



# Inside Elections

with

Nathan L. Gonzales

Nonpartisan Analysis

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## 2020 Senate Ratings

### Toss-Up

Collins (R-Maine) Ernst (R-Iowa)  
Daines (R-Mont.) Tillis (R-N.C.)

### Tilt Democratic

*Gardner (R-Colo.)*  
*McSally (R-Ariz.)*

### Tilt Republican

Perdue (R-Ga.)

### Lean Democratic

Peters (D-Mich.)

### Lean Republican

KS Open (Roberts, R)  
Cornyn (R-Texas)  
Loeffler (R-Ga.)  
*Jones (D-Ala.)*

### Likely Democratic

### Likely Republican

Graham (R-S.C.)  
Sullivan (R-Alaska)

### Solid Democratic

NM Open (Udall, D)  
Booker (D-N.J.)  
Coons (D-Del.)  
Durbin (D-Ill.)  
Markey (D-Mass.)  
Merkley (D-Ore.)  
Reed (D-R.I.)  
Shaheen (D-N.H.)  
Smith (D-Minn.)  
Warner (D-Va.)

### Solid Republican

TN Open (Alexander, R)  
WY Open (Enzi, R)  
Cassidy (R-La.)  
Capito (R-W.Va.)  
Cotton (R-Ark.)  
Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)  
Inhofe (R-Okla.)  
McConnell (R-Ky.)  
Risch (R-Idaho)  
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 Election in the Mirror is Closer than it Appears

By Nathan L. Gonzales & Jacob Rubashkin

This election cycle, and even just this year, has been filled with multiple historic events: the impeachment of a president, a global pandemic, near economic collapse, a national conversation about racism in America, and the first Black woman on a presidential ticket. Through it all, this has remained one of the most stable presidential races in recent memory.

Former Vice President Joe Biden continues to have a distinct advantage over President Donald Trump in the race for the White House. Confidence in that analysis comes from the depth and breadth of the data. Biden not only leads Trump in the national polls, but in the individual battleground states that will decide the Electoral College. And Trump continues to struggle to reach his 2016 performance in key congressional districts around the country.

Nearly four years later, the 2016 presidential election result looms over any political projection. But Trump's victory should be a lesson in probability rather than a call to ignore data. We should reject the false choice between following the data and being open-minded about less likely results.

If the election were held today, the most likely result would be Biden getting elected president, Democrats gaining control of the Senate and Democrats expanding their majority in the House.

While it's certainly possible for the president's standing to improve, that scenario would more likely involve a gradual increase in his support than a single event causing a spike in his approval rating. And Trump is running out of time.

Republicans don't have until November 3 to improve their standing. By Election Day, tens of millions of voters will have already made their decision and cast their ballot. That's a fundamental problem with Republicans putting their hope in Biden self-destructing during a mid-October debate or a coronavirus vaccine coming online by Halloween.

If Trump's standing improves by a handful of points, even without a dramatic event, it may not be enough to get him a second term but it could be enough to keep the Senate in GOP hands for another two years.

The certainty of the election is in the implementation. There will be days of counting ballots after Election Day intertwined with days of litigation over which ballots should be counted. While it might be messy and chaotic, it's important that we get the process right.

Because no matter which party wins, it will be extremely difficult for the country to move forward in a meaningful way, to legislate, to handle a pandemic, or to confront systemic issues, if Americans can't agree on the legitimacy of the elections.

# Senate Report Shorts

**Alabama.** Doug Jones (D), elected 2017 special (50%). The senator was part of the Democrats' primetime lineup on the first night of their national convention, further evidence that Jones is not shying away from his partisan label. Even though Trump should win Alabama handily, Democrats know Jones' path to victory has more to do with historic Black turnout than persuading Republicans. Republicans have had to spend money helping former Auburn head football coach Tommy Tuberville, considering he finished the GOP runoff about \$8 million behind Jones in available campaign cash. Tuberville still has the advantage in the race, but if Democratic turnout reaches new heights and Jones can effectively paint the former coach as a Florida man running in Alabama, the senator might have a shot. Lean Republican.

*Morning Consult, July 24- Aug. 2 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Tuberville over Jones 52% - 35%.*

**Arizona.** Martha McSally (R), appointed Jan. 2019. Both parties agree that former astronaut Mark Kelly, the Democratic nominee, leads the senator, even though they disagree on the margin. Republicans are encouraged that they believe some of their attacks on Kelly, specifically his business connections to China, are starting to chip away at his image. Democrats point out that McSally still has problems consolidating GOP voters and Biden is still running strong at the top of the ticket. The race isn't over but McSally is still the underdog. Tilt Democratic.

*Emerson College, Aug. 8-10 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Kelly over McSally 52% - 41%.*

*Change Research (D) for CNBC, Aug. 7-9 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Kelly over McSally 49% - 43%.*

*OnMessage Inc. (R) for Heritage Action, Aug. 2-4 (LVs) — General Election ballot: McSally and Kelly tied at 48%.*

**Colorado.** Cory Gardner (R), elected 2014 (48%). The first-term Republican continues to be the most endangered GOP senator this cycle. Despite millions of dollars in ads hammering his opponent, former 2020 presidential candidate John Hickenlooper over an ethics issue, Gardner has been unable to pull himself back to even with the former governor. He's not helped by Trump's struggles at the top of the ticket, where the president is nowhere near matching his 5-point defeat in 2016 and is on track to lose by double-digits. Republicans are hoping that Gardner's role in passing The Great American Outdoors Act, which permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund,

*Continued on page 3*

## 2020 Presidential Ratings (Electoral Votes)

### Toss-Up (32)

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

### Tilt Democratic (51)

Arizona (11) Nebraska 2nd (1) Florida (29) Wisconsin (10)

### Tilt Republican (62)

Iowa (6) Texas (38) Ohio (18)

### Lean Democratic (40)

New Hampshire (4) Pennsylvania (20) Michigan (16)

### Lean Republican (6)

Alaska (3) Montana (3)

### Likely Democratic (16)

Minnesota (10) Nevada (6)

### Likely Republican (31)

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

### Solid Democratic (212)

California (55) Colorado (9) Connecticut (7) Delaware (3) D.C. (3) Hawaii (4) Illinois (20) Maine At-Large (2) Maine 1st (1) Maryland (10) Massachusetts (11) New Jersey (14) New Mexico (5) New York (29) Oregon (7) Rhode Island (4) Vermont (3) Virginia (13) Washington (12)

### Solid Republican (88)

Alabama (9) Arkansas (6) Idaho (4) Indiana (11) Kentucky (8) Louisiana (8) Mississippi (6) Nebraska At-Large (2) Nebraska 1st (1) Nebraska 3rd (1) North Dakota (3) Oklahoma (7) South Dakota (3) Tennessee (11) West Virginia (5) Wyoming (3)

270 needed to win

# moved benefiting Democrats,

\* moved benefiting Republicans

**GOP**

**DEM**

2016 Results 304 227

**2020 Ratings** 187 319

Toss-up 32

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will provide him a lifeline, but with voters so sour on Trump, it likely won't be enough. Tilt Democratic.

