

# Hotline Congressional and Gubernatorial Updates

Top Down-Ballot Hotline  
Stories of the Month

**August 18, 2016**

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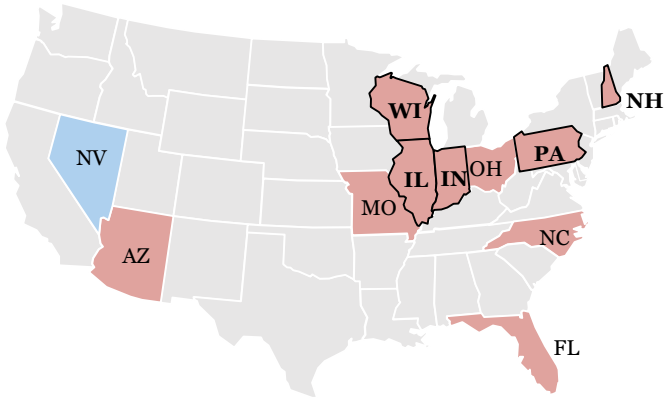
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# Republicans Currently Hold the Five Senate Seats Most Likely to Flip in 2016

Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline

## Hotline's 2016 Senate Rankings

■ Seat Held by Republican   ■ Seat Held by Democrat



- 6. Nevada: Open (D)
- 7. North Carolina: Richard Burr (R)
- 8. Ohio: Robert Portman (R)
- 9. Florida: Marco Rubio (R)
- 10. Missouri + Arizona: Roy Blunt (R) + John McCain (R)

**1. Illinois:** Sen. Mark Kirk (R) is trailing in polls in a blue state, and is lacking in support from outside spending groups. Kirk has publicly disavowed Trump in a TV ad, seeking to distance himself from his party.

Incumbent: *Mark Kirk (R)*  
Challenger: *Tammy Duckworth (D)*

**2. Wisconsin:** Former Senator Russ Feingold (D) is running an aggressive campaign against Ron Johnson (R), but Johnson has ample support from outside spending groups.

Incumbent: *Ron Johnson (R)*  
Challenger: *Former Sen. Russ Feingold (D)*

**3. Indiana:** Evan Bayh, a former Indiana Governor and Senator, entered the race late with considerable campaign funding from previous races and strong name recognition.

Incumbent: *Dan Coats (R) (retiring)*  
Challengers: *Former Gov. Evan Bayh (D)* and *Rep. Todd Young (R)*

**4. New Hampshire :** New Hampshire voters tend to be more in tune with politics than the average voter so Trump will likely have less of a down-ballot impact on Ayotte than in other states. However, Ayotte has been trailing in the polls.

Incumbent: *Kelly Ayotte (R)*  
Challenger: *Gov. Maggie Hassan (D)*

**5. Pennsylvania:** National Democrats spent \$5 million to get their chosen candidate, 2014 gubernatorial candidate Katie McGinty (D), through a messy nominating fight. Pat Toomey (R) has a lot of money to spend in his effort to brand himself as independent from his party.



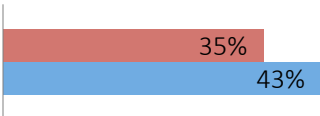


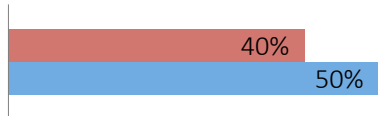




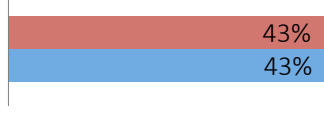


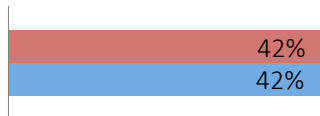
Incumbent: *Pat Toomey (R)*  
Challenger: *Katie McGinty (D)*

Source: Kyle Trygstad and Andrea Drusch, "Hotline's 2016 Senate Rankings," National Journal, July 6, 2016.

