

The NBC News Midterm Election Briefing Book



Midterm Elections

2018

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2018: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL

THE HOUSE

What's the big picture?

Democrats need to pick up a net of 23 U.S. House seats to take control of the chamber – which they haven't had since the 110th Congress of 2009-2010. Currently, Republicans hold a 235-193 advantage with seven vacancies.

Forecasters give Democrats better than a 50-50 chance of winning back the House, due to President Donald Trump's unpopularity, an expanded battleground map and polling showing Democrats with a lead in the generic ballot, including in swing districts.

So Democrats *will* pick up seats. But it's not a certainty they'll hit or surpass 23 net pickups – given that much of the battleground is on Republican turf, that Republicans have been trying to disqualify Democratic challengers race by race, and that a humming economy could provide a boost to the party in power.

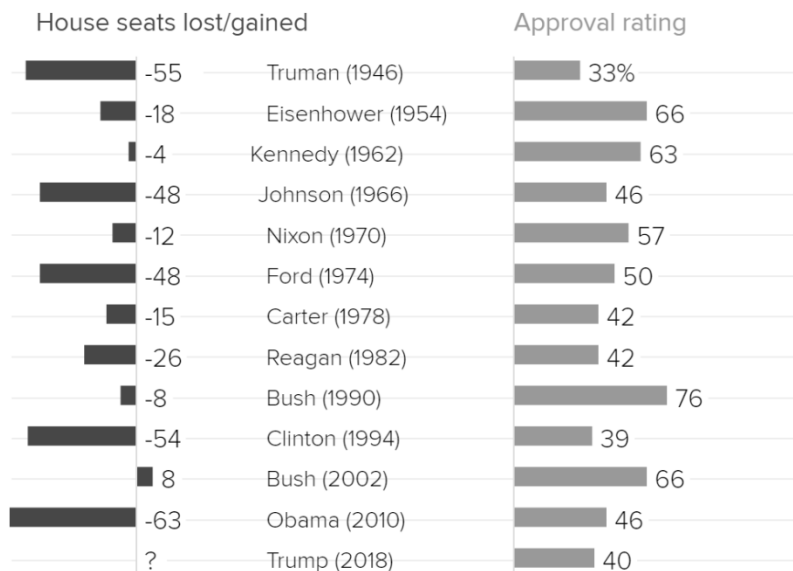
What about overtime?

It's possible that we won't know which party controls the U.S. House until mid- to late-November, since California has a history of taking its time counting votes. And the Golden State is home to at least seven competitive contests.

What's the historical context?

With just two exceptions – 1998 (after the Lewinsky scandal/impeachment) and 2002 (after 9/11) – midterm elections typically are bad news for the party controlling the White House, underscoring how they're usually referendums on the sitting president.

House seats lost/gained by POTUS approval (1st midterm)



On average, since the Truman Era, a president's party loses more than 28 House seats in his **first** midterm election.

But in the six times when that president's job approval rating has been below 50 percent, his party lost an average of 43.5 House seats.



Data: Data: Gallup. Approval ratings are for September before president's 1st midterm.

SOURCES: Vital Statistics on Congress, Gallup.

Notes: Ford's first midterm election came right after he succeeded Richard Nixon in 1974; LBJ's came in 1966 three years after succeeding Kennedy; and Truman's came in 1946 after succeeding Roosevelt. Gallup approval ratings are based on the September before the midterm election.

THE SENATE

What's the big picture?

Republicans currently hold a narrow 51-49 majority in the U.S. Senate, with the two independents (Angus King and Bernie Sanders) caucusing with Democrats. So given that Vice President Mike Pence can break 50-50 ties, Democrats need to pick up a net of two Senate seats to flip control of the chamber.

But Democrats have less of a chance of winning back the Senate (~20 percent) than the House (~70 percent) – due to their difficult map, where 10 Democratic incumbents are running in states that Trump carried in 2016.

After all, it's entirely possible that Democrats could pick up Senate seats in Arizona, Nevada and even Tennessee. But to win back the Senate, they also have to run the table – or come close to it – in West Virginia (which Trump won by 42 points), North Dakota (36 points), Indiana (19 points) and Missouri (18 points). So they have little margin for error in these red states.

And it's also possible that Democrats could win the House, but lose 1-2 Senate seats because of that difficult map.

What about overtime?

If no candidate gets more than 50 percent in the “jungle primary” to succeed Sen. Thad Cochran – which features appointed GOP Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, Democrat Mike Espy and conservative challenger Chris McDaniel – then the Top 2 finishers will compete in a runoff on November 27. That's five days after Thanksgiving.

And so it's possible that Senate control could come down to the runoff, if Democrats find themselves one seat short of a majority even after November 6.

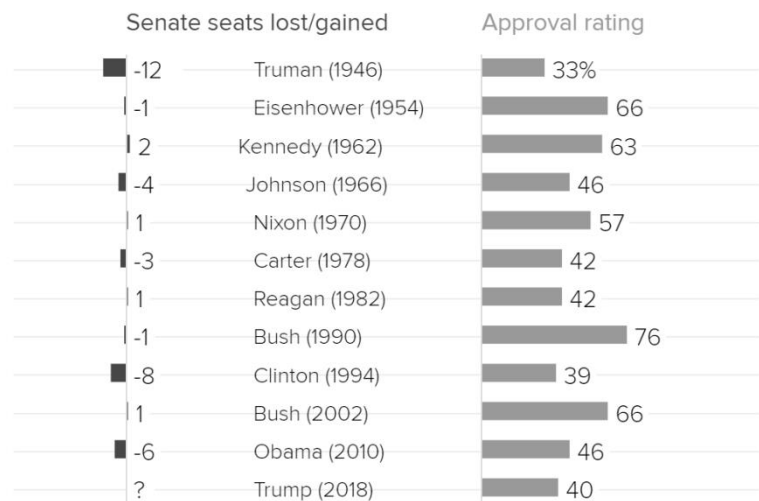
What's the historical context?

While presidential approval ratings are correlated to a party's losses or gains in the House, the correlation is less strong in the Senate, where much depends on the specific seats that are up for grabs.

Both presidents Bill Clinton (1994) and Barack Obama (2010) saw their party suffer significant losses in the Senate in their first midterm cycle — and both men had an approval rating of under 50 percent.

But in 1982, Ronald Reagan escaped a similar fate as Republicans gained a Senate seat despite Reagan's relatively low 42 percent approval rating.

Senate seats lost/gained by POTUS approval (1st midterm)



SOURCES: Vital Statistics on Congress, Gallup. Notes: Ford's first midterm

Data: Data: Gallup. Approval ratings are for September before president's 1st midterm.

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THE GOVERNORS

DEMOCRATS' PATH TO WINNING THE SENATE

To win control of the U.S. Senate, Democrats need to pick up a net of two seats – a doable but difficult path to the majority. Here are their different paths:

1. Democrats win the GOP-held Senate seats of Arizona and Nevada – and also hold on to ALL of their vulnerable seats in North Dakota, Missouri, Florida, Indiana, Montana and West Virginia.

2. Democrats win the GOP-held Senate seats of Arizona, Nevada AND Tennessee, which allows them to lose ONE Dem-held seat (like North Dakota).

3. Democrats win the GOP-held Senate seats of Arizona, Nevada, Tennessee AND Texas, which allows them to lose TWO Dem-held seats.

First Read's Top 10 Senate takeovers (in order of likelihood of seat switching parties)

1. North Dakota (D-Heitkamp)
2. Nevada (R-Heller)
3. Arizona (R-open)
4. Missouri (D-McCaskill)
5. Tennessee (R-open)
6. Indiana (D-Donnelly)
7. Florida (D-Nelson)
8. Montana (D-Tester)
9. Texas (R-Cruz)
10. New Jersey (D-Menendez)

What's the big picture?

Currently, Republicans hold 33 governorships, Democrats hold 16 and there's one independent (Bill Walker in Alaska).

This election cycle features 36 gubernatorial contests, giving Democrats the chance to pull even with Republicans in governorships – particularly in key presidential battleground states like Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio and Wisconsin.

What about overtime?

If no candidate in Georgia's gubernatorial race surpasses 50 percent – there's a Libertarian candidate in the general election – then the top two finishers will participate in a runoff on December 4. And there's a case that Democrat Stacey Abrams *could* be stronger in a low-turnout runoff, given the large percentage of African-American voters in the state.

Where are the races?

While the big Senate contests of the cycle have been talked about exhaustively in the run up to the midterms, individual governors' races have gotten a little bit less attention in the national political conversation. Here's where the major races are taking place, per the Cook Political Report.

DEMOCRATS | 9 HELD SEATS

SOLID D	LIKELY D	LEAN D	TOSS UP	LEAN R	LIKELY R	SOLID R
CA-Open HI-Ige NY-Cuomo	MN-Open PA-Wolf	CO-Open RI-Raimondo	CT-Open OR-Brown	AK-Walker(I)		

REPUBLICANS | 26 HELD SEATS

SOLID D	LIKELY D	LEAN D	TOSS UP	LEAN R	LIKELY R	SOLID R
	IL-Rauner	MI-Open NM-Open	FL-Open GA-Open IA-Reynolds KS-Open ME-Open NV-Open OH-Open OK-Open SD-Open WI-Walker	NH-Sununu	AZ-Ducey MD-Hogan SC-McMaster TN-Open	AL-Ivey AR-Hutchinson ID-Open MA-Baker NE-Ricketts TX-Abbott VT-Scott WY-Open

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Which party controls the all-important investigative and intelligence committees?

In the House of Representatives, will it be a Republican (like Reps. John Duncan, R-Tenn., or Jim Jordan, R-Ohio) as the next chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee? Or will it be Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., holding the gavel? Ditto: Will it be Devin Nunes, R-Calif., staying in charge of the House Intel Committee? Or will it be Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif.?

Will Trump filling court vacancies continue at its rapid pace? Or will it come grinding to a halt?

That's the difference between Republicans retaining control of the Senate and its Judiciary Committee, or Democrats taking control. And that includes any Supreme Court vacancy that might take place after the midterms.

Do Obamacare repeal/replace and immigration reform get easier or harder?

If Republicans hold on to the House and pick up Senate seats, then it's possible that Obamacare repeal and replace – which fell one vote short in 2017 – could clear the Senate next year. On the other hand, immigration reform, which has stalled in the House, could be more likely if Democrats win the House and Senate, and if President Trump is willing to make a deal.

Does the possibility of Trump's impeachment go up? Or down?

If special counsel Robert Mueller has the goods in his Russia investigation – and that remains an IF – then the likelihood of impeachment goes up if Democrats control the House. On the other hand, if Republicans win in November, it's really hard to see how a GOP-controlled Congress moves against Trump, even when it comes to oversight of Mueller's findings. And remember as we saw with Bill Clinton in the 1990s, impeachment is one thing; removal is another...

Does Trump get a primary challenger in 2020 or not?

The midterm results could also influence whether Trump gets a Republican primary challenger. You could argue that Republicans losing control of both the House and Senate could embolden someone – Jeff Flake? John Kasich? Ben Sasse? – to take on Trump in 2020, no matter how quixotic that bid might be. But if Republicans hold on to both chambers, especially as the GOP becomes more loyal to Trump, that could eliminate the discussion of a GOP primary challenger.

And which party holds the upper hand in redistricting after 2020?

This where the 2018 gubernatorial contests – as well as the races for state legislature – come into play. Republicans holding on to their control of state governments would give them a leg up in the next round of redistricting. But Democrats picking up governorships and control of state legislatures across the country could fundamentally change the redistricting landscape.

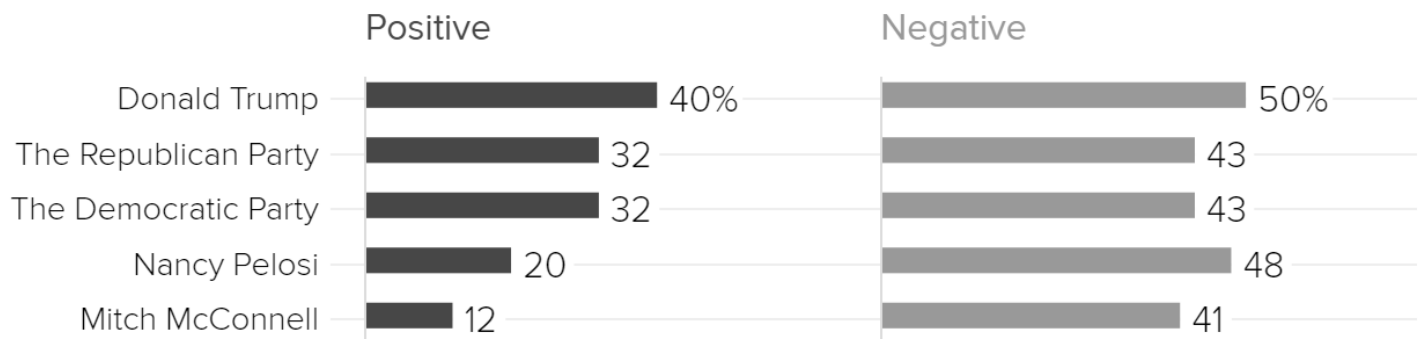
THE TRUMP EFFECT

As with most midterm elections, 2018 is shaping up to be a referendum on the current White House occupant: President Donald Trump.

According to the September NBC/WSJ poll, nearly six-in-10 voters – 59 percent – said they wanted to see a “great deal” or “quite a bit” of change from the way President Trump has been leading the country. By contrast, 40 percent said they wanted no change/not that much/just some change.

That 59 percent wanting change is almost identical to the 62 percent who said this on the same question in November 1994 (when Republicans won control of Congress), and the 63 percent who said this in October 2010 (when the GOP won the House and picked up six Senate seats).

Positive/negative ratings for Trump, Pelosi, others



Data: NBC/WSJ August 2018 poll

What’s more, the September 2018 NBC/WSJ poll found a plurality – 42 percent – saying the message of their vote in November will be to send a message for more Democrats to be a “check and balance” to President Trump, versus 31 percent who said it would be for more Republicans to help pass the president’s agenda.

But the same polling also suggests that Trump is firing up the 40 percent of voters who approve of his job and desire no change. Indeed, Republicans have been closing the enthusiasm gap in recent months – a key development given that midterm shellackings usually happen when there’s a voter drop-off for the president’s party.

And despite Trump’s unpopularity, the NBC/WSJ polls of 2018 have shown House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (with a fav/unfav rating of 20 percent/48 percent) to be more unpopular than the president (40 percent/50 percent) – which is why there’s so much GOP advertising focused on Pelosi.