*Morning Consult, July 17-26 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Hickenlooper over Gardner 48% - 42%.*

**Georgia. David Perdue (R), elected 2014 (53%).** Jan. 5 runoff (if necessary). This race remains competitive, with Trump and Biden knotted up at the top of the ticket. Democrat Jon Ossoff has run a stronger-than-expected campaign thus far, avoiding a Democratic primary runoff. As the incumbent in a red-leaning state with a 4-to-1 financial edge, Perdue still holds the advantage. Senate candidates need an absolute majority to win in November, otherwise the top two vote-getters are forced into a Jan. 5, 2021 runoff, where Democrats have historically struggled, another quirk in Perdue's favor. But with Biden threatening to win the state for Democrats for the first time since 1992, and with Perdue having aligned himself so closely to Trump, the GOP can't laugh off Ossoff like they have for the past year. Tilt Republican.

*Public Policy Polling (D) for MoveOn, Aug. 13-14 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Perdue and Ossoff tied at 44%.*

*Garin-Hart-Yang (D) for Ossoff Campaign, Aug. 10-13 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Ossoff over Perdue 48% - 46%.*

*SurveyUSA for WXIA-TV, Aug. 6-8 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Perdue over Ossoff 44%-41%.*

**Georgia. Kelly Loeffler (R) appointed Jan. 6, 2020.** Special election Nov. 3 (all candidates), Jan. 5 runoff (if necessary). Three months ago, it looked like Kelly Loeffler's political career was all but over. Accused of trading stocks based on information she received from Senate coronavirus briefings, the businesswoman saw her favorability and her poll numbers drop precipitously. But since then, the Justice Department closed its investigation into her trades, and Loeffler's campaign has been given new life by the senator's ongoing feud with the Black Lives Matter movement and the WNBA (where she is a team owner). Loeffler has decried her opponents' criticisms of her — including from players on her own team — as "cancel culture," and it could be reviving her credibility among the right wing of the GOP. In polls for the November all-party primary, Loeffler is now running close to even or ahead of her main Republican challenger, 9th District Rep. Doug Collins. On the Democratic side, Rev. Raphael Warnock has struggled to gain traction despite entering the race in January with the support of the entire Georgia and national Democratic Party establishment, and has not pulled away from the other Democrats in the race, businessman Matt Lieberman and former US Attorney Ed Tarver. Democrats aren't nervous. They say Warnock, who just went up on TV, and who had a turn in the national spotlight as he officiated Rep. John Lewis' funeral, has more than enough time to break out and secure a spot in the likely January 5 runoff. Lean Republican.

*SurveyUSA for WXIA-TV, Aug. 6-8 (LVs) — All-party special election ballot: Loeffler (R) 26%, Collins (R) 17%, Warnock (D) 17%, Lieberman (D) 13%, Tarver (D) 3%.*

*HIT Strategies (D) for Democrats for Education Reform, July 23-31 (RVs) — All-party special election ballot: Loeffler (R) 22%, Collins (R) 18%, Warnock (D) 14%, Lieberman (D) 14%, Tarver (D) 6%.*

*Monmouth University, July 23-27 (RVs) — All-party special election ballot: Loeffler (R) 26%, Collins (R) 20%, Lieberman (D) 14%, Warnock (D) 9%, Tarver (D) 5%.*

**Iowa. Joni Ernst (R), elected 2014 (51%).** This is shaping up to be one of the closest and most competitive races in the country. But considering Trump won Iowa by 9 points in 2016, it's indicative of the president's (and the GOP's) problems nationwide. Former real estate executive Theresa Greenfield and the senator are running virtually even as Trump struggles to win the state again at the presidential level. Both sides are confident in their chances of winning a close race, but obviously only one party will be right. Toss-up.

*Public Policy Polling (D) for MoveOn, Aug. 13-14 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Greenfield over Ernst 48% - 45%.*

*Monmouth University, July 30 - Aug. 3 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Ernst over Greenfield 48% - 45%.*

*Data for Progress (D), July 24 - Aug. 2 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Greenfield over Ernst 45% - 43%.*

**Kansas. Open; Pat Roberts (R) not seeking re-election.** Republicans got their preferred candidate, Rep. Roger Marshall, through the August 4 primary, but this race is far from settled. Democratic candidate Barbara Bollier, a state legislator who was until recently a moderate Republican, has a significant financial advantage over Marshall and the national environment in her favor. There is ample data to suggest that, even though the divisive Kris Kobach failed to make it out of the GOP primary, Republicans could see this seat slip away for the first time

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## Candidate Conversation



Courtesy Oliver for Congress

### Julie Oliver (D)

Texas' 25th District —  
Rating: Likely Republican

**Interview Date:** August 14, 2020 (Zoom)

**Date of Birth:** July 25, 1972;  
South Oak Cliff (Dallas), Texas

**Education:** Univ. of Texas-Arlington (1995); Univ. of Texas law school (1998)

**Elected Office:** None; 2018 25th District nominee

**Current Outlook:** Oliver is in a longshot race against GOP Rep. Roger Williams in an Austin-area district. Donald Trump won the district by 15 points in 2016 over Hillary Clinton but the presidential race with Joe Biden is much closer, giving Oliver a chance to pull off the upset.

**Evaluation:** Oliver has a pretty incredible personal story. She ran away as a teenager and even lived in her car for a summer before getting pregnant and returning home. Oliver gave birth to her daughter, finished high school and went on to graduate from college and law school, and had two more kids during the process. After working in tax law for a few years, she did healthcare finance for 15 years for St. David's hospitals in the Austin area. Oliver ran against Williams two years ago and lost by 9 points. With Beto O'Rourke at the top of the ticket, that was considered the best year for Democrats in Texas in decades. But with Trump struggling at the top of the ticket this year, things could get better for Oliver. And she is working to ramp up her campaign and fundraising from last time to be in position if a Democratic wave develops in Texas.

