2022 Election Preview: Don't Count Republicans Out Yet

By Nathan L. Gonzales, Erin Covey and Jacob Rubashkin

This isn't the midterm election Republicans envisioned, but the GOP can still reach their final goals.

Democrats have seen improvement in President Joe Biden's job rating and the national generic ballot in the wake of the Dobbs decision, and they've overperformed in a handful of recent House special elections. The potential for Democrats to buck the daunting midterm history has become the story du jour.

But the Democratic surge never swept over the 2022 House battlefield, and Biden's uptick hasn't had a dramatic impact on key races. The issue landscape has shifted slightly. The economy isn't good enough for Democrats to run on but it's improved enough to dilute its potency as a Republican attack. So the GOP is leaning more into crime and immigration while Democrats are close to all-in on abortion.

Republicans are still the favorites to gain the five seats they need for a House majority, although their majority will likely be narrow. We're shifting our projection from Republicans +12-30 seats to Republicans +8-20.

While Republicans only admit a modest deterioration of their previous midterm advantage, the Senate battlefield embodies a clear shift. A year ago, GOP strategists did not expect to have to spend significant time and money in the fall holding Ohio, North Carolina, or even Pennsylvania, yet those races are draining resources. Consequently, Republicans look short of the money and environmental advantage necessary to win in Arizona, let alone Democratic states such as Colorado and Washington.

The fight for the Senate remains very close and our projection continues to be a range of Republicans +1 to Democrats +1. The GOP needs a net gain of one seat for a majority, and a December runoff in Georgia could be the ultimate finale.

With six weeks to go, there are a large number of close races, and a modest shift in the political environment could position one party to win the lion's share of those races and create the perception of a wave. Although, modest changes in the House and the Senate look most likely at this point.

2022 House Ratings

Toss-Up (11D, 6R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)	ME 2 (Golden, D)	NM 2 (Herrell, R)	PA 17 (Open; Lamb, D)
CA 27 (Garcia, R)	MN 2 (Craig, DFL)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)	VA 2 (Luria, D)
CO 8 (Open, New)	NC 13 (Open, R)	OH 13 (Open; Ryan, D)	WA 8 (Schrier, D)
IA 3 (Axne, D)	NE 2 (Bacon, R)	PA 7 (Wild, D)	
IL 17 (Open; Bustos, D)	NJ 7 (Malinowski, D)	PA 8 (Cartwright, D)	

Tilt Democratic (10D, 2R)

KS 3 (Davids, D)#	NY 19 (Open; Ryan, D)
MI 3 (Open; Meijer, R)	*NY 22 (Open; Katko, R)*
MI 7 (Slotkin, D)	OH 9 (Kaptur, D)#
MI 8 (Kildee, D)	OR 5 (Open; Schrader, D)
NV 1 (Titus, D)	OR 6 (Open, New)*
NV 3 (S. Lee, D)	VA 7 (Spanberger, D)
NH 1 (Pappas, D)	

Tilt Republican (2D, 1R)

AK AL (Peltola, D)
AZ 6 (Open; Kirkpatrick, D)
NY 1 (Open; Zeldin, R)

Lean Democratic (9D, 2R)

CA 13 (Open; Harder, D)	TX 28 (Cuellar, D)
CA 47 (Porter, D)	
IL 13 (Open; Davis, R)	
IN 1 (Mrvan, D)	
NC 1 (Open; Butterfield, D)	
NV 4 (Horsford, D)	
NY 3 (Open; Suozzi, D)	
NY 18 (Open; Ryan, D)	
RI 2 (Open; Langevin, D)	
TX 34 (Flores, R /Gonzalez, D)	

Lean Republican (4D, 5R)

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

Likely Democratic (13D)

AZ 4 (Stanton, D)
CA 9 (Harder, D)
CA 49 (Levin, D)
CO 7 (Open; Perlmutter, D)
CT 5 (Hayes, D)
GA 2 (Bishop, D)
IL 6 (Casten, D)
IL 14 (Underwood, D)
MD 6 (Trone, D)
NH 2 (Kuster, D)
NY 4 (Open; Rice, D)
OR 4 (Open; DeFazio, D)
NY 17 (S. Maloney, D)

Likely Republican (4D, 7R)

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; McBath, D)
MT 1 (Open, New)
NY 11 (Malliotakis, R)
TN 5 (Open; Cooper, D)
WA 3 (Open; Herrera Beutler, R)#

	GOP	DEM
Solid	187	169
Likely/Lean/Tilt	24	37
Total	211	206
Toss-up		18
Needed for majority		218

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

Senate Updates

Alaska. Lisa Murkowski (R) appointed 2002, elected 2004 (49%), 2010 (39% as a write-in), 2016 (44%). Fourth-place finisher Buzz Kelley, a Republican, dropped out of the race and endorsed GOP challenger Kelly Tshibaka but will still appear on the ballot. Tshibaka has also touted endorsements from the fifth and sixth place primary finishers, Republican Pat Nolin and Democrat Edgar Blatchford, who each received 1 percent.

A recent bipartisan poll conducted for AARP found Tshibaka leading in the first round of a simulated ranked choice matchup, but after Kelley and Democrat Pat Chesbro are eliminated, Murkowski pulls into a tie. That could mean the incumbent is in a tougher fight than she thought following a strong primary performance. But keep in mind that pre-primary polling also

Kelly Tshibaka
Courtesy Tshibaka Campaign

underestimated Murkowski, who has already consolidated much of the Democratic support in the state. Solid Republican.

Fabrizio Ward (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, Sept. 6-11 (LVs)(mixed mode)— First Round: Tshibaka (R) 46%, Murkowski (R) 38%, Chesbro (D) 14%, Kelley (R) 2%. Second Round: Tshibaka 47%, Murkowski 38%, Chesbro 14%. Third Round: Murkowski and Tshibaka tied at 50%.

Arizona. Mark Kelly (D) elected 2020 special election (51%). The McConnell-aligned Senate Leadership Fund has pulled out of Arizona completely, canceling its final $10 million in ad buys after previously slashing $8 million in ads reserved for September. That means venture capitalist Blake Masters will have just a dusting of air cover from a hodgepodge of conservative outside groups, even as the Democratic Senate Majority PAC and Kelly himself blanket the airwaves with tens of millions of dollars in advertising. Masters has struggled to fundraise and has not placed any fall reservations yet. The state's partisan lean will keep Masters somewhat competitive, but if he's unable to get on air, the Kelly machine could overwhelm him regardless, especially as polling shows Masters is unpopular. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Data for Progress (D), Sept. 15-19 (LVs)(online/sms)— General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 48% - 47%. Marc Victor (L) 2%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Sept. 14-17 (LVs)— General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 47% - 45%. Victor (L) 3%.

