

The Cook Political Report: election landscape after Labor Day

September 7, 2016

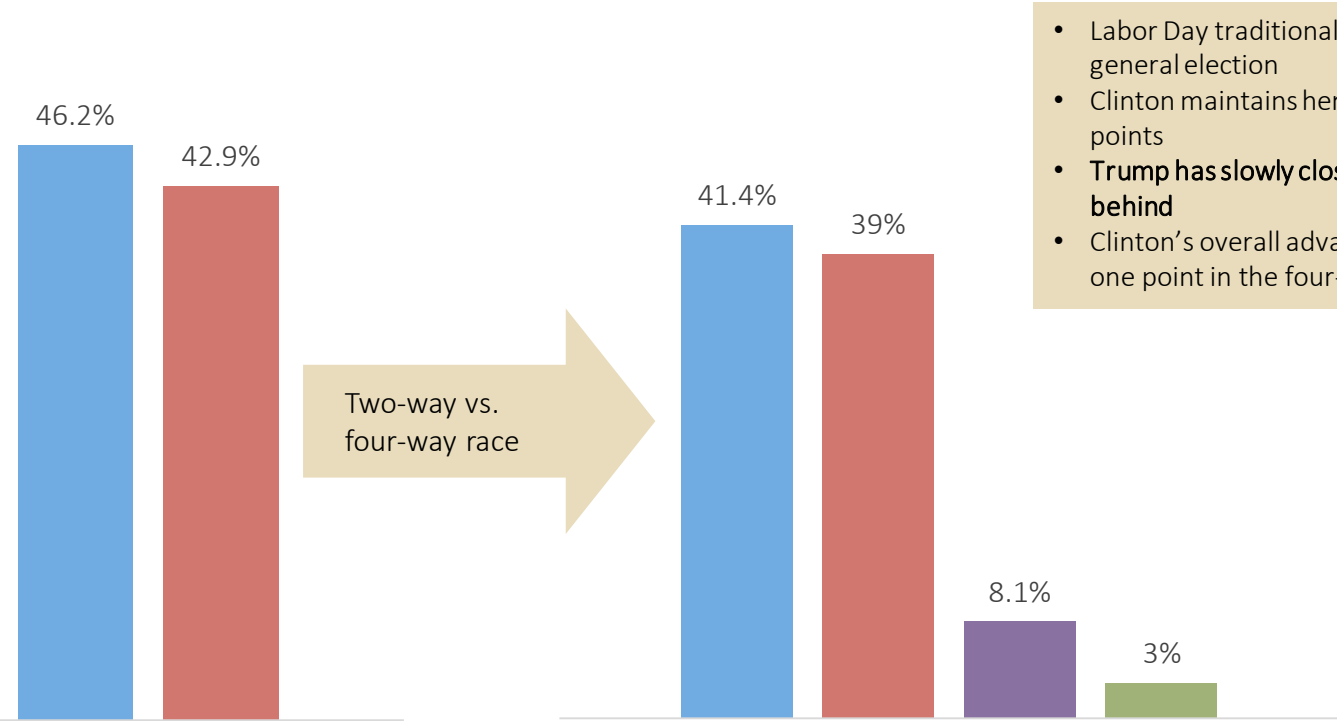
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Clinton leads in two-way national polling averages

Real Clear Politics: averages of major national polls

August 25 – September 5

Clinton Trump Johnson Stein



- Labor Day traditionally marks the beginning of the general election
- Clinton maintains her advantage by 3.3 percentage points
- **Trump has slowly closed the gap, but still remains behind**
- Clinton's overall advantage over Trump falls by just one point in the four-way match up

Two-way vs. four-way race

Charlie Cook, "Surveying the Labor Day election landscape," National Journal, September 1, 2016; RealClearPolitics, 2016.