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in more than a century. The national GOP has already committed to spending here to boost Marshall, who was damaged during the primary, and highlight Bollier's more liberal votes in the Legislature. But with the president's statewide lead languishing in single digits (he won by 21 points in 2016) this is very much a live race. Lean Republican.

*SurveyUSA, Aug. 8-9 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Marshall over Bollier 46% - 44%*

*Public Policy Polling (D) for EMILY's List, Aug. 5-6 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Marshall over Bollier 43% - 42%.*

**Louisiana. Bill Cassidy (R), elected 2014 (56%).** Nov. 3 jungle primary. Dec. 5 Runoff. Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins made a late splash in this race, jumping in on July 22. The 34-year-old mayor, who was the first African-American class president at West Point and who followed up seven years as an Army Ranger with Harvard Law School, is the only serious challenger Democrats have to Cassidy. But his late entry into the race will hamper his ability to raise money and his profile enough to compete against the incumbent, who had \$6 million in the bank on July 4. With his sterling bio, Perkins would have been in prime position to take advantage of the wave of Democratic donor cash flowing to candidates like Amy McGrath and Jaime Harrison, but now it's not clear if he can gain enough traction in this red state. His best bet is to try and keep Cassidy (who just tested positive for Covid-19) under 50 percent in the November jungle primary and force him into a December 5 runoff, where Perkins might be able to count on serious outside help. Solid Republican.

**Maine. Susan Collins (R), elected 1996 (49%), 2002 (58%), 2008 (61%) and 2014 (69%).** The two parties have very different views on the race. Republicans are encouraged by Collins' standing, which they believe has improved in the last few weeks, while Democrats believe state House Speaker Sara Gideon continues to have a small but stable advantage. GOP and Democratic strategists do agree that Biden has a significant lead over Trump in a state Clinton won by just 3 points. That should boost Gideon's chances considering fewer Democrats are willing to support Collins after her vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Toss-up.

*Public Policy Polling (D) for MoveOn, Aug. 13-14 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Gideon over Collins 49% - 45%.*

*Digital Media/Critical Insights for The Bangor Daily News, July 28-Aug. 9 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Gideon over Collins 43% - 35%, Savage (I) 5%.*

*Quinnipiac, July 30-Aug. 3 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Gideon over Collins 47% - 43%.*

**Michigan. Gary Peters (D), elected 2014 (55%).** Republicans released a poll this week hoping to breathe new life into the race. But Army veteran/2018 GOP Senate nominee John James was running a few points behind the senator in his campaign's own survey. One Nation, a nonprofit group affiliated with the GOP, just started a significant ad buy in the race. But James' fundamental problem remains: Trump is trailing Biden significantly in the state and it will be tough to win the Senate race with that drag at the top of the ticket. Lean Democratic.

*Tarrance Group (R) for James Campaign, Aug. 10-13, (RVs) — General Election ballot: Peters over James 49% - 44%.*

*Change Research (D) for CNBC, Aug. 7-9 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Peters over James 48% - 45%.*

*EPIC-MRA, July 25-30 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Peters over James 50% - 40%.*

**Minnesota. Tina Smith (DFL), appointed Jan. 2018, elected 2018 special (53%).** There was no drama in either party's primaries last week as Smith was renominated with 87 percent of the vote, and former Rep. Jason Lewis won the GOP nomination with 78 percent. A recent public poll showed Biden leading Trump by just 3 points and the senator ahead of Lewis by 3 points as well. Those numbers are very hard to swallow considering Trump lost Minnesota in 2016 and has generally been underperforming his results from four years ago by at least 8-10 points. Of course it's worth keeping an eye on to see if the survey caught the early part of a trend. But more importantly, watch the spending to see if Democrats see a liability or Republicans smell an opportunity. Thus far the outside spending doesn't match the polling results. Solid Democratic.

*Emerson College, Aug. 8-10 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Smith over Lewis 48% - 45%.*

*Public Policy Polling (D) for Giffords PAC, July 22-23 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Smith over Lewis 48% - 39%.*

**Mississippi. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R), appointed April 2018, elected 2018 special (54%).** Former congressman/former secretary of agriculture Mike Espy lost to Hyde-Smith 54-46 percent in the 2018 special election runoff to fill the remainder of the seat vacated by GOP Sen. Thad Cochran. This year, Democrats hope a combination of factors will lead to a different result. Trump won Mississippi by 18 points in 2016 but might win it by half of that this year, so Espy will need fewer voters to split their tickets. Democrats believe President Trump's actions in office and Kamala Harris as the vice presidential nominee could boost Black turnout to a historic level. And Espy is banking on some white voters coupling Hyde-Smith to traditional Mississippi values that are out-dated and too conservative and that are now harming the state's economy. Specifically, Democrats are particularly encouraged at the speed at which the GOP-led state jettisoned the state flag that included the Confederate battle emblem, and believe the senator has lagged in accepting change. But that doesn't necessarily mean Mississippi is ready to elect a Democrat to the Senate for the first time since the 1940s or elect the first-ever Black Democrat from any Southern state. In this political environment, Hyde-Smith and Republicans can't take any race for granted, but each percentage Espy needs among white or Black voters is exceedingly difficult. This is still a race worth watching. Solid Republican.

*Garin-Hart-Yang (D) for Espy Campaign, July 30-Aug 9 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Hyde-Smith over Espy 47% - 43%, Edwards (L) at 3%.*

**Montana. Steve Daines (R), elected 2014 (58%).** The race between the senator and Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock continues to be one of the most competitive this cycle. And with serious races for the House, governor, and even president, Big Sky Country is punching well above its sparsely populated weight when it comes to elections. The ad spending in the state's Senate race is proof: both sides have already spent a combined \$36 million, with another \$39 million reserved in future buys, making this one of the most expensive races in the country. If Biden can stay within a few points of Trump, which is about where he's at today, that helps Bullock because it decreases the number of crossover voters the governor needs to win. Republicans have seen Bullock's image deteriorate a bit as positive coronavirus cases climbed, but his standing is still stronger than they'd like at this point in the race. Toss-Up.

*Emerson College, July 31-Aug. 2 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Daines over Bullock 50% - 44%.*

**North Carolina. Thom Tillis (R), elected 2014 (49%).** It's mixed news for Republicans in North Carolina, where Trump hasn't fallen as far as he has in other states, but where the Senate race is not getting any better for Tillis. Former state senator/veteran Cal Cunningham appears to have at least a narrow but consistent advantage over the senator. Republicans are shifting from a traditional too-liberal argument to painting the Democratic nominee as a self-dealing opportunist. If the attacks don't start to do some damage soon or Trump's standing doesn't improve, it's harder to see how Tillis wins. Toss-up.

