

Inside Elections

with

Nathan L. Gonzales

Nonpartisan Analysis

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2022 Election Preview: Back to the Future

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

Did the summer ever happen?

For most of the cycle, Republicans were on the march to majorities in the House and the Senate, propelled by voter backlash to President Joe Biden's handling of various challenges including the economy, crime, and immigration.

That effort stalled in late June after the Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, which awakened apathetic Democrats and caused independent voters to think twice about putting Republicans in charge. But with a little more than two weeks to go before Election Day, Republicans have regained the momentum as undecided voters prioritize the economy. It's starting to feel like Democrats' summer surge never happened.

Republicans have closed the gap on the national generic ballot after Democrats held the lead for the last two months. And a GOP edge is developing in a disproportionate number of individual competitive races. Republicans have always been favorites to regain the House majority — the uncertainty has only been about the margin.

For the last couple of weeks, the GOP recovery has been uneven, geographically. Republican candidates have the momentum in New York and Oregon while Democrats are holding their own in Michigan and Nevada. Open seats around the country continue to be problematic for Democrats.

Republicans are expected to gain between 8 and 25 seats in the House, a slight revision higher for the GOP from our previous range of R +8-20. If late-deciding voters break against Democrats, or if Democratic enthusiasm drops a bit, Republicans could see larger gains. But that dynamic is difficult to pick up considering the candidates, parties, and outside groups stop polling in the final days because their strategic decisions have already been made.

The fight for the Senate is much closer, creating a dissonance with the situation in the House. Democrats still have a slight advantage to retain control (including another 50-50 Senate), with a most likely range of a Democratic gain of a seat to a Republican gain of a seat.

Unique circumstances have forced Republicans to pay attention to Senate races in Ohio, Utah, Alaska, and even Iowa. But Republicans believe they are closing in fast in important races including Pennsylvania, Arizona, and New Hampshire. The shift in the national environment toward the GOP appears to be helping the party compensate for lackluster candidates in key states.

Whether it's a Georgia Senate runoff, court challenges, or delays in certification, it could still be days or weeks after Election Day until we know which party will control Congress next year. While Democrats may have avoided the worst-case scenario, Republicans could still have the good cycle that was expected before the *Dobbs* decision.

2022 Senate Ratings

Toss-Up

PA Open (Toomey, R)
Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)

Warnock (D-Ga.)

Tilt Democratic

Kelly (D-Ariz.)
Hassan (D-N.H.)

Tilt Republican

Johnson (R-Wisc.)
NC Open (Burr, R)

Lean Democratic

Likely Democratic

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

Lean Republican

OH Open (Portman, R)

Likely Republican

Rubio (R-Fl.)
Grassley (R-Iowa)#
Lee (R-Utah)

Solid Democratic

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

Solid Republican

AL Open (Shelby, R)
MO Open (Blunt, R)
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.)

moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics

CALENDAR

Oct. 28	World Series begins
Nov. 8	Election Day
Dec. 6	Georgia Senate Runoff (if necessary)
Jan. 6	Kentucky Governor filing deadline
Jan. 9	College Football National Championship

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House Updates

Alaska.

At-Large District (Mary Peltola, D). Trump 53%. The DCCC recently signaled it would like outside groups to begin spending money against Republican candidate Nick Begich III — former Gov. Sarah Palin, also running, goes unmentioned. That’s likely because polling and the results of the August special election indicate that Begich would be a stronger challenger to Peltola in the ranked-choice instant runoff. Independent Alaska, a super PAC originally founded to support independent candidate/2020 Democratic Senate nominee Al Gross, is now spending on the radio to support Peltola, as is another super PAC funded by an Alaska Native corporation. Time is running out for Republicans to soften Peltola’s image. The incumbent is proving to be a blockbuster fundraiser, pulling in \$2.3 million in just the last 24 days of September. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Arizona.

1st District (David Schweikert, R). Biden 50.1%. Democratic nominee Jevin Hodge is on the air with a spot that highlights a slew of Schweikert’s ethics issues, including a six-figure fine that the congressman paid for campaign finance violations. Schweikert, who’s yet to air any TV ads, only had \$245,000 on hand at the end of September, while Hodge reported \$856,000. But he’s not getting any support from Democratic outside groups. Lean Republican.

2nd District (Tom O’Halloran, D). Trump 53%. The congressman’s odds of winning this district, which former President Donald Trump won by 8 points, remain slim. But since he’s an incumbent, he’s getting more support from the DCCC than Democratic nominees in politically similar open seats. The DCCC’s first TV ad in the district contrasts the congressman with his GOP opponent Eli Crane, accusing Crane of supporting a total abortion ban and spreading conspiracy theories. Crane, meanwhile, is airing positive spots in a coordinated buy with the NRCC. Lean Republican.

6th District (Open; Ann Kirkpatrick, D). Biden 49.3%. Polling data has shown that the race between Republican nominee Juan Ciscomani and Democratic nominee Kirsten Engel remains close. But in the final weeks ahead of the election, Democrats aren’t investing in this southern Arizona district. House Majority PAC cut \$300,000 in TV ad reservations, and the DCCC isn’t spending here either, despite entreaties from the outgoing congresswoman. The NRCC and the McCarthy-aligned Congressional Leadership Fund have spent \$3.6 million on the airwaves for Ciscomani. Tilt Republican.

California.

13th District (Open; Josh Harder, D, running in 9th District). Biden 54%. Astronaut José Hernández, who lost a race for a previous version of this seat in 2012, stars in a new Spanish-language ad for state Assemblyman Adam Gray, where he takes aim at GOP nominee John Duarte’s business practices. Despite Biden’s strong performance here in 2020, polling shows this race is tied. And Republicans are outspending Democrats 2-to-1 over the final three weeks. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

22nd District (David Valadao, R). Biden 55%. In the three weeks leading up to the election, the NRCC is set to spend over \$3 million on ads defending one of their most vulnerable members. The committee’s latest Spanish-language spot criticizes Democratic state Assemblyman Rudy Salas for supporting tax raises. Meanwhile, a slate of TV ads from the Pelosi-aligned House Majority PAC are attacking Valadao for his position on abortion, along with his votes against a bill capping insulin prices and an anti-price gouging bill targeting oil companies. Toss-up.

27th District (Mike Garcia, R). Biden 55%. Polls continue to show Garcia has the edge, despite the partisan lean of the district. In another signal that Democrats aren’t feeling confident in their prospects, neither the DCCC nor House Majority PAC have spent a significant amount of money to help Christy Smith. The Democratic state assemblywoman is running against Garcia for the third time in the past three years, and some Democrats in DC had hoped they’d have a fresh face to take on Garcia. Tilt Republican.