If the election were a referendum on either candidate, they would lose due to low favorability ratings

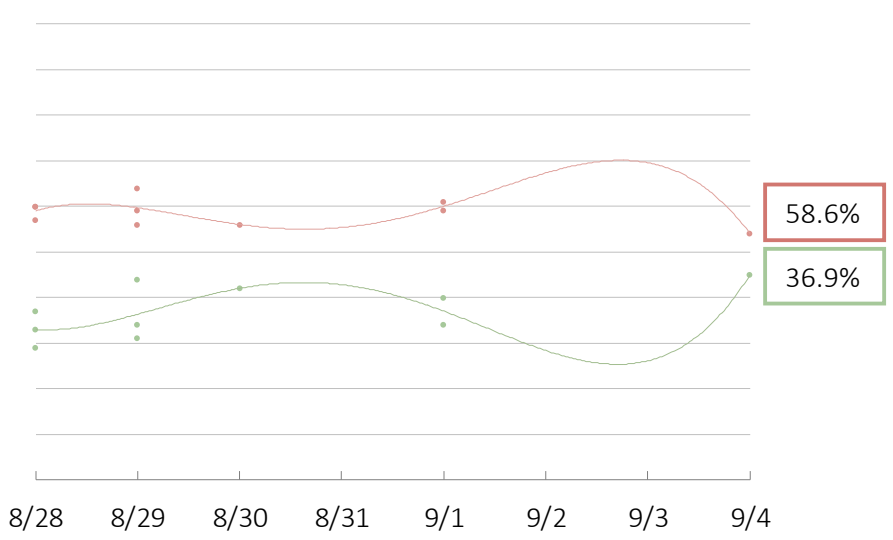
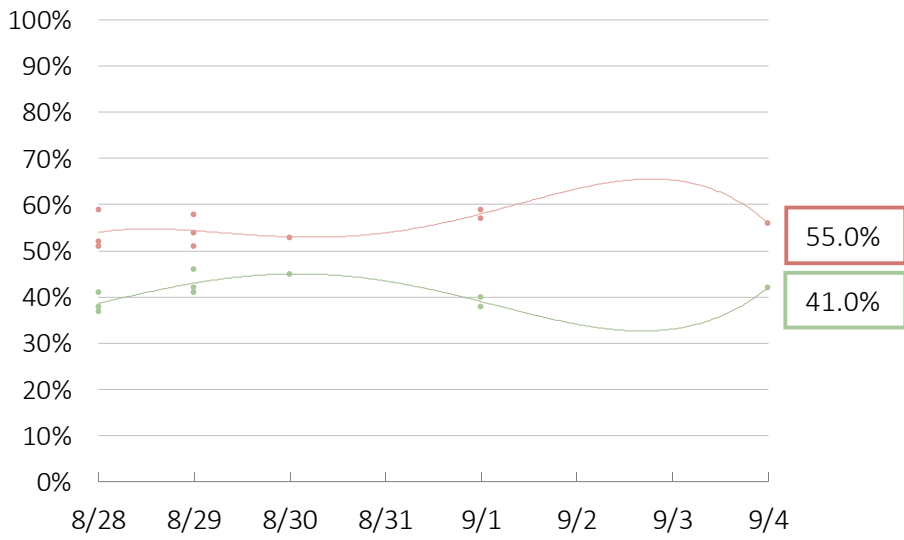
Real Clear Politics: favorable/unfavorable ratings

