

A Snapshot of the Electoral Landscape as of August 26, 2020

Larry Martin / Indivisible Sonoma County

Indivisible Sonoma County is one of seven Indivisible chapters in Sonoma County. The county is split into two House districts, CA-02 and CA-05. It is so Democratic that we say it is not blue, but indigo.

Win the Presidency
Take Back the Senate
Hold the House

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We realized in 2017 that if we were to have an impact on the future of our nation, we would have to find a way to work in other areas of the country. We worked in GA to register voters alongside Reclaim our Vote and to elect Ossoff. We also worked with RoV in AL to help elect Jones to the Senate.

We decided to work in all 14 of the US House seats in CA that were held by Republicans in 2018. We anticipated that we would not flip all of those seats, but we could help supply support and encouragement to those progressives in those districts that that would help in 2020 and beyond.

California 2020 US House of Representatives Primary Election Results								
	Josh Harder (D,I)	Ted Howze (R)	Other Dem	Other Rep	Total Dem	Total Rep	Other Cand	Total Votes
CA-10	69,668 44.07%	53,574 33.89%	9,097 5.75%	25,751 16.29%	78,765 49.82%	79,325 50.18%		158,090 100.00%
CA-21	TJ Cox (D,I) 30,697 38.66%	David G. Valadao (R) 39,488 49.73%	Other Dem 7,309 9.20%	Other Rep 1,912 2.41%	Total Dem 38,006 47.86%	Total Rep 41,400 52.14%	Other Cand	Total Votes 79,406 100.00%
CA-25	Christy Smith (D) 49,679 31.73%	Mike Garcia (R) 37,381 23.88%	Other Dem 27,046 17.28%	Other Rep 40,261 25.72%	Total Dem 76,725 49.01%	Total Rep 77,642 49.60%	Other Cand 2183 1.39%	Total Votes 156,550 100.00%
CA-39	Gil Cisneros (D,I) 81,402 46.88%	Young Kim (R) 83,941 48.35%	Other Dem	Other Rep	Total Dem 81,402 46.88%	Total Rep 83,941 48.35%	Other Cand 8,286 4.77%	Total Votes 173,629 100.00%
CA-45	Katie Porter (D,I) 112,986 50.75%	Greg Raths (R) 39,942 17.94%	Other Dem	Other Rep 69,689 31.30%	Total Dem 112,986 50.75%	Total Rep 109,631 49.25%	Other Cand	Total Votes 222,617 100.00%
CA-48	Harley Rouda (D,I) 99,659 46.73%	Michelle Steel (R) 74,418 34.89%	Other Dem	Other Rep 33,498 15.71%	Total Dem 99,659 46.73%	Total Rep 107,916 50.60%	Other Cand 5704 2.67%	Total Votes 213,279 100.00%
CA-49	Mike Levin (D,I) 125,639 56.58%	Brian Maryott (R) 96,424 43.42%	Other Dem	Other Rep	Total Dem 125,639 56.58%	Total Rep 96,424 43.42%	Other Cand	Total Votes 222,063 100.00%

Table 1. CA 2020 US House Seats Primary Election Results

Table 1 shows the primary election results in 2020 of the seven seats that we did help flip in 2018. The first thing to note is that the total Republican vote in five of these elections was greater than the total Democratic vote. The exceptions were Katie Porter, in CA-45, who had 3,355 more votes than the Republicans, and Mike Levin, in CA-49, who had more than 29,000

votes than his opponent, Brian Maryott. There are around 3,000 more registered Republicans in CA-45 than Democrats while there are around 3,000 more registered Democrats in CA-49.

One note that is troubling to me, but is not shown in these results is that, in the 2016 general elections, the Republican incumbents in four of these districts (highlighted in red) received more votes than each of the Democrats who upset them in 2018. Even though the Democratic turnout was gigantic in 2018, we will likely need an even greater turnout in November if we are to hold these seats.

