# Inside Elections

Nathan L. Gonzales

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# **2022 Election Preview: Red November After All**

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

It could ultimately be a normal midterm election.

The 2022 cycle has felt like a roller coaster at times, as we've seen glimmers of evidence that Democrats could buck the midterm trend. The Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision woke up apathetic Democrats, giving the party demonstrable momentum in the late summer. But Republicans are closing fast, and voters frustrated by a sputtering economy and urban crime are poised to send a message to President Joe Biden and the Democratic-controlled Congress.

There is some nuance in the fight for Capitol Hill. Even during the Democratic surge, Republicans were always favored to win the House majority. Their projected gains ticked down in early September, but are now back up to a likely GOP gain of 13 to 30 seats - similar to our projections before the fallout from *Dobbs*. (They need a net gain of five for a majority.)

If individual race ratings are true to form and the parties split the tossups, Republicans would land on the lower end of the projected range. But if undecided voters break disproportionately toward Republicans, and the GOP wins most of the closest races, then they could reach or exceed the upper end of that projection.

The fight for the Senate is closer. Republicans only need a net gain of one seat for a majority, but underwhelming general election campaigns by GOP nominees in key states have made that task more difficult than it should have been. Republicans had to divert resources to defend seats in Ohio and North Carolina instead of spending on offense in Colorado, Washington, Arizona, and New Hampshire.

Nominees in the half-dozen most competitive Senate races are within a handful of points of each other, creating a broad range of potential outcomes. The most likely result should fall between a Republican gain of two seats and a Democratic gain of a single seat. Ultimately, it could take a Dec. 6 runoff in Georgia to determine control of the Senate.

Overall, the final midterm outcome will likely be delayed by the normal counting of ballots and legal challenges. There could be further complications and tumult if individuals actively seek to undermine the electoral process - a consequential dress rehearsal for 2024.

This issue brought to you by



### **2022 House Ratings** Toss-Up (12D, 7R)

	1000 00	(120, 110)		
CA13 (Open; Harder, D)*	NC13 (Open, R)	NY 22 (Open; Katko, R)	PA 8 (Car	twright, D)
CA 22 (Valadao, R)	NE 2 (Bacon, R)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)	PA17(Ope	n; Lamb, D)
CT 5 (Hayes, D)*	NM 2 (Herrell, R)	OH 13 (Open; Ryan, D)	RI2(Open;I	.angevin, D)
IL 17 (Open; Bustos, D)*	NY 17 (S. Maloney, D)*	OR 6 (Open, New)	TX34(Flares, F	R/Gonzalez, D)*
MN 2 (Craig, DFL)	NY 19 (Open; Ryan, D)	PA 7 (Wild, D)	WA 8 (Sc	nrier, D)
<b>Tilt Democrat</b>	tic (13D, 1R)	Tilt Republica	n (5D.	2R)
CA 47 (Porter, D)*	NY 4 (Open; Rice, D)*	IA 3 (Axne, D)*		,
CA 49 (Levin, D)*	NY 3 (Open; Suozzi, D)	AZ 6 (Open; Kirkpatric	:k, D)	
IL13 (Open; Davis, R)*	NY 18 (Ryan, D)	CA 27 (Garcia, R)	. ,	
KS 3 (Davids, D)	NH 1 (Pappas, D)	CO 8 (Open, New)*		
ME 2 (Golden, D)	OR4 (Open; DeFazio, D)*	IA 2 (Hinson, R)		
MI 7 (Slotkin, D)	VA 7 (Spanberger, D)	NJ 7 (Malinowski, D)		
NV 1 (Titus, D)		OR 5 (Open; Schrader,	D)*	
NV 3 (S. Lee, D)		VA 2 (Luria, D)*	,	
Lean Democr	atic (6D, 1R)	Lean Republi	can (5	) 6R)
AK AL (Peltola, D)#		AZ 1 (Schweikert, R)	•	eneraBeutler;R)
IN 1 (Mrvan, D)		AZ 2 (O'Halleran, D)		n; Kind, D)
OH 9 (Kaptur, D)		CA 45 (Steel, R)		,
MI 3 (Open; Meijer, R)		FL 13 (Open; Crist, D)#		
MI 8 (Kildee, D)		IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)		
NV 4 (Horsford, D)		MI 10 (Open; Levin, D)		
TX 28 (Cuellar, D)		MT 1 (Open, New)		
		NY 1 (Open; Zeldin, R)*		
		NY 2 (Garbarino, R)		
		TX 15 (Open; V. Gonz	alez. D)	
Likely Democ	ratic (13D)	Likely Republi		) 6R)
AZ 4 (Stanton, D)	NC1 (Open; Butterfield, D)	CA 3 (Open; McClintoc	•	, 010
CA 9 (Harder, D)	PA 12 (Open; Doyle, D)*	CA 40 (Kim, R)	it, i t)	
CA 9 (Harder, D) PA 12 (Open, Doyle, D) CA 26 (Brownley, D)* VA 10 (Wexton, D)		FL 5 (Rutherford, R)		
CA 26 (Browniey, D) <sup>**</sup> VA 10 (Wexton, D) CO 7 (Open; Perlmutter, D)		FL 7 (Open; Murphy, D)		
		FL 15 (Open; Franklin, R)		
IL6 (Casten, D) IL14 (Underwood, D)		FL 27 (Salazar, R)		
MD 6 (Trone, D)		GA6 (Open; McBath, D)		
NH 2 (Kuster, D)				
NJ 3 (Kim, D)*		TN 5 (Open; Cooper, D	))	
NY 25 (Morelle, D)*			/	
			GOP	DEM
		Solid	187	165
		Likely/Lean/Tilt	29	34
				5.

		50110	187	105	
		Likely/Lean/Tilt	29	34	
		Total	216	199	
		Toss-up	2	0	
		Needed for majority	21	18	
~	# moved benefiting Dem	ocrate * moved benefiting	Popublic	000	

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

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### Elections Nathan L. Gonzales Senate Updates

Inside

#### Alaska. Lisa Murkowski (R) appointed 2002, elected 2004

(49%), 2010 (39% as a write-in), 2016 (44%). Kelly Tshibaka, the Trumpendorsed former Alaska Department of Administration commissioner, is getting some air cover from an allied super PAC in the closing weeks of the race, but she's still being outspent massively by Murkowski and the incumbent's allies at the Senate Leadership Fund and a local Alaska super PAC. This race looks close, but Tshibaka is struggling to increase her vote share after the initial round of the ranked-choice process, while Murkowski looks set to receive nearly all of the second-place votes from Democratic candidate Pat Chesbro. That's not a recipe for a landslide win, but it's more than enough to get Murkowski past 50. Her coalition looks remarkably similar to Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola's, and as the congresswoman's position has improved in her race, it makes Murkowski's path easier too. Solid Republican.

