



Los Gatos, CA  
October 12, 2018

Several weeks ago we published a report on four (4) CA congressional districts which are nearby and “flippable” (from Republican to Democratic) in the November 2018 election. (CA-4, 10, 21 and 22.).

Today we are publishing this additional report, covering twelve (12) races that will determine control of the U.S. Senate.

This report now has 3 sections, covering 22 races. You may read the document sequentially, or use the table of contents and links below to locate to a specific section or race.

**Contents**

ARIZONA..... 2  
FLORIDA..... 3  
INDIANA..... 3  
MISSOURI..... 4  
MONTANA ..... 4  
NEVADA..... 5  
NEW JERSEY ..... 5  
NORTH DAKOTA..... 6  
TENNESSEE..... 7  
TEXAS ..... 7  
WEST VIRGINIA..... 8  
WISCONSIN..... 8  
SUMMARY ..... 9

## **SENATE RACES TO WATCH KEYS TO FLIPPING THE SENATE**

According to several sources there are a dozen (12) Senate races which will determine whether or not the Senate remains in Republican control, or will transition to a Democratic majority in 2018. These contests are listed below (in alphabetical order by state), with summaries of polling and funding data, and suggestions for how you can help the Democratic candidate in each race. (The most recent polling data is from September. Funding data is several weeks old, dating to August, and is based on FEC filings reported by OpenSecrets.)

NOTE: Campaign contributions can be made easily through the ActBlue website – [www.actblue.com](http://www.actblue.com). Be sure to indicate that yours is a one-time contribution for this election cycle, since the site default seems to be to a monthly pledge.)

### **ARIZONA**

This is an open seat, now occupied by Jeff Flake (R), who is retiring. Kyrsten Sinema (D) is opposed by Martha McSally (R).

POLLS: Recent polling shows a very close race, and polling has been extensive. (Suffolk, NBC, CNN, Reuters, Fox and ABC among others, in September alone.) Polling sample sizes are small (500 to 1000) and samples selected using varying criteria. In seven (7) September polls Sinema has led in five (5) (average lead 3%), McSally in two (2) (average lead 2%).

MONEY: The national Republican Party has targeted this race. At last report Sinema had raised \$10,500,000, and held \$2,500,000 in reserve for the final weeks of the campaign. McSally had raised \$7,600,000 and held \$1,900,000 in reserve.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Send money. And help get out the vote.....

[www.kyrstensinema.com](http://www.kyrstensinema.com)

480-526-7070

## **FLORIDA**

Bill Nelson (D) is the incumbent. Rick Scott (R), current Florida governor, is the challenger. This is a 'must hold' seat for the Democrats. It is another contest that has been targeted by the national Republican Party.

**POLLS:** Polling is close. (Another Senate seat which is extensively polled, but most often by local pollsters with private sponsors). Five (5) September polls show Nelson leading in four (4), and one tie (at 47% each). Nelson's average poll lead has been about 2.5%. Poll sample sizes have run from about 800 to 2300. It looks like turn-out will be the key for the Democrats.

**MONEY:** Nelson had raised \$19,700,000 at last reporting. Scott \$8,600,000. Nelson had \$14,600,000 on hand for his final push. Scott \$3,300,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** It doesn't look like Nelson needs funds, but can use help in getting out the vote.

[www.nelsonforsenate.com](http://www.nelsonforsenate.com)

239-334-7760

## **INDIANA**

Joe Donnelly (D) is the incumbent, and Mike Braun (R) is the challenger. This is another 'must hold' Democratic Senate seat. Another targeted seat by the national Republican Party.

**POLLS:** Five (5) polls in August and September show Donnelly ahead in four (4), and Braun in one (1). (Fox News in early September had Braun up 2%.) Donnelly's polling average is up about 3.5% on Braun, with the most recent poll (Fox News) showing Donnelly up by 2%, with 16% undecided.

**MONEY:** This race lags behind in campaign finance reporting (most recent is July), but Donnelly had out-raised Braun \$11,500,000 to \$8,250,000. Donnelly at that time had \$6,400,000 in reserve to Braun's \$1,100,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Given Indiana's Republican track record and registration advantage, the national party thinks they can take this seat. So.....SEND MONEY.....and help get out the vote.

[www.joeforindiana.com](http://www.joeforindiana.com)

## **MISSOURI**

Claire McCaskill (D) is the incumbent, Josh Hawley (R) the challenger. Another 'must hold' for the Democrats. And another race that the national Republican Party has targeted, and which is the subject of substantial PAC and dark money attacks on McCaskill.