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC	LEAN DEMOCRATIC	DEMOCRATIC TOSS UP	REPUBLICAN TOSS UP	LEAN REPUBLICAN	LIKELY REPUBLICAN
14 Dem • 2 Rep	17 Dem • 1 Rep	15 Dem • 0 Rep	0 Dem • 10 Rep	1 Dem • 14 Rep	0 Dem • 16 Rep
CA-10 Harder	AZ-01 O'Halleran	CA-21 Cox	CA-25 Garcia	AZ-06 Schweikert	AK-AL Young
CA-39 Cisneros	CA-48 Rouda	GA-06 McBeth	GA-07 Open	FL-15 Spano	CA-04 McClintock
CA-45 Porter	FL-26 Mucarsel-Powell	IA-01 Finkenauer	IL-13 Davis	KS-02 Watkins	CA-22 Nunes
FL-27 Shalala	IL-14 Underwood	IA-02 Open	IN-05 Open	MI-03 Open	CO-03 Open
IL-06 Casten	KS-03 Davids	IA-03 Axne	NE-02 Bacon	MN-01 Hagedorn	FL-16 Buchanan
IL-17 Bustos	MI-08 Slotkin	ME-02 Golden	OH-01 Chabot	MO-02 Wagner	KY-06 Barr
NC-02 Open	MI-11 Stevens	MN-07 Peterson	PA-10 Perry	MT-AL Open	MI-06 Upton
NC-06 Open	MN-02 Craig	NJ-03 Kim	TX-21 Roy	NC-08 Hudson	MN-08 Stauber
NJ-05 Gottheimer	NH-01 Pappas	NM-02 Torres Small	TX-22 Open	NJ-02 Van Drew	NC-09 Bishop
NJ-11 Sherrill	NJ-07 Malinowski	NY-11 Rose	TX-24 Open	NY-02 Open	NY-01 Zeldin
NV-04 Horsford	NV-03 Lee	NY-22 Brindisi	Solid D: 187 Solid R: 158	NY-24 Katko	OH-12 Balderson
NY-18 Maloney	NY-19 Delgado	OK-05 Horn		PA-01 Fitzpatrick	TX-02 Crenshaw
OR-04 DeFazio	PA-07 Wild	SC-01 Cunningham		TX-10 McCaul	TX-03 Taylor
PA-17 Lamb	PA-08 Cartwright	VA-02 Luria		VA-05 Open	TX-06 Wright
WA-08 Schrier	TX-07 Fletcher	VA-07 Spanberger		WA-03 Herrera Beutler	TX-25 Williams
WI-03 Kind	TX-23 Open				TX-31 Carter
	TX-32 Allred	Cook July 16, 2020 House Ratings			
	UT-04 McAdams	L. Martin July 24, 2020			

Table 2. Cook US House Ratings

Table 2 shows the ratings from Cook that groups the House seats by their likelihood of the incumbent being re-elected. The Democrats hold 187 “solid” seats so if they hold the “likely” and “lean” Democratic seats, and flip the three open seats, they will retain control of the House with a total of 221 seats. Of course, we hope to hold all of the Democratic “toss up” seats as well as flipping a number of the Republican “toss up” seats.

The seats that are highlighted in yellow are in states that also have a Senate seat in play. We believe that there is some synergy that can help both the House candidate and the Senate candidate in those states. The seats that are highlighted in green are the seats in California that are in play. (I believe that CA-01 should be on this list, by the way).

These rankings are from mid-July. The most recent ratings have moved some seats in the Democratic direction and also have shifted a few towards the Republicans.

One third of the seats in the Senate are elected every six years. Most seats are usually safe but this year Jim, one of our researchers, has listed sixteen seats in Table 3 that are of interest. He has arranged them in five broad categories. The columns list the Democratic and Republican

candidates for each state, the Cook ratings, Jack’s ratings, the candidates’ cash on hand as of June 30, the election results of the incumbent’s last race (2014), the total House vote for each state, the 2016 presidential results for each state, the 538 rating for each race, and some notes.

