

# Inside Elections

with

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Nonpartisan Analysis

DIGEST

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## Welcome to the General Election

By Nathan L. Gonzales & Jacob Rubashkin

Welcome back to the regularly scheduled 2020 elections. Now that Vice President Joe Biden survived the valley of the shadow of electoral death and is the prohibitive favorite for the Democratic presidential nomination, we're on the doorstep of the general election. It's sooner than expected but looks a lot like what we thought it would look like.

It shouldn't be a surprise that the frontrunner for most of the race is poised to be the Democratic nominee. But Biden's ability to survive miserable showings in the early states, including New Hampshire, where he finished just 5 points ahead of Tulsi Gabbard and 11 points behind Amy Klobuchar, was stunning. And no one predicted the crowded Democratic field would consolidate so quickly.

The general election race between Donald Trump and Biden will be competitive. When it comes to electoral potential, it's clear the president has a high floor with a devoted base and a low ceiling because of a Democratic Party determined to defeat him. The vast majority of Americans have already decided whether they're going to vote for or against Trump, leaving few truly persuadable voters.

The presidential battlefield is largely set and likely to be decided in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arizona, Florida, and North Carolina. Hillary Clinton won just one of those seven in 2016 and Biden likely needs to win four to win in November.

The Senate majority is in play, and the White House result is directly connected to the outcome. Democrats have 10 takeover opportunities to gain four seats for a majority but they can control the Senate by gaining three seats and winning the White House, because the vice president would break tie votes. Republicans have just two takeover opportunities to balance potential losses elsewhere, and their fate is likely connected to the president's ability to win Arizona and North Carolina again, and by wide enough margins to pull two senators across the finish line.

Democrats are likely to hold the House. This has been the case for the entire cycle, except for a couple weeks in February, when Bernie Sanders was seemingly surging to the top of the ticket casting doubt on that narrative. With eight months to go, Republicans just aren't prepared with candidates and resources necessary for a district-by-district battle with Democrats, on even political terrain, to net the 18 seats necessary for a majority.

Coronavirus is an obvious wild card in the race. The spread, duration, and impact on the economy are unknown yet could impact the president's standing, traditional campaigning, and voter turnout in a way that could affect the outcome of key races. That means there are likely some more twists and turns ahead in this already interesting series of elections.

### 2020 Senate Ratings

#### Toss-Up

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

Tillis (R-N.C.)

#### Tilt Democratic

#### Lean Democratic

Peters (D-Mich.)

#### Likely Democratic

Shaheen (D-N.H.)

#### 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.)  
Smith (D-Minn.)  
Warner (D-Va.)

#### Tilt Republican

Collins (R-Maine)

#### Lean Republican

KS Open (Roberts, R)  
Daines (R-Mont.)#  
Ernst (R-Iowa)  
Jones (D-Ala.)

#### Likely Republican

Cornyn (R-Texas)  
Loeffler (R-Ga.)  
Perdue (R-Ga.)

#### Solid Republican

TN Open (Alexander, R)  
WY Open (Enzi, R)  
Cassidy (R-La.)  
Capito (R-W.Va.)  
Cotton (R-Ark.)  
Graham (R-S.C.)  
Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)  
Inhofe (R-Okla.)  
McConnell (R-Ky.)  
Risch (R-Idaho)  
Rounds (R-S.D.)

Sasse (R-Neb.)

Sullivan (R-Alaska)

	GOP	DEM
116th Congress	53	47
Not up this cycle	30	35
Currently Solid	13	9
Competitive	10	3

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

# Races to Watch

## Georgia Senate

Republicans are facing an intra-party fight that could jeopardize GOP control of the Senate and push the fight for the majority into early January. [Click here for full article](#)

## Presidential Battleground: Arizona

With a focus on the electoral college, Democrats are looking to Arizona to balance out a potential victory by President Donald Trump in Wisconsin. [Click here for full article](#)

# House Overview

While the presidential race and the fight for the Senate soak up all of the attention, dozens of competitive House races are taking shape.

## Districts to Watch:

- [Alabama to Iowa](#)
- [Kansas to New York](#)
- [North Carolina to Wyoming](#)

# RIP Election Night

The semi-annual national tradition of staying up a few hours past bedtime to know who will control our government is over. [Click here for full article](#)

# CALENDAR

<b>July 13-16</b>	Democratic National Convention (Milwaukee)
<b>Aug. 24-27</b>	Republican National Convention (Charlotte)
<b>Sept. 29</b>	First Presidential Debate (Indiana)
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Lone Vice Presidential Debate (Utah)
<b>Oct. 15</b>	Second Presidential Debate (Michigan)
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Third Presidential Debate (Tennessee)

# 2020 House Ratings

## Toss-Up (2R, 7D)

GA 7 (Open; Woodall, R)	NY 11 (Rose, D)
IA 3 (Axne, D)	NY 22 (Brindisi, D)
IL 13 (Davis, R)	OK 5 (Horn, D)
IL 14 (Underwood, D)	SC 1 (Cunningham, D)
	UT 4 (McAdams, D)

## Tilt Democratic (9D)

CA 21 (Cox, D)
GA 6 (McBath, D)
IA 1 (Finkenauer, D)
IA 2 (Open; Loeb sack, D)
ME 2 (Golden, D)
MN 7 (Peterson, DFL)
NJ 3 (Kim, D)
NM 2 (Torres Small, D)
VA 7 (Spanberger, D)

## Tilt Republican (7R, 1I)

IA 4 (King, R)
MI 3 (Amash, I)
MN 1 (Hagedorn, R)
NJ 2 (Van Drew, R)
PA 1 (Fitzpatrick, R)
PA 10 (Perry, R)
TX 22 (Open; Olson, R)
TX 24 (Open; Marchant, R)

	GOP	DEM
116th Congress	200	234
Currently Solid	170	199
Competitive	30	35
Needed for majority	218	

## Lean Democratic (7D, 1R)

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

## Lean Republican (5R)

MO 2 (Wagner, R)	OH 1 (Chabot, R)
NE 2 (Bacon, R)	
NY 2 (Open; King, R)	
NY 24 (Katko, R)	

## Likely Democratic (12D, 2R)

AZ 1 (O'Halleran, D)	NY 19 (Delgado, D)
CA 10 (Harder, D)	PA 8 (Cartwright, D)
CA 25 (Vacant, D)	PA 17 (Lamb, D)
CA 39 (Cisneros, D)	
CA 45 (Porter, D)	
FL 26 (Mucarsel-Powell, D)	
NH 1 (Pappas, D)	
MI 8 (Slotkin, D)	
MI 11 (Stevens, D)	
NC 2 (Open; Holding, R)	
NC 6 (Open; Walker, R)	

## Likely Republican (13R)

AZ 6 (Schweikert, R)	TX 31 (Carter, R)
FL 15 (Spano, R)	WA 3 (Herrera-Beutler, R)
IN 5 (Open; Brooks, R)	
MI 6 (Upton, R)	
NC 8 (Hudson, R)	
NC 9 (Bishop, R)	
NY 1 (Zeldin, R)	
OH 12 (Balderson, R)	
TX 2 (Crenshaw, R)	
TX 10 (McCaul, R)	
TX 21 (Roy, R)	

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



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