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with
Nathan L. Gonzales
Nonpartisan Analysis

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2022 Senate Ratings

Toss-up	
Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)	Warnock (D-Ga.)
Kelly (D-Ariz.)	
Tilt Democratic	**Tilt Republican**
Hassan (D-N.H.)	PA Open (Toomey, R)
Lean Democratic	**Lean Republican**
	NC Open (Burr, R)
	Johnson (R-Wisc.)
Likely Democratic	**Likely Republican**
	Rubio (R-Fl.)
Solid Democratic	**Solid Republican**
VT Open (Leahy, D)	AL Open (Shelby, R)
Bennet (D-Colo.)	MO Open (Blunt, R)
Blumenthal (D-Conn.)	OH Open (Portman, R)
Duckworth (D-Ill.)	OK Open (Inhofe, R)
Murray (D-Wash.)	Boozman (R-Ark.)
Padilla (D-Calif.)	Crapo (R-Idaho)
Schatz (D-Hawaii)	Grassley (R-Iowa)
Schumer (D-N.Y.)	Hoeven (R-N.D.)
Van Hollen (D-Md.)	Kennedy (R-La.)
Wyden (D-Ore.)	Lankford (R-Okla.)
	Lee (R-Utah)
	Moran (R-Kan.)
	Murkowski (R-Alaska)
	Paul (R-Ky.)
	Scott (R-S.C.)
	Thune (R-S.D.)
	Young (R-Ind.)

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

CALENDAR

March 11	California/Georgia Filing Deadlines
March 13	March Madness begins
March 14	Montana Filing Deadline

Oklahoma Senate: Inhofe Seat Added to 2022 Races

There will be at least one additional Senate race in 2022, with GOP Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma leaving his seat before the end of his term.

Inhofe's decision adds a race to the slate of 2022 races because he was not scheduled to be up for re-election this cycle The senator was just re-elected in 2020 by 30 points. So this will be a special election to fill the remaining four years of his term. With the addition of Oklahoma, Republicans are defending 21 Senate seats compared to 14 seats currently held by Democrats. But the Oklahoma race won't be added to the Senate battlefield that will decide the majority.

Due to the timing of Inhofe's announcement, and plans to remain in Congress through the end of the year, there will be a special election but not an appointment by the governor.

An election for Oklahoma's other Senate seat, held by Republican James Lankford, was already regularly scheduled for this fall.

Considering President Donald Trump's 33-point victory in 2020 and 36-point victory in 2016, and the high correlation between presidential results and how a state votes for the U.S. Senate, Republicans are not at risk of this seat falling into Democratic hands. Democrats have not won a Senate seat in Oklahoma since Democrat David Boren's re-election in 1990. The special election, which will likely take place in November, will start with a Solid Republican rating.

Inhofe, who is 87 years old, has served in the U.S. Senate since he was first elected in 1994. Previously, he served in the U.S. House, the Oklahoma state Senate and state House, and was mayor of Tulsa.

The special election will attract plenty of interest from aspiring Republican Rep. Markwayne Mullin is running along with Inhofe's chief of staff Luke Holland, who has the senator's endorsement, and state Sen. Nathan Daum (who was running against Lankford). Other potential Republicans include Rep. Kevin Hern, former state Speaker T.W. Shannon (who lost to Lankford in the 2014 Senate special election primary), wealthy attorney Gentner Drummond (who has been running for state attorney general) and former U.S. Attorney Trent Shores.

Democrats have an exceedingly thin bench. The party's one statewide elected official, superintendent of public instruction Joy Hofmeister, is running for governor. Former Rep. Kendra Horn lost her Oklahoma City-based swing seat in 2020, and former U.S. Attorney Drew Edmondson lost the 2018 gubernatorial race by 12 points, 54-42, despite a great national environment for Democrats and polls showing a close race.

The bottom line is that the race to watch will be for the GOP nomination. IE

2022 Gubernatorial Overview

By Jacob Rubashkin

Unlike in the House or Senate, there's no prize waiting for the party that controls a majority of America's fifty governorships.

But the last two years have underscored the important role that governors play in politics and in the lives of everyday Americans, from leading the response to the Covid-19 pandemic to pushing forward wide-reaching legislative agendas while Congress is paralyzed.

Republicans currently hold 28 governorships, following Glenn Youngkin's victory in Virginia last fall, to Democrats' 22. This November, 36 states will vote for governor — of those, Republicans are defending 20 states to Democrats' 16.

The GOP will benefit from a strong political environment and an unpopular Democrat in the White House. But Democrats benefit from their strong performance in the 2018 cycle that gives them an incumbency advantage in many competitive states. And several Republican governors are also dealing with primary challengers from their right flank, which could sap resources and leave them politically out of position in the general election even if they win renomination.

For the past year, we've rated gubernatorial contests as either Solid or Battleground. Now that we're a bit closer to Election Day, we've returned to our traditional rating categories, which we will continue to update until Election Day.

ALABAMA. Kay Ivey (R), assumed office 2017, elected 2018 (60%). Ivey is running for her second full term and faces two credible challengers in the GOP primary, which is the real contest in this deeply Republican state. Tim James, a construction businessman and the son of former Gov. Fob James, is running for a third time, after unsuccessful bids for the GOP nomination in 2002 and 2010, when he missed out on a runoff spot to eventual winner Robert Bentley by just 167 votes. And former ambassador to Slovenia Lindy Blanchard switched into this race after failing to gain traction in the U.S. Senate race last year. All three candidates are already advertising on TV, with Ivey matching the personally wealthy Blanchard nearly dollar-for-dollar despite Blanchard writing herself a $5 million check. Blanchard has been angling hard for a Trump endorsement but it's not clear that is in the cards. The big question for Ivey is if she can avoid a runoff against either Blanchard or James by securing an outright majority of the vote in the May 24 primary. A recent poll commissioned by a pro-Ivey group found her just above the 50 percent threshold. Rating: Solid Republican.

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2022 Governor Ratings

Toss-up (2D, 1R)	
AZ Open (Ducey, R)	Evers (D-Wisc.)
Kelly (D-Kan.)	
Tilt Democratic (3D)	**Tilt Republican (1R)**
PA Open (Wolf, D)	Kemp (R-Ga.)
Whitmer (D-Mich.)	
Sisolak (D-Nev.)	
Lean Democratic (1D, 2R)	**Lean Republican**
MA Open (Baker, R)	
MD Open (Hogan, R)	
Mills (D-Maine)	
Likely Democratic (2D)	**Likely Republican (2R)**
OR Open (Brown, D)*	DeSantis (R-Fl.)
Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.)*	Sununu (R-N.H.)
Solid Democratic (8D)	**Solid Republican (14R)**
HI Open (Ige, D)	AR Open (Hutchinson, R)
Newsom (D-Calif.)	NE Open (Ricketts, R)
Polis (D-Colo.)	Ivey (R-Ala.)
Lamont (D-Conn.)	Dunleavy (R-Alaska)
Pritzker (D-Ill.)	Little (R-Idaho)
Walz (D-Minn.)	Reynolds (R-Iowa)
Hochul (D-N.Y.)	Noem (R-S.D.)
McKee (D-R.I.)	DeWine (R-Ohio)
	Stitt (R-Okla.)
	McMaster (R-S.C.)
	Lee (R-Tenn.)
	Abbott (R-Texas)
	Scott (R-Vt.)
	Gordon (R-Wyo.)

