

# Hotline Congressional and Gubernatorial Updates

Top Down-Ballot Hotline  
Stories of the Month

**September 9, 2016**

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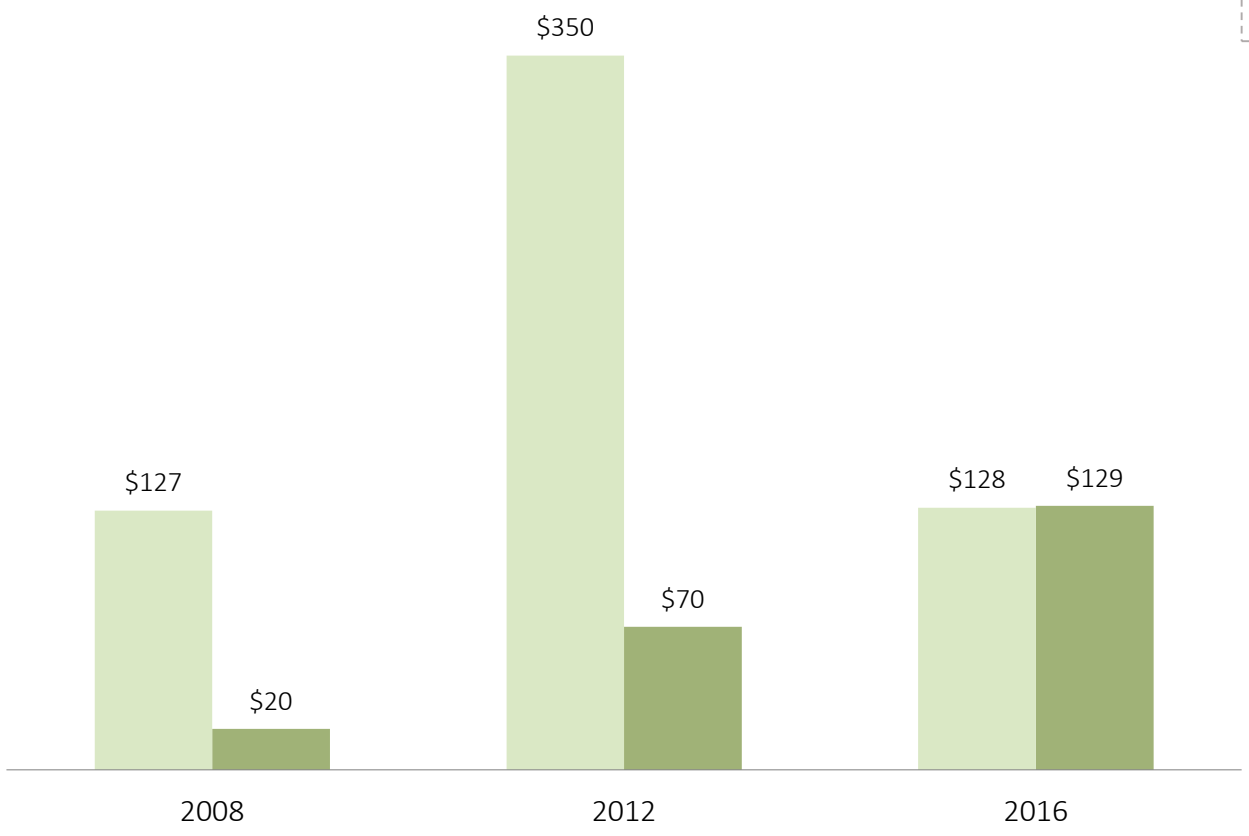
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# Outside groups have spent more on ads for the Senate than the presidency in this election cycle so far

## Outside groups spending on ads: Senate v. presidential elections

Millions of dollars; first nine months of election cycle

Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline



- This year's change is mainly due to outside groups late and relatively modest advertising on behalf of Trump
- Super PACS have also become more involved in Senate races this year

Sources: Andrea Drusch, "Senate ad spending outpaces presidential campaign," September 1, 2016; John McCormick, "Senate advertising bigger than presidential in year of Trump," August 8, 2016.