Fabrizio Ward (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, Sept. 8-15 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Kelly over Masters, 50% - 42%, Victor (L) 4%.

2022 Senate Ratings

Toss-Up

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

Tilt Democratic	**Tilt Republican**
Kelly (D-Ariz.)#	Johnson (R-Wisc.)
Hassan (D-N.H.)	

Lean Democratic	**Lean Republican**
	NC Open (Burr, R)

Likely Democratic	**Likely Republican**
Bennet (D-Colo.)	OH Open (Portman, R)
Murray (D-Wash.)	Rubio (R-Fl.)
	Lee (R-Utah)

Solid Democratic	**Solid Republican**
VT Open (Leahy, D)	AL Open (Shelby, R)
Blumenthal (D-Conn.)	MO Open (Blunt, R)
Duckworth (D-Ill.)	OK Open (Inhofe, R)
Padilla (D-Calif.)	Boozman (R-Ark.)
Schatz (D-Hawaii)	Crapo (R-Idaho)
Schumer (D-N.Y.)	Grassley (R-Iowa)
Van Hollen (D-Md.)	Hoeven (R-N.D.)
Wyden (D-Ore.)	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.)

Colorado. **Michael Bennet (D) appointed 2009, elected 2010 (48%), 2016 (50%).** A poll from the Republican Attorney Generals Association showed a tied race between Bennet and construction company CEO Joe O'Dea last month, but that looks more like an outlier than a harbinger. Republican strategists like O'Dea, but no national players are champing at the bit to spend money on his behalf, even though Bennet's numbers are soft for an incumbent. With Democratic Gov. Jared Polis running strong at the top of the ticket, O'Dea faces long odds, and he doesn't appear to be performing as well as he needs to in the state's most competitive congressional districts, the 7th and 8th, to pull off the upset. Likely Democratic.

Emerson College for The Hill/KDVR, Sept. 18-19 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 46% - 36%.

Public Policy Polling (D), Aug. 30-31 (RVs)— General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 46% - 35%. Brian Peotter (L) 7%.

Tarrance Group (R) for Republican Attorney Generals' Association, Aug. 22-25 (LVs)— General election ballot: Bennet over O'Dea, 48% - 47%.

Connecticut. **Richard Blumenthal (D) elected 2010 (55%), 2016 (63%).** Once again, early Republican optimism about Connecticut has faded as the state's voters reassert their Democratic tendencies. Two polls from mid-September show Blumenthal with a double-digit lead over GOP donor Leora Levy, and strategists from both parties are focusing elsewhere. Solid Democratic.

Quinnipiac Univ., Sept. 15-19 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Blumenthal over Levy, 57% - 40%.

Emerson College for The Hill/WTNH, Sept. 7-9 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Blumenthal over Levy, 49% - 36%.

Florida. **Marco Rubio (R) elected 2010 (49%), 2016 (52%).** Rep. Val Demings is making this a competitive race all on her own, as Democratic outside groups are still steering clear of the state. While Florida hasn't leapfrogged North Carolina or even Ohio on Democrats' priorities list, strategists from both parties acknowledge Rubio is running just a few points ahead of Demings. However, Republicans are confident that a strong performance from Gov. Ron DeSantis at the top of the ticket (he has over $100 million to spend on his race) will be more than enough to carry the entire GOP ticket through the finish line — even if Demings is proving to have stronger appeal than anticipated. Likely Republican.
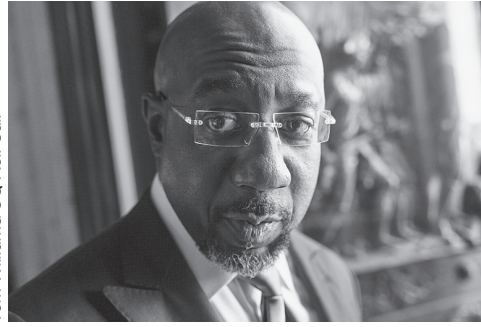
Civiqs (D), Sept. 17-20 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 49% - 47%.

Suffolk Univ. for USA Today, Sept. 15-18 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Rubio over Demings, 45% - 41%, Dennis Misigoy (L) 1%, Quoc Tuan Nguyen (I) 1%, Steven Grant (I) 1%.

Georgia. **Raphael Warnock (D) elected 2020/Jan.** 5, 2021 runoff (51%). Depending on who you ask, Warnock is either a few points ahead, a few points behind, or deadlocked with former NFL star Herschel Walker. And that's either an improvement or a setback or the status quo. But there are two things both parties can agree on. One, Warnock is running several points ahead of Democrats' gubernatorial nominee, Stacey Abrams. And two, there is an increasing chance this race is still unsettled after Election Day, with Libertarian Chase Oliver preventing either candidate from securing an outright majority in November.

If that happens, it could mean the country will yet again be waiting for Georgia to determine which party controls the Senate. Unlike last cycle, a potential runoff would be just a month after Election Day, on December 6. Warnock and Walker will meet for at least one debate in October, though Walker is already lowering expectations for his performance by calling himself "not that smart." And Democrats may add a new New York Times report on Walker's tenuous claims of charitable giving to the list of reasons they see him as unfit for the Senate. Toss-up.

YouGov for CBS, Sept. 14-19 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 51% - 49%.

Univ. of Georgia for Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Sept. 5-16 (LVs)— General election ballot: Walker over Warnock, 46% - 44%, Oliver (L) 3%.

Marist College, Sept. 12-15 (RVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Warnock over Walker, 47% - 42%, Oliver (L) 4%.

Iowa. **Chuck Grassley (R) elected 1980 (54%), 1986 (66%), 1992 (70%), 1998 (68%), 2004 (70%), 2010 (64%), 2016 (60%).** Retired three-star Admiral Mike Franken's underdog campaign took a hit when news surfaced that a former campaign staffer had accused him of grabbing and kissing her without her consent earlier this year. According to a police report, investigators didn't find evidence Franken had committed a crime and closed the case, and the candidate denies any wrongdoing. Franken was already a longshot, and he needed everything to go right to have a chance at dethroning Grassley. Republicans aren't taking the race for granted; Grassley has $2.5 million in ad time reserved from now until Election Day. Solid Republican.

Change Research (D) for Franken, Sept. 3-8 (LVs)(online)— General Election ballot: Grassley over Franken, 48% - 44%.

Nevada. **Catherine Cortez Masto (D) elected 2016 (47%).** This race could hinge on how much vote scatters to four minor party candidates, plus Nevada's unique "none of these candidates" option. Cortez Masto has been mired in the low-to-mid 40s, with Laxalt right there next to her in public and private polling. At the moment, Democrats have a nearly two-to-one advantage in October TV reservations, boosted by $10 million from Future Forward PAC, which is largely funded by a 501(c)4 group that does not disclose its donors. But with the Senate Leadership Fund pulling out of Arizona, and potentially downscaling in New Hampshire, Laxalt could reap the benefit of that newly available cash. Toss-up.

