

Inside Elections

with

Nathan L. Gonzales

Nonpartisan Analysis

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2026 Gubernatorial Overview: Republican Rebound?

By Jacob Rubashkin, Nathan Gonzales & Inshara Ali

As Republicans face down a national environment and unpopular president that imperils their hold on the House — and increasingly, the Senate — the party has looked to gubernatorial races as an opportunity to make the best of an otherwise challenging cycle.

Over the past decade, Democrats have picked up a net of eight governorships. But many of their strongest incumbents, including those who flipped states in 2018 such as Kansas' Laura Kelly, Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer, and Wisconsin's Tony Evers, are headed for the exits. Republicans hope to capitalize on those open seat opportunities to reclaim lost ground, but are unlikely to seriously contest the biggest Rust Belt prize in Pennsylvania, which is now rated Solid Democratic.

For Democrats, the 2026 midterms represent a chance to correct for the close calls and mistakes of 2018 and 2022, when opportunities in states such as Ohio, Iowa, Georgia and Alaska slipped through their grasp. All four look more competitive today than earlier in the year and saw ratings changes toward Democrats.

Still, a few lofty targets look out of reach. Texas and Florida are too expensive, too Republican, and the GOP nominees too well-funded, to see a Democratic breakthrough at this point. But if the cycle continues to deteriorate for Republicans, no amount of money might keep Texas Gov. Greg Abbott or Florida Rep. Byron Donalds from a competitive race.

It's been rough sledding for a handful of governors including Democrat Dan McKee in Rhode Island and Republican Larry Rhoden of South Dakota who could lose in primaries. Republicans Joe Lombardo of Nevada and Jim Pillen of Nebraska and Democrats Katie Hobbs of Arizona and Tina Kotek of Oregon are varying degrees of vulnerable in the general election. Meanwhile Democrat Kathy Hochul of New York has improved her standing compared to four years ago.

This year's gubernatorial races punch above their weight when it comes to the looming 2028 cycle as well. Not only is a competitive general election in Iowa an opportunity for every ambitious politician to grab the national spotlight, but several candidates will look to make statement wins ahead of the presidential primaries. Look to Illinois' JB Pritzker, Maryland's Wes Moore, New Hampshire's Kelly Ayotte, and even Texas' Greg Abbott and Minnesota's Amy Klobuchar to run through the tape so they can trumpet their victories on a debate stage next year.

Overall, today's issue contains seven ratings changes: six in favor of Democrats, who enter the summer with a head of steam at the federal and state level, and one in favor of Republicans, who look increasingly competitive in the perennially contested state of Oregon.

2026 Governor Ratings

Toss-up (3D, 2R)

GA Open (Kemp, R)#

WI Open (Evers, D)

IA Open (Reynolds, R)#

Hobbs (D-Ariz.)

KS Open (Kelly, D)

Tilt Democratic (1D)

Tilt Republican (1R)

MI Open (Whitmer, D)#

Lombardo (R-Nev.)

Lean Democratic (1D)

Lean Republican (1R)

OR (Kotek, D)*

OH Open (DeWine, R)#

Likely Democratic (4D)

Likely Republican (1R)

ME Open (Mills, D)

AK Open (Dunleavy, R)#

NM Open (Lujan-Grisham, D)

MN Open (Walz, DFL)

Hochul (D-N.Y.)

Solid Democratic (9D)

Solid Republican (13R)

CA Open (Newsom, D)

AL Open (Ivey, R)

CO Open (Polis, D)

FL Open (DeSantis, R)

Green (D-Hawaii)

OK Open (Stitt, R)

Healey (D-Mass.)

SC Open (McMaster, R)

Lamont (D-Ct.)

TN Open (Lee, R)

McKee (D-R.I.)

WY Open (Gordon, R)

Moore (D-Md.)

Abbott (R-Texas)

Pritzker (D-Ill.)

Ayotte (R-N.H.)

Shapiro (D-Penn.)#

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

CALENDAR

June 27 Louisiana Senate Runoff

June 30 Colorado Primary

July 4 America's 250th Birthday

July 14 Delaware Filing Deadline

July 19 World Cup Final

Senate Report Shorts

Alabama Senate. Rep. Barry Moore won the GOP runoff against retired Navy SEAL Jared Hudson, 56-44 percent, and is favored to win in November. It's been a bumpy path for House members trying to make the jump statewide, but Moore was able to prevail, with help from President Donald Trump's endorsement. This is the race to succeed GOP Sen. Tommy Tuberville, who is running for governor. Solid Republican.

Georgia Senate. Rep. Mike Collins won the GOP nomination with 56% percent over former Tennessee head football coach Derek Dooley in the primary runoff. While Dooley had support from Gov. Brian Kemp throughout the race, Collins got a late endorsement from Trump. But Trump's nod felt more like the president padding his win-loss record rather than a necessary component to Collins' victory. Collins starts the general election significantly behind Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff, \$32.5 million (on April 29) to \$1 million in cash on hand (on May 27). Toss-up.

Iowa Senate. Democratic State Rep. Josh Turek is either ahead of, or tied with, GOP Rep. Ashley Hinson in statewide polling. Some of that is an artifact of the \$10 million in unanswered positive TV advertising Turek benefitted from in the Democratic primary. But it's clear things feel different for Iowa Democrats than in recent years, especially with gubernatorial nominee Rob Sand running in a toss-up race. Shift from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Global Strategy Group (D) for Turek, June 8-11 (1,000 LV)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Turek over Hinson, 47% - 45%.

Montana Senate. Any Democratic hopes that nominee Alani Bankhead would drop out of the race ended last week when she reiterated her presence in the race. That probably closes the door of opportunity for independent Seth Bodnar, the former University of Montana president and military veteran who has support from many statewide Democrats. Former US Attorney Kurt Alme, the Republican nominee, is the heavy favorite with a divided field. Move from Likely Republican to Solid Republican.

Tavern Research (D), June 16-19 (LV)(online panel) — General election ballot: Alme 49%, Bankhead 27%, Bodnar 25%; Alme and Bodnar tied at 50%. Alme over Bankhead, 56% - 44%.

Public Opinion Strategies (R) for the Political Company, June 8-11 (LV) — General election ballot: Alme 44%, Bankhead 25%, Bodnar 20%.

