Journey to the End of the 2020 Elections

By Nathan L. Gonzales & Jacob Rubashkin

Donald Trump's greatest foe might be Donald Trump.

Regardless of the origin of the pandemic, if he'd handled the coronavirus response differently, the president might be unbeatable. The economy wouldn't have plunged as far and voters would have recognized leadership. If he'd had better people managing his campaign, he wouldn't be short on cash and getting outspent on TV ads. And on a more basic level, if Trump would stay out of the spotlight, he'd be in a better position to win a second term.

According to national, state, and district-level polling, former vice president Joe Biden continues to have the advantage in the race. That means the onus was on the president to use the first debate to change the focus and trajectory of the race. The president needed (and still needs) to convince voters this race is a choice between himself and something less popular, rather than a referendum on his style and job performance.

Trump tried to do that on Tuesday night by bringing up "law and order" and harping on Hunter Biden, but the disruptive way he did it kept himself in the spotlight. In the words of conservative CNN commentator Scott Jennings after the debate, the president "went from being on offense to being offensive."

The president is simply incapable of staying out of the news. The appointment of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court should be a triumph for the administration and Republicans in Congress, but Trump stepped on the news with his debate performance. And every status quo day that goes by benefits Biden and the Democrats.

With one month before the elections, Biden has the advantage in the Electoral College. Democrats are more likely than not to gain control of the Senate (projecting a net gain of three to five seats). And the most likely outcome in the House is no net change to a Democratic gain of 11 seats.

There are still three more debates (including the vice presidential debate) and other opportunities to make news. But time is running short. Trump and the GOP don't have until Nov. 3 to change the dynamic of the race. Americans are already voting, which means their choice will not be persuaded by late-breaking events. And by the time the third debate happens on Oct. 22, tens of millions of Americans will have already cast their ballot.

2020 House Ratings

Toss-Up (8R, 4D, 1L)

CA 21 (Cox, D)*	NJ 2 (Van Drew, R)
CA 25 (Garcia, R)	NY 11 (Rose, D)
FL 26 (Mucarsel-Powell, D)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)
IN 5 (Open; Brooks, R)#	OK 5 (Horn, D)
MI 3 (Open; Amash, L)#	TX 22 (Open; Olson, R)
NE 2 (Bacon, R)	TX 24 (Open; Marchant, R)
NY 2 (Open; King, R)	

Tilt Democratic (10D, 1R)

| GA 6 (McBath, D) |
| *GA 7 (Open; Woodall, R)* |
| IA 1 (Finkenauer, D) |
| IA 2 (Open; Loebsack, D) |
| IA 3 (Axne, D) |
| MN 7 (Peterson, DFL) |
| NM 2 (Torres Small, D) |
| NY 22 (Brindisi, D) |
| SC 1 (Cunningham, D) |
| UT 4 (McAdams, D) |
| VA 7 (Spanberger, D) |

Tilt Republican (7R)

| AZ 6 (Schweikert, R)# |
| IL 13 (Davis, R) |
| MN 1 (Hagedorn, R) |
| MO 2 (Wagner, R)# |
| NY 24 (Katko, R) |
| PA 10 (Perry, R) |
| TX 21 (Roy, R) |

	GOP	DEM
116th Congress	201	233
Currently Solid	163	203
Competitive	38	30
Needed for majority		218

Lean Democratic (5D, 1R)

| CA 48 (Rouda, D) |
| ME 2 (Golden, D) |
| NJ 3 (Kim, D) |
| NJ 7 (Malinowski, D) |
| *TX 23 (Open; Hurd, R)* |
| VA 2 (Luria, D) |

Lean Republican (7R)

| AR 2 (Hill, R) |
| CO 3 (Open; Tipton, R)# |
| FL 15 (Spano, R) |
| MT AL (Open; Gianforte, R) |
| NC 8 (Hudson, R) |
| PA 1 (Fitzpatrck, R)* |
| VA 5 (Open; Riggleman, R)# |

Likely Democratic (11D, 2R)

| AZ 1 (O'Halleran, D) |
| CA 39 (Cisneros. D) |
| KS 3 (Davids, D) |
| NH 1 (Pappas, D) |
| *NC 2 (Open; Holding, R)* |
| *NC 6 (Open; Walker, R)* |
| NV 3 (Lee, D) |
| OR 4 (DeFazio, D)* |
| PA 8 (Cartwright, D) |
| PA 17 (Lamb, D) |
| TX 7 (Fletcher, D)# |
| TX 32 (Allred, D) |
| WI 3 (Kind, D)* |

Likely Republican (12R)

| AK AL (Young, R) |
| CA 50 (Vacant, Hunter, R) |
| FL 16 (Buchanan, R) |
| MI 6 (Upton, R) |
| NY 1 (Zeldin, R) |
| OH 10 (Turner, R) |
| TX 2 (Crenshaw, R) |
| TX 3 (Taylor, R)# |
| TX 6 (Wright, R) |
| TX 10 (McCaul, R) |
| TX 25 (Williams, R) |
| WA 3 (Herrera-Beutler, R) |

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

Senate Report Shorts

Alaska. **Dan Sullivan (R), elected 2014 (48%).** Following a state Supreme Court ruling, Al Gross, an independent, will be listed on the ballot only as the Democratic Party nominee. That setback hasn't stopped Republicans from taking the race seriously — McConnell-aligned Senate Leadership Fund has committed $1.6 million to helping Sullivan, while Democratic-linked super PAC Independent Alaska is supporting Gross with a $585,000 spend. Gross raised $3 million himself in the weekend following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a massive sum that will go a long way in a cheap state like Alaska and an example of how grassroots Democratic donors have helped expand the Senate battlefield. With the presidential ballot surprisingly tight here after Trump's 15-point victory in 2016, Sullivan's race remains one to watch. Likely Republican.

Harstad Strategic Research (D) for Independent Alaska, Sept. 20-23 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Sullivan over Gross, 46% - 45%.

Arizona. **Martha McSally (R), appointed Jan. 2019.** Polls showing President Donald Trump running close to even with Joe Biden in the state are good news for the senator. But she's still running behind Trump, as well as Democratic nominee Mark Kelly. Even if Trump wins Arizona, it's unlikely to be by a wide enough margin to allow McSally across the line. Maricopa County continues to grow, and to the advantage of Democrats. Tilt Democratic.

Susquehanna Polling & Research, Inc. (R) for American Greatness PAC, Sept. 25-28 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Kelly over McSally, 48% - 45%.