**POLLS:** Perhaps the most frequently polled Senate race, with thirteen (13) polls available since August, eleven (11) in September alone. Six (6) polls show Hawley with the lead (with leads of between 2% and 7%); four (4) have McCaskill leading, with spreads of between 2% and 3%. Three (3) polls show it dead even, with the most recent poll (Fox News, October 2<sup>nd</sup>) showing the race tied.

**MONEY:** McCaskill has raised \$22,400,000 and held \$6,600,000 in reserve at last reporting. Hawley raised \$5,300,000, with \$2,300,000 in reserve for the final push.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** It doesn't look like McCaskill needs money, but getting out the vote will be crucial in this election. Younger voters and women need to storm the polls in Missouri. Help get those voters out...

[www.clairemccaskill.com](http://www.clairemccaskill.com)

314-918-8100

## **MONTANA**

Jon Tester (D) is the incumbent, Matt Rosendale (R), the challenger. Another 'must hold' for the Democrats. Tester is a reasonably popular Senator in his home state, but the state leans heavily Republican.

**POLLS:** Six (6) polls are reported since July. (Four (4) in September.) Four of the six (4 of 6) show Tester with a lead of between 2% and 7%. One poll in August had Rosendale with a lead of 2%, and another in September showed the race tied. (Both of these polls were sponsored by the Republican Senatorial Committee.) It's a close race by any measure which is somewhat worrying given the fund-raising disparity set forth below. (In the primary election in July 115,000 Democrats voted for Tester, and 153,000 Republicans voted for four (4) Republican candidates.)

**MONEY:** Tester has raised \$14,000,000, and has \$6,100,000 in reserve. Rosendale raised \$2,000,000, and held \$640,000 in reserve for the final run.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** It doesn't look like Tester needs money, but he does need to turn-out his voters. Contact the Tester campaign at [www.jontester.com](http://www.jontester.com)

## **NEVADA**

A key race for Democrats in attempting to regain a Senate majority. Jacky Rosen (D) is challenging incumbent Dean Heller (R). Heller is a vigorous trump backer, and was quite outspoken on the kavanaugh nomination. Another race that the national Republican Party has targeted.

**POLLS:** In five polls since August, Rosen has out-pollled Heller on three occasions (3), with margins of 2, 4, and 5%. Heller has bested Rosen twice, with margins of 1 and 3%. The most recent poll (CNN), on September 29, showed Rosen up 47% to 43%. A very close race, where turn-out of young, women and minority voters will be crucial.

**MONEY:** Heller has raised \$10,700,000 (with lots more on the way) to Rosen's \$9,200,000. Heller had \$5,800,000 on hand for the campaign conclusion, Rosen \$3,800,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Jacky Rosen needs money to fight off Heller's negative ads...send it. She also needs help turning-out her vote...

[www.rosenfornevada.com](http://www.rosenfornevada.com)

702-815-5108

## **NEW JERSEY**

Robert Menendez (D) is the incumbent, Bob Hugin (R) is the challenger. This is a state in which the national Republican Party (and its moneyed backers) have invested incredible sums of money. Republicans feel that this seat can easily be taken, since (as you may recall) Menendez was tried for public corruption a year ago (hung jury). Despite this, Menendez does remain fairly popular in New Jersey. Most pundits (Cook, Sabato, Fox, CNN, Real Clear Politics see this race as 'lean' to 'likely' Democratic.)

**POLLS:** All seven (7) available polls since August show Menendez in the lead, by an average margin of between 6% and 7%. (The most recent poll – Quinnipiac on October 2<sup>nd</sup> – gives Menendez a lead of 11%.)

**MONEY:** Hugin has raised \$16,700,000 (!) to Menendez' \$8,900,000. Menendez has \$6,400,000 in reserve, Hugin \$8,100,000. Hugin has outspent Menendez over 2 to 1 to date, yet not improved his polling.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Democratic voters need to turn out (registered Democrats out-number Republicans in New Jersey by almost one million voters)...Menendez probably has sufficient funds for his final push to election day.

[www.menendezfornj.com](http://www.menendezfornj.com)

732-374-3577

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

Heidi Heitkamp (D) is the incumbent, Kevin Cramer (R), the challenger. This is a seat the Democrats would like to hold, but it does not appear they will be able to do so. She has had some help from the national Democratic Party, but it appears she may have been abandoned in recent days.

**POLLS:** Only three polls have been published on this race. The most recent (by Gray TV?) shows Cramer with a 10% point lead. Heitkamp is a “blue dog” Democrat, and has not been overly popular during her tenure. She has been attacked on immigration policy, and more recently for her vote against the kavanaugh nomination. PAC spending money against her (on “issues”) has been considerable.