**Arizona.** Mark Kelly (D) elected 2020 special election (51%). After months of skepticism, Republicans believe they have a real shot at flipping this seat. Kelly still leads in polling, but Democrats acknowledge the race is closer than it was over the summer, and that GOP gubernatorial nominee Kari Lake is helping lift Blake Masters. Libertarian candidate Marc Victor dropped out of the race and endorsed Masters, but his name will still appear on the ballot, and nearly one million Arizonans have already voted. Plus, not every Libertarian voter will automatically vote for a Republican because of the endorsement. Tilt Democratic.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw & Company (R) for Fox News, Oct. 26-30 (LVs) (live caller)— General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 47% - 45%.

Siena College/New York Times, Oct. 24-26 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 51% - 45%, Victor (L) 1%.

*Fabrizio Lee & Associates (R) for Club for Growth, Oct.* 24-26 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 47% - 46%, Victor 3%.

**Colorado.** Michael Bennet (D) appointed 2009, elected 2010 (48%), 2016 (50%). Bennet won't win by as much as Gov. Jared Polis, but he's not in much danger of losing. Polls show him with a comfortable lead over construction company CEO Joe O'Dea. Likely Democratic.

Emerson College for The Hill, Oct. 26-29 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 51% - 43%, Brian Peotter (L) 2%. co/efficient (R), Oct. 24-25 (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Bennet

over O'Dea, 50% - 34%.

YouGov for Univ. of Colorado (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 56% - 42%.

**Florida.** Marco Rubio (R) elected 2010 (49%), 2016 (52%). Barring some drastic change, Rubio will win a third term over Rep. Val Demings. *Continued on page 3* 

# **2022 Senate Ratings**

**Toss-Up** 

PA Open (Toomey, R) Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) **Tilt Democratic** Kelly (D-Ariz.) Hassan (D-N.H.) **Lean Democratic** 

#### **Likely Democratic**

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

#### **Solid Democratic**

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

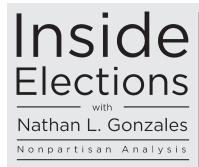
Tilt Republican Johnson (R-Wisc.) NC Open (Burr, R) Lean Republican OH Open (Portman, R)

Likely Republican Rubio (R-FI.) Grassley (R-Iowa) Lee (R-Utah)

#### **Solid Republican**

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

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



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Democrats' struggles in the Sunshine State look just as present as ever. Likely Republican.

Insider Advantage (R) for WOFL/WOGX/WRBW, Nov. 1 (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 51% - 45%.

*Univ.* of North Florida, Oct. 17-24 (LVs) — General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 54% - 43%.

Data for Progress (D), Oct. 19-23 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 51% - 44%.

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

(51%). There's growing unease among some Democrats that Warnock could slip into second place in balloting on Election Day. Football legend Herschel Walker has endured scandal after scandal but doesn't seem to have taken much of a hit politically. A recent *New York Times* poll found Warnock maintaining a slight edge, but the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* poll put Walker in the lead. The general consensus is still that this race will progress to a December runoff. But with Gov. Brian Kemp running strong at the top of the ticket, don't discount the possibility Walker could win outright if the environment is abysmal for Democrats. How much vote gets siphoned off to the Libertarian candidate, Chase Oliver, could determine whether there's a winner in November, or in the Dec. 6 runoff. Toss-up.

Beacon Research (D)/Shaw & Company (R) for Fox News, Oct. 26-30 (LVs) (live caller) — General election ballot: Walker over Warnock, 46% - 45%, Other 3%.

Siena College/New York Times, Oct. 24-27 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 47% - 44%, Oliver 1%.

*University of Georgia for Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Oct.* 16-27 (LVs) — *General election ballot: Walker over Warnock,* 46% - 45%, Oliver 5%.

**Iowa.** Chuck Grassley (R) elected 1980 (54%), 1986 (66%), 1992 (70%), 1998 (68%), 2004 (70%), 2010 (64%), 2016 (60%). The senator is favored to win re-election, albeit by his most narrow margin in decades. Democrat Mike Franken, a retired Navy Admiral, has forced people to pay attention to this race. But he's likely to fall short. Likely Republican.

*Cygnal* (R) for Iowans for Tax Relief Foundation, Oct. 26-27 (LVs)(online) – General election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 54% - 43%.

*Civiqs* (D), Oct. 22-25 (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 52% - 44%.

*Tarrance Group (R) for NRSC, Oct.* 15-19 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 53% - 42%.

#### Nevada. Catherine Cortez Masto (D) elected 2016 (47%).

Democrats feel a little better about Cortez Masto's position than they did earlier in the summer. Public and private polling still shows the race close, but whatever momentum former state Attorney General Adam Laxalt may have had in September appears to have stalled out. This one is going to be a photo finish. Toss-up.

*Emerson College for KLAS-TV/The Hill, Oct.* 26-29 (*LVs*)(*mixed mode*) — General election ballot: Laxalt over Cortez Masto, 51% - 46%, "None of These" 1%, Lindemann (I) 1%, Rubinson (IAP) 1%, Scott (L) 1%.

Suffolk Univ. for USA Today, Oct. 24-28 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Cortez Masto over Laxalt, 45% - 44%, "None of These" 3%, Scott (L) 2%, Lindemann (I) 1%, Rubinson (IAP) 1%.

*OH Predictive Insights (R) for Nevada Independent, Oct.* 24-26 (LVs) (*online*) — General election ballot: Cortez Masto over Laxalt, 43% - 41%, None of these/Other 5%.

### New Hampshire. Maggie Hassan (D) elected 2016 (48%).

Former President Donald Trump endorsed retired General Don Bolduc on the Truth Social network, and approvingly referred to the Republican nominee as an "election denier." Hassan's lead in private data is relatively consistent but not overwhelming — though a recent St. Anselm University poll shows a tied race. Tilt Democratic.

*St. Anselm College, Oct. 28-29 (LVs) — General election ballot: Bolduc over Hassan, 48% - 47%, Kauffinan (L) 2%.* 

co/efficient (R) for NH Journal, Oct. 25-26 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Hassan and Bolduc tied at 45%, Kauffman 3%.

*InsiderAdvantage* (R) *for American Greatness, Oct.* 23 (LVs)(*online*) – *General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc,* 48% - 47%.

#### North Carolina. Open; Richard Burr (R) not seeking re-

**election.** Both parties believe their candidates have slight advantages in this race, and the final results might not be clear for a long time after Election Day. In 2020, Sen. Thom Tillis' 2-point victory over Cal Cunningham was not called by the Associated Press for a week. Tilt Republican.

Meredith College, Oct. 27-30 (RVs)— General election ballot: Ted Budd over Cheri Beasley, 44% - 43%, Bray (L) 1%, Hoh (G) 1%.

*Emerson College for WGHP/The Hill, Oct.* 27-29 (LVs)(*mixed mode*) — *General election ballot: Budd over Beasley,* 51% - 46%, *Bray* 2%, *Hoh* 1%.