Data for Progress (D) for Defend Students Action Fund, Sept. 15-22 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Kelly over McSally, 47% - 38%.

ABC/Washington Post, Sept. 15-20 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Kelly over McSally, 49% - 48%.

Georgia. **Kelly Loeffler (R) appointed Jan. 6, 2020. Special election Nov. 3 (all candidates), Jan. 5 runoff (if necessary).** Establishment-backed Democrat Rev. Raphael Warnock, who entered the race highly heralded but was slow to to catch fire, finally began advertising on TV in August, and has seen his poll numbers rise as a result, finally separating from fellow Democrat Matt Lieberman, the son of former Conn. Sen. Joe Lieberman. Warnock has benefitted from a month and a half of TV, as well as the growing calls from state and national figures including Barack Obama for Lieberman and former US Attorney / former state Sen. Ed Tarver to drop out of the race so the reverend can consolidate

2020 Senate Ratings

Toss-Up

Daines (R-Mont.)	Ernst (R-Iowa)

Tilt Democratic	**Tilt Republican**
Collins (R-Maine)#	Graham (R-S.C.)#
Gardner (R-Colo.)	Perdue (R-Ga.)
McSally (R-Ariz.)	
Tillis (R-N.C.)#	

Lean Democratic	**Lean Republican**
Peters (D-Mich.)	KS Open (Roberts, R)
	Cornyn (R-Texas)
	Loeffler (R-Ga.)
	Jones (D-Ala.)

Likely Democratic	**Likely Republican**
	Sullivan (R-Alaska)

Solid Democratic	**Solid Republican**
NM Open (Udall, D)	TN Open (Alexander, R)
Booker (D-N.J.)	WY Open (Enzi, R)
Coons (D-Del.)	Cassidy (R-La.)
Durbin (D-Ill.)	Capito (R-W.Va.)
Markey (D-Mass.)	Cotton (R-Ark.)
Merkley (D-Ore.)	Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)
Reed (D-R.I.)	Inhofe (R-Okla.)
Shaheen (D-N.H.)	McConnell (R-Ky.)
Smith (D-Minn.)	Risch (R-Idaho)
Warner (D-Va.)	Rounds (R-S.D.)
	Sasse (R-Neb.)

	GOP	DEM
116th Congress	53	47
Not up this cycle	30	35
Currently Solid	11	10
Competitive	12	2

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

the Democratic vote. Recent surveys show Warnock pulling into at least a three-way tie with Loeffler and GOP Rep. Doug Collins, with more opportunity to grow as Lieberman and Tarver's support dwindles. The Democrat will likely be well-positioned to secure a spot in the runoff.

On the Republican side, Loeffler had built up a consistent lead over Collins during the summer. But that advantage could be evaporating, leaving the two locked in a melee for the second spot in the runoff. Loeffler has relied on controversy to draw attention to her campaign, often fighting with Black Lives Matter activists and players on her own WNBA team.

She recently released three ads comparing herself to Attila the Hun, which quickly went viral on Twitter and drew ridicule from Collins for its favorable portrayal of the notoriously bloodthirsty warlord. The intentionally provocative ads were created by GOP firm Something Else strategies, which was also behind Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst's "Make Em Squeal" ad in 2014, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' 2018 ad about how his young children are so pro-Trump they build walls with blocks. Lean Republican.

Civiqs (D) for Daily Kos, Sept. 26-29 (LVs) — All-party special election ballot: Warnock (D) 38%, Collins (R) 25%, Loeffler (R) 21%, Lieberman (D) 5%, Tarver (D) 2%.

Quinnipiac Univ., Sept. 23-27 (LVs) — All-party special election ballot: Warnock (D) 31%, Loeffler (R) 23%, Collins (R) 22%, Lieberman (D) 9%, Tarver (D) 4%.

New York Times/Siena College, Sept. 16-21 (LVs) — All-party special election ballot: Loeffler (R) 23%, Collins (R) 19%, Warnock (D) 19%, Lieberman (D) 7%, Tarver (D) 4%.

Iowa. **Joni Ernst (R), elected 2014 (51%).** With President Trump
struggling to recreate his 2016 magic (and 9-point victory) in Iowa, this Senate race is turning out to be one of the most even in the country. Theresa Greenfield shook off an unsuccessful House bid two years ago to become one of Democrats' top Senate challengers this cycle. Republicans have to hope that the Supreme Court confirmation fight will galvanize more conservative voters and boost both Trump and Ernst. The good news for Democrats is that they probably don't have to win Iowa to control the Senate next year. Toss-up.

Monmouth Univ., Sept. 18-22 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Greenfield over Ernst, 49% - 46%.

New York Times/Siena College, Sept. 16-22 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Greenfield over Ernst, 42% - 40%.

J. Ann Selzer & Co/Des Moines Register, Sept. 14-17 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Greenfield over Ernst, 45% - 42%.

Kentucky. **Mitch McConnell (R), elected 1984 (50%), 1990 (52%), 1996
(55%), 2002 (65%), 2008 (53%) and 2014 (56%).** Democrat Amy McGrath was a prolific fundraiser even before Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death likely inspired a new round of Democratic donations in her race against the Senate majority leader. But she's still trailing McConnell in the statewide polls and not doing as well as she needs to in the 6th District, where she lost a race two years ago. And this is one race where the upcoming Supreme Court confirmation battle likely helps Republicans. The news allows McConnell to demonstrate his connection to Trump in a state the president will win by double-digits. This will be one of the most expensive races in the country but McConnell is still poised to win. Solid Republican.

Data for Progress (D), Sept. 14-19 (LVs) — General Election ballot: McConnell over McGrath, 46% - 39%, Barron (L) 3%.

Morning Consult, Sept. 11-20 (LVs) — General Election ballot: McConnell over McGrath, 52% - 37%.

Quinnipiac Univ., Sept. 10-14 (LVs) — General Election ballot: McConnell over McGrath, 53% - 41%.

Maine. **Susan Collins (R), elected 1996 (49%), 2002 (58%), 2008 (61%)
and 2014 (69%).** Republicans released a poll from mid-September which showed state House Speaker Sara Gideon, the Democratic nominee, running even with the senator at 42 percent. It was a partial admission that Collins' support had slipped compared to a June poll from the same firm that had the senator ahead by 8 points. Most of the private data isn't particularly encouraging for Republicans as well. While the looming Supreme Court confirmation fight might galvanize conservative voters and boost Republican senators in Republican-leaning states, Collins' situation is entirely different. At a minimum, it reminds Democratic voters in Maine about her vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh, which inspired Democratic donors and limited the amount of crossover votes she can count on. The senator is mired in the low 40s and the ranked choice process isn't likely to be friendly to the long-time incumbent. She probably has to clear 50 percent on the first ballot, and that looks nearly out of reach. Of course the race isn't over, and Collins could still win, but this doesn't look like a Toss-up. Move to Tilt Democratic.

