



2026 MIDTERM PREVIEW

BY MICHAEL T. OSCAR

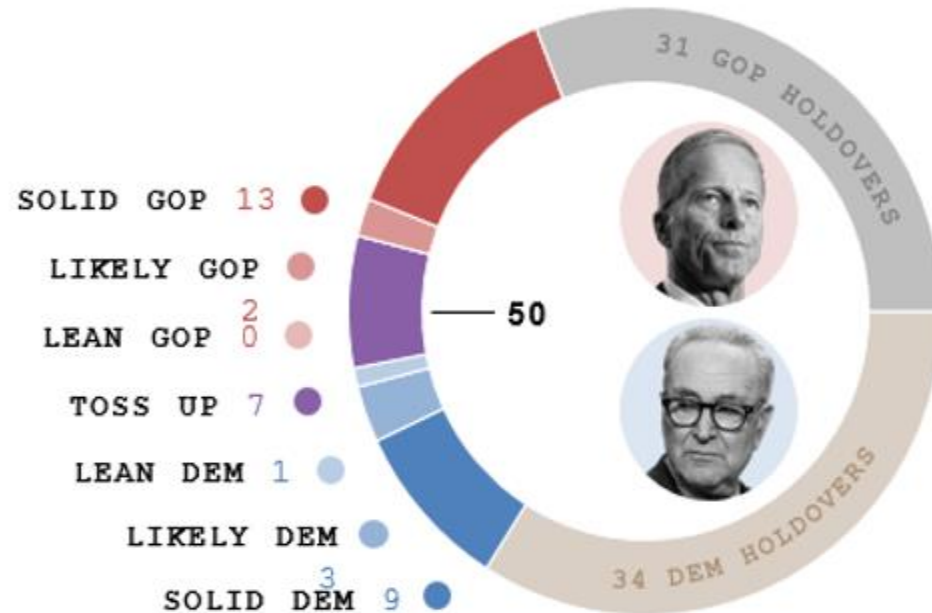


Topics Dominating the 2026 Midterms

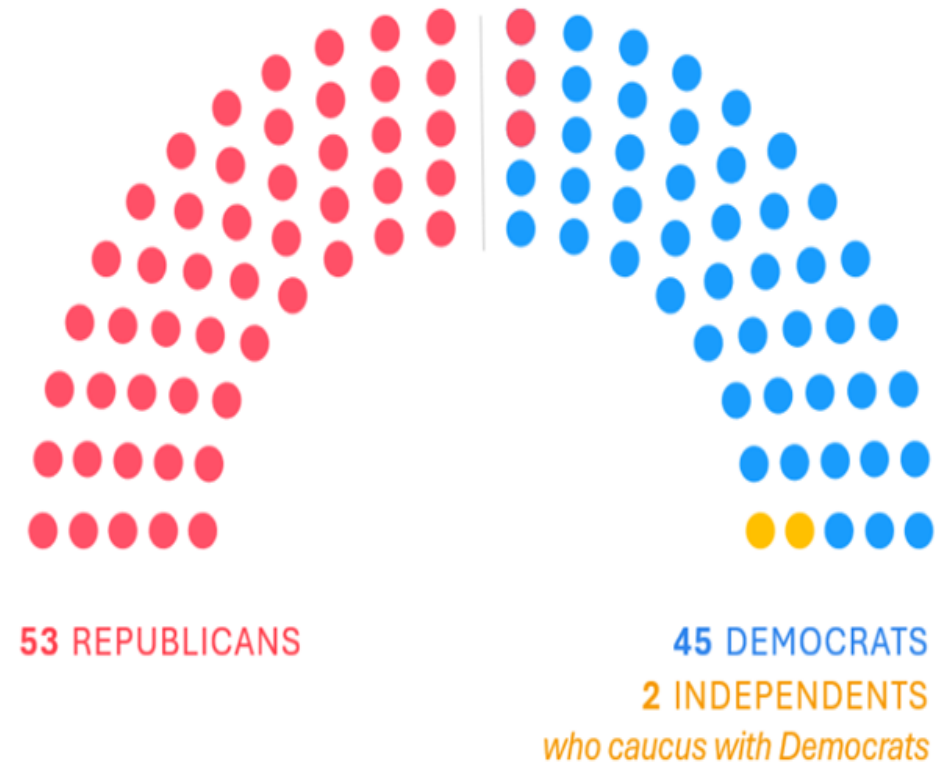
TRUMP	COSTS	ETHICS	DATA CENTERS / AI	SOCIALISM
<p>Midterm elections are a report card on the president's job performance</p> <p>Donald Trump's unpopularity poses a serious risk to Republican control of the House and Senate</p>	<p>Voters say it's harder to afford essentials like groceries, housing, healthcare, utilities, and gas</p> <p>Democrats say Trump policies - such as tariffs, Iran war - exacerbate the problem. GOP defends its 2025 tax-cut law</p>	<p>Democrats have hit Trump and family on business moves and are tying corruption to higher costs</p> <p>Bipartisan calls for stock trading limits for lawmakers and top federal officials, pausing lawmaker pay in government shutdowns, and age and term limits for Congress</p>	<p>Bipartisan opposition to data centers is rising amid concerns about water use and electricity rates and more generally about AI and the threat of job displacement</p>	<p>Republicans trying to make the election less a referendum on one-party GOP rule and more of a contrast between "commonsense" policies with "crazy"</p> <p>Democrats they say are too extreme and captive to socialists</p>

