Huizenga, R)#
MI 7 (Barrett, R)
MT 1 (Open; Zinke, R)#
NY 17 (Lawler, R)
PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)#
TX 34 (Gonzalez, D)
TX 35 (Open; Casar, D)#
WA 3 (Perez, D)

Tilt Democratic (7D, 15R)

AZ 1 (Open; Schweikert, R)
AZ 6 (Ciscomani, R)#
CA 13 (Gray, D)
CA 48 (Open; Issa, R)
CO 8 (Evans, R)#
FL 14 (Castor, D)#
FL 25 (Moskowitz, D)#
IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)
IA 3 (Nunn, R)
NJ 7 (Kean Jr., R)
NM 2 (Vasquez, D)
NY 4 (Gillen, D)
NC 1 (Davis, D)#
NC 11 (Open; Edwards, R)#
OH 7 (Miller, R)#
OH 9 (Kaptur, D)#
PA 7 (Mackenzie, R)
PA 8 (Bresnahan, R)
PA 10 (Perry, R)#
TX 15 (De La Cruz, R)#
VA 2 (Kiggans, R)#
WI 3 (Van Orden, R)#

Tilt Republican (1D, 4R)

AL 2 (Figures, D)#
MI 10 (Open; James, R)
NV 2 (Open; Amodei, R)#
SC 1 (Open; Mace, R)#
VA 1 (Wittman, R)#

Lean Democratic (6D, 1R)

NE 2 (Open; Bacon, R)
NH 1 (Open; Pappas, D)
NV 1 (Titus, D)
NV 3 (Lee, D)
NY 3 (Suozzi, D)
OH 1 (Landsman, D)#
TX 28 (Cuellar, D)#

Lean Republican (2D, 9R)

AZ 2 (Crane, R)#
FL 13 (Luna, R)
FL 27 (Salazar, R)
ME 2 (Open; Golden, D)
MN 1 (Finstad, R)#
NY 21 (Open; Stefanik, R)
OH 10 (Turner, R)#
OH 15 (Carey, R)#
TX 9 (Open; Green, D)#
VA 5 (McGuire, R)#
WI 1 (Steil, R)#

Likely Democratic (5D, 1I)

CA 6 (Open; Bera, D/Kiley, I)#
IN 1 (Mrvan, D)
MI 3 (Scholten, D)
MN 2 (Open; Craig, DFL)
NV 4 (Horsford, D)

Likely Republican (2D, 17R)

AK AL (Begich, R)
AR 2 (Hill, R)
CO 3 (Hurd, R)
CO 4 (Boebert, R)#
FL 7 (Open; Mills, R)
FL 9 (Soto, D)
FL 16 (Open; Buchanan, R)
IN 5 (Spartz R)
KS 2 (Schmidt, R)#
NE 1 (Flood, R)
NJ 2 (Van Drew, R)#
NC 3 (Murphy, R)#
NC 9 (Hudson, R)#
NC 13 (Knott, R)#
OK 5 (Bice, R)#
TN 9 (Open; Cohen, D)#
TX 23 (Vacant; Gonzales, R)
WA 5 (Baumgartner, R)#
WY AL (Open; Hageman, R)

	GOP	DEM
Solid	163	190
Likely/Lean/Tilt	35	34
Total	198	224
Toss-up	13	
Needed for majority	218	

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

Kentucky's 6th District. (Greater Lexington area) Open; Andy Barr, R, running for Senate. Trump 57%. Democratic polling says attorney and veteran Zach Dembo has a healthy lead over former state Sen. Ralph Alvarado. Republicans believe the race is closer and see Barr's Senate run as a boost. Dembo has successfully used deeply unpopular former Gov. Matt Bevin as a cudgel against Alvarado, who was Bevin's running mate in 2019. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 19-20 (572 LV)— General election ballot: Dembo over Alvarado, 47% - 41%.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Michigan's 1st District. (Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula) Jack Bergman, R, re-elected 59%. Trump 60%. Bergman is airing multiple negative ads against opponent Callie Barr, an attorney who has actually outspent the longtime incumbent over the past two weeks. Solid Republican.

Michigan's 4th District. (Southwestern Michigan) Bill Huizenga, R, re-elected 55%. Trump 52%. State Sen. Sean McCann has pulled even with Huizenga as Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed holds up better in Western Michigan than in the Detroit area. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Minnesota's 1st District. (Southern Minnesota) Brad Finstad, R, re-elected 59%. Trump 55%. Democratic super PAC House Majority PAC is making a late investment in this district to help math teacher Jake Johnson. While the Democrat is still an underdog and the state-level political environment isn't great for the party thanks to unpopular outgoing Gov. Tim Walz, this race is competitive. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 13-14— General election ballot: Finstad and Johnson tied at 43%.

SurveyUSA for ABC6, Oct. 4-12 (565 LV)— General election ballot: Johnson over Finstad, 46% - 44%.

GBAO (D) for House Majority PAC, Sept. 18-21 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Johnson over Finstad, 47% - 46%.

Montana's 1st District. (Western Montana) Open; Ryan Zinke, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 54%. Both parties have this as a close race between Democrat Sam Forstag and Republican Aaron Flint. Libertarian Nick Sheedy is making life more difficult for Flint. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Emerson College for Poll Vault, Oct. 12-14 (329 LV)— General election ballot: Forstag over Flint, 50% - 46%.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 12-14— General election ballot: Forstag over Flint, 48% - 45%.

North Carolina's 1st District. (Inland northeastern North Carolina) Don Davis, D. Trump 55%. Against the odds, Davis has ground out an advantage in a district drawn to defeat him. A strong performance by former Gov. Roy Cooper in the Tar Heel State's Senate race is a rising tide lifting all Democratic boats as well. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

North Carolina's 3rd District. (Coastal eastern North Carolina) Greg Murphy, R. Trump 56%. A rare seat made less Republican in a GOP-led gerrymander, the 3rd is still not likely to flip to Democrat Raymond Smith, Jr. But if the bottom falls out for North Carolina Republicans, Murphy could be in for a long night. Gov. Josh Stein carried this seat two years ago en route to his 15-point win, and former governor and current Democratic Senate nominee Roy Cooper nearly won it in 2020 as he won statewide by just 4 points. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

North Carolina's 5th District. (Greensboro and northwestern North Carolina) Virginia Foxx, R, re-elected 60%. Trump 58%. The longtime Republican congresswoman is airing a negative ad against her Democratic opponent, a sign that North Carolina Republicans are preparing for their stiffest headwinds in years. Solid Republican.