*Cygnal* (*R*) for The John Locke Foundation, Oct. 20-22 (LVs)— General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 47% - 43%, Bray 2%.

**Ohio.** Open; Rob Portman (R) not seeking re-election. Republican J.D. Vance has settled into a lead of a few points, but Democrats have had a significant financial advantage over the final weeks of the race. Whether that's enough to give Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan a late boost remains to be seen. The fundamentals of the state still favor Vance even though he is unpopular. Lean Republican.

*Cygnal* (R), Oct. 29-Nov. 1 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 49% - 44%.

*Cygnal* (R), Oct. 24-28 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 48% - 43%.

Baldwin Wallace University, Oct. 20-23 (LVs)— General election ballot: Ryan over Vance, 50% - 46%.

#### **Pennsylvania.** Open; Pat Toomey (R) not seeking re-election.

This race has finally settled at what the fundamentals of the state and cycle suggested it would be: a tied ball game. Celebrity surgeon Mehmet Oz has consolidated GOP support and is leveraging questions over John Fetterman's record on crime, and lingering health concerns following the lieutenant governor's May stroke, to win independent voters. Fetterman has sat at around 50 percent for most of the cycle. If he can hold on to that, he will win, but Oz is hot on his heels. Democrats are bringing out the big guns in the final week, with both former President Barack Obama and President Joe Biden traveling to the state to campaign. Fetterman could overperform a typical Democrat in Western Pennsylvania, particularly around Pittsburgh, where he's from. That extra juice could be what puts him ahead of Oz, who has no connections to any region of the state. Oz is also deeply unpopular, which could make it difficult for him to get to 50 percent. Toss-up.

*Beacon Research (D)/Shaw & Company (R) for Fox News, Oct. 26-30 (LVs) (live caller) — General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 47% - 43%.* 

Continued on page 4



*Suffolk Univ. for USA Today, Oct. 27-30 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 47% - 45%.* 

co/efficient (R), Oct. 26-28 (LVs)(online) — General election ballot: Oz over Fetterman, 48% - 45%.

*Muhlenberg College for The Morning Call, Oct.* 24-28 (*LVs*)(*live caller*)— *General election ballot: Fetterman and Oz tied at* 47%.

**Utah.** Mike Lee (R) elected 2010 (62%), 2016 (68%). Both Lee and independent challenger Evan McMullin are probably in the 40s, though how much room separates them is up for debate. An Emerson College survey showed Lee leading by 10 points, while a poll from a pro-McMullin super PAC has a tied race. McMullin is on air with an ad focusing on Social Security, and another spot framing the race as a crossroads between freedom and chaos. Lee's allies at the Club for Growth have enlisted former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman to cut a spot for the incumbent. Likely Republican.

*Hill Research Consultants (I) for Put Utah First, Oct.* 29-30 (LVs)(*mixed mode*) — *General election ballot: Lee over McMullin,* 47% - 46%.

*Emerson College, Oct.* 25-28 (LVs)(*mixed mode*) — *General election ballot: Lee over McMullin,* 50% - 40%, *Hansen* (L) 5%.

*OH Predictive Insights (R), Oct.* 25-27 (*LVs*) — *General election ballot: Lee over McMullin,* 51% - 36%, *Hansen* 3%.

**Washington.** Patty Murray (D) elected 1992 (54%), 1998 (58%), 2004 (55%), 2010 (52%), 2016 (59%). This will be one of Murray's closer elections, but the longtime incumbent is near 50 percent in most polls

and has a mid-single digit lead over triage nurse Tiffany Smiley. EMILY's List has spent on Murray's behalf. If Democrats maintain control of the Senate, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein has said she will not seek election as Senate President Pro Tempore. That means Murray, as the next-most-senior Democrat, would be in line for the job, which is mostly ceremonial but sits in the presidential line of succession. Likely Democratic.

*InsiderAdvantage* (R) *for American Greatness, Oct.* 31 (LVs)(*online*)— *General election ballot: Murray over Smiley,* 48% - 46%.

*Trafalgar Group (R), Oct.* 25-28 (*LVs*) — *General election ballot: Murray over Smiley,* 49% - 48%.

*Triton Polling & Research for KHQ-TV, Oct. 26-27 (LVs) — General election ballot: Murray over Smiley, 51% - 45%.* 

**Wisconsin.** Ron Johnson (R) elected 2010 (52%), 2016 (50%). This is still a close race, albeit one where Johnson is ahead. September and early October were brutal for Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, but Democrats believe his position has stabilized now that the GOP no longer has a spending advantage. The Barnes campaign put out a poll with the Democrat narrowly ahead, but that's rosier than most data. Johnson's unpopularity and the evenly divided nature of the state will keep this one close through Election Day. Tilt Republican.

Marquette Univ. Law School, Oct. 24-Nov. 1 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Johnson over Barnes, 50% - 48%.

Siena College for Spectrum News, Oct. 27-31 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Johnson over Barnes, 47% - 45%.

*Clarity Campaign Labs (D) for Barnes, Oct.* 27-31 (*LVs*)(*live/IVR*) — *General election ballot: Barnes over Johnson, 48% - 46%.* 

# **House Updates**

#### Alaska.

**At-Large District (Mary Peltola, D).** Trump 53%. Republican Nick Begich III finally began airing negative ads against Peltola, but it may be too late to tarnish the incumbent's strong image across the state. Overall it was a solid two weeks for Peltola, who received an endorsement from GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a rapturous welcome at the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, and gushing praise from one of her other GOP opponents, former Gov. Sarah Palin. Begich, meanwhile, is dealing with the ire of many former staffers of the late Rep. Don Young, a group of whom have publicly endorsed Peltola and assailed Begich for "betraying" the long-serving member who died earlier this year. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

#### Arizona.

**1st District (David Schweikert, R).** Biden 50.1%. The embattled congressman, who has a slew of ethics issues, is one of Republicans' more vulnerable incumbents, and in the final weeks of the race both the GOP-aligned Congressional Leadership Fund and the Democraticaligned House Majority PAC have started spending. Jevin Hodge, who leads a Head Start center in Phoenix, is dramatically outspending Schweikert, but Schweikert has maintained a slight lead. Lean Republican.

**2nd District (Tom O'Halleran, D).** Trump 53%. Trump won this district by 8 points, so Navy SEAL Eli Crane continues to have a clear

advantage. While some surveys have shown a closer race, Republicans are confident they'll be able to topple O'Halleran — though it won't be cheap to do so. Lean Republican.

**4th District (Greg Stanton, D).** Biden 54%. Even in a good year for Republicans, this suburban Phoenix district is still a reach. Kelly Cooper, a local restaurant owner, hasn't been on the air for the past month, and Democratic outside groups have spent millions boosting Stanton. Likely Democratic.