Data for Progress (D), Sept. 14-19 (LVs)(online/sms)— General election ballot: Laxalt over Cortez Masto, 47% - 46%. Neil Scott (L) 4%.

Emerson College for The Hill/KLAS, Sept. 8-10 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Laxalt over Cortez Masto, 42% - 41%, "Someone else" 4%, "None of these" 2%.

FabrizioWard (R)/Impact Research (D) for AARP, Aug. 16-24 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Cortez Masto over Laxalt, 44% - 40%. "None of these" 3%, Barry Rubinson (IAP) 2%, Neil Scott (L) 1%, Barry Lindemann (I) 1%.

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Raphael Warnock

New Hampshire. **Maggie Hassan (D) elected 2016 (48%).**
Retired Army Brigadier General Don Bolduc won a heated GOP primary, defeating establishment pick Chuck Morse, 37-36 percent. Immediately after Bolduc won the nomination, he reversed his position on whether the 2020 election was stolen from former President Donald Trump, telling Fox News that "people live and learn." But just last month Bolduc was still falsely proclaiming that Trump won the election and agreeing with Trump on the race being stolen.

Bolduc's win knocks this race down a peg in the estimation of some GOP strategists, who still see Hassan's support as soft. The biggest question now is whether the McConnell-aligned Senate Leadership Fund pulls the $20 million in ad reservations it has planned for the final six weeks of the race and redirects that money to better opportunities in Georgia and Nevada. If it does, Bolduc will be left out in the cold; he reported just $92,000 in the bank on August 24, compared to Hassan's $7.3 million. Tilt Democratic.

Univ. of New Hampshire, Sept. 15-19 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 49% - 41%, Jeremy Kauffman (L) 5%.

American Research Group, Sept. 15-19 (RVs)— General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 53% - 40%.

Emerson College, Sept. 14-15 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Hassan over Bolduc, 51% - 40%.

North Carolina. **Open; Richard Burr (R) not seeking re-election.** This is still a very close race, and there are grumbles among GOP strategists that Rep. Ted Budd isn't doing as much as he could on the air or the campaign trail. But nobody is hitting the panic button quite yet, because the Senate Leadership Fund is on the airwaves filling the gap. Republicans are significantly outspending Democrat Cheri Beasley on TV. But the former justice's access to the lower candidate rate, plus a low seven-figure independent expenditure from EMILY's List affiliate Women Vote! has allowed Democrats to run more gross ratings points than Budd and his allies. Unlike some of the other GOP Senate nominees, Budd hasn't shied away from abortion, and is a House cosponsor of South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham's 15-week abortion ban.

Ted Budd

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Republicans were hoping to put this race away over the summer, but they haven't. National Democrats still haven't bought into Beasley completely. While the Schumer-affiliated Senate Majority PAC spent some money over the summer to defend her from attacks on her judicial record, the group has no reservations for the fall. Lean Republican.

Civiqs (D), Sept. 17-20 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Beasley over Budd, 49% - 48%.

Emerson College for The Hill, Sept. 15-16 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 46% - 43%, Shannon Bray (L) 2%.

East Carolina Univ., Sept. 7-10 (LVs)— General election ballot: Budd over Beasley, 49% - 46%.

Ohio. **Open; Rob Portman (R) not seeking re-election.** Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan continues to poll neck-and-neck with author J.D. Vance in this GOP-leaning state. Vance is running a decidedly underwhelming campaign that's failed to impress GOP stakeholders in Ohio or in DC, and is raising a fraction of Ryan's haul, but now Vance is benefitting from nearly $30 million in ads from the Senate Leadership Fund. That's money Republicans would rather be spending on offense in Arizona, Colorado, or Washington. Ohio is still a lower priority for Democrats than Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. Likely Republican.

Marist College, Sept. 12-15 (RVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 46% - 45%.

Emerson College for The Hill, Sept. 10-13 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 44% - 40%.

Civiqs (D), Sept. 10-13 (LVs)(online)— General election ballot: Vance over Ryan, 48% - 45%.

Pennsylvania. **Open; Pat Toomey (R) not seeking re-election.** Lt. Gov. John Fetterman's polling lead has gotten smaller, but that's mostly because surgeon Mehmet Oz is finally consolidating GOP voters after a brutal May primary. Fetterman's support has hovered at just about 50 percent, while Oz has crept up from the mid 30s to the low-to-mid 40s. Republicans believe that Oz's spending advantage in September, plus Fetterman's still-limited in-person campaigning following a May stroke, will keep this race highly competitive. Toss-up.

Trafalgar Group (R), Sept. 13-15 (LVs)— General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 48% - 46%, Erik Gerhardt (L) 4%.

YouGov for CBS, Sept. 6-12 (LVs)(online)General election ballot: Fetterman over Oz, 52% - 47%.

Utah. **Mike Lee (R) elected 2010 (62%), 2016 (68%).** Lee's allies at the Club for Growth continue to hammer independent candidate Evan McMullin as a self-interested flip-flopper. The anti-tax group is the biggest spender in the race. Neither McMullin nor his super PAC have substantial buys placed yet, while Lee has a six-figure buy running through September. McMullin released a poll from Democratic pollster Impact Research showing him with a 1-point advantage, while Lee and his allies at the NRSC have each released polls showing the incumbent with a substantial lead. Likely Republican.

Dan Jones & Associates for Deseret News, Sept. 3-21 (LVs)— General election ballot: Lee over McMullin, 37% - 34%.

OnMessage Inc. (R) for NRSC, Sept. 13-15 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Lee over McMullin, 51% - 34%.

Lighthouse Research for Utah Debate Commission, Aug. 30-Sept. 13 (LVs)— General election ballot: Lee over McMullin, 48% - 37%.

Washington. **Patty Murray (D) elected 1992 (54%), 1998 (58%), 2004 (55%), 2010 (52%), 2016 (59%).** The buzz around Republican nominee Tiffany Smiley seems to have subsided somewhat from the summer, when Democratic doldrums had the GOP optimistic on pulling out an upset. Murray's strong performance in the all-party primary, and pressing Republican needs in more competitive states, mean this one could get left behind. Some GOP strategists wish they could have a candidate as strong as Smiley in some of their more competitive races. Likely Democratic.

Elway Research for Crosscut, Sept. 12-15 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Murray over Smiley, 50% - 38%.

Continued from page 4

Public Policy Polling (D), Sept. 6-7 (RVs)— General election ballot: Murray over Smiley, 48% - 39%.