45th District (Michelle Steel, R). Biden 52%. The NRCC is out with a new TV ad that hits Democratic nominee Jay Chen for voting for an educational program partially funded by the Chinese government. Similarly to attack ads from the Steel campaign, the spot attempts to paint Chen, who is Taiwanese American, as a communist sympathizer — a tactic that’s come under fire from Asian American community leaders. The congresswoman entered October with nearly \$2 million in her war chest, while Chen had nearly \$1 million. Lean Republican.

47th District (Katie Porter, D). Biden 55%. The Congressional Leadership Fund has increased its ad buy here, airing a 15-second TV ad that paints the congresswoman as out touch on economic issues. Porter’s fundraising prowess has shielded her in previous cycles, but Republicans seem to think they have a shot at unseating her this year. Along with the

Continued on page 3

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Continued from page 2

Congressional Leadership Fund, the Club for Growth's PAC is also on the air. Lean Democratic.

49th District (Mike Levin, D). Biden 55%. Over the next three weeks, Democrats will spend twice as much as Republicans on the airwaves to defend Levin. The DCCC's \$1.9 million ad buy started this week with an abortion-focused spot. Thanks to his ability to self-fund his campaign, Brian Maryott has been able to compete with Levin on the airwaves, boosted by the Congressional Leadership Fund's sizable ad buy. Lean Democratic.

Colorado.

3rd District (Lauren Boebert, R). Trump 53%. Democrat Adam Frisch, a former Aspen City Councilman, released a poll showing him trailing Boebert by just 2 points, 47-45 percent. That's narrower than Frisch's previous poll had the race in July (49-42 percent) but still probably a bit generous for the Democrat given the partisan lean of the district, which also took on a more Republican hue during redistricting. Boebert's penchant for controversy could mean she underperforms a generic Republican, and she did win her primary with only 66 percent of the vote. Her opponent in that race, state Sen. Don Coram, endorsed Frisch in the general election. But even so, in a neutral at best environment for Democrats this district is tough to win. Solid Republican.

7th District (Open; Ed Perlmutter, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 56%. Democratic state Sen. Brittany Pettersen may have the edge in this suburban Denver district, but she's not taking any chances. The state senator has aired TV ads attacking Republican nominee Erik Aadland for saying the 2020 election was rigged and celebrating the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Pettersen has a significant cash advantage over Aadland — she raised over \$1 million in the third quarter — and GOP outside groups haven't gotten involved in this race. House Majority PAC has booked \$2.2 million in TV ads for the end of the month. Likely Democratic.

8th District (Open; new). Biden 51%. Whoever wins this race will set the political tone for this brand new district, which stretches north from the Denver suburbs into a rural region dominated by the oil and gas industry. While Republicans appeared to have a clear lead earlier this summer, this race has tightened up since. Democratic state Rep. Yadira Caraveo's campaign publicized an internal poll that showed Republican state Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer leading Caraveo 46-44 percent, with 12 percent undecided, in mid-October. In an attempt to drive up Kirkmeyer's negatives among those undecided voters, Caraveo's campaign has aired a contrast ad accusing Kirkmeyer of voting against tax cuts in favor of corporate interests. Toss-up.

Connecticut.

5th District (Jahana Hayes, D). Biden 55%. Republican nominee George Logan's campaign is touting an internal poll from the beginning of October that showed Hayes with a narrow lead, 48-46 percent, despite Biden winning this seat by double digits. The Logan campaign's poll also showed Republicans leading Democrats on the generic ballot. GOP strategists feel confident in their ability to compete here as Republicans' odds in New England improve. Move from Likely Democratic to Lean Democratic.

Florida

27th District (Maria Elvira Salazar, R). Trump 49.8%. Salazar has released a slew of new English and Spanish-language TV ads in the past

few weeks. One spot highlights her support for gun control legislation, while another accuses Democratic state Sen. Annette Taddeo of supporting socialists and federal tax hikes. The congresswoman had a significant cash-on-hand advantage at the end of September, and with the Congressional Leadership Fund spending \$2 million here, Salazar looks well-positioned to outspend Taddeo in Miami's expensive media market. Likely Republican.

Continued on page 4

2022 House Ratings

Toss-Up (10D, 6R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)	NE 2 (Bacon, R)	OH 13 (Open; Ryan, D)	PA 17 (Open; Lamb, D)
CO 8 (Open, New)	NM 2 (Herrell, R)	OR 5 (Open; Schrader, D)	VA 2 (Luria, D)
IA 3 (Axne, D)	NY 19 (Open; Ryan, D)*	OR 6 (Open, New)*	WA 8 (Schrier, D)
MN 2 (Craig, DFL)	NY 22 (Open; Katko, R)	PA 7 (Wild, D)	
NC 13 (Open, R)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)	PA 8 (Cartwright, D)	

Tilt Democratic (15D, 1R)

AK AL (Peltola, D)#	NY 3 (Open; Suozzi, D)*
CA 13 (Open; Harder, D)*	NY 17 (S. Maloney, D)*
IL 17 (Open; Bustos, D)	NY 18 (Open; Ryan, D)*
KS 3 (Davids, D)	NH 1 (Pappas, D)
ME 2 (Golden, D)#	RI 2 (Open; Langevin, D)*
MI 7 (Slotkin, D)	TX 34 (Fores, R; Gonzalez, D)*
NV 1 (Titus, D)	VA 7 (Spanberger, D)
NV 3 (S. Lee, D)	

Tilt Republican (2D, 3R)

AZ 6 (Open; Kirkpatrick, D)
CA 27 (Garcia, R)
IA 2 (Hinson, R)#
NJ 7 (Malinowski, D)*
NY 1 (Open; Zeldin, R)

Lean Democratic (10D, 2R)

CA 47 (Porter, D)	TX 28 (Cuellar, D)
CA 49 (Levin, D)	
CT 5 (Hayes, D)*	
IL 13 (Open; Davis, R)	
IN 1 (Mrvan, D)	
OH 9 (Kaptur, D)	
OR 4 (Open; DeFazio, D)*	
MI 3 (Open; Meijer, R)#	
MI 8 (Kildee, D)#	
NV 4 (Horsford, D)	
NY 4 (Open; Rice, D)*	

Lean Republican (4D, 5R)

AZ 1 (Schweikert, R)
AZ 2 (O'Halleran, D)
CA 45 (Steel, R)
IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)
MI 10 (Open; Levin, D)
MT 1 (Open, New)#
NY 2 (Garbarino, R)
TX 15 (Open; V. Gonzalez, D)
WA 3 (Open; Herrera Beutler, R)#
WI 3 (Open; Kind, D)

Likely Democratic (9D)

