

# Hotline Congressional and Gubernatorial Updates

Top Down-Ballot Hotline  
Stories of the Month

**April 21, 2016**

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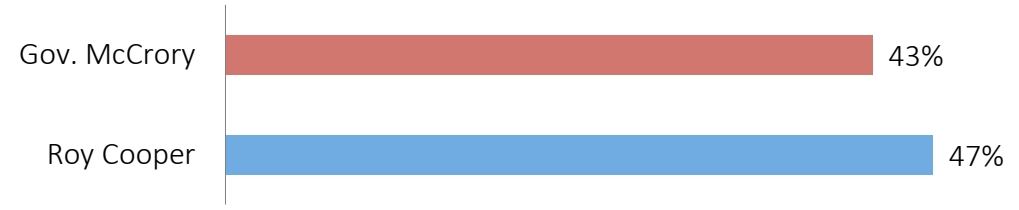
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# 3 Key Polls From the NC Governor Race

Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline

## North Carolina Polling

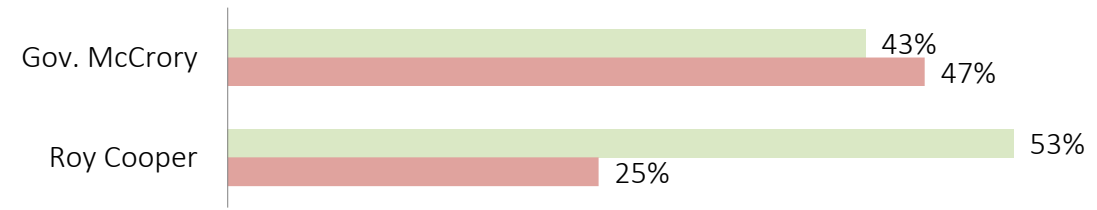
### Governor's Race Poll



1. Incumbent Pat McCrory (R) and Attorney General Roy Cooper (D) are **neck and neck** in a recent poll...

### Job Approval

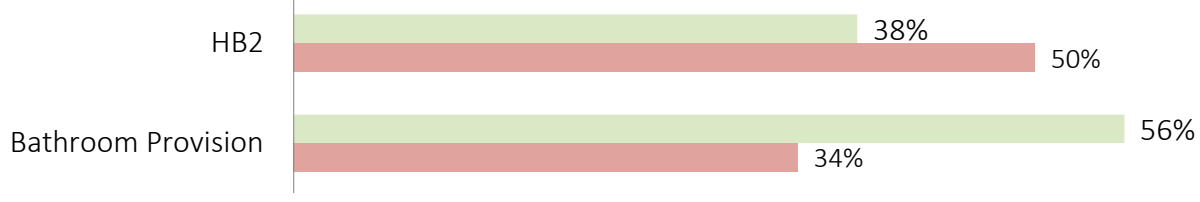
■ Approve ■ Disapprove



2. But Cooper has a substantially **better approval rating.**

### NC Public Opinion of HB2

■ Approve ■ Disapprove



3. North Carolinians disapprove of **HB2, the sweeping anti-LGBT rights bill** that Gov. McCrory signed into law; however, a majority of residents support the ordinance requiring trans people to use the **bathrooms of the gender they were assigned at birth**, not the gender they identify with.

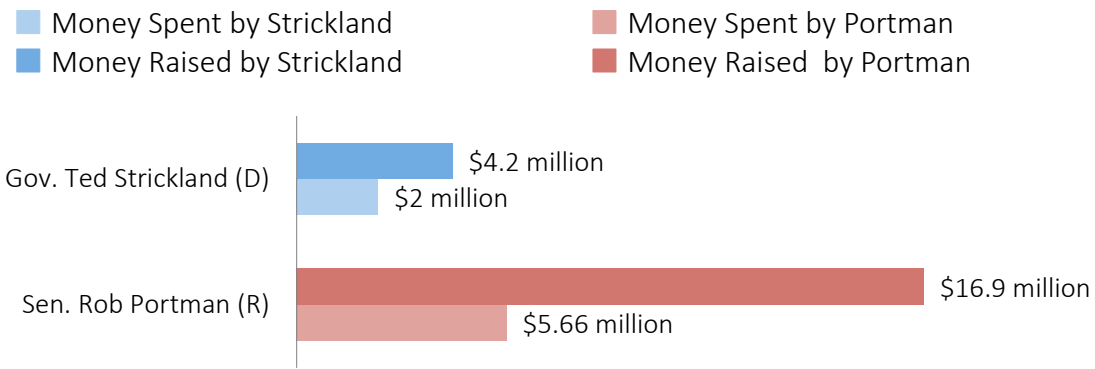
Source: Zach Cohen, "SurveyUSA: McCrory, Cooper Tied in Head-to-Head, But Majority Against HB2," National Journal, April 14, 2016.