# Which Senate Seats Are Most Likely to Flip?

Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline

## Hotline's 2016 Senate Rankings

<u>State</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Challenger</u>	<u>Polling</u>		
1. Illinois	 Mark Kirk	 Tammy Duckworth	 <table><tr><td>35%</td></tr><tr><td>43%</td></tr></table>	35%	43%
35%					
43%					
2. Wisconsin	 Ron Johnson	 Russ Feingold	 <table><tr><td>40%</td></tr><tr><td>50%</td></tr></table>	40%	50%
40%					
50%					
3. Indiana	<i>Open</i>	 Todd Young  Evan Bayh	<i>*Not enough polling</i>		
4. New Hampshire	 Kelly Ayotte	 Maggie Hassan	 <table><tr><td>43%</td></tr><tr><td>43%</td></tr></table>	43%	43%
43%					
43%					
5. Pennsylvania	 Pat Toomey	 Katie McGinty	 <table><tr><td>42%</td></tr><tr><td>42%</td></tr></table>	42%	42%
42%					
42%					

Sources: Andrea Drusch, "Hotline's 2016 Senate Rankings," National Journal, August 11, 2016; HuffPost Pollster, 2016. Images from National Journal Almanac, Wikipedia, Citizens for Community Values and Politics PA.

# Rubio Seeks Reelection

## U.S. Senate Primary – Florida



**Marco Rubio (R)**  
*Elected 2010*

- The Cook Political Reports rates this race as a “Toss uP.”
- Patrick Murphy is favored to win against Grayson, and it is crucial for Democrats that Murphy win for the party to have a chance at winning this seat.

Candidate	Previous Position	Funds Raised
Marco Rubio	Incumbent	\$10.96 million
Carlos Beruff	Developer	\$4.53 million

Candidate	Previous Position	Funds Raised
Patrick Murphy	Representative from Florida	\$10.26 million
Alan Grayson	Representative from Florida	\$2.51 million

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; Ballotpedia, 2016; Cook Political Report, 2016.

# Pence as VP Pick Shakes Up Indiana Governor Race

## Indiana Governor's Race

*Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline*



VS.



**Eric Holcomb**  
*Lt. Governor*

- The Indiana Republican State Committee nominated Holcomb in July.
- Holcomb selected state auditor Suzanne Crouch as his running mate.

**John Gregg**  
*Former Speaker of the House,  
Indiana Senate*

- A few of Gregg's campaign themes are: Indiana jobs, funding for state and local roads, education and LGBT rights.
- Gregg was trailing Pence by about 7% in the polls, but with Pence dropping out The Cook Political Report has changed this race from "Lean R" to "Toss Up."

