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2018 Midterm Forecast Roundup: Week of Nov. 5

In their final updates before the midterm elections, forecasters say the state of the race is essentially unchanged over the past several weeks, with no late-breaking surge for either party.

In the House, the consensus among forecasters remains that Democrats have a definitive but not overwhelming lead.

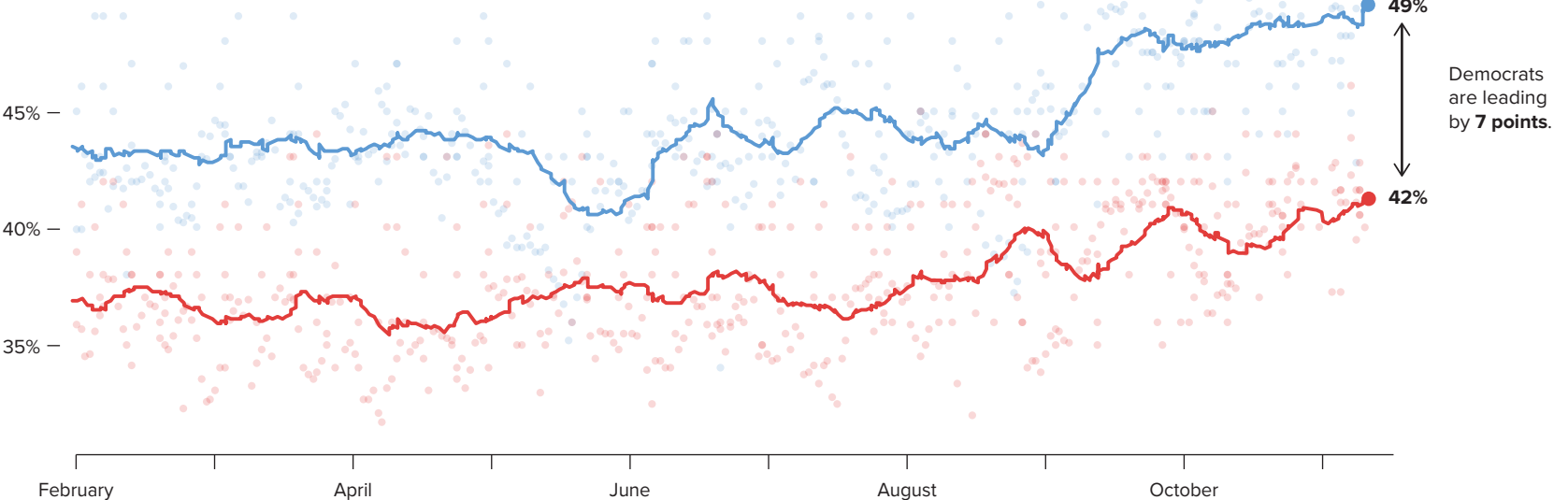
The electoral battleground is large and lopsided — The Cook Political Report says 70 GOP-held districts are competitive, compared to just five held by Democrats. If Democrats outperform their polling in the House and win districts currently leaning GOP, they could potentially flip more than 40 seats in a classic wave election scenario.

Forecasters say Republicans are more likely to hold the Senate, with FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver suggesting that Democrats would need to outperform their polls by an unusual amount to have any chance of winning a majority there.

Forecaster Larry Sabato argues that the results may look similar to 2016: Democrats can expect to make gains in highly educated suburbs that traditionally voted GOP before Trump came into office, while Republicans continue to run strong in blue collar and rural districts that flipped Republican in the most recent cycle.

Generic congressional ballot polling

30-DAY MOVING AVERAGE



Key House Races to Watch

The table below shows predictions for individual House races rated as competitive by four top political forecasters: The Cook Political Report, Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball, Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales and FiveThirtyEight. To flip the House, Democrats need to win at least 26 of the 82 seats listed below. The right-most column indicates if at least one forecaster has recently changed a rating.

Predictions for competitive House races by top forecasters

◀ Democratic odds improved | Republican odds improved ▶

DISTRICT	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES
AK-AL	Don Young (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Likely R	65% R	◀
AR-02	French Hill (R)	Likely R	Lean R	Likely R	86% R	▶
AZ-01	Tom O'Halleran (D)	Lean D	Likely D	Lean D	88% D	▶
AZ-02	OPEN	Lean D	Likely D	Lean D	97% D	
CA-10	Jeff Denham (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	77% D	
CA-21	David Valadao (R)	Likely R	Lean R	Likely R	79% R	◀
CA-25	Steve Knight (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	64% D	
CA-39	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	58% D	
CA-45	Mimi Walters (R)	Toss-up	Lean D	Toss-up	63% D	
CA-48	Dana Rohrabacher (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	56% D	
CA-49	OPEN	Likely D	Likely D	Lean D	96% D	◀
CA-50	Duncan Hunter (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	78% R	
CO-06	Mike Coffman (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	89% D	
FL-06	OPEN	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	74% R	
FL-15	OPEN	Toss-up	Lean R	Tilt R	57% R	
FL-16	Vern Buchanan (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Likely R	86% R	
FL-18	Brian Mast (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	91% R	◀
FL-25	Mario Diaz-Balart (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Safe R	72% R	◀
FL-26	Carlos Curbelo (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	56% D	
FL-27	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Lean D	85% D	
GA-06	Karen Handel (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Lean R	58% R	◀
GA-07	Rob Woodall (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	84% R	
IA-01	Rod Blum (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	95% D	
IA-03	David Young (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Lean D	70% D	
IA-04	Steve King (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	85% R	◀
IL-06	Peter Roskam (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	52% R	
IL-12	Mike Bost (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Tilt R	72% R	
IL-13	Rodney Davis (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	72% R	
IL-14	Randy Hultgren (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Toss-up	69% D	◀
KS-02	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	63% D	
KS-03	Kevin Yoder (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Lean D	85% D	
KY-06	Andy Barr (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	55% R	
ME-02	Bruce Poliquin (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	63% D	
MI-06	Fred Upton (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	82% R	◀
MI-08	Mike Bishop (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	71% D	◀
MI-11	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	79% D	
MN-01	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	55% R	
MN-02	Jason Lewis (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	86% D	
MN-03	Erik Paulsen (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	84% D	
MN-07	Collin Peterson (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Lean D	93% D	
MN-08	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	81% R	
MO-02	Ann Wagner (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Safe R	84% R	
MT-AL	Greg Gianforte (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	75% R	▶

