

GOP challengers in the 2018 Senate election

Republicans face uncertainty in selecting candidates to run against Democratic incumbents

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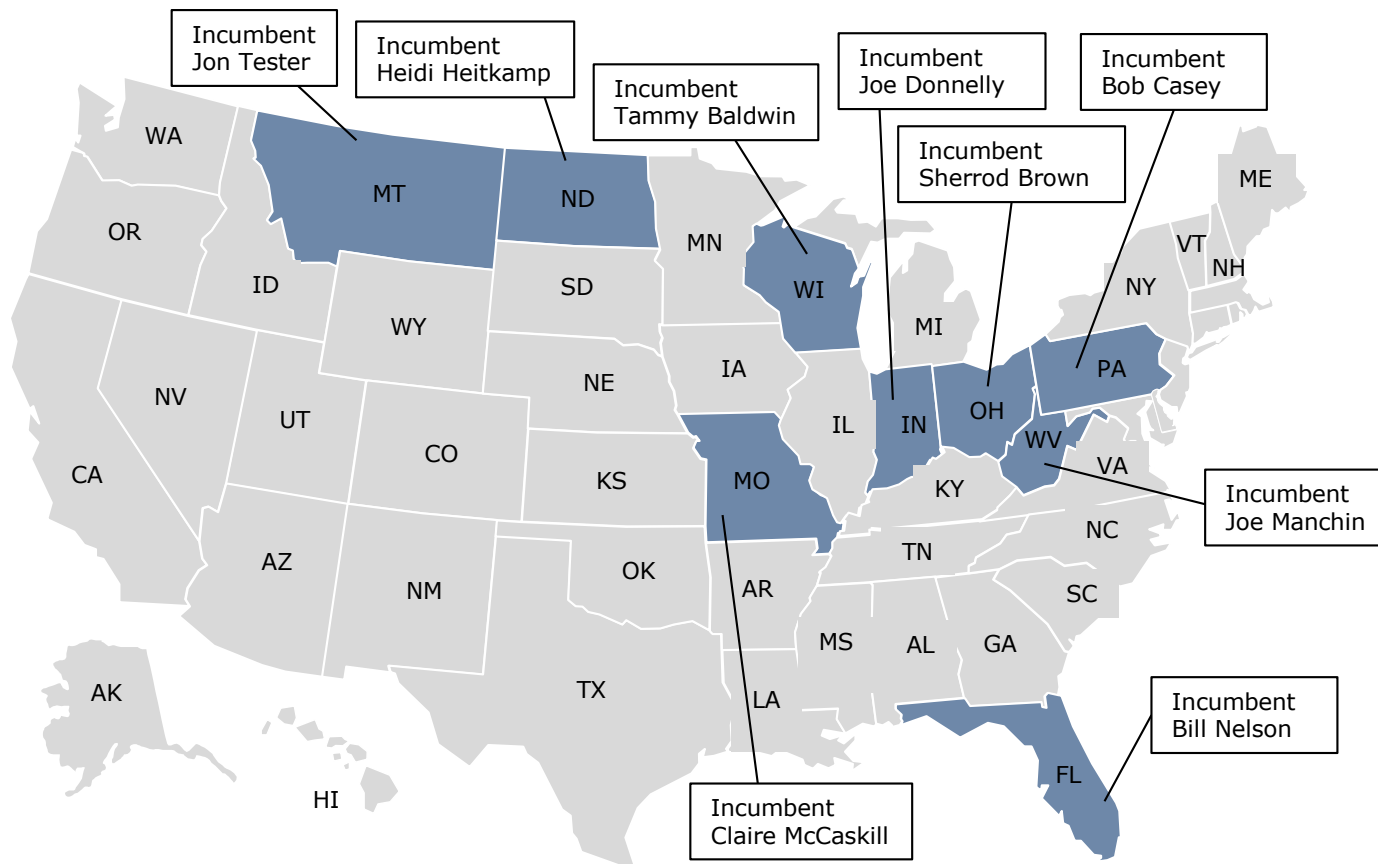
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States with incumbent Democrats running pose a challenge for Republicans selecting opposing candidates

