



Election Watch is Proud to Present

2006 Election Outlook

A Special Supplement

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2006 Election Outlook

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U.S. House of Representatives

Of all the talk about this year's midterm elections, perhaps nothing is debated more than whether or not Democrats will take control of the House of Representatives. Of 435 seats, there are currently 231 Republicans, 202 Democrats, 1 independent who caucuses with the Democrats (Bernie Sanders of Vermont) and 1 vacancy (that of Florida's 16th District, recently vacated by Rep. Mark Foley, a Republican). Thus the Democrats need to pick up 15 seats to reach the magic number of 218 and a majority, and most pundits and observers now say that goal is within reach.

When handicapping elections, one should look first at the open seats, given that incumbents are reelected over 95% of the time. This cycle, there are 32 open House seats, 11 currently held by Democrats and 21 by Republicans. Republicans start off having to defend more seats, although Democrats need to win 71% (15 of 21) of the Republican seats, while also winning all 11 of their own.

On paper, then, the Democrats have a tall order. Yet the environment could hardly be worse for Republicans right now – public anxiety over the war, the economy, public corruption, repeated low approval ratings for the President and fall-out from various scandals involving Republican Congressmen add up to hard times for GOP incumbents. When one goes district-by-district and examines polls and individual candidates, the story only gets worse for the Republicans.

Consider the ratings of noted political analyst Charlie Cook of the Cook Political Report. Cook has 57 seats that are considered competitive, either "Toss Up" or "Lean" (a race-by-race breakdown of all 57 is included in this issue). Of those 57, only 7 Democratic seats are deemed competitive at all, and none of these is in the "Toss Up" category. It is these dismal race-by-race numbers for Republicans that have led analysts to predict a Democratic wave sufficient enough to sweep Democrats back into control (Cook himself has suggested anywhere from a 20 – 35 seat net pickup for the Democrats). Indeed, it is generally agreed upon that there are anywhere from 5 to 7 current Republican seats that are already conceded by both parties as not winnable for the GOP.

What should you look for on election night? Keep an eye on a few key states as their returns come in. Connecticut has three vulnerable GOP incumbents; Pennsylvania, five; Ohio, four and Indiana, three. Should Democrats sweep in 2 or more of these states, it could be a long night for Republicans. If the Republicans should start losing seats in Kentucky or New York, a Democratic wave will start to look more like a tsunami. Conversely, if the GOP can hold its own in these key states, the Republicans will pull out an upset victory. Included in this issue is a comprehensive list of all the House races around the country, complete with comments on each one.

So, will Democrats get to the magic number of 218? If so, how big of a majority will there be? Tune in Tuesday night and see. Be sure to use our printable tally sheet to keep score at home (or wherever the night takes you). Come Wednesday, November 9, there may be new leadership in the House of Representatives.

2006 Election — Competitive House Races

District	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	PVI	Rating	NOTES
AZ-01		Ellen Simon	RICK RENZI	58%	R+2	Lean R	Even in this "Democratic year," Renzi should be safe.
AZ-05		Harry Mitchell	J.D. HAYWORTH	60%	R+4	Toss Up	Harry Mitchell is putting up a stronger than expected challenge to Hayworth, but the incumbent should prevail.
AZ-08	X	Gabrielle Giffords	Randy Graf	60%	R+1	Lean D	The DCCC's advertising against Graf's more moderate GOP Primary opponent helped Graf to win; post-primary both parties pulled their advertising as Giffords is expected to win.
CA-04		Charles Brown	JOHN DOOLITTLE	66%	R+11	Lean R	Doolittle has been dogged by ethical issues arising from his employment of his wife as his campaign program, prompting Dem interest in his seat. That said, McNerney was not the DCCC's first choice to win the Democratic primary.
CA-11		Jerry McNerney	RICHARD POMBO	61%	R+3	Toss Up	Pombo appears to be one of the few CA incumbents in trouble, but the district should protect him in the end (absent a massive Dem wave).
CA-50		Francine Busby	BRIAN BILBRAY	49%	R+5	Lean R	Brian Bilbray should survive this rematch of the special election in which he defeated Busby earlier this summer to fill the vacancy of Rep. Duke Cunningham, who resigned and pled guilty to corruption charges.
CO-03		JOHN SALAZAR	Scott Tipton	51%	R+6	Likely D	Freshman Democrat Salazar is expected to easily win.
CO-04		Angie Paccione	MARILYN MUSGRAVE	51%	R+9	Toss Up	Paccione's spirited effort against Musgrave has caused this district to become more targeted. The NRCC recently bulked up its ad buy for Musgrave.
CO-05	X	Jay Fawcett	Doug Lamborn	71%	R+16	Lean R	CULAC conducted an independent expenditure campaign for Jeff Crank, who lost the GOP primary to Lamborn by less than 1000 votes. Since that bitter primary, retiring Rep. Joel Hefley has refused to endorse Lamborn. One poll had Fawcett in a virtual tie. If Lamborn can't solidify his base, this could be a surprise Democratic pickup in a solidly GOP district.
CO-07	X	Ed Perlmutter	Rick O'Donnell	55%	D+2	Lean D	This race was initially expected to be among the most competitive in the nation but recent polls indicate Perlmutter is looking strong.