North Carolina's 9th District. (Eastern Piedmont region and part of the Fayetteville area) Richard Hudson, R, re-elected 56%. Trump 57%. Hudson, the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, is concerned enough about his race against former West Virginia state Sen. Richard Ojeda that the NRCC paid for a pro-Hudson mailer. Democratic polling has Hudson ahead by mid-single digits, but some GOP strategists are concerned that Republican turnout in North Carolina will be abysmal. If that's the case, this race could be interesting. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 19-20— General election ballot: Hudson over Ojeda, 46% - 42%.

North Carolina's 11th District. (Western North Carolina) Open; Chuck Edwards, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 54%.



Courtesy Ager Campaign
Jamie Ager

Democratic farmer Jamie Ager has no voting record and has run a disciplined, well-funded campaign. Republicans had to swap out the scandal-plagued Edwards for a replacement candidate, state Rep. Jennifer Balkcom, who isn't ready for primetime. Balkcom's most recent ad is an AI-generated video that features Ager dancing with a drag queen. Polling shows Republicans headed for defeat. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Emerson College for Poll Vault, Oct. 12-14 (388 LV)— General election ballot: Ager over Balkcom, 56% - 43%.

North Carolina's 13th District. (Raleigh exurbs and nearby rural areas) Brad Knott, R. elected 59%. Trump 59%. Attorney Paul Barringer is hoping to take Knott by surprise in a race that hasn't gotten any national attention but could edge its way onto the battleground now that Republicans have essentially ceded the Senate race to Democrats. Knott is hitting Barringer on the airwaves for only recently moving back to North Carolina from Maryland. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

New Hampshire's 2nd District. (Western and northern New Hampshire) Maggie Goodlander, D. elected 53%. Polling shows Goodlander well ahead of Lily Tang Williams in a rematch of the 2024 race that sent the Democrat to Congress. Move from Likely Democratic to Solid Democratic.

St. Anselm College, Oct. 19-20 (811 LV)(online panel)— General election ballot: Goodlander over Williams, 54% - 38%.

New Jersey's 2nd District. (South Jersey Shore) Jeff Van Drew, R, re-elected 58%. Trump 56%. A poll from Fairleigh Dickinson University found Democrats have a 23-point lead on the generic ballot in New Jersey, and an even greater lead among those most likely to vote. That could be enough to make this race worth keeping an eye

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

on, and a Democratic super PAC has spent $1.5 million over the closing two weeks of the race to boost Cape May Mayor Zack Mullock. That's the most outside spending the district has seen since 2020. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Impact Research (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 7-10— General election ballot: Van Drew over Mullock, 50% - 40%.

Nevada's 2nd District. (Reno area and northern Nevada) Open; Mark Amodei, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 56%. Amodei recently said he voted for the independent in the race, Lynn Chapman. The Washoe County GOP condemned him for his vote, but there's a real danger for GOP nominee David Flippo that other conservatives also go for Chapman, lowering the threshold Democrat Teresa Benitez-Thompson needs to win. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 12-13— General election ballot: Flippo over Benitez-Thompson, 46% - 44%.

Ohio's 1st District. (Cincinnati plus Warren and Clinton counties) Greg Landsman, D. Trump 51%. Republicans had high hopes of defeating Landsman after his seat was redrawn, but this won't be the year for veteran and former CIA officer Eric Conroy. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

Torchlight Strategies (R), Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (400 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Landsman over Conroy, 46% - 44%, Nathan Weise (L) 5%.

Ohio's 7th District. (Southern Cleveland suburbs) Max Miller, R. Trump 55%. Miller's ugly divorce from Emily Moreno, who has accused him of abuse, has put him on the defensive. Though Moreno's father, Sen. Bernie Moreno, called on Miller to resign, national Republicans have stood by Miller, airing millions of dollars in ads highlighting Democrat Brian Poindexter's own criminal record. But the combination of Miller's baggage and a tough environment for Ohio Republicans makes him a slight underdog. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Ohio's 9th District. (Northwest Ohio) Marcy Kaptur, D. Trump 55%. It may not be a pretty win, but the longest-serving woman in congressional history appears poised to scratch out one more term against state Rep. Derek Merrin. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

DCCC Targeting & Analytics (D) for DCCC, Sept. 22-23 (481 LV) — General election ballot: Kaptur and Merrin tied at 48%.

Ohio's 10th District. (Dayton area) Mike Turner, R. Trump 53%. After nearly a year of struggling to introduce herself to the district, Democrat Kristina Knickerbocker may be peaking at the right time against Turner. Some Democratic polling even has the veteran and oncology nurse ahead of Turner, a former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. Strong performances from Sherrod Brown and Amy Acton in the Senate and governor races help here. Move from Solid Republican to Lean Republican.

DCCC Targeting & Analytics (D) for DCCC, Oct. 12-13 (535 LV)— General election ballot: Knickerbocker over Turner, 47% - 44%, Thomas McMasters (L) 4%.

Ohio's 15th District. (Southwestern Columbus area) Mike Carey, R. Trump 55%. Don Leonard isn't the perfect Democratic candidate: he's a liberal college professor who was arrested at a No Kings protest and joked about lying to voters in the district. But he may not need to be a top-tier candidate to pull off an upset against Carey if the political environment has deteriorated to the point where Democrats are winning statewide in Ohio again. Outside groups from both parties are spending in the closing weeks, including a Trump-funded super PAC. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Hart Research (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 9-12 (503 LV)— General election ballot: Leonard over Carey, 48% - 45%.

Oklahoma's 5th District. (Oklahoma City area) Stephanie Bice, R, re-elected 61%. Trump 58%. Bice is running like she's in a real race, including airing an attack ad, even though teacher Jena Nelson is at a financial disadvantage and the district voted for Trump by nearly 20 points. But Democratic gubernatorial nominee Cyndi Munson will likely carry the district, and a Democratic super PAC is running negative ads against Bice in the final week. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.



Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Stephanie Bice

Pennsylvania's 1st District. (Northern Philadelphia suburbs) Brian Fitzpatrick, R, re-elected 56%. Harris 49.7%. Despite a history of outperforming the top of the ticket every time he's been on the ballot, Fitzpatrick is running like he's in the race of his life. Democratic groups are investing in their nominee, Bucks County Commissioner Bob Harvie, to a greater degree than in previous cycles. A dominant performance by Gov. Josh Shapiro could affect the race as well — he may win the district by 20 points or more. Move from Lean Republican to Toss-up.

