

Oct. 15, 2018

Governors’ Races Forecast Roundup: Week of Oct. 15

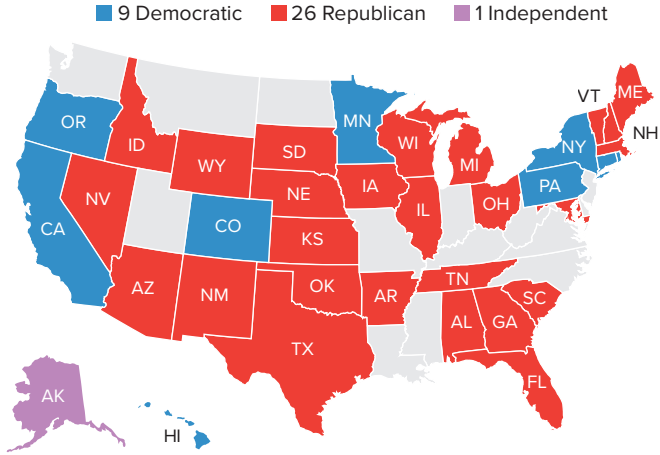
According to Jennifer Duffy, the senior editor covering gubernatorial races for The Cook Political Report, this year’s contests have focused more heavily on education compared to previous cycles. Teacher strikes nationwide have called attention to school funding shortfalls, and some Democratic candidates — including Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers — are well-positioned to seize on the issue.

Recent polls have convinced forecasters to shift ratings toward the Democrats in Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota and South Dakota.

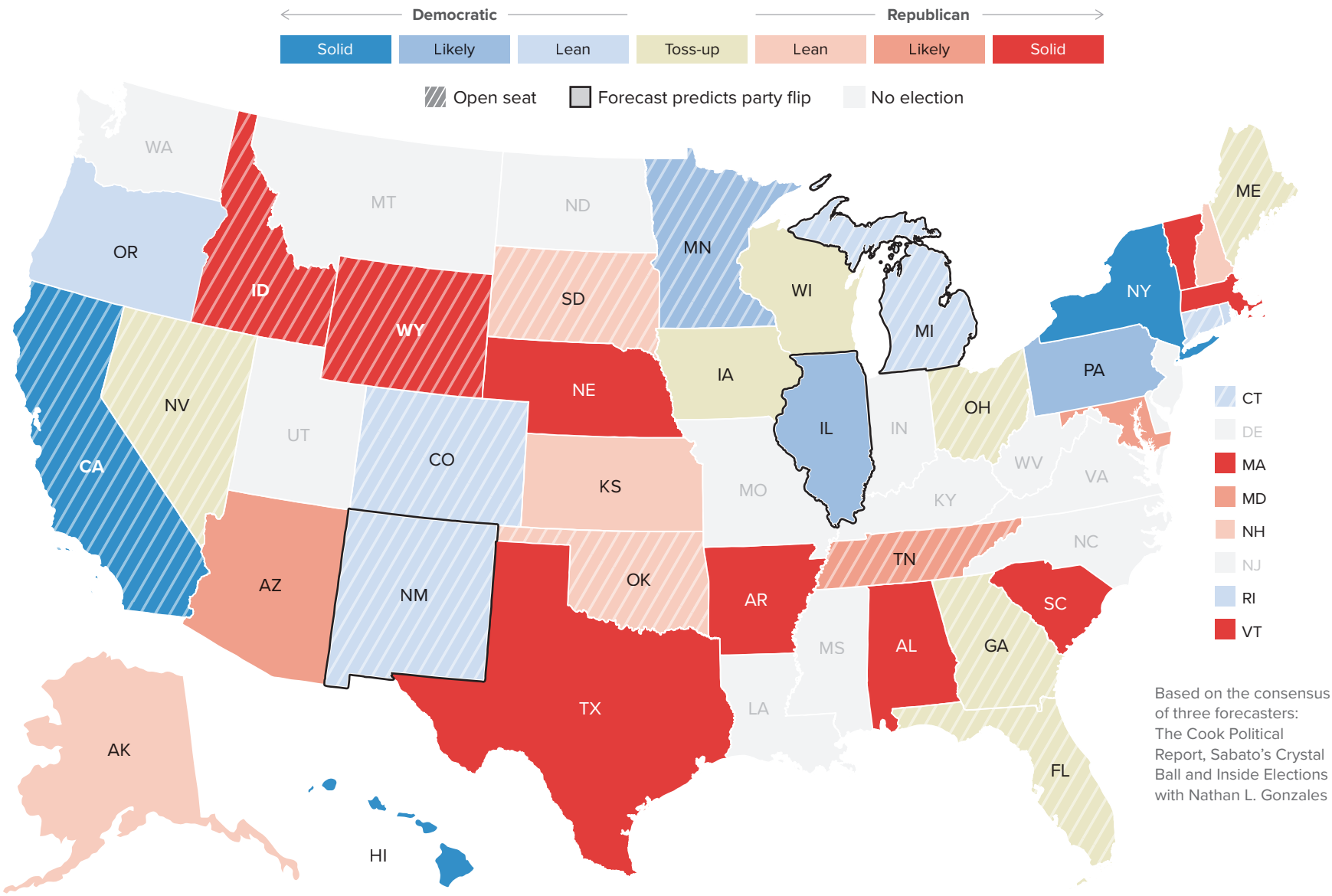
In Georgia, GOP candidate and Secretary of State Brian Kemp has been sued by civil rights groups for putting 53,000 voter registrations on hold under the state’s strict “exact match” voter ID law. Recent polls suggest a tight race, and forecasters have moved the state into the “toss-up” column.