Trump, by the way, has embraced that the 2018 election is a referendum on him. “A vote for Marsha is a vote for me,” Trump said on October 1 in Tennessee, as he campaigned for GOP Senate candidate Marsha Blackburn. “A vote for David [Young] is a vote for me to make America great again,” Trump said at his rally in Iowa on October 9.

KEY ISSUES (that aren't Trump)

The near-constant presence of the president in the news cycle — and the swirling controversies around Russia, Trump's finances and the outrage of the day — can sometimes distract from the other major issues and trends that have defined the midterms since the beginning of the cycle. Here are some of them.

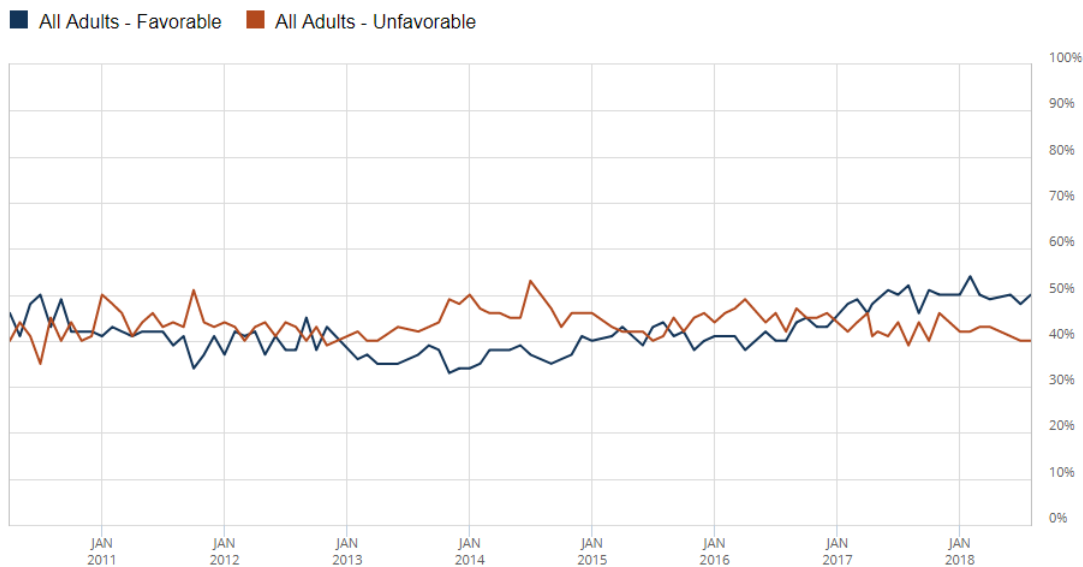
The economy — The unemployment rate is below four percent. The Dow Jones Industrial average has closed at record highs more than a dozen times in 2018. The economy, as the president likes to say, is booming. What's more, Americans are pleased with the state of the economy, with a majority saying they are satisfied with it and a quarter saying they're "very satisfied" — the highest share in nearly 20 years.

Republicans, crediting the president's tax and trade bills, hope that voters will link the buoyant economy to Republican policies. But the numbers show that, at least so far, that's not panning out. Among voters who rated the economy as a top issue in our last NBC/WSJ poll in September, congressional preference was basically tied.

Democrats have argued that the stock-market indicators aren't translating to the common American, who has seen stagnant wages regardless.

Health care — Other than the economy, health care is the top issue for voters nationwide. That importance has been reflected in midterm ads all cycle, with Democrats focusing on maintaining coverage for those with preexisting conditions and Republicans warning of the consequences of a "government takeover" of health care.

This issue is particularly potent because it's rated as a top priority for some of the key parts of the electorate, including white women (82 percent), independents (73 percent), suburban voters (74 percent) and seniors (83 percent).



Worth remembering: The Kaiser Family Foundation finds that the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) has hit record popularity during Trump's tenure as president.

(Source: Kaiser Family Foundation)

Tariffs and trade — Particularly in the red states that are crucial to control of the Senate, Trump's plans for agriculture and steel tariffs could have a significant effect on the economy. Some Republicans fear that worry about the tariffs could dampen GOP turnout in places like North Dakota (a huge producer of soybeans) or Tennessee (a state with a large automotive industry) and Wisconsin (cheese and paper products).

MAJOR TRENDS, BY THE NUMBERS — Female candidates

Women smashed records at every level when it comes to runs for political office.

Per the Center for American Women and Politics, here are the numbers of women who **RAN for House and Senate** compared with previous records:

Women Filed Candidates for Congress

	Previous Record	2018
All Women		
U.S. Senate	40 (28D, 12R) in 2016	53 (31D, 22R)
U.S. House	298 (190D, 108R) in 2012	476 (356D, 120R)
Democratic Women		
U.S. Senate	28 (in 2016)	31
U.S. House	190 (in 2012)	356
Republican Women		
U.S. Senate	17 (in 2010)	22
U.S. House	128 (in 2010)	120

Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

And here are the women who **WON their nominations for the House and Senate**, compared with previous records.

Women Congressional Nominees

	Previous Record	2018
All Women		
U.S. Senate	18 (12D, 6R) in 2012	22 (15D, 7R)
U.S. House	167 (120D, 47R) in 2016	235 (183D, 52R)*
Democratic Women		
U.S. Senate	12 (in 2012)	15*
U.S. House	120 (in 2016)	183
Republican Women		
U.S. Senate	6 (in 2012)	7**
U.S. House	53 (in 2004)	52

Among gubernatorial candidates, a total of 61 female candidates filed (breaking the previous record of 34) and 16 won their primary (breaking the previous record of 10 nominees.)

Four women could be the FIRST female governor of their state — Janet Mills (Maine), Paulette Jordan (Idaho), Stacey Abrams (Georgia) and Kristi Noem (South Dakota).

But there are also SIX states left in which a woman has never been nominated by a major party for governor: Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Tennessee and Utah.

MORE MAJOR TRENDS, BY THE NUMBERS

There are more than 50 military veterans (including incumbents) who were endorsed by bipartisan veterans group With Honor for the U.S. House.

Some of the most prominent first-time candidates include:

- Former Navy helicopter pilot Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11, D). Spent a decade on active duty flying missions.
- Former Marine fighter pilot Amy McGrath (KY-6, D). First female Marine to fly in an F-18 in combat.
- Former Air Force combat pilot M.J. Hegar (TX-31, D). Sued Pentagon over ban on women in combat.
- Former Navy SEAL Dan Crenshaw (TX-2, R). Lost an eye in an IED blast in Afghanistan.
- Former Army paratrooper Richard Ojeda (WV-3, D). Won two Bronze Stars.

There are 14 alumni of the Obama administration or campaign running as Democrats for the U.S. House.

They include:

- Former senior advisor to the U.N. Lauren Baer (FL-18)
- Former HHS official Lauren Underwood (IL-14)
- Former acting assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Elissa Slotkin (MI-8)
- Former special assistant to the general counsel for HUD Colin Allred (TX-32)

There are more than 120 House candidates who are running for office for the first time, including more than 75 Democrats.

Some examples of those running from particularly non-traditional backgrounds:

- Pediatrician Kim Schrier (WA-8, D)
- Nurse Katie Hill (CA-25, D)
- Former flight attendant and gun control activist Lucy McBath (GA-6, D)
- Former professional baseball pitcher J.D. Scholten (IA-4, D)
- Auto lubricant company exec Lena Epstein (MI-11, R)
- Former Spanish-language TV reporter Maria Elvira Salazar (FL-27, R)

In *competitive races only*, there are at least 26 House candidates who are millennials (born in 1981 or later)

According to a count maintained by NBC's Ali Vitali and Jack Bohrer, there are at least 46 Democratic challengers and 11 incumbents who have said they won't support Nancy Pelosi for Speaker if the party takes control of the House.

BARRIER BREAKERS

If they win in November, these candidates would break barriers:

First female governor of the state: Janet Mills (Maine), Paulette Jordan (Idaho), Stacey Abrams (Georgia) and Kristi Noem (South Dakota) could all be the first female governor of their state.

First transgender governor: Christine Halliquist (Vermont) is the first transgender gubernatorial nominee for a major political party and would be the first transgender governor in the country. It will be a battle. She's a Democrat running against a relatively popular sitting Republican governor, although he had a lackluster primary showing himself

First female African-American governor: If elected in this closely watched gubernatorial race, Democrat Stacey Abrams (Georgia) would be the nation's first female African-American governor. It's a race where the Republican might have the slight advantage, but it's considered a Toss Up by the Cook Political Report.

First Native American governor: If Democrat Paulette Jordan wins her uphill race for governor in conservative Idaho, she would be the first Native American to serve as governor in the country.

First state to elect two women to the governor's mansion consecutively: If Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) replaces outgoing Gov. Susana Martinez (R), New Mexico will be the first state to elect two women to the governors' mansion in a row.

First openly gay man elected governor: Jared Polis (Colorado) was the first openly gay man to win a Congressional seat as a non-incumbent, and hopes to be the first elected gay male governor. It's a close race but leans in his favor.

First Muslim women in Congress: Both Rashida Tlaib (Michigan) and Ilhan Omar (Minnesota) are poised to become the first Muslim American women in Congress. Both are Democrats running in safe blue districts.

First Palestinian-American in Congress: Rashida Tlaib (above) is set to become the first Palestinian-American in Congress.

First Somali-American woman in Congress: Ilhan Omar (above) would also be the first Somali-American woman in Congress.

First Native American women in Congress: Sharice Davids (Kansas) and Deb Haaland (New Mexico) could be the first Native American women to serve in Congress. Both are Democrats; Davids is also gay (and also a former mixed martial arts fighter). Haaland is running in a safe blue district, while Davids is running in a very competitive race.

First Korean-American woman in Congress: Republican Young Kim (California) is running in one of the nation's closest House races in an Orange County open seat. If she wins, she'll be the first Korean-American female federal lawmaker. Republican Pearl Kim (Pennsylvania), who worked as a prosecutor and senior deputy attorney general in Pennsylvania, is also making a bid in PA-5.

Youngest woman ever elected to Congress: In her deep blue district, 28-year-old Alexandria Ocasio Cortez is slated to be the youngest member ever elected to Congress.

First black woman to represent New England in Congress: If Jahana Hayes (Connecticut) wins in November, she'll be Connecticut's first black Democrat and the first black congresswoman from anywhere in New England.

First Latinas from Texas in Congress: Democrats Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia are both likely headed to Congress as the first Latinas to represent the state.

First openly lesbian veteran in Congress: Texas Democratic candidate Gina Ortiz Jones is in a competitive House race in a border district. If she wins, she'd be the first openly lesbian veteran in Congress.

THE PATH TO A HOUSE MAJORITY — A ROAD MAP TO FOLLOW AS POLLS CLOSE

Democrats must NET 23 seats to gain control of the U.S. House. Here are some of the most important seats in play.

The Democratic defense (6)

First thing's first – Democrats aren't playing defense very many places, and they can probably afford to (and expect to) lose a few seats. Here are six they currently hold and are most likely to lose. *(In order of final poll closing time – all times ET)*

8pm poll close: **NH-01:** OPEN — previously held by Carol Shea-Porter (D). Eddie Edwards (R) v. Chris Pappas (D). Seat went 48-46 for Trump.

PA-14: OPEN — previously held by Conor Lamb (D) who is running in a new district. Guy Reschenthaler (R) v. Bibiana Boerio (D). Redistricted. New seat estimated to be Trump +29. (Note: due to redistricting, this is expected to flip)

9pm: **MN-01:** OPEN — previously held by Tim Walz (D). Jim Hagedorn (R) v. Dan Feehan (D). Seat went 53-38 for Trump.

MN-08: OPEN — previously held by Rick Nolan (D). Pete Stauber (R) v. Joe Radinovich (D). Seat went 54-38 for Trump.

10pm: **NV-03:** OPEN — previously held by Jacky Rosen (D). Danny Tarkanian (R) v. Susie Lee (D). Seat went 48-47 for Trump.

NV-04: OPEN — previously held by Ruben Kihuen (D). Crescent Hardy (R) v. Steven Horsford (D). 50-45 for Clinton.

The most probable flips (15)

Strategists on both sides of the aisle believe that these races are most likely to flip from Republican to Democratic. Democrats aim to get almost all of these seats in the hunt for a majority. *(In order of poll closing time – all times ET)*

7pm poll close: **VA-10:** Incumbent Rep. Barbara Comstock (R) v. Jennifer Wexton (D). Seat went 52-42 for Clinton.

FL-27: OPEN — previously held by Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R). Maria Salazar (R) v. Donna Shalala (D). 58-39 for Clinton.

8pm: **KS-03:** Incumbent Kevin Yoder (R) v. Sharice Davids (D). Seat went 47-46 for Clinton.

NJ-02: OPEN — previously held by Frank LoBiondo (R). Seth Grossman (R) v. Jeff Van Drew (D). 50-46 for Trump.

NJ-11: OPEN — previously held by Rodney Frelinghuysen (R). Jay Webber (R) v. Mikie Sherrill (D). 48-47 for Trump.

PA-05: OPEN — previously held by Patrick Meehan (R). Redistricted. Pearl Kim (R) v. Mary Gay Scanlon (D). New seat estimated to be Clinton +28. (Note: due to redistricting, this is extremely likely to flip)

PA-06: OPEN — previously held by Ryan Costello (R). Redistricted. Gregory Michael McCauley (R) v. Chrissy Houlahan (D). New seat estimated to be Clinton +9. (Note: due to redistricting, this is extremely likely to flip)

PA-07: OPEN — previously held by Charlie Dent (R). Redistricted. Marty Nothstein (R) v. Susan Wild (D). New seat estimated to be Clinton +1.

PA-17: Incumbent Keith Rothfus (R) vs. Conor Lamb (D). Redistricted. New seat estimated to be Trump +1.

9pm: **AZ-02:** OPEN — previously held by Martha McSally (R). Lea Marquez-Peterson (R) vs. Ann Kirkpatrick (D). 49-44 for Clinton

CO-06: Incumbent Rep. Mike Coffman (R) v. Jason Crow (D). Seat went 50-41 for Clinton.

MN-02: Incumbent Jason Lewis (R) v. Angie Craig (D). Seat went 46-45 for Trump.

MN-03: Incumbent Erik Paulsen (R) v. Dean Phillips (D). Seat went 50-41 for Clinton.

10pm: **IA-01:** Incumbent Rod Blum (R) v. Abby Finkenauer (D). Seat went 48-45 for Trump.

11pm: **CA-49:** OPEN — previously held by Darrell Issa (R). Diane Harkey (R) v. Mike Levin (D). Seat went for 50-43 for Clinton.