District	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	PVI	Rating	NOTES
CT-02		Joe Courtney	ROB SIMMONS	54%	D+8	Toss Up	CT will offer an early indicator on election night as to whether Democrats take the House. All three CT Republicans (Simmons, Shays & Johnson) are on the hot seat given the overall Democratic edge of their districts. In campaigns centered around their alleged support for (or independence from) Bush, the saving grace for all three might ironically be Joe Lieberman's independent bid for reelection to the Senate if the former Democrat can turn out enough Republican voters.
CT-04		Dianne Farrell	CHRIS SHAYS	52%	D+5	Toss Up	See CT-02 above.
CT-05		Chris Murphy	NANCY JOHNSON	60%	D+4	Toss Up	See CT-02 above.
FL-08		Charlie Stuart	RIC KELLER	61%	R+3	Likely R	Another strong Democratic challenge, but Keller should survive.
FL-09	X	Phyllis Busansky	Gus Bilirakis	Unopp.	R+4	Likely R	Bilirakis is the son of the retiring incumbent, Rep. Mike Bilirakis.
FL-13	X	Christine Jennings	Vern Buchanan	55%	R+4	Lean D	Banker Christine Jennings has been putting up stronger-than-expected battle for Katherine Harris' vacated seat.
FL-16	X	Tim Mahoney	Joe Negron	68%	R+2	Toss Up	Rep. Mark Foley's name is still on the ballot; Negron gets his votes but few are expected to be cast for "Foley."
FL-22		Ron Klein	CLAY SHAW	63%	D+4	Toss Up	This race will finish as one of the most expensive nationwide. Shaw is a veteran lawmaker in his 13th term, but his district has changed dramatically since his initial election in 1980, becoming steadily more Democratic, and he faces a strong challenger in State Sen. Ron Klein. He should survive but it will be close.
GA-08		JIM MARSHALL	Mac Collins	63%	R+8	Lean D	Marshall is one of two GA Democrats Republicans think they can knock off.
GA-12		JOHN BARROW	Max Burns	52%	D+2	Lean D	Former Rep. Max Burns is attempting a comeback against the freshman who beat him in 2004. Like Marshall in GA-08, this represents one of the few GOP pickup opportunities nationwide.
IA-01	X	Bruce Braley	Mike Whalen	55%	D+5	Lean D	Vacated by IA Gov candidate Jim Nussle (R); believed to be among the mostly like seats to flip parties.
IA-02		Dave Loebsack	JIM LEACH	59%	D+7	Likely R	Moderate GOPer Leach has confounded Democrats over the years by walking a thin, centrist line in this Democratic district. He should win again this year.
IA-03		LEONARD BOSWELL	Jeff Lamberti	55%	D+1	Lean D	State Senator Jeff Lamberti is making a strong run against Boswell in what could be one of the few GOP pickups. Still, recent polls indicate this will go Boswell's way.

District	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	PVI	Rating	NOTES
ID-01	X	Larry Grant	Bill Sali	70%	R+19	Lean R	This one has nat'l Dems hopeful, despite the overwhelming GOP edge in registration. Sali won a hotly contested primary with only 26% of the vote, and has proven unpopular with the ID GOP establishment. Still, the sheer number of GOPers may trump any hope Grant and Dems might have.
IL-06	X	Tammy Duckworth	Peter Roskam	56%	R+3	Toss Up	A key race that may decide control of the House. Roskam is a veteran state legislator, but Duckworth is an Iraq war veteran who lost her legs in battle. Her performance in a nominally GOP district will be indicative of how the night goes for Democrats.
IL-08		MELISSA BEAN	Dave McSweeney	52%	R+5	Lean D	The freshman Democrat Bean pulled off the upset of last cycle, defeating the longest serving GOP incumbent, Phil Crane. This time, despite being targeted early by Republicans, she appears to have solidified her position in this moderate, suburban district.
IL-10		Daniel Seals	MARK KIRK	64%	D+4	Likely R	The moderate Kirk should win easily despite the district's heavy D registration.
IL-17	X	Phil Hare	Andrea Zinga	61%	D+5	Likely D	Hare, a long-term aide to popular retiring incumbent Lane Evans, should win.
IN-03		Tom Hayhurst	MARK SOUDER	69%	R+16	Likely R	Souder will return to DC in January.
IN-02		Chris Chocola	Joe Donnelly	68%	D+8	Toss Up	Chocola is perhaps the most vulnerable of three incumbent IN GOPers facing tough reelection bids.
IN-08		Brad Ellsworth	JOHN HOSTETTLER	53%	R+9	Toss Up	Democrats (& credit unions) have tried for years to defeat Hostettler, who voted against HR 1151. This time they will likely succeed.
IN-09		Baron Hill	MIKE SODREL	50%	R+7	Toss Up	Former Rep Baron Hill was narrowly defeated by Sodrel in 2004; polls show him returning to Congress.
KS-02		Nancy Boyda	JIM RYUN	56%	R+7	Toss Up	Ryun is safe given his Republican district.
KS-03		DENNIS MOORE	Chuck Ahner	55%	R+4	Likely D	Moore is a perennial GOP target; he appears safer this time around.
KY-02		Mike Weaver	RON LEWIS	68%	R+13	Lean R	Lewis was recently added to the Democrats' expanding target list. Still the district leans heavily Republican.
KY-03		John Yarmuth	ANNE NORTHUP	60%	D+2	Lean R	Northup is the GOP's answer to Dennis Moore (KS-3 above): always targeted by the other side, never defeated.
KY-04		Ken Lucas	GEOFF DAVIS	54%	R+12	Toss Up	An interesting toss-up being fought between a former and current Member. Former Rep. Lucas retired from the seat in 2004 after defeating Davis in 2002; Davis promptly won that year, defeating the father of actor George Clooney. Now Lucas is running for his old seat, and this one could go either way.