# Ohio Senate Race Intensifies Between Incumbent and Governor

## Updates From the 2016 Ohio Senate Race

*Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline*

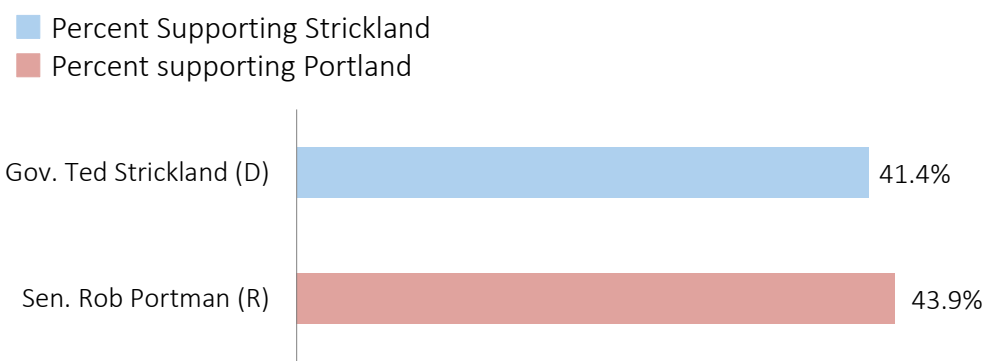
### Money raised in Ohio Senate race



**Campaign Updates:**

- Senator Rob Portman denounced Trump after declining multiple questions about him: "Hate groups like the KKK have no place in our country or our party, and I don't think anyone should hesitate to disavow them and I think Donald Trump's hesitancy to do so is wrong."

### Ohio Senate race polling



Sources: HuffPost Pollster, March, 2016; Open Secrets, April 19, 2016; Andrea Drusch, "Strickland Raised \$500,000 in 2015, has \$2M," National Journal, March 4, 2016.

# Rep. Graham Considers Running For Governor; Rep. Brown May Appeal Redistricting Ruling

## Redistricting Updates: Florida Edition

*Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline*

### Rep. Corrine Brown (FL-5)



- **Rep. Corrine Brown (D)** said she is speaking with her lawyers to decide whether she will appeal a redistricting ruling Monday that rejected her challenge to the state's congressional map.
- In the lawsuit, Brown sought to have Florida's new lines thrown out, arguing that the voting rights of minorities were diluted in her newly drawn district. She called the federal court's ruling "extremely disappointing."
- Brown has decided to run for reelection in her less favorably drawn district anyway.

### Rep. Gwen Graham (FL-2)



- **Rep. Gwen Graham (D)** was been dealt an extremely challenging 2<sup>nd</sup> district after redistricting, making her chances of reelection highly unlikely.
- At first Graham waited to see if Brown would run would run in a different district so that Graham could take Brown's place in the 5<sup>th</sup>, but now Graham has ruled out a congressional race this cycle.
- In a video, Graham announced that she was considering a 2018 run for Governor. Graham is the daughter of former Florida Governor and Senator Bob Graham.



# Primary Season Heats Up Nationwide

## House of Representatives Hotline Primary Updates

*Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline*



**California, 46<sup>th</sup> District:** A judge dismissed five of former state Sen. And House candidate Joe Dunn's (D) claims that he was fired as director of the State Bar in retaliation for whistleblowing, but "said he could resubmit three if he provided more information to support the allegations."

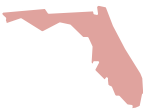


**California, 48<sup>th</sup> District:** "Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R) has lashed out at former county GOP chief Scott Baugh (R) for raising money to campaign for his congressional seat, expressing concern Friday that his longtime friend would run against him." On Friday, Rohrabacher said in a statement that he planned to run in 2018.



**Florida, 1<sup>st</sup> District:** State Sen. Greg Evers (R) announced he will seek retiring Rep. Jeff Miller's (R) seat.

**Florida, 6<sup>th</sup> District:** Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) aide Brandon Patty (R) is hitting direct mail fundraiser Pat Mooney (R) for a comment Mooney made about immigrants. Mooney said, "We have cards. We have chips. They're not American citizens. They're not afforded the same rights we are as citizens. ... So when they come here, we can track them. We can make sure they leave. It's easy to do."



**Maryland, 8<sup>th</sup> District:** Wine retailer David Trone (D) "has put another \$2.5 million of personal funds into his campaign for the 8th District Democratic nomination, according to new filings with the Federal Election Commission." Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) endorsed former Obama administration aide Will Jawando (D).



**North Carolina, 9<sup>th</sup> District:** Rep. Robert Pittenger (R) "finds himself scrambling to keep the support of his conservative Christian base in the wake of a ... primary challenge from" the Rev. Mark Harris (R), "a Charlotte pastor with his own claims to that constituency."



**North Carolina, 12<sup>th</sup> District:** A poll released by Rep. Alma Adams (D) shows her leading former state Sen. Malcolm Graham (D), 37% to 28% (April 4-7; 400 LPVs; +/- 4.9%). State Reps. Tricia Cotham (D) came in third with 11%.



