

Updated Oct. 1, 2018

2018 Midterm Forecast Roundup: Week of Oct. 1

Ongoing uncertainty in the confirmation process for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has attracted new attention to Democratic chances in the Senate. If Kavanaugh fails to get confirmed, Republicans may struggle to fill the seat before the next session of Congress begins in January — potentially handing the process over to a Democratic-controlled Senate.

Expert forecasters, however, say this is an unlikely scenario. Republicans are favored to keep their majority in the chamber, with Democratic hopes resting on a series of unlikely upsets.

One such upset may be within reach: The Cook Political Report

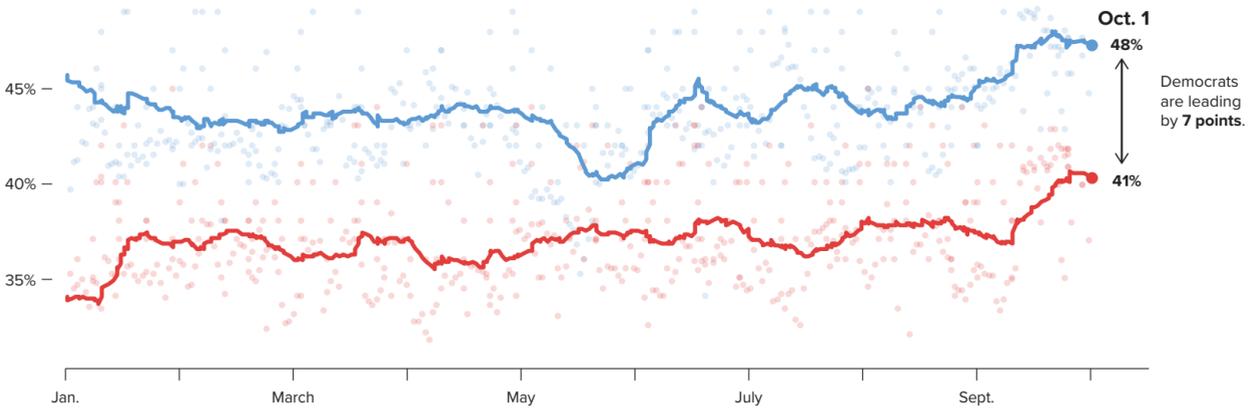
recently rated the Texas Senate race as a toss-up, following continued strong polling for rising star Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D). However, all other forecasters still say incumbent Sen. Ted Cruz (R) is narrowly favored.

In the House, the overall consensus among the expert forecasters is that Democrats have a definitive but not overwhelming lead. Polls of the electorate's generic ballot preference have been relatively stable.

The parties are now making key decisions about where to spend in the final weeks. The Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House GOP leadership, recently pulled planned TV ads for Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.) and Rep. Mike Bishop (R-Mich.).

Generic congressional ballot polling

30-DAY MOVING AVERAGE



Key House Races to Watch

The table below shows predictions for individual House races rated as competitive by four top political forecasters: The Cook Political Report, Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball, Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales and FiveThirtyEight. To flip the House, Democrats need to win at least 25 of the 74 seats listed below. The right-most column indicates if at least one forecaster has recently changed a rating.

