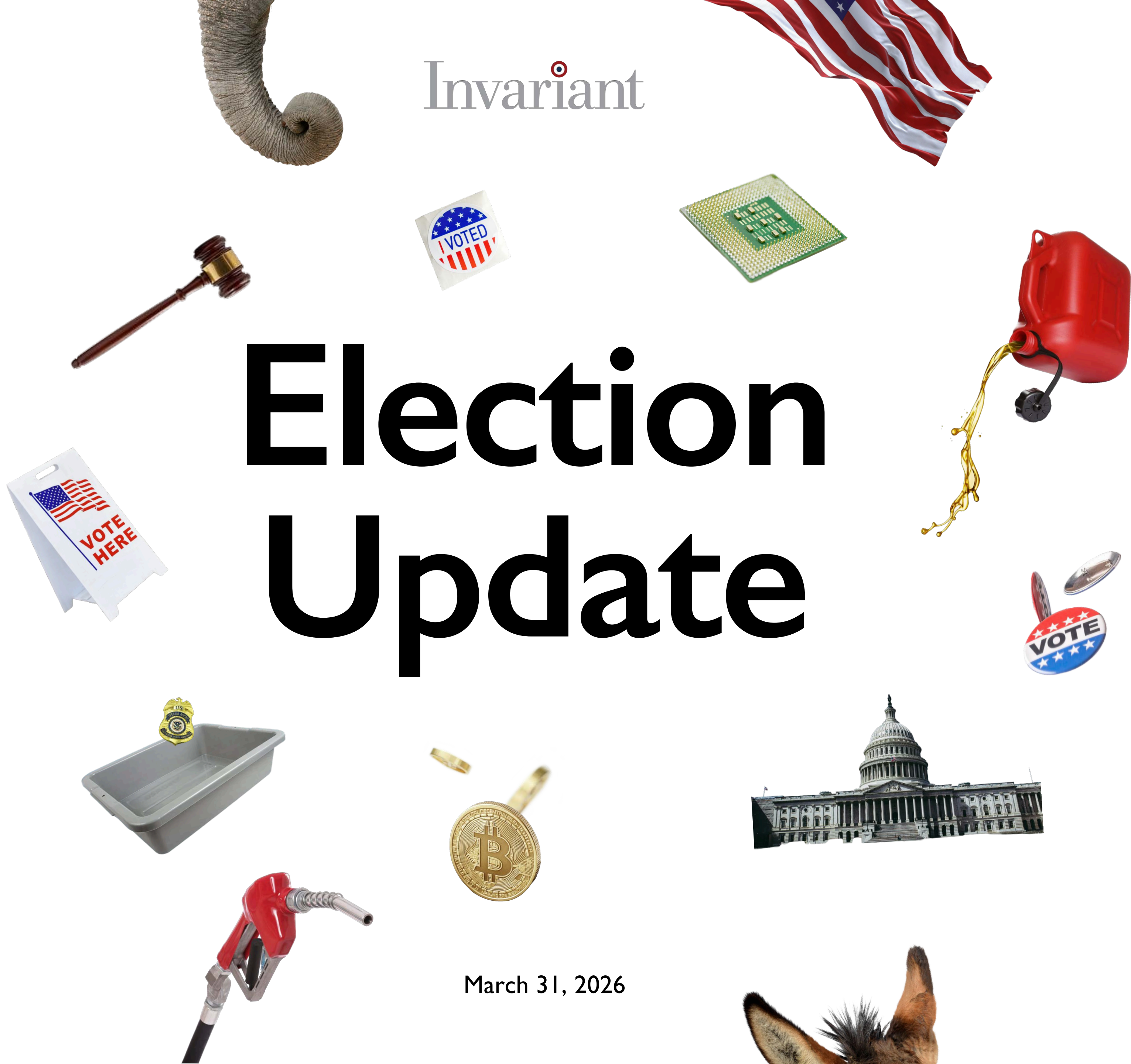


Invariant

# Election Update

March 31, 2026



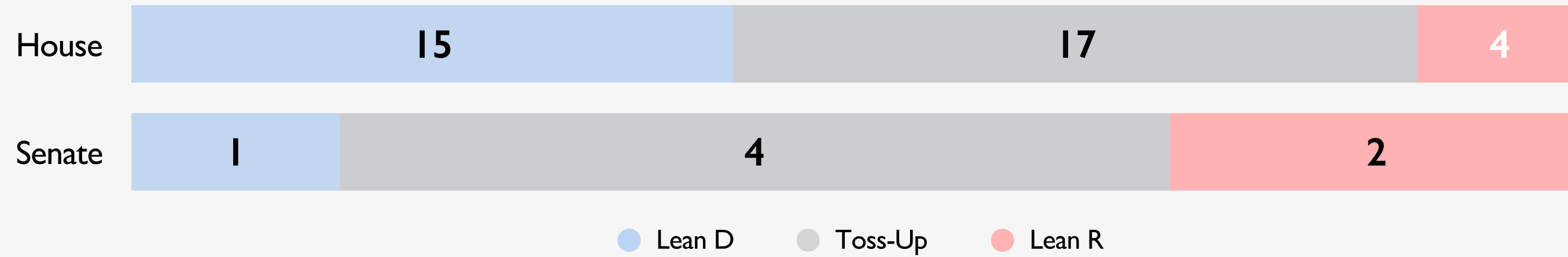
# Election Dashboard

**1 in 7**  
Congressional seats open

Largest turnover wave  
of the 21st century

## House and Senate Competitive Race Ratings

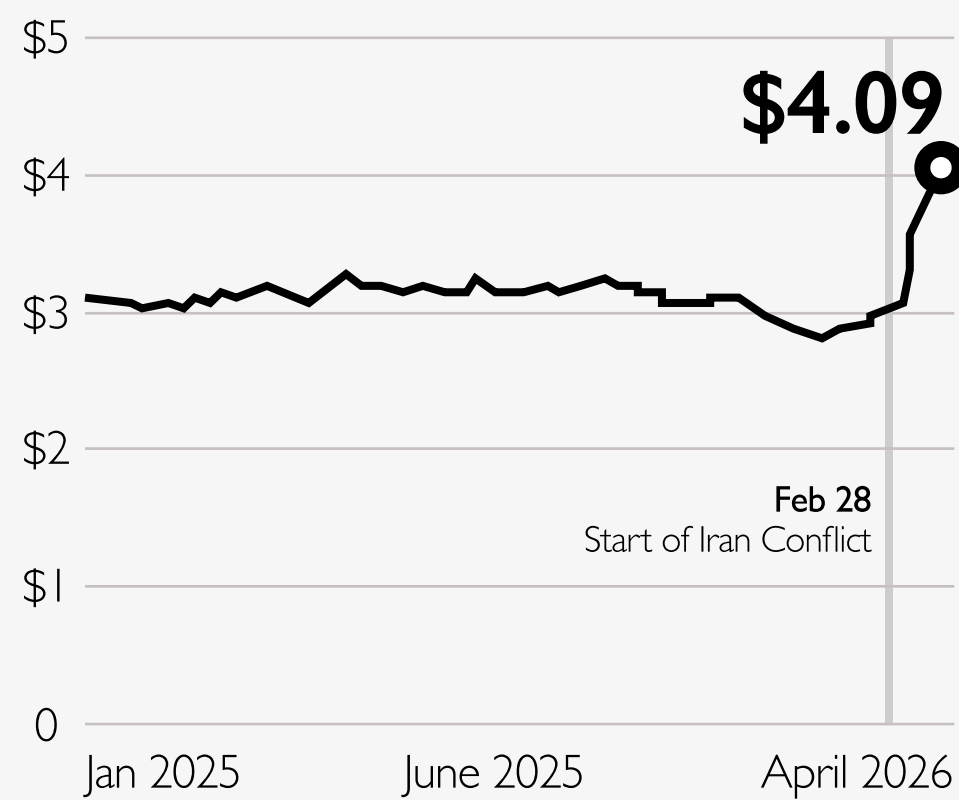
Source: Cook Political Report as of 3/30/26



## Upcoming Primaries

- May 5 IN OH
- May 12 NE WV
- May 16 LA
- May 19 AL ID GA KY OR PA

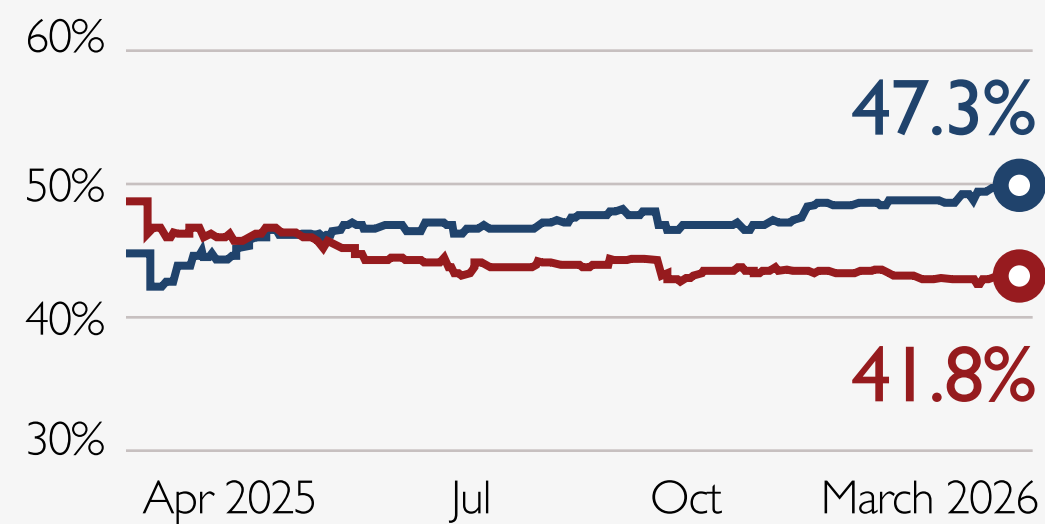
## Average Gas Price per gallon in the U.S.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

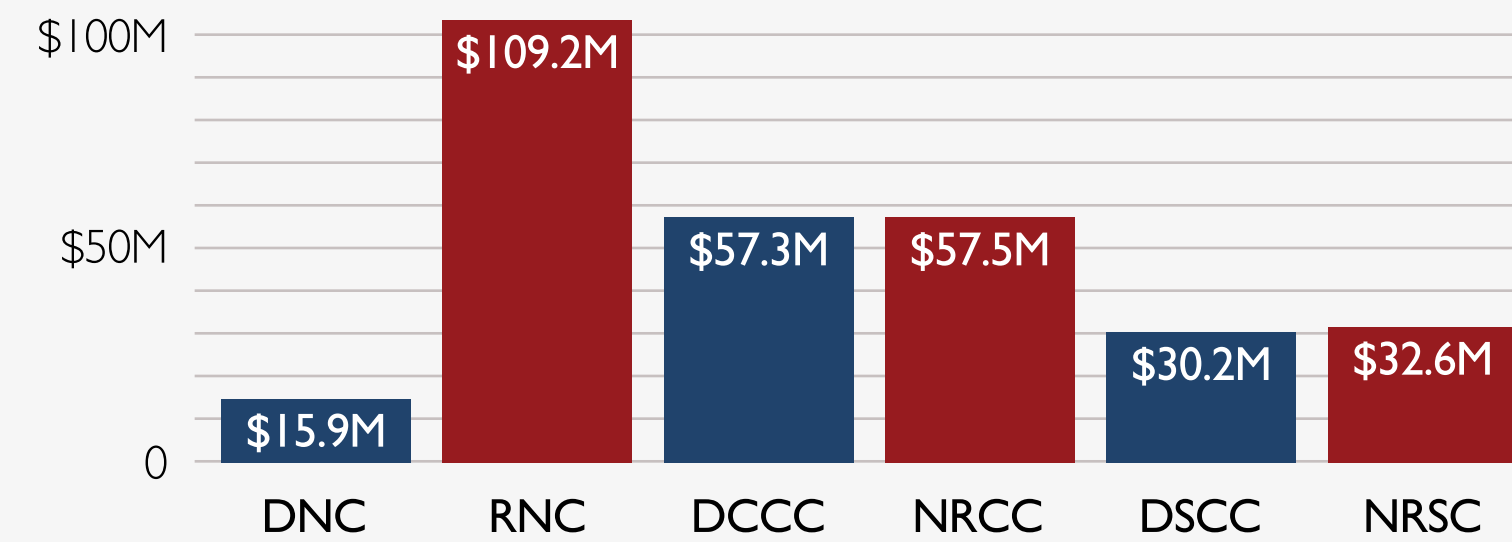
## Generic Ballot

Source: RCP as of 3/27/26



## Party Committees

Source: FEC.gov as of 3/20/26



**Trump Approval Rating**  
**41.0%**

Source: RCP as of 3/27/26

Is the country headed in the right direction or wrong track?