AZ 4 (Stanton, D)
CA 9 (Harder, D)
CO 7 (Open; Perlmutter, D)
IL 6 (Casten, D)
IL 14 (Underwood, D)
MD 6 (Trone, D)
NH 2 (Kuster, D)
NC 1 (Open; Butterfield, D)#
VA 10 (Wexton, D)*

Likely Republican (4D, 6R)

CA 3 (Open; McClintock, R)
CA 40 (Kim, R)
FL 5 (Rutherford, R)
FL 7 (Open; Murphy, D)
FL 13 (Open; Crist, D)
FL 15 (Open; Franklin, R)
FL 27 (Salazar, R)
GA 6 (Open; McBeth, D)
NY 11 (Malliotakis, R)
TN 5 (Open; Cooper, D)

Dropped from List

GA 2 (Bishop, D)#

	GOP	DEM
Solid	187	169
Likely/Lean/Tilt	25	36
Total	212	205
Toss-up	18	
Needed for majority	218	

moved benefiting Democrats, * moved benefiting Republicans Takeovers in Italics

Continued from page 3

Georgia

2nd District (Sanford Bishop, D). Biden 55%. This is Georgia's only remotely competitive congressional district, but GOP nominee Chris West hasn't been able to gain traction against Bishop, who has a history of crossover appeal in the southwest Georgia district. Bishop had twice as much money in the bank as West did on Sept. 30, and while Bishop can count on \$2 million in support from House Majority PAC in the closing weeks of the race, West is left to fend for himself. Move from Likely Democratic to Solid Democratic.

Illinois

11th District. (Bill Foster, D). Biden 57%. The Club for Growth started airing TV ads supporting Republican nominee Catalina Lauf last week. But Foster has a huge fundraising advantage over the Republican, who only reported \$187,000 in cash-on-hand at the end of September. The congressman, meanwhile, had \$4.2 million in his war chest, and has been on the air with positive TV ads for the past month. Solid Democratic.

13th District (Open; Rodney Davis, R, lost 15th District primary). Biden 54%. Even after the DCCC pulled out of this district, Democrats are still outpacing Republicans on the airwaves 8-to-1. For now, Regan Deering is on her own, while Nikki Budzinski is getting a boost from House Majority PAC. The Democratic super PAC's latest spot is a contrast ad that calls Deering a "wealthy heiress" and accuses her of opposing a federal minimum wage. Lean Democratic.

17th District (Open; Cheri Bustos, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. Eric Sorensen is "the Comeback Kid," says one Democratic strategist, after the former meteorologist went from being tied with or trailing GOP nominee Esther Joy King to a lead as Election Day approaches. Tilt Democratic.

Indiana

1st District (Frank Mrvan, D). Biden 53%. This race has turned nasty, with Air Force veteran Jennifer-Ruth Green accusing Mrvan of leaking her military records to *Politico*, which published a profile of Green that included details of a sexual assault she suffered in Iraq. *Politico* reporter Adam Wren says that he received the records from someone outside of the Mrvan campaign. Mrvan continues to have an edge in this race even though this district is no longer a Democratic stronghold. Lean Democratic.

Iowa

1st District (Marianette Miller-Meeks, R). Trump 50.4%. Republicans are hammering Democratic state Rep. Christina Bohannon as a "Defund the Police" liberal who supports the "transgender agenda." Bohannon has a new TV ad highlighting her support for abortion rights, and a digital ad featuring Johnson County Sheriff Brad Kunkel defending Bohannon on law enforcement issues. Lean Republican.

2nd District (Ashley Hinson, R). Trump 51%. While both congresswomen are still favored to win, Hinson looks like she's in a more vulnerable position than Miller-Meeks. Ann Selzer's latest poll shows that Democrats have made gains on the generic ballot in Hinson's district — in July, Republicans led Democrats 54-42 percent, and now Democrats lead Republicans 48-46 percent. The debate between Hinson and Democratic state Sen. Liz Mathis was canceled after Hinson was

hospitalized due to a kidney infection. (The congresswoman was released from the hospital on Tuesday morning.) Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

3rd District (Cindy Axne, D). Trump 49%. While polls show that Zach Nunn and Axne are still neck-and-neck, Republicans believe they still have the edge in a district that Trump narrowly won. The Congressional Leadership Fund and the NRCC have new fodder for attack ads since news broke that Axne voted by proxy while vacationing in France. But Axne continues to have a strong fundraising advantage over Nunn — the congresswoman had \$1.7 million in her war chest at the end of September, while the Republican had \$400,000. Toss-up.

Kansas

3rd District (Sharice Davids, D). Biden 51%. "Adkins tries to portray that she's like the average Kansas mother, but as a mom of teens, it really concerns me that we're taking rights away from them," one Kansas woman says in a new spot from the congresswoman's campaign that criticizes GOP nominee Amanda Adkins for her stance on abortion. Meanwhile, Adkins is out with an ad that accuses Davids of doing "nothing" to lower gas and grocery prices. Davids continues to have a slight edge in this swing seat. Tilt Democratic.

Louisiana

3rd District (Clay Higgins, R). Trump 68%. A Republican will win this race. But which Republican is less clear. Higgins is facing a spirited challenge from local Lafayette prosecutor Holden Hoggatt,



Clay Higgins

who is running as a traditional conservative without the substantial baggage Higgins possesses. The incumbent has threatened violence against protesters, used Auschwitz as the backdrop for a political video, and

challenged critics to fistfights. Hoggatt has support from former GOP Rep. Charles Boustany, who represented the district for a decade before Higgins, as well as former Democratic Rep. Chris John and former Democratic Sen. John Breaux. There are eight candidates on the ballot, including four Republicans and two Democrats. If Higgins doesn't get a majority in November he'll be forced into a December runoff. Solid Republican.

Maine

2nd District (Jared Golden, D). Trump 52%. Republicans believe they've driven up Golden's negatives, but the GOP's own standard-bearer, former Rep. Bruce Poliquin, is much more unpopular in the district. Golden continues to outpace Poliquin both on the initial ballot and after the ranked choice reallocation, where Poliquin struggles to pick up votes from supporters of independent candidate Tiffany Bond. In 2018, when Golden, Poliquin, and Bond last faced off, Golden won twice as many second-place votes from Bond and another independent as Poliquin did. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Michigan.

