

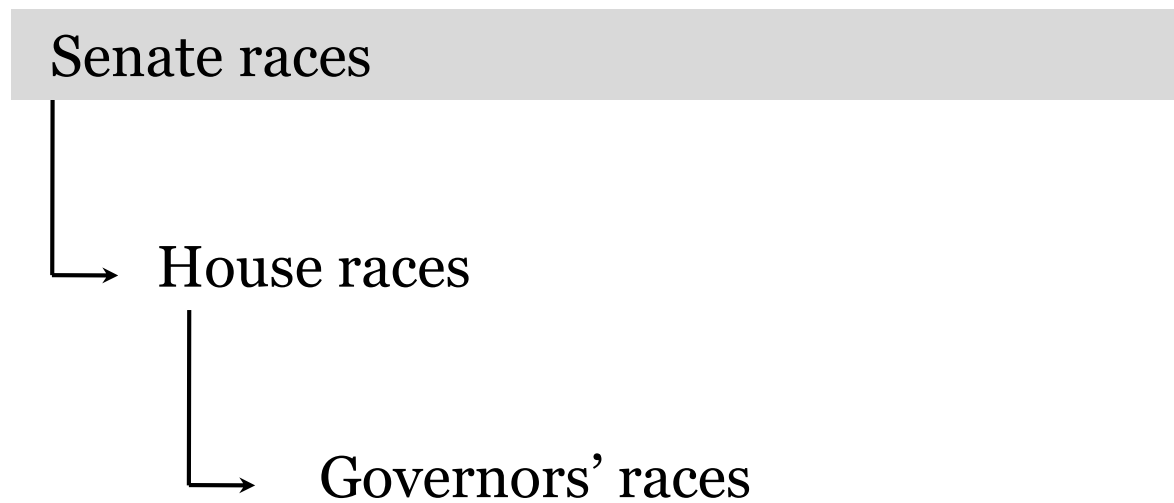
Hotline congressional and gubernatorial updates

Top down-ballot Hotline stories of the month

October 25, 2016

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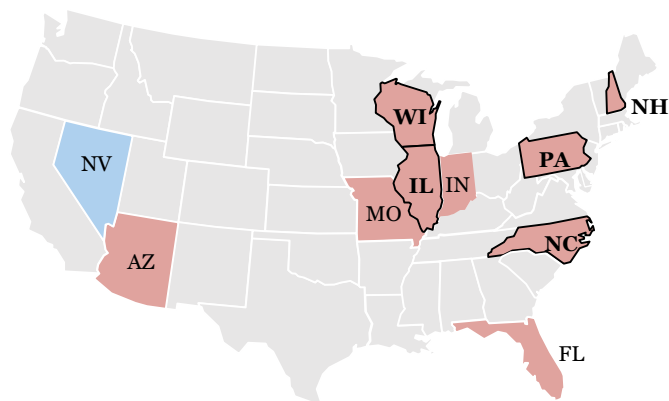
Roadmap for the presentation



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

Hotline's 2016 Senate rankings

■ Seat held by Republican ■ Seat held by Democrat
 □ Top five states most likely to flip



6. Missouri: Roy Blunt (R)
7. Indiana: Open (R)
8. Nevada: Open (D)
9. Florida: Marco Rubio (R)
10. Arizona: John McCain (R)

1. Illinois: Sen. Mark Kirk (R) is trailing in the polls in a blue state and is lacking in support from outside spending groups. Kirk has publicly disavowed Trump despite his campaign's estimate that it needs Trump to reach the mid 40s to win. The *Chicago Tribune*, which has previously endorsed Kirk, announced its backing of his opponent, Rep. Duckworth.

Incumbent: **Mark Kirk (R)**

Challenger: **Tammy Duckworth (D)**

2. Wisconsin: Former Senator Russ Feingold (D) is running an aggressive campaign against Ron Johnson (R). Despite public polls showing the race tightening, outside pro-Republican groups have canceled their airtime reservations as resources are drying up in the election's final weeks.

Incumbent: **Ron Johnson (R)**

Challenger: **Former Sen. Russ Feingold (D)**

3. Pennsylvania: Toomey has declined to say if he will vote for Trump, a move that reflects his desire to retain Trump backers without losing split-ticket voters in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The race is close, but Clinton's growing advantage may be too much for Toomey to overcome.

Incumbent: **Pat Toomey (R)**

Challenger: **Katie McGinty (D)**

4. New Hampshire: Ayotte recently unendorsed Trump, which has hurt her advantage; however, Clinton's lead in New Hampshire is small, which may help Ayotte down ballot.