Wisconsin. **Ron Johnson (R) elected 2010 (52%), 2016 (50%).** This is still a very close race, but some Democrats are concerned that Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes hasn't adequately responded to the barrage of attacks he's faced on crime issues over the last few weeks. Barnes has been at a spending disadvantage versus Johnson, and polling shows that his unfavorability rating has ticked up since Republicans began airing negative ads (he's still more popular overall than Johnson). What once was a slight but real Barnes lead is now at best a tied race for him. Barnes is responding to crime attacks with a spot featuring an endorsement from a retired Racine police sergeant. Senate Majority PAC is now on air with ads painting Johnson as a self-interested millionaire and attacking him on abortion policy. Tilt Republican.

Emerson College, Sept. 16-18 (LVs)(mixed mode)— General election ballot: Johnson over Barnes, 48% - 44%.

Siena College for Spectrum News, Sept. 14-15 (LVs)(live caller)— General election ballot: Barnes over Johnson, 48% - 47%.

OnMessage Inc. (R) for NRSC, Sept. 11-13 (LVs)— General election ballot: Johnson over Barnes, 49% - 45%. **IE**

House Updates

Alaska.

At-Large (Mary Peltola, D). Trump 53%. New data from the Alaska Division of Elections confirms what polling suggested: if Sarah Palin, and not Nick Begich, had been eliminated in last month's ranked choice special election, then Begich would have handily defeated Peltola in the instant runoff. But Begich might never get his shot, since Palin is still running hard against him.

A recent poll conducted by Fabrizio Ward (R) and Impact Research (D) found Palin outpacing Begich, 30-20 percent, with Peltola at 45 percent in the first round. In the ranked choice simulation, with Begich eliminated, Peltola edges out Palin, 53-47 percent, a slightly larger margin than her special election win. The Democratic congresswoman also showed some early savvy by hiring the late-GOP Rep. Don Young's longtime aide as her chief of staff. Tilt Republican.

Arizona.

1st District (David Schweikert, R). Biden 50.1%. Schweikert survived a serious primary challenge with 44 percent of the GOP vote. Now he faces Democratic business consultant Jevin Hodge. So far, Republican outside groups haven't gotten involved in this race, while the Pelosi-aligned House Majority PAC has reserved more than $2 million supporting Hodge. An internal poll released by Hodge showed him tied with Schweikert a month ago. Lean Republican.

2nd District (Tom O'Halleran, D). Trump 53%. Thanks to Trump winning the district by 8 points, Republicans see this as one of their top pick-up opportunities this cycle. O'Halleran has also been noticeably absent from the airwaves. His Republican opponent, retired Navy SEAL Eli Crane, released a poll from mid-August showing him leading O'Halleran by only 1 point — a tighter race than expected. But the NRCC has since gone on the air with ads tying the moderate congressman to Biden and Pelosi. Lean Republican.

4th District (Greg Stanton, D). Biden 54%. Since the national environment has improved for Democrats, districts like Stanton's look further out of reach for Republicans. After winning a crowded Republican primary with 28 percent, restaurant owner Kelly Cooper has an uphill battle. House Majority PAC is making sure Stanton has cover, airing TV ads criticizing Cooper for comparing FBI agents to the Gestapo. Likely Democratic.

6th District (Open; Ann Kirkpatrick, D). Biden 49.3%. Biden would have carried this district by only a tenth of a point, and Republicans consider their nominee Juan Ciscomani a top recruit. So a rosy midterm environment for Republicans was supposed to make this an easy pickup. But polls from both parties show a close race. As of July 13, Democratic state Sen. Kirsten Engel had raised $1.3 million compared to Ciscomani's $1.7 million. Cisomani's also getting a serious boost from the NRCC, which has reserved $2 million ahead of November. The House Majority PAC, meanwhile, has nearly $900,000 reserved here. Tilt Republican.

California.

3rd District (Open; Tom McClintock, R, running in 5th District). Trump 49.7%. Republican state Assemblyman Kevin Kiley has the clear edge in this expansive district, which stretches along the eastern side of the state. His Democratic opponent, Navy veteran and physician Kermit Jones, had matched Kiley in fundraising as of June 30, but Trump won this district in 2020, making it a reach for Democrats this cycle. Likely Republican.

Courtesy Kiley Campaign
Kevin Kiley

9th District (Josh Harder, D). Biden 55%. Harder is the favorite, but he's not taking any chances. The congressman has spent $4.4 million on TV and radio ads ahead of November, with a message focused on water access in the Central Valley. He'll face Republican San Joaquin County Supervisor Tom Patti, who came in second place in the all-party primary with 29 percent. Patti owns a crane company and was boxer Mike Tyson's training partner. Likely Democratic.

13th District (Open; Josh Harder, D, running in 9th District). Biden 54%. Outside groups have poured millions into this district, which is the most competitive open seat in the Golden State. The McCarthy-aligned Congressional Leadership Fund has reserved $4.1 million on ads painting Democratic state Assemblyman Adam Gray as a career

politician. Meanwhile, its Democratic counterpart, House Majority PAC, has reserved $1.8 million. Republican John Duarte, a farmer and nursery owner, came in first place in the all-party primary with 34 percent, while Gray received 31 percent. Lean Democratic.

22nd District (David Valadao, R). Biden 55%. So far, more money has been reserved on TV and radio ads here than any other California district. Biden would have won this newly-drawn district by 13 points, and the Republican congressman barely survived a primary on his right after he voted to impeach Trump. Since the reversal of *Roe*, Valadao's support for a bill that would effectively enact a nationwide abortion ban has come under more scrunity. Meanwhile, Republicans are trying to keep the focus on economic issues. A new Congressional Leadership Fund ad criticizes Valadao's opponent, Democratic state Assemblyman Rudy Salas, for not voting to lower the state's gas tax. Toss-up.

27th District (Mike Garcia, R). Biden 55%. Former state Assemblywoman Christy Smith is making her third attempt at toppling Garcia, who was the first Republican to flip a California seat since 1998 when he won a 2020 special election. The Democrat's first general election ad hits Garcia for signing an amicus brief last year supporting the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Toss-up.

45th District (Michelle Steel, R). Biden 52%. Steel is still the favorite in this Orange County-based district. She'll get air cover from the NRCC and the Congressional Leadership Fund in October, which are collectively outspending House Majority PAC. Lean Republican.

47th District (Katie Porter, D). Biden 55%. Porter is among one of the more vulnerable Democrats in California's delegation. One of her party's top fundraisers, she won 52 percent of the primary vote as the only Democrat on the ballot, and she had nearly $20 million in her war chest at the end of June. Her Republican opponent, former California Assemblyman Scott Baugh, came in second-place with 31 percent. Two weeks ago, the AP reported that she was still benefiting from a housing deal with UC-Irvine, where she worked before she was elected to Congress in 2018 — a situation at odds with her progressive reputation. Lean Democratic.