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

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Cherry Communications (R) for Alabama Farm PAC (pro-Ivey), Feb. 2-6 (LVs) — GOP Primary Ballot: Ivey 55%, James 11%, Blanchard 10%.

ALASKA. Mike Dunleavy (R), elected 2018 (51%). The effort to recall Dunleavy is officially dead after organizers failed to collect enough signatures. Former Gov. Bill Walker, who won as an independent in 2014 but dropped out of the 2018 race, is running again. The one Democrat in the race so far is former state Rep. Les Gara of Anchorage, though with a June 1 filing deadline other candidates could emerge. Alaska's new election system, where candidates from all parties run in one primary and the top four vote-getters progress to the general, which is then decided using ranked-choice voting, introduces uncertainty and makes this race harder to handicap. Walker is a credible candidate but left office with low approval ratings after cutting the state's oil-funded dividend and under the cloud of his lieutenant governor's sexual harassment scandal. Solid Republican.

ARIZONA. Open; Doug Ducey (R), term-limited. There's still a long way to go before the Aug. 2 primary, and while Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs is the clear frontrunner for her party's nomination — former Nogales Mayor Marco Lopez and former state Rep. Aaron Lieberman are also running but haven't gained traction — the picture on the GOP side is far less clear.



Courtesy Arizona Secretary of State

Katie Hobbs

The polling leader is controversial former KSAZ anchor Kari Lake, who left her job after spreading Covid-19 misinformation in 2021 and has been endorsed by Trump. But Lake is burning through cash and has struggled to create momentum. Former congressman/2002 gubernatorial nominee Matt Salmon also has conservative credentials and is polling in second. Real estate executive/Arizona Board of Regents member Karrin Taylor Robson and businessman/2018 Secretary of State nominee Steve Gaynor are both pouring in millions of their own money ($3 million for Robson, $5 million for Gaynor). State Treasurer Kimberly Yee, Ducey's favored successor, wasn't raising much money and dropped out. This is a top pickup opportunity for Democrats, especially if Lake is the GOP nominee, but Hobbs has some baggage stemming from a racial discrimination lawsuit recently won by one of her former employees. Arizona is also still a GOP-leaning state, and the worse the national environment is for Democrats, the harder it will be to win here. Toss-up.

Data Orbital (R), Feb. 11-13 (LVs) (live caller)— General Election ballot: Lake (R) over Hobbs (D), 43%-41%. Hobbs (D) over Salmon (R), 40%-39%. Hobbs (D) over Gaynor (R), 41%-39%. Hobbs (D) over Robson (R), 42%-37%.

OH Predictive Insights (R), Jan. 11-13 (RVs) (online)— GOP Primary Ballot: Lake 21%, Salmon 17%, Robson 6%, Yee 5%, Gaynor 5%, Jorge Rivas 1%.

ARKANSAS. Open; Asa Hutchinson (R), term-limited. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the former White House press secretary and daughter of former Gov. Mike Huckabee, has cleared the GOP field in the Natural State, with state Attorney General Lisa Rutledge switching to the open primary for lieutenant governor. Democrats think physicist/pastor Chris Jones is a rockstar but acknowledge he has little chance in the state Trump won by 27 points in 2020. Solid Republican.

CALIFORNIA. Gavin Newsom (D), elected 2018 (62%). Whatever wind was in California Republicans' sails after voters forced Newsom into a recall election dissipated after the governor beat back the recall by a comfortable 62-38 percent margin. Former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, a moderate once viewed as the establishment GOP favorite and the strongest general election candidate, doesn't look like he's running after he placed a disappointing third place in the recall election. Larry Elder, the radio host who was the top-performing Republican in the recall, is not running, and state Assemblyman Kevin Kiley is running for Congress. State Sen. Brian Dahle is the highest-profile Republican currently in the race. Solid Democratic.

COLORADO. Jared Polis (D), elected 2018 (53%). Colorado has been trending in Democrats' direction for the past decade, and even Republicans acknowledge Polis will be tough to beat. University of Colorado At-Large Regent Heidi Ganahl, the last remaining GOP statewide official, appears to be the party's likeliest nominee. Polis has been at the forefront of Democratic politicians loosening Covid-19 restrictions, which has earned him favorable media coverage, and his personal fortune will let him outspend any GOP opponent. At this point Republicans are more interested in taking on Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet than tangling with Polis. Solid Democratic.

Global Strategy Group (D) for ProgressNow Colorado (pro-Polis), Feb. 11-15 (RVs) (mixed mode) — General Election ballot: Polis (D) over Ganahl (R), 53%-37%.

CONNECTICUT. Ned Lamont (D), elected 2018 (49.4%). Lamont eked out a narrow victory in 2018, but that was more a reflection of outgoing Democratic Gov. Dan Malloy's deep unpopularity. Businessman Bob Stefanowksi, the 2018 GOP nominee, is back for the rematch, and got some good news recently when former state House minority leader Themis Klarides switched to the Senate race, clearing the GOP field. Lamont is one of the most popular governors in the country, according to polling by Morning Consult last year, and looks hard to beat even in a poor national environment for Democrats. This race could get competitive but for now it is still Solid Democratic.

FLORIDA. Ron DeSantis (R), elected 2018 (49.6%). Republican strategists don't believe this race will be competitive, and Democrats are clear-eyed about their chances of knocking off DeSantis, who despite his penchant for confrontation and rising national star maintains solid approval ratings and has a $70 million war chest. Democrats haven't won a gubernatorial race in Florida in over two decades, and while they always come close, Andrew Gillum's razor-thin loss in 2018 took the wind out of Sunshine Democrats' sails. Competing for the nomination are Rep. Charlie Crist (who served one term as governor as a Republican in the 2000s and was the Democratic Party's nominee in 2014, losing by 1 point), Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, the last remaining Democratic official in a statewide office, and state Sen. Annette Taddeo. Crist ($3.9 million in the bank on Dec. 31) leads in both polling and fundraising, and though many Democratic strategists don't particularly

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like him personally, they expect him to prevail over Fried ($850,000), who has struggled to raise money, and Taddeo ($165,000), who hasn't been a factor in the race. Florida always holds close races but DeSantis is the clear favorite for a second term. Likely Republican.

Univ. of North Florida, Feb. 7-20 (LVs) — General Election ballot: DeSantis (R) over Crist (D), 55%-34%. DeSantis over Fried, 55%-32%.

Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategies, Feb. 7-10 (RVs) — General Election ballot: DeSantis (R) over Crist (D), 51%-43%. DeSantis (R) over Fried (D), 53%-42%. Democratic Primary ballot: Crist 44%, Fried 27%, Taddeo 3%.

Suffolk Univ., Jan. 26-29 (LVs) — General Election ballot: DeSantis (R) over Crist (D), 49%-43%. DeSantis (R) over Fried (D), 51%-40%.

GEORGIA. Brian Kemp (R), elected 2018 (50.2%). Georgia was already high on Democrats' target list after former state House minority leader Stacey Abrams nearly defeated Kemp in 2018. Abrams is back for the rematch, and adding to Democrats' confidence is the prominent role that Trump continues to play in the Peach State, which was the site of his most crushing loss of the 2020 election. Trump pushed former Democratic state Sen. Vernon Jones out of the GOP primary to clear the way for his favored candidate, former Sen. David Perdue, to challenge Kemp; that contest has already devolved into an expensive, nasty, and personal knife fight between the two Republicans and their allies. The Republican Governors Association is giving unprecedented support to Kemp, who Trump still considers Public Enemy #1 because he refused to help Trump overturn the results of the 2020 election. Kemp is leading Perdue but it's not clear he'll avoid a runoff, which would prolong the GOP contest until late June while Abrams continues to outraise both men and campaign in general election mode.

Democrats are excited that their opponent will either be a bloodied Kemp (who Trump may not be able to resist beating up on until November) or Perdue, who just lost a statewide election in embarrassing fashion to 32-year-old filmmaker Jon Ossoff. But even though it's moved leftward, Georgia is still a Republican state. If Kemp is the nominee he'll still be an incumbent. And the political environment will be bad if not brutal for Democrats in the fall. That means this race begins as Tilt Republican.

InsiderAdvantage (R) for Fox 5 Atlanta, Feb. 28- March 1 (LVs) — GOP Primary ballot: Kemp 44%, Perdue 35%, Kandiss Taylor 3%, Catherine Davis 1%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Feb. 11-13 (LVs) — GOP Primary ballot: Kemp 49%, Perdue 40%, Taylor 3%.

Quinnipiac Univ., Jan. 19-24 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Kemp (R) over Abrams (D), 49%-47%. Perdue (R) and Abrams (D) tied at 48%. GOP Primary ballot: Kemp 43%, Perdue 36%, Jones 10%, Taylor 4%.

HAWAII. Open; David Ige (D), term-limited. Lt. Gov. Josh Green is the polling and fundraising leader in the all-important Democratic primary, but he'll have to navigate his connection to the unpopular outgoing Ige. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell and former First Lady of Hawaii Vicky Cayetano are also running in the primary, and freshman U.S. Rep. Kai Kahele has publicly mused about coming home to run as well — he has until the June 7 filing deadline to make a decision. Honolulu City Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi, former UFC lightweight champion BJ Penn, and 2018 lieutenant governor nominee Marissa Kerns are running as Republicans. Solid Democratic.

Public Policy Polling (D) for 314 Action (Pro-Green), Feb. 8-9 (LVs) (mixed mode) — Democratic Primary Ballot: Green 46%, Kahele 14%, Cayetano 10%, Caldwell 5%.

Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy for the Honolulu Star-Adviser, Jan. 24-28 (LVs) — Democratic Primary Ballot: Green 58%, Caldwell 11%, Cayetano 8%.

IDAHO. Brad Little (R), elected 2018 (60%). Little is facing a challenge in the GOP primary from his own (separately elected) lieutenant governor, Janice McGeachin. Trump endorsed McGeachin, who has sparred with Little over his response to Covid-19 for the last two years, going as far as to reverse some of the governor's orders while he was traveling out of state and she was serving as acting governor. Rancher and anti-government activist Ammon Bundy dropped out of the GOP primary to run as an independent but says he won't run against McGeachin if she's the GOP nominee. Republican strategists say they aren't too worried about Little at the moment. Trump won Idaho by 30 points in 2020, so even with McGeachin (who has ties to far-right groups such as the John Birch Society and the 3 Percenter militia) as the party's nominee, Democratic Mayor of Sandpoint Shelby Rognstad doesn't have much of a shot. Solid Republican.

Zoldak Research for Idaho Dispatch, Dec. 20-21, 2021 (LVs) — GOP Primary Ballot: Little 59%, McGeachin 18%, Bundy 6%, Ed Humphreys 2%, Steve Bradshaw 1%.

ILLINOIS. J.B. Pritzker (D), elected 2018 (55%). It's the battle of the billionaires in Illinois. Pritzker has been on TV for months, and kicked off 2022 by donating $90 million to his own campaign, while hedge fund manager/GOP mega-donor Ken Griffin cut a $20 million check to Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin. According to multiple media reports, Griffin will spend anywhere from $150 million to $300 million to defeat Pritzker. Irvin, who would be Illinois' first Black governor, has to get through a Republican primary first, and his previous pro-choice stances and participation in past Democratic primaries, plus his wariness about cozying up to Trump, could come back to bite him. His main competitor is probably state Sen. Darren Bailey, from more conservative downstate Illinois. Bailey is running to Irvin's right and also has the support of a billionaire: shipping magnate Dick Uihlein. Other candidates include construction entrepreneur Gary Rabine, former state Sen. Paul Schimpf, and cryptocurrency venture capitalist Jesse Sullivan. With the capacity to self-fund with virtually no limit, the partisan lean of the state in his favor, and a GOP primary that won't be settled for months, Pritzker is in a good spot. Solid Democratic.

IOWA. Kim Reynolds (R), assumed office 2017, elected 2018 (50.3%). Democrats came just a few points away from winning the Iowa gubernatorial race in 2018 but it's been downhill since. Almost all of the party's bench — Rep. Cindy Axne (running for re-election), state Auditor Rob Sand, state Rep. Ras Smith, former Rep. Abby Finkenauer (running for Senate) and 2018 nominee Hubbell — passed on this race, leaving 2018 Secretary of State nominee Deidre DeJear as the only contender. DeJear had just $8,500 in campaign funds at the end of the year, compared to Reynolds' $4.8 million. Democrats' recruitment struggles will keep this race off the board, and Reynolds' star continues to rise within the GOP as she delivered the official response to Biden's State of the Union address. Solid Republican.

KANSAS. Laura Kelly (D), elected 2018 (48%). Kelly is not just the only Democratic governor running this year in a state Trump in 2020, but Trump carried her state by a substantial 15 points. That makes Kelly the most vulnerable incumbent on the map, and the GOP's number one

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target this year. After former Gov. Jeff Colyer dropped out, Republicans coalesced around state Attorney General Derek Schmidt as their presumed nominee. Kansas is a deeply Republican state at the federal level but often elects Democratic governors, and a reasonably well-liked incumbent such as Kelly is tough to beat even with favorable political winds. Toss-up.