2026 Senate Ratings

Toss-up (3)	
MI Open (Peters, D)	Ossoff (D-Ga.)
NC Open (Tillis, R)	
Tilt Democratic (1)	Tilt Republican (2)
NH Open (Shaheen, D)	Collins (R-Maine)
	Husted (R-Ohio)
Lean Democratic	Lean Republican (2)
	IA Open (Ernst, R)#
	Sullivan (R-Ak.)
Likely Democratic (1)	Likely Republican (3)
MN Open (Smith, DFL)	TX Open (Cornyn, R)
	Graham (R-S.C.)
	Ricketts (R-Neb.)
Solid Democratic (9)	Solid Republican (14)
IL Open (Durbin, D)	AL Open (Tuberville, R)
Booker (D-N.J.)	KY Open (McConnell, R)
Coons (D-Del.)	LA Open (Cassidy, R)
Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)	MT Open (Daines, R)*
Lujan (D-N.M.)	OK Open (Armstrong, R)
Markey (D-Mass.)	WY Open (Lummis, R)
Merkley (D-Ore.)	Capito (R-W.V.)
Reed (D-R.I.)	Cotton (R-Ark.)
Warner (D-Va.)	Hagerty (R-Tenn.)
	Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)
	Marshall (R-Kan.)
	Moody (R-Fl.)
	Risch (R-Idaho)
	Rounds (R-S.D.)
Takeovers in <i>Italics</i> . # moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans	

Oklahoma Senate. Rep. Kevin Hern won the GOP nomination for the full term of the Senate seat that was once held by Republican Markwayne Mullin. Mullin left the Senate to replace Kristi Noem in President Trump's cabinet and Alan Armstrong, who was appointed to the seat, was prohibited by state law from running for the full term. Lawyer and minister Jim Priest and nurse N'Kiyla Jasmine Thomas have advanced to a runoff to face Hern in a race that isn't being talked about, even in Democrats' dream scenarios. Solid Republican.

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House Report Shorts

California's 14th District Special. State Sen. Aisha Wahab (43 percent) and BART Board member Melissa Hernandez (17 percent), both Democrats, are moving on to the August 18 special general election in the race to replace Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell, who resigned. Solid Democratic.

Georgia's 11th District. In a rare Republican primary contest where Trump declined to weigh in, neurosurgeon John Cowan (65 percent) easily defeated former congressional aide Rob Adkerson (35 percent). Cowan outspent Adkerson, bolstered by \$1.6 million he loaned to his campaign. Six years after Cowan lost a GOP primary to Marjorie Taylor Greene in the 14th District, he will be a heavy favorite to succeed outgoing Rep. Barry Loudermilk this November. Solid Republican.

Maine's 2nd District. State Sen. Joe Baldacci finished first in the initial round of voting with 32 percent in the Democratic primary ahead of state Auditor Matt Dunlap (29.2 percent) and former Hill aide Jordan Wood (28.8 percent). But Dunlap prevailed through the ranked choice process and will be the Democratic nominee. The DCCC worked with Baldacci in the final days because party strategists believed he'd give the party the best chance against former GOP Gov. Paul LePage. But that's not how it worked out. LePage continues to be the favorite in the general election to take over the seat held by Democratic Rep. Jared Golden, who decided not to run for the Senate or seek re-election. But a Dunlap victory is not out of the question in this political environment. Likely Republican.

Maryland's 5th District. State Del. Adrian Boafu won a crowded and expensive Democratic primary to succeed long-time Rep. Steny Hoyer. Boafu was endorsed by Hoyer and had significant support from a pro-cryptocurrency super PAC and AIPAC's super PAC. With two-thirds of the estimated vote counted, Boafu was first with 32 percent followed by wealthy home health care CEO Quincy Bareebe (18 percent), former Capitol Hill police officer Harry Dunn (14 percent), Prince George's County Councilwoman Wala Blegay (11 percent), former Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker (10 percent), state Sen. Arthur Ellis (3 percent) and others. Solid Democratic.



Adrian Boafu

Courtesy Boafu Campaign

Maryland's 6th District. Rep. April McClain Delaney led former Rep. David Trone by 6 points with 67 percent of the estimated vote counted, enough for the AP to call the race in McClain Delaney's favor. Both candidates spent millions of their own fortunes on the race — Trone has spent \$133 million running for office over the past decade. Alexis Goldstein, who ran on an anti-data center platform, is capturing 10 percent. Republicans nominated perennial candidate and famed

2026 House Ratings

Toss-Up (3D, 11R)

AZ 1 (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)
NE 2 (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)
MN 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

Wizards heckler Robin Ficker, who will not win the general election. Solid Democratic.

Michigan's 10th District. President Trump endorsed Army veteran Michael Bouchard, Jr. in his competitive primary race against former prosecutor Robert Lulguraj, lawyer Justin Kirk and construction manager and Army veteran Steffan Demetropoulos. Democrats also have a competitive primary between Pontiac Mayor Tim Griemel, former prosecutor Christina Hines and attorney Eric Chung. This is an open seat because GOP Rep. John James is running for governor. Tilt Republican.

New York's 1st District. Former Army pilot Chris Gallant won the Democratic primary with 63 percent of the vote in a district that begins off the battleground. Solid Republican.

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Continued from page 3

New York's 3rd District. Democratic Rep. Tom Suozzi easily beat back a more progressive challenger, 80-20 percent, and will face former state Rep. Mike LiPetri in the fall. LiPetri has a 60-point lead over Air Force veteran Greg Hach in the GOP primary. Lean Democratic.

New York's 4th District. Hempstead Town Receiver of Taxes Jeanine Driscoll cleared her first hurdle as a congressional candidate, winning the GOP primary with 91 percent of the vote after being picked as a last-minute replacement for former Rep. Anthony D'Esposito. Now she has to raise more money to compete against Democratic Rep. Laura Gillen. Tilt Democratic.

New York's 7th District. State Assemblywoman Clare Valdez, a Democratic Socialist, won the Democratic primary 56-36 percent over Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso and others, and will be a member of Congress next year. Valdez had support from Mayor Zohran Mamdani while Reynoso was backed by outgoing Rep. Nydia Velazquez and state Attorney General Tish James. Solid Democratic.