3rd District (Open; Peter Meijer, R, lost in primary). Biden 53%. Republican nominee John Gibbs continues to get hammered by Democratic ads that highlight his college-era criticism of women's suffrage. The latest spot from House Majority PAC features school-aged girls reading directly from Gibbs' writings. Democratic nominee Hillary Scholten is significantly outspending Gibbs, but he has back-up from the Congressional Leadership Fund. While GOP strategists were initially more bullish on Gibbs, this race appears to be slipping away from Republicans. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

7th District (Elissa Slotkin, D). Biden 50%. Polls show that Slotkin, who entered October with \$3.7 million in her war chest, has retained an edge. Republican state Sen. Tom Barrett only had \$118,000 on hand, but the NRCC and Congressional Leadership Fund are spending over \$10 million on TV and radio ads to take down Slotkin. The GOP super PAC's latest ad is a spoof on the HGTV show "House Hunters" and hits the congresswoman for her housing situation in Lansing. Thanks to Slotkin's fundraising abilities, Democrats are still outspending Republicans on the air in the final three weeks of the cycle. Tilt Democratic.

8th District (Dan Kildee, D). Biden 50%. Responding to an ad from Republican Paul Junge that calls Kildee "one of the wokest liberals around," the congressman is out with a new spot that features a local sheriff. Meanwhile, Kildee is airing an attack ad that ties Junge to shoddy housing on military bases — Junge's family owned a military housing maintenance company that reportedly faced several lawsuits. The congressman's significant spending advantage appears to have paid off, and he's favored to win a district that Biden would have won by only 2 points. Move from Tilt Democratic to Lean Democratic.

10th District (Open; Andy Levin, D, lost 11th District primary). Trump 50%. A public poll from the *Detroit News* and WDIV-TV affirms what's been clear for months: Republican nominee John James is the clear favorite in this open seat. James led Democratic nominee Carl Marlinga, 44-36 percent, in this poll conducted at the beginning of the month. Marlinga, who's been heavily outspent by James on the airwaves, isn't getting any support from the DCCC. Lean Republican.

Minnesota.

2nd District (Angie Craig, DFL). Biden 52%. The rematch between Craig and Republican Tyler Kistner is extremely close. This is the type of suburban district Republicans should win in November if they're having a good or great night. Toss-up.

Montana

1st District (Open; new). Trump 52%. After a Democratic super PAC funded by local party power players began advertising on behalf of Monica Tranel, a GOP super PAC funded largely by Bill Foley, the billionaire financial services magnate who owns a ski resort in Whitefish, is on TV with ads supporting Republican former Rep. Ryan Zinke. Neither national party has engaged here. Lean Republican.

Nebraska.

2nd District (Don Bacon, R). Biden 52%. Polls show that Bacon appears to have momentum on his side, though it remains a tight race. Adding to Republicans' spending advantage over the next three weeks, Defending Main Street started airing a TV ad that accuses Democratic

state Sen. Tony Vargas of supporting lighter sentences for those convicted of drug dealing. On the Democratic side, House Majority PAC released an ad that ties Bacon to Mitch McConnell and accuses him of "bring[ing] home the bacon for himself." Toss-up.

Nevada.

1st District (Dina Titus, D). Biden 53%. Democrats feel they've regained their footing in the newly competitive 1st, after Titus was caught off-guard by redistricting. But Republicans are pouring money into this district and Nevada can be tricky for Democrats, especially as the state's economy is struggling to regain its footing following the pandemic. Tilt Democratic.

3rd District (Susie Lee, D). Biden 52%. Lee maintains the slightest of advantages over Republican April Becker, but this is still the most competitive district in the state. Voters in the Las Vegas media market are set to see another \$67 million in advertising across all races before Election Day, including nearly \$10 million in this race alone. Lee's strong fundraising will give Democrats a financial edge. Tilt Democratic.

4th District (Steven Horsford, D). Biden 53%. This seat remains a distinct third priority in the Silver State after its neighbors to the south, the 1st and 3rd Districts. That's probably to Horsford's benefit, since he had six times as much money to spend on September 30 than his opponent, Sam Peters. Lean Democratic.

New Hampshire.

1st District (Chris Pappas, D). Biden 52%. Responding to Democratic ads that accuse her of supporting a national abortion ban, Republican nominee Karoline Leavitt says that Pappas is "lying" about her in her latest spot. House Majority PAC is airing a TV spot with a clip of Leavitt saying she supports privatizing Social Security. Tilt Democratic.

2nd District (Ann McLane Kuster, D). Biden 54%. The latest public poll from St. Anselm shows the congresswoman leading her GOP opponent, former Hillsborough County Treasurer Bob Burns, by double digits. Likely Democratic.

New Jersey.

7th District (Tom Malinowski, D). Biden 51%. "Ever been counted out?" asks Malinowski in a new ad. "I have." The congressman isn't lying, as many wrote him off after his district was redrawn to be less friendly to Democrats. The Democrat has held his own against repeat opponent state Sen. Tom Kean, Jr. for much of the year. But recent private data shows his position may be slipping. Both Congressional Leadership Fund and the NRCC are pouring money into this expensive district, with a combined \$4 million in reservations over the closing weeks of the race. Malinowski has some support from House Majority PAC but is largely carrying the advertising weight on his own. The congressman is buying ads week-to-week but had a substantial \$2.8 million in the bank on Sept. 30. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Republican.

New Mexico.

2nd District (Yvette Herrell, R). Biden 52%. Republicans' spending advantage in this district continues to widen. Two conservative outside groups — the House Freedom Caucus' political arm and the super PAC affiliated with the Heritage Foundation — are collectively spending \$1.1 million on new TV ads attacking Democratic nominee Gabe Vasquez. On the defensive over his position on police funding, Vasquez

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

is airing a direct-to-camera spot where he says that he voted to increase law enforcement budgets as a member of the Las Cruces city council. Toss-up.

New York.

1st District (Open; Lee Zeldin, R, running for governor). Biden 49.4%. Republican nominee Nick LaLota is one of the beneficiaries of GOP Rep. Jim Banks' brand new super PAC, which will spend money on direct mail and digital ads, according to *Semafor*. So far, this race isn't attracting much attention from Democratic outside groups. Bridget Fleming amassed nearly \$1 million in the third quarter, while LaLota raised over \$500,000. Tilt Republican.

3rd District (Open; Tom Suozzi, D, lost Democratic gubernatorial primary). Biden 53%. As Republicans appear to gain ground on Long Island, the partisan lean of the 3rd District makes it the GOP's best pick-up opportunity. Both George Santos and Robert Zimmerman ended the third quarter with about \$600,000 on hand. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

4th District (Open; Kathleen Rice, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 57%. A New York *Daily News* article revealed Republican Anthony D'Esposito was punished by the NYPD after he left his gun unattended in his vehicle and it was stolen. The Hempstead town board member is running on a law-and-order platform against former Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen. Democrats are struggling in all of their Long Island seats; crime is a big issue here and helped power a GOP mini-wave in local elections last fall. Move from Likely Democratic to Lean Democratic.