Incumbent: **Kelly Ayotte (R)**

Challenger: **Gov. Maggie Hassan (D)**

5. North Carolina: Burr has so far run ahead of Trump and GOP Gov. Pat McCrory, but if Clinton's lead continues to expand as she spends more in the state, his advantage could shrink.

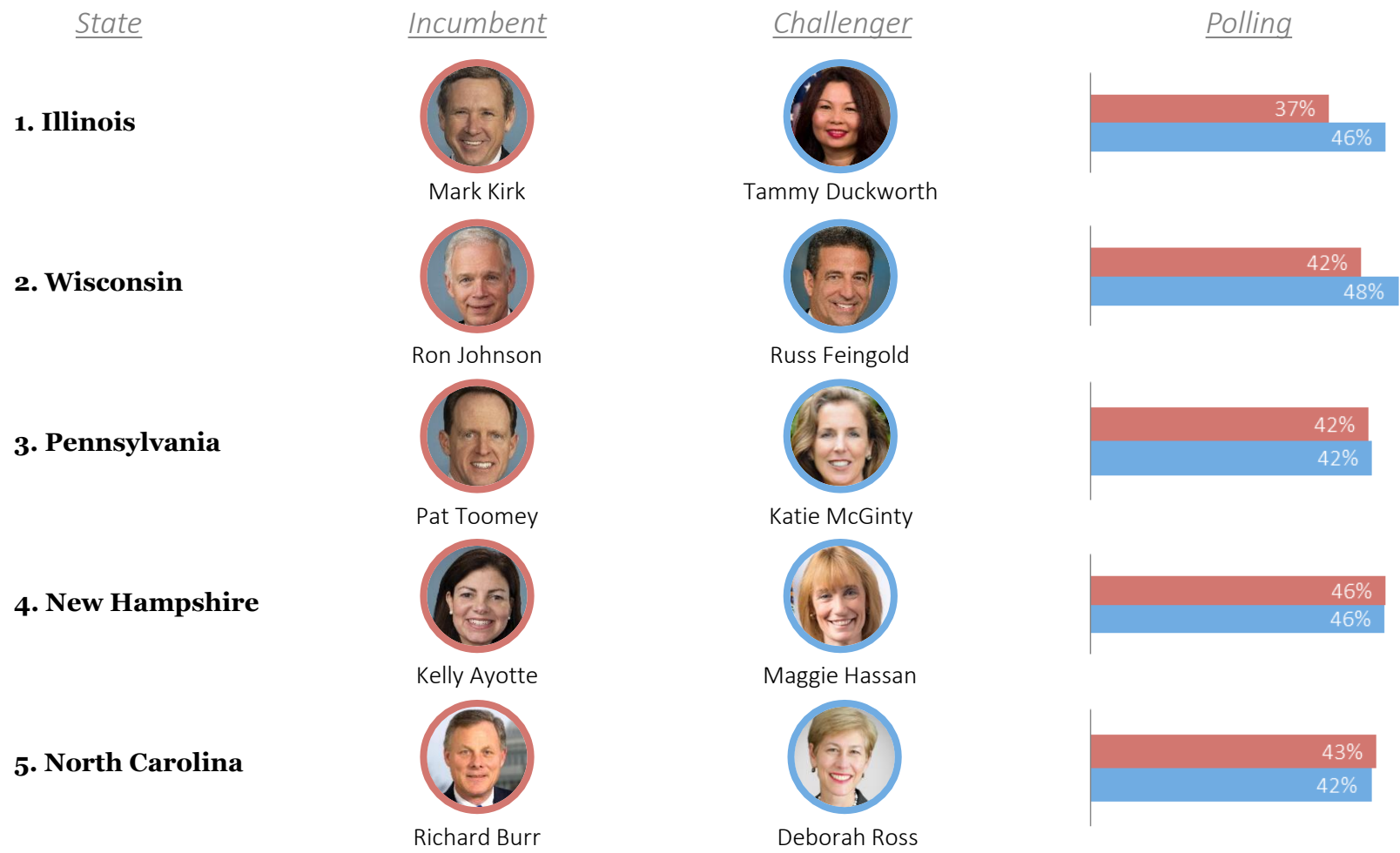
Incumbent: **Richard Burr (R)**

Challengers: **Fmr. State Rep. Deborah Ross (D)**

Source: Kyle Trygstad and Andrea Drusch, "Hotline's 2016 Senate Rankings," *National Journal*, October 19, 2016.

Which Senate seats are most likely to flip?