*Eastern Carolina University, Aug. 12-13 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Cunningham over Tillis 44% - 40%.*

*Harper Polling (R) for Civitas Institute, Aug. 6-10 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cunningham over Tillis 41% - 38%, Bray (L) 2%, Hayes (C) 2%.*

*Change Research (D), Aug. 7-9 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cunningham over Tillis, 48% - 43%.*

**Oklahoma. Jim Inhofe (R), elected 1994 special (55%), 1996 (57%), 2002 (57%), 2008 (57%), and 2014 (68%).** It may be the largest age difference between incumbent and challenger in Senate history: 30-year-old local NBC reporter/attorney Abby Broyles is taking on the 85-year-old chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Broyles, who was just four years old when Inhofe was first elected to the Senate, is the heavy underdog in this race — she reported just \$187,000 in the bank on June 30 compared to Inhofe's \$2.2 million, and her campaign's own poll showed her down 16 points. Broyles had initially challenged Inhofe to 25 debates, but recently revised her ask down to just six, but the incumbent will likely refrain from giving his much younger opponent much publicity. Solid Republican.

*DFM Research (D) for Broyles Campaign, July 29-30 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Inhofe over Broyles 50% - 34%.*

**South Carolina. Lindsey Graham (R), elected 2002 (54%), 2008 (58%) and 2014 (55%).** Jaime Harrison continues to excite Democrats nationwide, as a slew of new public and private polling shows a very tight race in the Palmetto State. Harrison also got a publicity boost as one of the few Democratic Senate challengers to be featured at the DNC — he cast South Carolina's votes for Joe Biden during the delegate roll call, while Maine's Sara Gideon introduced singer Maggie Rogers. But despite his eye-popping fundraising and close polling numbers, Harrison still faces a steep challenge; with voting so racially polarized in the state, he'll have to combine massive Black voter turnout with a difficult-to-obtain increase in support among white voters. So far, he's been able to hold his own by highlighting his "local kid made good" story, but his ceiling in this race is far lower than Graham's. Likely Republican.

*Quinnipiac University, July 30-Aug. 3 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Graham and Harrison tied at 44%.*

*Morning Consult, July 24-Aug. 2 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Graham over Harrison 44% - 43%.*

*Public Policy Polling (D) for Giffords PAC, July 30-31 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Graham over Harrison 47% - 44%.*

**Texas. John Cornyn (R), elected 2002 (55%), 2008 (65%) and 2014 (62%).** As Biden remains competitive at the presidential level, Democratic strategists are slowly coming around to Texas as a legitimate opportunity. Despite a significant \$14.5 million to \$902,000 cash deficit to the senator at the end of June, decorated veteran/2018 House nominee M.J. Hegar is within striking distance of Cornyn. Democrats argue that while it's a big and expensive state to advertise, Cornyn has to spend to work on his

own image as well because he's not a universally known and well-liked incumbent. This race is not over yet. Lean Republican.

*YouGov for Texas Hispanic Policy Foundation, Aug. 4-13 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Cornyn over Hegar 44% - 37%.*

*Morning Consult, July 24-Aug. 2 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cornyn over Hegar 44% - 38%.*

*Global Strategy Group/Latino Decisions (D) for DSCC, July 25-29 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Cornyn over Hegar 43% - 42%.*

**Wyoming. Open; Mike Enzi (R) not seeking re-election.** Former Rep. Cynthia Lummis won Tuesday's primary with 60 percent and is likely to become Wyoming's first female senator. In her previous stint in Congress, she was a member of the House Freedom Caucus. But in our interview, it was apparent that her past experience on the Hill softened her a bit to be open to working with Democrats on specific issues that matter to Wyoming. She'll certainly be a conservative voice on Capitol Hill again but don't expect her to be one of the bomb throwers. Solid Republican. **IE**

## Candidate Conversation



**Ashley Hinson (R)**

*Iowa's 1st District — Rating: Tilt Democratic*

**Interview Date:** July 29, 2020 (Google Meet)

**Date of Birth:** June 27, 1983; Des Moines, Iowa

**Education:** Univ. of Southern California (2004)

**Elected Office:** State Representative (2017-present)

**Current Outlook:** Hinson is a top challenger in a district Donald Trump carried by more than 3 points in 2016. This is the type of district and race Republicans should be winning if they were on pace to regain the majority. But that's simply not the case with two months to go. Democratic Rep. Abby Finkenauer has a slight advantage, in part because of Trump's struggles at the top of the ticket. And now the race is being overshadowed by the local response to the derecho that devastated parts of the community. That could make it more complicated for Republicans to make their case against the congresswoman.

**Evaluation:** Hinson is one of the GOP's most prized recruits this cycle, and it is easy to see why. She's retained the poise and presence from her days as a TV anchor, and she did not shy away from the plagiarism controversy that rocked her campaign in late July, admitting fault and accepting responsibility rather than obfuscating or attacking the media. But Hinson couldn't articulate any major policy differences with the president, preferring to break with him only on style and the specific issue of using police to clear Lafayette Square in late May. She also didn't offer a solid explanation for how she would win over Biden voters, maintaining that the president would win the district again (he prevailed by 3 points here in 2016 while winning statewide — polls now show him tied statewide). Hinson did note that she won in 2016 even as Clinton carried her legislative district, as evidence of her crossover appeal. But congressional races are a whole different ball game than state legislative elections when it comes to partisanship.

# House Report Shorts

## California.

**25th District (Northern Los Angeles County suburbs) Mike Garcia, R, elected in May 2020 special election 55%. Clinton 50%.** If the election were held today, Garcia would probably be the favorite to get elected to a full term after winning the special election three months ago. But Democrats have yet to litigate Garcia's votes in Congress and are eager to tie him to Washington and the national party. Smith endured a few million dollars of attack ads in the special election (which she lost by nearly 10 points) but is still a contender in this race. The biggest factor might be the presidential race. Trump lost by 7 points in 2016 and will likely lose by double digits in November. Tilt Democratic.