THE PATH TO A HOUSE MAJORITY — A ROAD MAP TO FOLLOW AS POLLS CLOSE, CONTINUED

The majority makers (23)

These are mostly toss-up races with recent momentum for Democrats. If Democrats have won all of the “probable flips” and lost only two of their own Dem-held seats, they need ten of the below to win the majority.

6pm poll close: **KY-06** Incumbent Rep. Andy Barr (R) v. Amy McGrath (D). Seat went 55-39 for Trump.

7pm poll close: **FL-26:** Incumbent Carlos Curbelo (R) v. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D). Seat went 56-40 for Clinton.

VA-02: Incumbent Scott Taylor (R) v. Elaine Luria (D). Seat went 48-45 for Trump.

VA-07: Incumbent Dave Brat (R) v. Abigail Spanberger (D). Seat went 50-44 for Trump.

7:30: **OH-01:** Incumbent Steve Chabot (R) v. Aftab Pureval (D). Seat went 51-44 for Trump.

8pm: **IL-06:** Incumbent Pete Roskam (R) v. Sean Casten (D). Seat went 49-42 for Clinton.

IL-12: Incumbent Rep. Mike Bost (R) v. Brendan Kelly (D). Seat went 54-40 for Trump.

ME-02: Incumbent Bruce Poliquin (R) v. Jared Golden (D). Seat went 51-41 for Trump.

MI-08: Incumbent Mike Bishop (R) v. Elissa Slotkin (D). Seat went 50-44 for Trump.

MI-11: OPEN — previously held by Dave Trott (R). Lena Epstein (R) v. Haley Stevens (D). Seat went 49-45 for Trump.

NJ-03: Incumbent Tom MacArthur (R) v. Andy Kim (D). Seat went 51-45 for Trump.

NJ-07: Incumbent Leonard Lance (R) v. Tom Malinowski (D). Seat went 48-47 for Clinton.

PA-01: Incumbent Brian Fitzpatrick (R) v. Scott Wallace. (D). Redistricted. New district estimated to be Clinton +2.

TX-07: Incumbent John Culberson (R) v. Lizzie Fletcher (D). Seat went 48-47 for Clinton.

TX-32: Incumbent Pete Sessions (R) v. Colin Allred (D). Seat went 48-46 for Clinton.

9pm: **NM-02:** OPEN — previously held by Steve Pearce (R). Yvette Herrell (R) v. Xochitl Torres Small. 50-40 for Trump.

NY-19: Incumbent John Faso (R) v. Antonio Delgado (D). Seat went 50-44 for Trump.

NY-22: Incumbent Claudia Tenney (R) v. Anthony Brindisi (D). Seat went 54-39 for Trump.

10pm: **IA-03:** Incumbent Rep. David Young (R) v. Cindy Axne (D). Seat went 48-45 for Trump.

11pm: **CA-25** Incumbent Steve Knight (R) v. Katie Hill (D). Seat went 50-43 for Clinton.

CA-45: Incumbent Mimi Walters (R) v. Katie Porter (D). Seat went 49-44 for Clinton.

CA-48: Incumbent Dana Rohrabacher (R) v. Harley Rouda (D). Seat went 48-46 for Clinton.

WA-08: OPEN — previously held by Dave Reichert (R). Dino Rossi (R) v. Kim Schrier (D). Seat went 46-43 for Clinton.

THE PATH TO A HOUSE MAJORITY — A ROAD MAP TO FOLLOW AS POLLS CLOSE, CONTINUED

Adding to a majority — the beginning of a big wave (18)

These are races that will help determine if Democrats have a relatively slim majority or a more substantial one. More than a few wins here means that we're probably heading for a 35+ Dem pickup.

7pm poll close: **VA-05:** OPEN — previously held by Tom Garrett (R). Denver Riggleman (R) v. Leslie Cockburn. Seat went 53-44 for Trump.

FL-15: OPEN — previously held by Dennis Ross (R). Ross Spano (R) v. Kristen Carlson (D). Seat went 53-43 for Trump.

FL-16: Incumbent Vern Buchanan (R) v. David Shapiro (D). Seat went 53-43 for Trump.

7:30pm: **NC-02:** Incumbent George Holding (R) v. Linda Coleman (D). Seat went 53-43 for Trump.

NC-09: OPEN — Rep. Robert Pittenger defeated in primary. Mark Harris (R) v. Dan McCready (D). Seat went 54-42 for Trump.

NC-13: Incumbent Ted Budd (R) v. Kathy Manning (D). Seat went 53-44 for Trump.

WV-03: OPEN — previously held by Evan Jenkins (R). Carol Miller (R) v. Richard Ojeda (D). Seat went 73-23 for Trump.

8pm: **IL-13:** Incumbent Rep. Rodney Davis (R) v. Betsy Dirksen Londrigan (D). Seat went 49-44 for Trump.

IL-14: Incumbent Rep. Randy Hultgren (R) v. Lauren Underwood (D). Seat went 48-44 for Trump.

KS-2: OPEN — previously held by Lynn Jenkins (R). Steve Watkins (R) v. Paul Davis (D). Seat went 56-37 for Trump.

TX-31: Incumbent John Carter (R) v. M.J. Hegar (D). Seat went 53-49 for Trump.

9pm: **TX-23:** Incumbent Will Hurd (R) v. Gina Ortiz Jones. (D). Seat went 50-46 for Clinton

WI-01: OPEN — previously held by Paul Ryan (R). Bryan Steil (R) v. Randy Bryce (D). Seat went 52-42 for Trump.

10pm: **UT-04:** Incumbent Mia Love (R) v. Ben McAdams (D). Seat went 39-32 for Trump.

11pm **CA-10:** Incumbent Jeff Denham (R) v. Josh Harder (D). Seat went 48-45 for Clinton. n

CA-39: OPEN — previously held by Ed Royce (R). Young Kim (R) v. Gil Cisneros (D). Seat went 51-43 for Clinton.

WA-03: Incumbent Jaime Herrera Beutler (R) v. Carolyn Long (D). Seat went 48-41 for Trump.

WA-05: Incumbent Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R) v. Lisa Brown (D). Seat went 50-38 for Trump.

Tsunami alert !!!

If several of these races are close or breaking Democrats' way, expect an historic wave.

AR-2	FL-18	MI-1	NY 27
AZ-6	GA-6	MO-2	OH-14
CA- 4	GA-7	NY-1	PA-10
CA-21	IN-2	NY-2	TX-21
FL-6	IA-4	NY-11	

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME

7pm ET

Georgia (Polls close statewide at 7pm ET)

GA-GOV (OPEN): In one of the most closely-watched gubernatorial races of the cycle, **Stacey Abrams (D)** faces conservative **Brian Kemp (R)** in her attempt to become the first female African-American governor in U.S. history. She hopes to mobilize black and rural voters who rarely participate in midterm elections, while Kemp has focused on issues like immigration and gun rights. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up)*

GA-06 (Northern Atlanta suburbs): Gun control activist **Lucy McBath (D)**, whose son was shot and killed at a gas station over a dispute about loud music, faces **Rep. Karen Handel (R)**, who won the high-profile special election for the suburban Atlanta seat in 2017. The November contest isn't expected to be quite as close as the special election, which was the focus of national media attention for months, but it's still very competitive. *(Cook Political Report: Lean R)*

GA-07 (Northeastern Atlanta suburbs): Republicans worry that **Rep. Rob Woodall (R)** could blow what should be an easy race in this suburban Atlanta district that went for Trump by a 7-point margin in 2016. His challenger is professor **Carolyn Bourdeaux (D)**. As of a week before the election, Woodall hadn't aired any TV ads at all. *(Cook Political Report: Lean R)*

Indiana (Earliest poll closing at 6pm ET. Last polls close at 7pm ET)

IN-SEN: Democrat **Sen. Joe Donnelly (D)** has kept a low profile since being elected in a fluky victory in 2012 (so fluky, in fact, that he's been dubbed the "accidental senator.") Indiana remains redder than other Rust Belt states, forcing Donnelly to court both Republicans and Democrats if he hopes to fend off businessman **Mike Braun (R)**. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

IN-2 (South Bend): Incumbent **Rep. Jackie Walorski (R)** faced tight races before the latest round of redistricting; now, this South Bend district could still be competitive if blue-collar Trump voters fail to turn out in her fight against businessman and former minister **Mel Hall (D)**. *(Cook Political Report: Likely R)*

Kentucky (Eastern Kentucky polls close at 6pm ET. In the western part of the state, polls close at 7pm ET)

KY-6 (Lexington): Democrats believe they have one of their best candidates of the cycle in this Lexington-area district. **Amy McGrath (D)** is a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel who was the first female Marine to fly in an F-18 on a combat mission. She's running against incumbent **Rep. Andy Barr (R)**. The race has gotten a ton of national media attention, and for good reason. Both sides view it as an important early bellwether. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

** (6pm ET poll close)*

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (7pm ET, continued)

South Carolina (Polls close statewide at 7pm ET)

SC-GOV: Incumbent **Gov. Henry McMaster (R)** was one of Donald Trump's earliest allies in 2016. He faces a challenge from state Rep. **James Smith (R)**. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R*)

SC-1 (Charleston): Incumbent Republican Mark Sanford lost his primary here after his vocal criticism of Donald Trump earned a White House endorsement for opponent **Katie Arrington (R)**. Arrington, who has been in recovery from a serious car accident shortly after the primary, faces **Joe Cunningham (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*)

Vermont (Polls close statewide at 7pm ET)

VT-GOV: Former energy company executive **Christine Hallquist (D)** would be the nation's first transgender governor if elected, but she faces an uphill battle against incumbent **Gov. Phil Scott (R)**. (*Cook Political Report: Solid R*)

Virginia (Polls close statewide at 7pm ET)

VA-SEN: Establishment Republicans despaired when the party nominated **Corey Stewart (R)**, best known for his fierce defense of Confederate symbols and his harsh rhetoric toward immigrants. Incumbent **Tim Kaine (D)** is set to cruise to reelection, but a bigger question is how much having Stewart at the top of the GOP ticket drags down the party in the state's competitive House races. (*Cook Political Report: Solid D*)

VA-2 (Virginia Beach): Incumbent **Scott Taylor (R)** faces challenger **Elaine Luria (D)**, a retired Navy commander. Taylor has come under fire for a campaign scandal involving forged signatures on petitions to get an independent on the ballot, a blunder that's putting this otherwise safe GOP seat very much in play. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*)

VA-5 (Charlottesville): In this open seat to replace retiring Republican Rep. Tom Garrett in a GOP-leaning seat, Democrats hope that former journalist (and mother of actress Olivia Wilde) **Leslie Cockburn (D)** can pull off a win against distillery owner **Denver Riggleman (R)**. You may have heard about Riggleman's social media account featuring "Bigfoot-themed erotic art." (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*)

VA-7 (Richmond suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Dave Brat (R)** famously ousted House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in the 2014 Republican primary, but he hasn't necessarily been a great fit for the district or a great candidate. He faces a tough challenge from former CIA officer **Abigail Spanberger (D)**. One issue in this race: Spanberger has accused GOP group Congressional Leadership Fund of improperly using an unredacted security clearance in its ads against her. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up.*)

VA-10: (D.C. suburbs): The suburbs of Washington D.C. are affluent, diverse and well-educated — and getting more so by the year. **Rep. Barbara Comstock (R)** has tried to hold on to this seat by distancing herself from Trump (even pushing back against a government shutdown in a televised meeting with the president), but it would be a surprise if she kept this seat. The Democratic candidate is state Sen. **Jennifer Wexton (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (7:30pm ET)

7:30pm ET

North Carolina (Polls close statewide at 7:30 pm ET)

NC-2 (central North Carolina): This district went for Trump by 10 points in 2016, making it a stretch for Democrats. But incumbent **Rep. George Holding (R)** got beat early on the airwaves and hasn't run a particularly compelling campaign. His Democratic opponent is former state representative **Linda Coleman (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: **Lean R***).

NC-8 (south central North Carolina): Incumbent **Rep. Richard Hudson (R)** faces a well-known and well-funded opponent in **Frank McNeill (D)**, who has roots in the region in part due to his family's longtime oil and propane business there. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely R***).

NC-9 (Charlotte suburbs): Incumbent Robert Pittenger lost his GOP primary to conservative pastor **Mark Harris (R)** in May, setting up a competitive general election. Harris has taken heat for past controversial statements, including questioning whether careers are the "healthiest pursuit" for women. Democrats like their candidate, Iraq War veteran **Dan McCready (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up***).

NC-13 (east central North Carolina): Trump won this district by nine points but still only mustered 53 percent of the vote. That means that incumbent **Rep. Ted Budd (R)** has had his work cut out to fend off challenger **Kathy Manning (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up***).

Ohio (Polls close statewide at 7:30pm ET)

OH-GOV (OPEN): With Republican Gov. John Kasich term-limited, the gubernatorial race pits a longtime state pol — state attorney general **Mike DeWine (R)** against a Democrat — **Richard Cordray (D)** — who made a national name for himself as a champion against big banks when he served as the director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up***).

OH-SEN: Early in the cycle, this looked like a suspenseful matchup, with incumbent **Sen. Sherrod Brown (D)** in a rematch against Republican state treasurer Josh Mandel. But Mandel unexpectedly withdrew from the race, prompting **Rep. Jim Renacci (R)** to switch to the Senate contest from his planned gubernatorial run. Brown, a populist, remains popular even with Democrats who back Trump, while Renacci doesn't have much of a brand. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely D***).