Predictions for competitive House races by top forecasters

◀ Democratic odds improved | Republican odds improved ▶

DISTRICT	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES	DISTRICT	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES
AR-02	French Hill (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	82% R		NC-02	George Holding (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Tilt R	63% R	◀
AZ-01	Tom O'Halleran (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Lean D	98% D		NC-09	OPEN	Toss-up	Lean D	Tilt R	63% D	
AZ-02	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	95% D		NC-13	Ted Budd (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Tilt R	53% R	◀
CA-10	Jeff Denham (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	67% D	◀	NE-02	Don Bacon (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	64% R	▶
CA-21	David Valadao (R)	Likely R	Likely R	Likely R	81% R	▶	NH-01	OPEN	Likely D	Lean D	Tilt D	92% D	
CA-25	Steve Knight (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	67% D		NJ-02	OPEN	Likely D	Likely D	Likely D	98% D	◀
CA-39	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	67% R	▶	NJ-03	Tom MacArthur (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	65% D	◀
CA-45	Mimi Walters (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	66% D	◀	NJ-07	Leonard Lance (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	59% D	▶
CA-48	Dana Rohrabacher (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	62% D	◀	NJ-11	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	78% D	◀
CA-49	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Lean D	91% D	◀	NM-02	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	68% R	◀
CA-50	Duncan Hunter (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	90% R		NV-03	OPEN	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	70% D	
CO-06	Mike Coffman (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	82% D	◀	NY-11	Dan Donovan (R)	Likely R	Lean R	Likely R	77% R	▶
FL-15	OPEN	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	69% R	◀	NY-19	John J. Faso (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	50% R	◀
FL-16	Vern Buchanan (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	86% R		NY-22	Claudia Tenney (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	65% D	◀
FL-18	Brian Mast (R)	Likely R	Likely R	Likely R	89% R	▶	NY-27	Chris Collins (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	94% R	◀
FL-26	Carlos Curbelo (R)	Lean R	Toss-up	Tilt R	56% R		OH-01	Steve Chabot (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Lean R	65% R	▶
FL-27	OPEN	Toss-up	Lean D	Lean D	84% D	▶	OH-12	Troy Balderson (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Tilt R	68% R	
GA-06	Karen Handel (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Likely R	87% R	◀	PA-01	Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	76% R	
GA-07	Rob Woodall (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Likely R	71% R	◀	PA-07	VACANT	Lean D	Lean D	Lean D	94% D	◀
IA-01	Rod Blum (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	97% D		PA-10	Scott Perry (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Lean R	80% R	◀
IA-03	David Young (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Lean D	54% D	◀	PA-16	Mike Kelly (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Likely R	97% R	
IL-06	Peter Roskam (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	71% R	◀	PA-17	Keith Rothfus (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Lean D	89% D	▶
IL-12	Mike Bost (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	60% R	▶	SC-01	OPEN	Lean R	Likely R	Safe R	89% R	
IL-13	Rodney Davis (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	70% R		TX-07	John Culberson (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	54% R	
IL-14	Randy Hultgren (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Safe R	61% R		TX-23	Will Hurd (R)	Lean R	Toss-up	Tilt R	54% R	
KS-02	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	51% R	◀	TX-31	John Carter (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Likely R	82% R	◀
KS-03	Kevin Yoder (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt D	51% D	◀	TX-32	Pete Sessions (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Toss-up	75% R	
KY-06	Andy Barr (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	60% R	▶	UT-04	Mia Love (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	84% R	
ME-02	Bruce Poliquin (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	64% R	◀	VA-02	Scott Taylor (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	80% R	◀
MI-08	Mike Bishop (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	56% R	◀	VA-05	OPEN	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	51% D	
MI-11	OPEN	Toss-up	Lean D	Tossup	70% D		VA-07	Dave Brat (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	68% R	◀
MN-01	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	66% R		VA-10	Barbara Comstock (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	77% D	
MN-02	Jason Lewis (R)	Lean D	Toss-up	Tilt D	84% D	◀	WA-03	Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	85% R	
MN-03	Erik Paulsen (R)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	84% D	◀	WA-05	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)	Lean R	Toss-up	Lean R	80% R	▶
MN-07	Collin Peterson (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Lean D	88% D		WA-08	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	55% D	
MN-08	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	57% R		WI-01	OPEN	Lean R	Lean R	Lean R	81% R	
MO-02	Ann Wagner (R)	Lean R	Likely R	Safe R	89% R		WV-03	OPEN	Lean R	Toss-up	Lean R	91% R	
MT-AL	Greg Gianforte (R)	Lean R	Lean R	Likely R	78% R	▶							



Key Senate Races to Watch

The table below shows predictions for individual Senate races rated as competitive by three top political forecasters: The Cook Political Report, Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball, Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales and FiveThirtyEight. To flip the Senate, Democrats need to win at least 14 of the 18 seats listed below. The right-most column indicates if at least one forecaster has recently changed a rating.

Predictions for competitive Senate races by top forecasters

◀ Democratic odds improved | Republican odds improved ▶

STATE	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES	STATE	INCUMBENT	Cook	Sabato	Gonzales	538	RECENT CHANGES
Ariz.	OPEN	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	67% D		N.D.	Heidi Heitkamp (D)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Tilt R	55% D	
Fla.	Bill Nelson (D)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	60% D	◀	N.J.	Bob Menendez (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Safe D	93% D	
Ind.	Joe Donnelly (D)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	74% D		Nev.	Dean Heller (R)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	51% D	▶
Mich.	Debbie Stabenow (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Safe D	99% D		Ohio	Sherrod Brown (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Likely D	95% D	
Miss.	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)	Likely R	Likely R	Safe R	85% R		Pa.	Bob Casey (D)	Likely D	Safe D	Likely D	98% D	
Minn.	Tina Smith (D)	Lean D	Likely D	Likely D	90% D		Tenn.	OPEN	Toss-up	Lean R	Lean R	62% R	
Mo.	Claire McCaskill (D)	Toss-up	Toss-up	Toss-up	61% D		Texas	Ted Cruz (R)	Toss-up	Lean R	Likely R	71% R	◀
Mont.	Jon Tester (D)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	85% D	▶	Wis.	Tammy Baldwin (D)	Likely D	Likely D	Lean D	97% D	
Neb.	Deb Fischer (R)	Likely R	Safe R	Safe R	97% R		W.Va.	Joe Manchin (D)	Lean D	Lean D	Tilt D	86% D	◀