2020 Senate Races										
State	Democratic Nominee/ Incumbent	Republican Incumbent/ Nominee	Cook Rating 7/23/20	Jpz's Take 8/10/20	Dem/Rep Cash on hand (in millions)	Incumbent's Last Race Dem%/ Rep%	2018 House Dem%/ Rep%	2016 Pres Dem/Rep	Biden vs Trump per 538	Notes
Top Opportunities										
Arizona	Mark Kelly	Martha McSally (I)	Lean D	Lean D+	\$21.2/\$10.9	49.9/47.6	50.37/48.67	45/48	+3.7	2 year seat; Mark Kelly has lots of \$; McSally running behind Trump; Kelly ahead outside MoE; consider AZ-06
Colorado	John Hickenlooper	Cory Gardner (I)	Toss Up	Lean D	\$4.5/\$10.8	46.3/48.2	53.44/42.96	48/43	+13.1	Gardner running ahead of Trump but not by enough
Iowa	Theresa Greenfield	Joni Ernst (I)	Tossup	Tossup	\$5.6/\$9.1	43.8/52.1	50.52/46.54	42/51	-1.3	Ernst likely to run behind Trump; 3 House seats to defend
Maine	Sara Gideon	Susan Collins (I)	Toss Up	Tossup	\$5.4/\$5.4	31.5/68.5	52.75/38.84	48/45	+11.0	Gideon getting lots of help; 3rd party vote and IRV a factor
Montana	Steve Bullock	Steve Daines (I)	Toss Up	Tossup	\$7.5/\$7.1	40.1/57.8	46.20/50.90	36/56	-8.8	Bullock popular Governor; lot of ticket-splitting needed
North Carolina	Cal Cunningham	Thom Tillis (I)	Toss Up	Tossup	\$6.6/\$6.8	47.3/48.8	48.35/50.39	46/50	+2.5	Very expensive race; Tillis running behind Trump
2nd Tier										
Alaska	Al Gross -TBD 8/18; see Notes	Dan Sullivan (I)	Likely R	Likely R	\$2.9/\$5.3	45.8/48.0	46.70/53.30	37/51	***+5***	Gross is Independent same as 55% of AK voters; but endorsed by AK Democratic Party; Sullivan likely to run behind Trump; "Bang for the Buck" race
Georgia	Jon Ossoff	David Perdue (I)	Tossup	Lean R-	\$2.5/\$10.6	45.2/52.9	47.73/52.27	45/50	-0.7	Ossoff needs majority to avoid runoff
3rd Tier										
Georgia (Special)	TBD - 11/03/20 see Notes	Kelly Loeffler (I) or TBD 11/03 see Notes	Lean R	Likely R	Many candidates	N/A	47.73/52.27	45/50	-0.7	Many candidates - need 50% to win seat so runoff nearly a certainty; possible no Democrat in Jan runoff; Dem turnout in 1/5/21 runoff an issue; 2-year seat
Kansas (Open)	Barbara Bollier	Roger Marshall	Lean R	Likely R	\$4.1/\$1.0	N/A	43.89/53.95	36/56	-10.5	Bears watching to see if polls remain close
Seats to Defend										
Alabama	Doug Jones (I)	Tommy Tuberville	Lean R	Lean R	\$8.7/\$0.56	49.9/48.3	40.86/58.82	34/62	-18.2	Let's hope for more Tuberville scandals; large AA turnout could make it close
Probably Safe										
Michigan	Gary Peters (I)	John James	Lean D	Lean D	\$11.5/\$9.2	54.6/41.3	52.33/44.65	47/47	+7.8	John James might run ahead of Trump, but Peters has led consistently. Consider MI-06
Minnesota	Tina Smith (DFL)(I)	TBD - 8/11/20	Solid D	Likely D	\$4.6/\$1.4	52.9/42.3	55.13/43.68	46/45	+7.3	Dem=DFL; 2018 special election result
New Hampshire	Jeanne Shaheen (I)	TBD - 9/8/20	Solid D	Solid D		51.5/48.2	54.53/43.62	47/47	+9.2	
New Mexico	Ben Ray Lujan	Mark Ronchetti	Solid D	Likely D		N/A	58.25/36.20	48/40	N/A	
Virginia	Mark Warner (I)	Daniel Gade	Solid D	Solid D		49.1/48.3	56.36/42.52	50/44	+10.7	Low turnout in 2014 almost cost Warner seat

Table 3. Jack’s US Senate Analysis

There are two states that, in Jack’s opinion, are leaning in the Democratic direction, AZ and CO. Kelly is running far ahead of McSally in AZ and is likely to help Biden in this race. Hickenlooper is running substantially ahead of Gardner in CO while Biden has a huge lead there. (I’ve added the 538 ratings for both the Senate and Presidential races as of August 25 in Table 5).