Hotline's 2016 Senate rankings

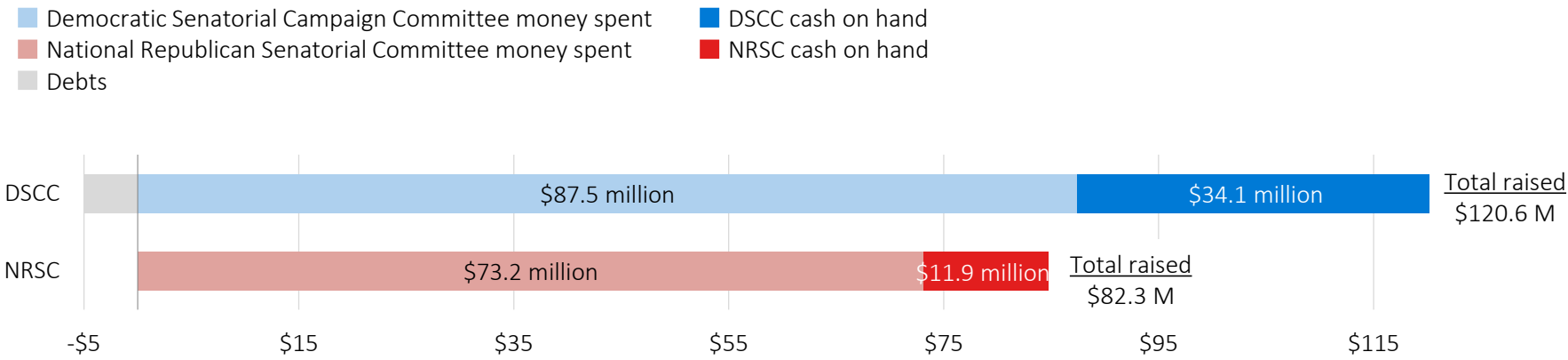


Source: Kyle Trygstad and Andrea Drusch, "Hotline's 2016 Senate Rankings," National Journal, October 19, 2016; Huffpost Pollster, 2016.

Dems Senate campaign committee has outraised GOP

Campaign fundraising by Senate campaign committees

As of October 21, 2016



DSCC recent activity:

- **Nevada:** Released a TV ad accusing Rep. Joe Heck (R) of putting special interests above Nevada
- **New Hampshire:** Released a TV ad criticizing Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R) for voting for tax breaks for big oil and millionaires
- Raised \$19 million in September

NRSC recent activity:

- **Illinois:** Launched a new ad saying Evan Bayh (D) “betrayed Indiana by backing the Wall Street bailout”
- Internal NRSC polling found that GOP Senate candidates were holding on to 1-3 point leads in PA, MS, NH, FL, IN and NC
- Raised \$15 million in September; took out a \$15 million loan to help finance the homestretch of the campaign, planning to air ads portraying GOP candidates as a check on a Clinton presidency