District	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	PVI	Rating	NOTES
LA-02		WILLIAM JEFFERSON ; Karen Carter; Derrick Shepherd; Troy Carter; Scott Barron; Regina Bartholomew; Deven "DC" Collins; John Edwards; M.V. "Vinny" Mendoza	Joe Lavigne; Lawrence William von Uhde, III	79%	D+28	Likely D	Jefferson, subject to a federal bribery investigation, is facing his strongest challenge in years. Under LA's unusual election rules, the NO Congressman will likely face a runoff Dec. 9 against a fellow Democrat
LA-03		CHARLIE MELANCON ; Olangee Breech	Craig Romero	50%	R+5	Lean D	Melancon was elected by fewer than 600 votes in a Dec. 04 runoff; since Katrina his work on behalf of his hurricane-ravaged constituents has left him popular and safe.
MN-01		Tim Walz	GIL GUTKNECHT	60%	R+1	Toss Up	Gutknecht should be fine.
MN-06	X	Patty Wetterling	Michele Bachmann	54%	R+5	Toss Up	Wetterling, a child-safety advocate whose 11-year-old son was abducted 17 years ago and never found, has made this a real race in the wake of the Foley scandal.
NC-08		Larry Kissell	ROBIN HAYES	56%	R+3	Likely R	Hayes should be okay.
NC-11		Heath Shuler	CHARLES TAYLOR	55%	R+7	Toss Up	Shuler is a former University of Tennessee and Washington Redskins quarterback who is giving Taylor the race of his career.
NE-01		Maxine Moul	JEFF FORTENBERRY	54%	R+12	Solid R	The GOP registration advantage here is too great to overcome.
NE-03	X	Scott Kleeb	Adrian Smith	87%	R+24	Lean R	Although the youthful Scott Kleeb has some NE Dems excited, this overwhelmingly Republican district should go easily for Adrian Smith.
NH-01		Carol Shea-Porter	JEB BRADLEY	63%	R+0	Likely R	Bradley, one of a number of vulnerable northeastern moderate Republicans, appears the safe bet.
NH-02		Paul Hodes	CHARLIE BASS	58%	D+3	Toss Up	Bass should hold this seat, despite a Democratic edge in the district.
NJ-07		Linda Stender	MIKE FERGUSON	57%	R+1	Lean R	Stender has run a better than expected campaign in this suburban New Jersey district, but look for Ferguson to return.
NM-01		Patricia Madrid	HEATHER WILSON	55%	D+2	Toss Up	Another key battleground. Wilson has proven a solid campaigner, but Madrid is a popular Hispanic Attorney General in a district that is over 40% Hispanic.
NV-02	X	Jill Derby	Dean Heller	67%	R+8	Lean R	Another example of a strong Democratic challenge, but Heller should finish with a win in this open seat.
NV-03		Tessa Hafen	JON PORTER	55%	D+1	Lean R	Porter has recently come under fire from allegations that he made illegal fundraising calls from his Congressional office. Hafen, a former aide to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, hopes to capitalize with a surprise upset.

District	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	PVI	Rating	NOTES
NY-03		Dave Mejias	PETER KING	63%	D+2	Likely R	One of several New York Republicans who might be swept up in a Democratic tidal wave, given his district's Democratic lean. Still, the safe money is on King.
NY-19		John Hall	SUE KELLY	67%	R+1	Likely R	Yet another moderate Republican in a swing district. Kelly should be safe, unless the "wave" is big enough to sweep out even generally safe Republicans.
NY-20		Kirsten Gillibrand	JOHN SWEENEY	66%	R+3	Lean R	A similar dynamic to NY-03 and NY-19, although Sweeney may be perhaps a little more vulnerable.
NY-24	X	Michael Arcuri	Ray Meier	57%	R+1	Lean D	The retirement of moderate Sherwood Boehlert in this upstate NY district has made for a true battleground district. This one is up for grabs.
NY-25		Dan Maffei	JAMES WALSH	91%	D+3	Lean R	Walsh represents the most Democratic district held by a GOPer in NY, and former Rep. Charlie Rangel staffer Maffei is giving him the race of his life. Will it be enough? Stay tuned.
NY-26		Jack Davis	TOM REYNOLDS	56%	R+3	Toss Up	Reynolds is chair of the NRCC and known as a shrewd political strategist; his involvement in the Foley scandal has made this race a potential pickup for Dems
NY-29		Eric Massa	RANDY KUHL	51%	R+5	Lean R	Kuhl is a freshman without much of a profile; like the other NY seats his fate may lie with just how big of a Democratic wave there is.
OH-01		John Cranley	STEVE CHABOT	60%	R+1	Toss Up	Chabot resides in a tossup seat in the state with perhaps the most dangerous (for the GOP) environment this year.
OH-02		Victoria Wulsin	JEAN SCHMIDT	52%	R+13	Toss Up	Schmidt won a nasty primary to win a special election in 2005 to replace Rep. Rob Portman who resigned to become US Trade Representative. Wulsin needs to capitalize on old Republican wounds to win this one.
OH-06	X	Charlie Wilson	Chuck Blasdel	Unopp.	D+0	Likely D	Despite early GOP hopes to pick up the seat of Dem Gov. nominee Ted Strickland, Blasdel's campaign has fizzled. Both sides now agree this one should stay in Democratic hands.
OH-13	X	Betty Sutton	Craig Foltin	67%	D+6	Likely D	After an upset victory in a crowded primary, Sutton should easily win this Democratic district.
OH-15		Mary Jo Kilroy	DEBORAH PRYCE	60%	R+1	Toss Up	Pryce, the 4th ranking House Republican, is facing a stiff challenge from Kilroy.
OH-18	X	Zack Space	Joy Padgett	66%	R+6	Lean D	Incumbent Rep. Bob Ney pleaded guilty to corruption charges, giving Dem Zach Space hope of victory in what will be a close election. Recent polls seem to bear him out.
OR-05		DARLENE HOOLEY	Mike Erickson	53%	D+1	Likely D	In a swing district, millionaire self-funder Erickson hopes to buy his way to a victory, but Hooley should withstand the challenge.