17th District (Sean Patrick Maloney, D). Biden 54%. The Congressional Leadership Fund, which has spent \$2 million on cable TV ads, is spending another \$4 million on broadcast ads that accuse Maloney of supporting ending cash bail. The GOP super PAC is also sending mailers on the same issue, which some Black leaders in the Hudson Valley have called racist — the mailer in question uses photos of exclusively Black men. The DCCC chairman continues to have a fundraising edge, reporting nearly \$1 million in his war chest at the end of September, while Republican state Assemblyman Mike Lawler had \$300,000 on hand. Our Hudson PAC, a super PAC funded by the National Association of Realtors, has also started airing ads targeting Lawler. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

18th District (Pat Ryan, D). Biden 53%. As Republicans spend heavily in the neighboring 17th and 19th Districts, Ryan has avoided a similar onslaught so far. VoteVets, a Democratic PAC that supports veterans running for Congress, placed a \$2 million reservation supporting the congressman that starts next week. And Ryan raised twice as much as Republican state Assemblyman Colin Schmitt in the third quarter, though both had roughly \$500,000 in cash-on-hand going into the final stretch. But New York is proving trickier for Democrats than anticipated, and while Ryan still has an edge, this is a close race. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

19th District (Open; Pat Ryan, D, running in the 18th District). Biden 51%. Both parties have spent over \$5 million in this district, and the NRCC just added another \$1.3 million to its ad buy. Polling has continued to show a tight race between Democratic nominee Josh Riley and Republican nominee Marc Molinaro. While Molinaro underperformed expectations in the special election two months ago against Ryan, his new Democratic opponent, Riley, has more

vulnerabilities than Ryan. Molinaro's latest spot accuses the Democrat, who worked at a DC law firm for several years, of being "out of touch" with the district. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

22nd District (Open; John Katko, R, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. Democrat Francis Conole released an internal poll from Global Strategy Group taken in mid-September showing him leading Republican Brandon Williams by 1 point. Outside group VoteVets, which supports Democratic veterans, is chipping in \$290,000 to support Conole. Republicans have an overall spending advantage here, but Conole himself is spending a lot more than Williams, helping him keep pace on the number of ads run. Toss-up.

North Carolina.

1st District (Open; G.K. Butterfield, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. Democratic state Sen. Don Davis continues to have a clear advantage in this largely rural district. Davis' campaign released a poll conducted this month that showed him leading his Republican opponent Sandy Smith, 54-39 percent. Smith, who faces multiple accusations of domestic violence, has spent less than \$100,000 on TV and radio ads and isn't getting any support from Republican outside groups. Move from Lean Democratic to Likely Democratic.

13th District (New, R). Biden 50%. Republican ads have targeted Democratic state Sen. Wiley Nickel's work as a defense attorney, particularly the serious cases Nickel's firm (though not Nickel personally) took on. The Democrat is hitting back with an ad narrated by a police officer saying "the law says everyone has a right to an attorney, just like when Bo [Hines, Nickel's opponent] faced six criminal charges himself." It's a reference to a bevy of traffic charges Hines racked up since 2014, the most serious being a reckless driving to endanger charge to which he pleaded guilty. Republicans think this race is trending in their direction but Democrats are confident it's still a dead heat. Toss-up.

North Dakota.

At-Large District. (Kelly Armstrong, R). Trump 65%. Independent candidate Cara Mund, a former Miss North Dakota and Miss America, is up on TV with a small buy. Armstrong seems to be taking the challenge from the Harvard Law graduate seriously and is airing half a million dollars in ads over the closing weeks of the race. Solid Republican.

Ohio.

1st District (Steve Chabot, R). Biden 54%. Another poll from Greg Landsman's campaign showed the Democrat with a three-point lead in mid-October — the same result that an internal Landsman poll showed a month ago. The Congressional Leadership Fund is hammering Landsman for supporting reallocating some police department funding as a member of the Cincinnati city council. The group's Democratic counterpart, House Majority PAC, is attacking Chabot for his stance on abortion. Toss-up.

9th District (Marcy Kaptur, D). Trump 51%. Kaptur's latest ads take aim at reports that her opponent J.R. Majewski exaggerated his military record. In one, a gold star family says Majewski's misrepresentations dishonor their son and all those who serve. Majewski doesn't have the resources to respond and won't get support from outside groups. Lean Democratic.

13th District (Open; Tim Ryan, D, running for U.S. Senate). Biden 51%. The battle between Emilia Sykes and Madison Gesiotto Gilbert

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

remains incredibly close. The NRCC's \$3.4 million ad buy started this week with a spot that hits Sykes for supporting tax raises. House Majority PAC also went up this week, airing an ad with a clip of Gilbert calling abortion murder. Toss-up.

Oregon.

4th District (Open; Peter DeFazio, not seeking re-election). Biden 55%. Republican Alek Skarlatos is on the defensive following reports of crude comments he made about choking women on a 2018 podcast. In a new ad, Skarlatos says he "said some immature and hurtful things that I deeply regret." Skarlatos' latest ads also highlight a photo of him with former President Obama after the National Guardsman helped prevent a terrorist attack — but Obama's spokesperson has called the ads "misleading." Of the three open seats in Oregon, this one continues to look the best for Democrats. But while Val Hoyle has the edge, Democrats' troubles in Oregon will make this race more competitive than it looked earlier this year. Move from Likely Democratic to Lean Democratic.

5th District (Open; Kurt Schrader, D, lost in primary). Biden 53%.

Facing an array of GOP attack ads criticizing her for her position on law enforcement, Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner has released a new ad featuring a former police chief who says McLeod-Skinner "will never defund our police." She raised nearly twice as much as her Republican opponent Lori Chavez-DeRemer last quarter. Toss-up.



Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Courtesy, McLeod-Skinner Campaign

6th District (Open; New). Biden 55%. Oregon's brand new congressional district, which Biden would have carried by double digits, continues to look dangerously competitive for Democrats. After Mike Erickson's campaign released a poll that showed him leading by 5 points, state Rep. Andrea Salinas's campaign released its own internal poll, conducted at the beginning of the month, that showed her ahead of Erickson by only 1 point, 45-44 percent. Two months ago, Salinas' internal poll showed her leading by three points — a sign that momentum remains on Republicans' side in Oregon. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

Pennsylvania.

7th District (Susan Wild, D). Biden 49.7%. Republican Lisa Scheller's latest ad features an employee at Scheller's coffee shop, which helps recovering addicts, defending Scheller against charges that she's "anti-woman." It's a shift in tone for the manufacturing CEO, whose own recovery from heroin addiction featured prominently in her 2020 campaign but has taken a back seat to economic messaging in the 2022 cycle. Democrats have been hitting Scheller on outsourcing jobs as CEO of her family company, Silberline. A *Morning Call*/Muhlenberg College poll from mid-October found Wild and Scheller statistically tied. Toss-up.