# Rubio and Murphy easily win Florida primary races

## U.S. Senate primary – Florida

*Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline*



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

- The Cook Political Reports rates this race as a "Toss Up"

Candidate	Previous Position	Votes	%
Marco Rubio	Incumbent	1,028,282	72.0%
Carlos Beruff	Developer	264,122	18.5%

Candidate	Previous Position	Funds Raised	%
Patrick Murphy	Representative from FL	663,236	58.9%
Alan Grayson	Representative from FL	199,412	17.7%

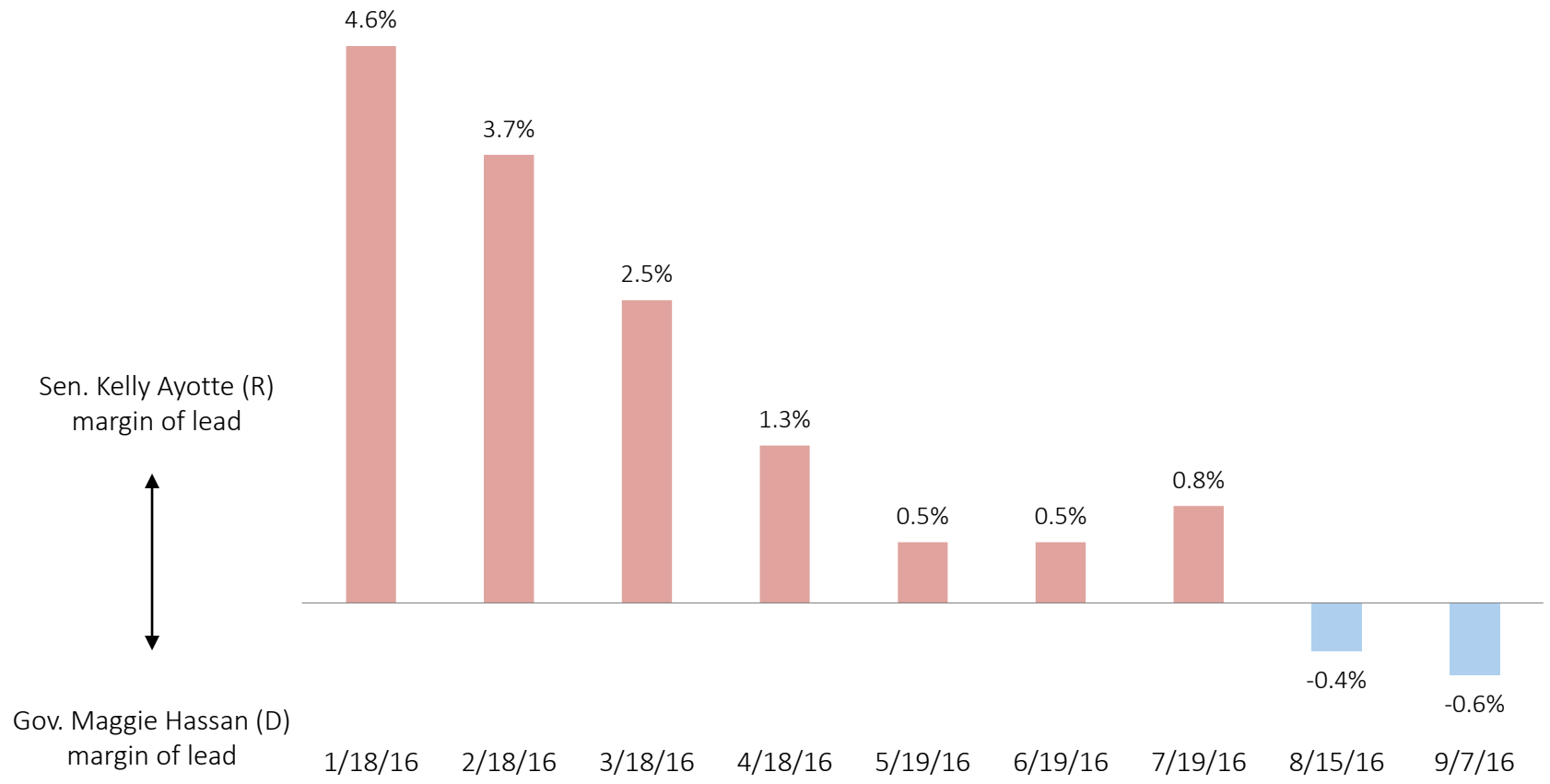
Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; Ballotpedia, 2016; Cook Political Report, 2016.