6th District (Open; Ann Kirkpatrick, D). Biden 49.3%. Republicans are outspending Democrats in this district to get Juan Ciscomani, a former adviser to Gov. Doug Ducey and a first-generation American, across the finish line. Democratic state Sen. Kirsten Engel has kept this race close, but she's getting hammered by GOP ads accusing her of wanting to defund the police. Tilt Republican.

#### California.

**3rd District (Open; Tom McClintock, R, running in 5th District).** Trump 49.7%. Republican state Assemblyman Kevin Kiley is wellpositioned to win. His Democratic opponent, Navy veteran and physician Kermit Jones, has matched Kiley's fundraising but has a steep climb in a district Trump won by 2 points in 2020. Likely Republican.

**9th District (Josh Harder, D)**. Biden 55%. Harder's fundraising abilities will likely protect him from an upset. The congressman has *Continued on page 5* 

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been flooding the airwaves since Labor Day with spots focused on local issues like water access, while his GOP opponent, San Joaquin County Supervisor Tom Patti, just went on TV at the end of October. Unlike in other districts Biden won by low double digits, Republican outside groups haven't gone on offense here. Likely Democratic.

13th District (Open; Josh Harder, D, running in 9th District). Biden 54%. Both parties have invested nearly \$7 million each on TV and radio ads in this Central Valley district, making it the most competitive open congressional seat in the Golden State. On the GOP side, the vast majority of that spending comes from the Congressional Leadership Fund, which is attacking Democratic state Assemblyman Adam Gray for his record in the state House. John Duarte, a farmer and nursery owner, has faced scrutiny over his business practices in ads from the DCCC and House Majority PAC. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

**22nd District (David Valadao, R).** Biden 55%. Valadao, one of the 10 Republicans who voted to impeach Trump, has been at the top of the Democrats' target list all cycle. The congressman will need to balance

his appeals to more moderate voters with winning the support of Republicans who voted against him in the primary — and one Democraticaligned group is reminding voters of his impeachment vote in an effort to boost Democrats' chances



David Valadao

here. Meanwhile, Democratic state Assemblyman Rudy Salas faces GOP attacks over his vote to raise the gas tax in the state House. Toss-up.

**26th District (Julia Brownley, D).** Biden 59%. Biden won this district by 20 points, but Democrats' troubles in California have put it on the board. According to *Politico*, Brownley's campaign conducted a poll that showed her barely leading her Republican opponent, former federal prosecutor Matt Jacobs. In the final weeks of the election cycle, EMILY's List's political arm has started spending for the congresswoman. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

**27th District (Mike Garcia, R).** Biden 55%. There's little evidence that former Democratic state Assemblywoman Christy Smith has regained the momentum she'd need to defeat Garcia. While the partisan lean of this district should benefit Smith, who came close to defeating the congressman in 2020, most polls have shown Garcia leading. Democratic outside groups have pulled out of this race, while Republicans have flooded the airwaves in the past month. Tilt Republican.

**40th District (Young Kim, R).** Biden 49.9%. The Republican congresswoman is the clear favorite in this race. Democrats aren't making a serious effort to target the district, which Biden narrowly won, leaving physician Asif Mahmood on his own. Likely Republican.

**45th District (Michelle Steel, R).** Biden 52%. A new NRCC ad deceptively edits Democratic nominee Jay Chen to make it appear as if he endorses "indoctrinat[ing] students in communism," while the actual clip is Chen saying Republicans are going to accuse him of indoctrinating students because his school district offered Chinese language classes. Democrats believe that Republicans' heavy-handed tactics in this district could backfire, and that Chen has improved his position even as

national groups shy away from the expensive L.A. media market. Lean Republican.

**47th District (Katie Porter, D).** Biden 55%. The race between Porter and former GOP state Assemblyman Scott Baugh has experienced a deluge in last-minute spending from Republicans. Porter, who has a mammoth war chest, has spent nearly \$12 million on this race, but that may not be enough to protect her. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

**49th District (Mike Levin, D).** Biden 55%. Levin faces an increasingly competitive rematch against financial planner Brian Maryott. A SurveyUSA poll showed the congressman leading Maryott, 49-43 percent, and some private polling has shown an even closer race. Biden himself will stump for Levin this week as part of a last minute push to defend him. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

#### Colorado.

7th District (Open; Ed Perlmutter, D, not seeking re-election).

Biden 56%. Democratic state Sen. Brittany Pettersen has a clear lead. Her Republican opponent, Army veteran Erik Aadland, has struggled with fundraising, and Pettersen has outspent Aadland 9-to-1 on the airwaves. House Majority PAC initially had \$2.2 million in ads booked here, but the group has moved some of those funds to the more competitive 8th District next door. Likely Democratic.

**8th District (Open; new).** Biden 51%. While this race appeared to tighten up toward the end of this summer, the GOP has a clear edge now as the political environment has improved nationally. Democratic state Rep. Yadira Caraveo has faced attacks for passing legislation that dramatically overhauled the state's regulations of the oil and gas industry, a critical part of this district's economy. Meanwhile, Democrats have attacked Republican state Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer for her record on abortion. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Republican.

#### Connecticut.

**5th District (Jahana Hayes, D).** Biden 55%. Multiple public polls from the past few weeks have now shown Hayes and former Republican state Sen. George Logan neck-and-neck. An Emerson College poll showed Logan narrowly leading Hayes, 48-47 percent. The NRCC and the Congressional Leadership Fund are airing attack ads tying Hayes' record to economic woes. Move from Lean Democratic to Toss-up.

#### Florida

**2nd District (Neal Dunn, R/Al Lawson, D).** Trump 55%. Lawson chose to run here after his 5th District was dissolved in an aggressive GOP gerrymander. The congressman used to win in conservative territory in North Florida, but those days of cross partisan appeal are likely over for him. Lawson's allies at the Congressional Black Caucus have publicly criticized the DCCC for not helping him in his race. Likely Republican.

**13th District (Charlie Crist, D, running for governor).** Trump 53%. This open St. Petersburg seat should be an easy pickup for Republican Anna Paulina Luna, after the state legislature redrew it to be significantly more Republican. But Democratic nominee Eric Lynn, a former Defense Department official, is showing some strength. He's being helped by a super PAC funded entirely by Chicago private equity billionaire Justin Ishbia, who gave the group \$10 million. Private and limited public data show this is a tight race. Luna still should win, especially with *Continued on page 6* 



Republicans Ron DeSantis and Marco Rubio running strong at the top of the ticket, but this is a real race. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

**15th District (Open; Scott Franklin, R, running in 18th District)**. Trump 51%. Republican Laurel Lee looks poised to defeat former broadcaster Alan Cohn, but don't be surprised if the margin is relatively narrow. This is an open seat, and Cohn has some advantages as a repeat candidate and a presence on the local news. Likely Republican.