8th District (Matt Cartwright, D). Trump 51%. Republican Jim Bognet

released a poll showing the race effectively tied, but other private data indicates Cartwright has a lead. The congressman had a well-received ad featuring a Trump supporter and a Biden supporter talking about why they both are voting for Cartwright. At the top of the ticket, state Attorney General Josh Shapiro looks poised to win in the district while the Senate race has tightened. Toss-up.

17th District (Open; Conor Lamb, D, lost U.S. Senate primary).

Biden 52%. Democrat Chris DeLuzio is pushing back on attacks that he's an uber-liberal college professor with ads highlighting his Navy service in Iraq; the ad features a fellow serviceman vouching for DeLuzio as a true "Yinzer." The Congressional Leadership Fund continues to tie DeLuzio to Summer Lee, the more progressive Democrat running in the district next door. Toss-up.

Rhode Island.

2nd District (Open; Jim Langevin, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 56%. Both nonpartisan and internal polls show that this race remains close, despite the Democratic lean of the district. Former Cranston Mayor Allan Fung led the latest Suffolk University poll with 45 percent, while Democratic nominee Seth Magaziner had 37 percent. An internal poll from Magaziner's campaign confirmed Fung's slight edge; the Republican narrowly led Magaziner, 43-40 percent. While Fung may not be able to reach 50 percent in this district — he carried it by 4 points, 41-37 percent, in his 2014 gubernatorial bid — he may not need to, thanks to a third party candidate on the ballot. Moderate Party nominee William Gilbert is polling at 5 percent in both of these surveys. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

Texas.

15th District (Open; Vicente Gonzalez, D, running in the 34th District). Trump 51%. National Democrats are effectively abandoning this open seat in South Texas. House Majority PAC plans to cancel their ad reservations, worth \$1.5 million, and the DCCC is prioritizing protecting Democratic incumbents in Texas' 28th and 34th Districts. Without much outside help, Michelle Vallejo faces steep odds against Monica De La Cruz. Texas Democrats believe the national party's lack of investment in this swing district is another sign that the party isn't prioritizing reaching out to Hispanic voters. Lean Republican.

28th District (Henry Cuellar, D). Biden 53%. Republicans are all in for this South Texas district — they'll spend \$3.5 million over the next three weeks on the airwaves. Cassy Garcia outraised Cuellar in the third quarter, pulling in nearly \$1.7 million to the congressman's \$990,000. But despite ads from the Congressional Leadership Fund and the NRCC hammering Cuellar over the FBI raid, he still has the edge. The moderate Democrat is currently airing a spot that says he "stands up to radicals in both parties." Lean Democratic.

34th District (Mayra Flores, R, Vicente Gonzalez, D). Biden 57%. South Texas continues to cause Democrats serious heartburn. Gonzalez had to spend time and resources introducing himself to voters in the district, which barely overlaps at all with his current seat, while Flores had a head of steam coming off of her summer special election win. Democratic strategists believe that Republicans have already unloaded all of their best hits on Gonzalez, and now they'll be able press their own spending advantage to go negative on Flores. The district's partisan lean still favors Democrats, but Gonzalez has work to do. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Virginia.

2nd District (Elaine Luria, D). Biden 50%. As one of the members of the select committee investigating Jan. 6, Luria has made the insurrection and the acceptance of the 2020 election results central to her campaign. The congresswoman's latest TV spot features a clip of Republican state Sen. Jen Kiggans refusing to answer whether Biden fairly won the election in an interview with a reporter following last week's debate. Toss-up.

7th District (Abigail Spanberger, D). Biden 52%. There's significant disagreement about where this race stands. Republicans believe Vega has rebounded from a rocky summer and is neck-and-neck with the congresswoman after a strong third fundraising quarter. She has a new ad in English and Spanish featuring her father. But Spanberger continues to be one of Democrats' top fundraisers, and Democrats believe she still maintains a lead. The incumbent has two new ads featuring Republicans vouching for her: former Virginia Rep. Denver Riggleman, and Culpepper Police Chief Chris Jenkins, who assails Vega for comments in which she cast doubt on rape resulting in pregnancy. Tilt Democratic.

10th District (Jennifer Wexton, D). Biden 58%. Under Virginia's new congressional map, Biden would have won Wexton's district by 18 points. But there's some evidence that the race between Wexton and Republican nominee Hung Cao could be coming online. Cao, a retired naval officer who immigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam, released a poll that showed Wexton leading Cao by only two points, 43-41 percent. The congresswoman has also started airing negative ads criticizing Cao for his positions on Jan. 6 and abortion — another sign that this race could be competitive. Cao outraised Wexton in the third quarter, taking in \$1.4 million to Wexton's \$900,000, but she still has a massive cash-on-hand advantage. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

Washington.

3rd District (Open; Jaime Herrera Beutler, R, lost in primary). Trump 51%. With the help of the NRCC, Republican nominee Joe Kent is now on TV, airing a generic spot that hits on the issues of inflation, gas prices, and crime. Meanwhile, Democratic nominee Marie Gluesenkamp Perez released an ad featuring Herrera Beutler voters who aren't backing Kent. Perez is outspending Kent 11-to-1 on the airwaves, but the partisan lean of the district makes this an uphill battle for the Democrat. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

8th District (Kim Schrier, D). Biden 52%. Republican outside groups have spent millions on Washington's most competitive House race — the Congressional Leadership Fund alone has spent \$4.8 million on ads almost exclusively focused on economic issues. But Schrier, who raised \$2.2 million in the third quarter, has been able to spend over \$5 million on TV and radio ads, which stretches further since candidates have access to a lower advertising rate than super PACs. Toss-up.

Wisconsin.

3rd District (Open; Ron Kind, D, not seeking re-election). Trump 51%. Kind's district is being triaged by Democrats as they focus their resources on more attainable targets. House Majority PAC will reportedly cancel its ad reservations, which were worth \$1.7 million. But Democratic state Sen. Brad Pfaff is getting some back-up from the Center Forward Committee, which is funded largely by the Blue Dog Democrats. The group is spending over \$500,000 on ads that highlight Derrick Van Orden's presence at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Republicans are still spending here, with the NRCC chipping in nearly \$800,000 in the closing weeks. Lean Republican. **IE**

Senate Updates

Alaska. Lisa Murkowski (R) appointed 2002, elected 2004 (49%), 2010 (39% as a write-in), 2016 (44%). Former President Donald Trump is mad about the Mitch McConnell-affiliated Senate Leadership Fund spending millions to support Murkowski over Trump's candidate, former state official Kelly Tshibaka. But even as the former president dips into his own super PAC funds to support candidates he's endorsed in other states, he has yet to spend anything on Tshibaka, leaving her at a steep financial disadvantage in the final weeks of the race. Murkowski will have to rely on second-place votes from Democratic candidate Pat Chesbro to get the majority she needs to win. Solid Republican.