Incumbent Democratic seats where GOP has struggled to choose a challenger

■ Toss-up states, Democrats up for re-election, no clear Republican challenger

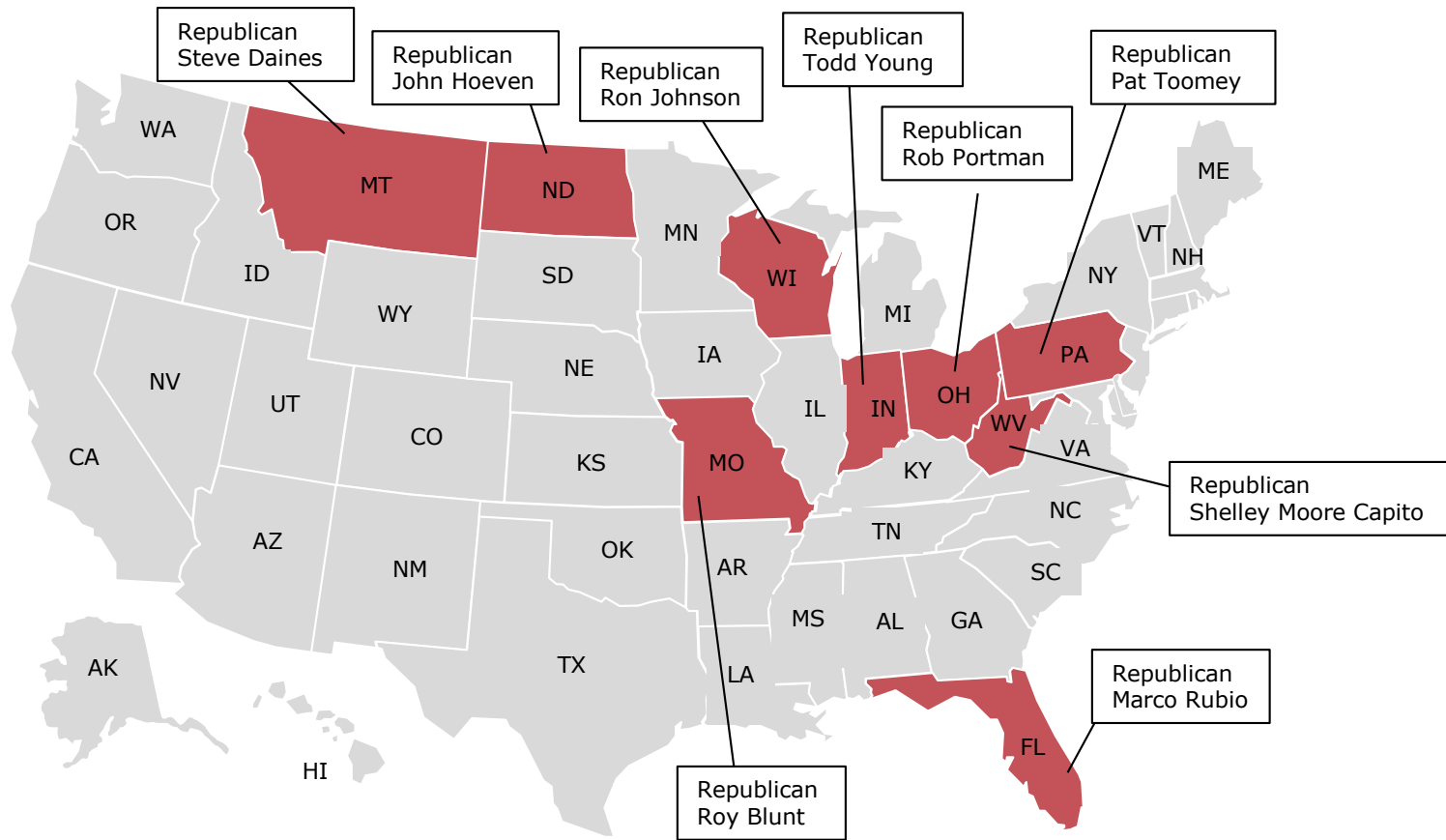


Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017.