**Pennsylvania, 9<sup>th</sup> District:** Art Halvorson (R), a 2014 challenger, accused Rep. Bill Shuster (R) of "cavorting" with an airline lobbyist at a debate Saturday, as Shuster was put "on the defensive. ... Halvorson portrayed Shuster as continuing a family tradition of trading on his position of influence in Washington, comparing the incumbent's actions to those of his father, Bud Shuster, who resigned from Congress in 2001 under a cloud of impropriety."

Sources: Kimberly Railey, "Primary Round-Up: IN-09's Houchin Releases First TV Ad," National Journal, April 19, 2016. Kimberly Railey, "Primary Round-Up: Evers to Run for Miller's FL-01 Seat; Rutherford to Seek Crenshaw's FL-04 Seat," National Journal, April 18, 2016.

# Key Senate Races: Planned Parenthood Goes After Ayotte; Kirk Moves to the Left

## Hotline Senate Updates

*Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline*

### Illinois



- Senator Mark Kirk (R) “will not be attending [the GOP convention in Cleveland] and will instead focus on his own campaign, his spokeswoman said Wednesday.”
- Ahead of his reelection “Kirk isn’t just distancing himself from the rest of the GOP — he’s fleeing from it. From the Supreme Court vacancy battle to gay rights to criminal justice reform, the moderate Illinois Republican is sounding more like a Democrat with each passing day as he fights to save his political life in an overwhelmingly blue state this fall.”

### New Hampshire



- Planned Parenthood Action Fund “is launching its first” Senate television ad of 2016 targeting Senator Kelly Ayotte (R). The group is spending \$400,000 on an ad blasting “Ayotte for supporting the Senate Republican leadership’s refusal to hold on U.S. Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland,” and “for her support of overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade decision.”
- Maggie Hassan (D) raised \$2.25 million, has \$2.9 million on hand. Ayotte’s campaign adjusted its reported number to say they also raised \$2.25 million. Ayotte had \$6.9 million on hand at the end of the quarter.

### Florida



- “Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-18) has established a network of committees, including one with the Florida Democratic Party, that has given a slight bump to fundraising efforts for his U.S. Senate campaign and could provide a big boost moving forward.”
- “In a span of four months, the father of Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-18) and his business interests poured a half-million dollars into a super PAC supporting his son’s bid for U.S. Senate.

Sources: Andrea Drusch, “PPAF Launches Ayotte Attacks,” *National Journal*, April 19, 2016; Andrea Drusch, “Hassan, Ayotte Each Raised \$2.2M in Q1,” *National Journal*, April 13, 2016; Andrea Drusch, “Kirk Won’t Attend GOP Convention,” *National Journal*, April 14, 2016; Andrea Drusch, “Ben Carson Backs Ron DeSantis,” *National Journal*, April 15, 2016; Andrea Drusch, “Beruff Allies Form Super PAC for Senate Bid,” *National Journal*, April 18, 2016.

# Democrats Have Recruited a Deep Bench of Senate Candidates in Red States

Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline

## Senate Race Hotline Updates



### Iowa

- Democrats landed a former state officeholder, Lt. Governor Patty Judge (D), to challenge entrenched Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley (R)

*Cook Rating: Likely Republican*

### Arizona



- Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D) is challenging Sen. John McCain (R), and is already utilizing Trump in her campaign messaging.

*Cook Rating: Likely Republican*

### Arkansas



- Accomplished U.S. Attorney Connor Eldridge (D) is challenging underfunded Sen. John Boozman (R).

*Cook Rating: Solid Republican*

### Missouri



- Decorated Iraq war veteran and Secretary of State Jason Kander (D) is a formidable challenger to Sen. Roy Blunt (R).

*Cook Rating: Likely Republican*

### Indiana



- Former Rep. Baron Hill (D) is trying to pull a Joe Donnelly (R) and pull off an upset to win in Republican-friendly Indiana.

*Cook Rating: Solid Republican*

### North Carolina



- Demorah Ross outraised Burr in Q1, and is close behind in the polls. Bur has low approval ratings.

*Cook Rating: Leans Republican*

## How Damaging Would a Trump Nomination Be For GOP Senators?

- Under normal circumstances, the healthy Republican advantage in these conservative states would make it very difficult for any Democrat to win. Former Sen. Mark Pryor, hot-shot recruit Alison Lundergan Grimes and name-brand Democrat Robin Carnahan all failed to persuade crossover voters in tough territories in recent years.
- Since declining to immediately condemn David Duke, lashing out at recent debates, and viciously smearing anyone who criticizes him, Trump has become toxic beyond the battleground states. Party officials are already urging their members to specifically target suburban areas, where Trump's favorability numbers are brutal.

Source: Josh Kraushaar, "Senate Democrats Are Well-Prepared for a Wave," National Journal, March 4, 2016; Andrea Drusch, "Ross Outraises Burr, \$1.29M to \$1.1M," National Journal, April 13, 2016.