New York Times/Siena Univ. for The Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 16-22 (400 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Harvie over Fitzpatrick, 48% - 46%.

Pennsylvania's 10th District. (Harrisburg and York areas) Scott Perry, R, re-elected 51%. Trump 52%. The race was thrown for a loop when the Department of Homeland Security accused Democrat Janelle Stelson of employing an illegal immigrant arrested for indecent exposure. Stelson says the man has no relationship to the campaign. The longtime newscaster came close to winning in 2024 and appears poised to win this year. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

New York Times/Siena Univ. for The Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 16-22 (404 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Perry and Stelson tied at 48%.

Susquehanna Polling & Research, Oct. 5-11 (300 LV)— General election ballot: Stelson over Perry, 49% - 46%.

Franklin & Marshall College, Sept. 9-20 (378 RV)— General election ballot: Stelson over Perry, 47% - 44%

South Carolina's 1st District. (Coastal South Carolina and Charleston suburbs) Open; Nancy Mace, R, ran for governor. Trump 56%. Republicans have rushed money to bolster Jenny Costa Honey-

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

cutt in her unexpectedly close race against Democratic retired Admiral Nancy Lacore. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 21-22 (770 LV)— General election ballot: Lacore over Honeycutt, 47% - 45%.

co/efficient (R), Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (837 LV)— General election ballot: Honeycutt over Lacore, 46% - 40%, Bill Reeside (L) 4%.

Tennessee's 9th District. (Part of Memphis and rural southern Tennessee) Open; Steve Cohen, D, not seeking re-election. Trump 60%. Though this district was drawn to elect a Republican, nothing is coming easy for the GOP at this point. State Sen. Brent Taylor appeared to be on a glide path against state Rep. Justin Pearson, but increased Black voter turnout could make things more interesting in a seat that still has the largest share of Black voters of any in the state. So could Taylor's recent admission that he sent unsolicited nude images. Democrats have quietly outspent Republicans by more than two-to-one on advertising over the final month of the race. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.



Courtesy Pearson Campaign

Justin Pearson

Texas' 9th District. (Houston suburbs) Open; Al Green, D, lost 18th District primary. Trump 59%. If Democrat Leticia Gutierrez wins, it will be entirely because of the national and state-level political environment, especially with James Talarico running strong in the Senate race. That's a real possibility even though this district was redrawn to elect a Republican. Alex Mealer, the GOP nominee, has a significant financial advantage. But her position is shaky enough that a constellation of Republican super PACs have rushed $1 million to boost her in the closing weeks. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

DCCC Targeting & Analytics (D) for DCCC, Oct. 20-22 (490 LV)(live caller/text-to-web) — General election ballot: Mealer over Gutierrez, 48% - 47%.

Univ. of Houston ,Oct. 3-7 (677 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Mealer over Gutierrez, 48% - 42%.

Texas' 10th District. (Austin suburbs and rural central Texas between Austin and Houston) Open; Michael McCaul, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 60%. Data center construction has emerged as a major flashpoint in the race between Democratic veteran Caitlin Rourk and Republican attorney Chris Gober, who has worked for Elon Musk. There's been very little spending in the district, and the partisan lean makes it inhospitable to Democrats. But Rourk's profile as an Army officer, and focus on the data center issue, could make the margin worth watching. Solid Republican.

Texas' 15th District. (McAllen in the Rio Grande Valley to the outer San Antonio metro area) Monica De La Cruz, R. Trump 58%. Hispanic voters in South Texas appear poised to swing back toward Democrats after moving in a Republican direction over the past six years. Tejano star Bobby Pulido's celebrity seems to have insulated him from a battery of attacks levied by De La Cruz and outside GOP groups. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Texas Southern Univ., Oct. 13-16 (650 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Pulido over De La Cruz, 51% - 44%.

Texas' 28th District. (Laredo and eastern San Antonio suburbs) Henry Cuellar, D. Trump 55%. Outside GOP groups pulled out of this district after a month and a half of heavy spending. We probably haven't seen the last of Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina, but he's a clear underdog this cycle. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

DCCC Targeting & Analytics (D) for DCCC, Oct. 7-13 (536 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Cuellar over Tijerina, 54% - 34%.

Texas' 32nd District. (Northern Dallas east to Longview) Open; Julie Johnson, D, lost 33rd District primary. Trump 58%. What was supposed to be an easy win for Republican Jace Yarbrough may be developing into a headache for the GOP. The Club for Growth and a Trump super PAC have spent more than half a million dollars to boost Yarbrough in his race against Democrat Dan Barrios. Democratic groups have not come in to support Barrios, who doesn't have campaign funds of his own. Yarbrough should win, but the margin might surprise. Solid Republican.

Texas' 35th District. (San Antonio suburbs) Open; Greg Casar, D, running in 37th District. Trump 55%. Bexar Sheriff's Deputy Johnny Garcia gives Democrats a chance to hold onto this redrawn district, thanks to a strong statewide Democratic ticket and renewed strength among the Hispanic voters that make up a majority of the electorate. In a twist few expected at the start of the cycle, veteran Carlos De La Cruz is still more likely to be in Congress next year than his sister, 15th District Rep. Monica De La Cruz. Move from Lean Republican to Toss-up.

Washington Post/George Mason Univ., Oct. 14-19 (605 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: De La Cruz over Garcia, 48% - 47%.

Emerson College for Poll Vault, Oct. 12-14 (417 LV)— General election ballot: Garcia over De La Cruz, 51% - 49%.

Normington Petts (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 12-14— General election ballot: Garcia over De La Cruz, 47% - 45%.

Virginia's 1st District. (Western Chesapeake Bay and suburbs north and west of Richmond) Rob Wittman, R, re-elected 56%. Trump 52%. Democratic polling shows Wittman narrowly trailing Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney Shannon Taylor. A win here would be an early signal for a strong Democratic night in the House. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

DCCC Targeting & Analytics (D) for DCCC, Oct. 24-25 (478 LV)— General election ballot: Taylor over Wittman, 48% - 47%.

Public Policy Polling (D) for House Majority PAC, Oct. 21-22 (570 LV)— General election ballot: Taylor over Wittman, 47% - 46%.

Virginia's 2nd District. (Suburban Hampton Roads) Jen Kiggans, R, re-elected 51%. Trump 49.3%. In 2022, Kiggans defeat-

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

ed Rep. Elaine Luria by a narrow margin as an unpopular Democratic president dragged down the incumbent. Four years later, Luria looks like she'll beat Kiggans by a narrow margin as an unpopular Republican drags down the incumbent. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Christopher Newport Univ., Oct. 1-10 (702 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Luria over Kiggans, 46% - 43%.