Colby College, Sept. 17-23 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Gideon over Collins, 45% - 41%, Linn (I) 5%, Savage (G) 3%.

Moore Information (R) for Collins Campaign, Sept. 20-22 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Gideon and Collins tied at 42%.

Suffolk Univ./Boston Globe, Sept. 17-20 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Gideon over Collins, 46% - 41%, Savage (G) 4%, Linn (I) 2%.

New York Times/Siena College, Sept. 11-16 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Gideon over Collins, 44% - 40%, Linn (I) 2%, Savage (G) 2%.

Michigan. **Gary Peters (D), elected 2014 (55%).** Republicans working
closely with Army veteran John James and Trafalgar Group, a GOP polling firm not affiliated with the campaign, believe James is running even with the senator in a toss-up race in a state Trump might win again. The majority of the data point to a narrow but consistent lead for Peters as well as a larger lead for Biden at the top of the ticket. The Detroit-area Chamber of Commerce endorsed Peters over James, a Detroit area businessman. The Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce endorsed James. Lean Democratic.

Trafalgar Group (R), Sept. 23-25 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Peters and James tied at 47%.

NBC News/Marist College, Sept. 19-23 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Peters over James, 49% - 44%.

Hart Research Associates (D) for Human Rights Campaign, Sept. 17-19 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Peters over James 50% -42%.

Data for Progress (D), Sept. 14-19 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Peters over James, 47% - 42%.

Montana. **Steve Daines (R), elected 2014 (58%).** Trump's margin
matters. He won Montana by 20 points four years ago, but he's more likely to win it by between 7 and 10 points this fall. The lower end of that range is surmountable for Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock in his challenge to Daines, while the upper end of that range probably puts the race out of reach for Democrats. Republicans are confident in the consistency of Daines' lead while Democrats continue to show a steady and even race. If the president can gain a little more ground he could boost the senator's chances significantly. Toss-up.

New York Times/Siena College, Sept. 14-16 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Daines over Bullock, 45% -44%.

North Carolina. **Thom Tillis (R), elected 2014 (49%).** While Trump's standing has dipped dramatically in some states he won handily in 2016, the Tar Heel State has been more static. The president is fighting to win the state again after a 3.5-point win four years ago. A Trump victory is far from certain and he probably needs to win by a few points to boost Tillis. Republicans are hoping that not only will the Supreme Court discussion help the senator snag all of Trump's voters but that the president will pull out another win. Democrat Cal Cunningham has developed somewhat of a reputation for being a bland candidate, but that might be precisely the right type of candidate to defeat the incumbent in this environment. There's been some controversy on how the state will handle mail-in ballots, leading to two Republican members of the state board of elections resigning after a disagreement with the Democratic state attorney general. Tillis has been stuck in the high-30s

Candidate Conversation

Courtesy Scholten Campaign

Hillary Scholten (D)

Michigan's 3rd District — Rating: Toss-up

Interview Date: Sept. 24, 2020 (Zoom)

Date of Birth: Feb. 22, 1982; Grand Rapids, Mich.

Education: Gordon College (2004); University of Maryland Law School (2011)

Elected Office: None; first run for office.

Current Outlook: Scholten entered the race when it still looked like incumbent Justin Amash was going to mount a third-party bid to keep his seat after leaving the GOP. That would have made it complicated for a Democrat to win here, with Amash's anti-Trump stance a draw for Democratic voters. But Amash decided against a run, creating an opportunity for Scholten. As with so many traditionally Republican suburban districts, anti-Trump backlash and Joe Biden's middle-of-the-road campaign have made the 3rd competitive at the presidential level, and that competitiveness reverberates downballot in an open-seat situation. Her opponent, Peter Meijer of the billionaire grocery family, has plenty of personal funds, but it is unclear if he is willing to flood the race with his own money (Scholten is currently outspending him 2:1).

Evaluation: Scholten has a profile that could go a long way toward winning over traditionally GOP voters. She speaks extensively about her Christian faith, which she notes is a rarity among Democrats, and of her work with Mel Trotter Ministries, the nonprofit that works to end homelessness in Grand Rapids. She also cites her experience as a Justice Department attorney focused on immigration as an example of her equitable law enforcement bona fides, and her decision to quit when Trump came into office as a point of connection with the anti-Trump strain among voters, particularly women, in the district. Most importantly, as a first-time candidate, she doesn't have a voting record, leaving little for Republicans to attack her over.

to low to mid-40s in most ballot tests for months. That's not a sign of strength for an incumbent. Move from Toss-up to Tilt Democratic.

YouGov/CBS News, Sept. 22-25 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cunningham over Tillis, 48% -38%.

YouGov for University of Massachusetts Lowell, Sept. 18-25 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cunningham over Tillis, 49% - 43%.

Meredith College, Sept. 18-22 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cunningham over Tillis, 43% -42%.

Kansas. **Pat Roberts (R), not seeking re-election.** The Sunflower State continues to be a sleeper opportunity for Democrats, as GOP nominee Rep. Roger Marshall struggles to shake off the negatives pinned on him during the combative Republican primary. Public and private polling shows a highly competitive race between Marshall and Democratic nominee Barbara Bollier, a state senator, and Marshall's allies at the Senate Leadership Fund just wrapped a $5.5 million spend in the state to boost his candidacy. Bollier, who has proven to be a good fundraiser, and her allies at EMILY's List have more than matched the GOP dollar-for-dollar. It's not a great sign for Republicans that after millions in ads, and just a month before Election Day, what should be an easy hold is essentially a tied race. Lean Republican.

GBAO (D) for Bollier Campaign, Sept. 24-27 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Bollier over Marshall, 45% - 43%, Buckley (L) 7%.

co/efficient (R) for Keep Kansas Great PAC, Sept. 15-16 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Marshall over Bollier, 43% - 39%, Buckley (L) 2%.

Data for Progress (D), Sept. 14-19 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Bollier and Marshall tied at 40%, Buckley (L) 5%.