27th District (Maria Elvira Salazar, R). Trump 49.9%. Florida Democrats worry that DeSantis could win Miami-Dade County — a foreboding sign for down ballot candidates like Democratic state Sen. Annette Taddeo. Republicans are outspending Democrats 3-to-1, giving Salazar a clear advantage in her South Florida district, which she flipped in 2020. Likely Republican.

#### Illinois.

**6th District (Sean Casten, D).** Biden 55%. There's minimal evidence that the race between the congressman and Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau is tightening. But the Congressional Leadership Fund and House Majority PAC have aired eleventh-hour ads in the district. It would still have to be a great GOP night for Pekau to win. Likely Democratic.

13th District (Open; Rodney Davis, R, lost 15th District primary). Biden 54%. GOP philanthropist Regan Deering hasn't had much outside support, but some Republicans believe she's closing fast in the race against former OMB staffer Nikki Budzinski. Budzinski has had the edge for much of the race, but open seats have been problematic for Democrats, and undecided voters could be breaking for the Republican. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

**14th District (Lauren Underwood, D).** Biden 55%. House Majority PAC is dropping a late \$665,000 in this district to air a contrast ad against Illinois state GOP committeeman Scott Gryder, but don't assume that means the race is closing. It's still tough for the Republican. Likely Democratic.

**17th District (Open; Cheri Bustos, D, not seeking re-election).** Biden 53%. A bit of a roller coaster race between Democrat Eric Sorensen, a former meteorologist, and Republican Esther Joy King, an attorney and Army Reserve officer, has settled back into a tight contest. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

#### Indiana.

**1st District (Frank Mrvan, D).** Biden 53%. Air Force veteran Jennifer-Ruth Green has a new ad out accusing Mrvan of "working for rich white people." If elected, Green would be only the second Black Republican woman ever to serve in the U.S. House. Both parties' super PACs have directed a lot of money into this Gary-based district, but polls have consistently shown a clear lead for Mrvan. Lean Democratic.

#### Iowa.

**1st District (Marianette Miller-Meeks, R).** Trump 50.5%. Miller-Meeks won this seat by only six votes last cycle, but in a midterm environment she's the clear favorite against Democratic state Rep. Christina Bohannan. Lean Republican.

**2nd District (Ashley Hinson, R).** Trump 51%. State Sen. Liz Mathis is running one of the strongest Democratic challenger campaigns around, and is still running close to Hinson despite millions in spending against her from the Congressional Leadership Fund. Tilt Republican.

**3rd District (Cindy Axne, D).** Trump 49%. The congresswoman wants voters to distinguish her from Biden and the national party in her closing argument. But Axne's efforts to separate herself from national Democrats may not be enough to stave off a win by GOP state Sen. Zach Nunn, and she will be one of the first House Democrats to fall if Republicans have a good night. Democrats haven't abandoned Axne (House Majority PAC aired another ad this week hitting Nunn for his position on abortion), but Republican spending has surpassed Democratic spending in the district for the past few weeks. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Republican.

#### Kansas.

**3rd District (Sharice Davids, D).** Biden 51%. Public polling affirms what Republican strategists have said for months — Davids will be one of the more difficult House Democrats to topple. Despite running in a district that Biden would have won by only 4.5 points, the congresswoman led her Republican opponent, former Kansas GOP Chairwoman Amanda Adkins, by double digits in a poll from Siena College and the *New York Times*. The results of a ballot amendment that would have removed abortion rights from the state constitution showed that issue could be galvanizing for pro-choice Kansas voters, giving the Democrat a boost. In 2020, Davids defeated Adkins by 10 points. Tilt Democratic.

#### Maine.

**2nd District (Jared Golden, D)**. Trump 52%. Former Rep. Bruce Poliquin might win if a late-breaking GOP wave carries him over the finish line. But at the moment, voters in this district seem set in their negative opinion of him. He'll be hard-pressed to pass Golden in the ranked-choice voting instant runoff. Tilt Democratic.

#### Maryland.

**6th District (David Trone, D).** Biden 54%. Trone's limitless personal resources have helped insulate him even as incumbents in other districts with a similar partisan lean find themselves in more precarious positions. Over the past five weeks, Trone has spent more than \$1 million on TV while his GOP opponent, state Rep. Neil Parrott, has spent just \$144,000. Likely Democratic.

#### Michigan.

**3rd District (Open; Peter Meijer, R, lost in primary).** Biden 53%. Democrats in the Great Lakes State appear to be in a relatively decent position, and this West Michigan district became one of the party's best pickup opportunities in the country after Meijer, who voted to impeach Trump, was ousted in the GOP primary. Hillary Scholten, an attorney who was Democrats' 2020 nominee as well, has outraised John Gibbs, a former Trump administration official, nearly 3-to-1. The Congressional Leadership Fund has spent \$2.3 million on TV ads, while the DCCC and House Majority PAC have spent a combined \$1.9 million. Lean Democratic.

**7th District (Elissa Slotkin, D).** Biden 49.4%. In the final weeks of the cycle, the race between Slotkin and Republican state Sen. Tom Barrett has held steady, even as Democratic incumbents in similarly competitive districts are slipping. The congresswoman led Barrett, 47-41 percent, in a *Detroit News* poll conducted in mid-October. Slotkin's fundraising advantage over Barrett has enabled her to outpace heavy Republican spending in this district — she had \$2.4 million on hand on October 19 *Continued on page 7* 



compared to Barrett's \$63,000. Tilt Democratic.

**8th District (Dan Kildee, D).** Biden 50.3%. Kildee continues to run one of the strongest campaigns of any Democratic incumbent, and he's aided by a GOP opponent, Paul Junge, who is viewed as a weak candidate by some in his own party. Lean Democratic.

**10th District (Open; Andy Levin, D, lost 11th District primary).** Trump 49.8%. A public poll from the *Detroit News* showed Republican nominee John James leading by 8 points. His Democratic opponent, former Macomb County judge Carl Marlinga, put out his own poll showing him up by 2 points — but Democrats have largely written off this district. Given how Democrats are holding their own in other Michigan seats, there's some frustration that Levin chose not to run in this district. Lean Republican.

#### Minnesota.

**2nd District (Angie Craig, DFL).** Biden 53%. Private polling shows the rematch between Craig and Marine veteran Tyler Kistner is a dead heat. Legal Marijuana Now candidate Paula Overby died a month ago but is still on the ballot, and she is garnering enough support to impact the results of this race. A GOP super PAC is even encouraging Minnesotans to vote for Overby "in loving memory." Toss-up.

#### Montana.

**1st District (Open; new).** Trump 52%. Attorney Monica Tranel has run a strong campaign, and this race is more competitive because former GOP Rep. Ryan Zinke has significant baggage from his tumultuous time as Interior Secretary. Tranel is closing out the race with an ad featuring former Republican Gov. Marc Racicot, who was also chairman of the RNC in the early 2000s and has endorsed her in this race. In a better cycle for Democrats this would be a toss-up. But this year it's Lean Republican.