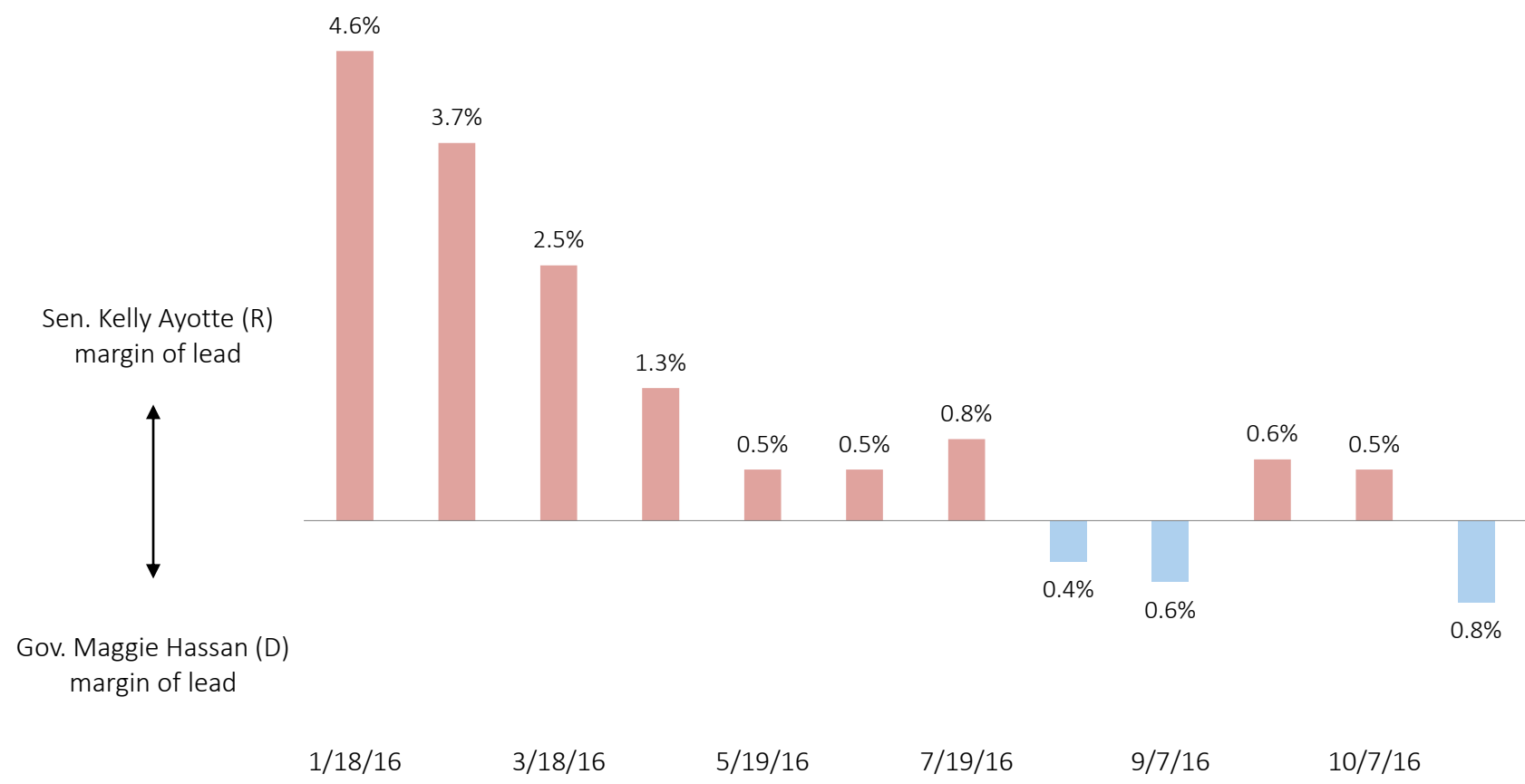
Source: Center for Responsive Politics, 2016; National Journal Hotline, 2016.

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



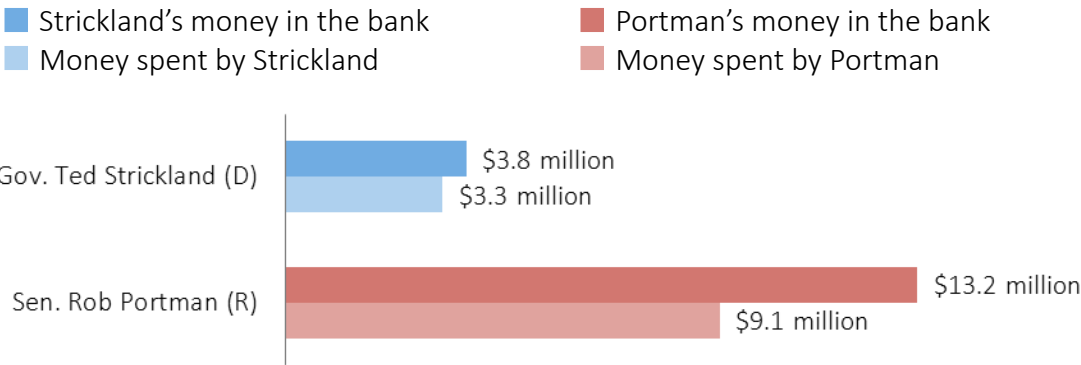
Sources: HuffPost Pollster, 2016; National Journal Hotline, 2016.

Portman has a commanding lead in the Ohio Senate race

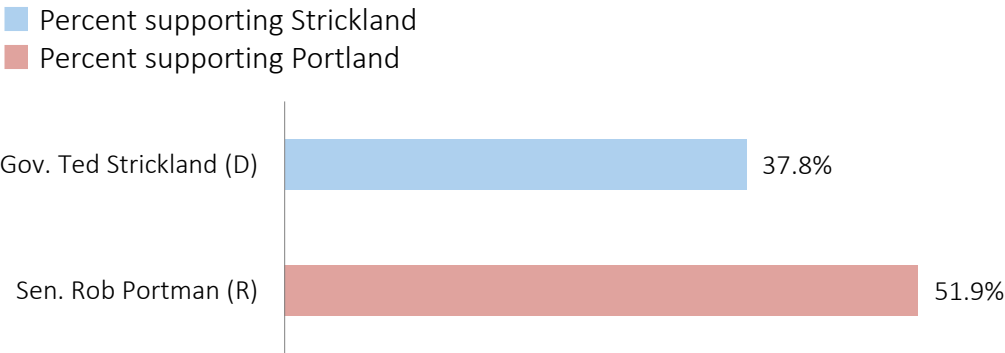
Updates from the 2016 Ohio Senate race

Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline

Money raised in Ohio Senate race



Ohio Senate race polling



Campaign Updates:

- Running a strong campaign, Portman has managed to open up a substantial lead
- Portman skipped 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, 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)



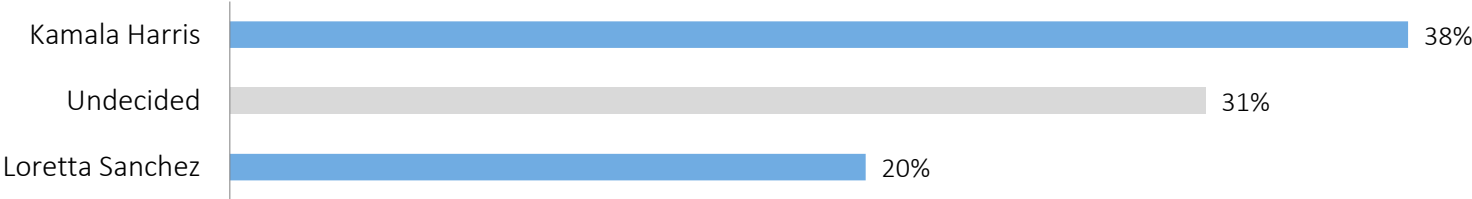
Kamala Harris



Loretta Sanchez



California Senate primary polling



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

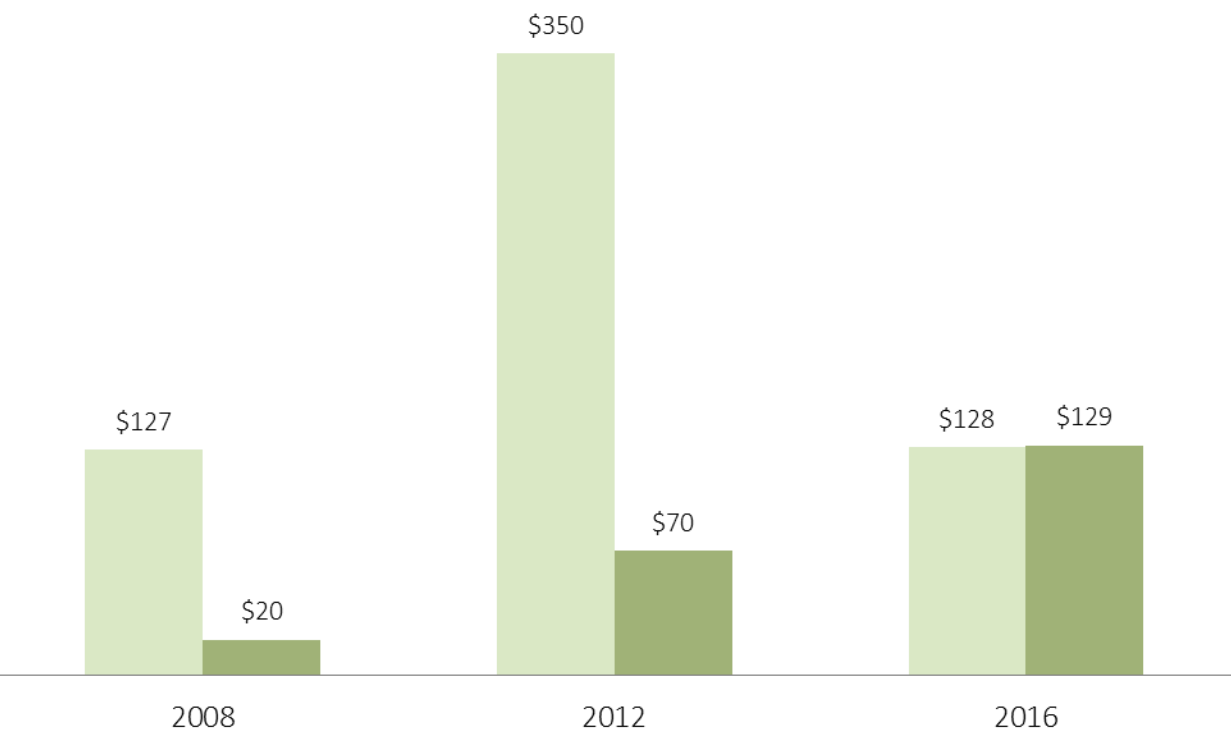
Outside groups have spent more on ads for the Senate than the presidency in this election cycle so far