New York's 10th District. Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander handily defeated Democratic Rep. Dan Goldman, 66-34 percent. While it might look like an upset, the outcome wasn't a surprise. Goldman won his initial primary in 2022 with just 26 percent and has never been a favorite of the party's progressive wing while Lander has a long political history in the community and had the support from Mayor Zohran Mamdani in this race. Lander will be a member of Congress next year. Solid Democratic.

New York's 12th District. State Assemblyman Micah Lasher won the crowded and competitive primary. Lasher, who had the support of the outgoing congressman Jerry Nadler, finished first with 39 percent followed by Assemblyman Alex Bores (35 percent), John F. Kennedy grandson Jack Kennedy Schlossberg (11 percent), public health expert Nina Schwalbe (7 percent) and anti-Trump attorney George Conway (6 percent). Lasher is coming to Congress next year from one of the most Democratic seats in the country. Solid Democratic.

New York's 13th District. Community organizer Darializa Avila Chevalier defeated incumbent Adriano Espaillat, 49-46 percent, with 88 percent of the estimated vote counted. Avila Chevalier, a Democratic Socialist, was one of three House candidates backed by New York City Zohran Mamdani to prevail on Tuesday. She'll be a member of Congress next year. Solid Democratic.

New York's 17th District. Special forces veteran Cait Conley won the Democratic nomination with 50 percent against Rockland County Legislator Beth Davidson (32 percent), Tarrytown Village Trustee Effie Phillips-Staley (15 percent) and others with approximately 94 percent of the estimated vote counted. Conley, who had support from VoteVets, will now face GOP Rep. Mike Lawler in one of the most competitive races in the country. Lawler is a rare Republican representing a district where Vice President Kamala Harris finished ahead of President Donald Trump in 2024. Lawler is a savvy politician, but he's at risk as a member of the party in power at a time when voters are dissatisfied. Toss-up.

New York's 21st District. Sticker Mule CEO Anthony Constantino had Trump's endorsement and defeated state Assemblyman Robert Smullen, 59-40 percent, in the Republican primary. He'll face farmer Blake Gendebien, who won the Democratic nomination with 65 percent. This race is not likely to be competitive in November, unless Smullen continues running on the Conservative Party line — Constantino and Conservative Party Chairman Jerry Kassar are locked in a bitter feud. It's an open seat because GOP Rep. Elise Stefanik is not running again. Solid Republican.

Oklahoma's 1st District. State Rep. Mark Tedford (32 percent) and Trump-endorsed pastor Jackson Lahmeyer (26 percent) were set to advance to an August runoff, but news of the married Lahmeyer's inappropriate relationship with a campaign staffer caused the president to switch his endorsement to Tedford. Lahmeyer dropped out shortly after. Tulsa School Board member John Croisant, the Democratic nominee, is the underdog in the general election in the race to succeed Republican Kevin Hern, who is running for the Senate. Solid Republican.

South Carolina's 1st District. Charleston County Councilor Jenny Costa Honeycutt defeated state Rep. Mark Smith, 54-46 percent, in the GOP runoff.



Courtesy Honeycutt Campaign

Jenny Costa Honeycutt

This seat was drawn to elect a Republican and it would take a significant Democratic wave to make it competitive, but retired Admiral Nancy Lacore is a strong fundraiser and will try her best after outpacing Hilton

Head general counsel Mac Deford, 52-48 percent, in the Democratic primary runoff. This is the seat held by GOP Rep. Nancy Mace, who lost the primary for governor. Solid Republican.

Utah's 1st District. Former Rep. Ben McAdams is probably headed back to Congress after cleaning up in the Democratic primary for this redrawn seat. The onetime Salt Lake County mayor won 56 percent after progressives couldn't consolidate behind a single opponent. State Sen. Nate Blouin had backing from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and finished in second with 25 percent. Solid Democratic.

Utah's 2nd District. GOP Rep. Blake Moore beat state Rep. Karianne Lisonbee, 58-42 percent, in the GOP primary. Lisonbee had support from a number of state legislators and Turning Point Action, and had made her opposition to a proposed data center in the district a major part of her campaign. Solid Republican.

Utah's 3rd District. Two years after nearly losing her primary, GOP Rep. Celeste Maloy put up a much stronger performance against former state Rep. Phil Lyman. A last-minute Trump endorsement probably wasn't even critical for Maloy, who won, 66-34 percent. Solid Republican.



ALABAMA. Open; Kay Ivey (R), term-limited. Sen. Tommy Tuberville cleared a procedural hurdle in early June when the state GOP ruled that he met the party's residency requirements to be the nominee for governor. Tuberville still faces a lawsuit alleging that he fails the state Constitution's requirement that the governor must be a citizen of Alabama for at least seven years before their election. The former Auburn football coach had lived in Florida before running for the Senate, but says he moved back to Alabama in 2018. Former Sen. Doug Jones, who lost re-election to Tuberville in 2020, has made residency a major issue in his campaign and is also counting on Black voter backlash to the weakening of the Voting Rights Act and the GOP push to dismantle a majority-Black district. But even a candidate as well-credentialed and capable as Jones faces steep odds. A strong performance could help out embattled Rep. Shomari Figures in the new 2nd District but is unlikely to push Jones over the top statewide. Solid Republican.

ALASKA. Open; Mike Dunleavy (R), term-limited. Primary Aug. 18. Nothing is straightforward about the 17-candidate field vying to replace Dunleavy this fall. All of those candidates will appear on the same primary ballot, and the top four finishers, regardless of party, will advance to a general election to be determined by ranked choice voting. The shape of the general election could depend on how many Republicans and Democrats appear on the ballot in November. With just three Democrats running and eleven Republicans, at least one Democrat is probably assured a spot in the general election, and a second might be able to sneak through. Former state Sen. Tom Begich has the most famous last name in Alaska politics and has been the early polling frontrunner, but many of his party's luminaries are more intrigued by former state Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, a strong fundraiser who made national waves a decade ago when he dropped out of Yale to flip a GOP-held district. Also in the running is state Sen. Matt Claman.

Among the Republicans, longtime political activist Bernadette Wilson has had the early momentum, while former Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson has high statewide name ID. Former state Sen. Click Bishop has union support and is running in a more moderate lane. Podiatrist Matt Heilala is self-funding his campaign, and former state Attorney General Treg Taylor also has some personal funds he could put toward a campaign. Former Department of Revenue Commissioner Adam Crum, Mat-Su Mayor Edna DeVries, and former state Sens. Shelley Hughes and Lesil McGuire round out the GOP field. There may be some consolidation before the end of June — Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom dropped out a few weeks ago.