**50th District (Inland San Diego County) Vacant; Duncan Hunter, R, resigned Jan. 2020.** Trump 55%. In 2018, Democrat Ammar Campa-Najjar lost to the congressman 52-48 percent while Hunter was under indictment for campaign finance violations. Campa-Najjar is running again, but it's initially hard to believe that he'll fare much better this year against a Republican who hasn't been indicted. But this race isn't over yet. Campa-Najjar's campaign released a poll which showed him trailing former GOP Rep. Darrell Issa 47-43 percent. That's not incredibly encouraging since the Democrat is trailing his own performance from two years ago. But it's encouraging to Democrats that Trump's advantage over Biden is in the mid-single digits. In addition, Issa isn't from the district, he represented and retired from a neighboring district to the north. And while Issa was the one of the wealthiest members of Congress, he often spends to parity in his races, instead of using a tremendous financial advantage to overwhelm his opponents. Meanwhile, Campa-Najjar's fundraising has been good, with \$3 million raised through the end of June. This district votes Republican under nearly all circumstances, but at least some of the ingredients are in place for an upset. Move from Solid Republican to Likely Republican.

## Florida.

**1st District (Pensacola area) Matt Gaetz, R, re-elected 67%. Trump 68%.** Retired Navy Commander Phil Ehr, the Democratic nominee, released a poll before the primary claiming that the congressman was vulnerable. But the survey memo didn't include the initial ballot matchup or the presidential ballot, which is a red flag that Gaetz is in good shape for re-election. Gaetz is one of the most provocative members on the Hill, but Trump's 39-point victory in 2016 should give the congressman enough of a cushion to win this fall, even if the president's standing falters a bid. Solid Republican.

**3rd District (North Florida, including Gainesville and Ocala) Open; Ted Yoho, R, not seeking re-election.** Trump 56%. Kat Cammack, who had served as Yoho's DC chief of staff but was demoted to a district position in 2013 for unexplained reasons, finished first in a crowded field with 25 percent in Tuesday's primary. Businessman Judson Sapp was second with 20 percent, and two more candidates scored in the teens. On the Democratic side, three candidates vied to lose this North Florida district -- with businessman Adam Christensen at 34.5 percent, just ahead of perennial candidate and scientist Tom Wells at 33 percent and 2012 3rd District nominee Phil Dodds with 32 percent. Democrats would love to take Yoho's seat after his clash with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, but that will be a stretch unless the president falters even more. Solid Republican.

**13th District (St. Petersburg area) Charlie Crist, D, re-elected 58%. Clinton 49.6%.** Businesswoman/US Air Force veteran Anna Paulina Luna finished ahead of attorney/lobbyist/former congressional aide Amanda Makki 36-29 percent in Tuesday's GOP primary. Even though Clinton won the district by just 3 points in 2016, this race gets hardly any attention. Crist, a former Republican governor, simply isn't viewed as all that vulnerable, particularly with a \$3.1 million to \$319,000 cash advantage over Luna on July 29, though an election night endorsement by President Trump this week could boost that number. Solid Democratic.

**15th District (Lakeland and exurbs of Tampa and Orlando) Open; Ross Spano, R, defeated in primary.** Trump 53%. Lakeland City Commissioner Scott Franklin defeated the congressman 51-49 percent in Tuesday's GOP primary. Spano is the eighth incumbent in the country to lose renomination this cycle. But given his ethics troubles and mediocre fundraising, Spano's loss likely helps GOP chances of holding the seat. Democrats nominated former TV news anchor/communications consultant Alan Cohn, who lost a 2014 race 60-40 percent against Rep. Dennis Ross. Cohn won his primary this year with 41 percent. Trump won the district by 10 points last time, but has been lagging behind his 2016 totals by at least 8-10 points. That means Biden has a chance to win and Republicans can't rest easy yet. Lean Republican.

**16th District (Sarasota area) Vern Buchanan, R, re-elected 55%. Trump 54%.** Both the congressman and state Rep. Margaret Good ran unopposed in their primaries. Buchanan had a \$1.7 million to \$1 million cash advantage over Good on July 29, but with the president struggling to match his 11-point victory in the district, this is a competitive race. Likely Republican.

**18th District (Treasure Coast and Palm Beach area) Brian Mast, R, re-elected 54%. Trump 53%.** Four years ago, attorney/Navy veteran Pam Keith was frustrated with EMILY's List for failing to promote her candidacy for the U.S. Senate. On Tuesday, she won the Democratic primary with 80 percent of the vote and a late endorsement from EMILY's List. She'll start the general election at a significant cash deficit (\$1.8 million to \$101,000 in the bank on July 29), but Trump is struggling to recreate his 9-point victory in the district in 2016. So this is a race to watch for further developments. Solid Republican.

**19th District (Cape Coral and Fort Myers) Open; Francis Rooney, R, not seeking re-election.** Trump 60%. The GOP primary to succeed Rooney devolved into a messy, personal slugfest between the top four candidates. In the end, state Rep. Byron Donalds eked out a close victory with 23 percent over state House Majority Leader Dane Eagle (22 percent), businessman Casey Askar (20 percent), and urologist William Figlethaler (18 percent). This district will remain in Republican hands, but it will still see a shift in representation. Rooney, a longtime GOP donor and former Ambassador to the Vatican City, belongs to an older class of establishment Republicans, many of whom were cool to Trump -- Donalds, his successor, is an outspoken, pro-Trump firebrand. With the retirement of Rep. Will Hurd in Texas' 23rd District, Donalds will likely enter Congress as the House's only Black Republican. Solid Republican.

**21st District (Southeast Palm Beach County) Lois Frankel, D, ran unopposed in 2018.** Clinton 59%. Provocative conservative personality Laura Loomer won Tuesday's GOP primary with 42 percent. Loomer, who has promoted conspiracy theories about various mass shootings

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being staged and calls herself a “proud Islamophobe,” has been banned from various social media platforms. She has little chance of winning the general election in a district Trump lost by 20 points in 2016 and that he’ll likely lose by more in November. But her win, which was quickly followed by multiple congratulatory tweets from the president, legitimizes yet another GOP woman on the far end of the ideological spectrum. Solid Democratic.

**26th District (Southwestern Miami area and the Florida Keys) Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, D, elected 51%. Clinton 57%.** South Florida is a rare bright spot on the map for Republicans. Their star candidate, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, easily dispatched his primary opponent, former Metro Dade Firefighters Union President Omar Blanco, with 60 percent of the vote, and can now turn his full attention to Mucarsel-Powell, who is more vulnerable than she appeared at the beginning of the cycle. Republicans are hoping that Gimenez’s deep ties with the district’s Cubans (nearly 40 percent of the population) will allow him to outperform Trump by double-digits at the top of the ticket. Gimenez also enjoys higher-than-usual positive name ID as the face of the local coronavirus response. As of now, Mucarsel-Powell is still the slight favorite given just how much Gimenez would have to exceed the president by. But if Trump tightens things up in Florida, where he’s currently trailing by mid-single digits, Gimenez will have an opening to pull off the upset. Tilt Democratic.