✘ Wrong Track **58.1%** | ✔ Right Direction **35.1%**

Source: RCP as of 3/27/26

# Elections At a Glance

## A Volatile Map Takes Shape as Turnout, Retirements, and Global Events Collide

---

### House

**435** House seats up for grabs

Republicans defend a razor-thin 217–214 majority (with one Independent and three vacancies) in a midterm environment that historically favors the president’s opposition party.

With 61 open seats, the highest level of retirements this century, and redistricting still unfolding, volatility remains high heading into November.

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### Senate

**35** Senate seats up for grabs

Democrats must net four seats to win control, which would require holding four competitive seats and flipping two toss-ups and two lean/likely GOP seats. March primaries in Texas and North Carolina set the stage for two of the cycle’s most consequential races.

Democratic turnout exceeded Republican turnout in both states, an early signal both parties are watching, while new open seats and declining presidential approval could further reshape the map.

---

### Governors

**36** Governor seats up for grabs

Of the 36, there are 15 open seats created by term limits or retirements. While most contests lean toward the incumbent party, competitive races remain toss-ups where candidate quality and turnout will be decisive (i.e., AZ, GA, MI, NV, WI).

California’s crowded top-two primary has also created an unusually fragmented Democratic field and Ohio’s open-seat contest has unexpectedly tightened.

# What's Changing

Since February, early primaries and global dynamics are beginning to shift coalitions, races, and the broader political environment.

## 01

### Senate Battlegrounds

Texas and North Carolina are setting the stage for two of the most important Senate races of the cycle.

## 02

### Open Seat Surge

Congressional retirements have reached the highest level this century, with roughly 1 in 7 seats now open.

## 03

### New Money Influence

AI- and crypto-aligned super PACs are playing a growing role in shaping competitive primaries.

## 04

### Global Ripple Effects

The Iran conflict is beginning to impact Trump's approval, energy prices, and congressional messaging.

# Global Conflict Impact

The Iran conflict is introducing new political risk through energy prices, inflation, and presidential approval.

## The Iran Conflict Begins to Reshape Domestic Political Dynamics

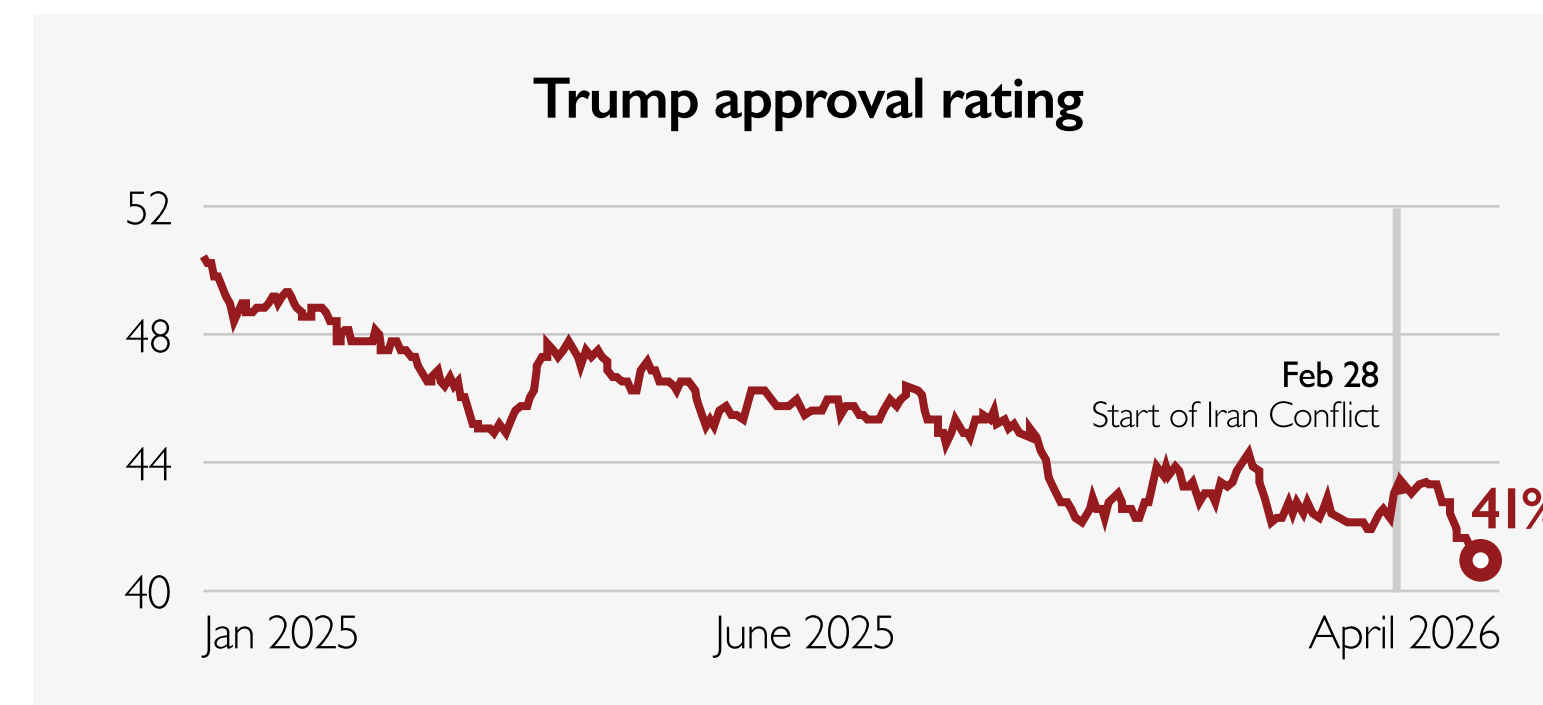
The U.S.–Israeli strikes on Iran have produced mixed public reactions and early signs of political fallout at home.

While foreign policy rarely drives midterm outcomes directly, this conflict is already shaping the domestic environment—pushing up energy prices, reinforcing inflation concerns, and adding pressure to presidential approval.

If sustained, these effects could shift voter sentiment on the economy—the issue that typically decides elections.

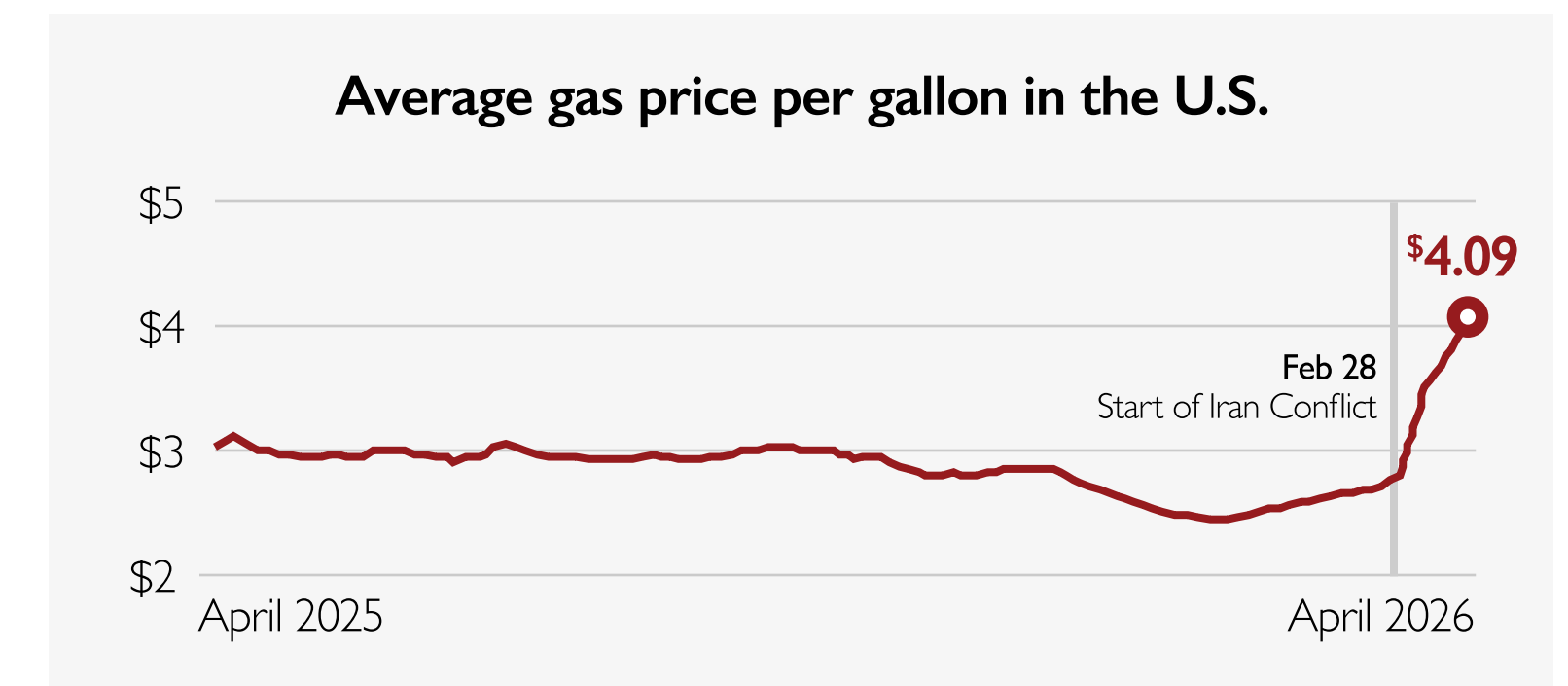
### Trump approval falls into the low-40% range.

Rising energy costs tied to the Iran conflict are weighing on overall economic sentiment—and approval.
































### Gas prices spike over \$1.00 in a month.

The Iran conflict is pushing energy prices higher, with spillover risk for inflation and broader economic confidence.



