South Carolina. **Lindsey Graham (R), elected 2002 (54%), 2008 (58%) and 2014 (55%).** Graham, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was thrust into the spotlight following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Graham has vowed a swift confirmation for whomever Trump nominates, though he had previously and repeatedly said, as late as October 2018, he would not support confirming a Supreme Court Justice so close to an election, going as far as to tell Democrats to "hold the tape" of those promises and use them against him if he changed his position. Democrat Jaime Harrison and his allies have taken Graham up on that offer, with the anti-Trump Lincoln Project already cutting Graham's old remarks into a TV ad.

Graham's star turn in the nomination fight could help him shore up his support among the Republican base, which has long been wary of him for his anti-Trump position in 2016. With Trump still likely to win the state (albeit more narrowly than four years ago), Harrison has to count on some Trump voters either crossing over to support him, voting for Constitution Party nominee Bill Bledsoe, or leaving the race blank. That could get more difficult with Graham tied to Trump in such a public way.

If nothing else, Harrison will have an overwhelming spending advantage in the final month of the race. Already a prolific fundraiser who brought in $10 million in August alone, Harrison's campaign has likely been supercharged by donations in the wake of Ginsburg's death. And the Democratic-aligned Senate Majority PAC just started a $6.5 million ad buy this week. Money alone won't win this race, but this race just keeps getting more and more competitive. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Quinnipiac Univ., Sept. 23-27 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Graham and Harrison tied at 48%.

YouGov/CBS News, Sept. 22-25 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Graham over Harrison, 45% - 44%.

Continued from page 4

Brilliant Corners Research & Strategies (D) for Harrison Campaign, Sept. 21-24 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Harrison over Graham, 45% - 43%, Bledsoe (C) 5%.

Texas. **John Cornyn (R), elected 2002 (55%), 2008 (65%) and 2014 (62%).** Multiple recent polls showed the senator with the advantage over 2018 House nominee/veteran MJ Hegar, but only occasionally hitting 50 percent. If Hegar wins, it's likely because the presidential race above her and the key competitive House races below her on the ballot pulled her across the finish line. The retired Air Force major has struggled to capture the fundraising magic enjoyed by other Democratic challengers, and her lack of cash has impeded her from introducing herself to the state, with polling showing that as many as half of likely voters don't know enough about her to have an opinion.

That may be changing. Hegar recently reported her best fundraising quarter of the cycle, raking in $13.5 million since July and entering October with $8 million on hand. She may have gotten a boost following the death of Justice Ginsburg, reporting raising $7 million in September alone. But Texas is massive -- Beto O'Rourke spent $80 million here in 2018 -- and she will need every dollar and more to make her case against Cornyn.

After years in the electoral wilderness, Democrats have a legitimate shot at winning Texas in the Electoral College. The state has seen a sharp increase in the number of registered voters, with 1.5 million new registrations since 2016 (when Trump won the state by 800,000 votes) and 824,000 new registrations since 2018 (when Sen. Ted Cruz defeated O'Rourke by just 215,000 votes).

If Biden wins here, he could take Hegar to DC with him. Lean Republican.

YouGov for University of Massachusetts Lowell, Sept. 18-25 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cornyn over Hegar, 50% - 40%.

Data for Progress (D), Sept. 15-22 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cornyn over Hegar, 40% - 38%.

New York Times/Siena College, Sept. 16-22 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cornyn over Hegar, 43% - 37%, McKennon (L) 4%.

Quinnipiac Univ., Sept. 17-21 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cornyn over Hegar, 50% - 42%. **IE**

State Delegation Breakdown

In the event that no presidential candidate receives 270 votes in the Electoral College, the Constitution mandates that the House of Representatives decide the election. But rather than tally the votes of each individual member, the Constitution says that each state delegation casts one vote, decided upon by the members from that delegation. A candidate needs the support of 26 state delegations to win the presidency.

Although Democrats have a majority in the House, they do not control a majority of state delegations. Democrats are the majority in 23 delegations, Republicans are the majority in 26 delegations, and one state, Pennsylvania, has an evenly divided delegation.

If the 2020 presidential election results in a 269-269 tie, it would fall to the newly elected Congress to choose a president and vice president.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi has impressed upon her party the need to flip at least one state delegation from Republican to Democratic control this November, thus depriving Republicans of the 26 votes they would need to elect their candidate if the election were thrown to the House.

Should neither presidential candidate have the support of 26 delegations on January 20 (two weeks after voting would begin) then the Vice President, as selected by the U.S. Senate, would assume the role of Acting President until the House broke its deadlock.

State	Republicans	Democrats	Vacant	Other
Alabama	3	1	-	-
Alaska	1	0	-	-
Arizona	4	5	-	-
Arkansas	4	0	-	-
California	7	45	1	-
Colorado	3	4	-	-
Connecticut	0	5	-	-
Delaware	0	1	-	-
Florida	14	13	-	-
Georgia	9	4	-	-
Hawaii	0	2	-	-
Idaho	2	0	-	-
Illinois	5	13	-	-
Indiana	7	2	-	-
Iowa	1	3	-	-
Kansas	3	1	-	-
Kentucky	5	1	-	-
Louisiana	5	1	-	-
Maine	0	2	-	-
Maryland	1	7	-	-
Massachusetts	0	9	-	-
Michigan	6	7	-	1
Minnesota	3	5	-	-
Mississippi	3	1	-	-
Missouri	6	2	-	-

State	Republicans	Democrats	Vacant	Other
Montana	1	0	-	-
Nebraska	3	0	-	-
Nevada	1	3	-	-
New Hampshire	0	2	-	-
New Jersey	2	10	-	-
New Mexico	0	3	-	-
New York	6	21	-	-
North Carolina	9	3	1	-
North Dakota	1	0	-	-
Ohio	12	4	-	-
Oklahoma	4	1	-	-
Oregon	1	4	-	-
Pennsylvania	9	9	-	-
Rhode Island	0	2	-	-
South Carolina	5	2	-	-
South Dakota	1	0	-	-
Tennessee	7	2	-	-
Texas	22	13	-	-
Utah	3	1	-	-
Vermont	0	1	-	-
Virginia	4	7	-	-
Washington	3	7	-	-
West Virginia	3	0	-	-
Wisconsin	5	3	-	-
Wyoming	1	0	-	-

House Report Shorts

Alaska.