Complicating things is the last-minute candidacy of former Gov. Bill Walker, who won a term as an independent in 2014. Walker dropped out of his 2018 re-election campaign weeks before the election but made a comeback bid in 2022, securing 23 percent in the primary and placing third with 21 percent in the general election. If Walker can come anywhere close to that mark in the primary this year, he'll likely secure



Bernadette Wilson

Courtesy Wilson Campaign

a spot in the general election, where he's more likely to pull Democratic votes.

Republicans maintain an edge in Alaska but the possibility of a chaotic four-way general election opens the door to a Democratic upset. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

ARIZONA. Katie Hobbs (D), elected 2022 (50%). Primary July 21. Rep. Andy Biggs is the odds-on favorite to win the GOP nomination, with Republican sources largely seeing Rep. David Schweikert's candidacy as a vanity run. In the general election, Biggs will face a financial deficit — he had \$1.1 million to Hobbs' \$7.2 million at the end of March — but both parties anticipate a close general election contest in the swing state. Toss-up.

Next Gen P, June 16-17 (1,683 LV) (text-to-web) — GOP primary ballot: Biggs over Schweikert 57% - 11%.

ARKANSAS. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R), elected 2022 (63%). Huckabee Sanders faces no serious opposition for the general election and is probably thinking more about 2028 than 2026. State Sen. Fred Love is running as a Democrat. Solid Republican.

CALIFORNIA. Open; Gavin Newsom (D), term-limited. After a lively primary in which it looked for a second like Democrats could get locked out of the general election because of the top-two system, Democrats are back in prime position to hold the governorship. Democratic former Health & Human Services Secretary/former Rep. Xavier Becerra is the heavy favorite over Republican former Fox News host/political operative Steve Hilton in November. Solid Democratic.

Kreate Strategies, June 13-17 (600 LV) (multi-modal) — General election ballot: Becerra over Hilton 58% - 33%.

Univ. of Southern California/California State Univ./California State Polytechnic Univ., Pomona, May 23-26 (735 LV) — General election ballot: Becerra over Hilton 58% - 35%.

COLORADO. Open; Jared Polis (D), term-limited. Primary June 30. A surprisingly competitive and increasingly accusatory Democratic primary between Sen. Michael Bennet and state Attorney General Phil Weiser is coming to a close, with the winner likely to be Colorado's next governor. Bennet began the race as the frontrunner but has left the door open for Weiser's more stridently anti-Trump candidacy. Party strategists say either candidate could win by single digits on June 30.

Republican voters are deciding between ministry leader Victor Marx, state Sen. Barb Kirkmeyer, and state Rep. Scott Bottoms. Marx is the frontrunner despite a disastrous interview he gave with local news anchor Kyle Clark. Marx struggled to back up claims that he had killed a man when he was a child, that his organization had rescued 45,000 women and children from trafficking, and that he had completed 130 missions in 30 countries. While Kirkmeyer is backed by more establishment-friendly Republicans such as Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman, Marx has support from Rep. Lauren Boebert and 2022 gubernatorial nominee Heidi Ganahl. Solid Democratic.

Public Policy Polling, June 1-2, (505 LV) (multi-modal) — Democratic primary ballot: Bennet over Weiser 36% - 30%.

CONNECTICUT. Ned Lamont (D), elected 2018 (49.4%), 2022 (56%). Primary Aug. 11. Lamont faces a challenge from progressive state

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Rep. Josh Elliott, who is running on an economic platform that includes a tax on the state's top 1 percent. Elliott is eligible for nearly \$4 million in campaign funds from the state's public financing program, so he'll be able to run a real race against Lamont, but public and private polling shows the incumbent with a significant lead. Lamont is personally wealthy and self-funds his campaign.

State Sen. Ryan Fazio is the presumptive GOP nominee after New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart dropped out and former New York Lt. Gov. Betsy McCaughey failed to gain traction at the state convention. Fazio holds a swing district in Greenwich and recently unveiled a proposal to limit property tax increases. He'll be eligible for more than \$14 million in public matching funds in the general election, but Lamont doesn't look like he's in serious danger this fall as he angles for a third term. If he serves it out in full, he'll be the longest-tenured governor of the Nutmeg State. Solid Democratic.

Change Research (D) for Impact CT (pro-Elliott), May 28-29 (LV)(text-to-web/online panel) — Democratic primary ballot: Lamont over Elliott, 58% - 20%.

FLORIDA. Open; Ron DeSantis (R), term-limited. Primary

Aug. 18. Rep. Byron Donalds remains the frontrunner for the GOP nomination, thanks to an endorsement from Trump and a campaign war chest approaching \$90 million. Several other candidates are running, including Lt. Gov. Jay Collins and former state House Speaker Paul Renner. Investment manager James Fishback is also running, but despite the litany of racist and antisemitic comments that have garnered him national media attention, he's not going to win the nomination.

David Jolly, the former GOP congressman now running as a Democrat, is his new party's likely nominee, and picked former Rep. Gwen Graham as his running mate (Graham is the great "what-if" story of the Florida Democratic Party, after she narrowly lost the 2018 gubernatorial primary). While Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings dropped out of the race, state Rep. Dotie Joseph filed to run at the last minute, but she's an underdog for the nomination.

Jolly has Democrats cautiously optimistic about a state that has turned sharply toward Republicans and was never easy for Democrats even under better circumstances. The party hasn't won a gubernatorial election since Lawton Chiles won a second term in 1994. If Hispanic voters vote more like they did in 2018 and 2020 than in 2022 or 2024, that will help Jolly, but it won't get him all of the way there. And he'll face a steep financial disadvantage against Donalds, though a generous Democratic donor could decide to give him a boost (there are no contribution limits to PACs in Florida). Jolly did get some welcome news when former Democratic state Sen. Jason Pizzo abandoned his plans to run as an independent, but the burden of proof is still on Democrats to show this is a race that is at all winnable. Solid Republican.



Byron Donalds

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Kaplan Strategies for Frank J. Russo (I), June 8-9 (668 LV) (multi-modal) — General election ballot: Donalds over Jolly 35% - 30%, Russo 7%.