Outside groups spending on ads: Senate v. presidential elections

Millions of dollars; first nine months of election cycle

- Outside spending on presidential ads
- Outside spending on Senate ads

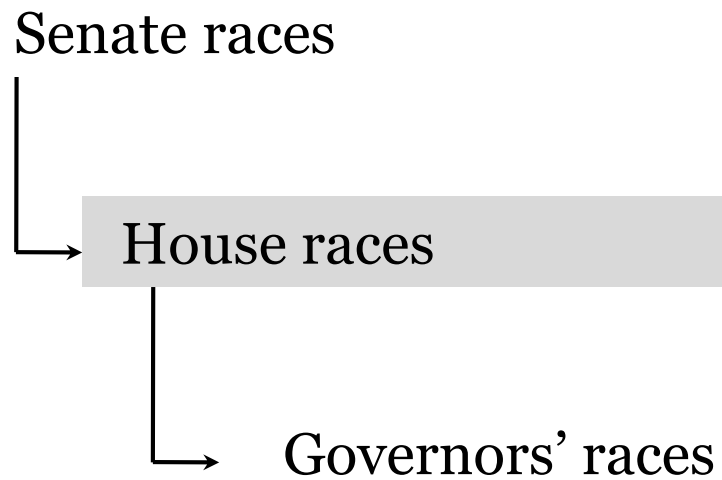
Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline



- 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: National Journal Hotline, 2016.











Roadmap for the presentation



Which House seats are most likely to flip?

Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline

Hotline's 2016 House rankings

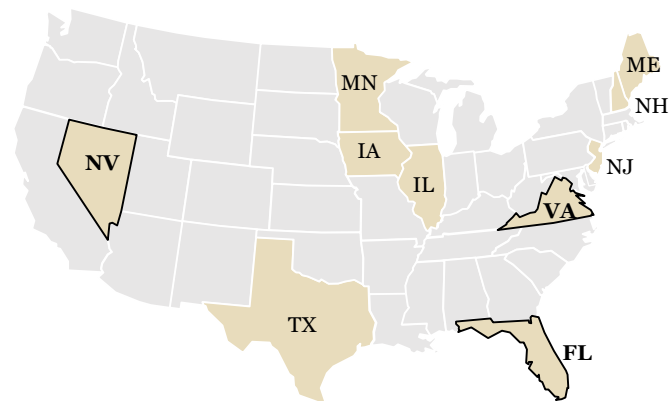
<u>District</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Challenger</u>	<u>Race Rating*</u>	<u>Cash on Hand</u>
1. Florida's 2 nd	Open (D)	 Neal Dunn  Walter Dartland	Likely Republican	 \$21,688 \$200,139 As of August 10
2. Virginia's 4 th	Open (R)	 Mike Wade  Donald McEachin	Likely Democrat	 \$218,299 \$9,110 As of June 30
3. Florida's 10 th	Open (R)	 Thuy Lowe  Val Demings	Likely Democrat	 \$165,150 \$2,092 As of August 10
4. Florida's 13 th	 David Jolly	 Charlie Crist	Lean Democrat	 \$0 \$294,448 As of August 10
5. Nevada's 4 th	 Crescent Hardy	 Ruben Kihuen	Lean Democrat	 \$237,575 \$763,167 As of June 30

Source: Kimberly Railey and Ally Mutnick, "Hotline's 2016 House rankings," National Journal, October 18, 2016.

Nine of 10 House seats most likely to flip belong to GOP

Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline

Hotline's 2016 House rankings



1. Florida's 2nd: After this district was redrawn and Graham decided to forgo a reelection bid, Physician Neal Dunn is all but assured a spot in Congress next year.

Incumbent: *Gwen Graham (D) (retiring)*
Challenger: *Neal Dunn (R)*, *Walter Dartland (D)*

2. Virginia's 4th: President Obama's performance in the district improved by 12 points after court-ordered redistricting this year. McEachin, a longtime state legislator, is likely to win.

Incumbent: *Randy Forbes (R) (retiring)*
Challenger: *Mike Wade (R)*, *Donald McEachin (D)*

3. Florida's 10th: Former Orlando Police Chief Demings will win this redrawn district, which became so Democratic that it forced Webster to run for a different seat.