At-large District, Don Young, R, re-elected 53%. Trump 51%. Independent Alyse Galvin, who is running again after losing by 7 points in 2018, lost her lawsuit against the state elections division to have ballots list her as "unaffiliated" in addition to noting that she is the Democratic Party nominee. That could turn off some voters who find the Democratic brand too toxic. But national Democrats and Republicans continue to see this race as highly competitive, with the House GOP-aligned Congressional Leadership Fund super PAC reserving $865,000 in ad time to support Young, while the DCCC had previously committed $495,000 to supporting Galvin. It doesn't help Young that Trump is maintaining just a mid-single digit lead over Biden. Likely Republican.

Arizona.

6th District (Scottsdale and North Phoenix) Dave Schweikert, R, re-elected 55%. Trump 52%. Democrats continue to be bullish about Hiral Tipirneni, the physician running against Schweikert after losing two elections in the neighboring 8th District. This district, which encompasses much of the wealthy suburbs north of Phoenix, has one of the highest rates of college education of any still represented by a Republican, making it ripe for Democratic improvement. It was narrowly won by Martha McSally in 2018 as she lost a close race statewide, but she will most likely lose it in her election this year against Mark Kelly.

Schweikert has been mired in financial scandal for months and has failed to keep pace with Tipirneni's fundraising. He's not getting much outside help, either. The Club for Growth spent $1.2 million to boost Schweikert in the last two weeks of September, but currently has no more reservations. No other GOP group has committed to spending here, while Tipirneni's allies have committed well over $2 million to her cause. With the president and McSally floundering at the top of the ticket, time may be running out for Schweikert if the cavalry doesn't arrive. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

California.

21st District (Southern Central Valley and part of Bakersfield) TJ Cox, D, elected 50%. Clinton 55%. Republicans are very bullish on this race and believe former Rep. David Valadao is well on his way to avenging his 2018 loss. The congressman is one of 23 freshman Democrats to be endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, but GOP attacks have flipped Cox's image upside down and the president isn't doing all that poorly in the district. Move from Tilt Democratic to Toss-up.

25th District (Northern Los Angeles County suburbs) Mike Garcia, R, elected May 2020 special election 55%. Clinton 50%. Garcia has had the lead for the entire race from the May special election until now. But the race is tightening to the point where Democrats are feeling better about their chances. The good news for Republicans is that Trump is performing as well or a little better than he did here in 2016. That's a rarity in House races these days. Toss-up.

39th District (San Gabriel Valley and northern Orange County) Gil Cisneros, D, elected 52%. Clinton 52%. Republicans aren't giving up and believe former state Assemblywoman Young Kim is within striking distance of the congressman. But Biden is poised to win the district by at least mid-single digits, making it difficult for Kim to knock off the incumbent. Likely Democratic.

48th District (Coastal Orange County) Harley Rouda, D, elected 54%. Clinton 48%. Of the Orange County-area districts, this should be the best opportunity for Republicans. But Rouda has maintained an advantage over Orange County Supervisor Michelle Steel. And an endorsement by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gives the congressman, a former Republican, a specific bipartisan credential. This district could be an attractive GOP target in 2022 if Democrats move too far to the left next year. Lean Democratic.

Colorado.

3rd District (Pueblo and the Western Slope) Open; Scott Tipton, R, lost in primary. Trump 52%. Under normal circumstances, this district should vote Republican. But restaurant owner/gun rights activist Lauren Boebert's defeat of the congressman in the GOP primary and the president's struggle to match his 12-point victory four years ago have made this race more competitive. Boebert gained national attention because most of the staff at her restaurants carry guns like she does. But it hasn't translated into big fundraising dollars. GOP outside groups know they're going to have to spend big to win. Democrats can't afford for their nominee, former Democratic state Rep. Diane Mitsch Bush, to get labeled as the Aspen candidate. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Florida.

27th District (Southern Miami area and Coral Gables) Donna Shalala, D, elected 52%. Clinton 59%. It's clear the Democratic Rep. Debbie Mucarsel Powell is in a very competitive race in the neighboring 26th District against Miami Dade County Mayor Carlos Giminez. But Republicans believe former TV news anchor Maria Salazar is in the hunt against Shalala. Salazar lost to Shalala by 6 points two years ago, but GOP strategists are encouraged by Trump's performance in South Florida with Hispanic voters, fueling some of the optimism. Salazar's campaign released a poll at the beginning of September which showed her leading the congresswoman by 3 points. Outside party activity hasn't reacted accordingly, but things could change. Solid Democratic.

Illinois.

13th District (Central Illinois) Rodney Davis, R, re-elected 50%. Trump 49.7%. The two parties agree that the congressman has a narrow lead over Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, but disagree on Biden's lead in the district and the overall contours of the race. Democrats see steady improvement for Londrigran while Republicans see it as a static race in which they've just started pounding Londrigan on TV. Davis and Londrigan battled in a close race two years ago and look headed for a similarly close finish. Tilt Republican.

Indiana.

5th District (Northern Indianapolis suburbs) Open; Susan Brooks, R, not seeking re-election. Trump 53%. Republicans admit it's going to be a close race between state Sen. Victoria Spartz and former state

Rep. Christina Hale, and the House GOP leadership-aligned CLF just announced a half-million dollars in TV ad reservations to shore up Spartz. Republicans also admit that Trump's 12-point victory in the district in 2016 has evaporated. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Iowa.

1st District (Northeastern Iowa) Abby Finkenauer, D, elected 51%. Trump 49%. Republicans are confident this race is moving in their direction as President Trump's standing improves in the state and in the district. And state Rep. Ashley Hinson continues to be one of Republicans' top challengers in the country. But it remains to be seen whether the president is indeed experiencing a resurgence, and Finkenauer has a bipartisan credential with the endorsement of the US Chamber of Commerce. This race could be a bellwether as to whether GOP prospects are indeed improving around the country. Tilt Democratic.

2nd District (Southeastern Iowa) Open; Dave Loebsack, D, not seeking re-election. Trump 49%. The race between GOP nominee Marianette Miller-Meeks and Democrat Rita Hart continues to be one of the closest in the country, with the candidates locked in the low 40s. The good news for Democrats is that Biden continues to have the advantage over Trump in this district at the top of the ballot, giving Hart the chance to break away at the end. Tilt Democratic.

Kentucky.

6th District (Greater Lexington area) Andy Barr, R, re-elected 51%. Trump 55%. Attorney/former police officer Josh Hicks' challenge to the congressman has not developed as well as Democrats had hoped. Barr's wife suddenly passed away in June and the congressman's campaign paid tribute to her in an ad. Another ad talked about her having a pre-existing condition while a more recent spot went after Hicks for supporting abortion. Trump won't win the district by 15 points like he did in 2016, but he's not falling to the point that would endanger Barr. And a closer look at the numbers show Democrat Amy McGrath, the 2018 6th District nominee, not doing well enough in this district to topple Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell statewide. Solid Republican.