GEORGIA. Open; Brian Kemp (R), term-limited. A competitive and expensive GOP primary ended with political newcomer and businessman Rick Jackson as the nominee after he beat Trump-endorsed Lt. Gov. Burt Jones in the runoff. Jackson leveraged his wealth in a \$100 million ad campaign highlighting his foster care background and attacking his politically experienced opponents. Facing Jackson in November is former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who clinched the Democratic nomination in May. While the Peach State has become increasingly competitive, Republicans still maintain a meaningful edge. Georgia has not elected a Democrat for governor since 1998, and Joe Biden's win in 2020 was the first by a Democrat for president in 30 years. But Democrats have a chance to break their losing streak in this political environment, and Bottoms may be helped by her partner on the Democratic ticket, Sen. Jon Ossoff, who has greater appeal in some of the Atlanta suburbs that may be skeptical of the former mayor. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Concord Public Opinion Partners for Education Reform Now Advocacy (D), May 30-June 2, (510 LV) (multi-modal) — General election ballot: Bottoms over Jackson, 53% - 38%

HAWAII. Josh Green (D), elected 2022 (63%). Primary Aug.

8. Homebuilder Gary Cordery, who placed third in the 2022 GOP gubernatorial primary, is running against Green. Tourism company owner Ken Fujiyama has also filed. Neither will be competitive against the incumbent. Solid Democratic.

IDAHO. Brad Little (R), elected 2018 (60%), 2022 (61%). The Trump-endorsed governor received a modest 59 percent in the GOP primary but is the significant favorite in November. Lawyer and former public defender Terri Pickens won the Democratic nomination with 61 percent and faces an uphill battle in a state where Republicans have held the governorship and both Senate seats since 1995 and 1981, respectively. Solid Republican.

ILLINOIS. J.B. Pritzker (D), elected 2018 (55%), 2022 (55%). The Land of Lincoln will see a rematch between the billionaire Hyatt heir and Republican former state Sen. Darren Bailey. The two first fought for the governorship in 2022, when Pritzker won by more than 12 points. Bailey's "Illinois DOGE" proposal, modeled after Trump's sweeping cuts across the government, has been a key part of his campaign. Still, the president has yet to endorse Bailey a second time, potentially for fear of hurting his win-loss record. Given his personal resources and the Democratic lean of the state, the governor is the clear favorite. Pritzker might want to post a resounding victory ahead of a potential 2028 run for president. Solid Democratic.

IOWA. Kim Reynolds (R), not seeking re-election. In an upset, farmer and businessman Zach Lahn secured the GOP nomination against early frontrunner Rep. Randy Feenstra. On the Democratic side, state auditor Rob Sand is the Democratic nominee. Sand is a strong fundraiser who reported \$18 million in cash-on-hand on May 14, and continues to receive significant support from his wife's wealthy family as well as a nationwide donor network. Sand will have to convince a significant portion of Republicans or independents to win the

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governorship, but as the agriculture economy struggles with the effects of Trump's tariffs and uncertainty in the Middle East, voters in Iowa seem interested in making a change. Lahn is untested and has some vulnerabilities surrounding his current ties to Iowa. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

KANSAS. Open; Laura Kelly (D), term-limited. Primary Aug. 4. State Senate President Ty Masterson is in the driver's seat for the GOP nomination after receiving an endorsement from Trump. His biggest competition is probably Philip Sarnecki, a financial services executive and political newcomer who has spent several million dollars out of his own pocket on his campaign. State Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt is also advertising on TV and has a supportive super PAC, but her more moderate reputation makes GOP sources skeptical she'll be able to finish in first, especially as opposing super PACs start to hit her on the airwaves. State Secretary of State Scott Schwab was the first in the race but hasn't been a strong fundraiser. Former Gov. Jeff Colyer was running but dropped out.

On the Democratic side, national strategists like state Sen. Ethan Corson, who is endorsed by Kelly and is a former Obama administration official. Corson starts behind state Sen. Cindy Holscher, who is running in a more anti-establishment lane, but has a financial advantage and just began advertising on TV. Overland Park Mayor Curt Skoog is a more recent entrant to the race and it's not clear how he'll change things. Even if Corson gets through the primary this will be a difficult hold for Democrats in the GOP-leaning state. Toss-up, for now.

Change Research (D) for Civic Clarity, June 11-15 (LV)(text-to-web)— Democratic primary ballot: Holscher 37%, Corson 10%, Skoog 7%.

MAINE. Open; Janet Mills (D), term-limited. Former state House Speaker Hannah Pingree finished second with 23 percent in the initial round of voting in the Democratic primary, behind doctor Nirav Shah (27 percent) and ahead of Troy Jackson (21.1 percent) and Shenna Bellows (20.6 percent) and Angus King III (8 percent), son of the senator by the same name. But Pingree, the daughter of Rep. Chellie Pingree who was endorsed by the outgoing governor, prevailed through the ranked choice process and is the favorite in November as the Democratic nominee. Republicans nominated Bobby Charles in a difficult race for the GOP, particularly in this political environment and with former GOP state Senate President Rick Bennett running as an independent. Unlike the primaries, the general election does not use the ranked choice process, and Bennett could develop into a realistic contender. Likely Democratic.

MARYLAND. Wes Moore (D), elected 2022 (65%). Moore faces a rematch against state Del. Dan Cox, who he trounced in 2022. Moore gave Cox a push in the GOP primary in the hopes of elevating his old opponent over well-funded former Democrat Ed Hale, who placed second. Moore can now turn his attention to redistricting Maryland ahead of the 2028 elections — and potentially launching his own presidential campaign. Solid Democratic.

MASSACHUSETTS. Maura Healey (D), elected 2022 (64%). Primary Sept. 15. Michael Minogue, the former CEO of medical device company Abiomed, won the state GOP endorsement. But he still has to compete in a late primary against Marine veteran Brian Shortsleeve,

the former chief administrator of "The T," Boston's public transit system. Minogue is personally wealthy after Johnson & Johnson bought Abiomed for \$17 billion, though Shortsleeve has backing from a passel of local officials and says that Minogue's pro-life stance makes him unelectable in Massachusetts. The reality is likely that being a Republican makes either candidate unelectable in Massachusetts, at least in 2026. Solid Democratic.