August 25 – September 4

■ Unfavorable ■ Favorable

Clinton

Trump

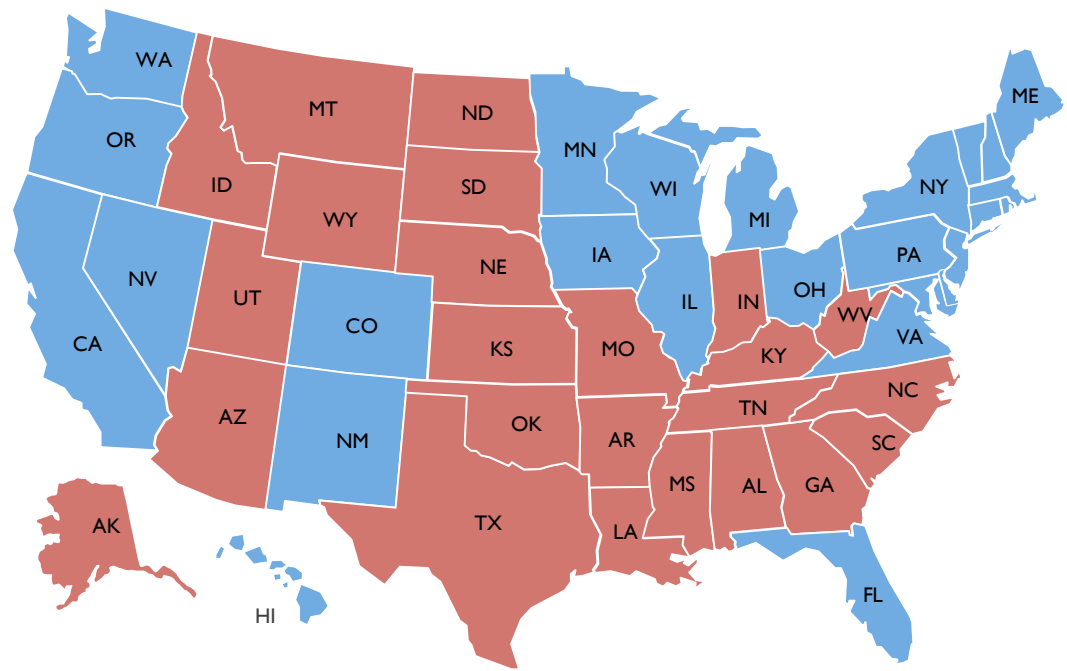


Charlie Cook, "Surveying the Labor Day election landscape," National Journal, September 1, 2016; RealClearPolitics, 2016.

Clinton is ahead in eight lean Republican states that Obama carried in 2012

2012 electoral results

■ Republican ■ Democrat



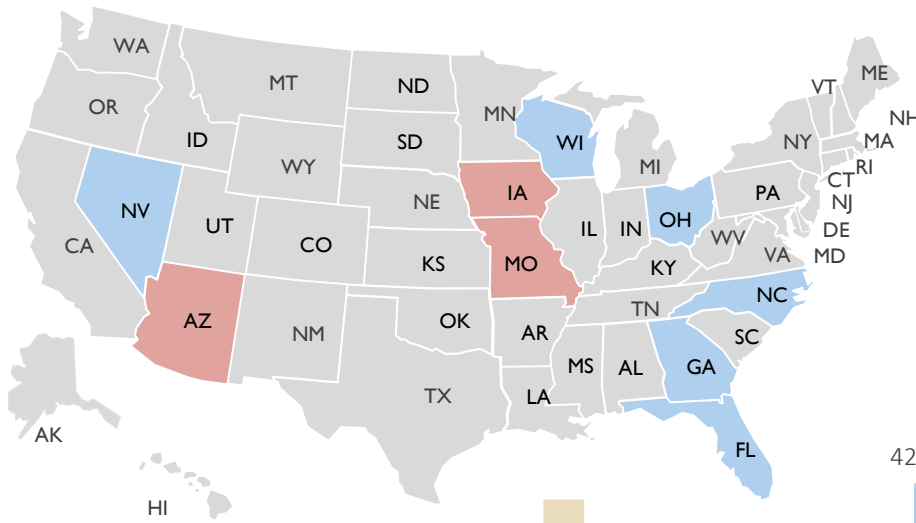
- Clinton leads in all 18 of the Democrat base states, giving her 242 electoral votes of the 270 she needs to win
- Clinton is also ahead in eight other states Obama carried in 2012 that have gone Republican in at least one of the last five elections

The Cook Political Report, "Electoral results," 2016.

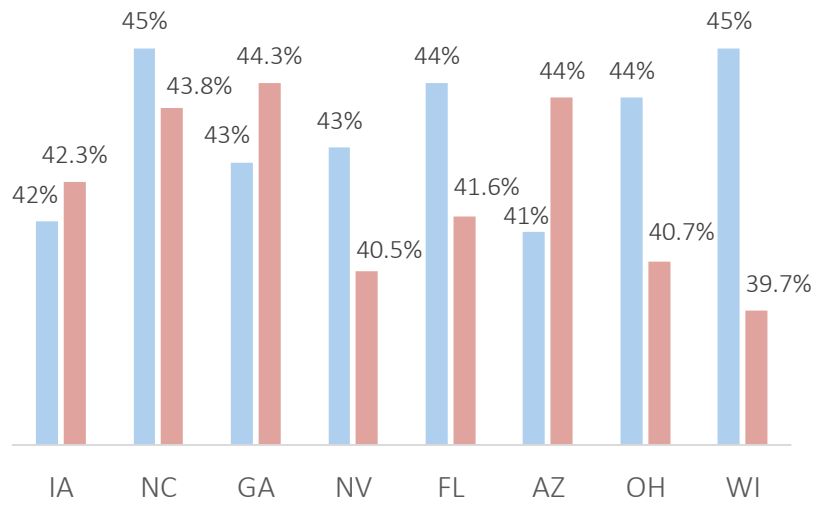
In the closest races, Clinton has the advantage