Michigan.

3rd District (Grand Rapids area) Justin Amash, I, re-elected as a Republican 54%. Trump 52%. Republicans are confident in the partisan heritage of the district and Republican Peter Meijjer's candidacy and personal money. But Democrat Hillary Scholten had at least two weeks of TV airtime to herself. She's talking about her faith more than most Democrats as a way to demonstrate independence from the national party. And the president isn't doing nearly as well as he did in the district and state compared to four years ago. Move from Tilt Republican to Toss-up.

Minnesota.

2nd District (Southern Twin Cities suburbs) Angie Craig, DFL, elected 53%. Trump 47%. A contest on the periphery of the battleground was thrust into the national spotlight following the death of Legal Marijuana Now Party nominee Adam Weeks on Sept. 21. Under a Minnesota law passed in 2012, if a "major-party candidate"

dies within 79 days of a November election, the election is considered void, and a special election is held several months later. The law defines a party as "major" if any of its nominees for statewide office received more than 5 percent in the last election, and in 2018, the Legal Marijuana Now Party's candidate for attorney general won 5.7 percent of the vote.

The law was passed in reaction to the state's 2002 Senate election when longtime Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone died 11 days before the election, and replacement nominee Walter Mondale lost by just 2 percent to Norm Coleman.

According to the Minnesota secretary of state, this means that although voters will still see the race between Craig and Marine veteran Tyler Kistner on their ballots, votes in that contest will not be counted, and the seat will be considered vacant from January 3 until a special election is held on Feb. 9.

However, Craig is suing the state, arguing that federal statute mandates that all Congressional elections must take place on Nov. 3 (the first Tuesday after the first Monday) and that the winner be seated in January.

If the election remains on Nov. 3, the race will stay at Solid Democratic. But if Craig and Kistner must compete in an early-February special election, that rating could well change given the unpredictability of those contests.

Candidate Conversation

Courtesy Hagan Campaign

Christina Hagan (R)

Ohio's 13th District — Rating: Solid Democratic

Interview Date: Sept. 22, 2020 (Zoom)

Date of Birth: December 11, 1988; Alliance, Ohio

Education: Malone Univ. (2011)

Elected Office: State House (former); 2018 candidate for Ohio's 16th District.

Current Outlook: Hagan is challenging Rep. Tim Ryan in this Youngstown-anchored district that also includes pieces of Akron. Hillary Clinton won here by 7 points in 2016, one of just four districts she carried in the state. Hagan believes that Trump is actually winning this district now -- despite public polling indicating Joe Biden is doing significantly better than Clinton statewide.

Evaluation: Unless polls are missing a truly massive realignment in the state, Biden, who has demonstrated strength with northern white voters, will likely carry this district, and it's hard to see how Hagan, an outspoken conservative and early endorser of then-candidate Trump, wins over enough crossover support to defeat Ryan, especially with no outside help. In our interview, Hagan was personable and clearly earnest in her effort, all while balancing a campaign, work, and a young family. It looks like she knows what it takes to win, but is still convincing even some people in her own party that this is a serious takeover opportunity this cycle. It's possible for Hagan to run a credible campaign and set herself up for next cycle, when the area seats could look very different after redistricting.

Continued from page 7

7th District (Western Minnesota) Collin Peterson, DFL, re-elected 52%. Trump 62%. After the GOP began running ads accusing Peterson of defending fellow Minnesota Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar over comments she made about 9/11, a Republican tracker recorded Peterson saying that he doesn't defend Omar and that she "doesn't belong in our party." Republicans believe Trump has rebuilt his lead in this vast, rural district, and while he's not up by 30 like he was in 2016, he's closer to 20 points up than 10, and that's a significant help for Republican Michelle Fischbach. Peterson recently secured the endorsement of a major Minnesota police union, an important chit for him at a time when law and order issues are top of mind for the Trump voters from whom he will need crossover support. Tilt Democratic.

Missouri.

2nd District (Suburban St. Louis) Ann Wagner, R, re-elected 51%. Trump 53%. State Sen. Jill Schupp is the latest Democratic challenger to face attacks from her Republican opponent that borrow Joe Biden's own words to make the case against Medicare for All. After Wagner released an ad painting Schupp as too radical on healthcare for Biden, who could win here, Schupp rolled out an endorsement from the former vice president himself. This race will hinge on how fast the St. Louis suburbs are really changing. Democrats believe Biden is winning and the congressional race is virtually even. Republicans see the president rebounding and Wagner with a narrow edge, but aren't taking any chances, with the McCarthy-aligned CLF sending $740,000 in air cover for Wagner. Move from Lean Republican to Tilt Republican.

Montana.

At-Large District, Open; Greg Gianforte, R, running for governor. Trump 56%. The race between Matt Rosendale and Kathleen Williams is close and competitive, but GOP prospects look like they're improving as President Trump creeps close to a double-digit advantage at the top of the ballot and GOP Sen. Steve Daines with a narrow lead over Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock. Talk about a potential 269-269 Electoral College tie, which would then have the House break the tie, is increasing interest in this race because a single victory gives one party control over the entire delegation. It's clear that past races have taken a toll on Rosendale's image but he's being boosted by other Republicans on the ticket. Lean Republican.

Nebraska.

2nd District (Greater Omaha area) Don Bacon, R, re-elected 51%. Trump 48%. Both parties agree that this race is virtually even, with Democrat Kara Eastman and the congressman locked in the mid-40s. The good news for Eastman is that there's also nearly universal agreement that Biden is winning this district, which could push her over the top and would give the former vice president an extra Electoral College vote. Toss-up.

Nevada.

3rd District (Southern Las Vegas suburbs) Susie Lee, D, elected 52%. Trump 48%. Republicans believe this seat is within striking distance as Nevada sits on the outskirts of competitiveness at the presidential level. Las Vegas is a crowded media market, but both parties are heavily invested. On paper, the congresswoman should be vulnerable, but Republican Dan Rodimer has a lot of baggage, which makes it difficult to knock off an incumbent when running against the political environment as well. Likely Democratic.

New Jersey.