DISTRICT	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES
NC-02	George Holding (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	85% R	
NC-09	OPEN	Toss-up	Lean D	Toss-up	54% R	◀
NC-13	Ted Budd (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	68% R	
NE-02	Don Bacon (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	58% R	◀
NH-01	OPEN	Likely D	Likely D	Lean D	89% D	
NJ-02	OPEN	Likely D	Likely D	Likely D	98% D	
NJ-03	Tom MacArthur (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	54% D	
NJ-07	Leonard Lance (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	78% D	
NJ-11	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Lean D	85% D	
NM-02	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	56% R	◀
NV-03	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	88% D	◀
NV-04	OPEN	Lean D	Likely D	Lean D	83% D	◀
NY-11	Dan Donovan (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	77% R	▶
NY-19	John J. Faso (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	61% D	◀
NY-22	Claudia Tenney (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	52% D	
NY-24	John Katko (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	82% R	
NY-27	Chris Collins (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	76% R	▶
OH-01	Steve Chabot (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Tilt R	83% R	▶
OH-12	Troy Balderson (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Toss-up	66% R	
PA-01	Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	58% R	
PA-07	VACANT	Lean D	Lean D	Lean D	95% D	
PA-10	Scott Perry (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Lean R	68% R	◀
PA-16	Mike Kelly (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	88% R	
PA-17	Keith Rothfus (R)	Likely D	Likely D	Lean D	96% D	
SC-01	OPEN	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	91% R	◀
TX-07	John Culberson (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	52% D	
TX-22	Pete Olson (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Safe R	80% R	
TX-23	Will Hurd (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	78% R	
TX-31	John Carter (R)	Likely R	Likely R	Likely R	93% R	
TX-32	Pete Sessions (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	63% R	
UT-04	Mia Love (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Toss-up	62% D	◀
VA-02	Scott Taylor (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Tilt R	71% R	
VA-05	OPEN	Lean R	Toss-up	Likely R	54% R	
VA-07	Dave Brat (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	57% R	
VA-10	Barbara Comstock (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	89% D	
WA-03	Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	74% R	
WA-05	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)	Lean R	Toss-up	Likely R	76% R	
WA-08	OPEN	Lean D	Toss-up	Toss-up	67% D	◀
WI-01	OPEN	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	78% R	
WV-03	OPEN	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	92% R	



Key Senate Races to Watch

The table below shows predictions for individual Senate races rated as competitive by three top political forecasters: The Cook Political Report, Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball, Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales and FiveThirtyEight. To flip the Senate, Democrats need to win at least 14 of the 18 seats listed below. The right-most column indicates if at least one forecaster has recently changed a rating.

Predictions for competitive Senate races by top forecasters

◀ Democratic odds improved | Republican odds improved ▶

STATE	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES
Ariz.	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	65% D	◀
Fla.	Bill Nelson (D)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	72% D	◀
Ind.	Joe Donnelly (D)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	68% D	
Mich.	Debbie Stabenow (D)	Likely D	Safe D	Safe D	97% D	
Miss.	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Safe R	88% R	
Minn.	Tina Smith (D)	Lean D	Likely D	Likely D	90% D	
Mo.	Claire McCaskill (D)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	59% D	
Mont.	Jon Tester (D)	Toss-up	Lean D	Tilt D	86% D	
Neb.	Deb Fischer (R)	Safe R	Safe R	Safe R	97% R	

STATE	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES
N.D.	Heidi Heitkamp (D)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	68% R	
N.J.	Bob Menendez (D)	Toss-up	Likely D	Likely D	90% D	
Nev.	Dean Heller (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	59% R	◀
Ohio	Sherrod Brown (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Safe D	97% D	
Pa.	Bob Casey (D)	Likely D	Safe D	Safe D	98% D	
Tenn.	OPEN	Toss-up	Lean R	Lean R	76% R	
Texas	Ted Cruz (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Likely R	79% R	
Wis.	Tammy Baldwin (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Safe D	98% D	
WVa.	Joe Manchin (D)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	90% D	

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; FiveThirtyEight, "Are Democrats or Republicans winning the race for Congress?"

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