OH-1 (Cincinnati area): Incumbent **Rep. Steve Chabot (R)** hasn't had a competitive race since after the state's 2010 redistricting. It's a GOP-leaning district, but one that only went for Trump 51-46 in 2016. Democrats had thought their candidate, **Aftab Pureval (D)**, had the profile and talent to make this a competitive race. A former prosecutor — and the son of first-generation immigrants from Tibet and India — Pureval is telegenic, young and strong on the stump. But he's faced relentless attacks from Republicans about possible campaign finance violations, which have hurt his image as a new Democratic star. (*Cook Political Report: **Lean R***).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (7:30pm ET, continued)

OH-10: (Dayton area): Incumbent **Rep. Mike Turner (R)**, first elected in 2002, has benefitted from a relatively moderate record in a district that Trump barely carried with 51 percent of the vote. Democrats think they have a candidate who can still make this competitive — businesswoman and community philanthropist **Theresa Gasper (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R.*)

OH-12: (Columbus suburbs): Republicans spent millions to keep this seat in their party's hands in an August special election, with now-**Rep. Troy Balderson (R)** winning by just over 1,500 votes despite a full-court press from the GOP. It'll be a rematch between Balderson and **Danny O'Connor (D)** in November. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R.*)

OH-14: (Northeast Ohio): In another district that Trump carried with a tepid showing (53 percent), incumbent **Rep. David Joyce (R)** has a relatively moderate voting record. (Like Mike Turner in OH-10, he voted against Obamacare repeal.) But this seat may be in play if there's a big blue wave — a dynamic evidenced by the fact that Joyce is one of the few Republicans using TV ads to highlight times that he's stood up to Donald Trump. The Democrat is civil rights lawyer **Betsy Rader (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R.*)

West Virginia (Polls close statewide at 7:30pm ET)

WV-SEN: Incumbent **Sen. Joe Manchin (D)** has a strong personal brand in West Virginia, and he's been running ads touting his independence and underscoring his support for gun rights and veterans. Democrats lucked out with GOP opponent and state attorney general **Patrick Morrissey (R)**, who was the weaker of two major candidates in the GOP primary (whose name was not Don Blankenship, of course.) First, Morrissey ran and lost for a House seat in New Jersey in 2000. Another key argument against Morrissey: as AG, he's backing a lawsuit to eliminate health care coverage requirements for pre-existing conditions. Still, it's one of the most pro-Trump states in the country, meaning that Manchin has had to walk a tricky line. One example: He voted for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, but only after it was apparent that he'd be confirmed. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D.*)

WV-3 (Southern WV): Candidate **Richard Ojeda (D)**, who's running as a Democratic pro-education, pro-pot, pro-labor military veteran with tattoos and a twang, is one of the most compelling candidates in the country. If he wins this open seat in Trump-loving West Virginia against **Rep. Carol Miller (R)**, it'll likely vault him to a role in the national spotlight. (If he wins, it would also be the biggest party flip in a midterm since 1998). (*Cook Political Report rating: Lean R.*)

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:00pmET)

8pm ET

Alabama (Polls close in most of the state close at 7pm ET. Polls in some counties on the GA border close at 8pm ET)

No competitive races.

Connecticut (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

CT-GOV (OPEN): 2006 Senate candidate and 2010 gubernatorial candidate **Ned Lamont (D)** is back as the Democratic nominee for Connecticut's open gubernatorial seat, which is one of the GOP's top pickup opportunities. Departing Democratic Gov. Dan Malloy has struggled with major fiscal problems in the state, giving him some of the poorest approval ratings in the country. His unpopularity could vault **Bob Stefanowski (R)**, a global financial executive who has held top jobs at General Electric and UBS, to a win. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

Delaware (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

No competitive races

Florida (Polls close at 7pm ET in the eastern part of the state. In the panhandle, polls close at 8pm ET)

FL-GOV: One of the most surprising gubernatorial matchups in the country is also one of its hardest fought. Progressive African-American **Andrew Gillum (D)** surprised the political world when he won the late August primary here, while Trump-endorsed **Rep. Ron DeSantis (R)** rode the president's support to a resounding win over onetime favorite Adam Putnam. It's become a battle of the two ideological sides — with plenty of racial undertones. (The nominees also had to contend with a devastating hurricane less than a month before the election.) It's become very personal and nasty, with Gillum also facing an FBI inquiry over his dealings with lobbyists. The result will have consequences for 2020 and beyond. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up).*

FL-SEN: Incumbent **Sen. Bill Nelson (D)**, who has served in the Senate since 2000, cruised to reelection in 2006 and 2012 after facing flawed GOP candidates. But this cycle, he faces a well-known and even better-funded opponent in outgoing **Gov. Rick Scott (R)**. Democrats have feared that Nelson, who is known for an easy-going style, hasn't been aggressive enough in going after Scott, but recent polling shows him keeping even or better. This is one of the most expensive, closest and most closely-watched races in the country. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

FL-6: (Daytona Beach): This open seat — formerly held by gubernatorial candidate Ron DeSantis — should be a longshot for Democrats. (Trump won here 56 percent to 40 percent.) But **Nancy Soderberg (D)**, a former U.N. ambassador, has performed well in some partisan polls and significantly outraised Afghan War veteran **Rep. Michael Waltz (R)**, making it a race to watch. *(Cook Political Report: Lean R)*

* (7pm ET poll close)

FL-7 (Orlando suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D)**, a freshman lawmaker who gave her party a sliver of good news during the 2016 election after she narrowly beat longtime incumbent John Mica, faces state representative **Mike Miller (R)** in her first re-election race. It's a challenging district for Democrats, but her personal story as a Vietnamese refugee makes her a strong incumbent, particularly in this diverse area. (*Cook Political Report: Likely D*).

** (7pm ET poll close)*

FL-15 (Tampa suburbs): The retirement of Republican Dennis Ross puts this district, with a combination of suburban and rural areas, as a potential pickup for Democrats. Their candidate is **Kristen Carlson (D)**, whose background as a former lawyer for the Florida Department of Citrus is a favorable one for the district. State representative **Ross Spano (R)**, has struggled to keep up with Carlson's fundraising. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

** (7pm ET poll close)*

FL-16 (Central Gulf Coast): For the past few cycles, incumbent **Rep. Vern Buchanan (R)** has been dogged by ethics issues, including allegations that he misused campaign funds. (He also purchased a yacht the same day that he voted on the tax reform bill.) Investigations by DOJ and the Ethics Committee both concluded without charges, but the lingering questions about his conduct have been fodder for challenger **David Shapiro (D)**, a personal injury lawyer. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*).

** (7pm ET poll close)*

FL-18 (Treasure Coast): Known for its often expensive congressional races, this district is once again worth watching. The incumbent is **Rep. Brian Mast (R)**, an Afghan War vet who lost both legs serving overseas. The Democrat challenging him is former State Department official **Lauren Baer (D)**, who served under both John Kerry and Hillary Clinton. The district voted for Trump by nine points in 2016 and isn't far from Mar-a-Lago. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*).

** (7pm ET poll close)*

FL-26: (Florida Keys, Miami suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R)** sits in one of the 23 congressional districts that voted for Clinton but are represented by Republicans in Congress. But he has made the right moves to stay afloat, frequently blasting the Trump administration and excoriating both parties over their failure to address immigration reform. He faces fundraising consultant **Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D)**, who has polled well and could best Curbelo just by the nature of the heavily Democratic district. (*Cook Political Report rating: Toss Up*).

** (7pm ET poll close)*

FL-27 (Miami): The only Republican who Democrats thought could have comfortably won in this Miami district was its outgoing incumbent, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. The demographics in this majority-Hispanic district means it should be Democrats' to lose. But there's concern that their nominee, former Clinton administration official **Donna Shalala (D)**, is a particularly poor match for the district. (She doesn't speak Spanish, for example). Republicans picked a strong nominee in **Maria Salazar (R)**, however, a Cuban woman with a background as a TV journalist for Univision. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*).

** (7pm ET poll close)*

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:00pmET, continued)

Illinois (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

IL-GOV: What happens when two extremely wealthy people run for governor against each other? A very, very expensive contest. Illinois residents have been subject to a pricey ad war between incumbent **Gov. Bruce Rauner (R)** and challenger **J.B. Pritzker (D)** since before the Illinois primary in March. The battle has been brutal, but Pritzker — of the famed Chicago Pritzker family of the Hyatt hotel fortune— is slated to win here. What's more, Rauner's poor showing may be problematic for GOP candidates down the ballot. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely D***).

IL-3 (Chicago, western suburbs): This isn't a competitive race, but it's one that that's gotten headlines for the GOP's nomination of an avowed Nazi, **Arthur Jones (R)**, as its pick to take on longtime incumbent **Rep. Dan Lipinski (D)**. A newcomer independent, Justin Hanson, is also running a protest write-in campaign that has received some national press. (*Cook Political Report rating: **Solid D***).

IL-6 (Chicago western suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Pete Roskam (R)** represents a district that has been becoming more and more of a diverse suburban hub for Chicago-area development. The changing district means Roskam long been a target for Democrats this cycle. He faces scientist and clean energy entrepreneur **Sean Casten (D)**. (*Cook Political Report rating: **Lean D***).

IL-12 (Southwest Illinois): This seat has been held by **Rep. Mike Bost (R)** since 2014, but Democrats are optimistic about their candidate in this district, St. Clair County prosecutor **Brendan Kelly (D)**. Kelly, a Navy veteran, has emphasized his work fighting big drug companies on opioid policy, and he's made health care a priority in his ads. Still, Trump remains very popular in this manufacturing-heavy district. (*Cook Political Report: **Lean R***).

IL-13 (St Louis exurbs): Incumbent **Rep. Rodney Davis (R)** surprised political observers when he won this seat in a close 2012 election. He has worked to build a moderate record and a reputation for being likeable, and he's distanced himself from Trump's rhetoric. But Trump was kept to under 50 percent in the district in 2016, winning by 49 percent to 45 percent, and Democrats have a fairly good candidate in fundraiser **Betsy Dirksen Londrigan (D)**. (*Cook Political Report rating: **Lean R***).

IL-14 (Chicago exurbs): Another Republican in a district where Trump won with less than 50 percent of the vote, incumbent **Rep. Randy Hultgren (R)** is facing his first tight race since his narrow election in 2010. He's white, has held political office for 20 years and focuses largely on financial policy; his opponent is 31 year-old African-American nurse and former Obama HHS senior adviser **Lauren Underwood (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up***).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:00pmET, continued)

Maine (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

ME-GOV (OPEN): Controversial Gov. Phil LePage is term-limited, setting up a toss up race that Democrats believe could be a pickup opportunity. State Attorney General **Janet Mills (D)** would be the first female governor of the state if elected. She faces auto body repair shop owner **Shawn Moody (R)**, an ally of LePage whose connections to the controversial outgoing gov could be considered baggage for some voters. Moody is also contending with recent revelations that he settled a sex discrimination complaint in 2006. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

ME-2 (Northern Maine): Democrats have tried to defeat incumbent **Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R)** in the last two cycles to no avail, but — as in other competitive seats — they feel more confident about their candidate this cycle. **Jared Golden (D)**, a 35 year-old state representative who enlisted in the Marines after 9/11, is a bit in the mold of Conor Lamb — he's said he won't back Pelosi, he touts his bipartisan cred as a onetime aide to Republican Sen. Susan Collins, and he's used a firearm as a prop in several ads. Keep in mind: Maine is using ranked voting for its congressional races this year (not, notably, its gubernatorial contest), which creates an "instant runoff" if no one breaks 50 percent — not unlikely, considering that there are two independents on the ballot. (*Cook Political Report rating: Toss Up*.)

Maryland (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

MD-GOV: Maryland is a reliably blue state, but **Gov. Larry Hogan (R)** is one of the most popular governors in the country. Democrats nominated former NAACP head **Ben Jealous (D)**, a progressive African-American who campaigned for Bernie Sanders and endorses Medicare-for-all, but he's an extreme longshot against a well-liked incumbent. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R*)

Massachusetts (Polls close statewide at 8pm Et)

No competitive races.

Mississippi (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

MS-SEN (OPEN SEAT): The Mississippi Senate race could go into overtime. Because of the state's unusual election laws, the November 6 election is technically the primary in the contest to complete the term of Thad Cochran, who resigned amid health problems. Gov. Phil Bryant named now- **Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)** to fill the seat temporarily, and she's running to keep the seat until 2021. But she faces competition from conservative candidate Chris McDaniel, who also ran for the Senate in 2014. After some initial reluctance, Trump endorsed Hyde-Smith, decreasing McDaniel's potential influence in the race. But the key to remember is that if no one surpasses 50 percent, the race will go to a runoff on November 27. That could set up a high-stakes contest after Election Day between Hyde-Smith and the Democrat in the race, former Ag Secretary and former congressman **Mike Espy (D)**. A runoff could get enormous national attention if control of the Senate is up for grabs after Election Day, and Democrats would devote every possible resource to registering the state's black voters to turn out for Espy (who also happens to be black.) (*Cook Political Report rating: Lean R*).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:00pmET, continued)

Missouri (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

MO-SEN: Incumbent **Sen. Claire McCaskill (D)** is at the top of Republicans' target list, and it's not hard to see why. She's built a national reputation as a defender of Democratic policies — and was the first member of Congress to endorse Hillary Clinton in 2016 — which has driven up her negative ratings in red-leading Missouri. Republicans have also taken on her husband's personal wealth, and they've painted her as beholden to Democratic leadership on the Hill. She faces **Josh Hawley (R)**, the state's 38 year-old attorney general. Hawley hasn't turned out to be the shoo-in candidate that Republicans envisioned, though, posting lackluster fundraising numbers and sluggish campaign appearances. One major line of attack for Democrats is that Hawley signed on to a lawsuit by Republican state AGs challenging protections for people with preexisting conditions. Another factor looming over the race is the abrupt departure of GOP Gov. Eric Greitens earlier this year amid a sex scandal. **(Cook Political Report rating: Toss Up.)**

MO-2 (Western St. Louis suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Ann Wagner (R)** was widely considered to be the favored GOP Senate candidate earlier this cycle, but party bigwigs backed Hawley instead. She now faces a challenge from lawyer **Cort VanOstran (D)**, who has run an impressive campaign despite the district's GOP DNA. Democrats hope he'll move voters in this suburban district by focusing on Wagner's vote to repeal Obamacare. **(Cook Political Report: Lean R.)**

New Hampshire (Poll closings vary by municipality. First polls close at 7pm ET. Last polls close at 8pm ET)

NH-GOV: Sitting **Gov. Chris Sununu (R)** is popular in this state that narrowly voted for Clinton in 2016. He's favored in his challenge from former state Sen. **Molly Kelly (D)**. **(Cook Political Report: Lean R.)**

NH-1 (Manchester): A famously swingy district that has changed party hands in the last four cycles, this seat is open for the first time in 16 years after the retirement of Democrat Carol Shea-Porter. **Eddie Edwards (R)** is a former police chief and would be the first African-American elected to represent the state. The edge in the race, though, goes to longtime local Democratic pol and restaurant owner **Chris Pappas (D)**, who would be the first LGBT person from New Hampshire in Congress. **(Cook Political Report: Likely D)**

New Jersey (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

NJ-SEN: Democrats breathed a sigh of relief after the Department of Justice dropped its corruption case against **Sen. Bob Menendez (D)** after an initial hung jury. But they perhaps shouldn't have breathed easy so soon; polls have shown that Menendez's legal woes are taking a toll. The state's reliable support for Democrats — as well as the national political environment — will probably haul Menendez over the finish line against well-funded pharmaceutical executive **Bob Hugin (R)**, but it may be very close, particularly since Hugin has outspent Menendez by a wide margin on the airwaves. **(Cook Political Report: Toss Up).**