2nd District (Southern New Jersey coast) Jeff Van Drew, R, elected (as a Democrat) 53%. Trump 51%. Van Drew's decision to switch parties was supposed to ensure his re-election in this working-class district. But a lot has happened in the intervening nine months, and now the freshman representative is in the fight of his political life against teacher Amy Kennedy, the wife of former Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy. Recent public and private polling has shown the race highly competitive, a change from data earlier in the year that was more favorable to Van Drew. As a first-time candidate, Kennedy has no voting record, leaving little for Republicans to attack her on, though they have tried to tie her to questionable investments made by the Kennedy family trust. It's not clear if that messaging will stick to

2020 Presidential Ratings
(Electoral Votes)

Toss-Up (32)

Georgia (16)	Maine 2nd (1)	North Carolina (15)

Tilt Democratic (51) | Tilt Republican (62)

Arizona (11)	Nebraska 2nd (1)	Iowa (6)	Texas (38)
Florida (29)	Wisconsin (10)	Ohio (18)	

Lean Democratic (40) | Lean Republican (6)

New Hampshire (4)	Pennsylvania (20)	Alaska (3)	Montana (3)
Michigan (16)			

Likely Democratic (16) | Likely Republican (31)

Minnesota (10)		Kansas (6)	South Carolina (9)
Nevada (6)		Missouri (10)	Utah (6)

Solid Democratic (212) | Solid Republican (88)

California (55)	New Mexico (5)	Alabama (9)	South Dakota (3)
Colorado (9)	New York (29)	Arkansas (6)	Tennessee (11)
Connecticut (7)	Oregon (7)	Idaho (4)	West Virginia (5)
Delaware (3)	Rhode Island (4)	Indiana (11)	Wyoming (3)
D.C. (3)	Vermont (3)	Kentucky (8)	
Hawaii (4)	Virginia (13)	Louisiana (8)	
Illinois (20)	Washington (12)	Mississippi (6)	
Maine At-Large (2)		Nebraska At-Large (2)	
Maine 1st (1)		Nebraska 1st (1)	
Maryland (10)		Nebraska 3rd (1)	
Massachusetts (11)		North Dakota (3)	
New Jersey (14)		Oklahoma (7)	

270 needed to win

	GOP	DEM
2016 Results	304	227
2020 Ratings	187	319
Toss-up		32

*# moved benefiting Democrats, *moved benefiting Republicans*

Kennedy, who married into the family a decade ago but has plenty of South Jersey credibility. Toss-up.

New Mexico.

2nd District (Southern New Mexico) Xochitl Torres Small, elected 51%. Trump 50%. An early September poll for the Albuquerque Journal showed the congresswoman with a 2-point edge over Republican Yvette Herrell. That's close to what partisan strategists are seeing, although Republicans believe their nominee has the edge. The rural nature of the district is sustaining Trump and keeping Herrell in the game. Even though some Democratic incumbents have been able to solidify themselves quickly in their first term, it's been more difficult for Torres Small. Tilt Democratic.

New York.

1st District (Eastern Suffolk County) Lee Zeldin, R, re-elected 52%. Trump 55%. The congressman has maintained a consistent advantage in the race, even though Democrats believe it's a more narrow margin. Stony Brook Professor Nancy Goroff, the Democratic nominee, is still the underdog in the race. Likely Republican.

11th District (Staten Island and part of southern Brooklyn) Max Rose, D, elected 53%. Trump 54%. The race between GOP State Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and the congressman continues to be close and competitive, and each side believes their candidate has the lead. Rose has enjoyed a financial advantage and the president's margin is down from four years ago, but Republicans are still in the hunt. Toss-up.

21st District (North Country) Elise Stefanik, R, re-elected 56%. Trump 45%. As the congresswoman's national profile has increased, so have Democratic dollars and opposition against her. Former St. Lawrence County legislator Tedra Cobb raised nearly $4 million through the end of June and has certainly raised and spent more since. But GOP strategists are confident Stefanik is in strong shape for re-election and Democrats focused on keeping and expanding the majority aren't talking up the race. Solid Republican.

22nd District (Binghamton and Utica-Rome) Anthony Brindisi, D, elected 51%. Trump 55%. Republicans are encouraged by Trump's improving numbers and his ability to boost Tenney's chances of reclaiming the seat she lost in 2018. She'll underperform the president significantly. Republicans make the case that Tenney's numbers were bad two years ago and she still barely lost. Tilt Democratic.

Oregon.

4th District (Southern Willamette Valley and southern coast) Peter DeFazio, D, re-elected 56%. Trump 46%. Republicans like the trend of the race even though DeFazio still has the edge. Low name ID can be fixed with spending on behalf of Alek Skarlatos. Republicans love the contrast of an Afghanistan War veteran who thwarted a terrorist attack on a Paris train with a long-time politician who "lives on a yacht in Washington, D.C." (When in Washington, DeFazio lives on a houseboat he purchased in 2007 for $16,500.) The district hasn't hosted a real race in years, but Skarlatos is running a credible, well-funded campaign making a generational argument, and Trump won it four years ago, so a GOP victory is not completely out of the question. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

Pennsylvania.

1st District (Philadelphia's Bucks County suburbs) Brian Fitzpatrick, R, re-elected 51%. Clinton 49%. Despite President Trump's struggles at the top of the ticket, the congressman has maintained a significant edge against Democrat Christina Finello. Fitzpatrick's profile remains strong while Finello is still largely unknown. Democrats are going to have to decide if they have enough money to go in and try to buy the seat or just hope Biden crushes it at the top of the ballot and drags Finello across the line. To put it another way, if Biden is indeed up 59-31 percent in the Philadelphia suburbs (as he was in the recent ABC News/*Washington Post* poll), Fitzpatrick could still lose. Move from Tilt Republican to Lean Republican.

10th District (Harrisburg and York) Scott Perry, R, elected 51%. Trump 52%. A poll released this week by the Democratic-aligned House Majority PAC showed Eugene DePasquale with a significant 8-point edge over the congressman. But that looks like the most optimistic scenario for Democrats at this point considering other data show the race even or Perry with a slight advantage. This race looks like it's tracking closely with the presidential race, which is very competitive in this district as well. Tilt Republican.

South Carolina.

1st District (Charleston and coastal South Carolina) Joe Cunningham, D, elected 51%. Trump 54%. GOP challenger Nancy Macy received some attention earlier this week for harkening back to the time when scientists said the Earth was flat in response to a question about the scientific evidence on global warming during a recent debate. While it might be portrayed as the reason why she's trailing the congressman, the fact is that Cunningham has had the edge in the race for weeks, if not months. Mace and the GOP are running out of time to make their case, and the inventory to buy TV ads is very low because of the increasingly competitive Senate race between Democrat Jaime Harrison and Lindsey Graham. Tilt Democratic.