49th District (Mike Levin, D). Biden 55%. Levin is in a similar position to Porter, just with a lot less campaign cash. The congressman won the all-party primary with 49 percent, while another Democrat won 2.5 percent of the vote. Coming out of a contentious Republican field, businessman Brian Maryott received 19 percent of the vote. Maryott has the ability to self-fund, but Democratic outside groups have reserved $2.6 million more than Republican groups from now until the election. Likely Democratic.

Colorado.

7th District (Open; Ed Perlmutter, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 56%. This district is further out of reach for Republicans, thanks to a more favorable national environment. News that Republican nominee Erik Aadland said the U.S. had "an illegitimate government" doesn't help him in this largely suburban district. Democratic state Sen. Brittany Pettersen is favored to win. Likely Democratic.

8th District (Open; new). Biden 51%. Drawing on her background as a pediatrician, Democratic state Rep. Yadira Caraveo accused Republican state Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer of supporting a national abortion ban in her latest TV ad. Kirkmeyer, meanwhile, is accusing Caraveo of supporting policies that hurt the oil-and-gas industry, which is a major employer in this district. Toss-up.

Connecticut.

5th District (Jahana Hayes, D). Biden 55%. Former state Sen. George Logan is attempting to distance himself from the national GOP in his challenge to Hayes. In his first general election ad, he says that he doesn't fit inside the "typical Republican" box. But Hayes still has the edge in this district Biden won by double-digits. House Majority PAC is on TV with an ad attacking Logan for not supporting more stringent gun control in Connecticut, while the DCCC's TV ad calls Logan "too extreme" on the issue of abortion. Logan has said he supports "a woman's right to choose" while also opposing late-term abortions. Likely Democratic.

Georgia

2nd District (Sanford Bishop, D). Biden 55%. Since national Republicans' preferred candidate, Jeremy Hunt, lost the GOP primary runoff to Chris West, the party has become less optimistic about their chances in this largely rural district. Bishop has represented the 2nd District for nearly 30 years and has survived competitive battles in the past. He's now running on his long record of bringing federal dollars back to the district. House Majority PAC and the DCCC have reserved more than $4.7 million on ads supporting Bishop. Meanwhile, West, an attorney, isn't getting any back-up from GOP outside groups. Likely Democratic.

Illinois.

13th District (Open; Rodney Davis, R, lost 15th District primary). Biden 54%. The new version of Davis' district is much more Democratic, making it one of the party's best pick-up opportunities in the country. The Democratic nominee, former Biden administration official Nikki Budzinski, consolidated the party's support early on and had $1 million on hand at the end of June. The DCCC and House Majority PAC have reserved $2.5 million in this district, and she also has back-up from Women Vote!, the super PAC affiliated with EMILY's List, which has reserved nearly $800,000. Republicans' nominee, philanthropist Regan Deering, doesn't have any cover from the GOP outside groups yet. Lean Democratic.

17th District (Open; Cheri Bustos, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. The most competitive district in Illinois, this race has drawn millions in outside spending. Esther Joy King, an Army veteran who was Republicans' nominee in 2020, is in a tight race with Eric Sorensen, a former local meteorologist. The Congressional Leadership Fund has reserved $2.7 million in this race, airing ads that tie Sorensen to Biden and Pelosi. 314 Action Fund, a liberal outside group that backs candidates with STEM backgrounds, has a TV ad painting King as an "extremist" on the issue of abortion. The group also released a poll showing Sorensen with a lead; that would be a change from earlier in the summer, when the race was tied. Toss-up.

Indiana.

1st District (Frank Mrvan, D). Biden 53%. Mrvan has a difficult race ahead of him in a district that has been trending more Republican. But the freshman congressman is still favored to win. His opponent, Jennifer-Ruth Green, is running ads focused on her service in the Air Force, as the Congressional Leadership Fund and American Action Network air ads blaming Mrvan for inflation and high gas prices. The DCCC and House Majority PAC have aired TV spots entirely focused on the issue of abortion — Green calls herself "unashamedly and unapologetically pro-life" on her website. Lean Democratic.

Iowa.

1st District (Marianette Miller-Meeks, R). Trump 50.4%. Miller-Meeks won the closest House race in the nation last cycle by a margin of just 6 votes. She's in a better position this cycle as the Hawkeye State still looks out of Democrats' reach. Democratic state Rep. Christina Bohannan's TV ads accuse the congresswoman of being beholden to corporate interests, and Bohannan promises to freeze the gas tax in her appeal to voters. Lean Republican.

2nd District (Ashley Hinson, R). Trump 51%. Hinson's district became slightly safer for her after redistricting, though she still faces a competitive race against Democratic state Sen. Liz Mathis. The Congressional Leadership Fund is airing TV ads tying Mathis to the "Defund the Police" movement, though she responded with her own ad touting her support from local law enforcement. Lean Republican.

3rd District (Cindy Axne, D). Trump 49%. Even as the national environment has improved for Democrats, Axne is still in a precarious position. Her campaign released a poll from early September that showed her tied with her Republican state Sen. Zach Nunn at 47 percent. The congresswoman's latest ad targets Nunn for accepting a campaign donation

Ashley Hinson

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

from a Chinese-owned company. But Axne's had her own spate of bad headlines over the past week — a *New York Times* story showed she traded Wells Fargo stocks while she was investigating the bank as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, and a Fox News report revealed that Axne was on vacation in France as she voted by proxy for the Inflation Reduction Act. Toss-up.

Kansas.

3rd District (Sharice Davids, D). Biden 51%. It's been more than four years since Republican Sam Brownback was governor, but Democrats are reminding Kansas voters about his unpopular reign in a new ad that ties him to GOP nominee Amanda Adkins. Davids' race was closer than expected last cycle, but it looks like she has the advantage this time with six weeks to go. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

Maine.

2nd District (Jared Golden, D). Trump 52%. Golden remains difficult for Republicans to topple. But after the congressman voted with his party for the Inflation Reduction Act, Republicans believe he's more vulnerable (Golden was the lone Democrat to vote against the Build Back Better Act, a larger social spending bill, last summer). While both parties have invested millions in this race, former Rep. Bruce Poliquin currently has more air cover. The NRCC has reserved more than $5 million in ads here for the month leading up to the election. If Poliquin can't drive his own favorability rating up, he'll have to drive Golden's down. Toss-up.

Maryland.