NJ-2 (Atlantic City): Moderate Republican Frank LoBiondo is retiring, opening the seat for the first time since his first election in 1994. With the seat open, Democrats finally managed to recruit state senator **Jeff Van Drew (D)**. Van Drew, also a moderate, is favored to flip the seat over former Atlantic County official **Seth Grossman (R)**, who saw the NRCC revoke its support for him after he shared a racist post on social media. **(Cook Political Report: Likely D).**

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:00pmET, continued)

NJ-3 (South Central New Jersey): This retiree-rich part of New Jersey voted for Trump 51 percent to 45 percent in 2016. Incumbent **Rep. Tom MacArthur (R)**, who was first elected in 2014, was a player during the Obamacare repeal negotiations, when he brokered a compromise between his own moderate GOP wing and conservatives to pass the repeal bill that ultimately failed in the Senate. That health care repeal work will be a liability in his race against **Andy Kim (D)**, an adviser on ISIS in the Obama White House. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

NJ-5 (Bergen County): Incumbent **Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D)** has painted himself as a centrist in a district that very narrowly backed Trump. He should be poised to stave off a challenge from opponent **John McCann (R)**, but it's not a lock for Democrats. *(Cook Political Report: Likely D).*

NJ-7 (North central New Jersey): This white-collar, upscale suburban area of New Jersey has been represented by **Rep. Leonard Lance (R)** since 2008. It's a previously reliable GOP district that's skeptical of Trump, and Democrats think their candidate — former State Department official and human rights advocate **Tom Malinowski (D)** — could capitalize. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

NJ-11 (Trenton): The retirement of New Jersey political fixture Rodney Frelinghuysen — whose family ties to state politics go back to the 1790s — set up a showdown in this very affluent district. **Jay Webber (R)** is a former state party chairman and social conservative. But the district's changing dynamics favor **Mikie Sherrill (D)**, a former Navy helicopter pilot and federal prosecutor. *(Cook Political Report: Lean D).*

Oklahoma (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

OK-GOV (OPEN): Term-limited Gov. Mary Fallin's departure set up a race that's surprisingly competitive despite Oklahoma's Republican DNA. Fallin is leaving office with low approval ratings, and Republicans nominated the weaker candidate with their selection of Gateway Mortgage CEO **Kevin Stitt (R)**. The Democratic candidate, former state Attorney General **Drew Edmonson (D)**, has a successful statewide run under his belt. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up).*

Pennsylvania (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

PA-GOV: Incumbent **Gov. Tom Wolf (D)** looks likely to hold off a challenge from state Sen. **Scott Wagner (R)**, a wealthy businessman who has modeled himself as a Trump-like outsider. You may remember Wagner's threat during a campaign video to "stomp all over [Wolf's] face with golf spikes." *(Cook Political Report rating: Likely D)*

PA-SEN: In a state where Trump unexpectedly emerged victorious in 2016, it would seem that **Sen. Bob Casey (D)** could have been among the red state Democrats worried about keeping his job. But Casey has held a comfortable lead throughout the contest against **Rep. Lou Barletta (R)**, who has aligned himself closely with Trump. Barletta has also lagged in fundraising, and Republican outside groups haven't come to his rescue as they have in closer contests. *(Cook Political Report rating: Likely D.)*

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:00pmET, continued)

PA-1 (Bucks County): The seat held by moderate **Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)** became slightly more Democratic after the state's redistricting this year (he previously represented PA-8). But he's holding his own in this swingy district over **Scott Wallace (D)**, the great grandson of FDR's vice president. Wallace's greatest asset has been his willingness to spend his own considerable wealth — his family's philanthropic foundation has more than \$140 million — but Republicans have also targeted him as an elitist whose family foundation contributed to unpopular causes. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

PA-5 (Delaware County): After redistricting and the retirement of Republican Rep. Pat Meehan (who previously represented PA-7), this area is a likely flip to Democrats. Education advocate **Mary Gay Scanlon (D)** faces former assistant attorney general **Pearl Kim (R)**. (*Cook Political Report: Likely D*).

PA-6 (Southeastern Pennsylvania): Like PA-5, redistricting has rendered the Sixth district a likely flip in Democrats' favor. Republican Ryan Costello is retiring, making this an open race between attorney **Greg McCauley (R)** and one of Democrats' strongest recruits of the cycle, Air Force vet **Chrissy Houlahan (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Likely D*).

PA-7 (Allentown): Moderate GOP Rep. Charlie Dent called it quits this year, and his old district (PA-15) was redrawn to slightly favor Democrats. **Marty Nothstein (R)**, the county commissioner and onetime Olympic cyclist, has the kind of moderate profile that could be successful here, but he's had to deal with allegations of sexual misconduct in 2000. (An arm of the U.S. Olympic Committee investigated the charges and found no wrongdoing.) He faces EMILY's List-backed former Allentown solicitor **Susan Wild (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*).

PA-8 (Scranton): This area flipped for Trump by a double-digit margin in 2016, but **Rep. Matthew Cartwright (D)** wasn't badly disadvantaged by redistricting, and he's well-funded against a GOP challenge from wealthy investment banker **John Chrin (R)**. (*Cook Political Report: Likely D*).

PA-10 (Harrisburg): Democrats nominated pastor and retired Army officer **George Scott (D)** to challenge **Rep. Scott Perry (R)**. Redistricting left Perry (who previously represented PA-04) with a much more competitive seat, and Scott's background could play well against Perry, who is also a veteran. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*).

PA-14 (Southwest Pennsylvania): The district formerly held by Conor Lamb (who's running in the new PA-17) has been redrawn into one that favors the GOP. The Republican candidate is state Sen. **Guy Reschenthaler (R)**; he'll face **Bibiana Boerio (D)**, a former Ford exec. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R*).

PA-16 (Erie): Redistricting slightly cut the GOP edge here for incumbent **Rep. Mike Kelly (R)** (who previously represented PA-3), and Democrats think they have a competitive candidate in attorney **Ron DiNicola (D)**, a former Marine and onetime professional boxer who served as Muhammad Ali's lawyer. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*).

PA-17 (Pittsburgh suburbs): After his high profile win in what was Pennsylvania's 18th district, **Rep. Conor Lamb (D)** is running for a new seat that's even more favorable for him. The same moderate resume that won him national attention in the special election will likely serve him well here as he aims to oust fellow incumbent **Rep. Keith Rothfus (R)**. This is the only race this cycle featuring two current members of the House facing each other. (*Cook Political Report: Likely D*).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:00pmET, continued)

Rhode Island (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

RI-GOV: Incumbent **Gov. Gina Raimondo (D)** fended off a primary challenge from the left, but she's facing a rematch against **Alan Fung (R)**, whom she beat by five points in 2014. There's an independent candidate in the mix, which could complicate the race, too: GOP state senator Joe Trillo. (*Cook Political Report: **Lean D***)

Tennessee (Polls close statewide at 8pm ET)

TN-GOV (OPEN): Unlike the Senate race, the gubernatorial contest should be fairly drama-free, with businessman **Bill Lee (R)** solidly leading former Nashville mayor **Karl Dean (D)** in public polling. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely R***)

TN-SEN: The retirement of Sen. Bob Corker left Republicans playing defense in what should have been a safe Republican race. Democrats recruited the one Dem who could win statewide: popular former governor **Phil Bredesen (D)**. Bredesen has been careful to play up his centrist record and say that he's not running against Trump. He faces **Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R)**, who has fully embraced the president's support. This is one of the top Senate races of the cycle. (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up.***)

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (8:30pm ET and 9pm ET)

8:30pm ET

Arkansas (Polls close statewide at 8:30pm ET)

AR-2 (Little Rock): The Little Rock area is home to President Donald Trump's lowest 2016 showing in the state (52 percent), and Democrats think they have a strong challenger against **Rep. French Hill (R)**. He faces 37 year-old state representative **Clarke Tucker (D)**. *(Cook Political Report: Likely R)*

9pm ET

Arizona (Polls close statewide at 9pm ET)

AZ-GOV: Education is a major issue in the race between **Gov. Doug Ducey (R)**, who faced a major teacher strike this spring, and education consultant and former school superintendent **David Garcia (D)**. But Garcia's positions on immigration and health care are probably too far left for the state, and Ducey has a good economic record to run on. *(Cook Political Report: Likely R)*

AZ-SEN: The departure of Jeff Flake means that Republicans are in a dogfight to keep this seat out of Democratic hands. **Rep. Martha McSally (R)** has highlighted her service as the first female combat fighter pilot. But the state's late August primary also left her little time to pivot to the general election after she was forced to the right on Trump and immigration. **Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D)** didn't face opposition from within her own party, giving her more time to court voters as a centrist. McSally has attacked Sinema hard over her past protests against the Iraq War and past disparaging jokes about Arizona. The candidates here are well-matched, and this will likely be one of the closest races of the cycle. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

AZ-1 (Flagstaff): Candidate **Tom O'Halleran (D)**, a former Republican and onetime Chicago police department detective, has had a moderate profile that fits this district despite its slight edge for Trump in 2016. Republicans like their chances with Air Force veteran and previous congressional candidate **Wendy Rogers (R)**, but O'Halleran remains the favorite. *(Cook Political Report: Likely D)*.

AZ-2 (Tucson): With Martha McSally running for Senate, Democrats put this Clinton-leaning district at the top of their target list. Their nominee, former Rep. **Ann Kirkpatrick (D)** — who previously represented a different and more conservative district in the state — had a more challenging primary than expected against a challenger who ran to her left. Republicans have painted her as a carpetbagger who's too far left for the district, but the NRCC seems to have ceded this one to the Dems by pulling their ads in mid-October. Their candidate is Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce chief **Lea Marquez-Peterson (R)**. *(Cook Political Report rating: Lean D)*.

AZ-6 (North Phoenix): Incumbent **Rep. Dave Schweikert (R)** hasn't had a competitive general election since his first win in 2010, and the district should remain reliably red. But a combination of the area's affluent retirees, its high college-educated population and Trump's tepid 52 percent win here in 2016 puts it potentially in play. His challenger is businesswoman **Anita Malik (D)**. *(Cook Political Report rating: Likely R)*.

AZ-8 (Western Phoenix suburbs): In April, **Debbie Lesko (R)** defeated **Hiral Tiperneni (D)** by just four points in the special election to replace Trent Franks. Tiperneni has kept her fundraising at a brisk clip since then for the November rematch, but the district's heavy GOP tilt favors Lesko to win a full term. *(Cook Political Report: Likely R)*.

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (9pm ET, continued)

Colorado (Polls close statewide at 9pm ET)

CO-GOV (OPEN): With term-limited Democrat John Hickenlooper leaving office, Colorado voters will choose between **Rep. Jared Polis (D)** and **Walker Stapleton (R)**, the state treasurer and a cousin to the former presidents Bush. Both sides think the race is competitive, although the state itself seems to be trending bluer each cycle. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*).

CO-3 (Pueblo): Incumbent **Rep. Scott Tipton (R)**, first elected in the 2010 red wave, fended off well-funded Democratic challengers in 2012 and 2016. Democrats are targeting him again this year, but they will have to hope that turnout will be high in the district's affluent resort areas. Their candidate is state representative **Diane Mitsch Bush (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R*).

CO-6 (Denver suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Mike Coffman (R)** seems to have nine lives in this district that supported Clinton by nine points. A moderate military veteran, he's emphasized his ties to the area's ethnic enclaves, learned Spanish and distanced himself from Trump. But Democrats think they have finally found the right challenger to end his tenure with 39 year-old former Army Ranger **Jason Crow (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*.)

Kansas (Some polls close at 8pm ET. Final poll close is at 9pm ET)

KS-GOV: Kansas Secretary of State **Kris Kobach (R)** won an August primary victory over Gov. Jeff Colyer, prompting analysts to immediately move this race into the Toss Up column. Kobach, who had Trump's endorsement in the primary, is known nationally for his controversial leadership of the president's voter fraud commission. But more problematic for him in Kansas is his alignment with very unpopular former Gov. Sam Brownback. He faces state Sen. **Laura Kelly (D)**; a third-party candidate, independent Greg Orman, will also complicate the results here. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

KS-2 (Eastern Kansas): Kobach's presence at the top of the ticket may be a drag for Republicans in both competitive House races in the state. In this district, which includes Topeka and Lawrence, Democrats think former state House Minority Leader **Paul Davis (D)** is a formidable candidate for them. He faces Army veteran **Steve Watkins (R)**, who's contending with multiple negative stories — including a sexual misconduct allegation. Davis has also been the subject of a flurry of negative ads, including references to a late 1990s incident at a strip club. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*.)
**(8pm ET poll close)*

KS-3 (Kansas City and suburbs): A combination of a highly college-educated and diverse district and a Democratic challenger with an unusual but compelling backstory puts this seat, held by **Rep. Kevin Yoder (R)**, in major danger for Republicans. **Sharice Davids (D)** is a Native American former MMA fighter who is a lesbian with some moderate views. Kobach could be a drag on Yoder in this district as well. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*.)
**(8pm ET poll close)*

Louisiana (Polls close statewide at 9pm ET)

No competitive races.

Michigan (Most polls close at 8pm ET. Final polls close is at 9pm ET)

MI-GOV (OPEN): Republican Gov. Rick Snyder is term-limited, prompting a fight between former state Senate Minority Leader **Gretchen Whitmer (D)** and Attorney General **Bill Schuette (R)**. Whitmer has led in public polling, in part due to her blunt messaging on infrastructure: "Fix the damn roads." (*Cook Political Report: **Lean D***).

MI-SEN: In a different political environment, **Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)** could be facing the race of her career. But between Trump's unpopularity in the state and a relative newcomer in her GOP opponent, African-American veteran **John James (R)**, she's led throughout the contest. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely D***).

MI-1 (Traverse City): Incumbent **Rep. Jack Bergman (R)** represents this largely blue-collar Upper Peninsula district, which has Democratic roots but went for Trump 58 percent to 36 percent. But Iraq War vet **Matt Morgan (D)**, has posted solid fundraising numbers and pushed an anti-gridlock message that have kept him within reach of a potential victory in a wave. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely R***).

MI-6 (Kalamazoo): Incumbent **Rep. Fred Upton (R)** has represented this district since 1986, and he'll run again for his seat despite being recruited heavily last year to challenge Debbie Stabenow in the Senate. The district had been tiptoeing towards Democrats before 2016, and although Trump won handily, he only received 51 percent of the vote. Democrats think physician **Matt Longjohn (D)** could keep things competitive here. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely R***).

***(8pm ET poll close)**

MI-7 (South central Michigan): It'll be a rematch in this district between **Rep. Tim Walberg (R)** and former state representative **Gretchen Driskell (D)**, who ran against him in 2016 (Walberg won 55 percent to 40 percent). It's not clear how different the margins could get in a non-presidential year, but it's worth watching. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely R***).