Iowa is a much tighter race, but the state seems to be shifting to the left and three of their four House seats are now held by Democrats. Collins looks like she is in serious trouble in ME, with Biden running well ahead of Trump. ME uses “instant runoff” voting so we feel that the majority of the 3^d party votes will go to Gideon. In addition, many Republicans did not mark a second choice in previous elections so if they continue this practice, they will not have any votes to give to Collins.

Bullock, in MT, is currently running behind Daines, yet another first term Senator, but Bullock is a popular governor and seems to know how to win in the state. Cunningham is running ahead of Tillis, a first term, in NC while Biden is a slight favorite there.

Alaska is unique as there are only 588,000 registered voters and the majority of them are independents or unaffiliated voters. Al Gross, the Democratic candidate, is an Alaskan native and a doctor and fisherman. His opponent is a first term Senator who won his race by 6,000 votes in a low turnout election.

Ossoff has a slight lead in GA while Trump is barely ahead of Biden. The winner of this Senate race needs to win by 50% +1 vote to avoid a runoff. Perdue, another first term, has a substantial money lead but Ossoff has shown that he can raise lots of money, too.

The special election in GA will be held on November 3rd. This is a “top two” primary and the runoff will be held on January 5th. There are lots of candidates in this race, so, at this early date, it is not clear if the Democrats will have a candidate in the general election.

We had hoped that Kobach would be the Republican nominee in the open seat in Kansas, but Marshall, the Representative in KS-01, won the primary and takes on Bollier, the Democratic nominee and state Senator. She is polling within the margin of error so this may turn into a tossup as we go forward.

Jones, who won the special election in AL in 2017 faces a stiff uphill race against Tuberville, who had some shady financial dealings in his past. RoV is again working hard to get out the vote and we suspect that this race will be closer than expected.

There have been some stories about James, in MI, that are not favorable to him (accepting PPP loans and then laying off employees). Although this race is not too close, it may help Peters achieve an easier victory. We think that the rest of the races listed in the table will remain in Democratic hands.

Table 4 shows the results of an analysis that Jim, another of our peerless researchers, has done concerning the presidential races and the Electoral College. He believes that there are 13 critical states, along with NE-02 that will decide the outcome of the presidential election. His analysis shows that there are 211 solid EVs for Biden but only 163 for Trump, leaving 164 EVs up for grabs.

Biden Ranking	State	Electoral Votes	PVI ^[213]	2016 % D/R	Pundits *See note	Economist %D/R 8/4/20	Senate Seat?	Governor	Senate D/R	House D/R/O
B2	NE 2	1	R+4	44.9/47.2	002-6-000	1/99	Y	Ricketts/ R	na	18/30/50
B2	Georgia	16	R+5	45.6/50.8	000-2-700	36/54	Y (2)	Kemp/ R	21/35	74/106
B2	Iowa	6	R+3	41.7/51.2	000-2-700	37/64	Y	Reynolds/ R	32/18	47/53
B1	North Carolina	15	R+3	46.2/49.8	001-8-000	60/40	Y	Cooper/ D	21/29	55/65
B1	Arizona	11	R+5	45.1/48.7	001-7-000	65/35	Y	Ducey/ R	13/17	29/31
B1	Michigan	16	D+1	47.3/47.5	017-1-000	90/10	Y	Witmer/ D	16/22	52/58
B2	New Hampshire	4	EVEN	47.0/46.6	017-1-000	93/7	Y	Sununu/ R	14/10	234/166
B2	Minnesota	10	D+1	46.4/45	027-0-000	94/6	Y	Walz/ D	32/35	75/55/4
B2	Maine	2	R+2	41.0/51.3	000-6-200	98/3	Y	Mills/ D	21/14	89/56/6
B2	Ohio	18	R+3	43.6/51.7	000-3-600	44/56		DeWine/ R	9/24	38/61
B1	Florida	29	R+2	47.8/49.0	012-6-000	80/20		DeSantis/ R	17/23	47/73
B1	Pennsylvania	20	EVEN	47.5/48.2	016-2-000	86/14		Wolf/ D	21/28/1	93/110
B1	Wisconsin	10	EVEN	46.7/47.2	014-4-000	87/13		Evers/ D	14/19	36/63
B2	Nevada	6	D+1	47.5/46.0	035-1-000	91/9		Sisolak/ D	13/8	29/13
CO, TX, VA							Safe D 211, Safe R 163, Competitive 164			