Clarity Campaign Labs (D) for EMILY's List (Pro-Kelly), Sept. 13-15, 2021 (LVs) — General Election Ballot: Kelly (D) over Schmidt (R), 47%-44%.

Remington Research Group (R), Sept. 7-9, 2021 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Schmidt (R) over Kelly (D), 44%-40%.

MAINE. Janet Mills (D), elected 2018 (50.9%). Just a few years after publicly announcing he was moving to Florida, former GOP Gov. Paul LePage is back in Maine and running against Mills, who succeeded him in 2018. Despite Biden carrying Maine by 9 points in 2020, Republicans see Mills as an underwhelming incumbent and note that LePage won twice when Democrats counted him out, in 2010 and 2014. Democrats — who blame independent Eliot Cutler's candidacies for LePage's wins in those races — are relieved that no third-party candidates have emerged. The national environment will probably not be in Mills' favor but LePage was never a particularly popular governor (he never won a majority of the vote and left office underwater) and the state, though idiosyncratic, has of late leaned against Republicans not named Susan Collins. Lean Democratic.

MARYLAND. Open; Larry Hogan (R), term-limited. Republicans will be hard-pressed to keep ahold of Maryland now that the popular Hogan is term-limited. Former state Secretary of Commerce Kelly Schulz is trying to recreate some of Hogan's moderate magic, but it's not even clear she can get past Trump-endorsed state Del. Dan Cox in the GOP primary.

On the Democratic side, a passel of politicians are running: Comptroller Peter Franchot, former U.S. Secretary of Labor/former DNC Chairman Tom Perez, author/veteran Wes Moore, former Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, former U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King, former state Attorney General Doug Gansler, former Anne Arundel County Executive Laura Nueman, and nonprofit executive Jon Baron.

Local sources say the race hasn't really gotten off of the ground yet, but that Franchot, Perez, Moore, and Baker probably make up the top tier of candidates. Franchot begins the race with a slight name ID and financial advantage due to his four previous statewide campaigns, but Democratic sources say he's running a sub-par campaign. Moore is raising the most money and has a compelling background as a Rhodes Scholar and paratrooper but is still largely unknown to voters. Perez has strong party connections from his time as DNC chairman, is the second-best fundraiser of the pack, and has support from organized labor. Baker led the second-largest county in the state for eight years and has some leftover name ID from his 2018 run for governor.

We'll know more about how the June 28 primary looks once candidates start advertising on TV. Whoever emerges as the Democratic nominee will be the favorite in heavily Democratic Maryland. Lean Democratic.

Tidemore Public Affairs (D) for Franchot, Jan. 6-10 (LVs) — Democratic Primary ballot: Franchot 23%, Baker 16%, Moore 12%, Perez 10%, Gansler 7%, King 6%.

Garin-Hart-Yang (D) for Moore, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2021 (LVs) — Democratic Primary ballot: Franchot 17%, Baker 16%, Moore 7%, Perez 6%, Gansler 4%, King 1%.

MASSACHUSETTS. Open; Charlie Baker (R), not seeking re-election. Baker could have run again, but decided against it shortly after Trump endorsed another candidate for the GOP nomination. His most obvious successor, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, also took herself out of the running. That leaves Geoff Diehl, the Trump-endorsed former state representative who lost the 2018 Senate election to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 60-36 percent, as the likeliest GOP nominee. Metal powder manufacturer Chris Doughty is running as a more moderate alternative in the mold of Baker but has yet to gain traction.

On the Democratic side, Baker's exit lured state Attorney General Maura Healey into the fray, where she begins as the frontrunner. Former state Sen. Ben Downing dropped out of the Democratic primary, as did Harvard Professor Danielle Allen. State Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz is still running but is the clear underdog against Healey. Biden carried Massachusetts by 35 points in 2020, and the Bay State is one of Democrats' best chances to flip a governor's mansion this year. Either Healey or Chang-Díaz would be heavy favorites against the Trump-aligned Diehl. Lean Democratic.

MICHIGAN. Gretchen Whitmer (D), elected 2018 (53%). After 2018/2020 Senate nominee John James passed on this race, Republicans thought they had a top-tier recruit in former Detroit chief of police James Craig. But sources in Michigan and DC say Craig has been an underwhelming fundraiser and poor campaigner, leading Wolverine State Republicans to explore other options. Former cable TV host Tudor Dixon has been receiving buzz in conservative circles, and Trump appeared at one of her fundraisers at Mar-a-Lago. Former auto dealer Kevin Rinke says he plans to spend $10 million of his own money on a bid, and businessman Perry Johnson says he'll spend at least $2.5 million of his own personal funds — including $1.5 million on a Super Bowl ad last month. Chiropractor/anti-Covid lockdown activist Garrett Soldano and police captain Mike Brown are also running.



Courtesy Detroit Police Department

James Craig

Meanwhile, Whitmer continues to stockpile cash ($9.9 million at the end of the year) and has the national network to raise millions more. The incumbent ran on an infrastructure-based platform in 2018 and is looking to use last year's bipartisan infrastructure package as a boost for her re-election prospects. Michigan's closely divided nature and the poor national environment for Democrats means this race will be competitive no matter what, but the muddled primary and Whitmer's strong starting position mean she's favored, at least initially. Tilt Democratic.

Mitchell Research (R) for MIRS, Feb. 17-19 (LVs) — GOP Primary ballot: Craig 32%, Soldano 10%, Rinke 5%, Dixon 4%, Ryan Kelley 4%, Johnson 3%, Undecided 37%.

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Blueprint Polling (D), Feb. 1-4 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Whitmer (D) and Craig (R) tied at 44%.

EPIC-MRA, Jan. 15-20 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Whitmer (D) over Craig (R), 46%-41%.

Glengariff Group for the Detroit News, Jan. 3-7 (LVs) — General Election ballot: Whitmer (D) over Craig (R), 49%-39%. Whitmer (D) over Dixon (R), 50%-31%. Whitmer (D) over Rinke (R), 50%-33%. Whitmer (D) over Soldano (R), 50%-33%.

MINNESOTA. Tim Walz (DFL), elected 2018 (54%). Republicans still have a long way to go before settling on a nominee to take on Walz. There are 11 contenders running, though that number will likely thin after the GOP's May 13 endorsement convention (a precursor to the Aug. 9 primary). The early frontrunner is probably physician/former state Sen. Scott Jensen, who won the GOP's precinct caucuses in early February (an indication of grassroots support) and led the GOP field in cash on hand at the end of 2021. Former state Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, state Sen. Michelle Benson, former Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek, 2020 3rd District nominee Kendall Qualls, and dermatologist Neil Shah are also running. For now, Walz looks strong, is in a good financial position, and Republicans have a lot to sort out. This race could develop into a pickup opportunity later in the year, but for now it is Solid Democratic.