District	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	PVI	Rating	NOTES
PA-04		Jason Altmire	MELISSA HART	63%	R+3	Lean R	Watch this race to see just how big of a Democratic night it will be. Hart should be safe in any other year, but recent polls indicate otherwise, and both national parties have started paying attention at the end.
PA-06		Lois Murphy	JIM GERLACH	51%	D+2	Toss Up	Gerlach is one of three GOP incumbents in the Philly suburbs in serious trouble.
PA-07		Joseph Sestak	CURT WELDON	59%	D+4	Toss Up	Weldon, already facing a tough challenge from Navy Admiral Joe Sestak, was recently rocked by an FBI raid of his daughter's home in a corruption investigation.
PA-08		Patrick Murphy	MIKE FITZPATRICK	55%	D+3	Toss Up	Another suburban Philly Republican in a dangerous position.
PA-10		Christopher Carney	DON SHERWOOD	93%	R+8	Toss Up	Sherwood admitted to an affair in his own ad, but denies his ex-mistress' allegations of abuse. Nonetheless, what should be a safe GOP seat is likely to switch.
SC-05		JOHN SPRATT	Ralph Norman	63%	R+6	Likely D	Spratt, a Blue Dog Democrat and budget hawk, should win despite the heavy GOP registration in his district.
SD-AL		STEPHANIE HERSETH	Bruce Whalen	53%	R+10	Likely D	Herseth should win easily.
TX-17		CHET EDWARDS	Van Taylor	51%	R+18	Lean D	Edwards occupies the most Republican district in the nation; George W. Bush is registered to vote there (in Crawford). Nonetheless, Edwards will prevail - Taylor's campaign never got off the ground and the NRCC has pulled its ad buy.
TX-22	X	Nick Lampson	Shelley Sekula-Gibbs	55%	R+15	Toss Up	Disgraced former House Majority Leader Tom Delay is still on the ballot, leaving Sekula-Gibbs the uphill battle of winning by write-in. In a twist, however, she is favored to win the simultaneous election to fill DeLay's term between November and January, when she presumably will turn over the seat to Lampson.
TX-23		Ciro Rodriguez; Rick Bolanos; August Beltran; Adrian DeLeon; Lukin Gilliland; Albert Uresti	HENRY BONILLA	69%	R+4	Lean R	Former Dem Rep. Ciro Rodriguez is perhaps the strongest challenger in this recently redrawn district; under the court-ordered redistricting, all candidates run on one ballot with a runoff possible if no one gets a majority Nov. 7th.
UT-02		JIM MATHESON	LaVar Christensen	55%	R+17	Likely D	After Chet Edwards (TX-17), Matheson is the Democrat with the most Republican district. Still he will win with only token opposition.
VA-02		Phil Kellam	THELMA DRAKE	55%	R+6	Toss Up	Another key race that might signal how much of a Democratic wave is out there. Drake should be nominally safe in a Republican seat, but the district voted for Dem Gov. Tim Kaine in Nov. 2005.
VA-10		Judy Feder	FRANK WOLF	64%	R+5	Likely R	VA Democrats are hopeful about this one, but they may not want to hold their breath, even this year.

District	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	PVI	Rating	NOTES
VT-AL	X	Peter Welch	Martha Rainville	68%	D+9	Lean D	Despite a stellar candidate in Nat'l Guard Adj. Gen. Martha Rainville, State Senate President should prevail in VT's at large seat.
WA-02		RICK LARSEN	Doug Roulstone	64%	D+3	Likely D	Larsen should be fine.
WA-05		Peter Goldmark	CATHY MCMORRIS	60%	R+7	Likely R	The freshman McMorris is facing a stiffer challenge, but should win.
WA-08		Darcy Burner	DAVE REICHERT	52%	D+2	Toss Up	Reichert is a popular former Sheriff, but this moderate suburb district outside Seattle leans Democratic. Former Microsoft exec Darcy Burner has surprised a lot of analysts.
WI-08	X	Steven Kagen	John Gard	70%	R+4	Toss Up	This should go to state House Speaker John Gard.
WV-01		ALAN MOLLOHAN	Chris Wakim	68%	R+6	Likely D	Mollahan was dogged early by ethical questions over some land deals, but Wakim has failed to mount a significant challenge and the NRCC has pulled its advertising.
WY-AL		Gary Trauner	BARBARA CUBIN	55%	R+19	Toss Up	Cubin will return as Wyoming's at-large Representative.

Current House Lineup: 232 Republicans, 203 Democrats

The PVI (Partisan Voting Index) is a measurement of how each district performs compared to the nation as a whole in presidential years.

The PVI listed here reflects the results of 2000 and 2004.

A PVI score of D+2 means that the district performed 2 points more than the national average.

* **Bold = CUNA/CULAC supported candidates**

**UPPERCASE = INCUMBENT MEMBERS

Source: Cook Political Report 10/31/06

2006 House Race Tally Sheet

There are 46 seats (9 D, 37 R) listed as Lean or Toss Up. The seats that are most vulnerable to a takeover are listed below.

District	Republican candidate	Winner	Democrat candidate
AZ-01	RICK RENZI		Ellen Simon
AZ-05	J.D. HAYWORTH		Harry Mitchell
AZ-08	Randy Graf		Gabrielle Giffords
CA-04	JOHN DOOLITTLE		Charles Brown
CA-11	RICHARD POMBO		Jerry McNerney
CA-50	BRIAN BILBRAY		Francine Busby
CO-03	Scott Tipton		JOHN SALAZAR
CO-04	MARILYN MUSGRAVE		Angie Paccione
CO-05	Doug Lamborn		Jay Fawcett
CO-07	Rick O'Donnell		Ed Perlmutter
CT-02	ROB SIMMONS		Joe Courtney
CT-04	CHRIS SHAYS		Dianne Farrell
CT-05	NANCY JOHNSON		Chris Murphy
FL-08	RIC KELLER		Charlie Stuart
FL-09	Gus Bilirakis		Phyllis Busansky
FL-13	Vern Buchanan		Christine Jennings
FL-16	Joe Negron		Tim Mahoney
FL-22	CLAY SHAW		Ron Klein
GA-08	Mac Collins		JIM MARSHALL
GA-12	Max Burns		JOHN BARROW
IA-01	Mike Whalen		Bruce Braley
IA-02	JIM LEACH		Dave Loebsack
IA-03	Jeff Lamberti		LEONARD BOSWELL
ID-01	Bill Sali		Larry Grant
IL-06	Peter Roskam		Tammy Duckworth
IL-08	Dave McSweeney		MELISSA BEAN
IL-10	MARK KIRK		Daniel Seals
IL-17	Andrea Zinga		Phil Hare
IN-03	MARK SOUDER		Tom Hayhurst
IN-02	Joe Donnelly		Chris Chocola
IN-08	JOHN HOSTETTLER		Brad Ellsworth
IN-09	MIKE SODREL		Baron Hill
KS-02	JIM RYUN		Nancy Boyda
KS-03	Chuck Ahner		DENNIS MOORE