#### Nebraska.

**2nd District (Don Bacon, R).** Biden 52%. Republicans are bullish on Bacon, who's been a top target for Democrats since he flipped the swing seat in 2016. He has a strong opponent this year in Democratic state Sen. Tony Vargas, who's run as a moderate, even as Republicans have tried to tie him to the defund the police movement. Toss-up.

#### Nevada.

**1st District (Dina Titus, D).** Biden 53%. Titus could be a casualty of redistricting after Nevada Democrats drew a map that made her oncesolidly blue seat more competitive. Republicans have invested millions in this district. The Congressional Leadership Fund has spent \$8.2 million on TV ads in the pricey Las Vegas media market, and Titus and her Democratic allies have spent over \$8 million on the airwaves. Polls are a mixed bag for the incumbent — one Siena College survey showed her tied with Army veteran Mark Robertson at 47 percent, and an Emerson College poll found her trailing by 10, while private polling has shown her in a better position. Tilt Democratic.

**3rd District (Susie Lee, D).** Biden 52%. Democrats invested early in the Silver State, which was disproportionately hit by inflation and high gas prices, and Lee has outspent her Republican opponent, attorney April Becker. But the Congressional Leadership Fund alone has spent \$10 million against Lee, and most polls show the congresswoman barely ahead. Tilt Democratic.



Steven Horsford

veteran Sam Peters, but at least one survey shows the Republican has a shot. Lean Democratic.

#### New Hampshire.

**1st District (Chris Pappas, D).** Biden 52%. Karoline Leavitt, the 25-year-old former White House staffer who won a contentious GOP primary as an unabashed Trump supporter, has a shot at winning this swing seat, but polling has been mixed. Since the primary, each party has spent about \$9 million each on TV and radio ads. Tilt Democratic.

**2nd District (Ann McLane Kuster, D).** Biden 54%. Kuster is another recipient of late spending from House Majority PAC. Most polls, including a St. Anselm survey conducted at the end of October, showed Kuster with a high-single digit lead, though others showed a tighter race. Former Hillsborough County Treasurer Bob Burns isn't on TV at all. Likely Democratic.

#### New Jersey.

**3rd District (Andy Kim, D).** Biden 56%. Despite having a significantly bluer seat post-redistricting, Kim could be facing a more competitive race than Democrats initially expected. At least one poll shows the race is neck-and-neck. And Bob Healey, a yacht-company owner and retired punk rocker, has the ability to loan his campaign millions of dollars. A super PAC funded largely by Healey's mother has spent over \$3 million on the race. Thanks to his hefty war chest, Kim has been able to spend over \$4 million on the air. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

**7th District (Tom Malinowski, D).** Biden 51%. Malinowski remains one of the most vulnerable Democrats on the House battlefield, and Republicans are confident about their prospects in this suburban district. After losing to the congressman by just 1 point in 2020, GOP state Sen. Tom Kean Jr. is back for a rematch in a district that leans more Republican after redistricting. While this race appeared to be a coin-flip earlier this fall, as Malinowski attacked Kean for his anti-abortion views, Republicans now appear to have the upper hand. Tilt Republican.

#### New Mexico.

**2nd District (Yvette Herrell, R).** Biden 52%. Democratic Las Cruces City Councilman Gabe Vasquez has made a number of missteps over the course of the campaign, but may be saved by a generous gerrymander of this district. He's tied or a little ahead of Herrell despite a deluge of GOP ads targeting him as soft on crime. Toss-up.

#### New York.

**1st District (Open; Lee Zeldin, R, running for governor).** Biden 49.5%. This district isn't a priority for Democrats as they defend several *Continued on page 8* 

(Steven Horsford, D). Biden 53%. Republicans consider this seat less attainable than the 1st and 3rd Districts, but it could be swept up in a red wave. Most polls over the past few months have shown Horsford with a lead over Army

4th District



other competitive districts across the state. Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming has been a strong fundraiser, but former Amityville Village Trustee Nick LaLota is outspending her thanks to a coordinated buy with the NRCC. Move from Tilt Republican to Lean Republican.

**2nd District (Andrew Garbarino, R).** Trump 50.2%. House Majority PAC dipped a toe in the water with a low six-figure direct mail effort against Garbarino. And the Congressional Black Caucus PAC is spending a bit on radio ads to support Democratic nominee Jackie Gordon, an Army veteran. But New York City is too expensive for national groups to come in on TV, especially with Democrats on defense in several other seats in the media market. Lean Republican.

**3rd District (Open; Tom Suozzi, D, lost Democratic gubernatorial primary).** Biden 54%. Democrats have dramatically outspent Republicans in the battle for control of this open seat, which is ripe for a GOP pickup as Democrats' struggles in the Empire State intensify. Robert Zimmerman, a Democratic National Committee member, is running spots highlighting his support for law enforcement as crime is a particularly salient issue in New York, and House Majority PAC just went on the air with a positive spot for Zimmerman. George Santos, an investment banker, doesn't have outside GOP support. Tilt Democratic.

**4th District (Open; Kathleen Rice, D, not seeking re-election).** Biden 57%. Biden won this seat by double digits in 2020, but recent GOP gains in Long Island and Rice's retirement have made it more competitive. Former Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen has backup from House Majority PAC, while the Congressional Leadership Fund just dropped into this race with a \$1.5 million buy supporting Hempstead Town Councilman Anthony D'Esposito. If Republicans have a wave year, this seat is within reach. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

**11th District (Nicole Malliotakis, R).** Trump 53%. Former Democratic Rep. Max Rose is facing a tough political environment and a tough district to make a comeback. Likely Republican.

**17th District (Sean Patrick Maloney, D).** Biden 55%. The cavalry is finally here for Maloney. The DCCC has started spending for the congressman, who's at risk of being the first sitting chairman to lose a general election since 1980. VoteVets, a liberal outside group, aired a TV ad attacking Republican state Assemblyman Mike Lawler that's backed by a \$1.2 million buy. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

**18th District (Pat Ryan, D).** Biden 53%. Ryan has proven to be one of Democrats' strongest recruits this cycle after winning the special election for Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado's seat. Though this district favors Democrats more, the freshman congressman hasn't been able to escape his party's struggles in the Empire State, and polls show a tightening race between Ryan and Republican state Assemblyman Colin Schmitt. Tilt Democratic.

**19th District (Open; Pat Ryan, D, running in the 18th District).** Biden 51%. This race is coming down to the wire. Josh Riley, an attorney and former congressional staffer, has outspent Republican Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and brought in former President Bill Clinton to stump for him. But as the state's gubernatorial race tightens and the national environment improves for Republicans, Molinaro, who lost to Ryan in the special election three months ago, has the political winds at his back. Toss-up.