# 2026 Primary Calendar

Key primary dates and runoffs shaping the 2026 election timeline

<b>March 3</b>	 Arkansas	Primary	<b>May 12</b>	 Nebraska	Primary	<b>June 2</b>	 California	Top 2 Primary
	 North Carolina	Primary		 West Virginia	Primary		 Iowa	Primary
	 Texas	Primary					 Montana	Primary
<b>March 10</b>	 Mississippi	Primary	<b>May 16</b>	 Louisiana	Primary		 New Jersey	Primary
<b>March 17</b>	 Illinois	Primary	<b>May 19</b>	 Alabama	Primary		 New Mexico	Primary
				 Georgia	Primary		 South Dakota	Primary
				 Idaho	Primary	<b>June 9</b>	 Maine	Primary
<b>April 7</b>	 GA-14	Runoff		 Kentucky	Primary		 Nevada	Primary
				 Oregon	Primary		 North Dakota	Primary
<b>April 16</b>	 NJ-11	Special General		 Pennsylvania	Primary		 South Carolina	Primary
<b>May 5</b>	 Indiana	Primary	<b>May 26</b>	 Texas	Runoff			
	 Ohio	Primary						

# 2026 Primary Calendar

Key primary dates and runoffs shaping the 2026 election timeline

<b>June 16</b>	 Alabama	Runoff
	 Georgia	Runoff
	 Oklahoma	Primary
<b>June 23</b>	 Maryland	Primary
	 New York	Primary
	 South Carolina	Runoff
	 Utah	Primary
<b>June 27</b>	 Louisiana	Runoff
<b>June 30</b>	 Colorado	Primary
<b>July 21</b>	 Arizona	Primary
<b>July 28</b>	 South Dakota	Runoff
<b>August 4</b>	 Kansas	Primary
	 Michigan	Primary
	 Missouri	Primary
	 Virginia	Primary
	 Washington	Top 2 Primary
<b>August 6</b>	 Tennessee	Primary
<b>August 8</b>	 Hawaii	Primary
<b>August 11</b>	 Connecticut	Primary
	 Minnesota	Primary
	 Vermont	Primary
	 Wisconsin	Primary
<b>August 18</b>	 Alaska	Top 4 Primary
	 Florida	Primary
	 Wyoming	Primary
<b>August 25</b>	 Oklahoma	Runoff
<b>September 1</b>	 Massachusetts	Primary
<b>September 8</b>	 New Hampshire	Primary
	 Rhode Island	Primary
<b>September 15</b>	 Delaware	Primary
<b>November 3</b>	 National	General Election
<b>December 1</b>	 Georgia	General Runoff

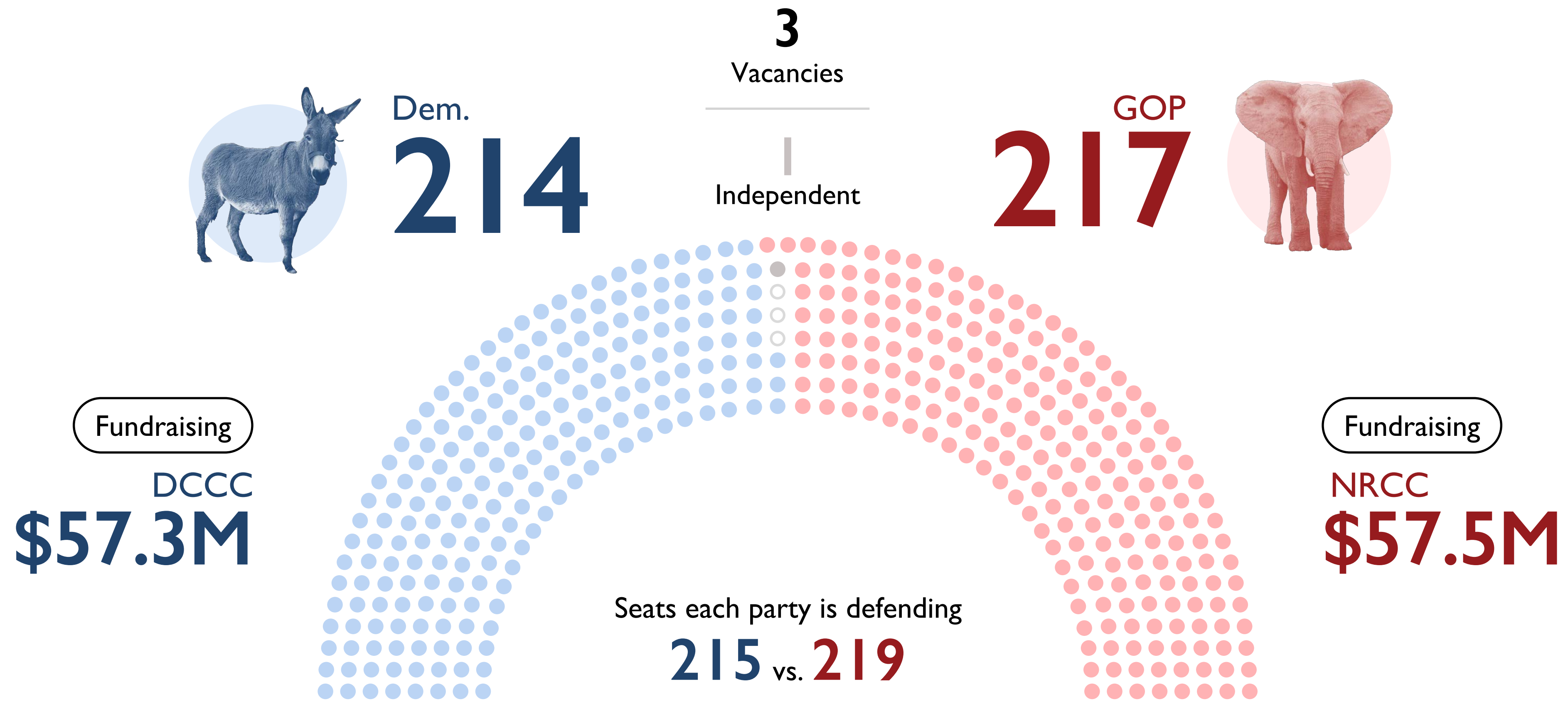


217

days until the 2026 election

# House

# With every seat on the ballot, a narrow margin puts House control in play.



# Overview

## Instability Inside the Majority: Scandals, Switches, and Shrinking Margins

### Early Dynamics

The first primaries reinforced two early dynamics of the cycle:

- R** Republican primaries remain strongly influenced by President Trump's endorsements.
- D** Democratic primaries increasingly reflect generational and ideological debates.

### Texas Overview

Texas provided the clearest example when Rep. Dan Crenshaw lost his primary to state Rep. Steve Toth, a conservative challenger aligned with Trump-era populist messaging.

Several races remain unresolved and will extend into runoffs:

- **TX-18 (D):** Al Green vs. Christian Menefee
- **TX-33 (D):** Colin Allred vs. Julie Johnson

### Majority Math Gets Tighter

Two recent developments could affect the House's already narrow margin:

- **TX-23:** Rep. Tony Gonzales withdrew from his runoff after acknowledging a past relationship with a staff member and remains under a House Ethics investigation.
- **Party Switch:** Rep. Kevin Kiley (CA-03) announced plans to change his party affiliation from Republican to Independent but still caucus with Republicans.

Members who lose primaries but remain in office until January may also become less reliable participants in close votes, complicating leadership's ability to manage a razor-thin majority.



# Illinois Primary Recap

Outside money flooded Illinois, but local endorsements influenced the outcome.

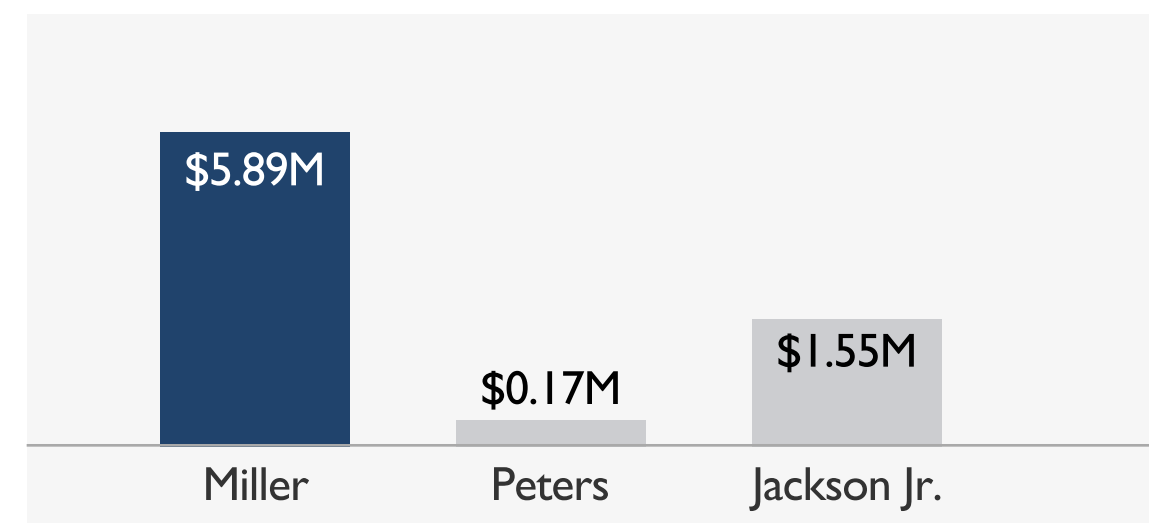
## Big Spending, Mixed Results

Illinois' open House races became a testing ground for AIPAC, crypto, and AI super PACs.

✓ Local Endorsement

### IL-02

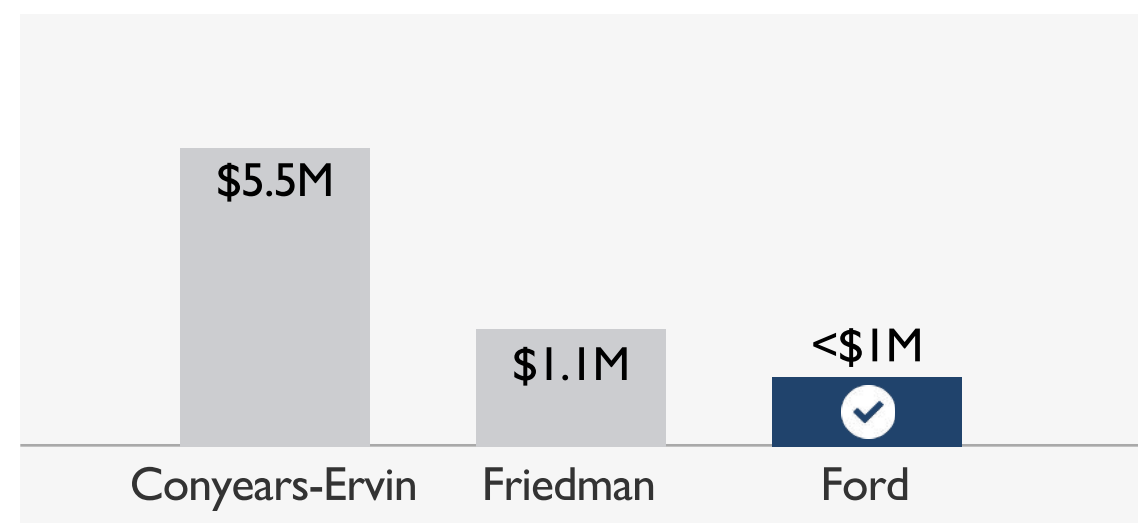
Donna Miller won decisively.



AIPAC-aligned spending helped Miller consolidate a fractured progressive field.

### IL-07

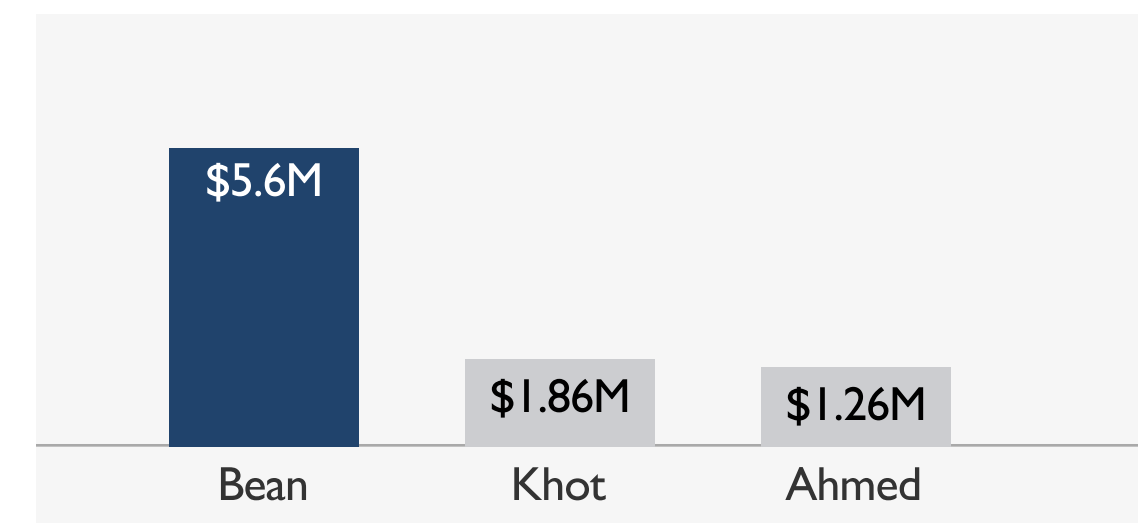
La Shawn Ford won despite outside attacks.