Suffolk Univ. for the Boston Globe, June 8-12 (500 LV)(live caller)— General election ballot: Healey over Minogue, 56% - 31%; Healey over Shortsleeve, 56% - 29%.

Suffolk Univ. for the Boston Globe, May 26-29 (465 LV)(live caller)— GOP primary ballot: Minogue over Shortsleeve, 45% - 13%.

MICHIGAN. Open; Gretchen Whitmer (D), term-limited. Primary Aug. 4. Trump endorsed Rep. John James in the GOP primary, more than a year after he launched his campaign to the frustration of a White House that has worked to keep members of Congress from swing districts in their seats. James has been the nominal frontrunner but unable to create much distance between himself and wealthy businessman Perry Johnson or former state Attorney General Mike Cox. That could change with Trump's support — already, a fourth candidate,



Courtesy Benson Campaign

Jocelyn Benson

state Sen. Aric Nesbitt, dropped out of the race following Trump's announcement. Despite some staffing shuffles, James is still the candidate to beat. Johnson has spent \$20 million of his own money on TV ads but can't seem to grow his

support beyond the low 20s; as Cox has moved up in the polls, Johnson has started running negative ads against him.

State Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is the prohibitive frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, though she faces a challenge from Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson. The picture improved for the eventual Democratic nominee in May, when former Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan suspended his independent run. Duggan, a former Democrat who served three terms as mayor of the state's largest city and had wealthy backers, was causing headaches for Democrats up and down the ballot. While Duggan was pulling from both parties, he began with greater support from Democrats, especially in the Detroit area, and his exit is a boost for Benson this fall. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

TIPP for League of American Workers (R), May 20-23 (LV)(online panel)— General election ballot: Benson over James, 49% - 38%. GOP primary ballot: James 31%, Cox 20%, Johnson 19%.

1892 Polling (R) for Johnson, May 12-14 (LV)(live caller/text)— GOP primary ballot: James 24%, Johnson 23%, Cox 7%.

MINNESOTA. Tim Walz (DFL), not seeking re-election. Primary Aug. 11. Seven candidates will appear on the DFL primary ballot but Sen. Amy Klobuchar is the prohibitive favorite to win the party's nomination. Republicans had hoped that a burgeoning fraud scandal

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could imperil Walz's re-election bid. But the governor's decision to back out of running for a third term, and entry into the race of Klobuchar, the state's top vote-getter, gives the DFL a much cleaner slate for 2026.

Republicans have a messy primary to sort through. 2022 gubernatorial candidate Kendall Qualls won the state party's endorsement after 10 rounds of voting but several other candidates are proceeding to the primary. State House Speaker Lisa Demuth would be the most credible candidate for Republicans. But if GOP voters nominate conspiracy theorist and MyPillow magnate Mike Lindell instead, an already difficult race becomes a dead letter. Likely Democratic.

SurveyUSA for KSTP, June 11-16 (LV) — GOP primary ballot: Lindell 27%, Demuth 22%, Qualls 17%.

NEBRASKA. Jim Pillen (R), elected 2022 (60%). Democratic former state Sen. Lynne Walz, a distant relative of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, will face Pillen in the general election. Democratic strategists are mildly interested in this race given the economic uncertainty in the state caused by tariffs. But the burden of proof is on the party that hasn't won a statewide race in Nebraska in 20 years. The picture could get more complicated if former state Sen. Brett Lindstrom makes a long-rumored run as an independent. Lindstrom came in a close third in the 2022 GOP gubernatorial primary but has good relationships with some of the state's Democrats. Solid Republican.

NEVADA. Joe Lombardo (R), elected 2022 (49%). Lombardo is the most vulnerable GOP governor on the map, having won his 2022 bid by just 2 percentage points.

But state Attorney General Aaron Ford has ground to make up now that he's officially the Democratic nominee. His own polling shows him trailing the incumbent, who doesn't need to get to 50 percent to win re-election because of Nevada's unique "none of the above" option. A reversion in Hispanic voters to 2018 or 2020 levels of Democratic support could help Ford, but Lombardo has done a good job staying popular even as Trump's own standing has fallen. Tilt Republican.

Global Strategy Group for Aaron Ford (D), May 5-11 (700 LV) — General election ballot: Lombardo over Ford, 45% - 42%.



Aaron Ford

Courtesy Ford Campaign

NEW HAMPSHIRE. Kelly Ayotte (R), elected 2024 (54%). **Primary Sept. 8.** Former state executive councilor Cinde Warmington is the presumptive Democratic nominee after she was the only candidate to file. Warmington lost the 2024 primary to Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig, who lost to Ayotte in the general election. There's no sign that Ayotte is particularly vulnerable after winning a comfortable election two years ago. And the prospect of former Newmarket town councilor Jon Kiper running as an independent this fall makes the math more difficult for Warmington. The progressive Kiper, who won 9 percent in the 2024 Democratic gubernatorial primary, needs to collect 3,000 signatures by July 15 to make it on the ballot. Democrats don't want to give Ayotte a free ride and let her bolster her profile for a potential Senate run in 2028. Solid Republican.

NEW MEXICO. Open; Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), term-limited. Former Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland won the Democratic nomination in a 45-point landslide against Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bregman, father of Chicago Cubs third baseman Alex Bregman. In contrast to four years ago, Republicans aren't talking up this race. Facing the former congresswoman in the general election is Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull, who secured the GOP nomination by a comfortable margin. Haaland has taken the lead in the fundraising race, raising over \$12.8 million to Hull's \$600,000 through May 2026. If elected, she would become the first Native American woman elected governor anywhere in the country. Likely Democratic.

NEW YORK. Kathy Hochul, assumed office August 2021, elected 2022 (52%). Hochul will face Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman this fall. Hochul had a scare in 2022 but the political environment is much improved for Democrats, and the governor is on firmer political footing after a full term in office. While Blakeman may perform well in his home turf on Long Island, he's not well-known elsewhere in the state, and recently embarked on a tour of Western New York. The Republican got some welcome news when a state court ruled he could have access to several million dollars in public matching funds, but he still faces a significant deficit against the incumbent, who reported \$20 million in cash at the beginning of the year. One big question is if wealthy allies begin to help Blakeman make up the difference — in 2022, groups supporting Republican Lee Zeldin spent more than \$20 million on his behalf, an amount that put Hochul on her heels in the closing weeks of the race. Likely Democratic.