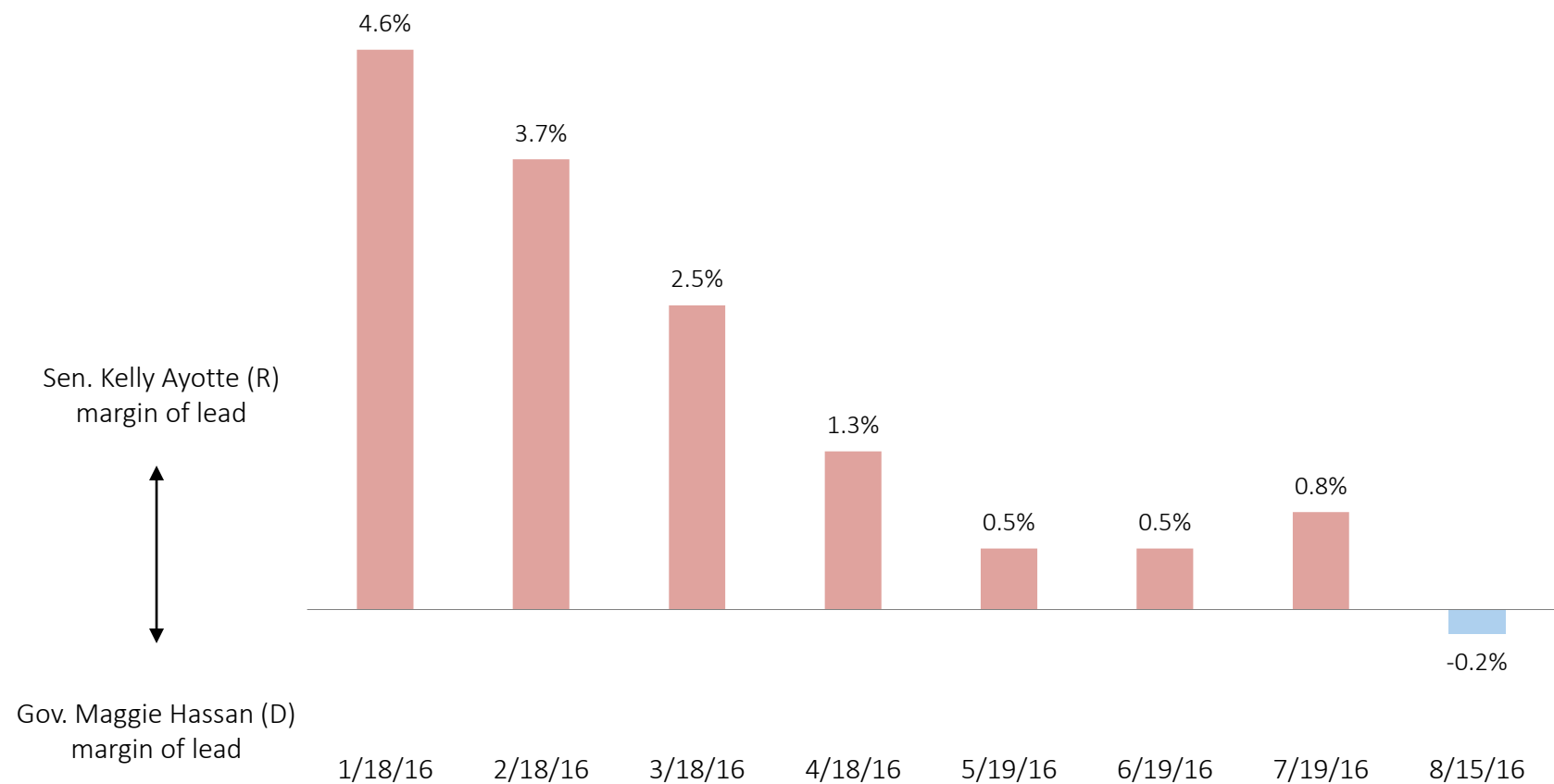
Source: Zach Cohen, "GOP Committee Nominates Holcomb," *National Journal*, July 27, 2016; Zach Cohen, "Pence Withdraws From Reelection Campaign to Run as Trump's VP," *National Journal*, July 15, 2016; *Ballotpedia*, 2016.

# Ayotte Lead Shrinks Over Time, Race Now a Statistical Tie

## New Hampshire Senate Race Polls

Margin of Lead, HuffPost Pollster Averages

Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline



Sources: HuffPost Pollster, 2016.

# Harris Has Financial and Polling Edge Over Sanchez in California Senate Primary

## Updates From the Democratic California Senate Primary

*Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline*

### Money raised in California Senate primary

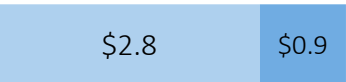
- Money spent (millions of dollars)
- Money in the bank (millions of dollars)