NEBRASKA. Open; Pete Ricketts (R), term-limited. The race for the all-important GOP nomination is shaping up to be a proxy fight between Ricketts and Trump. Ricketts has endorsed hog producer/University of Nebraska Regent Jim Pillen, while the former president is backing major donor/cattle breeder/2014 gubernatorial candidate Charles Herbster. State Sen. Brett Lindstrom and former state Sen. Theresa Thibodeau are also running. Former Gov. Dave Heineman will not make a comeback bid. The battle between Herbster and Pillen is shaping up to be the most expensive in Nebraska history. Herbster is self-funding and has already spent more than $4 million; his spending spree and Trump endorsement make him the early candidate to watch, but Pillen had $4.2 million to spend at the beginning of 2022 and the support of much of the Nebraska GOP establishment. Democratic state Sen. Carol Blood is the party's likely nominee and a general election underdog. Solid Republican.

NEVADA. Steve Sisolak (D), elected 2018 (49.4%). Republicans are still sorting out their primary in the Silver State. Former Sen. Dean Heller looked formidable when he entered but has struggled to gain traction — Heller has looked a bit at sea ever since he pivoted to being a Trump loyalist in the lead-up to his unsuccessful 2018 re-election campaign. Right now the guy to beat appears to be Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo, who is the field's top fundraiser. Controversial anti-government Las Vegas Councilwoman Michelle Fiore, North Las Vegas Mayor John Lee, and former professional boxer Joey Gilbert are also running. Sisolak had more money in the bank than all the GOP candidates combined. Nevada almost always has close races but Sisolak is decently popular. Tilt Democratic.



Courtesy Sisolak campaign

Steve Sisolak

OH Predictive Insights (R) for The Nevada Independent, Jan. 19-26 (LVs) (online) — General Election ballot: Sisolak (D) over Lombardo (R), 52%-48%. Sisolak (D) over Heller (R), 54%-46%.

Tarrance Group (R) for Better Nevada (supports Lombardo), Nov. 7-9, 2021 (LVs) (phone) — GOP Primary ballot: Lombardo 37%, Heller 19%, Fiore 8%, Gilbert 7%, Lee 5%, Fred Simon 3%, Eddie Hamilton 1%.

NEW HAMPSHIRE. Chris Sununu (R), elected 2016 (49%), 2018 (54%), 2020 (65%). Sununu surprised Republicans in Washington, DC when he announced that he would seek re-election rather than challenge Democratic Sen. Maggie Hassan. That's good news for New Hampshire Republicans, even as the incumbent governor saw his sky-high approval ratings come back to earth as he flirted with a Senate run and contended with a GOP-controlled legislature passing conservative bills on abortion and other hot-button issues. Democrats don't have a candidate yet. Gastroenterologist/state Sen. Tom Sherman has an exploratory committee but Democrats expect others to look at the race before the June 10 filing deadline. Sununu is still popular, has a strong family brand, and the primary is very late, giving Democrats less time to focus on the governor. Likely Republican.

NEW MEXICO. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), elected 2018 (57%). This is a sleeper race for Republicans, who see Lujan Grisham as vulnerable following an embarrasing allegation of sexual harassment against her she settled privately, and as murders in Albuquerque continue to be an issue.

Mark Ronchetti, the former weatherman who lost the 2020 Senate race by a closer-than-expected margin, is the frontrunner for the GOP nomination, but he's not immensely popular among the party faithful, many of whom view him as insufficiently conservative or loyal to Trump. That was on full display at the state GOP's chaotic endorsement convention, which was marred by vote-counting issues. A plurality of party delegates voted for Sandoval County Commissioner Jay Block, followed closely by state Rep. Rebecca Dow, and then former Bernalillo GOP chairman Greg Zanetti. Ronchetti came in fourth, which means he didn't automatically qualify for the ballot and will have to petition for ballot access. He should be fine — he also lost the 2020 Senate endorsement convention — but it's a warning sign for a candidate who needs everything to go right to pull off a general election upset.

New Mexico has been trending in Democrats' direction, and incumbents are hard to beat, but if the political environment is bad enough for Democrats and the party's struggles with Hispanic voters continue — New Mexico is 49 percent Hispanic — this has the potential to be an offensive opportunity for Republicans. Move from Solid to Likely Democratic.

Public Opinion Strategies (R) for Ronchetti campaign, Jan. 31-Feb. 1 (LVs) — GOP Primary ballot: Ronchetti 60%, Dow 9%, Zanetti 7%, Block 2%.

Cygnal (R) for Zanetti campaign, Jan. 3-4 (LVs) (mixed mode) — General Election ballot: Grisham (D) over Ronchetti (R), 43%-42%. Grisham (D) over Zanetti (R), 43%-38%. Grisham (D) over Dow (R), 43%-36%.

NEW YORK. Kathy Hochul, assumed office August 2021. Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the towering, dynastic figure who

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once seemed invulnerable to attacks from his left or right, is gone, felled by a sexual harassment scandal that is still reverberating through the political and media worlds.

In his place is Hochul, who was lieutenant governor from 2015 to 2021 and briefly a congresswoman from Buffalo a decade ago. Any doubts about Hochul's formidability — her lack of a base in New York City, her weak showing in the 2018 lieutenant governor primary, her association with the tarnished Cuomo, or even the conservative policy positions she took as a congresswoman — have been largely dispelled by her strong fundraising, and consolidation of support from the state party. She received her biggest boost when her main challenger for the Democratic nomination, state Attorney General Letitia James, dropped out of the race and endorsed her.

Hochul will likely still face New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Long Island Rep. Tom Suozzi in the primary — Williams running to her left and Suozzi to her right — but neither are running impressive campaigns. On the Republican side, Rep. Lee Zeldin looks like the frontrunner and was declared the party's "presumptive nominee" by party leaders last year, but wealthy businessman Henry Wilson, who narrowly lost the 2010 race for state Comptroller, just entered the primary and says he'll spend $12 million of his own money. Former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and former Trump White House staffer/Rudy Giuliani's son Andrew Giuliani are also running. Solid Democratic.

OHIO. Mike DeWine (R), elected 2018 (50.4%). It's clear that a lot of Ohio Republicans aren't happy with DeWine because of his aggressive moves early in the Covid-19 pandemic. But it's not clear how much electoral danger that puts DeWine in, because opposition to the incumbent is fractured and all it takes to win the primary is a plurality of the vote. Former Rep. Jim Renacci, who flamed out of the 2018 Senate race, is self-funding another campaign, but GOP sources say he's an underwhelming candidate, and adding to matters farmer Joe Blystone and former state Rep. Ron Hood are also running and splitting the anti-DeWine vote. If it were just Renacci against DeWine, the governor might be more at risk. One person who could help clear things up is Trump, whose endorsement can spark such consolidation. But the former president, who doesn't like DeWine, is staying out so far.

On the Democratic side, former Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley and former Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley are locked in a tight contest that hasn't developed much. Either one would start as an underdog in a state that hasn't voted for any Democrat not named Sherrod Brown since 2012, or a Democratic governor since 2006. If something changes in the primary and DeWine loses, this race could get more interesting. Until then, it remains Solid Republican.