Republicans Defending Narrow Senate Majority

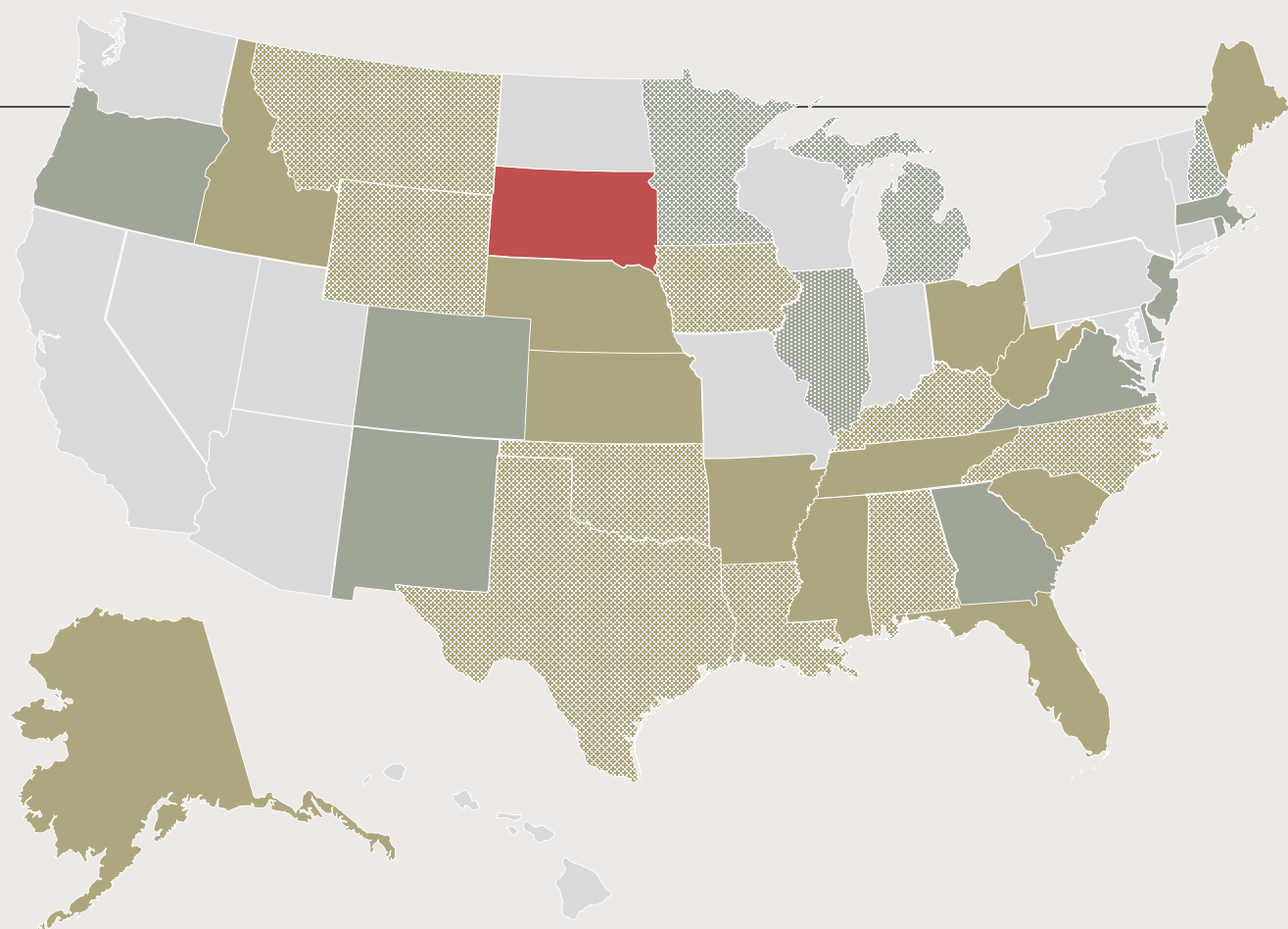
Race Ratings, Cook Political Report



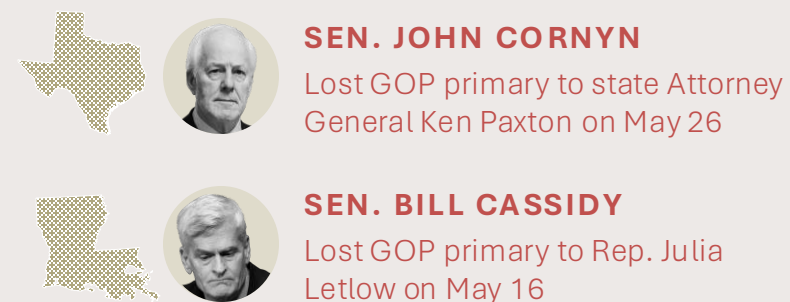
Balance of Power in the Senate



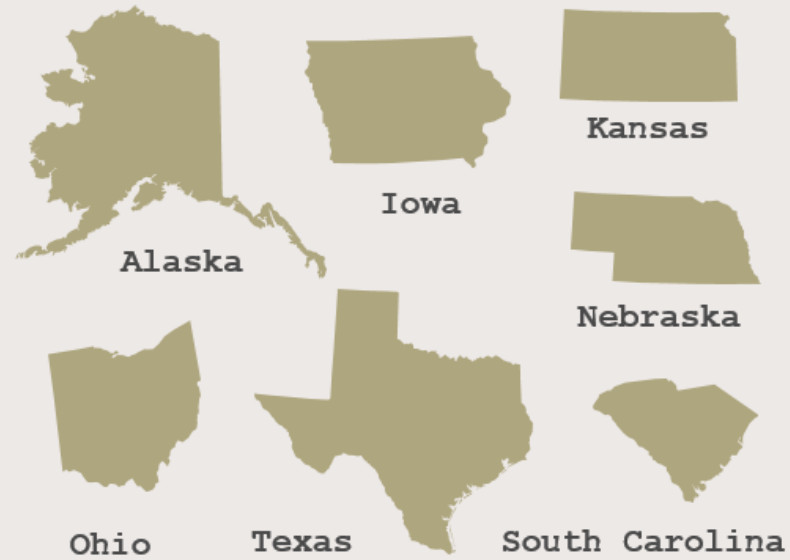
At Least 13 Incumbents Departing, Including Two Ousted in Primaries



INCUMBENTS OUSTED IN PARTY PRIMARY



Democrats Need Net Gain of Four Seats to Win Control of Senate





IOWA

Democrats making serious takeover bid for seat of retiring GOP Sen. Joni Ernst



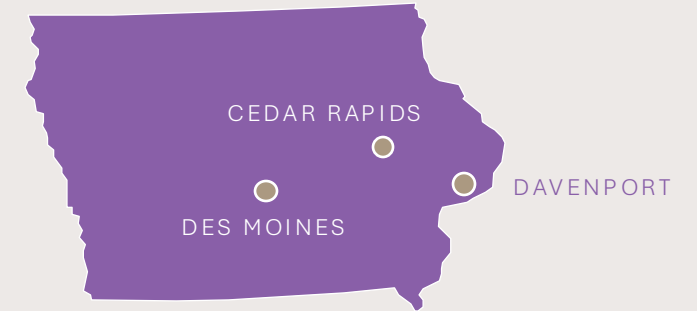
ASHLEY HINSON (R)