**27th District (Southern Miami area and Coral Gables) Donna Shalala, D, elected 52%. Clinton 59%.** Former TV news anchor Maria Salazar lost to Shalala 52-46 percent in 2018 and is back for a rematch. While she won Tuesday’s primary easily with 79 percent of the vote, she faces a much bigger challenge in November in a district Trump will likely lose by at least 20 points. Solid Democratic.

## Hawaii.

**2nd District (Northern Oahu and all the other islands) Open; Tulsi Gabbard, D, ran for president.** Clinton 61%. State Sen. Kai Kahele won the Democratic primary with nearly 77 percent and the airline pilot and U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer is the prohibitive favorite in the general election. Kahele was a formidable primary challenger to Gabbard as she ran for president. He then became the odds-on favorite when she decided not to seek re-election. Solid Democratic.

## Minnesota.

**1st District (Southern Minnesota) Jim Hagedorn, R, elected 50%. Trump 53%.** One of the closest races of 2018 is officially headed for a rematch, with Hagedorn facing off against 2018 DFL nominee Dan Feehan again. A lot has happened since Hagedorn won a 1,310-vote victory last cycle. First, the congressman announced in early 2020 that he had stage-4 kidney cancer. Then, Hagedorn came under intense scrutiny for potential mismanagement of his taxpayer-funded office budget, according to detailed reporting in the *Minnesota Reformer*. Hagedorn has since fired his chief of staff, and hired a lawyer known for representing Members of Congress who are the subjects of ethics investigations. The burgeoning scandal could imperil the freshman’s re-election -- polls already showed a close race in this district, and Republicans have long griped that Hagedorn doesn’t fully invest himself in campaigning. Tilt Republican.

**2nd District (Southern Twin Cities suburbs) Angie Craig, DFL, elected 53%. Trump 47%.** Marine Corps. veteran Tyle Kistner won the GOP nomination without opposition and will face DFL Rep. Angie Craig

in the general election. Kistner is a credible challenger running in a difficult political environment and difficult district anchored by Twin Cities suburbs where President Donald Trump is not performing well. Solid Democratic.

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# 2020 House Ratings

## Toss-Up (6R, 2D)

NE 2 (Bacon, R)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)
NY 2 (Open; King, R)	OK 5 (Horn, D)
NJ 2 (Van Drew, R)	TX 22 (Open; Olson, R)
NY 11 (Rose, D)	TX 24 (Open; Marchant, R)

## Tilt Democratic (13D, 2R)

CA 21 (Cox, D)
CA 25 (Garcia, R)
FL 26 (Mucarsel-Powell, D)
GA 6 (McBath, D)
GA 7 (Open; Woodall, R)
IA 1 (Finkenauer, D)
IA 2 (Open; Loebbeck, D)
IA 3 (Axne, D)
ME 2 (Golden, 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 (6R, 1L)

IL 13 (Davis, R)
MI 3 (Open; Amash, L)
MN 1 (Hagedorn, R)
NY 24 (Katko, R)
PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)
PA 10 (Perry, R)
TX 21 (Roy, R)

	GOP	DEM
116th Congress	201	233
Currently Solid	164	205
Competitive	37	28
Needed for majority	218	

## Lean Democratic (7D, 1R)

CA 48 (Rouda, D)
KS 3 (Davids, D)
NJ 3 (Kim, D)
NJ 7 (Malinowski, D)
TX 7 (Fletcher, D)
TX 23 (Open; Hurd, R)
TX 32 (Allred, D)
VA 2 (Luria, D)

## Lean Republican (6R)

AZ 6 (Schweikert, R)
FL 15 (Spano, R)
IN 5 (Open; Brooks, R)
MO 2 (Wagner, R)
MT AL (Open; Gianforte, R)
NC 8 (Hudson, R)

## Likely Democratic (6D, 2R)

AZ 1 (O’Halloran, D)
CA 39 (Cisneros, D)
NH 1 (Pappas, D)
NC 2 (Open; Holding, R)
NC 6 (Open; Walker, R)
NV 3 (Lee, D)
PA 8 (Cartwright, D)
PA 17 (Lamb, D)

## Likely Republican (14R)

AK AL (Young, R)
AR 2 (Hill, R)
CA 50 (Vacant, Hunter, R)#
CO 3 (Open; Tipton, R)
FL 16 (Buchanan, R)
MI 6 (Upton, R)
NY 1 (Zeldin, R)
OH 10 (Turner, R)
TX 2 (Crenshaw, R)
TX 6 (Wright, R)
TX 10 (McCaul, R)
TX 25 (Williams, R)
VA 5 (Open; Riggleman, R)
WA 3 (Herrera-Beutler, R)

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

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**3rd District (Western Twin Cities suburbs) Dean Phillips, DFL, elected 56%.** Clinton 51%. Just two years ago, this district was represented by GOP Rep. Erik Paulsen. He lost by 11 points and now DFL Rep. Dean Phillips isn't even considered vulnerable. It's emblematic of Trump's problems in the suburbs and Republicans' difficulty nationwide with an unpopular president at the top of the ticket. The GOP nominee is Kendall Qualls, who is emblematic of another of the party's problems. As Republicans struggle to increase diversity in their ranks, most of their minority candidates, such as Qualls, who is Black, are running in districts where they have little chance of actually winning this cycle. Solid Democratic.

**5th District (Minneapolis) Ilhan Omar, DFL, elected 78%.** Clinton 74%. First-term Rep. Ilhan Omar survived a well-financed primary challenge from Antone Melton-Meaux. Her critics claimed her national profile left her out of touch with the district, but she prevailed by nearly 20 points. Omar was the last of the "Squad" to face a primary challenge this cycle; all were victorious, indicating that their brand of outspoken

democratic socialist politics is here to stay in DC. Solid Democratic.

**7th District (Western Minnesota) Collin Peterson, DFL, re-elected 52%.** Trump 62%. The two parties have two very different views on the race. Peterson has been a long-time target but Republicans have rarely had a credible challenger. They believe former Lt. Gov. Michelle Fischbach is that candidate. She won the GOP primary with 59 percent against 2018 nominee Dave Hughes (22 percent) and others. Congressional Leadership Fund, the go-to GOP outside group for House races, released a poll which showed Fischbach ahead by 10 points and over 50 percent. That's difficult to believe. Democrats are confident in the congressman's standing. Trump won the district by 30 points in 2016 but might win it by half of that margin this November. Tilt Democratic.