**MONEY:** Heitkamp has raised \$10,900,000 as of last reporting, a considerable sum for a North Dakota Senate race. Cramer has raised \$3,200,000. To date Cramer has only spent \$1,200,000 in campaign funds, but with PAC attacks on Heitkamp he has increased his polling lead from 4% to 10% since June.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** It doesn't appear to me a money issue here. The Democratic base in North Dakota is thin, and Heitkamp needs to turn out young voters and women to make this a contest. Help her do that:

[www.heidifornorthdakota.com](http://www.heidifornorthdakota.com)

701-232-8030

## **TENNESSEE**

This is the seat being vacated by Bob Corker (R). Phil Bredesen (D), former governor, and Marsha Blackburn (R), current congresswoman, are the candidates. It's a very close race. Tennessee is a red state, but Bredesen was a popular two-term governor. Again, the national Republican Party, and their PACs, are heavily invested here.

**POLLS:** Five recent polls are split – Bredesen has emerged atop three (3) by 2%, 3% and 5%. Blackburn has out-pollled Bredesen by 3% and 4% in the other two polls. (The two most recent polls, in the second week of September) were split: Blackburn leading in one by 3%, Bredesen in the other by 5%.

**MONEY:** Campaign funding is neck-and-neck – Bredesen has raised \$8,500,000 and Blackburn \$8,000,000. But reserves as the election approaches are profoundly lop-sided in Blackburn's direction – she has \$7,000,000 on hand to Bredesen's \$3,000,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Bredesen needs money for the end of this campaign. Send him some. He also needs to turn out his vote in the red state. Help him.

[www.bredesen.com](http://www.bredesen.com)

833-744-5486

## **TEXAS**

Perhaps the most interesting Senate race. Beto O'Rourke (D), sitting Democratic congressman from El Paso, appears to be giving incumbent Ted Cruz (R), originally heavily favored in the contest, a real run for his money. Cruz has avoided the state in recent weeks; flooded tv with negative ads; debated O'Rourke and been bested (and has cancelled all future debates); and had Texas son Willie Nelson endorse O'Rourke (and hit the campaign trail with him). The race seems to be tightening.

**POLLS:** Of six polls published since August, Cruz leads in five (5), with margins of between 1% and 9%...O'Rourke captured one poll by a 2% margin. On September 20 Public Policy Polling had Cruz with a 3%. Many

of the polls are based upon ‘likely’ voters. O’Rourke’s game plan seems to be to turn-out lots of first time voters: Latinos and young people. We’ll see how that goes.

**MONEY:** O’Rourke has rejected ‘big’ money – and relied upon individual donations. He has not been endorsed by President Obama, and been financially ignored by the national Democratic Party, yet has raised an astounding \$23.300,000.....precisely what Cruz has raised from his national donor base. At last reporting (which is several weeks behind) O’Rourke held \$14,000,000 for the final weeks, Cruz had \$9,300,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** I don’t think O’Rourke needs the money, but I will send some anyway just to say I was on board for this rather incredible campaign. He does need help getting his newbie voters out....contact him...

[www.betofortexas.com](http://www.betofortexas.com)

915-247-2386

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

Another ‘must hold’ senate for the Democrats. Joe Manchin (D) is the incumbent, Patrick Morrissey (R), the challenger.

**POLLS:** Five polls are available since August. One (by the Morrissey campaign) showed a tie. The others have shown Manchin holding a lead of between 6% and 10%. No national polling organization polls are available for this race.

**MONEY:** Manchin has raised \$7,500,000 to Morrissey’s \$3,000,000. Manchin’s reserves are \$6,300,000 at last reporting, to Morrissey’s \$900,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This seat seems safe...no need for money. But we shouldn’t be complacent. Help Manchin turn-out his voters!

[www.joemanchinwv.com](http://www.joemanchinwv.com)

304-343-0939

## **WISCONSIN**

Another ‘must hold’ for the Democrats. Incumbent Tammy Baldwin (D) is being challenged by Leah Vukmir (R). Republican PAC money has been



made available, though Vukmir's campaign has not been very successful at money raising. (See below.)

**POLLS:** Three polls are available since the Spring. Read serially they show a tightening race. Baldwin enjoyed a 12% advantage before the Republican primary this summer, but that lead had dwindled to 2% in a Marquette Law School Poll in August (last available). The national Democratic Party is concerned.

**MONEY:** Baldwin has raised \$22,600,000, and holds \$6,700,000 in reserve. Vukmir has raised \$2,000,000 and holds only \$430,000 in reserve.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Help Baldwin turn-out her voters...

[www.tammybaldwin.com](http://www.tammybaldwin.com)

608-663-6300

## **SUMMARY**

**SEND MONEY:** Sinema (Arizona)  
Donnelly (Indiana)  
Rosen (Nevada)  
Bredesen (Tennessee)

**HELP GOTV:** ALL TWELVE SENATE RACES