KY-02	RON LEWIS		Mike Weaver
KY-03	ANNE NORTHUP		John Yarmuth
KY-04	GEOFF DAVIS		Ken Lucas
LA-02	Joe Lavigne; Lawrence William von Uhde, III		WILLIAM JEFFERSON ; Karen Carter; Derrick Shepherd; Troy Carter; Scott Barron; Regina Bartholomew; Deven "DC" Collins; John Edwards; M.V. "Vinny" Mendoza
LA-03	Craig Romero		CHARLIE MELANCON ; Olangee Breech
MN-01	GIL GUTKNECHT		Tim Walz
MN-06	Michele Bachmann		Patty Wetterling
NC-08	ROBIN HAYES		Larry Kissell
NC-11	CHARLES TAYLOR		Heath Shuler
NE-01	JEFF FORTENBERRY		Maxine Moul
NE-03	Adrian Smith		Scott Kleeb
NH-01	JEB BRADLEY		Carol Shea-Porter
NH-02	CHARLIE BASS		Paul Hodes
NJ-07	MIKE FERGUSON		Linda Stender
NM-01	HEATHER WILSON		Patricia Madrid
NV-02	Dean Heller		Jill Derby

U.S. Senate

One third of the U.S. Senate is elected every two years. In 2006 that means 18 Democratic held seats and 15 Republican held seats are up for election. With an overall margin of 55 Republicans, 44 Democrats and 1 independent who caucuses with the Democrats (retiring Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont), Democrats need a net gain of just 6 seats to take the majority (a 5 seat pickup and the resulting 50-50 tie would still result in GOP control with Vice President Cheney's tie-breaking vote).

So what are the chances for a change in who controls the Senate? Democrats essentially need to defend all 18 of their own seats and then win all the competitive Republican-held seats. Analyst Charlie Cook has 8 states listed in the "Toss Up" category: Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Tennessee. You can read about these races (and the other 25 as well) in our state-by-state breakdown. But as the election season comes to a close, it is looking increasingly like the Senate will be decided in just 5 of those 8.

New Jersey has the only currently held Democratic seat that may be in jeopardy. Sen. Bob Menendez, recently appointed to fill the unexpired term of Governor Jon Corzine, is facing a fierce challenge from Tom Kean, Jr., son and namesake of a popular former governor. In Missouri and Montana, incumbent Republican Senators Jim Talent and Conrad Burns are facing the toughest challenges of their careers from Claire McCaskill and Jon Tester, respectively. Sen. George Allen (R-VA), once considered a potential 2008 presidential contender, is now facing a severe challenge from anti-war candidate and former Reagan Navy Secretary, Jim Webb. Finally, the open seat to replace retiring Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist in Tennessee is essentially up for grabs between Memphis Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. and former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker in a race that has become increasingly negative in the final weeks.

The path to a majority seems harder for the Democrats in the Senate than for their counterparts in the House, given that they seemingly can't afford a single loss in any of these races. The GOP is certainly playing defense, but in terms of keeping the Senate they hold the upper hand. Still, this is by all means a Democratic year, so how these races end up is anyone's guess. Our convenient tally sheet will help you keep score as the votes come in.

2006 Election — Senate Races

State	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	Rating	Notes
AZ		Jim Pederson	JON KYL	79%	Lean R	Democrats had high hopes for millionaire developer Jim Pederson, but they will be dashed on election day.
CA		DIANNE FEINSTEIN	Richard Mountjoy	56%	Solid D	Feinstein will win.
CT	X	Ned Lamont	Alan Schlesinger	63%	Solid D	IND: JOE LIEBERMAN - In perhaps the most written about race this year, incumbent Joe Lieberman should win reelection after losing renomination to Lamont as a Democrat.
DE		TOM CARPER	Jan Ting	56%	Solid D	Carper will win.
FL		BILL NELSON	Katherine Harris	51%	Solid D	Republicans once had great hope for this one, but Katherine Harris (of Florida 2000 fame) has proven an awful candidate, replete with verbal gaffes, staff resignations, and even questions of corruption.
HI		DANIEL AKAKA	Cynthia Thielen	73%	Solid D	Akaka survived a primary challenge from Rep. Ed Case, but should win the general easily.
IN			RICHARD LUGAR	67%	Solid R	First rule of politics: you can't win if you don't run. Lugar will return for sixth term.
MA		TED KENNEDY	Kenneth Chase	73%	Solid D	Not to be outdone by Dick Lugar, this scion of America's most famous political dynasty returns for his eighth full term.
MD	X	Ben Cardin	Michael Steele	63%	Toss Up	Republicans hope the African American Lieutenant Governor will break through for them in this blue state, but polls indicate Cardin, a moderate Congressman from Baltimore, should win easily.
ME		Jean Hay Bright	OLYMPIA SNOWE	69%	Solid R	Snowe will win again.
MI		DEBBIE STABENOW	Mike Bouchard	49%	Lean D	Michigan's struggling economy has given hope to Wolverine State Republicans, but Stabenow will be back.
MN	X	Amy Klobuchar	Mark Kennedy	49%	Lean D	Incumbent Mark Dayton's retirement set up a premier battleground election, but recent trends have Rep. Kennedy losing to Amy Klobuchar.
MO		Claire McCaskill	JIM TALENT	51%	Toss Up	This race could decide control of the Senate. McCaskill has made Talent's support of a state amendment banning stem cell research a campaign issue, and recent polls show this one in a dead heat.
MS		Erik Fleming	TRENT LOTT	66%	Solid R	Sen. Lott will return.
MT		Jon Tester	CONRAD BURNS	51%	Toss Up	A potential pickup the Democrats need to win the Senate. Polls have shown incumbent Burns trailing for some time now.
ND		KENT CONRAD	Dwight Grotberg	62%	Solid D	Conrad will be back.
NE		BEN NELSON	J. Peter Ricketts	51%	Likely D	Nelson, perhaps the most conservative member of the Democratic caucus, should easily return.