6th District (David Trone, D). Biden 54%. Trone, a wealthy wine distributor, is leaving little to chance in a district that sits at the edge of the battlefield. He's been on TV since the beginning of September with five different advertisements, focusing on his work with substance abuse prevention and mental health organizations, as well as an attack ad on opponent Neil Parrott's 2005 proposal to require all HIV-positive individuals to have an identifying tattoo. Parrott, a state legislator, has little resources and can't count on outside help in the pricey DC media market. Likely Democratic.

Michigan.

3rd District (Open; Peter Meijer, R, lost in primary). Biden 53%. After unseating Meijer in the GOP primary, former Trump administration official John Gibbs will have to pivot to the center to win this district, which Biden won by 8 points. Complicating that is a new CNN story reporting that Gibbs argued against women's suffrage in college. Meanwhile, Hillary Scholten, an attorney who ran against Meijer in 2020, gets to run in a more favorable district this time. Tilt Democratic.

7th District (Elissa Slotkin, D). Biden 50%. Slotkin's massive fundraising advantage over her opponent, Republican state Sen. Tom Barrett, gives her an edge in this competitive district. So far, she's spent over $3.3 million in TV and radio ads, compared to Barrett's $450,000. The congresswoman's main line of attack against Barrett has been his opposition to state incentives for a new GM plant. But he's getting air cover from the NRCC and the Congressional Leadership Fund, which have reserved more than $10 million to unseat Slotkin. GOP struggles in the state's gubernatorial contest, plus the presence of an abortion question on the ballot, could accrue to Slotkin's favor. Tilt Democratic.

8th District (Dan Kildee, D). Biden 50%. Kildee isn't taking any chances in his now-competitive district, going up early with TV ads accusing his GOP opponent of carpetbagging. The congressman's latest spot is focused on Paul Junge's stance on abortion. Junge's latest ad ties Kildee to Pelosi, a favorite Republican attack line. Tilt Democratic.

10th District (Open; Andy Levin, D, lost 11th District primary). Trump 50%. Republicans should win this seat but aren't taking anything for granted. The Congressional Leadership Fund has spent nearly half a million dollars on TV ads against Democrat Carl Marlinga, focusing on his work as a criminal defense attorney for clients accused of sex crimes. Democrats triaged this seat long ago. Former GOP Senate nominee John James has the advantage. Lean Republican.

Minnesota.

2nd District (Angie Craig, DFL). Biden 52%. The rematch between Craig and Marine veteran Tyler Kistner remains close. In her latest spot, the congresswoman says she'll "get tough on China" and will work to bring more manufacturing jobs to her district. Along with Axne, Craig was mentioned in a *New York Times*' investigation into members involved in stock trading that overlapped with their congressional work. In response, the congresswoman said she was unaware that her college-aged son was day-trading and that she supported banning members of Congress and their families from owning stocks. Toss-up.

Montana.

1st District (Open; new). Trump 52%. Both former Rep. Ryan Zinke and former Olympian Monica Tranel are on TV in Western Montana,

Zinke with a saccharine 60-second biographical spot and a spending hit on Tranel, and Tranel with an ad featuring an endorsement from former state GOP chairwoman Susan Geise. Tranel is also receiving some outside support from a new Super PAC, Big Sky Voters, which is running an anti-Zinke spot focusing on the various investigations into him when he was interior secretary. The group is backed by local Democratic players, according to a Democratic source. Likely Republican.

Nebraska.

2nd District (Don Bacon, R). Biden 52%. Bacon has been a top target for Democrats since he was first elected in 2016, and Democrats may have their best shot at unseating him this November. As Bacon and the Congressional Leadership Fund air TV ads accusing state Sen. Tony Vargas of supporting raising taxes, the Democrat's latest TV ad highlights his votes for property tax cuts in Nebraska. Toss-up.

Nevada.

1st District (Dina Titus, D). Biden 53%. Titus wasn't pleased with the results of Nevada's redistricting process, which made her Las Vegas-based district much more competitive. But she still has the edge against her GOP opponent, Army veteran Mark Robertson. Running in one of the most expensive media markets in the country, Robertson has yet to air any TV ads, though the Congressional Leadership Fund has spent $6.9 million on ads here. Titus, meanwhile, has spent $1.8 million on ads. Her latest TV spot criticizes Robertson for working for a financial services firm that allegedly took advantage of seniors' retirement savings. Tilt Democratic.

3rd District (Susie Lee, D). Biden 52%. Lee continues to place the issue of abortion front and center as her Republican opponent, April Becker, focuses exclusively on economic issues. At the same time, the Congressional Leadership Fund is hammering the congresswoman for trading stocks during the pandemic. The super PAC has spent over $9 million on ads in this district. Tilt Democratic.

4th District (Steven Horsford, D). Biden 53%. Horsford is less vulnerable than his Democratic colleagues in Nevada. But he still faces a serious challenge from Sam Peters, an Army veteran. House Majority PAC and DCCC have spent nearly $5.5 million on ads, while their Republican counterparts haven't gotten involved yet. Lean Democratic.

New Hampshire.

1st District (Chris Pappas, D). Biden 52%. After a long, brutal primary battle, former White House aide Karoline Leavitt won the GOP nomination with 35 percent. Despite backing her opponent, Matt Mowers, in the primary, the Congressional Leadership Fund has reserved $3.8 million on TV ads. While polling since the Sept. 13 primary has been minimal, an Emerson College poll showed Pappas leading Leavitt, 47-42 percent, and a University of New Hampshire survey found Pappas ahead, 50-43 percent. The congressman's first post-primary TV ad criticizes Leavitt for her position on abortion — in contrast with some other New England Republicans, Leavitt is firmly pro-life and supported the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Tilt Democratic.

2nd District (Ann McLane Kuster, D). Biden 54%. Former Hillsborough County Treasurer Bob Burns narrowly won the GOP primary with 33 percent, defeating a more moderate Republican who would likely have had a better shot at defeating Kuster. The congresswoman's latest TV ad attacks Burns for supporting a national ban on abortion. Likely Democratic.

New Jersey.

7th District (Tom Malinowski, D). Biden 51%. This is still a tied race, but Malinowski is about to face an onslaught of GOP spending from the Congressional Leadership Fund. House Majority PAC, the main Democratic group, hasn't reserved any money in this district yet. But Malinowski should be able to make up much of the difference out of his own campaign funds; he reported $4.3 million in the bank on June 30, compared to $1.3 million for Republican Tom Kean, Jr. In the uber-pricy New York media market, Malinowski's access to the lower candidate ad rate could go a long way. Toss-up.

New Mexico.