Virginia's 5th District. (Charlottesville and western Southside Virginia) John McGuire, R, elected 58%. Trump 56%. Republican worries are growing that turnout in Central Virginia will be lackluster. That puts McGuire in a tough spot against former Rep. Tom Perriello despite the GOP lean of the district. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Virginia's 7th District. (Southern D.C. exurbs) Eugene Vindman, D, elected 51%. Harris 50%. This district might be competitive with an unpopular Democratic president in the White House, but not this cycle. Vindman is on TV and Republicans are focused elsewhere, making it very difficult for Republican Doug Ollivant. Move from Likely Democratic to Solid Democratic.

Washington's 5th District. (Eastern Washington) Michael Baumgartner, R. Trump 54%. If Democrat Carmela Conroy wins, it's because the environment has soured for Republicans and GOP voters have little reason to show up to the polls on Tuesday — not because she's a great candidate or Baumgartner has committed a fireable offense. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Wisconsin's 1st District. (Southeastern Wisconsin) Bryan Steil, R. Trump 51%. Some Democratic polls have nurse Mitchell Berman running ahead of Steil. But this is ancestrally Republican turf and GOP gubernatorial nominee Tom Tiffany should hold his own here. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Impact Research (D) for House Majority PAC, Sept. 28-Oct. 1 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Berman over Steil, 48% - 47%.

DCCC Targeting & Analytics (D) for DCCC, Sept. 21-23 (495 LV)— General election ballot: Berman and Steil tied at 48%.

Wisconsin's 3rd District. (Southwestern Wisconsin) Derrick Van Orden, R, re-elected 51%. Trump 53%. Van Orden could still win a third term, but he's a slight underdog in his rematch against Rebecca Cooke, who will benefit from a better national environment than her previous run. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Wyoming's At-Large District. Open; Harriet Hageman, R, running for Senate. Trump 71%. Despite the Cowboy State's Republican bent, state Secretary of State Chuck Gray is deeply unpopular and running like he's in a competitive race. Gray has a TV ad talking about affordability, while his super PAC is airing negative ads against Democrat Lisa Kinney. Gray also loaned his campaign $376,000 in the closing days. Even if he wins, a disappointing finish could set him up for a primary challenger in 2028. Likely Republican. IE

Senate Report Shorts

Alaska. Dan Sullivan (R), elected 2014 (48%) and 2020 (54%). The race between former Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola and Sullivan is extremely close. It's also complicated by a second candidate named Dan Sullivan, the state's ranked choice system, slow vote counting because of rural areas and now the Department of Justice's preliminary lawsuit to challenge the certification of the election because of alleged confusion about the candidates' names. Then there's the late-breaking *New York Times* story detailing how Peltola's allies recruited the other Dan Sullivan into the race as a ploy to siphon votes from the incumbent. This could be a long, drawn out process to find a winner. Toss-up.

Data for Progress (D), Oct. 8-16 (675 LV)(SMS/online panel)— General election ballot: Peltola over Sullivan, 49% - 46%, Dan J. Sullivan (R) 4%, Heikes (R) 1%. Peltola over Sullivan, 51% - 49%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Oct. 9-10 (1,200 LV)— General election ballot: Peltola over Sullivan, 50% - 48%.

Alaska Survey Research, Oct. 1-3 (1,512 LV)— General election ballot: Peltola over Sullivan, 47% - 45%, Dan J. Sullivan (R) 5%, Heikes (R) 3%. Peltola over Sullivan, 51% - 49%.

New York Times/Siena Univ., Sept. 24-Oct. 1 (504 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Peltola over Sullivan, 50% - 43%.

Arkansas. Tom Cotton (R), elected 2014 (57%) and 2020 (67%). Seed farmer Hallie Shoffner could put up the best performance for an Arkansas Democrat in a decade. But the state has become too Republican for her to win, and Cotton isn't taking anything for granted, even running joint ads with the NRSC. Solid Republican.

Hendrix College for Talk Business & Politics, Oct. 8-13 (709 LV)(SMS/live caller)— General election ballot: Cotton over Shoffner, 50% - 41%, Jeff Wadlin (L) 5%.

GrayHouse (R) for America One Policies (pro-Cotton), Sept. 30-Oct. 4 (550 LV)— General election ballot: Cotton over Shoffner, 50% - 39%, Jeff Wadlin (L) 4%.

Florida. Ashley Moody (R), appointed 2025. Republicans are confident the senator will defeat Democratic state Sen. Angie Nixon, but it looks more like a mid-single digit race, rather than the double-digit victories Republicans have become used to. Democrats just haven't had the resources to seriously challenge this race, even though the environment is better than usual. Likely Republican.



Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Ashley Moody

St. Pete Polls for Florida Politics, Oct. 25-27 (916 LV)(IVR/SMS) — General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 49% - 45%.

New York Times/Siena Univ., Oct. 19-25 (813 LV)(live caller) — General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 50% - 44%.

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (515 LV)(online panel/

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

text-to-web) —General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 51% - 43%, Neil Gillespie (I) 3%.

co/efficient (R), Oct. 18-20 (1,014 LV)(SMS/live caller)— General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 48% - 40%, Gillespie (I) 2%.

Univ. of North Florida, Oct. 12-19 (1,471 LV)— General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 49% - 45%.

YouGov for Univision, Oct. 2-15 (825 RV) —General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 51% - 42%.

MDW Communications for EDGE Communications, Oct. 4-10 (2,351 LV) —General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 48% - 42%.

Stetson Univ., Oct. 1-9 (716 LV)(online panel)— General election ballot: Moody over Nixon, 52% - 41%.

Georgia. Jon Ossoff (D), elected 2020 (51%). At this point, the question isn't whether Ossoff will win. It's if he will win by a large enough margin to take gubernatorial nominee Keisha Lance Bottoms with him despite her significant spending disadvantage. If Ossoff is winning by high single digits, that could be enough. Move from Lean Democratic to Likely Democratic.



Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Mike Collins

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (508 LV)(online panel/text-to-web) —General election ballot: Ossoff over Collins, 55% - 40%, Allen Buckley (L) 3%.

Univ. of Georgia for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Oct. 7-15 (1,000 LV)— General election ballot: Ossoff over Collins, 48% - 40%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Oct. 7-9 (1,101 LV)— General election ballot: Ossoff over Collins, 51% - 43%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Sept. 22-23 (1,200 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Ossoff over Collins, 50% - 42%.