**8th District (Iron Range) Pete Stauber, R, elected 51%.** Trump 54%. Stauber won the open seat in 2018 for the GOP for the first time in years and Trump won it by 16 points in 2016. The race hasn't been considered competitive all cycle but if Trump's standing doesn't improve, and Biden is able to appeal to the blue-collar Democrats in the area, DFL nominee Quinn Nystrom may have a shot. Still Solid Republican for now.

## Candidate Conversation



### Victoria Spartz (R)

Indiana's 5th District —  
Rating: Lean Republican

Interview Date: July 30, 2020  
(Google Meet)

Date of Birth: Oct. 6, 1978;  
Ukraine

Education: Kyiv National  
Economic Univ. (2000); Indiana

Univ-Purdue Univ. Indianapolis (MAcc)

Elected Office: State Senator (2017-present)

**Current Outlook:** Spartz won a convincing GOP primary victory with 40 percent in a field of at least seven credible candidates. But she had to spend \$1 million of her own money, and received nearly \$500,000 in outside support from the Club for Growth. Now she faces 2016 Lt. Gov. nominee/former state Rep. Christina Hale. Once a Republican stronghold, Indiana's 5th District is now in the throes of the suburban reaction to Donald Trump that has swept the nation. Even though Trump won the district by 12 points in 2016, he's at best tied and may be trailing, creating a serious opportunity for Hale.

**Evaluation:** Spartz is one of the most intriguing House candidates this cycle. Even though she was born, grew up, and went to college in Ukraine, she talks about the economy like a pre-Trump conservative who grew up on Hayek and went to Hillsdale. Once she moved to the States after college, she worked her way up at a local bank, was a CPA for a handful of large firms, and more recently been in the commercial real estate and farming businesses with her husband. While Spartz, who serves in the state Senate, has a local reputation for being stridently conservative, she emphasized her bipartisan credentials in our interview by talking about her work with Democrats on prescription drug legislation. In the end, Spartz likely needs the president to win the district by at least a few points to account for any suburban Republicans who might be turned off by her ideology. And that Trump performance is far from a guarantee.

## Nebraska.

**1st District (Lincoln and rural eastern Nebraska) Jeff Fortenberry, R, re-elected 60%.** Trump 58%. Soon after we put the district on our Races to Watch list, Democrats released a poll showing Biden running close to Trump in the presidential race. That's remarkable considering Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by 21 points in this district in 2016. Democrats declined to release the congressional ballot, which likely showed the congressman well ahead of Democratic state Sen. Kate Bolz. But Fortenberry just started his TV ad blitz, which is an indication that he's not taking anything for granted and evidence that Trump has problems in districts that no one has been paying attention to for years. Solid Republican.

## New Jersey

**3rd District (Philadelphia suburbs and central Jersey Shore) Andy Kim, D, elected 50%.** Trump 51%. Kim has the advantage over businessman David Richter in a district Trump might carry narrowly, if at all, in November. But the race isn't over yet. Sometimes New Jersey incumbents' polling numbers are depressed as voters struggle to ascertain who even represents them in Congress because of crowded and expensive media markets. So this race could have the illusion of being closer than it really is for Republicans. Lean Democratic.

**7th District (Hunterdon County and New York City's western exurbs) Tom Malinowski, D, elected 52%.** Clinton 49%. Similar to the 3rd District, this race also looks very competitive as the congressman is running close to even with Republican Tom Kean Jr. But Malinowski still has the advantage considering Trump lost the district by a point in 2016 and is on pace to lose it by a lot more in November. It's an expensive district to advertise but both candidates are already on the air with ads. Lean Democratic.

## New York.

**2nd District (Southern Long Island) Open; Peter King, R, not seeking re-election.** Trump 53%. There are conflicting views from each party on the state of the race between Democratic Babylon Councilwoman Jackie Gordon and Republican state Assemblyman Andrew Garbarino. While Trump won the district by 9 points in 2016, he's struggled to win it again this year. That should boost Democratic

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chances, and Gordon has gone from struggling with fundraising to becoming a candidate Democrats rave about. Toss-up.

**24th District (Syracuse area) John Katko, R, re-elected 53%.** Clinton 49%. Republicans and Democrats have two very different views of this race. GOP strategists continue to believe Katko has the upper-hand while Democrats believe 2018 nominee Dana Balter is already running even with the congressman. The ad war is already fully underway in this inexpensive district to advertise. Tilt Republican.

## North Carolina.

**11th District (Appalachian North Carolina) Vacant; Mark Meadows, R, resigned to become White House chief of staff.** Trump 57%. Since Madison Cawthorn defeated a Trump-backed opponent in the GOP primary, the photogenic wheelchair-bound 24-year-old has been heralded as the face of the next Republican generation. Since then, Cawthorn has faced more public scrutiny, on his self-description as a “real estate investor,” on an Instagram post from his visit to Adolf Hitler’s vacation home that some felt was inappropriately positive in tone, and more recently over accusations from a woman who says Cawthorn acted in a sexually aggressive manner on a date six years ago. Cawthorn does not dispute the basic facts of the encounter, saying “I did try and kiss her just very normal, just in a flirtatious way” but maintains when he “realized that she didn’t want to” that “the date was over...everything was normal” and that it was never his intention to make her feel uncomfortable. He also implied that because the allegations had surfaced six years after the fact, the woman was “being used as a pawn for the Democratic Party.” Cawthorne’s opponent, former Guantanamo Bay prosecutor and Air Force Col. Moe Davis, has not shied away from attacking Cawthorn as a “far-right extremist... an unqualified, dishonest, bigot.” While polls show a surprisingly tight race at the presidential and congressional level, this rural, 90 percent white district is still GOP territory. Solid Republican.

## Ohio.

**10th District (Dayton area) Mike Turner, R, re-elected 56%.** Trump 51%. A couple weeks ago we added this race to our list of competitive races. This week, the congressman aired an attack against Democratic former congressional aide Desiree Tims. What was fascinating about the ad is that it attempted to smear the Democratic nominee with the massive recent scandal involving the Republican speaker of the Ohio state House, Republican staff, and Republican lobbyists. And the congressman has accepted campaign money from FirstEnergy, the company at the center of the corruption allegations. This race just keeps getting more interesting. Likely Republican.