Emerson College for The Hill, Feb. 25-26 (LVs) (mixed mode) — GOP Primary ballot: DeWine 34%, Blystone 20%, Renacci 9%, Hood 0%. Democratic Primary ballot: Whaley and Cranley tied at 16%.

Trafalgar Group (R), Feb. 1-4 (LVs) — GOP Primary ballot: DeWine 41%, Renacci 23%, Blystone 20%.

Public Policy Polling (D) for Democratic Governors Association, Jan. 25-26 (LVS) — GOP Primary ballot: DeWine over Renacci, 38%-33%.

Clarity Campaign Labs (D) for Whaley campaign, Jan. 17-19 (LVs) (IVR/online) — Democratic Primary ballot: Whaley over Cranley, 33%-20%.

OKLAHOMA. Kevin Stitt (R), elected 2018 (54.3%). Stitt's one primary challenger, former state Sen. Ervin Yen, is now running as an independent. The likely Democratic nominee is state superintendent of public instruction Joy Hofmeister, who was a Republican until last year when she switched parties in preparation for her run. Former state senator/2014 Senate nominee Connie Johnson is also running. Hofmeister gives Democrats a compelling candidate, but in a state Trump won by 33 points she's a serious underdog. Solid Republican.

Amber Integrated (R), Dec. 15-19, 2021 (RVs) — General Election ballot: Stitt over Hofmeister, 47% - 32%.

OREGON. Open; Kate Brown (D), term-limited. New York Times columnist Nick Kristof was disqualified from running for governor because he failed to meet the state's residency requirements. That leaves state House Speaker Tina Kotek and state Treasurer Tobias Read as the two Democratic frontrunners, though several other candidates will be on the ballot (but not Yamhill County Commissioner Casey Kulla — who dropped out last year — or Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler). Kotek had a little more cash in the bank on Jan. 12 ($743,000) than Read ($446,000) and some Democratic sources say she has a slight edge, but it's still a competitive race.

On the Republican side, GOP strategists like former state House minority leader Christina Drazan, who had the most money in the bank as of Jan. 12. But more than a dozen candidates are running, including 2016 GOP nominee Bud Pierce, former state representative/state party chairman Bob Tiernan, Sandy Mayor Bill Pulliam, and political consultant Bridget Barton. And the candidate with the most money in the bank is running as an independent: Betsy Johnson, a moderate former Democratic state senator who reported $2.9 million in the bank on Jan. 12, including $250,000 from Oregon mega-donor Phil Knight, the founder of Nike. Johnson still needs to gather nearly 25,000 valid signatures to get on the ballot, but her presence adds some uncertainty. Even if she doesn't win, she could take votes away from the Democratic nominee. With outgoing Democrat Brown unpopular and the national winds in favor of Republicans, that could make this race more competitive. Move from Solid Democratic to Likely Democratic.

PENNSYLVANIA. Open; Tom Wolf (D), term-limited. Because Wolf can't seek re-election, both parties have to choose new nominees, but the similarities between Democrats and Republicans in Pennsylvania end there. The Democratic primary is essentially over, with state Attorney General Josh Shaprio as the presumptive nominee. The Republican Party is a tangled mess of candidates all struggling to get in front of voters while the airwaves are already saturated by the uber-expensive GOP Senate primary.

Former U.S. Attorney Bill McSwain, state Sen. Doug Mastriano, HVAC business owner/former Delaware County Councilman Dave White, state Senate President Jake Corman, 2018 Senate nominee/former Rep. Lou Barletta, former Rep. Melissa Hart, Montgomery County Commissioner Joe Gale, political consultant Charlie Gerow, and K&L Gates partner Jason Richey are all running.

Republican strategists say Mastriano, Corman, McSwain, and White are probably the strongest candidates because of their financial advantages. Mastriano, who attended the Jan. 6 rally on the Mall (he says he didn't go into the Capitol) and has been subpoenaed by the Jan. 6 committee, has a loyal grassroots following. Corman has the deepest

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relationships to the state party. White has deep pockets, has loaned his campaign $3 million, and is already advertising on TV, and McSwain has the backing of billionaire Jeff Yass, whose PAC has $20 million it is already deploying to boost him. Barletta has relatively high name ID from his Senate run and regularly polls in first or second, but doesn't have nearly as much money, so he may struggle to keep up as the other candidates go up on air.

Pennsylvania is an evenly divided state, and Republicans will have the national political environment in their favor in the fall. But the outgoing Wolf is popular, and Shapiro is a proven vote-getter who was the top-performing Democrat on the ticket in 2016 and 2020. The AG also has more than $13 million in his campaign account and is already in general election mode, while the GOP is still nowhere near consolidating around a nominee, and runs the risk of nominating a flawed candidate. Tilt Democratic.

Trafalgar Group (R), Feb. 1-4 (LVs) — GOP Primary ballot: Barletta 24%, Mastriano 20%, Corman 5%, McSwain 4%, Scott Martin 4%.

Public Policy Polling (D) for the Democratic Governors Association, Nov. 9-10, 2021 (LVs) — GOP Primary ballot: Mastriano 18%, Barletta 14%, Gale 3%, Martin 3%, McSwain 2%, Richey 1%, White 1%.

RHODE ISLAND. Dan McKee (D), assumed office March 2021. McKee took over as governor after Gina Raimondo was appointed as Biden's commerce secretary. His incumbency status isn't scaring away primary challengers, though one of McKee's strongest opponents, General Treasurer Seth Magaziner, dropped out of the race late last year to run for the open 2nd District. Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, former CVS executive Helena Buonanno Foulkes, and former state Secretary of State Matt Brown are all still in the running. McKee is on more solid footing now than a year ago, when he was not well known in the state. But Foulkes, who is the niece of former Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd and a lifelong friend of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Gorbea, who is well-known from several statewide runs, are both running well-funded campaigns. And Brown is running at the top of a slate of progressive candidates looking to shake up the traditionally more conservative state party. No Republicans of note are running. Solid Democratic.

Lake Research Partners (D) for Gorbea campaign, Nov. 7-9, 2021 (LVs) (live caller) — Democratic Primary ballot: McKee 26%, Gorbea 24%, Magaziner 16%, Brown 6%, Foulkes 4%.

SOUTH CAROLINA. Henry McMaster (R) assumed office 2017, elected 2018 (54%). McMaster's path to renomination got easier when businessman John Warren, who nearly beat McMaster in the 2018 GOP primary runoff, announced he would not run. Democrats have their own primary between former Rep. Joe Cunningham and state Sen. Mia McLeod. Cunningham is the favorite to win the nomination but both candidates spent more than they raised over the last three months of 2021. There's no evidence either one would have much of a chance against McMaster. Solid Republican.