Siena Univ., June 17-23 (1,120 RV)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Hochul over Blakeman, 52% - 32%.

OHIO. Open; Mike DeWine (R), term-limited. If the election were held today, former state health director Amy Acton might be on her way to being Ohio's first Democratic gubernatorial winner in two decades. Acton retains high name ID from her high-profile role during the Covid-19 pandemic. GOP opponent Vivek Ramaswamy is personally wealthy and has already spent nearly \$15 million on TV and digital advertising but is still seen skeptically by voters. The next few weeks will be critical for Acton as a GOP super PAC begins to hit her on her Covid-era record for the first time. Republicans believe that Acton's time as health director is disqualifying, but if she can withstand those attacks, the GOP may need a shift in strategy. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

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Inside Elections Podcast

Episode 73: Nathan, Jacob and Pamela Wood of the Baltimore Banner looked ahead to the Maryland primaries and future of redistricting

Episode 72: Nathan, Jacob and Jeff Coltin of City & State analyzed the vast array of New York primaries.

Episode 71: Nathan, Jacob and Aaron Sanderford of The Nebraska Examiner analyze the Nebraska Senate race and fight for Nebraska's 2nd District.

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Fabrizio Ward (R)/Impact (D) for AARP, June 14-16 (LV)(live caller/text-to-web) — General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 47% - 44%.

Tulchin Research for John Kulewicz (D), June 2-4 (600 LV) — General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 47% - 44%.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw & Co. Research (R) for Fox News, May 28-June 1 (1015 RV)(multi-modal) — General election ballot: Acton over Ramaswamy, 50% - 49%.

OKLAHOMA. Open; Kevin Stitt (R), term-limited. State Attorney General Gentner Drummond and former state Sen. Mike Mazzei will face off again in an August runoff after a tight GOP primary. Drummond, who led his opponent by just over 1,000 votes, is known for his family's deep Oklahoma roots and his own deep pockets. However, he remains on the defensive over his past contributions to Democratic candidates, including a \$1,000 donation to Joe Biden in 2020 that he says his wife made without his knowledge. Mazzei earned a surprising endorsement from Trump and also has personal resources to spend on his campaign, contributing \$7 million leading up to the primaries. On the Democratic side, state House Minority Leader Cyndi Munson faces an uphill battle in a state that has overwhelmingly favored the president over the last decade. Solid Republican.

OREGON. Tina Kotek (D), elected 2022 (47%). Even though Kamala Harris held her own in the Pacific Northwest in 2024 and 2026 is looking like at least

a good Democratic cycle nationwide, Democrats have a developing headache in the Beaver State. Kotek is unpopular and voters may be open to change after decades of Democratic control of the state. State



Christine Drazan

Courtesy Drazan Campaign

Sen. Christine Drazan, who lost to Kotek by 3.5 points in 2022, won the crowded GOP primary once again, this time with 41 percent. And Democrats admit that it is currently a very close race. Kotek might benefit from a one-on-one race against Drazan. In 2022, former Democratic legislator Betsy Johnson received almost 9 percent with her libertarian, outsider message. So Drazan may need to top 50 percent, which hasn't been done by a Republican in Oregon since Sen. Bob Packwood in 1992. Republicans haven't won a gubernatorial race in Oregon since 1982, but this is a race worth watching. Move from Solid Democratic to Lean Democratic.

PENNSYLVANIA. Josh Shapiro (D), elected 2022 (57%). Shapiro is widely popular, with an approval rating that hovers around 60 percent. His opponent, state Treasurer Stacy Garrity, is strong on paper, with a military background and two statewide wins under her belt. But she's struggled to raise money — on June 8 she reported just \$1.1 million in cash-on-hand compared to Shapiro's \$38 million — and it's not clear how she'll make up the gap unless an outside group like the RGA or a big donor like Jeff Yass steps up to help. Garrity might not perform as

poorly as 2022's Doug Mastriano, but that's a low bar. Move from Likely Democratic to Solid Democratic.

Franklin & Marshall College Center for Opinion Research, June 8-14 (546 RV) (mixed mode) — General election ballot: Shapiro over Garrity, 50% - 28%.

PennLive/Bravo Group, May 20-24 (684 LV) (online panel) — General election ballot: Shapiro over Garrity, 53% - 29%.

RHODE ISLAND. Dan McKee (D), assumed office March 2021, elected 2022 (58%). Primary Sept. 8. McKee is quietly the most vulnerable governor in the country. Former CVS executive Helena Foulkes is the favorite in the Democratic primary after coming up just short against McKee four years ago. That year, McKee won with less than a third of the vote in a crowded field. This time, Foulkes has a clean shot against the governor after state House Speaker Joe Shekarchi opted not to run, and McKee continues to struggle with the fallout surrounding his handling of the 2023 Washington Bridge failure. The state party declined to endorse McKee at last week's convention, marking the first time in Rhode Island history an incumbent has failed to secure his own party's support. McKee has some time to turn things around but trailed the wealthy Foulkes in cash on hand at the end of May. Republican Aaron Guckian, the GOP's 2022 lieutenant governor nominee, is the most prominent candidate on the other side of the aisle. Solid Democratic.

Emerson College for WPRI-TV, May 14-16 (mixed mode)(565 LV) — Democratic primary ballot: Foulkes over McKee, 40% - 20%.

SOUTH CAROLINA. Open; Henry McMaster (R), term-limited. State Attorney General Alan Wilson finished well ahead of Lt. Gov. Pam Evette in the GOP runoff and is well-positioned to win in November. Evette finished atop a crowded field in the initial primary with an endorsement from President Donald Trump. But Trump, seeing a potential Evette loss on the horizon, endorsed both candidates ahead of the runoff. Evette becomes the third Trump-endorsed candidate in recent weeks to come up short of nomination, joining Rep. Randy Feenstra in Iowa and Lt. Gov. Burt Jones in Georgia. Wilson, the son of Rep. Joe Wilson, is favored over Democratic state Rep. Jermaine Johnson in November. Solid Republican.