Iowa. Open; Joni Ernst (R), not seeking re-election. Neither candidate has opened up a significant lead in the race. GOP Rep. Ashley Hinson has the partisanship of the state in her favor while Democratic state Rep. Josh Turek has the current environment on his side, including a strong gubernatorial run by fellow Democrat Rob Sand. Libertarian Thomas Laehn might benefit from having a similar name to GOP gubernatorial nominee Zach Lahn, which could lower Turek's threshold for victory. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (403 LV)(online panel/text-to-web) —General election ballot: Turek over Hinson, 45% - 43%, Thomas Laehn (L) 7%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Oct. 21-22 (1,200 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Hinson over Turek, 47% - 46%, Laehn (L) 3%.

co/efficient (R), Oct. 15-19 (863 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Hinson over Turek, 48% - 45%, Laehn (L) 2%.

New River Strategies (D)/GS Strategy Group (R) for The Cook Political Report, Oct. 9-13 (602 LV)— General election ballot: Turek over Hinson, 46% - 44%.

YouGov, Oct. 6-12 (2,245 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Turek over Hinson, 47% - 46%.

National Public Affairs (R) for God, Family, & Country PAC, Oct 8-12 (678 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Hinson over Turek, 47% - 44%, Laehn (L) 4%. Hinson over Turek, 48% - 47%.

Kansas. Roger Marshall (R), elected 2024 (53%). Kansas hasn't elected a Democratic senator in 94 years, but Democratic pastor Adam Hamilton could pull it off. Marshall is getting squeezed by Hamilton's unique resume, the national political environment and some self-inflicted political wounds. Some GOP strategists believe that early attacks on Hamilton as a "megachurch CEO" could actually have boosted the Democratic nominee. Of course Marshall is still a Republican in a Republican state, but this is a very close and competitive race. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

CNN/SSRS, Oct. 20-26 (838 LV)(live caller/online)— General election ballot: Hamilton over Marshall, 49% - 45%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Oct. 13-14 (1,200 LV)— General election ballot: Marshall over Hamilton, 48% - 47%.

Louisiana. Open; Bill Cassidy (R), lost primary. Farmer Jamie Davis probably won't win, but he could finish surprisingly close to Rep. Julia Letlow, the Republican nominee. Republican polling shows a single-digit race, and a super PAC that backed Letlow in the primary recently re-emerged to spend on her behalf in the closing week. Trump announced a telerally on the eve of the election with Letlow as well. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Maine. Susan Collins (R), elected 1996 (49%), 2002 (58%), 2008 (61%), 2014 (69%) and 2020 (51%). The rare Senate race where the parties don't see eye to eye. Democrats believe former state Senate President Troy Jackson has been in the lead since he became the nominee in July. Republicans believe their all-out assault on Jackson's record and personal life has dragged him down and helped Collins regain the lead. Toss-up.

CNN/SSRS, Oct. 20-26 (783 LV)(live caller/online)— General election ballot: Jackson over Collins, 49% - 45%.

Marist Univ., Oct. 22-25 (1,449 LV)(multimodal) — General election ballot: Jackson over Collins, 49% - 47%.

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (413 LV)(online panel/text-to-web) —General election ballot: Jackson over Collins, 51% - 44%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Oct. 21-23 (1,077 LV)—General election ballot: Collins and Jackson tied at 47%.

Beacon/Shaw for Fox News, Oct. 16-20 (1,514 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Collins and Jackson tied at 49%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Oct. 13-14 (1,200 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Jackson over Collins, 49% - 47%.

Michigan. Open; Gary Peters (D), not seeking re-election. Former GOP Rep. Mike Rogers and former Democratic local health official Abdul El-Sayed are locked in one of the closest and highest-profile races in the country. Most of the data have the candidates tied or El-Sayed up slightly. Republicans are trying to take advantage of tension between the Arab-American and African-American communities and believe Rogers will over perform significantly with Black voters. But El-Sayed may also boost Arab-American turnout to historic levels as a Muslim Democrat. This has been an ugly race and both candidates have high unfavorables, but the overall environment could push El-

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

Sayed over the top. Tilt Democratic.

CNN/SSRS, Oct. 20-27 (768 LV)(live caller/online)— General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 49% - 42%.

Glengariff Group for Detroit News/WDIV-TV, Oct. 19-22 (600 LV)— General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 51% - 45%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Oct. 21-22 (1,200 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 47% - 46%, Kristy (Natural Law Party) 1%, Christensen (L) 1%, Long (U.S. Taxpayers Party) 1%, Marsh (G) 1%.

Michigan State Univ./YouGov, Oct. 2-19 (836 LV)(online panel)— General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 44% - 41%.

Marist Univ., Oct. 15-18 (1,185 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: El-Sayed over Rogers, 50% - 48%.

The Tyson Group (R) for Alliance for a Better Future, Oct. 6-8 (600 LV)— General election ballot: Rogers over El-Sayed, 46% - 44%.

Mississippi. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R), appointed 2018, elected 2018 special (54%) and 2020 (54%). After being ignored for most of the cycle, the race between the senator and Democrat Scott Colom is garnering attention. Trump won the state by 21 points in 2024 and Hyde-Smith won by 10 in 2020, but this is looking like a closer contest. Democratic outside groups are on TV down the stretch, in part because it's less expensive than Florida, while Republicans wish Hyde-Smith had ramped up her campaign sooner. In this political environment, it's worth keeping an eye on. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Change Research (D) for Government that Works PAC, Oct. 21-22 (842 LV)— General election ballot: Hyde-Smith over Colom, 43% - 40%, Ty Pinkins (I) 6%.

Nebraska. Pete Ricketts (R) appointed 2024, elected 2024 special (63%). This race wasn't supposed to be as serious as 2024, when Democratic-backed independent Dan Osborn caught GOP Sen. Deb Fischer by surprise. But the political environment is much different and much worse for the GOP and Osborn is running even or just behind Ricketts. A recent outside group's ad highlighting a pardon Ricketts gave to a convicted rapist has the senator on the defensive in the closing weeks. Republicans think this will ultimately be fine, and a crowded ballot may hurt Osborn, but this is a close race. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (407 LV)(text-to-web/online panel)— General election ballot: Ricketts over Osborn 47% - 46%, Robin Richards (Working People Party) 2%, Chuck Conboy (America First Party) 1%.