Incumbent: *Daniel Webster (R) (retiring)*
Challengers: *Thuy Lowe (R)*, *Val Demings (D)*

4. Florida's 13th: Former Florida Gov. Charlie Crist remains the favorite in this Democratic-leaning district, even after Jolly dropped his Senate bid to seek reelection.

Incumbent: *David Jolly (R)*
Challenger: *Gov. Charlie Crist (D)*

5. Nevada's 4th: Obama won this district twice by double digits, and the high proportion of Latino voters in the district make Trump especially unpopular here.

Incumbent: *Crescent Hardy (R)*
Challenger: *Ruben Kihuen (D)*

6. NH-1: Frank Guinta (R)	11. IA-1: Rod Blum (R)
7. IL-10: Robert Dold (R)	12. ME-2: Bruce Poliquin (R)
8. MN-2: OPEN (R)	13. FL-7: John Mica (R)
9. FL-26: Carlos Curbelo (R)	14. NJ-5: Scott Garrett (R)
10. TX-23: Will Hurd (R)	15. FL-18: OPEN (D)

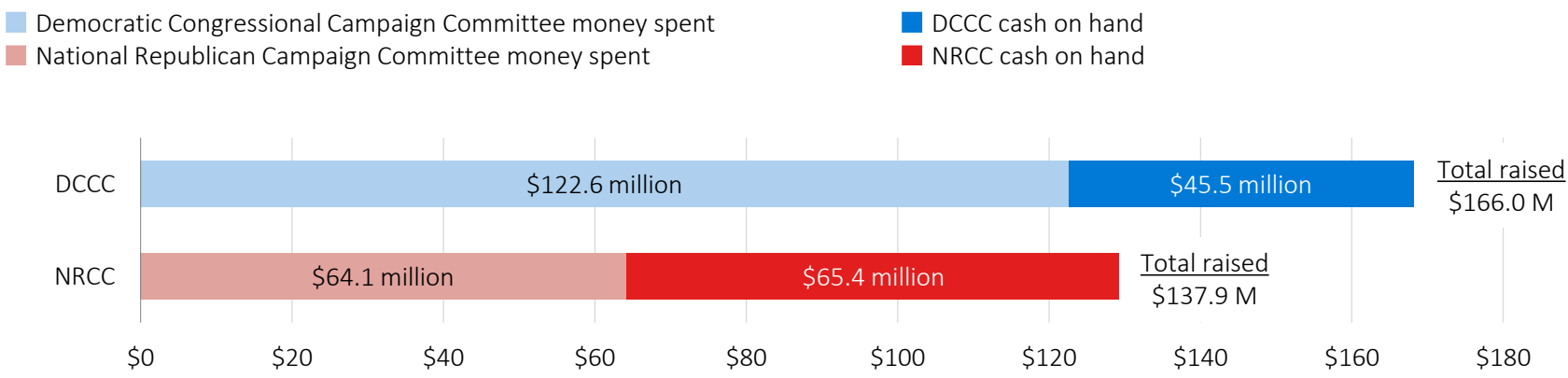
Source: Kimberly Railey and Ally Mutnick, "Hotline's 2016 House rankings," National Journal, October 18, 2016.

House campaign committees have raised over \$100 million each

Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline

Campaign fundraising by House campaign committees

As of October 12, 2016



DCCC recent activity:
CA-10: Released a TV ad linking Rep. Jeff Denham (R) to Trump
TX-23: Released a get-out-the vote TV ad in Spanish attacking Rep. Will Hurd (R) by linking him to Trump
NY-24: Released an ad linking Rep. John Katko (R) to Trump

NRCC recent activity:
CA-25: Released a TV ad slamming Challenger Bryan Carforio (D), saying the “Beverly Hills lawyer” supports expanding Obamacare and raising taxes
IN-9: Launched a TV ad criticizing challenger Shelli Yoder (D) for wanting to “slash funding for homeland security”
CA-24: Released an ad hitting Salud Carbajal (D) for accepting \$20,000 in campaign cash from a billionaire developer for whom he secured tax breaks

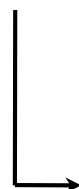
Source: Center for Responsive Politics, 2016; National Journal Hotline, October 2016.