SOUTH DAKOTA. Kristi Noem (R), elected 2018 (51%). Noem only won by 3 points in 2018 but is well-positioned for a second term, on her way to a potential 2024 presidential run. Democrats look set to nominate Jamie Smith, the state House minority leader, after 2018 nominee Billie Sutton made no moves to run again. Noem also faces a primary challenge from former state House Speaker Steven Haugaard, who is attacking her as insufficiently conservative. Solid Republican.

TENNESSEE. Bill Lee (R), elected 2018 (60%). Lee is in a strong position for a second term. No Republicans are challenging him in the primary, and Democrats lack a top-tier candidate — ICU physician Jason Martin was the only contender with more than $15,000 in the bank at the end of 2021. Solid Republican.

TEXAS. Greg Abbott (R) elected 2014 (59%), 2018 (56%). Abbott might have cleared his biggest hurdle with a convincing primary victory over state GOP chairman/former Florida Rep. Allen West and former state Sen. Don Huffines. The governor will face former congressman/2018 Senate nominee/2020 presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke in the general election. If Democrats couldn't win statewide in the last two cycles, it's hard to see how they'll win now, in a worse political environment. Solid Republican.

Emerson College for The Hill, Feb. 20-21 (LVs) (mixed mode) — General Election ballot: Abbott (R) over O'Rourke (D), 52%-45%.

Univ. of Texas, Tyler for The Dallas Morning News, Feb. 8-15 (RVs) (mixed mode) — General Election ballot: Abbott (R) over O'Rourke (D), 45%-38%.

VERMONT. Phil Scott (R), elected 2016 (53%), 2018 (55%), 2020 (69%). Scott waited until the filing deadline to announce his re-election campaign in 2020, and the liberal Republican and former stock car driver may do the same thing again this year. Democrats probably won't seriously contest the race if Scott runs again (which Republicans expect him to do). But former Democratic lieutenant governor/2002 nominee/2010 candidate Doug Racine told the *Vermont Political Reporter* that he's thinking of running. Even if he does, it'll be an uphill climb against the exceedingly popular Scott. Solid Republican.

WISCONSIN. Tony Evers (D), elected 2018 (49.5%). Along with Laura Kelly in Kansas, Evers is the most vulnerable Democratic governor on the map. Evers narrowly beat Gov. Scott Walker in 2018 despite a great political environment and Sen. Tammy Baldwin coasting to victory, and 2022 is shaping up to be a far worse year for Democrats. Evers' allies counter that the unassuming former superintendent of public instruction is popular and a better politician than Republicans give him credit for, having won four statewide elections (the first three in nominally nonpartisan races). The GOP's preferred candidate is former Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch. She starts out as the frontrunner for the nomination but won't have the field to herself after businessman/2018 Senate candidate Kevin Nicholson and state Rep. Tim Ramthun jumped in the race. Nicholson will have the backing of wealthy GOP donor Dick Uihlein, and Ramthun is promising to decertify Wisconsin's electoral votes and promoting a conspiracy that he can help oust Biden from the White House before 2024. Wisconsin's closely divided nature means this will be a tight race from start to finish. Toss-up.

Marquette University, Feb. 22-27 (LVs)— GOP Primary ballot: Kleefisch 30%, Nicholson 8%, Ramthun 5%.

Tarrance Group (R) for Kleefisch Campaign, Jan. 10-13 (LVs)— GOP Primary ballot: Kleefisch over Nicholson, 65%-12%.

WYOMING. Mark Gordon (R), elected 2018 (67%). The main event in Wyoming is still the congressional race where Republicans look poised to oust Rep. Liz Cheney. Gordon, on the other hand, hasn't formally announced his re-election bid but shouldn't have any trouble securing another four years. Solid Republican. IE

California 22 Special: Short Term Assignment

By Nathan L. Gonzales

Typically, congressional seats without an incumbent generate a crowd of aspiring candidates. But an upcoming special election for a vacant seat in California's Central Valley has drawn little interest.

GOP Rep. Devin Nunes resigned from California's 22nd District on Jan. 3 in order to lead former President Donald Trump's new company: Trump Media & Technology Group. But the GOP lean of the district, the GOP lean of the entire political environment and the fact that the district is about to be extinct because of the redistricting process muted interest in the race.

The clear frontrunner is Republican Connie Conway. The former state Assemblywoman has already said that if she wins the special election, she will only serve the remainder of Nunes' term. But even though she'll only be on Capitol Hill for a short time, she could cast consequential votes over the final six months of the year.

The Lay of the Land

The special election will take place under the current congressional lines. The 22nd stretches from north and east of Fresno (including Clovis), south to include Visalia. More specifically, 62 percent of the district's registered voters live in Fresno County while 38 percent live in Tulare County, according to a recent state report of registration.

The all-party primary is scheduled for April 5, with a June 7 runoff if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote. The latter is the same date as the regular, top-two, all-party primaries in California.

The state's citizen redistricting commission complicated candidates' calculations about running because changes to the 22nd will leave the special election winner without a clear pathway to a full term.

Forty-one percent of the 22nd was placed in the new 21st, a Democratic district where Democratic Rep. Jim Costa is running for re-election. Thirty-eight percent of the 22nd will be in the new 20th, where House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy is running again. Fifteen percent of the 22nd was placed in the new 5th District, where GOP Rep. Tom McClintock and Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig are running. And 10 percent was placed in the new 22nd District, where GOP Rep. David Valadao is running.

Politically, the district leans Republican but has been trending toward Democrats. Mitt Romney won the district by 15 points in 2012, Donald Trump won it by nearly 10 points in 2016, and Trump won it again by 5 points in 2020, according to *Daily Kos Elections*.

But knowing the district has essentially been dissolved through redistricting, that the House majority doesn't hinge on who wins the special election, and that the winner will only serve half a year, Democrats are not making a serious run at the seat. That's good news for Conway and the Republicans.

"I would love to be able to finish the term for the congressman with stability, with dignity, and my full focus of attention until the very last day," Conway told the Visalia Times Delta.

The Republicans

Connie Conway, 71, was born in Bakersfield and attended College of the Sequoias and Fresno State University.

Conway didn't run for office until 2000, when she was elected to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. Her father, John, was a county supervisor a decade earlier, from 1981 to 1991. In 2008, Connie was elected to the state Assembly where she served for six years, including time as the Republican leader, and did not seek re-election in 2014.

In the 2018 cycle, Conway ran for the state Senate but then switched

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2022 House Ratings

Due to delays in the redistricting process, ratings are incomplete. New ratings and states will be added on a rolling basis as final maps are approved in each state.