*Current House member
for Iowa's 2nd district*



JOSH TUREK (D)

*Current state House
member since 2023*



- ▶ Trump carried Iowa three times after it voted Democratic in six out of seven presidential elections from 1988 to 2012
- ▶ Hinson, a former Iowa TV broadcaster, outperformed Trump in 2024 to win third term in northeastern Iowa
- ▶ Turek is a Paralympic gold medalist in wheelchair basketball from a state legislative district that voted for Trump
- ▶ Hinson has money edge over Turek, who had a competitive primary

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



56%

TRUMP



43%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



52%

ERNST



45%

GREENFIELD



KANSAS

Democrats seeking big upset to snap century-long losing streak



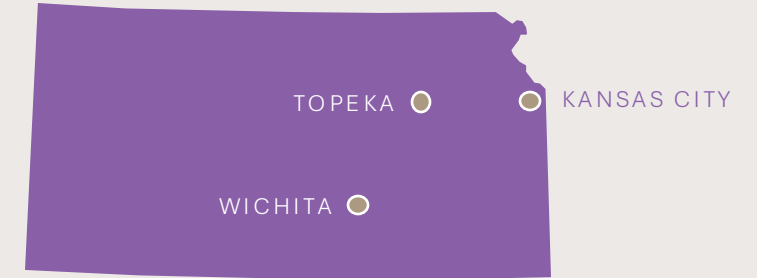
ROGER MARSHALL (R)

*Incumbent senator
seeking second term*



ADAM HAMILTON (D)

United Methodist pastor



- ▶ Faltering farm economy, soaring diesel costs threaten Marshall's hold on seat
- ▶ Ex-GOP Govs. Bill Graves, Mike Hayden endorsed Hamilton, who called Biden immigration policy a “disaster”
- ▶ Marshall, Republican groups brand Hamilton as “millionaire megachurch CEO”
- ▶ Democrats haven't won a Kansas Senate election since 1932, the longest stretch in the nation

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



57%

TRUMP



43%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



53%

MARSHALL



42%

BOLLIER



MAINE

Long-time incumbent Collins faces tough challenge despite turbulent Democratic primary



SUSAN COLLINS
(R)

*Incumbent senator
who's seeking sixth
term*



TROY JACKSON (D)

*Former state legislator,
began first term in
2003*



- ▶ Collins, only Republican senator from a state Trump lost three times, won comfortably in 2020 after trailing in public polls
- ▶ First elected in 1996, Collins is the longest-serving Republican woman in Senate history
- ▶ As Senate Appropriations chair, Collins has touted funding for Maine projects including Navy ships and fire stations
- ▶ Jackson, a former Republican and ex-logger, replaced Graham Platner as Democratic nominee July 25

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



45%

TRUMP



52%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



51%

COLLINS



42%

GIDEON



MICHIGAN

El-Sayed looks to keep Senate seat blue after bruising primary



MIKE ROGERS (R)

*Former House member
for Michigan's 8th district*



ABDUL EL-SAYED (D)

*Former director of Wayne
County health department*



- ▶ Sen. Gary Peters retiring; only open Democratic-held Senate seat in a state Trump carried in 2024
- ▶ El-Sayed, a progressive, edged center-left Rep. Haley Stevens in Democratic primary
- ▶ Rogers, a former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, narrowly lost 2024 Senate race to Elissa Slotkin
- ▶ El-Sayed a frequent target of attacks at Republican midterm convention

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



50%

TRUMP



48%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



48%

JAMES



50%

PETERS



NEBRASKA

Independent Osborn seeks upset after closer-than-expected 2024 loss



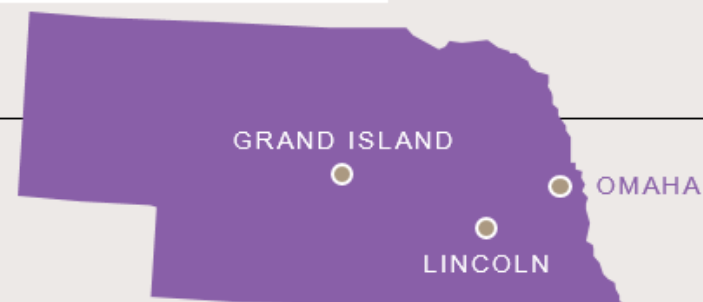
PETE RICKETTS (R)