2nd District (Yvette Herrell, R). Biden 52%. Herrell had a fundraising advantage over her Democratic opponent, former Las Cruces Councilmember Gabe Vasquez at the end of June, enabling her to spend $1.7 million on TV ads. Meanwhile, Congressional Leadership Fund is airing ads accusing Vasquez of wanting to defund law enforcement. On the Democratic side, the House Majority PAC released a new TV ad that ties Herrell to Republicans such as Rep. Marjorie Taylor-Greene. And the Congressional Hispanic Caucus PAC just put $274,000 into the district to support Vasquez. Toss-up.

New York.

1st District (Open; Lee Zeldin, R, running for governor). Biden 49.4%. Republicans feel confident in their starting position. Democratic strategists acknowledge Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming will

Courtesy Fleming Campaign

Bridget Fleming

have to outrun the top of the ticket, as Zeldin is poised to do well here even if he's losing statewide. Fleming, a former Manhattan prosecutor, hopes to turn the tables on Navy veteran Nick LaLota by drawing on his tenure as an Amityville trustee to paint him as a tax-raising, "defund the police" type. Fleming recently received an endorsement from the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association. Tilt Republican.

2nd District (Andrew Garbarino, R). Trump 50.1%. Democrat Jackie Gordon still has a lot of fans in DC following her first run for office in 2020. And while her campaign released a late July poll showing her tied with Garbarino, private data since then indicates a more substantial lead for the incumbent. Lingering crime issues in New York City have made Long Island more difficult for Democrats. Lean Republican.

3rd District (Open; Tom Suozzi, D, lost Democratic gubernatorial primary). Biden 53.4%. This is the first congressional race in American history to feature two openly gay major party nominees: Democrat Robert Zimmerman and Republican George Santos. Zimmerman is making abortion a top message in the race, after Santos compared abortion to slavery and also reversed his position on a national abortion ban — in 2020 he was for it, but now he says he's against it. Republican successes in Nassau County during last year's local elections made the GOP hopeful about flipping the 3rd this year, but it's not a top GOP

priority. Lean Democratic.

17th District (Sean Patrick Maloney, D). Biden 54%. Despite running in a slightly safer district than his current one, Maloney could still have a tough race ahead of him. The NRCC released a poll that showed Republican state Assemblyman Mike Lawler leading Maloney, 49-45 percent (albeit within the poll's 4.5 percent margin of error). The Congressional Leadership Fund is also spending over $1.7 million here, boosting Lawler's chances against the DCCC chairman. Likely Democratic.

18th District (Pat Ryan, D). Biden 53%. With broadcast TV in the New York media market so expensive, this race is largely playing out on cable. Ryan is airing a lighthearted spot in which he totes his baby around a day on the job, while the DCCC is airing negative spots hitting state Assemblyman Colin Schmitt on abortion rights. Schmitt has a biographical spot introducing himself to voters. Ryan has a bit of a national platform after winning a high-profile special election, and the partisan lean of the district is in his favor. Lean Democratic.

19th District (Open; Pat Ryan, D, running in the 18th District). Biden 51%. Attorney Josh Riley is airing an ad touting his working class roots. The Democrat is trying to push back on a perception that he's a bigshot lawyer — his financial disclosures indicate he earned $1.3 million in the past two years working for major DC law firms. Congressional Leadership Fund is airing an ad pinning New York's controversial cashless bail reform on Riley, citing his Working Families Party endorsement. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro is looking to bounce back from his August special election defeat. The DCCC is airing an ad attacking Molinaro on abortion, an issue Ryan used against him to great effect. Tilt Democratic.

22nd District (Open; John Katko, R, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. This race is closer than it should be for Democrats, who had hoped for an easy pickup after Katko announced his retirement. Despite Republicans nominating Brandon Williams, the more conservative of two candidates, Democrat Francis Conole hasn't been able to put this contest away. Tilt Democratic.

North Carolina.

1st District (Open; G.K. Butterfield, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 53%. Democrats aren't taking any chances in this open seat. The DCCC is airing a TV ad spotlighting domestic violence allegations against Sandy Smith, the Republican nominee. Democratic state Sen. Don Davis is favored to win this seat. Lean Democratic.

13th District (New, R). Biden 50%. Republican Bo Hines is pushing back on attacks that he's too inexperienced or coddled for Congress with an ad featuring his grandfather talking about Hines' farm work. The NRCC is also airing ads attacking state Sen. Wiley Nickel for his work as a criminal defense attorney. Nickel has aired two spots casting himself as a down-the-middle candidate, distancing himself not just from "too far on the right" Republicans, according to the ad, but also "too far on the left" Democrats such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders. The Nickel campaign released a poll from the end of August showing the Democrat up by a few points. Toss-up.

Ohio.

1st District (Steve Chabot, R). Biden 54%. Cincinnati Councilman Greg Landsman's record is coming under more scrutiny from Republicans. A new TV ad from Chabot highlights his votes to raise taxes on the city council, and a spot from the Congressional Leadership Fund accuses him of trying to pull funding from local law-enforcement. Meanwhile, Landsman has gone after Chabot for his long tenure in Congress. Toss-up.

9th District (Marcy Kaptur, D). Trump 51%. In a district that Trump won by 3 points, Republicans should have the edge against the longtime congresswoman. But GOP voters' nomination of J.R. Majewski continues to be a liability. According to AP reporting, Majewski has misrepresented his Air Force career — while he claimed he served in combat in Afghanistan, military records show that actually deployed to Qatar. Meanwhile, Kaptur and House Majority PAC are airing ads that call attention to his support of QAnon conspiracy theories and his presence at the Capitol on Jan. 6. The NRCC recently cut its ad reservations here to zero, indicating a lack of confidence in Majewski's chances. Private data shows Kaptur with a lead ranging from a few points to much more. The district is not easy for Democrats, and the environment and fundamentals still favor Republicans. But after 40 years in Congress, Kaptur may still have some tricks up her sleeve. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

13th District (Open; Tim Ryan, D, running for U.S. Senate). Biden 51%. Former state House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes shows off her bipartisan bona fides — and gymnastics skills — in a new spot that ends with her performing a front flip landing off a balance beam. Republicans took issue with the DCCC releasing an ad attacking GOP nominee Madison Gesiotto Gilbert on abortion as she was giving birth to her son last week. The Congressional Leadership Fund is spending $2 million on the air against Sykes in November. Toss-up.

Oregon.

4th District (Open; Peter DeFazio, not seeking re-election). Biden 55%. Val Hoyle, Oregon's Labor Commissioner, is the favorite in this district. Her opponent, former national guardsman Alek Skarlatos is facing scrutiny for comments he made on a podcast four years ago about strangling women, and a new spot from the DCCC accuses Skarlatos of having an extreme position on abortion. Skarlatos responded with an ad accusing Hoyle of being funded by "big pharma." Likely Democratic.