Roadmap for the presentation

Senate races



House races



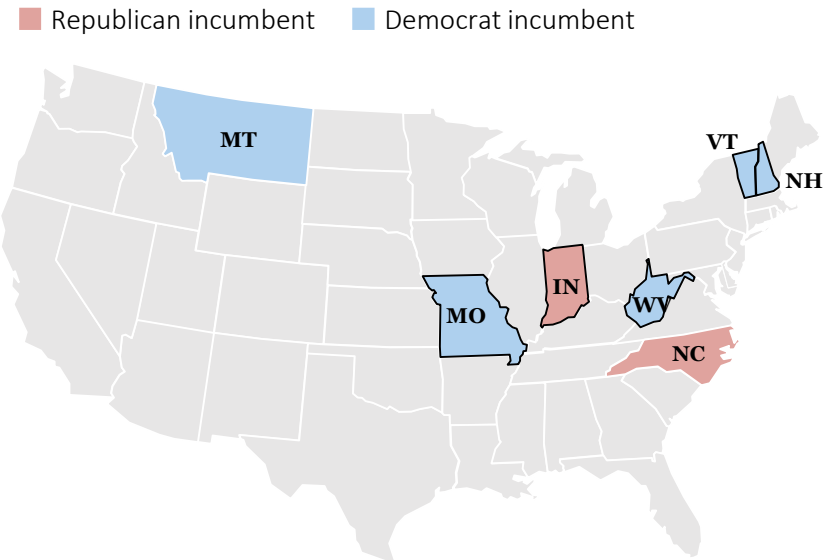
Governors' races

Five of seven governors' seats most likely to flip are held by Democrats

Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline

Hotline's 2016 gubernatorial rankings

- 1. Missouri:** Republican-turned-Democratic state Attorney General Koster was a top Democrat recruit, but Greitens is banking on Trump's coattails leading him to win.
Incumbent: [Jay Nixon \(D\)](#) (retiring)
Challenger: [Chris Koster \(D\)](#), [Eric Greitens \(R\)](#)
- 2. North Carolina:** Attorney General Cooper has a lead in polling and fundraising. McCrory's embrace of legislation seen as anti-LGBT may hurt his chances.
Incumbent: [Pat McCrory \(R\)](#)
Challenger: [Roy Cooper \(D\)](#)
- 3. New Hampshire:** New Hampshire will be a swing state in the Presidential and Senate elections, which will have an effect on these lower profile candidates.
Incumbent: [Maggie Hassan \(D\)](#) (retiring)
Challengers: [Colin Van Ostern \(D\)](#), [Chris Sununu \(R\)](#)
- 4. Vermont:** Bernie Sanders's home state is solidly Democratic but also has a penchant for electing moderate Republican governors.
Incumbent: [Peter Shumlin \(D\)](#) (retiring)
Challenger: [Sue Minter \(D\)](#), [Phill Scott \(R\)](#)
- 5. Indiana:** Both candidates are not yet well known. Gregg enjoys an early lead in polling, but the race is still the Republicans' to lose.
Incumbent: [Mike Pence \(R\)](#) (retiring)
Challenger: [John Gregg \(D\)](#), [Eric Holcomb \(R\)](#)













- 6. West Virginia:** Democrat Justice leads in polling and fundraising.
Incumbent: [Earl Ray Tomblin \(D\)](#) (Retiring)
Challenger: [Jim Justice \(D\)](#), [Bill Cole \(R\)](#)
- 7. Montana:** There has been no credible polling, but Bullock is doing everything right to win a second term.
Incumbent: [Steve Bullock \(D\)](#)
Challenger: [Greg Gianforte \(R\)](#)

Source: Zach Cohen, "Hotline's 2016 governor race rankings," National Journal, September 19, 2016.

Which governors' seats are most likely to flip?

Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline

Hotline's 2016 gubernatorial rankings

<u>State</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Challenger</u>	<u>Cook Political Report Rating</u>
1. Missouri	Open	 Eric Greitens  Chris Koster	Toss Up
2. North Carolina	 Pat McCrory	 Roy Cooper	Toss Up
3. New Hampshire	Open	 Chris Sununu  Colin Van Ostern	Toss Up
4. Vermont	Open	 Phill Scott  Sue Minter	Toss Up
5. Indiana	Open	 Eric Holcomb  John Gregg	Toss Up

Source: Zach Cohen, "Hotline's 2016 governor race rankings," National Journal, September 19, 2016; Cook Political Report, 2016. Images from National Journal Almanac and campaign web pages.

Pence as VP pick shakes up Indiana governor race

Indiana governor's race

WISH-TV/Ball State Poll, 10/16

Based on Headlines From
National Journal's Hotline

John Gregg
*Speaker of the House,
Indiana Senate*



48%

VS.

Eric Holcomb
Lt. Governor



43%

- The Indiana Republican State Committee nominated Holcomb in July
- Gregg was trailing Pence by about 7% in the polls before Pence dropped out
- Another October poll, conducted by Monmouth University, showed Gregg leading by 12 points

Source: National Journal Hotline; Ballotpedia, 2016.