***(8pm ET poll close)**

MI-8 (Detroit suburbs): Democrats believe they have a compelling candidate in former CIA analyst **Elissa Slotkin (D)**, who served three tours in Iraq. She's taking on **Rep. Mike Bishop (R)**, who was first elected in 2014. Republicans got in some trouble when the family of the late Sen. John McCain chastised them for using McCain's criticism of Slotkin in a TV ad. (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up***).

***(8pm ET poll close)**

MI-11 (Detroit suburbs): Two young female candidates are facing off in this well-educated suburban district. **Lena Epstein (R)**, whose family owns an auto lubrication company, was Trump's co-chair in the state. **Haley Stevens (D)** was the chief of staff on Obama's Auto Task Force, and has since been endorsed by Hillary Clinton. (*Cook Political Report: **Lean D***).

***(8pm ET poll close)**

Minnesota (Polls statewide close at 9pm ET)

MN-GOV (OPEN): Former Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty lost the GOP primary here to Hennepin County Commissioner **Jeff Johnson (R)**, which shook up the race in August. While either GOP candidate may have been flawed, Johnson's more conservative record still shifted this race in Democrats' direction. He faces **Rep. Tim Walz (D)**, whose relatively moderate record could serve him well statewide. *(Cook Political Report: **Likely D**).*

MN-SEN (B): Both of Minnesota's senators are on the ballot this cycle, but the only potentially competitive race is the seat held by Democratic appointee **Sen. Tina Smith**, who's running to fill the remainder of Al Franken's term. Smith, who until recently was the state's lieutenant governor, would have to run again in 2020 for a full term. Her GOP competitor is state senator **Karin Housley (R)**, who has low name recognition in the state. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean D**).*

MN-1 (Rochester): Minnesota is home to some of Republicans' best pickup opportunities, including gubernatorial Dem nominee Tim Walz's old seat, which went for Trump by a whopping 53 to 38 percent. The GOP's candidate isn't exactly a new face; **Jim Hagedorn (R)**, the son of a former congressman, has run for the seat three times before. He faces former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense **Dan Feehan (D)**. Outside groups have hammered Feehan relentlessly, including with TV ads featuring Colin Kaepernick and George Soros. *(Cook Political Report: **Toss Up**).*

MN-2 (Twin Cities suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Jason Lewis (R)** barely beat rival **Angie Craig (D)** in 2016, and the two are back for a rematch this cycle. Lewis took heat this year when journalists unearthed controversial comments he made about women and LGBT people (Craig is gay) on his conservative radio show. Between those comments, Lewis's pro-Trump voting record and the president's sinking approval in the state, Craig has a good shot here. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean D**).*

MN-3 (Twin Cities suburbs): Last cycle, Democrats tried to seriously challenge **Rep. Erik Paulsen (R)** for the first time since his election in 2008, but fell far short even though Hillary Clinton bested Trump in the area by 9 points. But his challenger this cycle — an executive with Talenti gelato and Belvedere Vodka, **Dean Phillips (D)** — is able to target Paulsen for his votes on Republican health care and tax bills. Republicans are countering that Phillips at one point failed to offer health care to employees when his coffee business first launched. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean D**).*

MN-8 (Iron Range): With the departure of Democrat Rick Nolan from this Trump-favoring Iron Range district, Republicans think they have their best pickup opportunity of the cycle. St. Louis County Commissioner **Pete Stauber (R)** is a onetime cop who has noted in his ads that he once played for the Detroit Red Wings franchise. He faces Nolan's former campaign manager and former state representative **Joe Radinovich (D)**. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R**).*

Nebraska (Polls close statewide at 9pm ET)

NE-2 (Omaha suburbs): Democrats were surprised when progressive insurgent **Kara Eastman (D)** beat former Dem Rep. Brad Ashford in the primary here. Eastman, a non-profit executive, will face **Rep. Don Bacon (R)** in a district that barely voted for Trump in 2016. Eastman may be too liberal to win here, and she's gotten little outside help from national Democrats. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R**).*

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (9pm ET, continued)

New Mexico (Polls close statewide at 9pm ET)

NM-GOV (OPEN): Term-limited GOP Gov. Susana Martinez is leaving office, setting up a clash between two members of the House: **Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D)** and **Rep. Steve Pearce (R)**. The state's blue tilt makes Lujan Grisham the favorite. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*).

NM-SEN: Incumbent **Sen. Martin Heinrich (D)** was already the far-and-away favorite, and the presence of independent candidate and former Gov. Gary Johnson solidifies his spot at the top of polls. He faces contractor **Mick Rich (R)**. (*Cook Political Report: Solid D*).

NM-2 (Southern New Mexico): This rural district voted for Trump by 10 points, but it's been represented by Democrats before. Democrats are impressed with their candidate, Las Cruces water rights attorney **Xochitl Torres Small (D)**, who has deep roots in the community. She's up against state representative **Yvette Herrell (R)**, who won her own contentious primary by emphasizing her credentials as a "Trump conservative" (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

New York (Polls close statewide at 9pm ET)

NY-GOV: After easily brushing off a primary challenge from 'Sex and the City' star Cynthia Nixon, **Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D)** should cruise to victory over **Marc Molinaro (R)**. But with Cuomo's 2020 ambitions clear, observers will be keeping an eye on the coalition he builds here. (*Cook Political Report: Solid D*).

NY-1 (Eastern Long Island): First elected in 2014, **Rep. Lee Zeldin (R)** is used to being targeted by Democrats after surviving a well-funded challenge two years ago. The district voted for Trump by a 12 point margin, helping pull him to an easy victory. Without Trump on the ballot, **Perry Gershon (D)**, a commercial real estate businessman, could get closer. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R*).

NY-11 (Staten Island): Republicans dodged a potential crisis when primary voters rejected convicted felon Michael Grimm in favor of incumbent **Rep. Dan Donovan (R)**. Staten Island is a famously Trump-friendly enclave despite its proximity to New York City's liberal boroughs. But Democrats think their candidate here, Afghan War vet **Max Rose (D)**, can keep things competitive. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*).

NY-19 (Northern Hudson Valley): This Catskills-area district swung hard for Trump in 2016 after going for Barack Obama by six points in 2012. **Rep. John Faso (R)** won this seat last cycle when he fended off well-funded campaign reformer Zephyr Teachout. This cycle, Democrats nominated Rhodes Scholar and Harvard law graduate **Antonio Delgado (D)**. Republican attacks on Delgado from outside groups have almost exclusively focused on rap lyrics Delgado, who is black, wrote a decade ago. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*.)

NY-22: (Central Upstate): Democrats have argued that **Rep. Claudia Tenney (R)** is too conservative for this district, although she was aided in her first 2016 win by Trump's popularity in this historically Republican area. Tenney got in trouble earlier this year for suggesting that mass shooters tend to be Democrats. Republicans have aggressively tried to discredit **Anthony Brindisi (D)** by tying him to Cuomo and Nancy Pelosi. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (9pm ET, continued)

NY-24: (Syracuse): Incumbent **Rep. John Katko (R)** sits in a district that went for Hillary Clinton by four points, but he has worked to build a reputation based on his dedication to local issues. He's expected to beat back a challenge from professor and grassroots activist **Dana Balter (D)**, but polling has gotten close as the election approaches. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*).

NY-27 (Buffalo suburbs): It's a testament to the GOP DNA and Trump loyalty in this district that **Rep. Chris Collins (R)**, who was indicted for insider trader charges but failed to get off the ballot, is still the slight favorite to win reelection over **Nate McMurray (D)**, a locally-born attorney. (*Cook Political Report rating: Lean R*).

North Dakota (Early polls close at 8pm ET. Latest poll close is 9pm ET.)

ND-SEN: Incumbent **Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D)** is considered the Senate's most endangered Democrat, particularly in the wake of her vote against the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh. While she has built a strong brand as a neighborly North Dakotan who puts the state's agricultural, energy and Second Amendment interests first, Heitkamp is running in one of the reddest states against a Republican who already has a statewide win under his belt. **Rep. Kevin Cramer (R)**, the state's at-large representative, has been vocal about being talked into a run by Trump himself. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*).

South Dakota (Early polls close at 8pm ET. Latest poll close is 9pm ET.)

SD-GOV (OPEN): **Rep. Kristi Noem (R)** is the GOP nominee for this open seat in usually reliably red South Dakota. But rival state Senate Minority Leader **Billie Sutton (D)**, has a pretty remarkable bio: He's 34 years old and a former professional rodeo athlete who was paralyzed in an accident. Democrats may be able to keep this closer than Noem would like due to her association with unpopular House leaders. (*Cook Political Report rating: Toss Up*).

Texas (Early polls close at 8pm ET. Latest poll close is 9pm ET.)

TX-GOV: Incumbent **Gov. Gregg Abbott (R)** is popular in the state and remains a lock for re-election, but the margins will still be worth watching as analysts look for signs of a new Democratic coalition in the Lone Star State. His challenger is **Lupe Valdez (D)**, a Latina and lesbian who served as the sheriff of Dallas County. (*Cook Political Report: Solid R*).

TX-SEN: A combination of low favorability for **Sen. Ted Cruz (R)** — a onetime presidential candidate who had a famously fraught relationship with Donald Trump before ultimately wholeheartedly backing him — and a dynamic Democratic candidate has made this one of the most closely-watched races in the country. **Beto O'Rourke (D)**, a telegenic 45-year-old who has represented El Paso in Congress since 2012, has made rejection of PAC funds a cause célèbre, and he's emphasized his willingness to travel to every part of the state to make his case. Cruz has attacked O'Rourke for his views on immigration and the NFL protests — which are probably too liberal for the state, which hasn't elected a Democrat to statewide office in 24 years. But O'Rourke's unique campaign and wildly successful fundraising (he topped \$38 million in a single quarter) has made this one a top race to watch. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (9pm ET, continued)

TX-2 (Houston suburbs): The more compelling candidate in this open seat is **Dan Crenshaw (R)**, a former Navy SEAL who wears an eye patch after losing an eye in an IED blast in Afghanistan. He's up against **Todd Litton (D)**, an after-school non-profit program leader. The suburban makeup of the district makes it less hospitable to Trump than other areas of the state, giving Democrats some hope that they can keep things competitive. *(Cook Political Report: **Likely R**).*

***(8pm ET poll close)**

TX-7 (Houston suburbs): This affluent area outside of Houston, once a GOP stronghold, isn't Trump Country. After backing Romney by double digits, voters here narrowly picked Clinton over Trump. Establishment Democrats have been optimistic about the race against **Rep. John Culberson (R)** all cycle, but they had a scare during the spring primary when a progressive insurgent gave a scare to their preferred candidate, **Lizzie Fletcher (D)**. Fletcher ultimately prevailed, and she has run a solid campaign emphasizing the dynamism of the changing district. Culberson has had sluggish fundraising, annoying DC GOP groups who have long been raising the alarm here. *(Cook Political Report: **Toss Up**).*

***(8pm ET poll close)**

TX-21 (San Antonio suburbs): In this open seat, former Ted Cruz chief of staff **Chip Roy (R)** will face off against **Joseph Kopser (D)**, a former Army officer who served in Iraq. If Democrats have a chance here, it's because of Trump's middling 52 percent showing in the district in 2016. *(Cook Political Report: **Likely R**).*

***(8pm ET poll close)**

TX-22 (Houston southwest suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Pete Olson (R)**, who was first elected in 2008, faces a challenge from former Foreign Service officer **Sri Preston Kulkarni (D)**. In this swiftly diversifying and well-educated district, Olson should stay on his toes despite the seat's Republican lean. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R**).*

***(8pm ET poll close)**

TX-23 (San Antonio): Incumbent **Will Hurd (R)** is, in some ways, a Republican Beto O'Rourke — a dynamic campaigner and fundraiser who's seen as the future of his party in Texas and beyond. Hurd has defied the odds by being elected and reelected once despite sitting in a district that went for Clinton 49-46 percent and is nearly 70 percent Hispanic. He's gone so far as to suggest in a New York Times op-ed that Trump is being manipulated by Russia. Democrats also have a dynamic candidate in veteran **Gina Ortiz Jones (D)**, who would be the first openly lesbian vet to serve in Congress. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R**).*

TX-24 (Fort Worth suburbs): It's a rematch here between **Rep. Kenny Marchant (R)** and 2016 contender **Jan McDowell (D)**, a CPA who spent little money two years ago but still held Marchant to a victory at 56 percent. *(Cook Political Report: **Likely R**).*

***(8pm ET poll close)**

TX-31 (Round Rock): Incumbent **Rep. John Carter (R)** is seeking a ninth term, but he faces a dynamic Democratic challenger in **M.J. Hegar (D)**, whose viral "Doors" ad won her national attention and an influx of fundraising. Hegar is a 42 year-old former Air Force combat pilot; Carter is 76. The district is reliably conservative; if Hegar keeps it close, Republicans are having a bad night. *(Cook Political Report: **Likely R**).*

***(8pm ET poll close)**

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (9pm ET, continued)

TX-32 (Dallas suburbs): A combination of a compelling Democratic candidate, a quickly moderating suburban district and a Republican incumbent who hasn't faced a competitive race for 14 years puts this one squarely in the list of races to watch. **Colin Allred (D)** is a 35 year-old African-American civil rights lawyer and former NFL player who went from being raised by a single mom to earning a law degree at Berkeley. He's challenging vulnerable **Rep. Pete Sessions (R)**, a former NRCC chair. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up.*)

***(8pm ET poll close)**

Wisconsin (Polls statewide close at 9pm ET)

WI-GOV: Wisconsin **Gov. Scott Walker (R)** gained national fame for his survival of a recount challenge, his successful reelection and his unsuccessful run for president. But his effort to secure another term is proving to be one of his most harrowing political tests yet, particularly with President Donald Trump's growing unpopularity in the state. He's facing Superintendent of Public Instruction **Tony Evers (D)**. Much of the race has focused on education issues, with Walker touting his reforms on education and his allies pummeling Evers on an incident during his tenure involving a teacher who viewed pornography at a school. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up.*)

WI-SEN: Walker ally **Leah Vukmir (R)** is the Republican nominee in the race to oust **Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D)**. Earlier in the cycle, Trump's unexpected 2016 appeal made this seat look very much in play, and GOP outside groups spent heavily to brand Baldwin as a liberal. But Vukmir had to muscle through a late primary in August, leaving her only a few months to pivot to the general election — and Trump's approval in the state has eroded. (*Cook Political Report: Likely D.*)

WI-1 (Racine): House Speaker Paul Ryan's retirement announcement threw DC into a tizzy, but it also upended the political world in Wisconsin, where Ryan has served in his home district near Janesville since 1998. **Randy Bryce (D)** quickly built a Democratic following under his Twitter moniker @IronStache, a play on his career as an iron worker, veteran and blue-collar background. He faces former Ryan staffer **Bryan Steil (R)**. Bryce has been dogged by a record of arrests, including a DUI in 1988 — something Republicans, recognizing the optics of losing the seat — have not been afraid to feature in ads. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*)

WI-6 (Oshkosh): Republican Dan Grothman hasn't faced a particularly competitive race since being elected in 2014, but a well-funded challenger could give him a scare. Democrat Dan Kohl is the nephew of former Sen. Herb Kohl (of the Kohl's department store empire) and the former assistant general manager of the Milwaukee Bucks. (*Cook Political Report: Likely R*)

Wyoming (Polls statewide close at 9pm ET)

No competitive races.