Table 4. Jim’s Presidential Races Analysis

I have added the “Biden Ranking” column to this table. The campaign thinks that there are six critical “tier 1” states and another 11 “tier 2” states. Jim lists the EVs for each state, the Cook PVI ratings (the average of the past two presidential races for each state less the averages for the entire nation), the Democratic and Republican turnout in 2016 , the “pundits code” described below, the likely hood of who will win the election as predicted by the Economist model, and if there is a Senate seat in play, which may provide some synergies to both elections.

Jim reviews the information from nine different ratings sources: ABC News, Cook, Inside Elections, 270 to Win, Sabato, RCP, CBS News, Politico, and the Economist. He totals up the ratings for each state in a seven digit code that, from left to right, are: Safe D, Likely D, Lean D, Toss up, Lean R, likely R, and Safe R. For instance, Michigan has the code 017-1-000 which means that one pollster rate the race as a Likely D, seven rate it as a Lean D, and one rates it as a Toss up.

He has also included columns that indicate the party that controls the governorships, the state Senates and the state Houses. We believe that this information provides a rough indication of evidence of voter suppression that we try to take into account.

The total EVs for the states where the Economist model a 50% or greater chance of winning is 123 EV, so Biden would have 334 EV (270 needed). This would be a substantial margin of victory and leaves Biden with numerous paths to win the election.

Biden Ranking	State	Electoral Votes	538 Presidential	538 Senate
B2	NE 2	1	B+7	
B2	Georgia (Ossoff)	16	T+0.3	D+2
B2	Iowa	6	T+0.6	D+3
B1	North Carolina	15	B+1.9	D+8
B1	Arizona	11	B+4.8	D+19
B1	Michigan	16	B+8.0	D+9
B2	New Hampshire	4	B+9.3	D+19
B2	Minnesota	10	B+5.8	D+3
B2	Maine	2	B+10.9	D+5
B2	Ohio	18	T+0.1	
B1	Florida	29	B+5.9	
B1	Pennsylvania	20	B+6.3	
B1	Wisconsin	10	B+7.1	
B2	Nevada	6	B+7.9	
B2	Colorado	9	B+14.9	D+9
B2	Texas	38	T+1.0	R+7
B2	Virginia	13	B+11.4	
	Alaska	3	T+6.0	R+13
	Kentucky	8	T+15.4	R+5

Table 5. 538 Presidential and Senate Ratings

Table 5 is a summary of the 538 ratings as of August 25th for the states listed in Table 4 for both the Presidential races and the Senate races in those states that have a Senator up for election.

We believe that VA and CO are safe states for the Democrats, so we did not include them in the presidential analysis. The safe states for the Republican presidential races are TX, AK and KY. There are 59 EVs total for the states that have greater than a 6% Biden lean, exactly enough to give Biden the presidency. We pick up FL and MN if we drop the cutoff to 5.7%, which would give an additional 39 EVs to Biden.

We believe that we will continue to hold the House and we stand a good chance of expanding the number of seats that we hold. We believe that we will certainly pick up a net two Senate seats, are likely to pick up three more and we could possibly win another three seats. We believe that we will win the Electoral College with a minimum of 270 EV, we likely will win substantially more than 300 EV, and that there is an outside chance of winning close to 400 EV.