Crypto-backed attacks fell short as Ford's local support proved decisive.

### IL-08

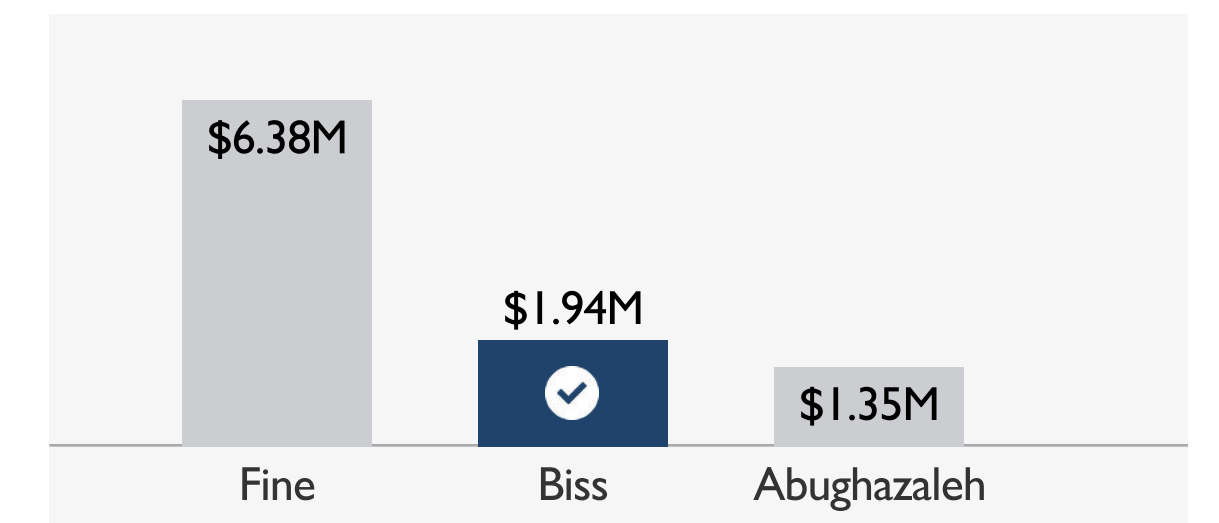
Melissa Bean completed a comeback.



Bean combined outside support across sectors with strong name ID to win.

### IL-09

Daniel Biss won as outside spending backfired.



Heavy outside spending backfired, boosting Biss's locally rooted campaign.

Illinois made it clear: money helps—but candidates still win on quality, message, and local credibility.

# Indiana Spotlight

Primary contests are quiet, but key districts could still matter in November.

Indiana's House races lack the volume of competitive primaries seen elsewhere, but a small number of districts could still shape the state's role in the broader House battlefield.

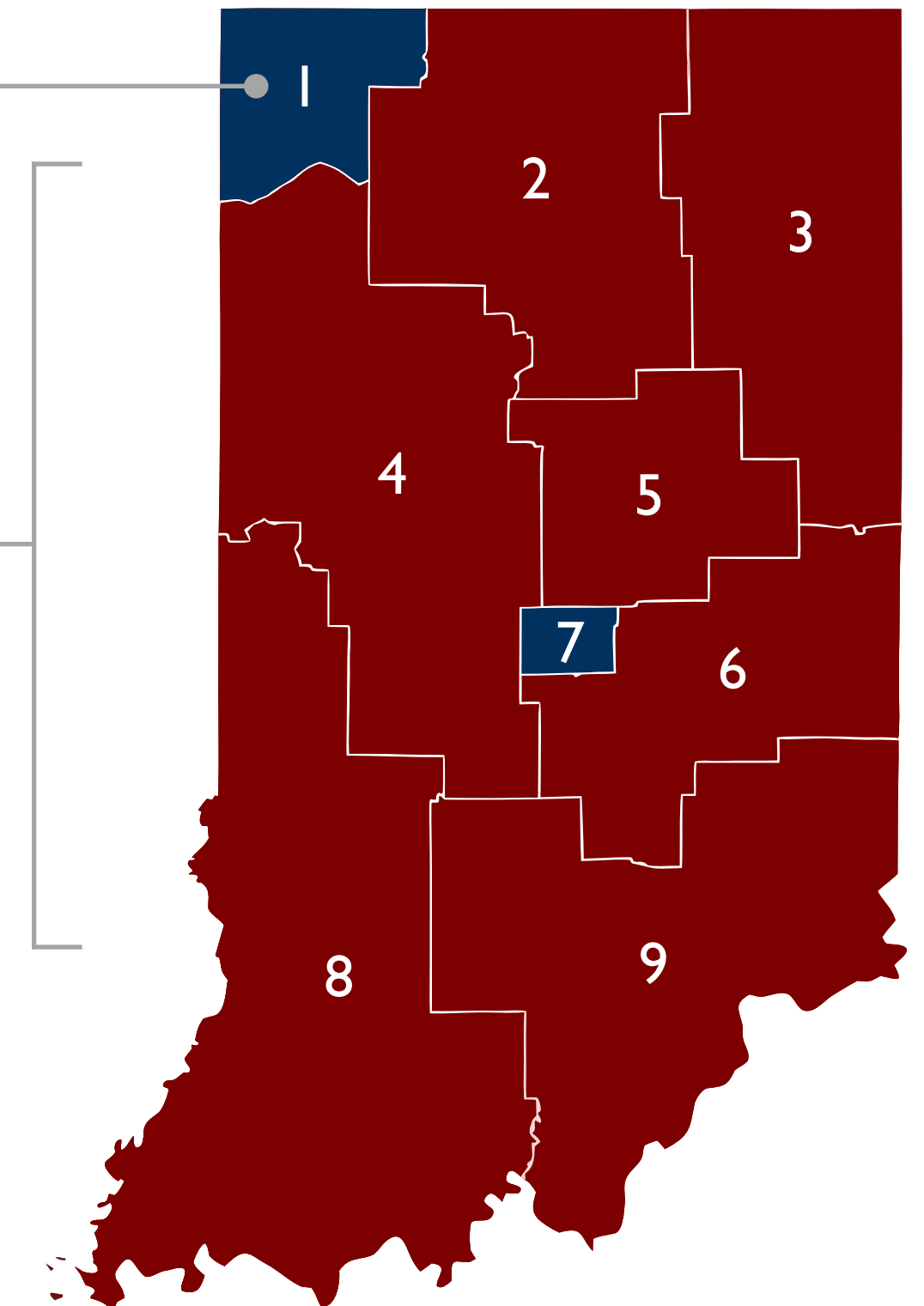
- **IN-01:** Rep. Frank Mrvan faces a primary challenger and a potentially competitive general election in the state's most competitive district.
- **IN-07:** Rep. André Carson faces a notable primary challenge, though the district remains safely Democratic.

Indiana is not a top-tier battleground, but a small number of races could still matter in a close House majority fight.

The 1st District remains the state's only true battleground heading into November.

Most districts remain solidly aligned with partisan fundamentals, limiting broader competitiveness.

Primary challenges reflect localized issues, from cost of living pressures in IN-01 to intra-party tensions in IN-07, rather than broader national dynamics.



# Competitive House Races

## Lean D (15)

- D CA-13 - Gray
- D CA-45 - Tran
- R CA-48 - OPEN (Issa)
- D FL-23 - Moskowitz
- D MI-08 - McDonald Rivet
- R NE-02 - OPEN (Bacon)
- D NJ-09 - Pou
- D NM-02 - Vasquez
- D NV-03 - Lee
- D NY-03 - Suozzi
- D NY-04 - Gillen
- D NY-19 - Riley
- D OH-13 - Sykes
- D TX-28 - Cuellar
- D VA-07 - Vindman

## Toss-Up (17)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> AZ-01 - OPEN (Schweikert) | <span style="color: red;">R</span> NY-17 - Lawler    |
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> AZ-06 - Ciscomani         | <span style="color: blue;">D</span> OH-01 - Landsman |
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> CA-22 - Valadao           | <span style="color: blue;">D</span> OH-09 - Kaptur   |
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> CO-08 - Evans             | <span style="color: red;">R</span> PA-07 - Mackenzie |
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> IA-01 - Miller-Meeks      | <span style="color: red;">R</span> PA-10 - Perry     |
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> IA-03 - Nunn              | <span style="color: blue;">D</span> TX-34 - Gonzalez |
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> MI-07 - Barrett           | <span style="color: red;">R</span> VA-02 - Kiggans   |
| <span style="color: red;">R</span> NJ-07 - Kean Jr.          | <span style="color: blue;">D</span> WA-03 - Perez    |
|  | <span style="color: red;">R</span> WI-03 - Van Orden |

## Lean R (4)

- R MI-10 - OPEN (James)
- D NC-01 - Davis
- R PA-08 - Bresnahan
- R VA-01 - Wittman

# Redistricting and the Courts

Mid-decade redistricting remains a key House variable, but the biggest shift may come from the Supreme Court.

## The Map Is Moving—But Not Dramatically

Redistricting changes are likely to net out nationally, though individual states could still see localized shifts that matter at the margin. New maps have increased crossover districts, seats that voted for Trump in 2024 but are represented by a Democrat, or vice versa, to 24 (up from 16), expanding the battleground. Additional redistricting data in our appendix.

### The Real Variable: SCOTUS

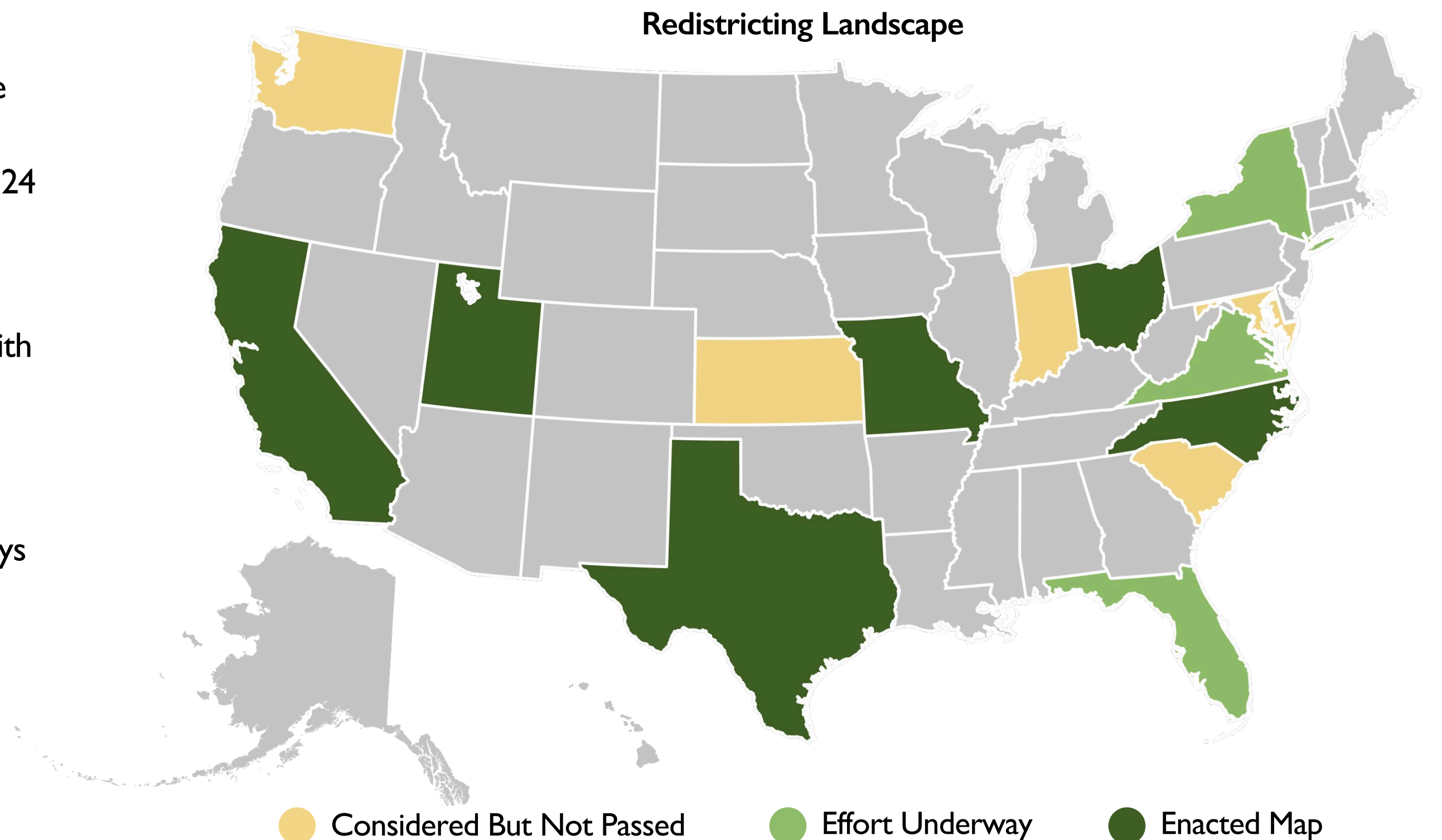
The Court is weighing cases on both the Voting Rights Act and mail-in ballot deadlines, with the potential to alter voting rules across more than a dozen states ahead of November.