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (10pm ET)

10pm ET

Iowa (Polls statewide close at 10 pm ET)

IA-GOV: Incumbent **Gov. Kim Reynolds (R)** is facing a more difficult-than-expected race to win a full term (She was sworn in as the replacement for Terry Branstad after the popular Republican was named as Trump's ambassador to China.) But she's had declining approval ratings since early in her tenure. She faces former Equitable Life CEO **Fred Hubbell (D)**, who has been competitive in polling since locking down the nomination. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

IA-1 (Northeast Iowa): Republicans have long grumbled that **Rep. Rod Blum (R)** failed to play defense earlier in a district that voted for Barack Obama twice. Democrats like their chances with **Abby Finkenauer (D)**, a 28 year-old state representative and pipefitter's daughter who has emphasized her ties to the state. Perhaps the biggest sign that Blum is in trouble: GOP outside groups haven't spent much to shore him up. *(Cook Political Report: Lean D.)*

IA-3 (Des Moines): This Des Moines area seat is one that often swings as the majority changes hands. It swung for Barack Obama in 2012 by four points, only to back Trump by three points four years later. **Rep. David Young (R)**, who has served since 2014, is a former chief of staff to Chuck Grassley. She faces **Cindy Axne (D)**, a digital design businesswoman. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

IA-4: (Western Iowa): Few followers of immigration policy are unfamiliar with **Rep. Steve King (R)**, one of the House's most controversial figures. A string of King's statements over the last year, including some recent retweets of white nationalists, have prompted Democratic donors to flood King's opponents with donations. His rival in this deep red district is former professional minor league baseball pitcher **J.D. Scholten (D)**. Scholten's fundraising means he'll be able to focus on King's unpopular tax and health care votes on the airwaves. In late October, the NRCC chairman disavowed King's race-fueled comments. *(Cook Political Report: Lean R.)*

Montana (Polls statewide close at 10 pm ET)

MT-SEN: Montana's Senate contest will be the battle of the brand versus the bedrock. Montana was one of Trump's strongest states in 2016: he won 50 of its 56 counties and bested Clinton by almost 20 points. On the other hand, **Sen. Jon Tester (D)**, first elected in 2006, has famously built a personal brand around his signature flat top haircut and loss of three fingers in a meat grinder as a kid. Tester, the ranking member on the Veterans Affairs committee, additionally earned the personal ire of Trump after his role in pushing his personal physician, Ronny Jackson, out of contention for VA Secretary. Democrats have tried to brand challenger and state auditor **Matt Rosendale (R)** as an outsider and money-grubbing real estate developer, but he's been pretty resilient in the face of the attacks. Keep an eye on the Libertarian candidate in this race, too, who could siphon votes from Rosendale. *(Cook Political Report: Toss Up.)*

MT-AL (Whole state): Incumbent **Rep. Greg Gianforte (R)** won some national notoriety after narrowly winning a special election in the state last year just a day after assaulting a reporter. That event was so close to the day of the election that it may have ultimately have occurred too late to have an impact, but it's likely to be well-remembered in November. (At a rally in Montana, Trump approvingly referenced the incident, too.) He's also running against a woman, state representative **Kathleen Williams (D)**, who's run a credible campaign in a red state. *(Cook Political Report: Lean R.)*

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (10pm ET)

Nevada (Polls statewide close at 10 pm ET)

NV-GOV (OPEN): The race to replace term-limited Brian Sandoval pits state Attorney General **Adam Laxalt (R)** against Clark County Commissioner **Steve Sisolak (D)**. Polling has shown the race to be very tight. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up.*)

NV-SEN: Incumbent **Sen. Dean Heller (R)** is the Senate's most endangered incumbent Republican — a result of skepticism from pro-Trump voters that he's loyal to the president while moderates in the state consider him too much of a partisan. He faces freshman **Rep. Jacky Rosen (D)**. Both sides acknowledge that this is likely to be a squeaker, although Democrats seem a bit more optimistic about their chances in a state Clinton won by two points in 2016. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up.*)

NV-3 (Las Vegas suburbs): With some public prodding from the White House, **Danny Tarkanian (R)** stepped aside from his planned run against Dean Heller to run again for this seat, which he lost by a point in 2016. Tarkanian is the kind of perennial candidate that may make voters roll their eyes — he has run and lost in three congressional races in the last four cycles. He's up against **Susie Lee (D)**, a non-profit executive whose main negative may be her family's personal wealth. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D.*)

NV-4: (Las Vegas suburbs): Democrats should be well positioned in the contest to replace Democratic Rep. Ruben Kihuen, who announced his retirement amid sexual harassment allegations. The race pits former congressman **Crescent Hardy (R)** against former congressman **Steven Horsford (D)**. But Republican outside groups have been very aggressive in targeting Horsford over financial woes, which is keeping this race in play. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D.*)

Utah (Polls statewide close at 10 pm ET)

UT-SEN: It's not a competitive contest, but a reminder: Senate nominee **Mitt Romney (R)** should be on a glide path to the Senate, where he'll likely be called upon by moderate Republicans to push back on the president. He faces Salt Lake City councilwoman **Jenny Wilson (D)**. (*Cook Political Report: Solid R.*)

UT-4 (Salt Lake City suburbs): Trump's unique unpopularity in genteel, LDS-church dominant Utah has made life difficult for **Rep. Mia Love (R)**. She faces Salt Lake County mayor **Ben McAdams (D)**, who already represents a good chunk of the district in his county role. McAdams' reputation as a pragmatist could keep things close. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up.*)

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (11pm ET)

11pm ET

California (Polls statewide close at 11 pm ET)

CA-GOV: Republicans did end up with a candidate in the statewide race for governor — which was in question due to the state's top-two primary system. An endorsement from Donald Trump for businessman **John Cox (R)** may have lifted him to a distant second against frontrunner and Lieutenant Gov. **Gavin Newsom (D)**. Having a gubernatorial nominee at the top of the ticket may marginally help juice GOP turnout down the ballot (in addition to the presence of a gas tax initiative), but otherwise this won't be a suspenseful race. (*Cook Political Report: **Solid D***).

CA-SEN: Incumbent **Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D)** faces a nominal challenge from fellow Democrat and state senator **Kevin de León**, who has run to Feinstein's left. He has tried in recent weeks to capitalize on criticism of her handling of the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearing, but he still trails significantly in public polls. (*Cook Political Report: **Solid D***).

CA-4 (Lake Tahoe): This is the kind of GOP seat that could flip in a big wave: A strong newcomer in former USAID official **Jess Morse (D)**, versus a five-term incumbent — **Rep. Tom McClintock (R)** — who has lagged in fundraising in a district that went for Trump by a 53-39 margin. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely R***).

CA-7 (Sacramento suburbs): Incumbent **Rep. Ami Bera (D)** nearly had his campaign sunk by a campaign finance scandal in 2016, but he's performing better against Marine veteran **Andrew Grant (R)** in this Clinton +12 district. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely D***).

CA-10 (Central Valley): The seat held by **Rep. Jeff Denham (R)** is one of 23 represented by a Republican but won by Hillary Clinton, making it a prime pickup opportunity for Democrats. Denham has tried to buck typical GOP rhetoric on the issue of immigration in this district, which is about 40 percent Hispanic. He's up against venture capitalist **Josh Harder (D)**. The result may depend on how Latinos turn out — and how they break. (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up***).

CA-16: (Central Valley): Democratic **Rep. Jim Costa (D)**, who's served for seven terms, has his strongest challenger ever in **Elizabeth Heng (R)**, the 33 year-old child of Cambodian refugees. But it's still a district with strong Democratic DNA. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely D***).

CA-21 (Central Valley): Incumbent **Rep. David Valadao (R)** easily survived his 2016 reelection even though his district backed Clinton by 14 points — a victory that can be attributed to his deft handling of local issues in a district that is heavily Hispanic and agricultural. Investor **T.J. Cox (D)** has been messaging on Trump's deportation policy, which could test Valadao's independent brand. (*Cook Political Report: **Likely R***).

CA-25 (Northern LA County): Democrats think they got a top-tier candidate in **Katie Hill (D)**, a 30 year-old nonprofit executive who rock climbs and owns horses. She'll take on **Rep. Steve Knight (R)**, who's 20 years her senior and famously told a protestor in 2015 "If you touch me again, I'll drop your ass." (*Cook Political Report: **Toss Up***).

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (11pm ET, continued)

CA-39 (Northern Orange County): National Democrats played hard in the primary here to get lottery winner and philanthropist **Gil Cisneros (D)** on the ballot in the contest to replace retiring Republican Ed Royce. Republicans are also pleased with their recruit, former assemblywoman **Young Kim (R)**, who would be the first Korean-American woman elected to Congress. Cisneros hasn't exactly turned out to be a star candidate, and he's been dogged by an uncorroborated accusation of inappropriate sexual comments. (His accuser has since withdrawn her complaint.) Democrats feel less enthusiastic about winning this district than other competitive races in California (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*).

CA-45 (Inland Orange County): Incumbent **Rep. Mimi Walters (R)** had previously been seen as a good fit for this wealthy district, but Democrats are bullish about messaging on her votes for the Republican health care and tax bills. Their candidate, law professor **Katie Porter (D)**, has been a strong fundraiser, although Republicans are sure to remind voters of her support from Elizabeth Warren. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*.)

CA-48 (Coastal Orange County): The affinity that **Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R)** has demonstrated for Russia has been so well-documented that opponents are running ads mocking him as the Kremlin-endorsed candidate in the race. That reputation — and his votes to repeal Obamacare — have Democrats pleased with their chances to oust him. Their candidate, real estate businessman **Harley Rouda (D)**, has deep pockets, although Republicans think they have a good opposition research book on Rouda's real estate business. (*Cook Political Report: Toss Up*.)

CA-49 (Northern San Diego County): Rep. Darrell Issa would have been the most vulnerable incumbent Republican in the House had he chosen to run for reelection. His decision to retire leaves a district open that went for Hillary Clinton by a margin of more than eight points. The race pits GOP Board of Equalizers member **Diane Harkey (R)** against environmental attorney **Mike Levin (D)**. The national climate means this race is looking like a good pickup for Democrats. (*Cook Political Report: Lean D*.)

CA-50 (San Diego County): Democrats had hoped to get a stronger candidate in this district in the event of the indictment of **Rep. Duncan Hunter (R)**, but they ended up with one who is viewed as fairly flawed. Former Obama Labor Department official **Ammar Campa-Najjar (D)** is to the left of this heavily military district, and he's had to disavow his grandfather, who was one of the leaders of the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Hunter has falsely insinuated in ads that Campa-Najjar himself presents a national security threat, earning condemnation from national media. Despite the indictment, Hunter may well remain in his seat. (*Cook Political Report: Lean R*.)

Hawaii (Polls statewide close at 11 pm ET)

No competitive races

Idaho (Earliest polls close at 10pm; final poll closing is 11pm ET)

ID-GOV: While it's not a competitive race, **Paulette Jordan (D)** has gotten a fair amount of national attention by being the first Native American woman to win a major party nomination for governor. (She'd also be the first female governor of the state if she won.) But Idaho remains reliably Republican, and **Lt. Gov. Brad Little (R)** is expected to cruise to a win. (*Cook Political Report: Solid R*.)

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (11pm ET, continued)

Oregon (Earliest polls close at 10pm; final poll closing is 11pm ET)

OR-GOV: Since replacing resigning Gov. John Kitzhaber in the wake of scandals in 2016, incumbent **Gov. Kate Brown (D)** has faced some trouble spots, including education and foster care issues in the state and a proposed energy tax increase. Republicans nominated orthopedic surgeon and state representative **Knute Buehler (R)**, who will try to capitalize on Brown's middling approval numbers. *(Cook Political Report: **Toss Up.**)*

Washington (Polls statewide close at 11 pm ET)

WA-3 (Vancouver): Incumbent **Rep. Jamie Herrera Beutler (R)** was previously considered to be in a safe seat — she enjoyed a pretty solid favorability rating and didn't have the baggage of having voted for unpopular GOP health care bills. But Democrats say the race has been breaking their way in recent weeks. Their candidate is political science professor **Carolyn Long (D)**. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R.**)*

WA-5 (Spokane): If capturing Paul Ryan's seat would be the ultimate coup for Democrats, winning here would be a close second — and would knock out a sitting member of House leadership. Former WSU Spokane Chancellor **Lisa Brown (D)** has mounted a strong challenger to **Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)**, whom Democrats have painted as a creature of Washington detached from everyday constituents. That strong challenge was reinforced by McMorris Rodgers' weak performance in the state's top-two primary in August. Worth noting: In the 1994 GOP wave, this same district booted another member of ruling party leadership: House Speaker Tom Foley. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R.**)*

WA-8 (Seattle suburbs): Candidate **Dino Rossi (R)** is hoping that this is finally his year. A failed candidate for two statewide offices in the last decade, Rossi is well-funded in his attempt to fill the open seat of retiring Dave Reichert. But this is still a district that voted for Clinton by three points, and Democrats think they'll be able to paint Rossi as a de facto incumbent. That's a contrast to their candidate, newcomer and pediatrician **Kim Schrier (D)**, who won a very competitive primary. *(Cook Political Report: **Toss Up.**)*

The VIEWERS' GUIDE: COMPETITIVE RACES, BY POLL CLOSING TIME (1 am ET)

1am ET

Alaska (First polls close at 11pm ET. Final polls close at 1pm ET)

AK-GOV: What was once a three-way race between incumbent independent **Gov. Bill Walker, Mark Begich(D)** and **Mike Dunleavy (R)** went topsy-turvy in mid-October, when Walker abruptly suspended his campaign. That move came after his lieutenant governor resigned for unspecified inappropriate comments. In a three-way race, Dunleavy was favored, but the new dynamic could be unpredictable. Walker has endorsed Begich, BUT he will still remain on the ballot despite his decision to suspend the campaign. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R.**)*

AK-AL (entire state): Incumbent **Rep. Don Young (R)** has served for 23 terms and has survived a few close elections in his time. This cycle, his main opponent is **Alyse Galvin (I)**, an independent who ran in the Democratic primary and won, which could create a new and more challenging dynamic for him this cycle. *(Cook Political Report: **Lean R.**)*

A TIMELINE OF AMERICAN POLITICS, 2017-2018

Jan. 20, 2017: Donald Trump takes the oath as the nation's 45th president

Jan. 27: Trump, in an executive action, signs his controversial travel ban

Feb. 13: National Security Adviser Michael Flynn resigns just after the Washington Post first reported that the Justice Department had informed the White House that Flynn could be subject to blackmail

Feb. 20: Trump names H.R. McMaster as his new national security adviser.