Toss-Up (6D, 6R)

CA 22 (Valadao, R)
CA 27 (Garcia, R)
CA 45 (Steel, R)
CO 8 (Open, New)
IA 3 (Axne, D)
KS 3 (Davids, D)
ME 2 (Golden, D)
MI 3 (Meijer, R)
NJ7 (Malinowski, D)
NM 2 (Herrell, R)
NY 11 (Malliotakis, R)
VA 2 (Luria, D)
WA 8 (Schrier, D)

Tilt Democratic (5D)

IL17 (Open; Bustos, D)
MI 7 (Slotkin, D)
MI 8 (Kildee, D)
MN 2 (Craig, DFL)
VA 7 (Spanberger, D)

Tilt Republican (3D)

AZ 6 (Open; Kirkpatrick, D)
MI 10 (Open; Levin, D)
TX 15 (Open; V. Gonzalez, D)

Lean Democratic (2D, 2R)

IL13 (Open; Davis, R)
IL14 (Underwood, D)
NV 3 (S. Lee, D)
NY 1 (Zeldin, R)

Lean Republican (1D, 3R)

AZ 1 (Schweikert, R)
AZ 2 (O'Halleran, D)
MD 1 (Harris, R)
NE 2 (Bacon, R)

Likely Democratic (16D, 1R)

AZ 4 (Stanton, D)
CA 13 (Open; Harder, D)
CA 47 (Porter, D)
CA 49 (Levin, D)
CO 7 (Open; Perlmutter, D)
CT 5 (Hayes, D)
IL6 (Newman, D/Casten, D)
NM 3 (Leger Fernandez, D)
NV 1 (Titus, D)
NV 4 (Horsford, D)
NY 4 (Open; Rice, D)
NY 18 (S. P. Maloney, D)
NY 19 (Delgado, D)
NY 22 (Open; Katko, R)
OR 4 (Open; DeFazio, D)
OR 5 (Schrader, D)
OR 6 (Open, New)
TX 28 (Cuellar, D)

Likely Republican (6R, 2D)

CA 3 (Open; McClintock, R)
CA 40 (Kim, R)
CA 41 (Calvert, R)
CO 3 (Boebert, R)
GA6 (Open; McBath, D)
IA 1 (Miller-Meeks, R)
IA 2 (Hinson, R)
MT 1 (Open, New)
TN 5 (Open; Cooper, D)

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

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to run for the California Board of Equalization. (She finished third in the top-two primary.) In 2019, President Trump appointed her state executive director for the USDA Farm Service Agency, a job she held until the end of the administration. (Before his time in Congress, Nunes served as state director for USDA's Rural Development section in the President George W. Bush administration.)



Courtesy Conway for Congress Campaign

Connie Conway

Conway doesn't have the GOP field completely to herself. After planning a run against Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla, tech CEO Elizabeth Heng is running in this special election. In 2018, the Stanford graduate and former Capitol Hill staffer for California GOP Rep. Ed Royce challenged Rep. Costa and lost by 15 points. Her graphic and provocative ads helped her raise nearly $1.3 million in that race. In 2019, her PAC aired a TV ad connecting Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's brand of politics to the Khmer Rouge and Cambodian genocide in the late 1970s.

But Heng had raised just $138,000 through the end of 2021 for this race and had $37,000 in the bank on Dec. 31. Conway entered the race after the end-of-the-year FEC filing deadline.

Former FBI agent and Navy veteran Michael Maher, who enlisted in the aftermath of September 11, is running, as is retired Navy officer/fighter pilot Matt Stoll. But neither candidate had money in their campaign accounts at the end of the year or has a pre-existing base of support.

Former Clovis mayor/Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig looked like the initial frontrunner in the special election, but he's now focused on running for the newly-drawn 5th District against McClintock.

The Democrats

Phil Arballo was the initial Democratic frontrunner in the special election after losing to Nunes by 8 points in 2020. But he dropped out to focus on running in the newly-drawn 13th District, which is open after Democratic Rep. Josh Harder decided to seek re-election in the new 9th District.

That leaves Democrats with Iraq War veteran Eric Garcia and state water department operations manager Lourin Hubbard.

Garcia was born in Fresno, grew up in the Central Valley and was deployed to Iraq twice with the Marine Corps. He developed PTSD symptoms and was later diagnosed with lupus, and his fight for veteran benefits and health care is part of his campaign. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix.

In 2020, Garcia ran for the 22nd District as a No Party Preference candidate and received 2.7 percent in the all-party primary. This cycle, he's running in the regular 22nd District election against Valadao and this special election as a Democrat, even though the latter isn't a focus of his campaign website. Garcia raised $213,000 for the cycle through the end of the year and had a modest $7,900 in the bank on Dec. 31.

Hubbard was born in Bakersfield and graduated from Fresno State. He helped connect low-income families to government assistance programs while working at the Fresno County Department of Social Services, and is now an operations manager and racial equity officer at Central Valley Water Control Board.

He's running as a "normal person" looking to give people a voice in Congress. He raised $48,000 through the end of December and had $18,000 in the bank.

The Bottom Line

It's somewhat rare for a party to completely pass on a potential special election win in a district this competitive. But the timing of the race and proximity to the regular election, plus the changes to the district through redistricting, are key reasons for Democrats to pass.

Unless there's a dramatic change in the current trajectory of the race, Republicans will hold this seat and Conway will be a member of Congress, if only for a few months. As a formerly prominent elected official in the area and little evidence of serious opposition from other Republicans or Democrats, it would take a dramatic series of events for her to lose.

So what kind of member would Conway be? "I sometimes wish that we could have civil conversations [with the other side of the aisle] about places of interest rather than fights," she told GV Wire, "But I'm a solid vote for the district. Solid vote for the leader [McCarthy] and what's important to him."

The special election race is rated Solid Republican, and the key question seems to be whether Conway will win outright in April or in the June runoff. IE

Texas Primary Results

(March 1)

1st District: Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran won the GOP nomination to replace Rep. Louie Gohmert. Rating: Solid Republican.

2nd District: GOP Rep. Dan Crenshaw won the March 1 primary without a runoff. Solid Republican.

3rd District: Rep. Van Taylor failed to clear the 50 percent threshold to avoid a runoff, and would have faced former Collin County Judge Keith Self in a May runoff. But Taylor dropped out on Wednesday after admitting to a provocative extramarital affair with a formerly aspiring jihadist-turned anti-extremism activist. So Self will be the nominee. Solid Republican.

8th District: Former Navy Seal Marcus Luttrell won the GOP nomination without a runoff in a win for the party establishment. Solid Republican.

15th District: Monica De La Cruz, who nearly won this seat in 2020, won the GOP primary without a runoff. Democrats Ruben Ramirez, a moderate, and Michelle Vallejo, a progressive, advance to a runoff in May. Tilt Republican.

28th District: Embattled Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar, under investigation by the FBI, will face a runoff with challenger Jessica Cisneros after neither candidate won 50 percent of the vote. Lean Democratic.

30th District: Jasmine Crockett fell just short of avoiding a runoff and will face Jane Hope Hamilton for the Democratic nomination to replace Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson. Solid Democratic.

35th District: Greg Casar easily won the Democratic primary in this open seat, in a victory for progressives. Solid Democratic.

38th District: Republican Party favorite Wesley Hunt is headed to Congress after winning the GOP primary in this new district. Solid Republican.