### Where Things Break Open: The VRA Case

If the Court finds Louisiana's 2024 redistricting plan unconstitutional, it could force a broader reshaping of the House map. States may redraw majority-minority districts in ways that favor Republicans, potentially putting up to a dozen seats in play.

### Timing Is the Wildcard

Because the Court has not yet ruled, most 2026 maps are likely to remain unchanged for now. But a late decision could still trigger targeted redraws—or shift outcomes through post-election litigation.



# Virginia Map Shakeup

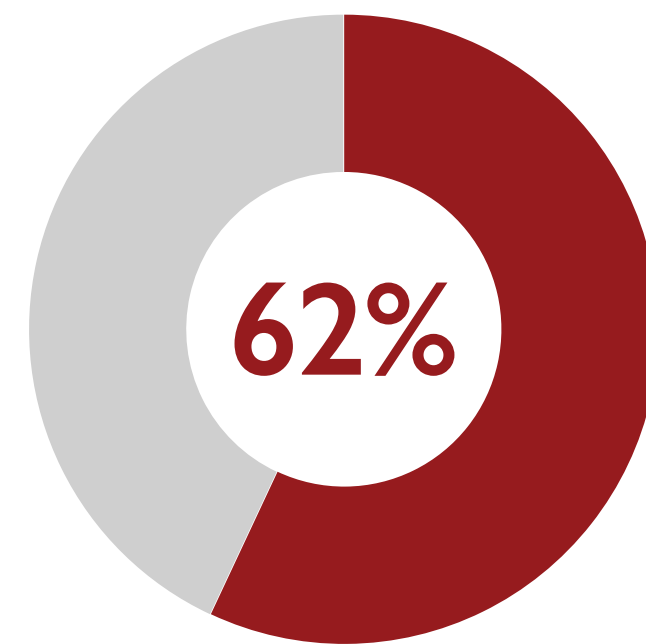
A single state's referendum election could create one of the few meaningful map shifts of the cycle.

If approved and upheld, the redrawn maps could substantially improve Democrats' position in the commonwealth's House delegation.

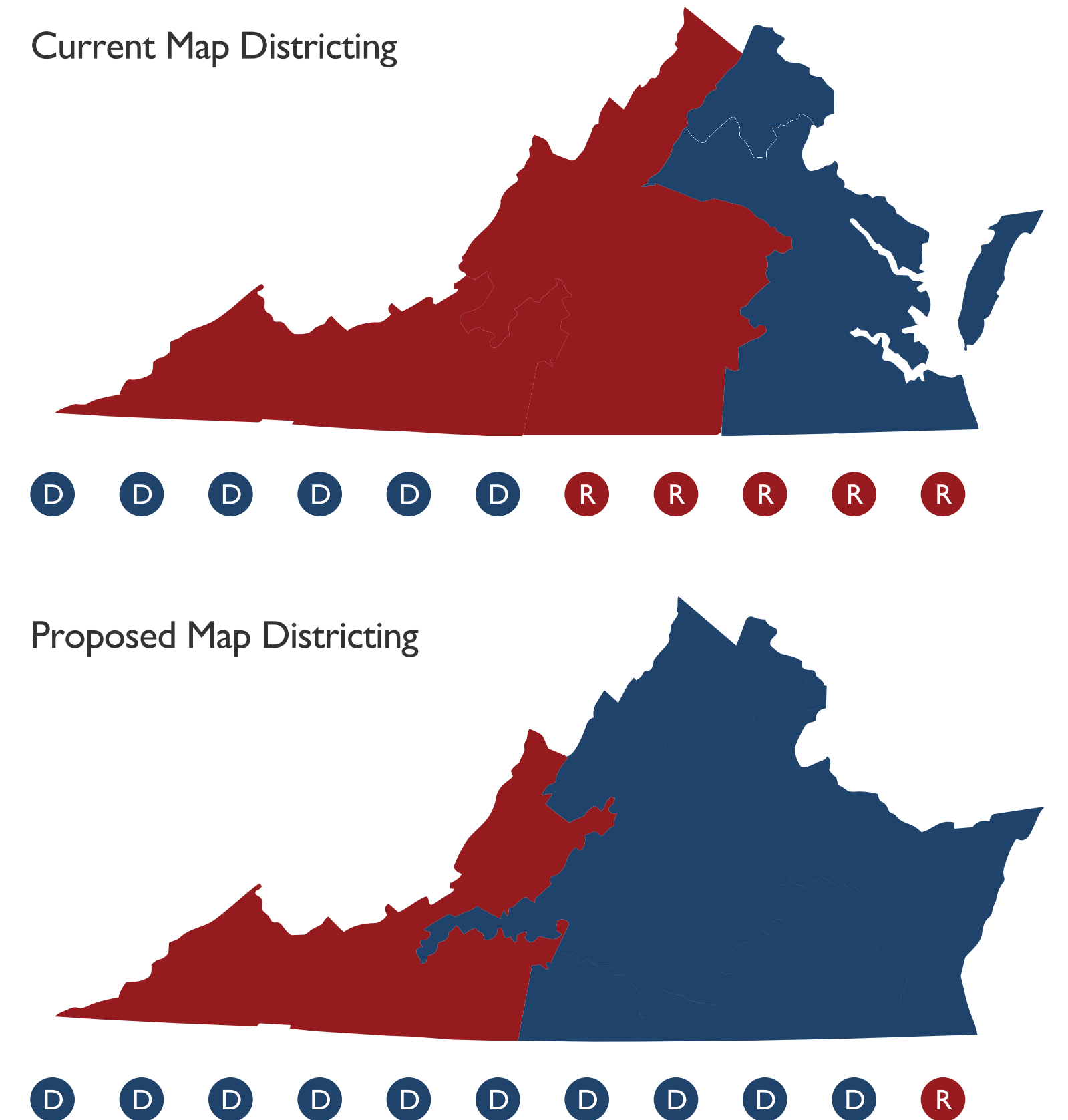
Virginia voters will decide on April 21 whether to keep current maps (6D-5R split) or trigger a full redraw via constitutional amendment, resulting in a new 10D-1R map.

Supporters argue the measure responds to aggressive redistricting elsewhere, while opponents warn it would override the state's bipartisan process.

This is one of the few opportunities for Democrats to gain seats through redistricting, though the outcome hinges on both voter approval and potential legal challenges.



62% of Virginians support the current maps



# Special Elections

## Special Elections Offer Early Clues on Party Coalitions

### Georgia’s 14th District

Georgia’s 14th District special election drew nearly 20 candidates to replace Marjorie Taylor Greene, with no one reaching a majority. The race now heads to an April 7 runoff between Trump-endorsed Republican Clayton Fuller and Democrat Shawn Harris.

The district is safely Republican, but the contest highlights intra-party dynamics within the GOP and the continued influence of Trump’s endorsement in crowded fields. The vacancy also temporarily narrows Speaker Johnson’s working majority until the seat is filled.

**By the numbers:**



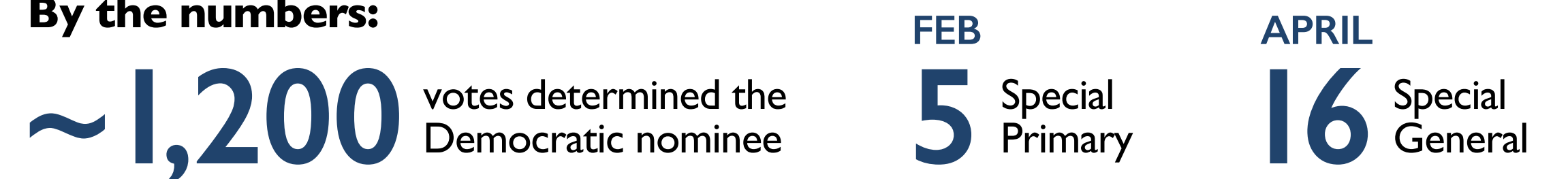
Safe seats still matter—they expose GOP fault lines and test Trump’s influence in crowded fields.

### New Jersey’s 11th District

The special election to replace Gov. Mikie Sherrill produced one of the closest races of the cycle. Progressive Analilia Mejia narrowly defeated former Rep. Tom Malinowski by fewer than 1,200 votes, underscoring the divide between the party’s progressive and establishment wings.

Mejia now faces Republican Joe Hathaway in an April 16 special general election in a safely Democratic-leaning district. The result also reflects the growing role of outside spending and ideological messaging in shaping primaries—even in deep-blue seats.

**By the numbers:**



Even in safe blue seats, Democratic primaries are competitive, ideological, and increasingly shaped by outside money.

# Don't Call It A Comeback

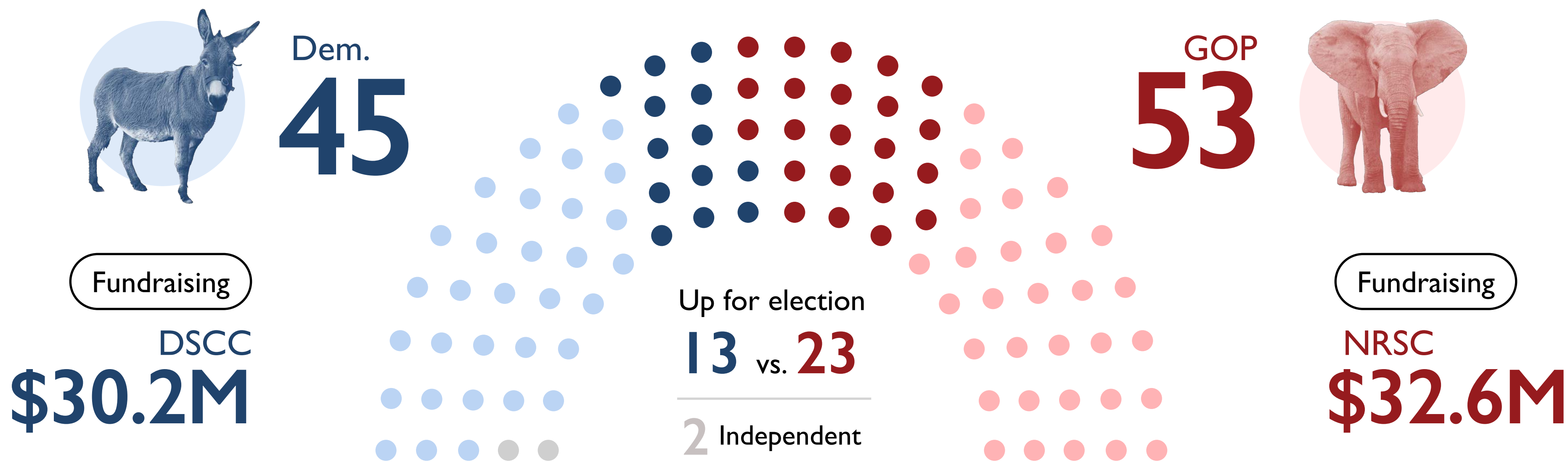
## Former House Members eye return to Washington