**22nd District (Open; John Katko, R, not seeking re-election).** Biden 53%. Democrats believe Navy veteran Francis Conole has steadied the ship in this swingy Syracuse seat; polling indicates he's tied with or a step ahead Republican businessman Brandon Williams. The Conole

campaign released another internal poll from Global Strategy Group showing Conole over Williams, 45-43 percent. Neither candidate is well known. Toss-up.

**25th District (Joe Morelle, D).** Biden 59%. Former Rochester Police Chief La'Ron Singletary released a mid-October poll which showed him within 4 points of the congressman. Now, HMP and the NRCC are spending money on TV ads, and it's become one of the late-breaking races. It's still a long shot for the GOP, but worth watching. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

#### North Carolina.

**1st District (Open; G.K. Butterfield, D, not seeking re-election).** Biden 53%. Democratic state Sen. Dan Davis has the clear advantage. Local GOP activist Sandy Smith, who's been accused of domestic violence and was at the Capitol on Jan. 6, isn't getting any back-up from outside Republican groups. Likely Democratic.

**13th District (New, R).** Biden 50.1%. Republicans are bullish on their chances of holding this district, which Biden only won by 2 points, but polls show this race is a coin-flip, with a significant number of voters still undecided. A SurveyUSA poll found Democrat Wiley Nickel, a defense attorney, narrowly leading Republican Bo Hines, a 27-year-old former college football player, 44-43 percent. Toss-up.

#### Ohio.

**1st District (Steve Chabot, R).** Biden 54%. Running in a newlydrawn, Democratic-leaning district, Chabot is one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the country, and Democratic Cincinnati City Councilman Greg Landsman has been running a credible campaign. But, similar to last cycle when Chabot was vulnerable, GOP strategists are encouraged by the early and absentee vote totals even though the polling has been close. Toss-up.

9th District (Marcy Kaptur, D). Trump 50.6%. Even though



redistricting left Kaptur in a precarious position, the congresswoman is likely to prevail against J.R. Majewski, who has lost all outside GOP support since reporting showed the Republican had lied about his military

Marcy Kaptur

service and business experience. Lean Democratic.

13th District (Open; Tim Ryan, D, running for U.S. Senate). Biden 50.7%. Biden barely won this open seat, so Republicans should be in the driver's seat. But the race between Democratic state Rep. Emilia Sykes and conservative commentator Madison Gesiotto Gilbert is neck-and-neck as Sykes is getting a boost from Ryan's Senate campaign. Toss-up.

#### Oregon.

**4th District (Open; Peter DeFazio, not seeking re-election).** Biden 55%. Despite facing brutal attack ads about his comments on choking women, former National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos still has a shot at winning this district if Democrats' outlook in Oregon is as grim as polls *Continued on page 9* 



indicate. But Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle is still the favorite. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

**5th District (Open; Kurt Schrader, D, lost in primary).** Biden 53%. Schrader's loss in the primary didn't guarantee Democrats would lose the seat, considering Biden would have won the district. But crime and homelessness in Portland have dominated the political conversation. Democratic nominee Jamie McLeod-Skinner, who ran to the left of Schrader, hasn't been able to pull ahead, and former Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer is poised to win. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Republican.

**6th District (Open; New).** Biden 55%. Both parties have upped their efforts in this race as Republicans appear to have a clear edge in the 5th. Polls show the race between Democratic state Rep. Andrea Salinas and Republican businessman Mike Erickson is quite close. The Congressional Leadership Fund aired its first TV ads hitting Salinas last week, and the group's Democratic counterpart, House Majority PAC, has increased its ad buy as well. Toss-up.

#### Pennsylvania.

**7th District (Susan Wild, D).** Biden 49.7%. The most expensive congressional race in the Keystone State still appears to be a coin toss. Lisa Scheller, a manufacturing company CEO who lost to Wild by 4 points in 2020, continues to face attacks for outsourcing jobs to China, while Republican groups accuse Wild of defending a hospital sued for its handling of a sexual assault case. Toss-up.

**8th District (Matt Cartwright, D).** Trump 50.9%. Polls show Carwright is either tied with or leading Jim Bognet, a former Republican consultant — a fairly strong position for the Democrat, considering he's running in a district Trump won by 3 points in 2020. The congressman defeated Bognet by 4 points in 2020. Toss-up.

**12th District (Open; Mike Doyle, D, not seeking re-election.** Biden 59%. This race shouldn't be competitive but may be anyway. The Republican nominee shares a first and last name with the outgoing, popular Democratic congressman and is running as "The Right Mike Doyle," creating the potential for confusion. Republicans in the neighboring 17th District have been using Democratic nominee Summer Lee as a progressive bogeywoman in ads against 17th District candidate Chris Deluzio — ads that air in a media market that includes all of the 12th district. And United Democracy Project, a super PAC affiliated with pro-Israel group AIPAC, is waging a late, seven-figure ad campaign against Lee. The group spent millions trying to defeat her in the primary, but was unsuccessful. The DCCC released a poll showing Lee up 14 points. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

**17th District (Open; Conor Lamb, D, lost U.S. Senate primary).** Biden 52%. The race for this Pittsburgh-based seat is a true toss-up. Democrat Chris DeLuzio, a Navy veteran and voting rights attorney, has outspent his Republican opponent, former Ross Township Commissioner Jeremy Shaffer, but GOP outside groups have matched spending Democratic outside groups on the air. Toss-up.

#### Rhode Island.

**2nd District (Open; Jim Langevin, D, not seeking re-election).** Biden 56%. In another sign that this district is ripe for a GOP pickup, the DCCC publicized a poll that showed Rhode Island General Treasurer Seth Magaziner tied with former Cranston Mayor Allan Fung in a headto-head match-up. Democrats are attempting to hitch Fung, a two-time Republican nominee for governor, to the national party — a TV ad from Magaziner ties Fung to Kevin McCarthy and Marjorie Taylor Greene. But Republicans see this Ocean State district as one of their best offensive opportunities in New England. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

#### Tennessee.

**5th District (Open; Jim Cooper, D, not running for re-election**). Trump 55%. This radically redrawn district is designed to elect a Republican. Democratic state Sen. Heidi Campbell is a credible candidate, and she might have had a shot in a 2018-type environment. But in a good year for the GOP, this race is former Maury Mayor Andy Ogles' to lose. Likely Republican.

#### Texas.

15th District (Open; Vicente Gonzalez, D, running in the 34th District). Trump 51%. National Democrats pulled out of this district and are focused on winning the other two South Texas seats. Democrat Michelle Vallejo might not lose by much — a poll from an allied super PAC had her tied with Republican Monica De La Cruz at 45 percent but she is the clear underdog, as Republican gains among South Texas Latino voters persist. Lean Republican.