GBAO for Working Class Majority PAC (pro-Osborn), Oct. 18-22 (800 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Osborn over Ricketts, 46% - 45%.

Impact Research (D) for Osborn, Oct. 14-20 (600 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Ricketts over Osborn, 50% - 48%.

Concord Public Opinion Partners (D) for Education Reform Now Advocacy, Oct. 15-18 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Osborn over Ricketts, 48% - 41%.

National Public Affairs (R) for God, Family, & Country PAC, Oct. 15-18 (598 LV)— General election ballot: Ricketts over Osborn, 46% - 43%, Mike Marvin (Legal Marijuana Now), Conboy (America First Party) 2%, Richards (Working People Party) 1%. Ricketts over Osborn 50% - 47%.

YouGov, Sept. 24 - Oct. 3 (1,809 LV)— General election ballot: Osborn over Ricketts, 48% - 47%.

Ohio. Jon Husted (R), appointed 2025. After nearly $400 million dollars in TV ads, Husted and Democratic former Sen. Sherrod Brown are within a few points of each other. Controversy surrounding GOP gubernatorial nominee Vivek Ramaswamy's ad has cast a shadow over the race with still-unknown impact. Voters threw out Brown two years ago, but the political environment is completely different and the former senator has a slight edge to come back. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Suffolk Univ. for USA TODAY, Oct. 21-26 (500 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 47% - 44%.

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (508 LV)(online panel/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Brown and Husted tied at 47%, Greg Levy (I) 2%, Bill Redpath (L) 1%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Oct. 21-22 (1,200 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 47% - 44%.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Oct. 15-19 (1,592 LV) (live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Paxton and Talarico tied at 49%.

Marist Univ., Oct. 15-18 (1,176 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 48% - 44%.

New River Strategies (D)/GS Strategy Group (R) for The Cook Political Report, Oct. 9-13 (959 LV)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 49% - 43%.

Bowling Green State Univ./YouGov Sept. 29-Oct. 9 (1,000 LV)— Brown over Husted, 48% - 42%.

co/efficient (R), Oct. 5-6 (925 LV(livecaller/SMS)— General election ballot: Husted over Brown, 46% - 45%.

CNN/SSRS, Sept. 29-Oct. 5 (760 LV)(live caller/online panel)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 49% - 43%.

New York Times/Siena Univ., Sept. 22-Oct. 1 (616 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 49% - 46%.

YouGov, Sept. 18-30 (3,780 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Brown over Husted, 49% - 45%.

South Dakota. Mike Rounds (R), elected 2014 (50%) and 2020 (66%). Rounds is in his most competitive race yet, against independent Brian Bengs. Outside groups on both sides have stepped up their spending in the closing weeks of the race, with Bengs' allies finally airing negative ads hitting Rounds. This will be a closer race on the margin than the state's partisanship might suggest, but Rounds is still in the driver's seat in public and private polling. Solid Republican.



Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Mike Rounds

Emerson College for KELO-TV, Oct. 19-21 (803 LV)— General election ballot: Rounds over Bengs, 54% - 46%.

Public Opinion Strategies (R) for Rounds, Oct. 12-16 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Rounds over Bengs, 54% - 37%.

Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy for South Dakota News Watch, Oct. 12-14 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Rounds over Bengs, 56% - 37%.

Concord Public Opinion Partners (D) for Education Reform Now

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Advocacy, Oct. 6-8 (400 LV)— General election ballot: Bengs over Rounds, 43% - 42%.

Zenith Research for Bengs, Sept. 24-27 (500 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Rounds over Bengs, 53% - 47%.

South Carolina. Darline Graham (R), appointed 2026. Republicans admit that Graham is locked in a tight race while some Democratic polling even has pediatrician Annie Andrews with a slight lead. Effectively forced into running by Trump, Graham has had to build her campaign from scratch and learn how to be a candidate in a very short period of time, and run in a challenging environment. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.



Courtesy Andrews Campaign

Annie Andrews

New York Times/Siena Univ., Oct. 19-26 (707 LV)(live caller) — General election ballot: Andrews and Graham tied at 48%.

The Citadel, Oct. 14-25 (890 LV)— General election ballot: Graham over Andrews, 42% - 39%, Ralph Norman (R) 2%, Mark Hackett (Constitution Party) 1%.

Impact Research (D) for Fresh Start SC PAC (pro-Andrews), Oct. 15-21 (800 LV)(multimodal) — General election ballot: Andrews over Graham, 45% - 44%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Oct. 16-18 (1,095 LV) — General election ballot: Graham over Andrews, 49% - 46%, Whitener (L) 4%, Hackett (Constitution Party) 1%.

InsiderAdvantage (R), Sept. 28 to 29 (1,200 LV)(multimodal) — General election ballot: Graham over Andrews, 46% - 45%, Hackett (Constitution Party) 3%, Whitener (L) 2%.

Texas. Open; John Cornyn (R), lost primary runoff. Democratic state Rep. James Talarico has had a narrow but stable lead over Republican state Attorney General Ken Paxton for five months. It's certainly possible that late GOP spending drags Paxton across the finish line, but that's not the most likely outcome. A Libertarian candidate could receive enough votes from disaffected GOP voters to allow Talarico to win with less than a majority. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

CNN/SSRS, Oct. 20-27 (923 LV)(live caller/online)— General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 49% - 43%.

YouGov Blue (D) for 254 Labs, Oct. 21-26 (1,000 LV)(online panel/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 51% - 43%.

Texas Southern Univ, Oct. 21-25 (2,000 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 49% - 47%, Ted Brown (L) 2%.

YouGov for Univision, Oct 13-21 (1,000 RV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 50% - 45%.

Emerson College for Nexstar, Oct. 17-19 (1,000 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 49% - 48%, Brown (L) 3%.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Oct. 15-19 (1,389 LV) (live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Paxton and Talarico tied at 49%.

Slingshot Strategies for Texas Public Opinion Research, Oct. 15-18 (969 LV) — General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 51% - 47%.

YouGov for CBS News, Oct. 8-16 (1,458 LV)(online panel)— General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 51% - 49%.

Cor Strategies (R) for Heritage Action, Oct. 10-15 (1,409 LV)(multimodal) — General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 44% - 40%.