# 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.

# 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.

# Harris has financial and polling edge over Sanchez in California Senate primary

## Updates from the California Senate election

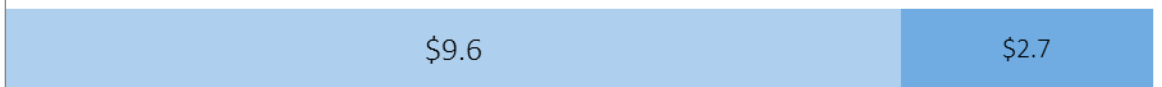
*Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline*

### 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



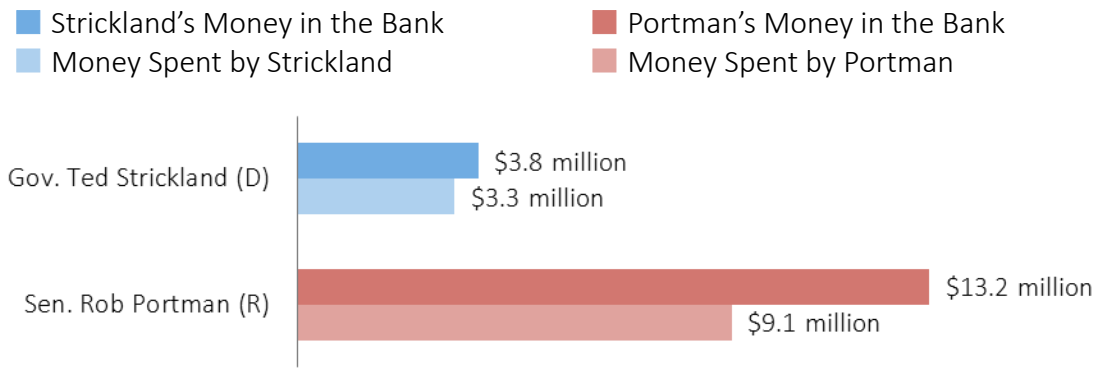
Sources: HuffPost Pollster, March, 2016; National Journal Hotline Updates; OpenSecrets.

# Ohio senate race intensifies between incumbent and governor

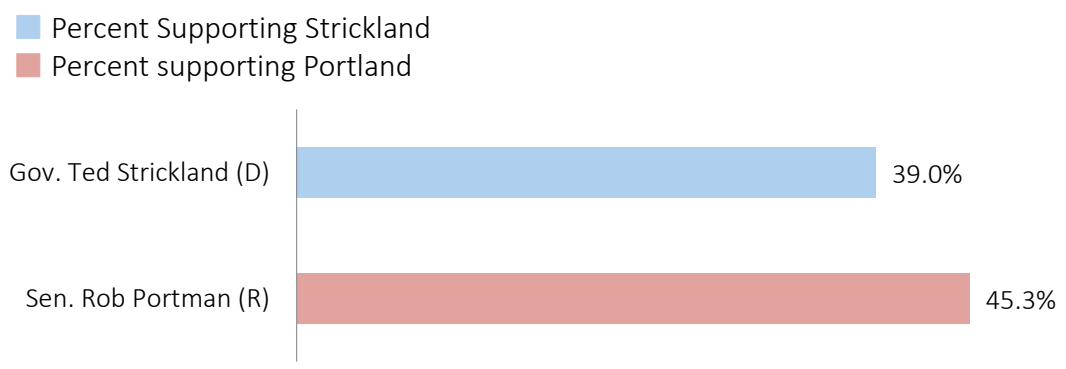
## Updates from the 2016 Ohio Senate race

*Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline*

### Money raised in Ohio Senate race



### Ohio Senate race polling



**Campaign Updates:**

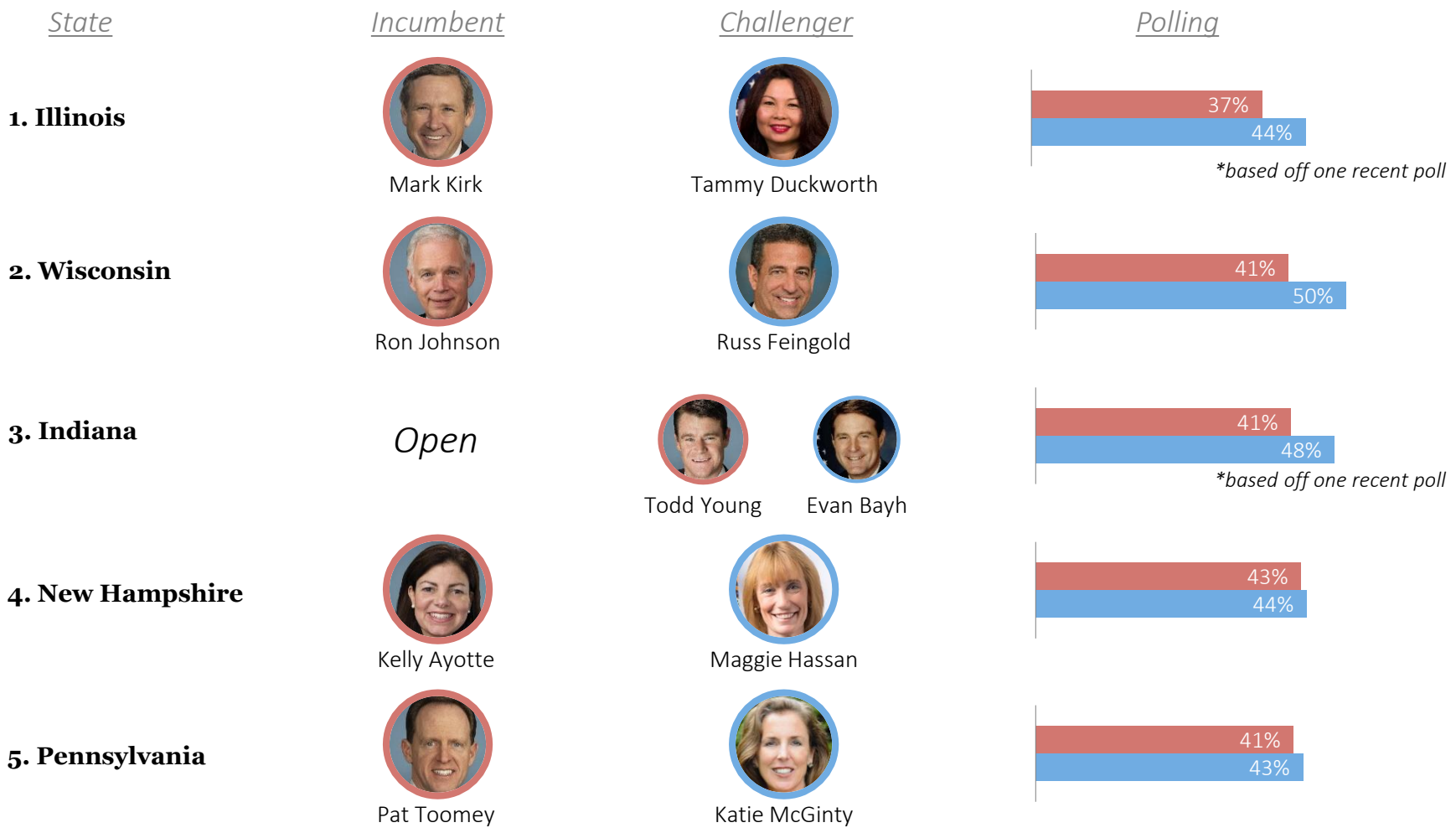
- Portman avoided the Republican National Convention, despite it being in his home state
- After avoiding the question, Portman has declared that he will support Donald Trump in the general election

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

# Which Senate seats are most likely to flip?

Based on Headlines From National Journal's Hotline

## Hotline's 2016 Senate rankings



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.

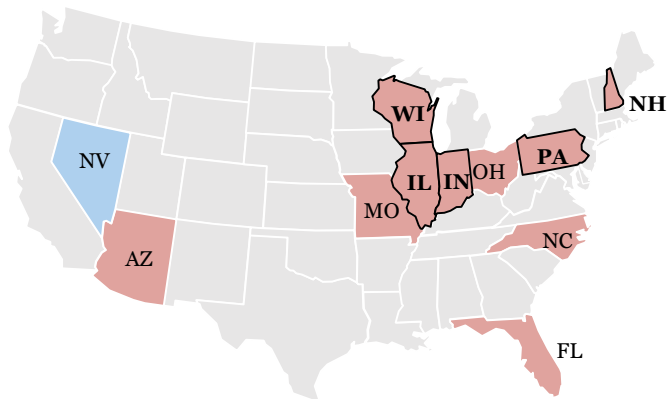


# Republicans currently hold the five Senate seats most likely to flip in 2016

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)**