State	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	Rating	Notes
NJ		BOB MENENDEZ	Tom Kean Jr.	50%	Toss Up	The GOP's one solid chance of a pickup in the Senate. Menendez was appointed by Gov. Jon Corzine to fill his unexpired Senate term, and allegations of corruption have plagued Menendez for much of the campaign. Kean is the son of popular ex-Gov. Tom Kean and has run an excellent campaign. This one could hinge on the Democratic Party's traditional turnout strength in New Jersey.
NM		JEFF BINGAMAN	Allen McCulloch	62%	Solid D	Bingaman will return in January.
NV		Jack Carter	JOHN ENSIGN	55%	Solid R	Even Jack Carter's famous name (his dad is former Pres. Jimmy Carter) isn't enough in this red state.
NY		HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON	John Spencer	55%	Solid D	Many say that for Sen. Clinton, this is just a dry run for an even bigger race in 2008.
OH		Sherrod Brown	MIKE DEWINE	60%	Toss Up	Pundits and polls have lately tended to agree that incumbent Mike Dewine will lose to Rep. Sherrod Brown, another victim of Ohio's anti-Republican storm this year.
PA		Bob Casey, Jr.	RICK SANTORUM	52%	Toss Up	Another likely loss of the GOP. The conservative Santorum seems to have met his match in pro-life, conservative Bob Casey Jr., the State Treasurer and son of the former governor.
RI		Sheldon Whitehouse	LINCOLN CHAFEE	57%	Toss Up	The moderate Republican Chafee may have survived a challenge from the right in his primary with help from the national party, but his days seemed numbered in a state where Bush and the Republicans are extremely unpopular.
TN	X	Harold Ford	Bob Corker		Toss Up	Another toss up. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's retirement created an opportunity for young, moderate Rep. Harold Ford Jr. to become only the second African American in the Senate come January. An extremely divisive three-way GOP primary gave former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker, a moderate Republican, the nomination, but he has had trouble building a lead in a nominally red state. Stay tuned to see if Ford's near perfect campaign (thus far) is enough.
TX		Barbara Ann Radnofsky	KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON	65%	Solid R	Texas is a red state, and Hutchison will return to the Senate.
UT		Pete Ashdown	ORRIN HATCH	66%	Solid R	Ditto for Hatch in Utah.

State	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	Rating	Notes
VA		Jim Webb	GEORGE ALLEN	52%	Toss Up	A surprising race has developed in Virginia. Allen's series of blunders and gaffes--calling a Webb campaign aide "Macaca," revelations about past adoration of the Confederate battle flag and a hangman's noose in his office, and his bizarre discovery of hidden Jewish ancestry in the midst of the campaign--has given novice anti-war candidate Jim Webb a foothold in what should've been an easily reelection and prelude to a presidential run for Allen.
VT	X	Bernie Sanders	Richard Tarrant	66%	Likely D	Vermont's independent Congressman should return to Washington in January as Vermont's independent Senator.
WA		MARIA CANTWELL	Mike McGavick	49%	Lean D	Earlier in the summer it appeared millionaire Mike McGavick may have had a shot at Cantwell, but she has pulled ahead since Labor Day.
WI		HERB KOHL	Robert Lorge	62%	Solid D	Kohl will be back.
WV		ROBERT BYRD	John Raese	78%	Likely D	The dean of the Senate, 88-year-old Robert Byrd, will return for his ninth term.
WY		Dale Groustage	CRAIG THOMAS	74%	Solid R	Thomas is fine.

* **Bold = CUNA/CULAC supported candidates**

**UPPERCASE = INCUMBENT MEMBERS

Source: Cook Political Report 10/31/06

2006 Senate Race Tally Sheet

This year, 32 seats are up for election; 15 Republican seats and 17 Democrat seats.

State	Republican	Winner	Democrat
AZ	JON KYL		Jim Pederson
CA	Richard Mountjoy		DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CT	Alan Schlesinger		Ned Lamont
DE	Jan Ting		TOM CARPER
FL	Katherine Harris		BILL NELSON
HI	Cynthia Thielen		DANIEL AKAKA
IN	RICHARD LUGAR		
MA	Kenneth Chase		TED KENNEDY
MD	Michael Steele		Ben Cardin
ME	OLYMPIA SNOWE		Jean Hay Bright
MI	Mike Bouchard		DEBBIE STABENOW
MN	Mark Kennedy		Amy Klobuchar
MO	JIM TALENT		Claire McCaskill
MS	TRENT LOTT		Erik Fleming
MT	CONRAD BURNS		Jon Tester
ND	Dwight Grotberg		KENT CONRAD
NE	J. Peter Ricketts		BEN NELSON
NJ	Tom Kean Jr.		BOB MENENDEZ
NM	Allen McCulloch		JEFF BINGAMAN
NV	JOHN ENSIGN		Jack Carter
NY	John Spencer		HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
OH	MIKE DEWINE		Sherrod Brown
PA	RICK SANTORUM		Bob Casey, Jr.
RI	LINCOLN CHAFEE		Sheldon Whitehouse
TN	Bob Corker		Harold Ford
TX	KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON		Barbara Ann Radnofsky
UT	ORRIN HATCH		Pete Ashdown
VA	GEORGE ALLEN		Jim Webb
VT	Richard Tarrant		Bernie Sanders
WA	Mike McGavick		MARIA CANTWELL
WI	Robert Lorge		HERB KOHL
WV	John Raese		ROBERT BYRD
WY	CRAIG THOMAS		Dale Groustage

* **Bold = CUNA/CULAC supported candidates**

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Governor's Races

While much of the national attention has been paid this election season to the battle for Congress, there are also 36 gubernatorial races on the ballot this year. Of all 50 governor's mansions nationwide, Republicans currently hold a majority (28), although like their majorities in the House and Senate, this majority appears endangered as well.