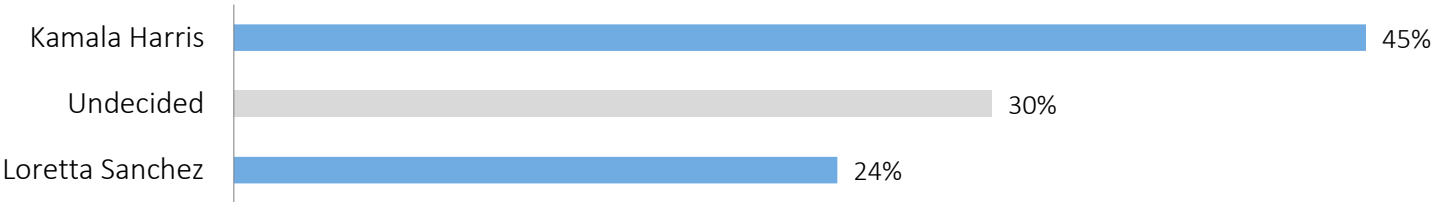
Kamala Harris



Loretta Sanchez



### California Senate primary polling



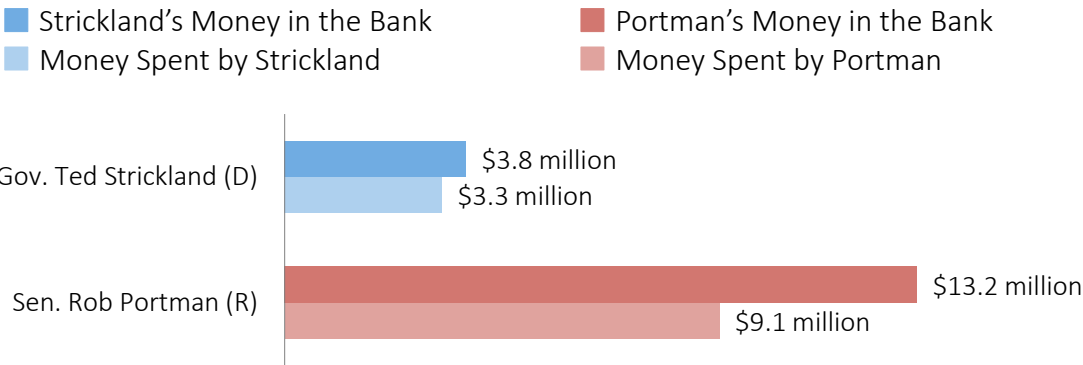
Sources: HuffPost Pollster, March, 2016; National Journal Hotline Updates; OpenSecrets.

# Ohio Senate Race Intensifies Between Incumbent and Governor

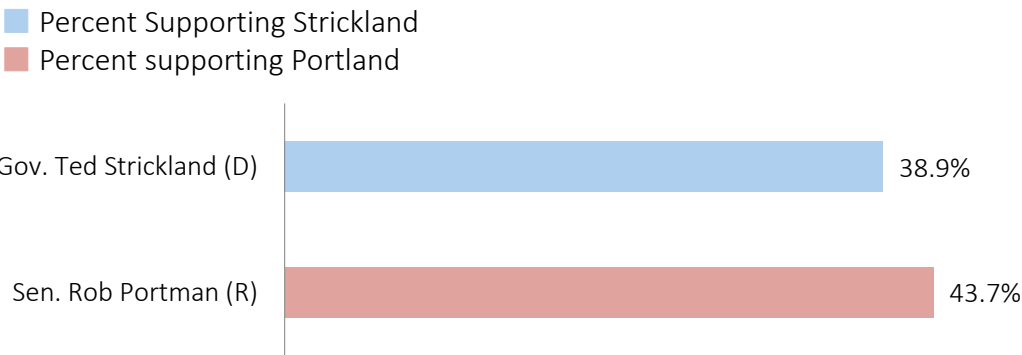
## Updates From the 2016 Ohio Senate Race

Based on Headlines From  
National Journal's Hotline

### Money raised in Ohio Senate race



### Ohio Senate race polling



### Campaign Updates:

- Portman avoided the Republican National Convention, despite it being in his home state
- After avoiding the question, Portman has declared that he will support Donald Trump in the general election

Sources: HuffPost Pollster, March, 2016; National Journal Hotline Updates.