Former Member	Party	Running In	Last Served	Current Status
Jerry Carl	<span>R</span> Republican	Alabama - 01	2021 – 2025	Running
Hilda Solis	<span>D</span> Democrat	California - 38	2001 – 2009	Running
Madison Cawthorn	<span>R</span> Republican	Florida - 19	2021 – 2023	Running
Chris Collins	<span>R</span> Republican	Florida - 19	2013 – 2019	Running
Jesse Jackson Jr.	<span>D</span> Democrat	Illinois - 02	1995 – 2012	Lost Primary
Melissa Bean	<span>D</span> Democrat	Illinois - 08	2005 – 2011	Won Primary
David Trone	<span>D</span> Democrat	Maryland - 06	2019 – 2025	Running
Cori Bush	<span>D</span> Democrat	Missouri - 01	2021 – 2025	Running
Tom Malinowski	<span>D</span> Democrat	New Jersey - 11	2019 – 2023	Lost Special

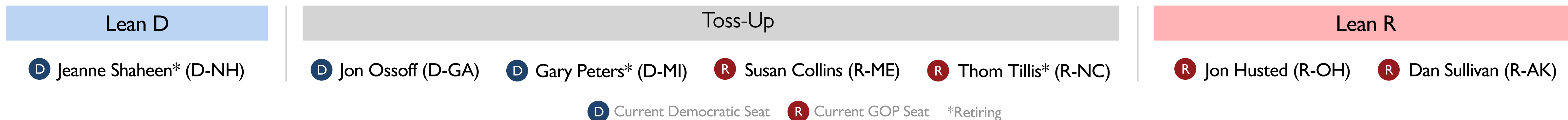
Former Member	Party	Running In	Last Served	Current Status
Van Hilleary	<span>R</span> Republican	Tennessee - 06	1995 – 2003	Running
Colin Allred	<span>D</span> Democrat	Texas - 33	2019 – 2025	Running
Ben McAdams	<span>D</span> Democrat	Utah - 04	2019 – 2021	Running
Elaine Luria	<span>D</span> Democrat	Virginia - 02	2019 – 2023	Running
Tom Perriello	<span>D</span> Democrat	Virginia - 05	2009 – 2011	Running
Steve Stockman	<span>R</span> Republican	Texas - 09	1995 – 1997; 2013 – 2015	Lost Primary
Francisco Canseco	<span>R</span> Republican	Texas - 23	2011 – 2013	Lost Primary
Mayra Flores	<span>R</span> Republican	Texas - 34	2022 – 2023	Lost Primary
Mark Sanford	<span>R</span> Republican	South Carolina-01	1995 – 2001; 2013 – 2019	Running

# Senate

# The GOP's current majority is a significant buffer, but the declining presidential approval and the geopolitical fallout from the Iran conflict could shift the 2026 battle lines.



## Competitive Races



# Overview

## March Primaries: Early Signals for the 2026 Midterms

### Senate Control Still Runs Through a Narrow Map

The Senate remains one of the most competitive battlegrounds of the 2026 cycle. Republicans currently hold a 53-47 majority, meaning Democrats must gain four seats to win control. While the structural map remains challenging for Democrats, declining presidential approval and the political fallout from the Iran conflict could reshape the competitive landscape heading into the fall.

### Key Takeaways

Democrats outpaced Republicans in turnout in both Texas and North Carolina—an unusual pattern to watch as the midterms take shape.

Texas produced the most expensive Senate primary in U.S. history, with more than \$100 million in outside spending ahead of the Cornyn–Paxton runoff.

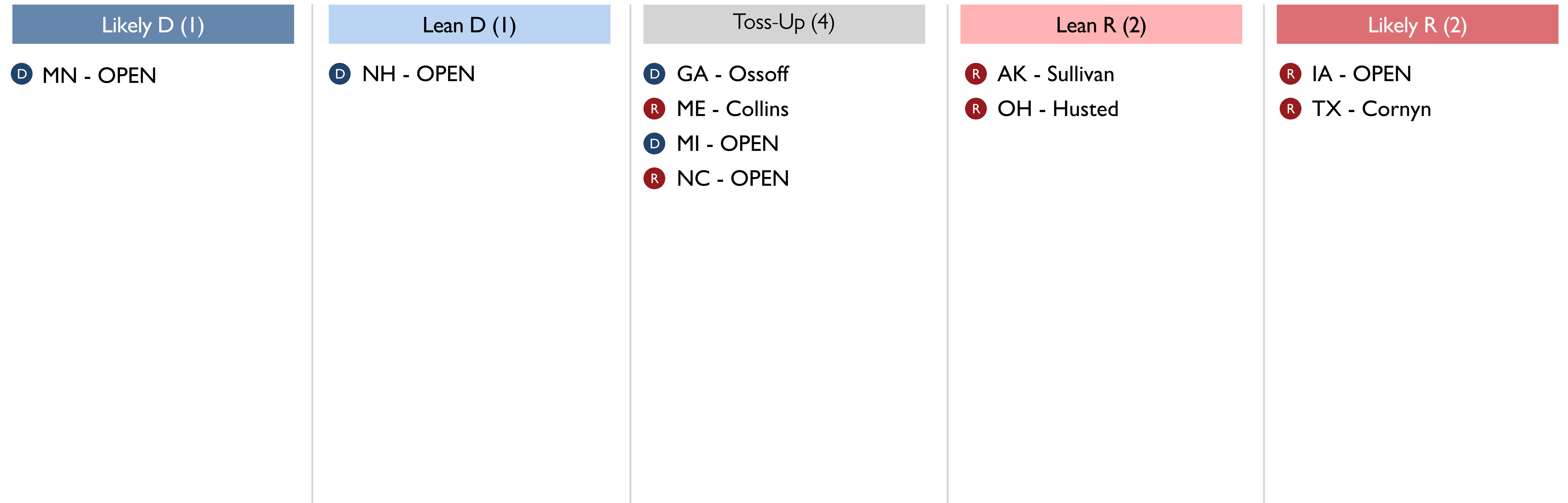
President Trump has not endorsed in the Texas runoff, leaving one of the most consequential Republican intraparty contests unresolved ahead of the May 26 runoff.

North Carolina’s general election matchup is now set, with former Gov. Roy Cooper facing former RNC Chair Michael Whatley in what both parties view as a potential tipping-point race for Senate control.

Early results in Texas also suggested strong Democratic performance in several heavily Hispanic counties.

# 2026 Senate Races

Democrats' path to net four seats requires flipping at least two seats that favor the GOP.



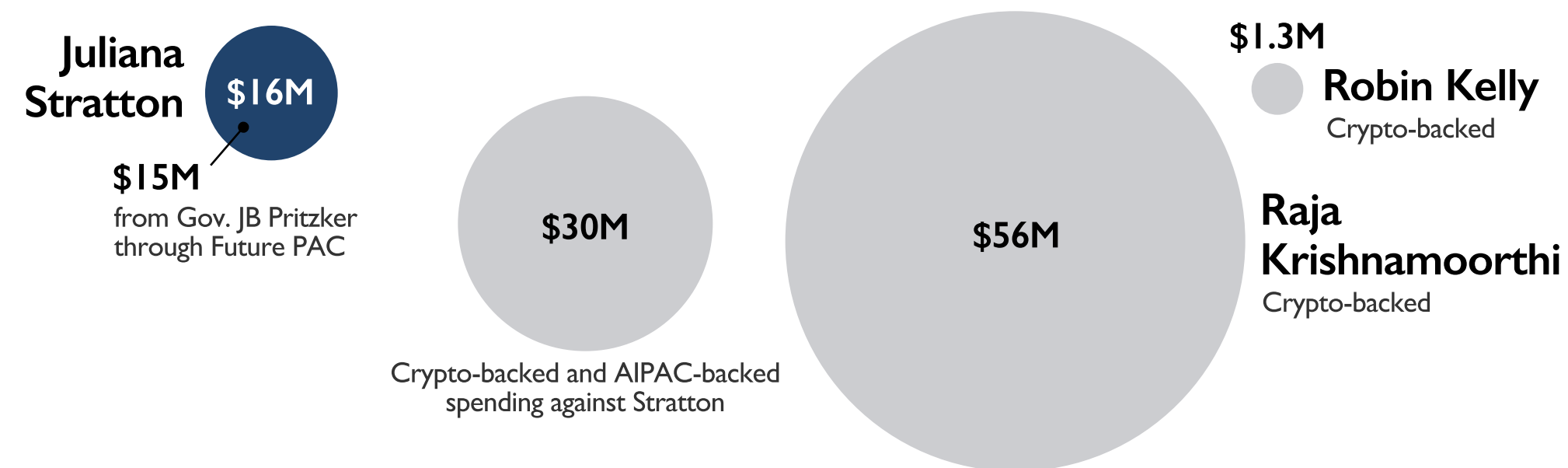
# Primary Recap: IL

Early primaries are revealing the forces that will define the 2026 Senate map: turnout, money, and party control.

Illinois ● Solid D

**A decisive establishment win reshapes the Democratic power dynamic and signals limits of outside influence, like crypto and AI Super PACs.**

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton won the Democratic primary to succeed Sen. Dick Durbin, defeating Reps. Raja Krishnamoorthi and Robin Kelly in a high-stakes, nationally watched contest.



**The race was less about ideology than who controls the Democratic Party's future: governors or Washington-aligned coalitions.**

## Key Takeaways

Gov. JB Pritzker gave Stratton significant support, deploying \$15M+ to validate his aggressive anti-Trump political strategy.

Tensions with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) surfaced, as CBC-backed Robin Kelly fell short, highlighting friction between national Black political leadership and state-level party power.

Outside spending (crypto and AI super PACs) failed to stop Stratton, despite millions in attack ads.

Stratton's win keeps Illinois safely Democratic and contributes to a potential historic number of Black women in the Senate in 2027.