5th District (Open; Kurt Schrader, D, lost in primary). Biden 53%. Polls show that there are still quite a few undecided voters in this competitive district. Attorney Jamie McLeod-Skinner and former Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer are both on the air now, and outside groups from both parties have reserved millions ahead of November. Chavez-DeRemer has attempted to carve out a more moderate position on abortion, though McLeod-Skinner has aired a TV saying that the Republican wants to "criminalize abortion." Tilt Democratic.

6th District (Open; New). Biden 55%. Democrats are finally up on TV with an ad recounting GOP businessman Mike Erickson's role in a then-girlfriend's abortion years ago. It will be a few weeks before we know whether that will finally give Democrats some breathing room in a district Biden would have won fairly handily. Democratic state Rep. Andrea Salinas is regarded as a good candidate but hasn't been able to gain enough traction. Republicans remain competitive at the top of the ticket in the race for governor, which could be helping Erickson as well. Erickson is on TV attacking Salinas for votes to defund the police. Move from Lean Democratic to Tilt Democratic.

Pennsylvania.

7th District (Susan Wild, D). Biden 49.7%. Wild may have had a lead earlier in the summer but this race seems to have tightened a bit. Both parties are engaged with TV ads, and Republican Lisa Scheller has the personal resources to swamp the airwaves if she so chooses. Toss-up.

8th District (Matt Cartwright, D). Trump 51%. Both Cartwright and his opponent, Republican Jim Bognet, have released favorable internal polling. Cartwright's survey from GQR says he has an 8-point lead. Bognet's poll, from Cygnal, says the race is tied. This might be Cartwright's toughest race yet, but he could get a boost from Republican woes at the top of the ticket in the commonwealth's Senate and gubernatorial contests. Toss-up.

17th District (Open; Conor Lamb, D, lost U.S. Senate primary). Biden 52%. Former Ross Township Commissioner Jeremy Shaffer and attorney Chris DeLuzio are locked in a tight race, and the attack ads are flying. The latest TV ad from the Congressional Leadership Fund accuses DeLuzio of calling the U.S. health care system racist, and a new spot from the House Majority PAC accuses Shaffer of creating jobs in China instead of Pennsylvania. Toss-up.

Rhode Island.

2nd District (Open; Jim Langevin, D, not seeking re-election). Biden 56%. Democrats nominated state General Treasurer Seth Magaziner to face off against former Cranston Mayor Allan Fung. Republicans see Fung as one of their top candidates in the country, and it's because of him this race is competitive at all in a seat Biden carried by 14 points. Democrats are doing everything they can to tie Fung to Trump and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy. Fung began this race with a lead, but that was partially a function of his name ID as a two-time gubernatorial nominee and popular mayor. The general election is just beginning: Fung has a TV ad up about creating jobs while mayor, and Magaziner has two ads, one about January 6, and one about banning members of Congress from stock trading. Lean Democratic.

Texas.

15th District (Open; Vicente Gonzalez, D, running in the 34th District). Trump 51%. This is Republicans' best pick-up opportunity in the Lone Star State. Michelle Vallejo has struggled to pivot to the center after running as a progressive during the primary. Meanwhile, the Congressional Leadership Fund has pulled money reserved for TV ads in this district, a sign of the group's confidence in Monica De La Cruz. Lean Republican.

28th District (Henry Cuellar, D). Biden 53%. Among South Texas' three competitive congressional races, Democrats are best-positioned to hold the 28th. Cuellar's GOP opponent, Cassy Garcia, has struggled with fundraising. And after surviving multiple primary challenges on this left from Jessica Cisneros, Cuellar's moderate profile remains strong. There haven't been any public developments in the FBI investigation surrounding the congressman, either. Likely Democratic.

34th District (Mayra Flores, R/Vicente Gonzalez, D). Biden 57%. Flores' special election victory put her in a decent position against Gonzalez, who currently represents the neighboring district. But the new version of this district is significantly more Democratic, and even as Republicans are making gains with Hispanics in South Texas, Gonzalez should still have a slight edge. Lean Democratic.

Virginia.

2nd District (Elaine Luria, D). Biden 50%. Luria has been on TV since early July. Republicans only began spending here in earnest in September, with a seven-figure buy from Congressional Leadership Fund. Despite Luria's massive spending advantage over the summer, the race is still effectively tied, giving Republicans hope that things will shift toward state Sen. Jen Kiggans now that the cavalry is arriving. Toss-up.

7th District (Abigail Spanberger, D). Biden 52%. Republican Yesli Vega has struggled to fundraise, so the NRCC stepped in with a hefty coordinated ad buy in mid-September. Spanberger is one of her party's best fundraisers and has been on air in the pricy DC media market since late August hammering Vega on abortion and rape. Tilt Democratic.

Washington.

3rd District (Open; Jaime Herrera Beutler, R, lost in primary). Trump 51%. Republican Joe Kent is still the favorite to win this southwestern Washington district after edging out Herrera Beutler for the second spot in the general election. But his ties to far-right groups such as the Proud Boys and figures such as white nationalist Nick Fuentes have created an opening for Democrat Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, an auto shop owner. With GOP Senate nominee Tiffany Smiley poised to do well here, the fundamentals favor Kent, a retired Green Beret and gold star husband. But two recent Democratic polls show Gluesenkamp Perez just a few points back. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

8th District (Kim Schrier, D). Biden 52%. The outcome in this battleground district will be a good test of whether abortion or economic issues defined this midterm cycle. On the fundraising front, Schrier has the advantage — she had $5.6 million on hand as of July 13, while Matt Larkin, an attorney and the GOP's 2020 nominee for state Attorney General, had only $480,000. The Congressional Leadership Fund is spending $4 million here, and the group's latest ad accuses Schrier of increasing inflation by voting for spending bills. Meanwhile, Schrier has aired an ad that uses a clip of Larkin saying he doesn't support abortion ban exceptions for rape and incest. Toss-up.

Wisconsin.

3rd District (Open; Ron Kind, D, not seeking re-election). Trump 51%. Republicans should win here but it probably won't be a blowout in a district Democrats have held for 25 years. Republican Derrick Van Orden has been on TV since August, with a mix of macho spots recounting his time as a Navy SEAL, and a more lighthearted ad featuring his grandchildren to soften his image. State Sen. Brad Pfaff, who has struggled with fundraising, only just went on air with a spot about his wife's complicated pregnancy. House Majority PAC still has $1.7 million parked in the district for the end of October, but those reservations might be shifted elsewhere if this race doesn't look winnable. Lean Republican.

CALENDAR

Oct. 15	Third quarter FEC deadline
Oct. 21	Taylor Swift *Midnights* release
Oct. 28	World Series begins
Nov. 8	Election Day
Dec. 6	Georgia Senate Runoff (if neccessary)
Jan. 6	Kentucky Governor filing deadline