2020 Gubernatorial Ratings

Toss-Up
MT Open (Bullock, D)

Tilt Democratic	Tilt Republican

Lean Democratic	Lean Republican
Cooper (D-N.C.)	

Likely Democratic	Likely Republican
	Parson (R-Mo.)
	Sununu (R-N.H.)

Solid Democratic	Solid Republican
Carney (D-Del.)	UT Open (Herbert, R)
Inslee (D-Wash.)	Burgum (R-N.D.)

	GOP	DEM
		Holcomb (R-Ind.)
Current Governors	26	24
Not Up This Cycle	19	20
Currently Solid	5	2
Competitive	2	2

Additional entries in Solid Republican column: Justice (R-W.V.), Scott (R-Vt.)*

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

Texas.

3rd District (Collin County - Plano) Van Taylor, R, elected 54%. Trump 55%. There's a difference of opinion between the two parties about the trajectory of the race, but Republicans and Democrats agree that it's competitive. The 3rd District contains the highest percentage of college-educated voters of any district represented by a Republican. That population is generally a sign of an area that is trending more Democratic. Attorney Lulu Seikaly is trying to take advantage of the opportunity. She'll have to raise more money to get known in the Dallas media market, and outside Democratic groups may have to make more of an investment. But with Trump slumping at the top of the ticket, this is a serious race. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

7th District (West Houston) Lizzie Fletcher, D, elected 53%. Clinton 49%. Iraq War veteran Wesley Hunt has proven himself to be one of the top GOP candidates nationwide as he is poised for another big fundraising quarter. But the political environment is terrible for Trump and the Republicans in this suburban district and Fletcher is increasingly in good shape for a second term. Move from Lean Democratic to Likely Democratic.

25th District (Part of Austin and rural areas north toward Dallas-Fort Worth) Roger Williams, R, re-elected 54%. Trump 55%. Democrat

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Candidate Conversation

Rich McCormick (R)

Georgia's 7th District -- Rating: Tilt Democratic

Courtesy McCormick Campaign

Interview Date: Sept. 22, 2020 (Zoom)

Date of Birth: October 7, 1968; Las Vegas, Nev.

Education: Oregon State University (1990) ; Morehouse School of Medicine (2010)

Elected Office: None; first run for office.

Current Outlook: McCormick is running for the open seat in a traditionally Republican district in the Atlanta suburbs that is rapidly trending leftwards: Mitt Romney carried it by 22 points in 2012, Donald Trump carried it by 7 points in 2016, and Gov. Brian Kemp lost it by 2 points in 2018. McCormick faces a well-funded Democratic opponent in Carolyn Bourdeaux, who lost two years ago by a fraction of a percent. With Joe Biden threatening to carry the state, and Trump showing little sign of regaining a foothold in the suburbs, it's an uphill climb even for a solid candidate such as McCormick.

Evaluation: McCormick has a compelling life story, having grown up poor with a single mother before joining the Marine Corps and attending Morehouse School of Medicine, an HBCU (independent from Morehouse College), where he served as student body president -- McCormick is white. Trained in emergency medicine, McCormick is affable in conversation and comes across empathetic and genuine in his beliefs. He says his lived experience in the military, as an ER physician, and even his time spent as a teenager doing manual labor on a berry farm, will help him connect to the diversifying district.

Julie Oliver, who lost by 9 points to Williams in 2018, was just named to the DCCC's Red-to-Blue list of most competitive challengers. Being on the list could give her access to a larger donor network, which she'll need — at the end of June, she had just $90,000 in the bank, compared to $1.3 million for Williams, and so far, no outside groups have chosen to spend here. Trump won this district by 15 points in 2016, but he's miles away from a repeat performance and is at best up a few points on Biden here. A tight race at the top of the ticket continues to give Oliver, who has a compelling life story as a formerly homeless teenage mother, an opportunity. Ted Cruz only won this district by 5 points in 2018, a sign that it could be shifting in Democrats' direction. Likely Republican.

Virginia.

2nd District (Virginia Beach) Elaine Luria, D, elected 51%. Trump 49%. An ongoing election fraud investigation continues to hang over this race. A second former Scott Taylor staffer pleaded guilty to fraud charges this month and a third one was indicted as part of the same 2018 scheme to bolster then-Rep. Taylor's odds by supporting an independent candidate who would take votes away from Democrats. Both Luria and her allies at House Majority PAC are running ads attacking Taylor over the scheme. Taylor's campaign has said they do not expect him to be indicted, though the special prosecutor assigned to the case told *The Virginian-Pilot* in early September that nobody, including Taylor, has been cleared yet — a characterization the campaign disputes. Democrats and Republicans continue to disagree about the margin of the presidential and House race in this district. But the majority of the data support the Democratic view. Lean Democratic.

5th District. (Charlottesville and South-central Virginia) Open; Denver Riggleman, R, lost renomination. Trump 53%. A combination of a surprise primary victory, a strong Democratic candidate, and Trump's underperformance at the top of the ballot is making this race more competitive than it should be. Republican Bob Good knocked off the incumbent at the party nominating convention but started the general election with very little campaign cash. Meanwhile, the Democratic nominee Cameron Webb, a physician at UVA medical school, has been a good fundraiser and was able to start to define himself before the GOP effort began in earnest. The 5th District has strong GOP DNA considering even polarizing Republican Corey Stewart won it by 2 points in the same 2018 Senate race he lost by 16 points statewide. But Webb is running even with or slightly ahead of Good right now. Republicans believe they'll be able to spend their way out of the problem with a large investment from outside groups to compensate for Good's poor fundraising. The main House GOP super PAC, Congressional Leadership Fund, is following through with $750,000 in new reservations in the district. But there's no guarantee it's going to work. Move from Likely Republican to Lean Republican.

Wisconsin.

3rd District (Southwestern Wisconsin) Ron Kind, D, re-elected 60%. Trump 49%. Republicans haven't completely thrown in the towel against the congressman in a district Trump carried by nearly 5 points. But unlike four years ago, the president is unlikely to carry the state, and might not even carry the district, in November, making it difficult for former Navy Seal Derrick Van Orden. The GOP-aligned Congressional Leadership Fund is up with a $2 million ad buy to see if they can rattle the congressman, who isn't used to facing a real challenger. In his ads, Kind has been highlighting his work to deliver good-paying jobs to the area. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.