One exception to the trend has been Arizona, where incumbent Gov. Doug Ducey (R) has pulled ahead of his Democratic challenger in recent polls.

Current party control of governorships on the ballot in 2018



Election forecasts for 2018 governor’s races

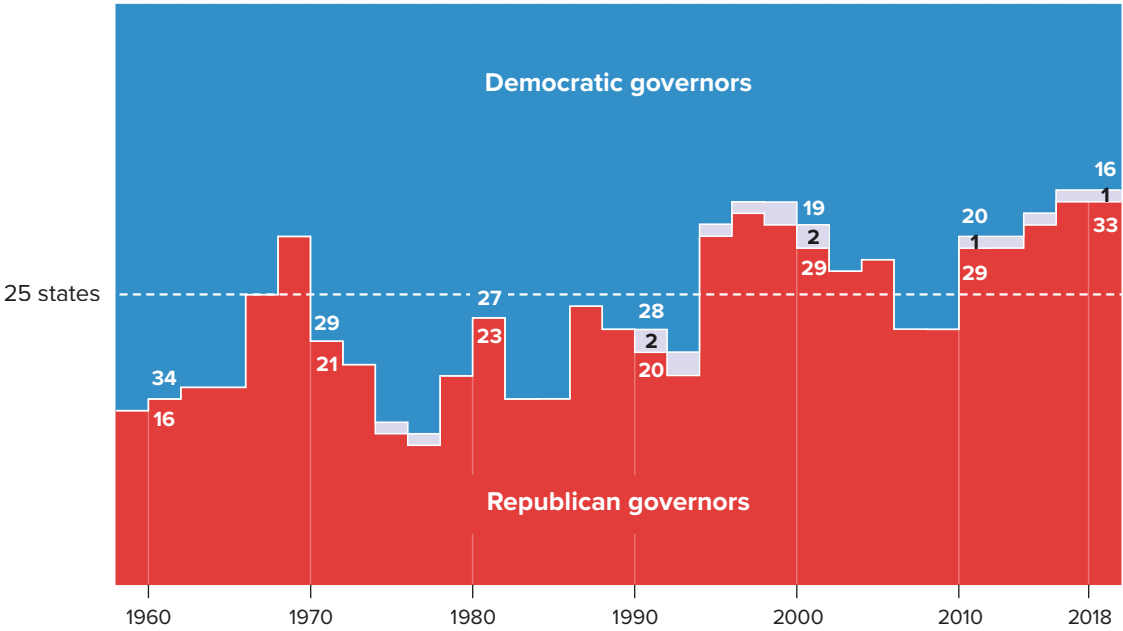


Party control of governorships, 1958 to present

- Democratic
- Independent
- Republican

Sources: The Cook Political Report; Larry J. Sabato’s Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia Center for Politics; Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales; historical governorship data provided by David Byler and Sean Trende

By Tucker Doherty, POLITICO Pro DataPoint



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