*Incumbent senator
seeking first full term*



DAN OSBORN (I)

*Steamfitter and
industrial mechanic*



- ▶ Ricketts was appointed in January 2023 to succeed Ben Sasse (R) and then won 2024 special election to finish unexpired term
- ▶ Ricketts is a former governor and executive at TD Ameritrade, founded by his father Joe, and could self-finance re-election bid
- ▶ Town hall meetings, visiting all 93 counties is core campaign strategy for Osborn
- ▶ Democratic primary winner withdrew to consolidate anti-Ricketts vote

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



TRUMP

59%

RESULTS

39%



HARRIS

2024 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



FISCHER

53%

47%



OSBORN



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Republican with recognized family name could put race in play



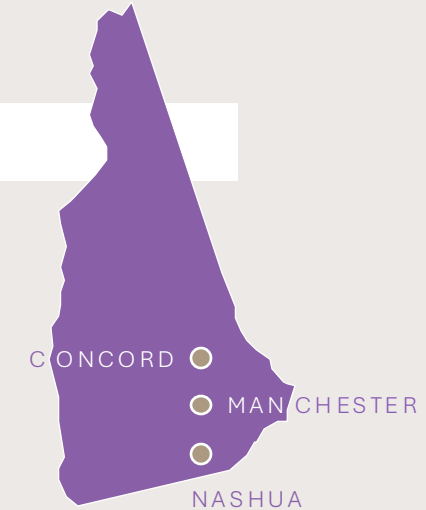
JOHN SUNUNU (R)

Former senator and son and brother of governors



CHRIS PAPPAS (D)

Current House member for New Hampshire's 1st district



- ▶ Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's retirement creates more competitive race
- ▶ Pappas won four House terms and outran top of Democratic ticket in 2024
- ▶ Sununu, older brother of ex-Gov. Chris Sununu, unseated by Shaheen in 2008; Sununu's father John also was governor
- ▶ Sununu didn't support Trump for 2024 GOP presidential nomination but won president's backing for Senate

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



48%

TRUMP



51%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



41%

MESSNER



57%

SHAHEEN



OHIO

Brown seeks return to Senate after 2024 general election defeat



JON HUSTED (R)

*Incumbent senator
seeking to complete term*



SHERROD BROWN (D)

*Former senator seeking
to return to chamber*



- ▶ Husted, Ohio's former lieutenant governor, was appointed Jan. 2025 to Senate seat held by now-Vice President JD Vance
- ▶ Brown campaigning against data centers
- ▶ Cryptocurrency industry helped Bernie Moreno oust Brown in 2024
- ▶ Winner up for six-year term in 2028

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



55%

TRUMP



44%

HARRIS

2024 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



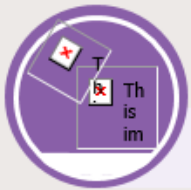
50%

MORENO



46%

BROWN



SOUTH CAROLINA

Graham faces test in state where Democrats last won Senate race in 1998



DARLINE GRAHAM
(R)

*Incumbent senator
seeking full term*



ANNIE ANDREWS (D)

Pediatrician



- ▶ Graham was appointed in July 2026 to succeed her late brother Lindsey and won GOP runoff with Trump's backing
- ▶ Andrews hammering Graham for saying she's "not that informed on national security"
- ▶ Graham defending her limited political experience and attacking Andrews on transgender issues
- ▶ Andrews ran for House in 2022, losing to Rep. Nancy Mace (R)

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



58%

TRUMP



40%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



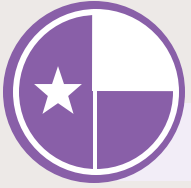
54%

**L.
GRAHAM**



44%

HARRISON



TEXAS

Trump's backing helped staunch ally win nomination despite electability concerns



KEN PAXTON (R)

Current Texas attorney general, former state lawmaker



JAMES TALARICO (D)

Member of Texas House since 2018



- ▶ Paxton trounced Sen. John Cornyn in May runoff after receiving Trump's endorsement
- ▶ Talarico, a seminarian, vying to become first Texas Democrat since 1988 to win Senate race
- ▶ Paxton was impeached by GOP state House in 2023 but acquitted in Senate
- ▶ Republican super PACs spending tens of millions to help Paxton narrow fundraising deficit