Of the 36 races this year, 9 are open due to retirements or term limits. Democrats must defend only 1 (Iowa), while the other 8 are held by Republicans. According to most observers, 3 of those 8 — Colorado, New York, and Ohio — are for the most part already in the Democratic column. Democrats are also leading in at least 2 GOP seats, Arkansas and Massachusetts, with solid candidates in Attorney General Mike Beebe and former Clinton administration Assistant Attorney General Deval Patrick.

Republicans, for their part, do have some bright spots, such as the race in Alaska where the unpopular incumbent Republican, Frank Murkowski, lost his primary but whose party looks to hold on with nominee Sarah Palin. Attorney General Charlie Crist is leading in Florida to replace Gov. Jeb Bush, and U.S. Rep. Butch Otter is likely to be elected Governor of Idaho. Finally, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has surprised many by coming back from extremely low approval numbers just a year ago. He should win handily over Treasurer Phil Angelides.

There are plenty of competitive races as well. Iowa is a toss-up between Secretary of State Chet Culver (D) and U.S. Rep. Jim Nussle (R). Maryland Governor Bob Erlich (R) is facing a strong challenge from Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley (D). Minnesota Republican Tim Pawlenty is in a tough fight, as are incumbents Ted Kulongoski (D-OR), Don Carcieri (R-RI), and Jim Doyle (D-WI). Finally, Republicans hope anger over the failing Michigan economy will allow Amway CEO Dick DeVos to defeat Democratic incumbent Jennifer Granholm, who was once considered a rising star of her party.

Going into the final week, most observers say the odds are that Democrats will pick up at least a few Governors' Mansions, but which ones, how many, or whether it will be enough to reverse the GOP's majority nationwide is anyone's guess. Keep an eye on these races on Tuesday night, and be sure to use our tally sheet to keep track of the most competitive.

2006 Election - Gubernatorial Races

State	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	Rating	Notes
AL		Lucy Baxley	BOB RILEY	49%	Likely R	Riley is vying to become the first Alabama governor to be re-elected and to serve two full terms since George Wallace in the 1970s. He has a significant lead in the polls.
AK	X	Tony Knowles	Sarah Palin	56%	Toss Up	Sarah Palin, who defeated Governor Frank Murkowski in the primary, holds a slight lead over former Governor Tony Knowles.
AZ		Len Munsil	JANET NAPOLITANO	46%	Solid D	Gov. Napolitano is expected to easily win re-election, bolstered by a generous crossover vote from moderate Republicans.
AR	X	Michael Beebe	Asa Hutchinson	53%	Toss Up	Arkansas Attorney General Mike Beebe's conservative positions on several issues have so far denied Hutchinson gains on social issues from conservative, rural Democrats.
CA		Phil Angelides	ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER	49%	Lean R	Last year most of the media had written Gov. Schwarzenegger's political obituary. Gov. Schwarzenegger's political comeback has given him a commanding lead over Phil Angelides.
CO	X	Bill Ritter	Bob Beauprez	63%	Toss Up	It looks like Bill Ritter, a former District Attorney in Denver, may add to recent Democratic gains in Colorado.
CT		John DeStefano	M. JODI RELL	56%	Solid R	Gov. Rell holds a wide lead over Democratic challenger John DeStefano.
FL	X	Jim Davis	Charlie Crist	56%	Lean R	Charlie Crist, the state's attorney general is hoping to become the first Republican in Florida since reconstruction to succeed another Republican governor. While Crist maintains a slight lead, the race has tightened in recent weeks.
GA		Mark Taylor	SONNY PERDUE	51%	Lean R	Recent polls indicate that Gov. Perdue holds a substantial lead over Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor.
HI		Randall Iwase	LINDA LINGLE	52%	Solid R	With 73% approval rating and a \$6 million war chest, Gov. Lingle is expected to win easily.
ID	X	Jerry Brady	C.L. "Butch" Otter	56%	Toss Up	While this race is closer than most expected, Rep. Butch Otter continues to cling to a slight lead.
IL		ROD BLAGOJEVICH	Judy Baar Topinka	52%	Lean D	Ethics allegations have had an impact on this race but it appears that Gov. Rod Blagojevich is headed for a second term.
IA	X	Chet Culver	Jim Nussle	53%	Toss Up	This race will go down to the wire but Secretary of State Chet Culver appears to have a slight edge.