Real Clear Politics: map of the closest state races

■ Slight Clinton advantage ■ Slight Trump advantage



- Before Labor Day, Clinton had a 1.5 percentage point advantage in Iowa, giving her the lead in 6 of the 8 closest state races
- After Labor Day, Trump has closed the gap in Iowa, leaving Clinton ahead in 5 tight states
- **The race might be close, but it will be hard for Clinton to lose at this point unless there is a large upset**
- Pundits now look to the debates for signs of a changing outcome



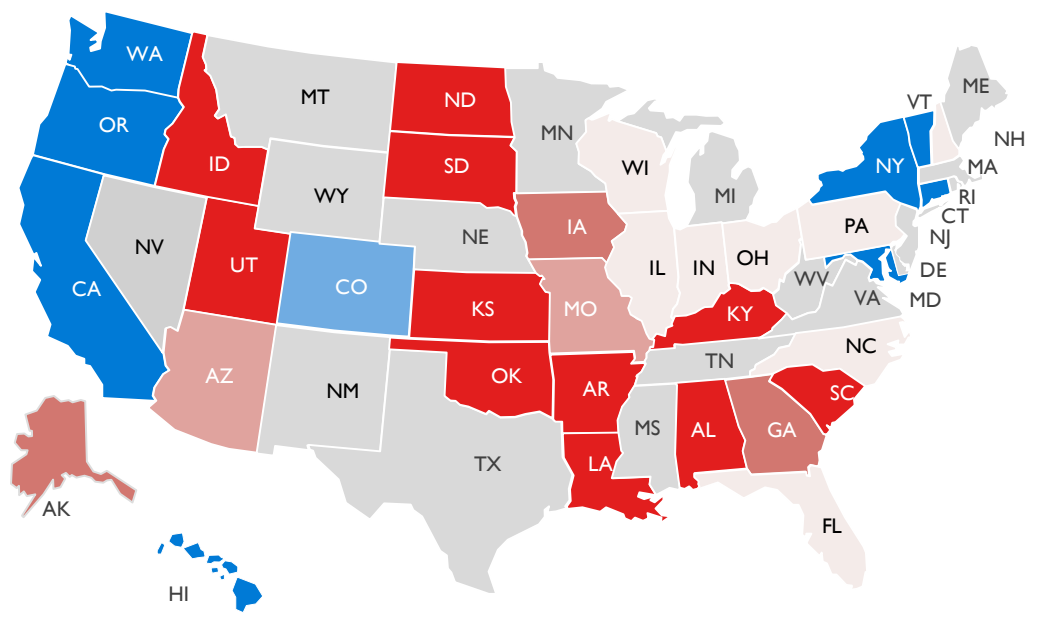
Charlie Cook, "Surveying the Labor Day election landscape," National Journal, September 1, 2016; RealClearPolitics, 2016.

Democrats are unlikely to win the House, shifting focus to the Senate

2016 Senate race ratings
The Cook Political Report, August 19

Toss Up Republican
 Lean Republican
 Likely Republican
 Solid Republican

 Likely Democrat
 Solid Democrat



- Currently, Republicans have a 54-46 seat advantage in the Senate
- In November, **Republicans will defend 24 seats compared to 10 seats for Democrats**
- Democrats are leading in four Republican-held states, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Pennsylvania
- The only seat Republicans might pick up is Nevada, which is currently a toss up

Charlie Cook, "Surveying the Labor Day election landscape," National Journal, September 1, 2016; "2016 Senate race ratings," The Cook Political Report, August 19, 2016.