Univ. of Houston, Oct. 10-14 (2,000 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Talarico over Paxton, 48% - 46%. **IE**

Governor Report Shorts

Alaska. Open; Mike Dunleavy (R), term-limited. Most of the data show Democrat Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (or "JKT") leading a field of three Republicans. Some Republicans are skeptical of surveys that predict an abnormally large percentage of "exhausted" ballots through the ranked choice process. But JKT has at least a narrow advantage in the race, and a late endorsement from Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski can only help the Democrat. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Alaska Survey Research, Oct. 23-25 (1,068 LV)— General election ballot: Kreiss-Tomkins 51%, Wilson 31%, Bronson 12%, Taylor 7%. RCV simulation: Kreiss-Tomkins over Wilson, 55% - 45%.

Alaska Survey Research, Oct. 15-18 (1,568 LV)— General election ballot: Kreiss-Tomkins 50%, Wilson 30%, Bronson 12%, Taylor 8%. RCV simulation: Kreiss-Tomkins over Wilson, 53% - 47%.

Data for Progress (D), Oct. 8-16 (660 LV) — General election ballot: Kreiss-Tomkins 49%, Wilson, 29%, Bronson 12%, Taylor 9%. Kreiss-Tomkins over Wilson, 53% - 47%.

Georgia. Open; Brian Kemp (R), term-limited. This race is still close and competitive, but even some GOP strategists admit that former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms is in a slightly better spot than billionaire Rick Jackson. While Jackson's nine-figure spending spree boosted him to a narrow lead in September when he had the airwaves to himself, things tightened once Bottoms began advertising in October. Trump's approval rating in Georgia is flirting with the high 30s, Sen. Jon Ossoff is set to deliver a dominant performance at the top of the ticket, and there's concern among some GOP operatives that much of the public polling is overestimating how conservative the final electorate will be. That sets the stage for a narrow Bottoms win. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

State Navigate, Oct. 23-27 (679 LV)— General election ballot: Bottoms over Jackson, 50% - 47%.

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (508 LV)— General election ballot: Bottoms over Jackson, 49% - 48%.

Univ. of Georgia for Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Oct. 7-15 (1,000 LV)— General election ballot: Jackson over Bottoms, 46% - 45%.

Iowa. Open; Kim Reynolds (R), not seeking re-election. The last time Iowa elected a Democrat governor was 2006 when there was an unpopular Republican president and a war in the Middle East driving up gas prices. Democratic state Auditor Rob Sand could be the next one to do it. The main discussion about the race is how much Sand will defeat Republican Zach Lahn by and whether it's enough to help Josh Turek in

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

the Senate race. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (403 LV)(online panel/text-to-web) — General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 50% - 46%.

co/efficient (R), Oct. 15-19 (863 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 49% - 45%.

New River Strategies (D)/GS Strategy Group (R) for The Cook Political Report, Oct. 9-13 (602 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 54% - 43%.

YouGov, Oct. 6-12 (2,244 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 50% - 44%.

National Public Affairs for God, Family, & Country PAC (R), Oct. 8-12 (678 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 50% - 45%.

Marist Univ., Oct. 8-11 (1,100 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 52% - 45%.

Emerson College, Oct. 5-6 (650 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 49% - 45%.

CNN/SSRS, Sept. 29-Oct. 5 (801 LV)(live caller/online panel)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 51% - 42%.

Suffolk Univ., Oct. 1-4 (500 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 55% - 43%.

New York Times/Siena Univ., Sept. 22-Oct. 1 (606 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 52% - 41%.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Sept. 24-28 (1,008 LV)— General election ballot: Sand over Lahn, 53% - 44%.

Michigan. Open; Gretchen Whitmer (D), term-limited. Democrats have a low ceiling because Michigan is a swing state, but Democratic Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has had a consistent advantage over GOP Rep. John James. Republicans may end up squeaking out the Senate race, but this race looks like a bridge too far in this environment. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.



Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

John James

CNN/SSRS, Oct. 20-27 (768 LV)(live caller/online)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 53% - 41%.

Glengariff Group for Detroit News/WDIV-TV, Oct. 19-22 (600 LV)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 51% - 45%.

Michigan State Univ./YouGov, Oct. 2-19 (836 LV)(online panel)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 48% - 37%.

Marist Univ., Oct 15-18 (1,185 LV)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 51% - 45%.

YouGov. Sept. 22-Oct. 4 (3.949 LV)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 48% - 45%.

Z to A Research (D) for Rust Belt Rising, Sept. 28-Oct. 1 (483 LV)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 50% - 40%, Anthony Hudson (L) 4%, Douglas Campbell (G) 1%, Donna Brandenburg (U.S. Taxpayers) 0%.

Mitchell Research & Communication, Oct. 1 (682 LV)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 46% - 39%, Hudson (L) 2%, Campbell (G) 2%, Brandenburg (U.S. Taxpayers) 2%.

2026 Governor Ratings

Toss-up (1R)

Lombardo (R-Nev.)#

Tilt Democratic (3D, 3R)	Tilt Republican (1D, 1R)
AK Open (Dunleavy, R)#	*KS Open (Kelly, D)*
GA Open (Kemp, R)#	Abbott (R-Texas)#
OH Open (DeWine, R)#	
WI Open (Evers, D)#	
Hobbs (D-Ariz.)	
Kotek (D-Ore.)*	
Lean Democratic (1D, 1R)	**Lean Republican (1R)**
IA Open (Reynolds, R)#	FL Open (DeSantis, R)
MI Open (Whitmer, D)#	
Likely Democratic (3D)	**Likely Republican (4R)**
NM Open (Lujan-Grisham, D)	OK Open (Stitt, R)
MN Open (Walz, DFL)	TN Open (Lee, R)#
Hochul (D-N.Y.)	Pillen (R-Neb.)
	Scott (R-Vt.)
Solid Democratic (10D)	**Solid Republican (7R)**
CA Open (Newsom, D)	AL Open (Ivey, R)
CO Open (Polis, D)	SC Open (McMaster, R)
ME Open (Mills, D)	WY Open (Gordon, R)
RI Open (McKee, D)	Ayotte (R-N.H.)
Green (D-Hawaii)	Huckabee Sanders (R-Ark.)
Healey (D-Mass.)	Little (R-Idaho)
Lamont (D-Ct.)	Rhoden (R-S.D.)
Moore (D-Md.)	
Pritzker (D-Ill.)	
Shapiro (D-Penn.)	

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

Nevada. Joe Lombardo (R), elected 2022 (49%). Lombardo's re-election looks a little shakier than earlier this year. State Attorney General Aaron Ford is gaining ground as Republicans struggle to turn out their voters and Democrats rebound among Hispanics. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Hart Research (D) for A More Affordable Nevada (pro-Ford), Oct. 20-25 (950 LV)— General election ballot: Ford over Lombardo, 49% - 45%.