Arizona. Mark Kelly (D) elected 2020 special election (51%). This race has tightened, as venture capitalist Blake Masters consolidates support and GOP gubernatorial nominee Kari Lake picks up steam in her contest (the two have been storming the state as "Lake and Blake"). But Kelly still leads in statewide polling and in the state's four most competitive congressional districts. Democrats are set to outspend the GOP more than 10-to-1 over the closing weeks of the race. Tilt Democratic.

Trafalgar Group (R) for The Daily Wire, Oct. 16-17 (LVs) — General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 47% - 46%, Marc Victor (L) 3%.

Highground (R) for KTVK, Oct. 12-13 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 42% - 40%, Victor 5%.

Insider Advantage (R) for KSAZ-TV, Oct. 11 (LVs) — General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 46% - 42%, Victor 5%.

Colorado. Michael Bennet (D) appointed 2009, elected 2010 (48%), 2016 (50%). Trump waded into this race with a statement attacking GOP nominee Joe O'Dea as insufficiently loyal. Neither Bennet nor O'Dea will do much with Trump's intrusion, as Bennet has little incentive to help O'Dea seem more palatable to Trump-skeptical independents and Democrats, and O'Dea needs Trump supporters to show up for him. There's been an uptick of outside money in this race, but the contours haven't changed much. Bennet is sitting at around 50 percent of the vote, while O'Dea trails by mid-to-high single digits. Likely Democratic.

Global Strategy Group (D) for ProgressNow Colorado, Oct. 6-11 (LVs) — General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 49% - 38%, Peotter 7%.

Marist College, Oct. 3-7 (RVs) — General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 48% - 41%.

Data for Progress (D), Oct. 3-6 (LVs)(sms/web) — General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 50% - 41%, Peotter 3%.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

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

Democratic Rep. Val Demings was on offense in her first debate against Rubio, pressing the senator on abortion access and mass shootings. Rubio continues to hit back by tying Demings to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. While Florida races are never blowouts, Rubio seems to be in good shape and close to 50 percent. Demings' appealing profile as a police chief, and her substantial war chest — she raised \$22 million from July through September — will keep her in the game, but something needs to change for her to pull off the upset. Likely Republican.

Georgia. Raphael Warnock (D) elected 2020/Jan. 5, 2021 runoff (51%). Strong early voting numbers have Democrats cautiously optimistic about Georgia. There's general consensus that the latest reporting that Herschel Walker pressured his then-girlfriend into getting an abortion in 2009 and paid for the procedure, and accusations from Walker's son of domestic violence, have not had a substantial effect on the race. The first and only debate of the campaign didn't produce any major moments for either candidate, though Walker's display of his "honorary deputy sheriff" badge was the defining image of the night. The most likely outcome here is still a December runoff, potentially with Senate control on the line. Toss-up.

Landmark Communications for Atlanta First News, Oct. 15-17 (LVs) — General election ballot: Warnock and Walker tied at 46%. Chase Oliver (L) 3%.

InsiderAdvantage (R) for WAGA-TV, Oct. 16 (LVs) — General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 46% - 43%. Oliver 4%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Oct. 8-11 (LVs) — General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 46% - 45%. Oliver 4%.

Iowa. Chuck Grassley (R) elected 1980 (54%), 1986 (66%), 1992 (70%), 1998 (68%), 2004 (70%), 2010 (64%), 2016 (60%). The 89-year-old senator's numbers have been soft for much of the cycle based on statewide surveys and polls conducted in the three competitive congressional districts. But there was a built-in assumption that Grassley's advantage over Democrat Mike Franken would expand because of the GOP lean of the state and the nature of the midterm cycle. Then Iowa's top pollster Ann Selzer released a survey which showed Grassley with a narrow, 46-43 percent advantage. That's in line where Franken's own polling has shown the race for several months. A former staffer's accusation that Franken kissed her without her consent doesn't seem to have caused voters to abandon the admiral. Grassley is still the considerable favorite to win an eighth term, but this race has been and continues to be much closer than anyone would have expected at the beginning of the cycle. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

J. Ann Selzer for Des Moines Register, Oct. 9-12 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 46% - 43%.

Emerson College, Oct. 2-4 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 49% - 38%.

Nebraska. Ben Sasse (R) resigning to become president of the University of Florida. Just two years into his second term, Sasse is leaving the Senate to succeed Kent Fuchs as president of Florida's flagship public university. Depending on when Sasse officially resigns, his replacement will be chosen by either outgoing Gov. Pete Ricketts, or the state's next governor (likely Republican Jim Pillen). Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has already expressed a preference that

Ricketts be appointed to the seat, either via self-appointment or by Pillen. Whoever is appointed will run in a special election for the final two years of Sasse's term in 2024.

Nevada. Catherine Cortez Masto (D) elected 2016 (47%). Cortez Masto sported her first polling lead in months in a Suffolk Univ./USA Today poll that showed her with a 2-point advantage. But the Silver State's senior senator continues to be the most vulnerable on the map, especially as Nevada gas prices remain among the highest in the nation. Nevada is the rare state where polls have underestimated Democrats recently. Toss-up.

Suffolk Univ. for USA Today, Oct. 4-7 (LVs)(live caller) — General election ballot: Cortez Masto over Laxalt, 46% - 44%. "None of these" 3%, Barry Rubinson (IAP) 1%, Neil Scott (L) 1%.

New Hampshire. Maggie Hassan (D) elected 2016 (48%). Republicans didn't get the candidate they wanted, but still believe that



Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Maggie Hassan

with a bit of help retired General Don Bolduc can beat Hassan, despite Bolduc's history of boosting Trump's false claims of a stolen 2020 election. Former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who recently left the party, is campaigning

for Bolduc. Hassan's numbers are soft, and she doesn't look headed for a dominant performance like her colleague Jeanne Shaheen in 2020. But she has a significant financial advantage over Bolduc and his allies in the closing weeks of the race. The Democratic Senate Majority PAC is on air attacking Bolduc over his support of privatizing Social Security — New Hampshire is the second-oldest state by median age in the country. Tilt Democratic.

FabrizioLee (R) for Bolduc, Oct. 16-18 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 49% - 47%.

FabrizioWard (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, Oct. 2-6 (LVs)(mixed mode) — General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 52% - 45%.