## Pennsylvania.

**8th District (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and northeastern Pennsylvania) Matt Cartwright, D, elected 55%.** Trump 53%. Republicans have had their eye on this district for the last few years but have struggled for it to come together. GOP strategists initially wanted Army veteran Earl Granville, who lost a leg in Afghanistan, as their nominee. He finished third in the primary, but the GOP still thinks this race could develop in their favor, especially with Trump staying competitive at the top of the ticket. GOP nominee Jim Bognet made an interesting move when he spent money airing a campaign ad 2,800 miles away in Portland, Ore., inviting Oregon residents to relocate to Northeast Pennsylvania. The ad seemed designed to attract some media attention, and Bognet should hope it leads to a

fundraising boost as well -- he had just \$270,000 in the bank on June 30, compared to \$2.3 million for the congressman. Likely Democratic.

**10th District (Harrisburg and York) Scott Perry, R, elected 51%.** Trump 52%. The congressman is facing multiple challenges this year. The state’s congressional lines were redrawn prior to the 2018 elections, so he’s still getting known to part of the district. And while Trump won the newly-drawn district by 9 points in 2016, the president is struggling to beat Biden in the seat this year. Democrats also have one of their top recruits in state Auditor Eugene DePasquale. A recent survey by a Democratic pollster for a transportation interest group showed DePasquale leading Perry 46-44 percent and Biden leading Trump 46-44. This is a very serious race, particularly if the president’s standing doesn’t improve. Tilt Republican.

## Tennessee.

**1st District (Northeastern Tennessee) Open; Phil Roe, R, not seeking re-election.** Trump 77%. Pharmacist Diana Harshbarger won the crowded and competitive GOP primary with 19 percent and is the prohibitive favorite in the general election against farmer Blair Walsingham. As a woman replacing a man, Harshbarger could help boost the number of GOP women in the House by one. But though she’s virtually guaranteed a term in Congress, her narrow victory and low vote total could leave her vulnerable to a primary challenge down the road. Solid Republican.

**4th District (Southern part of Middle Tennessee) Scott DesJarlais, R, re-elected 63%.** Trump 69%. Just a few years ago, the congressman was at risk of losing in a Republican primary because the married, stridently pro-life doctor encouraged a girlfriend to have an abortion. This year he won the primary with 71 percent. Solid Republican.

**9th District (Memphis) Steve Cohen, D, re-elected 80%.** Clinton 78%. The white congressman used to be routinely at risk of losing in the Democratic primary to an African-American challenger. That’s not the case anymore. He won renomination last week with 84 percent of the vote. Solid Democratic.

## Texas.

**3rd District (Collin County - Plano) Van Taylor, R, elected 54%.** Trump 55%. Two weeks ago, we added the seat to our list of Races to Watch because of the large percentage of college-educated voters and the potential that Trump does not carry the district this November. In an Aug. 1-4 poll released first to *Inside Elections*, the Taylor campaign showed the congressman with a 48-35 advantage over Democratic labor lawyer Lulu Seikaly, and the Libertarian candidate receiving 8 percent. The poll confirmed that the incumbent has the initial advantage, but the survey also did not include a presidential ballot, which confirms that the political environment is fertile for a Democratic upset. Solid Republican.

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# CALENDAR

<b>Sept. 29</b>	First Presidential Debate (Ohio)
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Lone Vice Presidential Debate (Utah)
<b>Oct 15</b>	Second Presidential Debate (Florida)
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Third Presidential Debate (Tennessee)
<b>Nov. 3</b>	Election Day

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**Washington.**

**3rd (Vancouver and southwestern Washington) Jaime Herrera-Beutler, R, re-elected 53%. Trump 49.9%.** The congresswoman has been on Democratic target lists for the last few cycles and once again this time. But she just finished first in the state’s top two primary with a considerable 56 percent while 2018 Democratic nominee Carolyn Long finished second with 40 percent. In the 2018, Herrera-Beutler finished ahead of Long 42-35 percent in the all-party primary and 53-47 percent in the general election. Democrats are trying to figure out what happened with turnout this year. Even with the encouraging primary showing, Herrera-Beutler isn’t in the clear considering Trump will likely lose the district this year by at least a few points. Likely Republican.

**8th (Eastern Seattle suburbs and two rural counties east of the Cascades) Kim Schrier, D, elected 52%. Clinton 48%.** After Schrier

defeated Republican Dino Rossi 52-48 percent in 2018 in a competitive race, Republicans weren’t talking a lot about this district. But the congresswoman’s 43 percent in the primary has piqued new interest from the GOP. Republican Army veteran/ Amazon manager Jesse Jensen (20 percent) finished second and is suddenly getting some attention. For some comparison, Democratic candidates combined for 50.2 percent of the primary vote two years ago. But if there is indeed an opportunity, Republicans need to get Jensen some money. He trailed Schrier in cash on hand \$2.4 million to \$53,000 on July 15. Solid Democratic.

**10th District (Olympia area and Tacoma suburbs) Open; Denny Heck, D, running for lieutenant governor.** Clinton 51%. Two Democrats will face off in November after former Tacoma mayor Marilyn Strickland (21 percent) and state Rep. Beth Doglio (15 percent) finished first and second in the all-party primary. This seat won’t fall into GOP hands since there isn’t a Republican candidate on the ballot. Solid Democratic. **IE**

**Election Polling Averages**  
(as of August 21, 2020)

What was the national polling average...	Date	Margin	Biden %	Trump %	Difference in margin: Today – Then
Today	8/21/20	Biden +8.4	49.3	40.9	---
2 Weeks Ago	8/7/20	Biden +8.1	49.3	41.1	Biden +0.3
4 Weeks Ago	7/24/20	Biden +8.1	48.9	40.8	Biden +0.3
6 Weeks Ago	7/10/20	Biden +8.2	48.0	39.8	Biden +0.3
8 Weeks Ago	6/26/20	Biden +9.6	49.5	39.9	Trump +1.2
10 Weeks Ago	6/12/20	Biden +8.9	49.4	40.5	Trump +0.4
12 Weeks Ago	5/29/20	Biden +6.6	48.4	41.8	Biden +1.9
14 Weeks Ago	5/15/20	Biden +5.4	47.7	42.3	Biden +3
6 Months Ago	2/21/20	Biden +3.2	47.6	44.5	Biden +5.3

Averages in key states (polls since late July)	Total # of polls	Margin	Biden %	Trump %
Arizona	6	Biden +4	48	44
Florida	3	Biden +4	49	45
Georgia	6	Biden +1	46	46
Michigan	8	Biden +8	50	42
North Carolina	13	Biden +2	47	45
Ohio	2	Trump +1	44	45
Pennsylvania	9	Biden +5	48	43
Texas	4	Trump +2	45	47
Wisconsin	10	Biden +8	50	42