# Primary Recaps: TX, NC

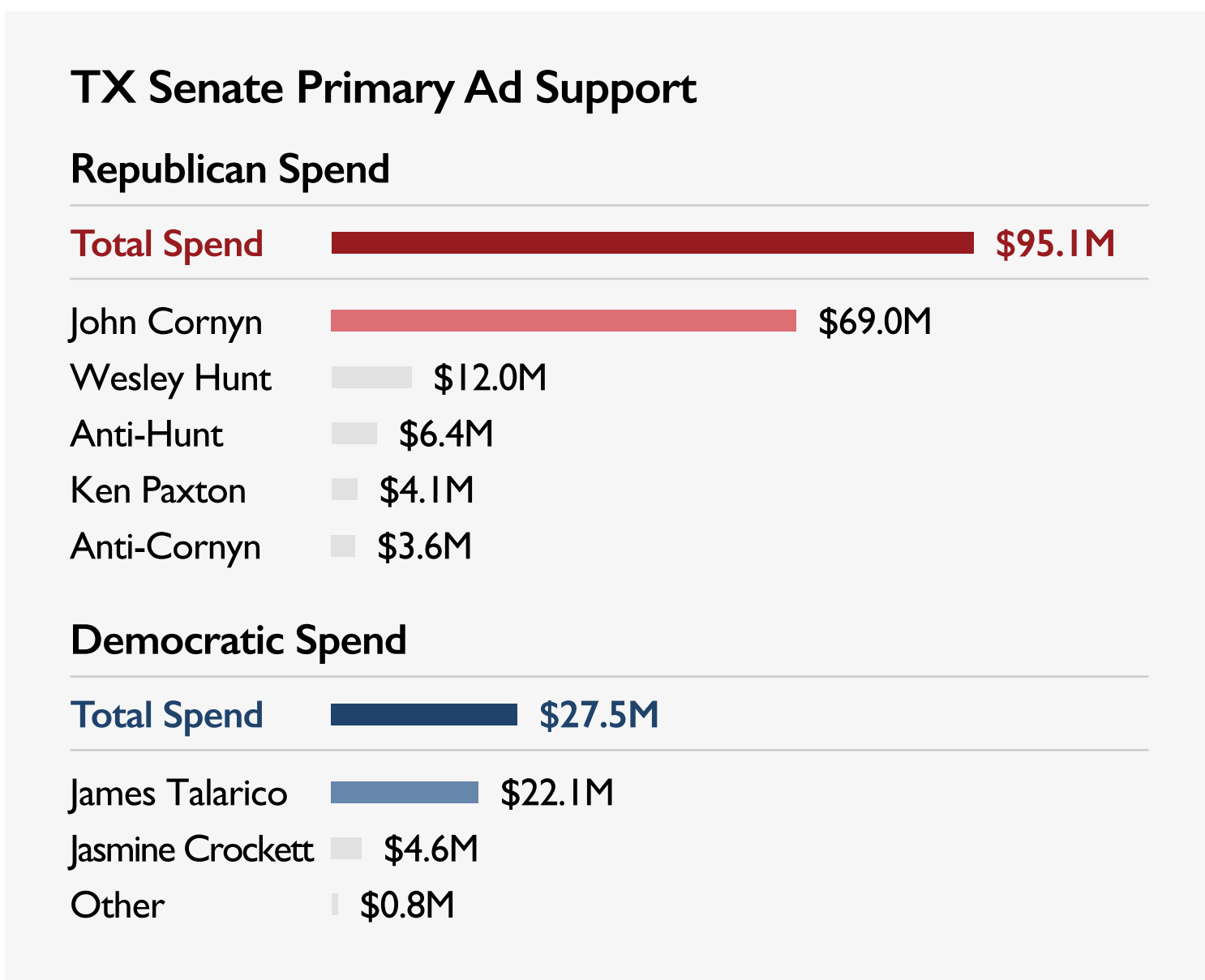
**Democratic turnout surges while Texas Republicans head to a costly runoff and North Carolina locks in a must-win general election.**

Texas  Likely R

**A \$100M+ showdown is heading to a runoff with President Trump still on the sidelines.**

The Texas Senate primary heads to a May 26 runoff after Sen. John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton both fell short of 50 percent, with Trump still on the sidelines. The March 18 withdrawal deadline has passed, locking both candidates into one of the cycle’s most consequential GOP intraparty fights.

Democrats coalesced around James Talarico after an outright primary win, giving them a resource advantage. Early signs suggest the race could tighten depending on the GOP nominee, though Texas remains structurally Likely Republican.



North Carolina  Toss-Up

**The potential high-stakes, high-dollar NC Senate race could tip control in 2026.**

Former Gov. Roy Cooper and former RNC Chair Michael Whatley secured their nominations, setting up one of the most consequential Senate races of the cycle. With Democrats playing defense in other states, NC is widely viewed as their most plausible pickup opportunity and could ultimately determine Senate control.

Cooper enters with strong statewide name recognition and a history of winning even when President Trump carried the state, while Whatley must translate his national party profile into broader voter familiarity.

# Primary Recaps: AR, MS

## Status Quo Holds in Deep Red States

### Arkansas ● Solid R

#### **A low-drama primary underscores Republican dominance.**

- Sen. Tom Cotton defeated Jeb Little and Micah Ashby without difficulty in Republican contest.
- Democrats nominated Hallie Shoffner, a political newcomer and farmer.
- No significant outside spending or intraparty divisions emerged.

Arkansas is still deep-red at the federal level, Cotton's noncompetitive primary underscores his entrenched position, and Democrats are left without a credible path to compete statewide.

**Arkansas remains Solid Republican, with little indication of movement heading into November.**

### Mississippi ● Solid R

#### **A routine primary sets up a predictable three-way general election.**

- Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith easily defeated primary challenger Sarah Adlakha.
- Scott Colom emerged as the Democratic nominee from a low-profile primary.
- Independent candidate Ty Pinkins will appear on the general election ballot.

Mississippi remains solidly Republican in federal races, there was little primary infighting from either party, and the independent adds a wrinkle—but not a real path to compete.

**Mississippi remains Solid Republican, with the general election unlikely to shift the balance.**

# Primary Spotlights: OK, MT

## Open Seats, New Variables, but the Map Still Favors Republicans

### Oklahoma ● Solid R

**An open seat is quickly consolidating around a frontrunner, while an interim appointment resets the timeline.**

OK's Senate race was upended by Sen. Markwayne Mullin's move to DHS, triggering both an immediate appointment and a fast-moving race for the permanent seat.

- Gov. Kevin Stitt appointed energy executive Alan Armstrong, who was sworn in on March 24.
- Under state law, the appointee cannot run in the November election.
- Rep. Kevin Hern has emerged as the clear frontrunner, securing endorsements from President Trump and Senate GOP leadership.
- The election winner will take office early to complete the remainder of the term.

**Oklahoma remains Solid Republican, with the race shifting from uncertainty to a largely settled GOP contest centered on Hern.**

### Montana ● Solid R

**A late-breaking retirement reshapes the race but not the outlook.**

- Kurt Alme entered with backing from President Trump, Sen. Tim Sheehy, and Gov. Greg Gianforte, limiting GOP competition.
- Independent candidate Seth Bodnar adds a wildcard with a unique profile.
- Multiple Democrats have filed, raising the risk of a split anti-GOP vote.

Republicans united behind a handpicked successor in a last-minute move that drew backlash but cleared the primary lane; the bigger uncertainty is whether the independent candidate can consolidate anti-Republican vote or whether he and a weak Democratic field split it, leaving MT still leaning GOP.

**Montana remains Solid Republican, though the open-seat dynamic makes it one to watch.**

# Governors

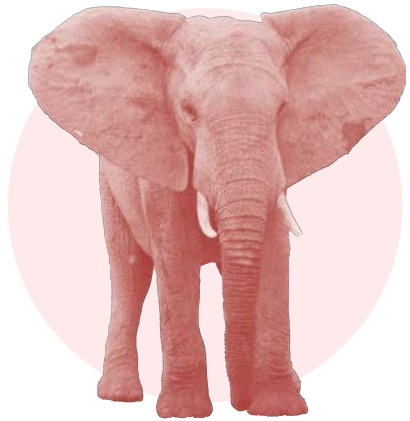
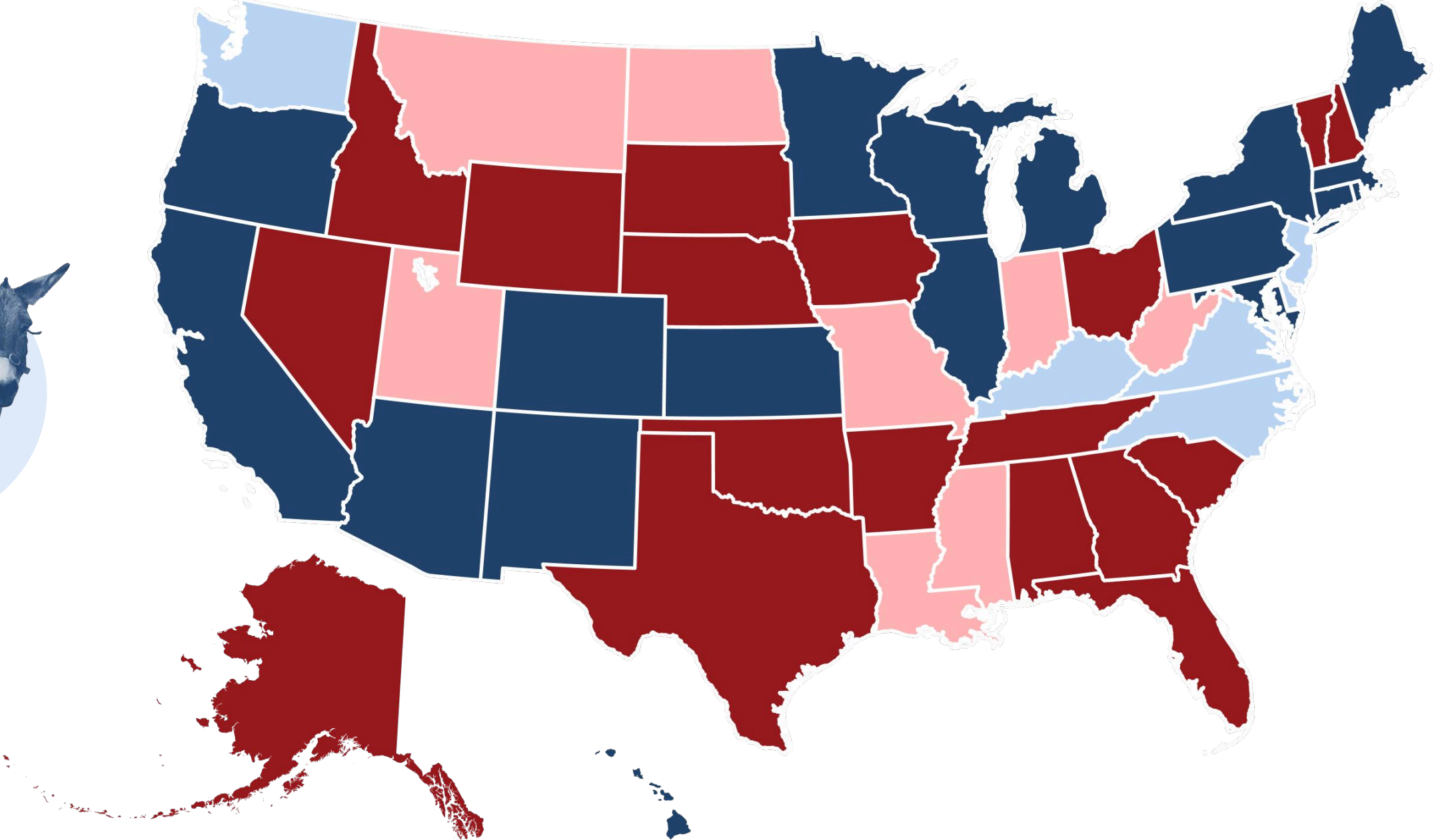
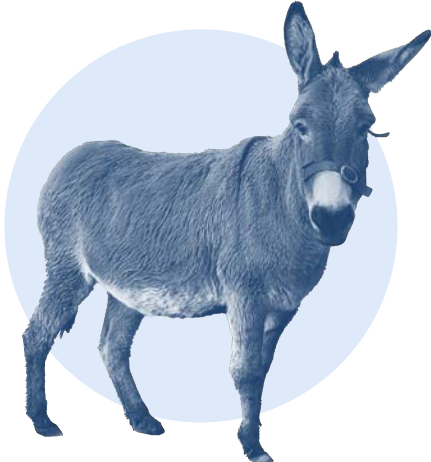
Voters in 36 states will elect governors, with 15 races featuring open seats due to term limits or retirements. Despite high turnover this cycle, the map's partisan balance is unlikely to shift significantly as state issues generally matter more than national political trends in races for governor.

Democratic governors

24

18

Up for election



Republican governors

26

18

Up for election

# Overview

## Shifting Winds, Same Map: Democrats Gain Momentum in GOP Territory

While gubernatorial contests have traditionally been driven by local dynamics, the 2026 cycle is increasingly reflecting national forces, including presidential approval, inflation, and voter concerns about affordability.

- 36 governorships are up, including 15 open seats, increasing volatility across the map.
- Recent rating changes have shifted several competitive races toward Democrats, particularly in battleground states.
- Republicans retain a structural advantage, with more favorable geography and strength in red states.
- Campaign messaging is converging on cost of living, housing affordability, and energy prices.

### Key Takeaways

Democrats are benefiting from early national tailwinds, particularly in open-seat contests.

Republicans remain positioned to hold more governorships overall, despite increased competition.

The most competitive races (AZ, GA, MI, NV, WI) will likely determine the partisan breakdown of governorships.