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS



56%

TRUMP



42%

HARRIS

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS



54%

CORNYN

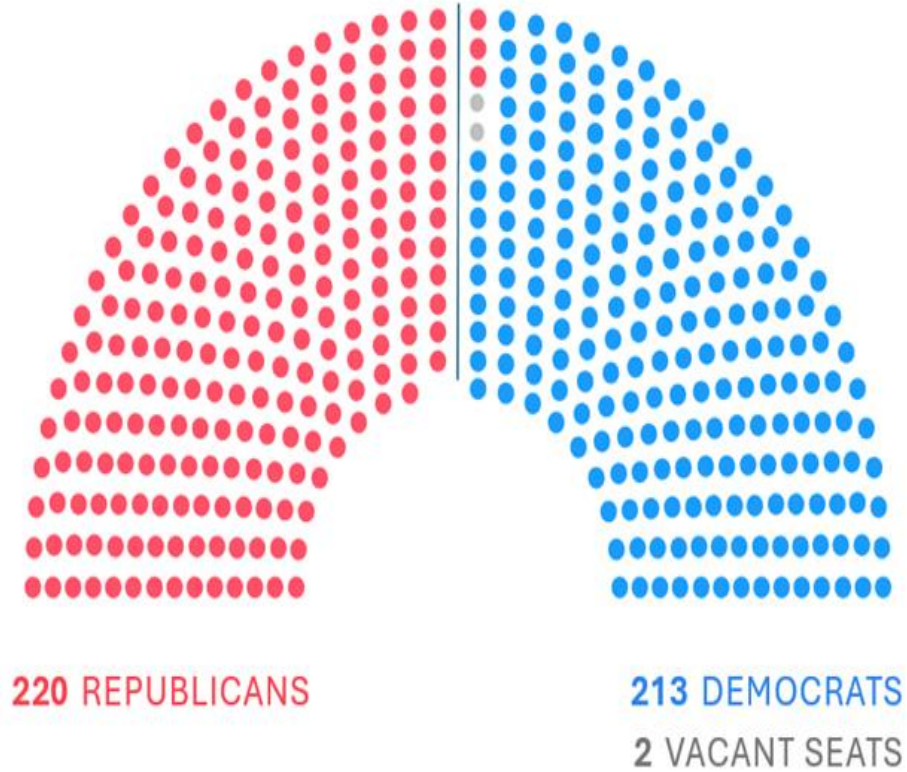


44%

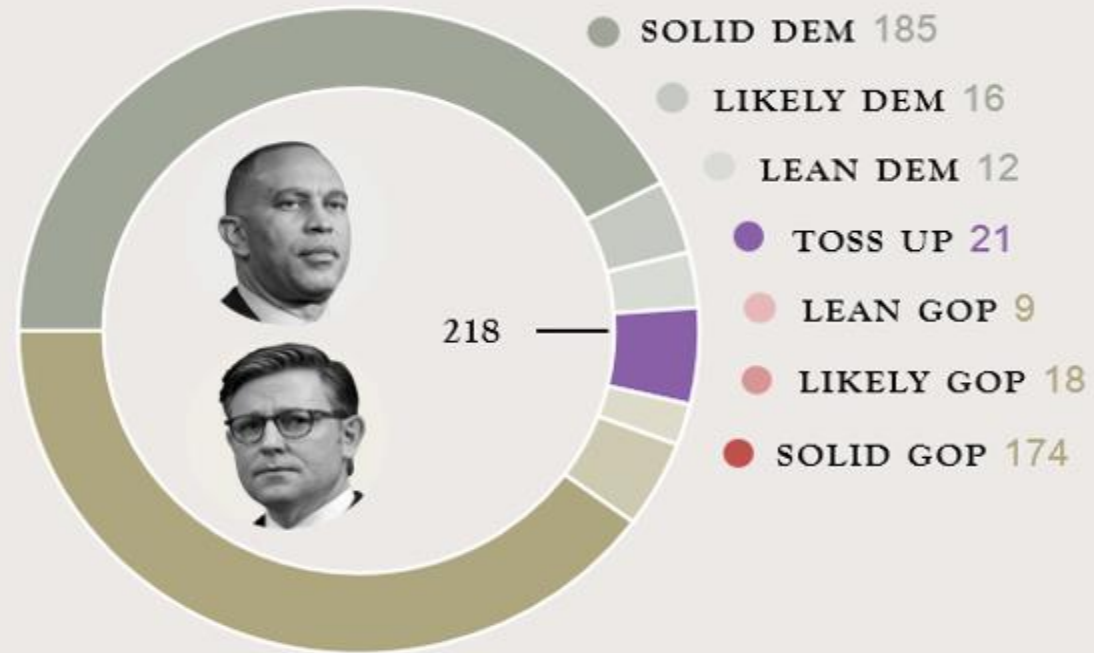