State	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	Rating	Notes
KS		KATHLEEN SEBELIUS	Jim Barnett	53%	Solid D	It appears that Democrat Kathleen Sebelius will coast to victory in this red state.
ME		JOHN BALDACCI	Chandler Woodcock	47%	Lean D	In a five way race, Gov. John Baldacci faces his toughest challenge from Republican state Sen.Chandler Woodcock.
MD		ROBERT ERLICH	Martin O'Malley	52%	Toss Up	While this race has been close, three recent polls have Martin O'Malley leading Gov. Ehrlich.
MA	X	Deval Patrick	Kerry Healey	50%	Toss Up	Democrat Deval Patrick, a former Clinton administration civil rights official, is leading Republican Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey.
MI		JENNIFER GRANHOLM	Dick DeVos	51%	Toss Up	While Republican Dick DeVos has tried to make this race about the economic condition of Michigan, recent polls indicate that Gov. Granholm lead is increasing.
MN		Mike Hatch	TIM PAWLENTY	44%	Lean R	While several polls had Gov. Pawlenty leading in August, it appears that Pawlenty may be suffering fallout from Republicans' and President Bush's sagging approval ratings nationwide.
NE		David Hahn	DAVID HEINEMAN	69%	Solid R	Gov. Heineman, who took over after Gov. Johanns left office to become U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, defeated legendary Cornhuskers coach Rep. Tom Osbourne in the Republican primary. Heineman is heavily favored in his race against Democrat David Hahn.
NV	X	Dina Titus	Jim Gibbons	68%	Toss Up	Gibbons' campaign was rocked in the final three weeks of the campaign by news that a casino cocktail waitress accused the congressman of grabbing her and propositioning her after a night of drinking.
NH		JOHN LYNCH	James Coburn	51%	Solid D	Gov. John Lynch, who narrowly defeated incumbent Republican Craig Benson two years ago, is headed for a landslide victory.
NM		BILL RICHARDSON	John Dendahl	55%	Solid D	Gov. Richardson will coast to victory against former Olympic skier John Dendahl. Richardson has raised \$11 million, while Dendahl has struggled to raise \$275,000.
NY	X	Eliot Spitzer	John Faso	49%	Solid D	Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is on the verge of a landslide victory.
OH	X	Ted Strickland	Ken Blackwell	58%	Likely D	Blackwell, Ohio's secretary of state faces an uphill battle against U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland.
OK		BRAD HENRY	Ernest Istook	43%	Solid D	Gov. Henry has consistently led U.S. Rep. Ernest Istook in the polls. Henry has seen his popularity soar because he worked well with both parties to pass historic tax cuts, raise teacher pay and institute a lottery to benefit education.

State	Open	Democrat	Republican	Last Incum. %	Rating	Notes
OR		TED KULONGOSKI	Ron Saxton	49%	Toss Up	While Gov. Kulongoski leads Republican Ron Saxton in recent polls, some feel that this is the Republicans' best shot a winning a Democratic seat.
PA		ED RENDELL	Lynn Swann	53%	Likely D	Gov. Ed Rendell, the former mayor of Philadelphia, is well ahead of his Republican opponent, former Pittsburgh Steeler and Hall of Fame wide-receiver Lynn Swann.
RI		Charlie Fogarty	DONALD CARCIERI	55%	Toss Up	Gov. Don Carcieri maintains a lead over Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty in recent polls.
SC		Tommy Moore	MARK SANFORD	53%	Likely R	While this race tightened in August, recent polls indicate that Gov. Mark Sanford is headed for re-election.
SD		Jack Billion	MIKE ROUNDS	57%	Solid R	Gov. Rounds appears headed towards an easy re-election.
TN		PHIL BRESEDEN	Jim Bryson	51%	Solid D	Gov. Bredesen heads toward Election Day with a double digit lead over state Senator Jim Bryson.
TX		Chris Bell	RICK PERRY	58%	Likely R	Gov. Rick Perry faces four opponents in what some observers have called the "zaniest governor's race in modern-day history." Gov. Perry leads the pack that includes singer/humorist/mystery writer Kinky Friedman.
VT		Scudder Parker	JIM DOUGLAS	59%	Likely R	Gov. Jim Douglas has a comfortable lead in his re-election big against Democratic challenger Scudder Parker, an ordained minister who served in the state legislature.
WI		JIM DOYLE	Mark Green	45%	Toss Up	This race pitting Gov. Jim Doyle against Rep. Mark Green is likely to go down to the wire.
WY		DAVE FREUDENTHAL	Ray Hunkins	50%	Solid D	Gov. Freudenthal is expected to win easily against Republican challenger Ray Hunkins. Gov. Freudenthal was in the enviable position of being governor during an energy boom that yielded the state a billion-dollar surplus.

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Source: Cook Political Report 10/31/06

2006 Gubernatorial Race Tally Sheet

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AK	Sarah Palin		Tony Knowles
AZ	Len Munsil		JANET NAPOLITANO
AR	Asa Hutchinson		Michael Beebe
CA	Arnold Schwarzenegger		Phil Angelides
CO	Bob Beauprez		Bill Ritter
CT	M. JODI RELL		John DeStefano
FL	Charlie Crist		Jim Davis
GA	SONNY PERDUE		Mark Taylor
HI	LINDA LINGLE		Randall Iwase
ID	C.L. "Butch" Otter		Jerry Brady
IL	Judy Bear Topinka		ROD BLAGOJEVICH
IA	Jim Nussle		Chet Culver
KS	Jim Barnett		KATHLEEN SEBELIUS
ME	Chandler Woodcock		JOHN BALDACCI
MD	ROBERT ERLICH		Martin O'Malley
MA	Kerry Healey		Deval Patrick
MI	Dick DeVos		JENNIFER GRANHOLM
MN	TIM PAWLENTY		Mike Hatch
NE	DAVID HEINEMAN		David Hahn
NV	Jim Gibbons		Dina Titus
NH	James Coburn		JOHN LYNCH

NM	John Dendahl		BILL RICHARDSON
NY	John Faso		Eliot Spitzer
OH	Ken Blackwell		Ted Strickland
OK	Ernest Istook		BRAD HENRY
OR	Ron Saxton		TED KULONGOSKI
PA	Lynn Swann		ED RENDELL
RI	DONALD CARCIERI		Charlie Fogarty
SC	MARK SANFORD		Tommy Moore
SD	MIKE ROUNDS		Jack Billion
TN	Jim Bryson		PHIL BRESEDEN
TX	RICK PERRY		Chris Bell
VT	JIM DOUGLAS		Scudder Parker
WI	Mark Green		JIM DOYLE
WY	Ray Hunkins		DAVE FREUDENTHAL

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