SOUTH DAKOTA. Larry Rhoden (R), assumed office January 2025. Runoff July 28. Auto dealer Toby Doeden's big spending upended the GOP primary for governor in the closing weeks of the race. Doeden, who ran on a platform of eliminating property taxes and opposing eminent domain, spent \$4 million of his own money and finished first with 31 percent. Rhoden, a rancher and former lieutenant governor under Kristi Noem, narrowly outpaced Rep. Dusty Johnson for second place, 25-23 percent. While Doeden and Rhoden hail from the state's more conservative wing (Rhoden was a Tea Party favorite in the 2010 Senate primary, which he lost to former Gov. Mike Rounds), Johnson has a more moderate reputation in Congress, where he led the Main Street Partnership. The congressman led most early polls of the race but fell behind after Doeden's spending spree. A fourth candidate, state House Speaker Jon Hansen, also finished with 21 percent.

Democrats nominated state party executive director Dan Ahlers, a former state senator and the 2020 nominee for US Senate. Democrats haven't won the governorship since Richard Kneip won re-election in 1974. Solid Republican.

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TENNESSEE. Open; Bill Lee (R), term-limited. Primary Aug. 6. Sen Marsha Blackburn has a big lead in GOP primary polling over Rep. John Rose and backing from several of Rose’s colleagues in the congressional delegation. State Rep. Monty Fritts is also running. Democrats in the state are already reeling from a last-minute redistricting that dismantled the last remaining Democratic-leaning House seat and aren’t expected to put up a fight. Memphis City Councilor Jerri Green is the most notable candidate. Solid Republican.

TEXAS. Greg Abbott (R), elected 2014 (59%), 2018 (56%), 2022 (55%). While the Senate race between Republican Ken Paxton and Democrat James Talarico has gained national attention, Abbott’s re-election bid is taking shape elsewhere on the ballot. Democratic state Rep. Gina Hinojosa will try to overcome a serious financial disadvantage to break a decades-long losing streak. Even though Texas is looking more competitive than 2024, the burden of proof is still on Democrats to show they can actually win in the Lone Star State. Solid Republican.

Siena Univ. for ReconMR and Texas A&M Bush School, June 1-4 (807 LV) (live caller)—General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 49% - 43%.

Quantus Insights, June 3-4 (800 LV) (SMS)—General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 49% - 41%.

Slingshot Strategies for Texas Public Opinion Research, May 27-28 (1670 LV) (text message/online panel)—General election ballot: Abbott over Hinojosa, 46% - 41%.

Inshara Ali Joins Inside Elections



Inside Elections is proud to welcome Inshara Ali to the team as a Reporter & Analyst. Before joining Inside Elections, Inshara worked for NBC News, the International Center for Journalists, the Chronicle of Philanthropy, and the Tampa Bay Beacon. She grew up in Florida and earned her B.A. in political science and journalism at the George Washington University.

Inshara joins Editor Nathan Gonzales, Deputy Editor Jacob Rubashkin and Contributing Data Editor Bradley Wascher. Inside Elections, formerly The Rothenberg Political Report, has been providing nonpartisan analysis of House, Senate, gubernatorial and presidential races for more than 40 years.

VERMONT. Phil Scott (R), elected 2016 (53%), 2018 (55%), 2020 (69%), 2022 (71%), 2024 (73%). Scott kept observers in suspense until the last possible moment. But despite rumors that he would make way for Lt. Gov. John Rodgers to replace him at the top of the ticket, the stock car racer is running for a sixth two-year term. The last of a mostly dead breed of liberal New England Republicans, Scott is unbeatable in a general election. Democrats will choose from Amanda Janoo, the cofounder of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance of Vermont; former Let’s Grow Kids nonprofit CEO Aly Richards; and Marine veteran Jeff Wilson. Solid Republican.

WISCONSIN. Tony Evers (D), not seeking re-election. Primary Aug. 11. A large field of Democrats are hoping to succeed Evers. The primary has been a largely sleepy affair so far but local and national observers see former Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, state Rep. Francesca Hong, and Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez as the top tier of contenders. Barnes

has residual name ID and a national fundraising network from his Senate bid in 2022, which he lost narrowly to Republican incumbent Ron



Sara Rodriguez

Sen. Kelda Roys, Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, and former state Secretary of Administration Joel Brennan. Former Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation CEO Missy Hughes dropped out and endorsed Rodriguez. TV ads are just starting in this race, with Brennan, pro-Rodriguez and pro-Crowley super PACs hitting the airwaves in recent weeks.

GOP Rep. Tom Tiffany is the presumptive nominee after Washington County Executive Josh Schoemann and Navy SEAL veteran Bill Berrien dropped out. Tiffany has taken advantage of an unsettled Democratic primary to introduce himself to the state with \$3.6 million in TV and digital ads. Toss-up.

WYOMING. Open; Mark Gordon (R), term-limited. Primary Aug. 18. Gordon opted not to challenge a state law limiting governors to two terms. The defining story in Wyoming politics is the split between the more ideological Freedom Caucus, which controls the state House, and the more pragmatic faction, the Wyoming Caucus. State Sen. Eric Barlow is the closest aligned with Gordon and the Wyoming Caucus, and a more moderate voice on abortion issues. But he’s an underdog in the primary against state Superintendent Megan Degenfelder, who has an endorsement from Trump. Also running is Marine veteran Brent Bien, who won 30 percent of the vote running against Gordon in the 2022 primary. Freedom Caucus leaders have split between Degenfelder and Bien, but even with those two dividing the vote it’s not clear there’s enough room for Barlow to squeak through. Solid Republican.

Incumbents Defeated in 2026 Primaries

A little more than halfway through primary season, nine incumbents have failed to win renomination

State	Office/District	Name	Party	Vote Share
Louisiana	Senate	Bill Cassidy	Republican	25%
Texas (Runoff)	Senate	John Cornyn	Republican	36%
Kentucky	4th District	Thomas Massie	Republican	45%
New York	10th District	Dan Goldman	Democratic	34%
New York	13th District	Adriano Espaillat	Democratic	46%
Texas	2nd District	Dan Crenshaw	Republican	41%
Texas	23rd District	Tony Gonzales	Republican	42%
Texas (Runoff)	18th District	Al Green	Democratic	31%
Texas (Runoff)	33rd District	Julie Johnson	Democratic	46%

Source: Nicholas Demba, Inside Elections.