March 20: FBI Director Comey confirms his agency is investigating allegations that Trump's 2016 campaign might have contacts with Russian entities. Comey also says there's "no information that supports" Trump's wiretapping charges against Obama.

April 7: Senate confirms Trump Supreme Court pick Neil Gorsuch

May 9: Trump fires Comey as FBI director

May 10: In Oval Office meeting, Trump tells Russian officials, "I just fired the head of the F.B.I. He was crazy, a real nut job," he said, according to the New York Times. "I faced great pressure because of Russia. That's taken off."

May 11: In interview with NBC's Lester Holt, Trump said he firing Comey regardless of what Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein recommended. And he suggested the Russia investigation was a reason behind the dismissal. "When I decided to [fire Comey], I said to myself, I said you know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made up story."

May 17: Rosenstein appoints former FBI Director Robert Mueller as a special counsel in Russia probe

June 1: Trump announces that U.S. is withdrawing from Paris climate agreement

June 20: Republican Karen Handel defeats Democrat Jon Ossoff in the GA-6 special election

July 28: Senate health-care bill fails, with McCain casting the deciding "no" vote; Trump replaces chief of staff Reince Priebus with DHS Secretary John Kelly

July 31: Anthony Scaramucci ousted as communications director – after just 10 days

Aug. 8: Trump promises "fire and fury like the world has never seen" if North Korea continues to threaten the United States

Aug. 12: In response to violence in Charlottesville, Trump says: "We condemn in strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence on many sides."

Sept. 29: HHS Secretary Tom Price resigns amid criticism of his use of taxpayer-funded chartered flights

Oct. 30: Paul Manafort and Rick Gates are indicted in Mueller probe; George Papadopoulos pleads guilty

Dec. 1: Flynn pleads guilty for lying to the FBI

Dec. 12: Democrat Doug Jones defeats Republican Roy Moore in Alabama's special Senate contest, reducing the GOP's Senate majority to 51-49

Dec. 22: President Trump signs GOP tax legislation into law

A TIMELINE OF AMERICAN POLITICS, 2017-2018, continued

Jan. 30, 2018: Trump delivers State of the Union address to Congress

Feb. 16: Mueller indicts 13 Russians and three companies regarding Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election

Feb. 19: Pennsylvania's Supreme Court releases new congressional map, giving Democrats a shot at picking up as many as six congressional seats in the state

March 13: President Trump fires Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who is later replaced by CIA Director Mike Pompeo

March 22: National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster resigns; he's later replaced by John Bolton

April 9: FBI raids the offices and home of longtime Trump lawyer/fixer Michael Cohen, seizing business records, emails and documents

April 11: House Speaker Paul Ryan announces that he won't run for re-election

May 8: Trump announces withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal

June 12: Trump, in Singapore, holds summit with North Korea's Kim Jong-Un; Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., loses GOP primary to challenger Katie Arrington

June 20: Trump signs executive order reversing administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the border

June 26: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez upsets Rep. Joe Crowley, D-N.Y., in Democratic primary; Supreme Court upholds Trump's revised travel ban

June 27: Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announces retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court

July 5: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt resigns amid numerous ethics controversies

July 9: Trump nominates Brett Kavanaugh to fill Anthony Kennedy's seat on the Supreme Court

July 13: Special counsel Robert Mueller indicts 12 Russian intelligence officials for hacking Democratic organizations and the Clinton campaign

July 16: In a news conference with Russia's Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Trump blames both countries for the state of U.S.-Russia relations ("I think that the United States has been foolish. I think we've all been foolish"), and he appears to side with Putin over U.S. intelligence agencies on the question whether Russia interfered in the 2016 election ("I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today")

Aug. 21: Cohen, Trump's longtime lawyer/fixer, pleads guilty; jury finds Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort guilty on eight counts

Aug. 25: Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., passes away

Sept. 5: Anonymous senior Trump administration official publishes New York Times op-ed calling the president amoral and erratic, and says many in the administration are working to thwart his agenda

Sept. 7: Papadopoulos, the former Trump campaign adviser, is sentenced to 14 days in prison for lying to the FBI early in inquiry on election interference

Sept. 14: Manafort pleads guilty, agrees to cooperate with Mueller's investigative team

A TIMELINE OF AMERICAN POLITICS, 2017-2018, continued

Sept. 16: Speaking publicly to the Washington Post, Christine Blasey Ford accuses Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her more than three decades ago

Sept. 26: Ford and a defiant Kavanaugh testify, separately, before the Senate Judiciary Committee

Oct. 6: Kavanaugh wins Senate confirmation by a narrow 50-48 vote

Oct. 9: UN Ambassador Nikki Haley announces her resignation from the Trump administration

Oct. 10: Hurricane Michael strikes the Florida panhandle as a Category 4 storm.

Oct. 19: Saudi Arabia said 18 of its citizens were responsible for killing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi – after telling different stories for more than two weeks

Oct. 22: Trump tweets about the caravan of migrants assembled in southern Mexico, alleging that "criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in"

Oct. 23: Trump admits there's no proof to his claim that Middle Easterners are part of the migrant caravan: "There's no proof of anything. There's no proof of anything. But they could very well be"

Oct. 24: Officials reveal that pipe bombs were sent to prominent Democrats, including Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, as well as to CNN

Oct. 26: Authorities charge Caesar Sayoc, a fervent Trump supporter, of sending more than a dozen pipe bomb packages targeted at prominent Democrats

Oct. 27: An anti-Semitic gunman opens fire at Pittsburgh synagogue, killing 11 worshipers

WHOM HAVE THE 2020 POTENTIALS ENDORSED?

(A brief list of endorsements for Senate and gubernatorial candidates, by state)

Candidate	Office	State	BIDEN	SANDERS	WARREN	HARRIS	BOOKER
Kyrsten Sinema, Arizona	Senate	AZ	X				X
Gavin Newsom, California	Governor	CA				X	
Dianne Feinstein, California (incumbent)	Senate	CA	X			X	
Tom Carper, Delaware (incumbent)	Senate	DE	X				
Andrew Gillum, Florida	Governor	FL		X	X	X	X
Bill Nelson, Florida	Senate	FL	X		X	X	X
Stacey Abrams, Georgia	Governor	GA	X	X	X	X	X
Paulette Jordan, Idaho	Governor	ID		X			
Joe Donnelly, Indiana (incumbent)	Senate	IN	X				
Ben Jealous, Maryland	Governor	MD	X	X	X	X	X
Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan	Governor	MI	X	X	X		
Debbie Stabenow, Michigan	Senate	MI				X	
Tina Smith, Minnesota (incumbent)	Senate	MN	X				
Mike Espy, Mississippi	Senate	MS					X
Jon Tester, Montana (incumbent)	Senate	MT	X				
Heidi Heitkamp, North Dakota (incumbent)	Senate	ND	X			X	
Michelle Lujan Grisham, New Mexico	Governor	NM	X				
Jacky Rosen, Nevada	Senate	NV	X	X			
Richard Cordray, Ohio	Governor	OH	X		X		
Sherrod Brown, Ohio (incumbent)	Senate	OH	X			X	
Bob Casey, Pennsylvania (incumbent)	Senate	PA	X		X	X	
James Smith, South Carolina	Governor	SC	X	X			
Christine Halliquist, Vermont	Governor	VT	X		X		X
Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin (incumbent)	Senate	WI	X	X	X	X	X

WHOM HAVE THE 2020 POTENTIALS ENDORSED?, continued

(A brief list of endorsements for House candidates, by state)

Candidate	Office	State	BIDEN	SANDERS	WARREN	HARRIS	BOOKER
TJ Cox, California	House	CA	X		X	X	
Katie Hill, California	House	CA	X			X	
Katie Porter, California	House	CA	X		X	X	
Gil Cisneros, California	House	CA	X				
Harley Rouda, California	House	CA	X			X	
Mike Levin, California	House	CA	X	X		X	
Jason Crow, Colorado	House	CO	X				
Joe Neguse, Colorado	House	CO	X			X	
Jahana Hayes, Connecticut	House	CT			X	X	
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Florida	House	FL	X				
Sanjay Patel, Florida	House	FL		X			
Abby Finkenauer, Iowa	House	IA	X				
Cindy Axne, Iowa	House	IA			X		
JD Scholten, Iowa	House	IA		X			
Lauren Underwood, Illinois	House	IL	X		X	X	
Brendan Kelly, Illinois	House	IL	X				
Jesus Garcia, Illinois	House	IL		X			
Liz Watson, Indiana	House	IN		X			
James Thompson, Kansas	House	KS		X			
Elissa Slotkin, Michigan	House	MI	X				
Haley Stevens, Michigan	House	MI	X				
Dan Feehan, Minnesota	House	MN	X				
Kara Eastman, Nebraska	House	NE			X		
Josh Gottheimer, New Jersey	House	NJ	X				
Andy Kim, New Jersey	House	NJ	X				
Tom Malinowski, New Jersey	House	NJ	X		X		
Mikie Sherrill, New Jersey	House	NJ	X				
Donald Norcross, New Jersey	House	NJ					X
Xochitl Torres Small, New Mexico	House	NM	X				
Ken Harbaugh, Ohio	House	OH	X				
Theresa Gasper, Ohio	House	OH			X		
George Scott, Pennsylvania	House	PA	X				
Chrissy Houlahan, Pennsylvania	House	PA	X				
Scott Wallace, Pennsylvania	House	PA			X		
Jess King, Pennsylvania	House	PA		X			
Joe Cunningham, South Carolina	House	SC	X				
Lizzie Fletcher, Texas	House	TX	X				
Gina Ortiz-Jones, Texas	House	TX	X				
Joseph Kopser, Texas	House	TX			X		
Randy Bryce, Wisconsin	House	WI		X	X		

EXIT POLLS: 2016

	% of electorate	Clinton	Trump
Gender			
Male	47%	41%	52%
Female	53%	54%	41%
Age			
18-29	19%	55%	36%
30-44	25%	51%	41%
45-64	40%	44%	52%
65 or older	16%	45%	52%
Race			
White	71%	37%	57%
Black	12%	89%	8%
Latino	11%	66%	28%
Asian	4%	65%	27%
Other	3%	56%	36%
Gender by race			
White men	34%	31%	62%
White women	37%	43%	52%
Black men	5%	82%	13%
Black women	7%	94%	4%
Latino men	5%	63%	32%
Latino women	6%	69%	25%
Education			
College graduate	50%	52%	42%
No college degree	50%	44%	51%
Race/ education			
White college graduates	37%	45%	48%
White no college degree	34%	29%	66%
Non-white college graduates	13%	72%	22%
Non-white no college degree	16%	76%	20%

	% of electorate	Clinton	Trump
White education by gender			
White women/college grads	20%	51%	44%
White women/non-college grads	17%	34%	61%
White men/college grads	17%	39%	53%
White men/ non-college grads	16%	23%	71%
Party ID			
Democrat	36%	89%	8%
Republican	33%	8%	88%
Independent	31%	42%	46%
White evangelical?			
Yes	26%	16%	80%
No	74%	60%	34%
First time voter?			
Yes	10%	57%	38%
No	90%	47%	47%
Supreme Court			
Most important factor	21%	41%	56%
An important factor	48%	49%	46%
A minor factor	14%	49%	40%
Not a factor at all	14%	55%	37%
Obama approval			
Approve	53%	84%	10%
Disapprove	45%	6%	89%
Population			
City over 50,000	34%	60%	34%
Suburbs	49%	45%	49%
Small city/rural	17%	34%	61%

EXIT POLLS: 2010

	% of electorate	DEM	GOP
Gender			
Male	48	41	55
Female	52	48	49
Age			
18-29	12	55	42
30-44	24	46	50
45-64	43	45	53
65 or older	21	38	59
Race			
White	77	37	60
Black	11	89	9
Latino	8	60	38
Asian	2	58	40
Other	2	53	44
Gender by race			
White men	38	34	62
White women	40	39	58
Black men	5	86	13
Black women	6	92	6
Latino men	4	55	44
Latino women	4	65	33
Education			
College graduate	52	45	53
No college degree	48	45	52
*Education by gender not available in 2010 exit polls.			

	% of electorate	DEM	GOP
Race/ education			
White college graduates	42	39	58
White no college degree	35	33	63
Non-white college graduates	9	70	28
Non-white no college degree	13	75	23
Party ID			
Democrat	35	91	7
Republican	35	5	94
Independent	29	37	56
Evangelical?			
White evangelical Christian	25	19	77
All others	75	55	42
First time voter?			
First time voters	3	45	43
All others	97	44	53
Obama approval			
Approve	44	85	14
Disapprove	55	11	84
Population			
City over 50,000	31	56	41
Suburbs	49	42	55
Small city/rural	20	36	61

EXIT POLLS: 2006

	% of electorate	DEM	GOP
Gender			
Male	49	50	47
Female	51	55	43
Age			
18-29	12	60	38
30-44	24	53	45
45-64	34	53	46
65 or older	29	50	48
Race			
White	79	47	51
Black	10	89	10
Latino	8	69	30
Asian	2	62	37
Other	2	55	42
Gender by race			
White men	39	44	53
White women	40	49	50
Non-white male	9	75	23
Non-white female	11	78	21
*Education by gender/race not available in 2006 exit poll.			

	% of electorate	DEM	GOP
Education			
College graduate	55	53	45
No college degree	45	53	46
Party ID			
Democrat	38	93	7
Republican	36	8	91
Independent	26	57	39
Evangelical?			
White evangelical Christian	24	28	70
All others	76	60	38
Presidential approval/Bush			
Approve	43	14	84
Disapprove	57	82	16
Population			
City over 50,000	30	61	37
Suburbs	47	50	48
Small city/rural	24	48	50