HEGAR

HOUSE CONTROL LIKELY COMES DOWN TO A FEW DOZEN SEATS

Balance of Power in the House



Race Ratings, Cook
Political Report



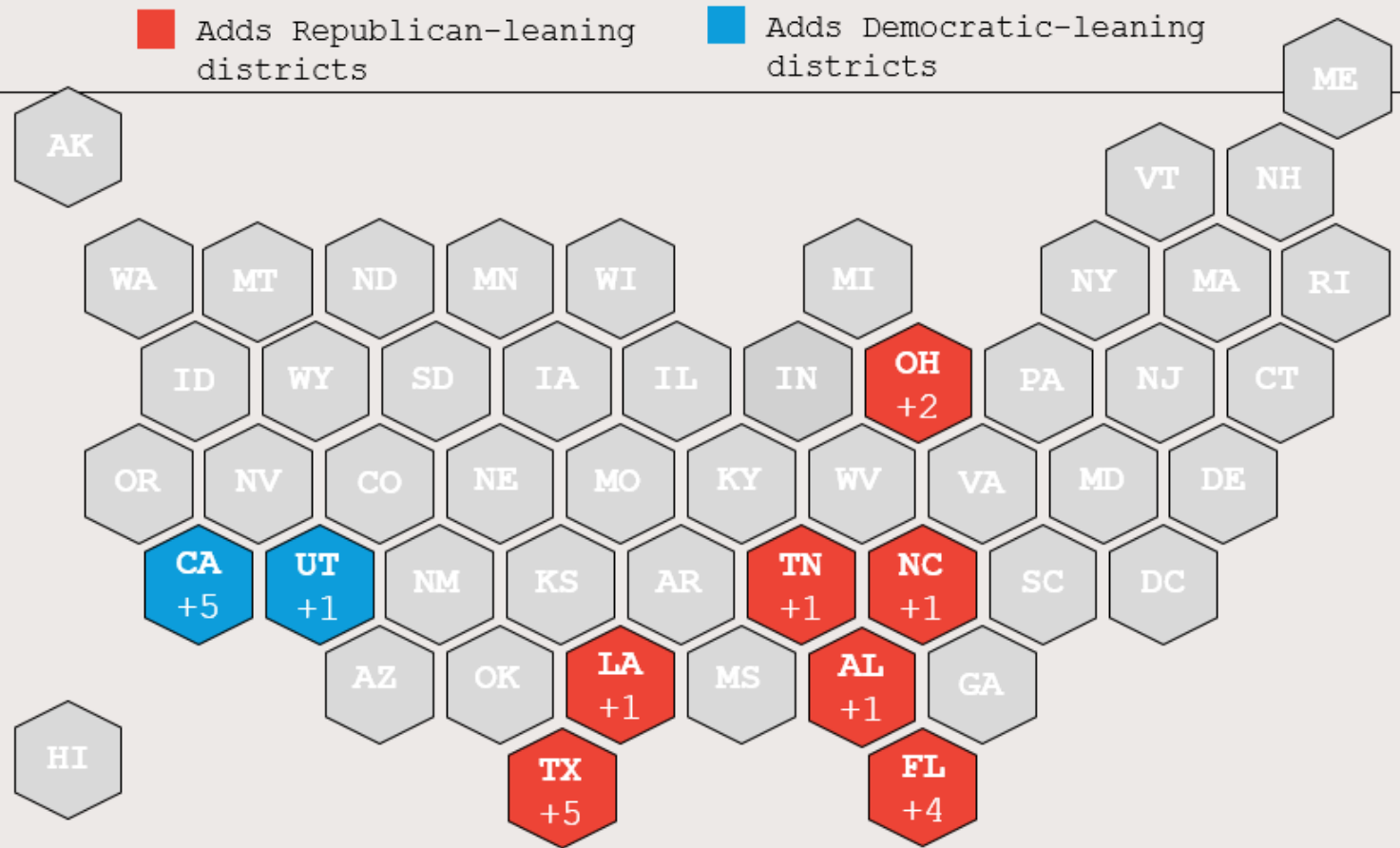
Nine States Successfully Implemented Redistricting for 2026