**The map is tightening, but Republicans still have the edge, making candidate quality and turnout the deciding factors.**

# 2026 Governors Races

## Likely D (2)

- D** ME - OPEN
- D** NM - OPEN

## Lean D (0)

## Toss-Up (5)

- D** AZ - Hobbs
- R** GA - OPEN
- D** MI - OPEN
- R** NV - Lombardo
- D** WI - OPEN

## Lean R (3)

- R** IA - OPEN
- D** KS - OPEN
- R** OH - OPEN

## Likely R (1)

- R** NH - Ayotte

# Primary Spotlight: CA

## California's Crowded Primary Raises the Prospect of a Republican Breakthrough

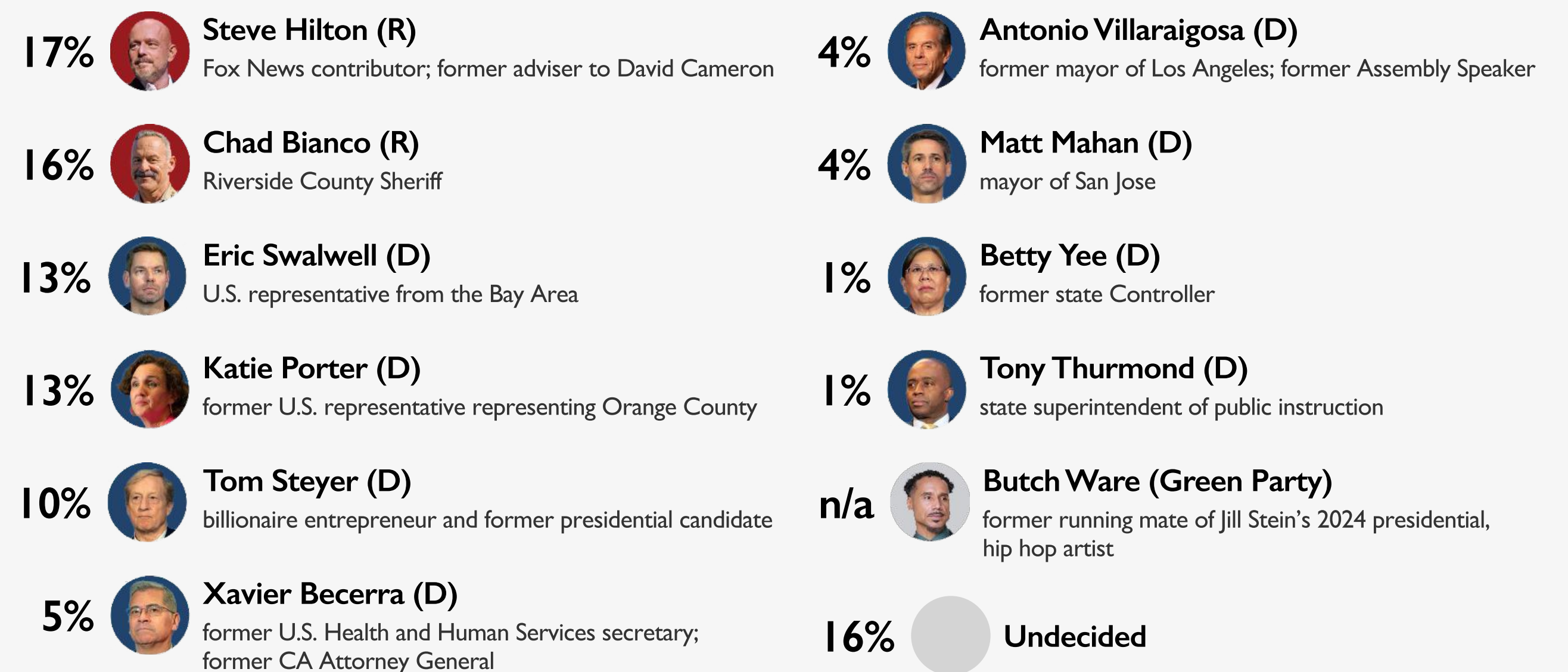
A crowded Democratic field is creating a rare structural opening in a deep-blue state.

California's June 2 primary is one of the cycle's most unpredictable, with a fragmented Democratic field colliding with the state's top-two system.

- Vote-splitting is the core risk—eight major Democrats raise the possibility of two Republicans advancing.
- Republicans are consolidating around Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco, both competitive in early polling.
- A recent canceled forum limited to the top six candidates excluded several prominent Democrats, underscoring the field's fragmentation.
- Spending has topped \$100M, driven largely by Tom Steyer's self-funding.
- Housing affordability and cost of living dominate messaging.

**Democrats remain favored, but structural risk, not ideology, is the story.**

### Who's Running for Governor of California?



# Spotlights: VT and OH

## Two Very Different Races, One Common Thread: Uncertainty Is Driving the Map

### Vermont ● Solid R

**A single decision could determine whether Vermont remains an outlier or flips fully blue.**

- Gov. Phil Scott's decision to run or retire is the central variable shaping the race.
- Scott has consistently won statewide despite Vermont's strong Democrat lean.
- A retirement would likely create a clear opening for Democrats in an open-seat contest.

The GOP's hold on the Vermont governorship is tied exclusively to Phil Scott's incumbency. His departure would likely trigger an immediate flip, granting Democrats unified control of the state.

**Vermont remains Solid Republican if Scott runs but would shift to Likely Democrat if open.**

### Ohio ● Lean R

**A Republican-leaning state is suddenly in play as candidate dynamics tighten the race.**

- Vivek Ramaswamy maintains a significant financial advantage, including major personal and outside spending.
- Polling shows a tight race, with some surveys giving Amy Acton a narrow edge.
- Ramaswamy's polarizing profile has created openings for Democrats.
- Acton is emphasizing affordability and bipartisan appeal, while Republicans prepare to target her COVID-era record.

Now a Lean Republican contest, the race is a stress test for candidate quality vs. party fundamentals. Democrats have gained ground, but must still navigate a challenging, red-trending electoral map.

**Ohio remains Lean Republican, but is now firmly on the competitive map.**

# Hidden Races, Real Impact

These down-ballot contests will help determine who writes the rules, certifies results, and adjudicates disputes in 2028 and beyond.

## Who controls how elections are run

**These races will shape how future federal elections are run and contested.**

Contests for secretary of state, attorney general, and state supreme courts will also shape how voting, certification, and election disputes are handled heading into the next presidential cycle.

These offices control ballot rules, certification, recounts, and election-related litigation. SCOTUS rulings on redistricting and mail-in voting could further shape how votes are cast and counted.

## Key Secretary of State Races to Watch



### Arizona

Adrian Fontes seeks reelection as Republicans elevate a 2020 election litigator, setting up a high-contrast race.



### Georgia

An open seat draws a potential clash between establishment Republicans and Trump-aligned contenders.



### Michigan

An open race gives Republicans a reset shot—if they avoid another weak nominee.



### Nevada

Cisco Aguilar defends a battleground seat as Republicans look for a more credible challenger.

## Key offices on the ballot:

**23** secretaries of state

**30** attorneys general

**64** state supreme court seats







**R** Republicans still favored to hold more governorships despite tighter races.

**D** Democrats are benefiting from early national tailwinds, particularly in open-seat contests.




# Appendix

# Redistricting

## Enacted Maps









State	Who controls the process?	Legal guardrails	Potential pickup	Current delegation	Status of new map
 Texas	Republican-controlled state legislature		<b>GOP +3-5</b>	GOP 25 - Dem 13	Signed into law
 North Carolina	Republican-controlled state legislature		<b>GOP +1</b>	GOP 10 - Dem 4	State legislature enacted new map
 Ohio	Republican-controlled state legislature and bipartisan commission		<b>GOP +0-3</b>	GOP 10 - Dem 5	Bipartisan redistricting commission enacted new map
 California	Independent commission		<b>Dem +3-5</b>	Dem 43 - GOP 9	Enacted through statewide ballot measure
 Utah	Republican-controlled state legislature	Partisan gerrymandering ban	<b>Dem +1</b>	GOP 4 - Dem 0	Enacted through court order
 Missouri	Republican-controlled state legislature	Opponents could block map through statewide referendum	<b>GOP +1</b>	GOP 6 - Dem 2	State supreme court upheld GOP map; referendum could still block it

## Efforts Underway

State	Who controls the process?	Legal guardrails	Potential pickup	Current delegation	Status of new map
 Virginia	Bipartisan commission	Requires constitutional amendment	<b>Dem +2-4</b>	Dem 6 - GOP 5	Referendum to amend constitution set for April 21
 New York	Independent commission		<b>Dem +1</b>	Dem 19 - GOP 7	State judge ordered redrawn map
 Florida	Republican-controlled state legislature	Partisan gerrymandering ban (but conservatives control state Supreme Court)	<b>GOP +2-3</b>	GOP 20 - Dem 8	Special session set for April 20–24

# Redistricting

## Considered But Not Passed

State	Who controls the process?	Legal guardrails	Potential pickup	Current delegation	Status of new map
 Maryland	Democratic-controlled state legislature		Dem +1	Dem 7 - GOP 1	House of Delegates passed new map; Senate declined to take up the bill
 Indiana	Republican-controlled state legislature		GOP +2	GOP 7 - Dem 2	Efforts to redistrict stalled due to some Republican opposition
 Kansas	Republican-controlled state legislature		GOP +1	GOP 3 - Dem 1	Efforts to redistrict stalled due to some Republican opposition
 South Carolina	Republican-controlled state legislature		GOP +1	GOP 6 - Dem 1	Legislation proposed but faces some hurdles and unlikely to alter maps in 2026
 Washington	Democratic-controlled state legislature	Requires constitutional amendment	Dem +1-2	Dem 8 - GOP 2	Legislation proposed but faces significant hurdles and unlikely to alter maps in 2026
 Louisiana	Republican-controlled state legislature		GOP +1	GOP 4 - Dem 2	Pending U.S. Supreme Court decision
 Alabama	Republican-controlled state legislature		GOP +1	GOP 5 - Dem 2	Pending U.S. Supreme Court decision
 Wisconsin	Republican-controlled state legislature		Dem +1-2	GOP 6 - Dem 2	Pending state Supreme Court decision

# Departing Congress

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## Retiring

Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA)  
Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA)  
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)  
Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)  
Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)  
Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL)  
Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA)  
Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)  
Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)  
Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL)  
Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García (D-IL)  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)  
Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)  
Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD)  
Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME)  
Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)  
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)  
Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)  
Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)  
Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)  
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)  
Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)  
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)  
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)  
Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV)  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)  
Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)  
Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY)  
Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA)  
Rep. Jodey C. Arrington (R-TX)  
Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)  
(Lost Primary)  
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)  
Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX)  
Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-TX)  
Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)  
Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX)  
Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX)  
Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT)  
Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA)  
Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)

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## Running for Other Office

Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL) (Senate)  
Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) (Governor)  
Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) (Governor)  
Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ) (Governor)  
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) (Governor)  
Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL) (Governor)  
Rep. Earl L. “Buddy” Carter (R-GA) (Senate)  
Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA) (Senate)  
Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA) (Governor)  
Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA) (Senate)  
Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL) (Senate)  
Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) (Senate)  
Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) (Senate)  
Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA) (Senate)  
Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) (Senate)  
Rep. John James (R-MI) (Governor)  
Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI) (Senate)  
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN) (Senate)  
Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) (Senate)  
Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK) (Senate)  
Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC) (Governor)  
Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) (Governor)  
Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) (Governor)  
Rep. John W. Rose (R-TN) (Governor)  
Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) (Senate)  
Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX) (Senate)  
Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) (TX AG)  
Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-WI) (Governor)  
Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (R-WY) (Senate)

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## Resigned

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)  
Rep. Mark E. Green (R-TN)

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## Deceased

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ)  
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)  
Rep. Sylvester Turner (D-TX)  
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)

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## Left for Another Position

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)  
Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL)  
Sen. JD Vance (R-OH)  
Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)

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## Elected to Other Office

Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)

**67** Departing House | **13** Departing Senate

Note: Includes retirements, runs for other office, resignations, and deaths.

Invariant

# 2026 Election Update Team

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