North Carolina. Open; Richard Burr (R) not seeking re-election. Polling continues to show this race all tied up in the mid-40s. Democrats seem to have overcome their fear of North Carolina after a decade of heartbreaks, with Senate Majority PAC placing a seven-figure buy on Cheri Beasley's behalf in the race's final weeks. EMILY's List affiliate Women Vote! is also spending in the final weeks. Republican Rep. Ted Budd is receiving support from the Club for Growth and now the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For the second cycle in a row, North Carolina is shaping up to be a nailbiter. Tilt Republican.

Trafalgar Group (R), Oct. 16-19 (LVs) — General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 48% - 44%.

East Carolina University, Oct. 10-13 (LVs) — General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 50% - 44%.

Public Policy Polling (D) for Carolina Forward, Oct. 7-8 (RVs) — General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 46% - 45%.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Ohio. Open; Rob Portman (R) not seeking re-election. The Buckeye State's Republican character has begun to assert itself in the closing weeks of this contest. While Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan is running the best campaign Democrats could hope for, and J.D. Vance leaves a lot to be desired as a candidate, the GOP nominee seems to have established a slight lead in polling after trailing for much of the summer. Vance has been boosted by nearly \$30 million in support from the Senate Leadership Fund while a union-funded super PAC is Ryan's only outside help in the race; that group recently increased its buy in the closing weeks but only to a fraction of SLF's. Ryan still has a bank shot given how unpopular Vance is, but Ohio remains below Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and North Carolina on Democrats' target list. Lean Republican.

Cygnal (R), Oct. 14-18 (LVs)— General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 47% - 43%.

Suffolk University for USA Today, Oct. 11-15 (LVs)— General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 47% - 45%.

Lucid for Ohio Northern University, Oct. 11-15 (LVs)— General election ballot: Ryan over Vance, 43% - 41%.

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

Celebrity surgeon Mehmet Oz appears to have consolidated most of the Republican vote. While it's much later in the game than many GOP strategists would have hoped after Oz emerged from a bruising primary, it means the former talk show host can focus on winning over independents in the final weeks of the race. His campaign is now running spots targeting supporters of state Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a Democrat who looks headed for a landslide victory in the gubernatorial contest. Lt. Gov. John Fetterman continues to be a fundraising powerhouse, but attacks on crime issues have taken their toll. Public polling shows the Democrat with a slight lead, but private polling in the state's swing congressional districts indicates Oz is within striking distance. Senate Majority PAC is running an intense ad highlighting experiments Oz oversaw at Columbia University in which researchers euthanized hundreds of dogs. Toss-up.

InsiderAdvantage (R) for WTXF, Oct. 19 (LVs)— General election ballot: Fetterman and Oz tied at 46%.

FabrizioWard (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, Oct. 2-4 (LVs)(mixed

Gubernatorial Update

Oklahoma. Kevin Stitt (R), elected 2018 (54%). The Republican Governors' Association will begin spending to support Stitt in a surprisingly competitive re-election campaign. The group announced a seven-figure intervention but has so far booked half a million dollars starting this week. That's a boost for Stitt in his race against state Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister, as Hofmeister and her allies have had a massive spending advantage over the course of the campaign. The first ad released ties Hofmeister to Biden and high gas prices — a bit of a bank shot as Hofmeister only recently became a Democrat, has a background in public education, and doesn't have any connection to energy policy. A spate of recent public polls put Hofmeister in the lead. Likely Republican. IE

mode)— General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 48% - 46%.

Trafalgar Group (R) for The Daily Wire, Oct. 8-11 (LVs)— General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 47% - 45%. Erik Gerhardt (L) 3%.

North Dakota. John Hoeven (R) elected 2010 (76%), 2016 (79%).

Republican state Rep. Rick Becker challenged Hoeven for the state party endorsement at the GOP convention earlier this year, narrowly losing, 54-46 percent, and chose not to continue running against Hoeven in a later statewide primary. But Becker then reversed course and launched an independent candidacy in the general election. The libertarian-leaning legislator is running to Hoeven's right and has made an issue out of Hoeven's vote for last year's bipartisan infrastructure package. Private polling shows Becker drawing support almost entirely from Hoeven rather than Democratic nominee Katrina Christiansen, a University of Jamestown professor. That may keep Hoeven from putting up the astronomical landslides of previous cycles, but the state is so Republican it shouldn't hamper his ability to win. Solid Republican.

Utah. Mike Lee (R) elected 2010 (62%), 2016 (68%). The Club for Growth, which continues to carry most of the weight of pro-Lee/anti-Evan McMullin messaging, has switched tactics in its latest spot. After assailing McMullin's character in previous ads, the Club is now highlighting the independent's potential role in determining the Senate majority, arguing that he'd give Democrats and Biden a majority if elected. A pro-McMullin super PAC released a survey showing McMullin leading Lee by several points. Other data shows a tighter race, and there's some skepticism among both Democrats and Republicans that McMullin can get to 50 percent. Likely Republican.

Hill Research Consultants (R) for Put Utah First PAC (pro-McMullin), Oct. 8-11 (RVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: McMullin over Lee, 49% - 43%.

OH Predictive Insights (R), Oct. 5-6 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Lee over McMullin, 47% - 32%.

Washington. Patty Murray (D) elected 1992 (54%), 1998 (58%), 2004 (55%), 2010 (52%), 2016 (59%). FEC filings show that Evergreen Principles PAC, the super PAC that has been airing ads supporting Republican Tiffany Smiley, is funded primarily by billionaires Timothy Mellon and Buck Buckley. Murray's lead in polling has stabilized in the mid-single digits, and Democrats' problems in Oregon don't appear to have migrated north. Likely Democratic.

Wisconsin. Ron Johnson (R) elected 2010 (52%), 2016 (50%).

Republicans continue to unload opposition research on Democratic nominee Mandela Barnes, the state's lieutenant governor, including an interview he gave on Russia-sponsored TV following a deadly attack against police officers in Dallas several years ago. Republicans also surfaced a 2015 tweet from Barnes commending the Supreme Leader of Iran for tweeting in support of Black Lives Matter. Barnes continues to hammer Johnson on his support for criminalizing abortions, while Senate Majority PAC has a new spot featuring a police captain assailing Johnson for his response to the Jan. 6 insurrection. Wisconsin's evenly divided electorate and Johnson's unpopularity will keep this race competitive for the rest of the cycle, but Barnes is undoubtedly the underdog at this point. Tilt Republican.

Clarity Campaign Labs (D) for Barnes, Oct. 7-11 (LVs)(live caller/IVR)— General election ballot: Barnes over Johnson, 48% - 47%.

Marquette University, Oct. 3-9 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Johnson over Barnes, 52% - 46%. IE