Redistricting Landscape

- ▶ **Republicans** successfully redrew 15 Democratic-held districts to be more GOP-friendly
- ▶ **Democrats'** new map in California could add 5 seats
- ▶ Court-ordered map in **Utah** likely to net Democrats one seat

Missouri

- ▶ Multi-track litigation reached US Supreme Court, which blocked GOP-drawn map that would have added a Republican district at the expense of Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver



Note: Supreme Court stay on challenges to Missouri maps leave 6-2 GOP ratio intact for Nov. 3 election, when Missouri voters will either approve or reject 7-1 map for 2028 election.

Sources: ["Midterm Redistricting Wars Cool as 2028 Fights Start Simmering,"](#) Bloomberg Government; ["Supreme Court Rejects](#)

TOSSUPS IN DISTRICTS HELD BY DEMOCRATS (6) AND REPUBLICANS (15)



FL-14 — **KATHY CASTOR**
seeking re-election

FL-22 — **OPEN** (**LOIS FRANKEL** running in different district)

FL-25 — **JARED MOSKOWITZ**
seeking re-election

NC-01 — **DON DAVIS**
seeking re-election



OH-09 — **MARCY KAPTUR**
seeking re-election



TX-34 — **VICENTE GONZALEZ** seeking re-election



AZ-06 — **JUAN CISCOMANI**
seeking re-election



CA-22 — **DAVID VALADAO**
seeking re-election



CO-08 — **GABE EVANS**
seeking re-election



IA-02 — **OPEN** (**ASHLEY HINSON** running for Senate)



MI-04 — **BILL HUIZENGA**
running for re-election

MI-07 — **TOM BARRETT**
running for re-election

MI-10 — **OPEN** (**JOHN JAMES** running for governor)
NY-17 — **MIKE LAWLER** seeking re-election



NC-11 — **OPEN**
(**CHUCK EDWARDS** ended bid)



OH-07 — **MAX MILLER**
seeking re-election



PA-08 — **ROB BRESNAHAN**
seeking re-election



TX-15 — **MONICA DE LA CRUZ** seeking re-election



VA-01 — **ROB WITTMAN** seeking re-election



VA-02 — **JEN KIGGANS** seeking re-election
WI-03 — **DERRICK VAN ORDEN** seeking re-election

Both chambers of Congress are scheduled to return to Washington on November 9 for the lame-duck session. While there are a few actions Congress is highly likely to take, the broader agenda will depend heavily on the outcome of the midterm elections.

The House is expected to hold a procedurally required vote on articles of impeachment filed by Rep. Tom Massie (R-KY) against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. The Senate is also expected to continue considering and confirming additional administration nominees. Beyond those actions, Congress faces a substantial list of unfinished business that lawmakers would normally seek to address before the end of the year, including:

- **FY 2027 appropriations:** Congress will need to enact individual appropriations bills or another continuing resolution to keep the federal government funded beyond December 11.
- **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):** The annual defense policy bill authorizing programs and expenditures for the Department of Defense.
- **Surface transportation reauthorization:** The BUILD America 250 Act, which would authorize funding for highways, transit, rail, freight and related safety programs.
- **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA):** Legislation authorizing Army Corps of Engineers projects involving ports and harbors, inland waterways, flood and storm protection, and other water infrastructure.
- **Export-Import Bank:** Legislation extending the bank's general statutory authority, which expires December 31.
- **Farm Bill:** Legislation authorizing and reauthorizing a broad range of federal food, agriculture and rural development programs.
- **FISA Section 702:** Legislation reauthorizing federal surveillance authorities under Section 702.
- **TSCA user fees:** Legislation extending EPA's authority, which expires December 11, to collect user fees from chemical manufacturers, importers and other regulated entities under the Toxic Substances Control Act.
- **BLM permitting fees:** Legislation extending the Bureau of Land Management's authority to collect oil and gas permitting fees on federal lands, which expired October 1.

Just when we all
thought our Congress
was totally useless
and dysfunctional,
they actually passed
something helpful.



*Thank
you!*