**28th District (Henry Cuellar, D).** Biden 53%. Cuellar is the rare Democrat to have substantial support from a bloc of conservatives in his district, particularly in the Laredo area. But to beat former Sen. Ted Cruz staffer Cassy Garcia, he'll have to win over more progressives and base Democrats in San Antonio, many of whom voted for primary challenger Jessica Cisneros and dislike Cuellar for his politics and ongoing FBI investigation. If he can convince those voters to pull the lever for him rather than leave the race blank, he should win. Lean Democratic.

**34th District (Mayra Flores, R/Vicente Gonzalez, D).** Biden 57%. Time is running out for Gonzalez to turn this race around. Flores had a head start after her special election win, and national GOP groups have been hammering Gonzalez on TV for much of the fall, while the congressman was still relatively unknown to voters in the new district (he currently represents the 15th). The partisan lean of the district favors Gonzalez, but this is still a tied race heading into Election Day, and that's not good news for the Democrat. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

#### Virginia.

**2nd District (Elaine Luria, D).** Biden 50.1%. Luria is one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the country, and momentum appears to be on the side of Republican state Sen. Jen Kiggans. A public poll from Christopher Newport University showed the candidates tied at 45 percent, though more recent private polling showed Kiggans with a slim lead. Unlike many of her Democratic peers, Luria's closing argument centers on Jan. 6 and the validity of the 2020 election results — her final TV ad features a clip of Kiggans dodging a question about whether Biden legitimately won. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Republican.

**7th District (Abigail Spanberger, D).** Biden 53%. Republicans have poured money into this district, which is largely in the pricey D.C. media market. But Democrats remain confident that Spanberger, who's cultivated a reputation as a moderate unafraid to criticize her party, is the favorite to win on Tuesday. The congresswoman has retained a narrow but persistent lead over Yesli Vega, a former police officer and Prince William County supervisor. While Biden won this district by 7 points, Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin won it by 5 points a year later. Tilt Democratic.

Continued on page 10



**10th District (Jennifer Wexton, D).** Biden 58%. If Wexton loses to Republican Hung Cao, a retired Navy Captain, it's going to be a long night for Democrats. This type of suburban seat was supposed to be the party's new base. Likely Democratic.

#### Washington.

**3rd District (Open; Jaime Herrera Beutler, R, lost in primary).** Trump 50.8%. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, an auto repair shop owner, has an uphill battle in a district Trump won by 4 points. But Army veteran Joe Kent, her Republican opponent who ousted Herrera Beutler in the primary, has run a lackluster campaign and has ties to white nationalist figures and fringe groups. Lean Republican.

8th District (Kim Schrier, D). Biden 52%. While Schrier appeared to have

# **Governor Updates**

**GEORGIA.** Brian Kemp (R), elected 2018 (50%). The big question on Election Day will be whether Kemp wins outright or if the electorate is more friendly to Democrats than anticipated, and he's forced into a runoff. But strategists in both parties agree he's outpacing Democratic opponent Stacey Abrams and GOP Senate nominee Herschel Walker. Move from Tilt Republican to Lean Republican.

**MINNESOTA.** Tim Walz (DFL), elected 2018 (54%). As a state with a large working class white population, Minnesota is a potential trouble spot for Democrats if the environment turns even more sour. There's been a burst of late money here on both sides as former state Sen. Scott Jensen, the GOP nominee, appears to have narrowed the gap between himself and Walz. The governor is still the favorite, though some other down ballot races could flip to Republicans. Move from Likely Democratic to Lean Democratic.

**NEW MEXICO.** Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), elected 2018 (57%). Both parties are spending heavily to close out this race. Republicans have a slight advantage on the airwaves, with nominee Mark Ronchetti, a former weatherman, outspending Lujan Grisham two-to-one in the final two weeks. Ronchetti has proven to be a tough opponent for the governor, though he's made some missteps on abortion that Democrats have kept front and center. Lujan Grisham has also made some unforced errors. She still has a lead in polls, but this one could be a sleeper race on election night if things go well for Republicans. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

**NEW YORK. Kathy Hochul (D), ascended to governorship 2021.** Democrats are scrambling to avoid disaster in the Empire State, after a burst of polling showed GOP Rep. Lee Zeldin within striking distance of the governor. Zeldin has been running a crime-focused campaign, and received a big boost when two super PACs funded by cosmetics billionaire Ronald Lauder launched an eight-figure anti-Hochul TV campaign. Hochul has ratcheted up the pace of her own campaigning and spending, and the Democratic Governors Association is spending here too. Hochul should win, but by a lot less than originally expected. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic. an edge in the summer, Matt Larkin seems to have closed the gap since the August primary. Larkin, a lawyer who was the Republican nominee for Washington attorney general in 2020, is backed by a \$5.5 million spend from the Congressional Leadership Fund. Schrier's campaign, which spent six times as much as Larkin's on TV and radio ads, has attempted to tie Larkin to Republicans like Marjorie Taylor Greene. Toss-up.

#### Wisconsin.

**3rd District (Open; Ron Kind, D, not seeking re-election).** Trump 52%. Democratic state Sen. Brad Pfaff is the underdog in this rural district that was represented by Kind for decades. Republicans are confident that retired Navy SEAL Derrick Van Orden, who came within 3 points of defeating Kind in 2020, will flip this seat — despite his presence at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Lean Republican.

## **2022 Governor Ratings**

Toss-up	(4D, 1R)		
AZ Open (Ducey, R)	Evers (D-Wisc.)		
Kelly (D-Kan.)	Sisolak (D-Nev.)		
OR Open (Brown, D)			
Tilt Democratic (2D)	Tilt Republican		
Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.)*			
Whitmer (D-Mich.)			
Lean Democratic (3D)	Lean Republican (1R)		
Mills (D-Maine)	Kemp (R-Ga.)*		
PA Open (Wolf, D)			
Walz (DFL-Minn.)*			
Likely Democratic (1D, 2R)	Likely Republican (3R)		
MA Open (Baker, R)	Dunleavy (R-Alaska)		
MD Open (Hogan, R)	DeSantis (R-Fl.)		
Hochul (D-N.Y.)*	Stitt (R-Okla.)		
Solid Democratic (7D)	Solid Republican (12R)		
HI Open (Ige, D)	NE Open (Ricketts, R)		
Newsom (D-Calif.)	lvey (R-Ala.)		
Polis (D-Colo.)	Little (R-Idaho)		
Lamont (D-Conn.)	Reynolds (R-Iowa)		
Pritzker (D-III.)	Noem (R-S.D.)		
McKee (D-R.I.)	DeWine (R-Ohio)		
	McMaster (R-S.C.)		
	Lee (R-Tenn.)		
	Abbott (R-Texas)		
	Scott (R-Vt.)		
	Sununu (R-N.H.)		
	Gordon (R-Wyo.)		
Takeovers in Italics, # moved benefiting Dem	ocrats, * moved benefiting Republicans		

### CALENDAR

	Election Day	
Nov. 20	0 World Cup begins	
Dec. 6	<i>c.</i> 6 Georgia Senate Runoff (if necessary)	