Ohio. Open; Mike DeWine (R), term-limited. GOP nominee Vivek Ramaswamy's ad featuring Democrat Amy Acton's estranged mother captured local and national attention. Since the ad just started airing, there isn't any real data to measure the impact. In a vacuum, the ad seems like it would be a substantial political hit, but because of all the attention, most voters are likely to learn the full context, which is much more sympathetic to Acton. This has been a very close race and this feels like a late overreach for Ramaswamy. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Suffolk Univ. for USA TODAY, Oct. 21-26 (500 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 48% - 44%, Don Kissick (L) 4%.

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

Echelon Insights (R) for NetChoice, Oct. 16-23 (508 LV)(online panel/text-to-web) —General election ballot: Ramaswamy over Acton, 47% - 45%, Kissick (L) 4%.

Beacon (D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Oct. 15-19 (1,592 LV)(live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 50% - 48%.

Marist Univ., Oct. 15-18 (1,176 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 50% - 43%.

New River Strategies (D)/GS Strategy Group (R) for The Cook Political Report, Oct. 9-13 (959 LV)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 49% - 44%, Kissick (L) 6%.

Bowling Green State Univ./YouGov Sept. 29-Oct. 9 (1,000 LV)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 50% - 44%, Kissick (L) 4%.

co/efficient (R), Oct. 5-6 (925 LV(livecaller/SMS)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 45% - 43%, Kissick (L) 3%.

CNN/SSRS, Sept. 29-Oct. 5 (801 LV)(live caller/online panel)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 50% - 42%.

New York Times/Siena Univ., Sept. 22-Oct. 1 (616 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 49% - 47%.

Oregon. Tina Kotek (D), elected 2022 (47%). Even in a great Democratic cycle, Christine Drazan has a chance of winning the governorship for Oregon Republicans for the first time in 40 years. Drazan is running even or even slightly ahead of the unpopular Kotek, but the undecided voters are Democratic and GOP strategists aren't sure she'll ultimately be able to do it. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

GBAO for Kotek, Oct. 1-4 (800 LV)— General election ballot: Kotek over Drazan, 46% - 42%.

DHM Research for The Oregonian/OregonLive, Sept. 24-Oct. 1 (549 LV)— General election ballot: Kotek over Drazan, 46% - 44%.

DHM Research for Oregon Public Broadcasting, Sept. 17-27 (915 LV) (live caller/text-to-web) — General election ballot: Drazan over Kotek, 44% - 41%, Brett Smith (Pacific Green Party) 4%.

Tennessee. Open; Bill Lee (R), term-limited. It looks like GOP Sen. Marsha Blackburn is set to follow up an underwhelming primary victory (44 percent) with a similarly underwhelming general election win. Well-funded independent David Hatley is splitting the conservative vote with Blackburn, lowering the threshold Democrat Jerri Green would need to win. If Green can get herself into the 40s, and Hatley continues to draw Republican votes away from Blackburn, this race could get interesting. A friendly Blackburn outside group had to go negative against Hatley. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

Spry Strategies, Oct. 10-16 (635 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Blackburn over Green, 44% - 32%, David Hatley (I) 12%, Lauren Pinkston (I) 1%.

TargetSmart Communications for The Progress Fund PAC (pro-Green), Sept. 9-12 (600 LV)— General election ballot: Blackburn over Green, 45% - 36%, David Hatley (I) 10%, Lauren Pinkston (I) 2%.

Texas. Greg Abbott (R), elected 2014 (59%), 2018 (56%), 2022 (55%). Abbott has unloaded tens of millions of dollars and is still locked in a tight race with Democrat Gina Hinojosa. That means there's more to Texas being competitive than Ken Paxton's baggage. The governor still has the advantage, but it's possible that Texas is a total disaster for Republicans up and down the ballot this fall. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.



Courtesy Abbott Campaign

Greg Abbott

CNN/SSRS, Oct. 20-27 (923 LV)(live caller/online)— General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 48% - 46%.

YouGov Blue (D) for 254 Labs, Oct. 21-26 (1,000 LV)(online panel/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Hinojosa over Abbott, 49% - 46%.

Texas Southern Univ, Oct. 21-25 (2,000 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 50% - 47%.

YouGov for Univision, Oct 13-21 (1,000 RV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 48% - 46%.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw (R) for Fox News, Oct. 15-19 (1,389 LV) (live caller/text-to-web)— General election ballot: Abbot over Hinojosa, 52% - 47%.

Emerson College for Nexstar, Oct. 17-19 (1,000 LV)(multimodal)— General election ballot: Abbot over Hinojosa, 49% - 45%, Pat Dixon (L) 1%.

Slingshot Strategies (D) for Texas Public Opinion Research, Oct. 15-18 (969 LV)— General election ballot: Abbot over Hinojosa, 51% - 48%.

Univ. of Houston, Oct. 10-14 (2,000 LV)(text-to-web)— General election ballot: Abbot over Hinojosa, 49% - 46%, Dixon (L) 2%.

New River Strategies (D)/GS Strategy Group (R) for The Cook Political Report, Oct. 9-13 (934 LV)— General election ballot: Abbot over Hinojosa, 48% - 46%, Dixon (L) 3%.

Wisconsin. Open; Tony Evers (D), not seeking re-election. It's been a wild ride for Democrats, but David Crowley has a narrow advantage over GOP Rep. Tom Tiffany. According to *Inside Elections*' Baseline, Wisconsin is the most evenly-divided state in the country, so Crowley has a low ceiling. But there isn't evidence that Tiffany can run strong enough against the national tide. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Marquette Univ., Oct. 14-22 (668 LV)(online panel/live caller) — General election ballot: Crowley over Tiffany, 53% - 46%.

YouGov for CFC Action Fund/City Forward Collective, Sept. 22 - Oct. 9 (1,715 RV)(online panel)— General election ballot: Crowley over Tiffany, 46% - 42%.

Z to A Research (D) for Rust Belt Rising, Sept. 28-Oct.1 (662 LV)— General election ballot: Crowley over Tiffany, 49% - 44%. IE

Inside Elections Podcast

Episode 82: Nathan, Jacob and Inshara are joined by Erin Covey of The Cook Political Report and Kirk Bado of National Journal for pre-election predictions, reflections and the biggest surprise in Look What I Found history.

Episode 81: Nathan, Jacob and Inshara analyze the casting and counting of ballots and potential vulnerabilities in the election process with Nathaniel Rakich of Votebeat.