All current toss-up states with Democrats up for re-election also have a Republican senator, voted Trump in 2016

States with Democrats up for election with Republican senators

■ One Republican senator



Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017.

Democratic Senator Bill Nelson faces disorganized opposition for 2018 Florida Senate race

Front-runner Governor Rick Scott has not yet committed to a Senate run



Bill Nelson

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2000
- Moderate on most issues
- Focuses on Florida issues like space, oil drilling and health care



Rick Scott

- Florida governor
- Elected in 2010
- Good name recognition
- Won't commit to making decision before next year



Francis Rooney

- Republican congressman
- Elected in 2016
- Former ambassador to the Holy See



Ron DeSantis

- Republican congressman
- Elected in 2012
- Served as a Navy lawyer at Guantanamo Bay

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017.

Indiana GOP contenders for 2018 Senate race attack each other more than Democratic incumbent

Republican infighting is making it hard for the GOP to emerge with a strong candidate



Joe Donnelly

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2012
- Member of fiscally-conservative Blue Dog Coalition
- Opposed to abortion
- Opposed cap-and-trade for greenhouse gas emissions



Luke Messer

- Republican congressman
- Elected in 2012
- Chairman of House Republican Policy Committee



Todd Rokita

- Republican congressman
- Elected in 2010
- Former Indiana secretary of state



Curtis Hill

- State attorney general since 2016
- Actively involved with drug control policy



Susan Brooks

- Republican congresswoman
- Declined to run

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017.

After Wagner declines to run in 2018, Missouri GOP are unable to unite behind a single candidate for Senate

Possible candidates Hawley and Hartzler still have not confirmed a bid for the seat



Claire McCaskill

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2006
- Often breaks with Democratic Party
- Ran against Todd Akin in 2012 election and won by a landslide after Akin's comments on rape



Josh Hawley

- State attorney general since 2016
- Law professor at University of Missouri



Vicky Hartzler

- Republican congresswoman
- Elected in 2010
- Led movement against same-sex marriage



Ann Wagner

- Republican congresswoman
- Declined to run

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017.

Trump picks Zinke for Cabinet, leaving Montana with no serious frontrunner for 2018 Senate race

Other candidates running are less well-known and don't have unified party support



Jon Tester

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2006
- Chairman of Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee
- One of two Democrats who opposed President Obama's 2011 jobs bill



Matt Rosendale

- Montana commissioner of insurance, state auditor
- Elected in 2016
- Previously a rancher



Tim Fox

- State attorney general
- Elected in 2012
- Declined to run



Ryan Zinke

- Former Republican congressman
- Accepted position as interior secretary

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017.

In a state where Trump dominated, Senator Heitkamp still has no challenger in North Dakota

No GOP candidate has officially declared their candidacy in the 2018 Senate race



Heidi Heitkamp

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2012
- Former state attorney general
- Supported Keystone XL pipeline and constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget



Kevin Cramer

- Republican congressman
- Elected in 2012
- Ran for Congress four times before he succeeded



Tom Campbell

- State senator
- Elected in 2012
- Vice-chair of Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017.

Mixed support for an election rematch in Ohio between Brown and GOP challenger Josh Mandel

Mandel has gained the support of many Republican senators, but others favor an outsider



Sherrod Brown

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2006
- Ranking member for the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
- Strong supporter of working class



Josh Mandel

- State treasurer
- Elected in 2010
- Previously ran for Senate in 2012



Michael Gibbons

- Investment banker
- Never run for office previously
- Large Republican donor



Pat Tiberi

- Republican congressman
- Declined to run

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017; Lisa Hagen, "New Ohio GOP candidate shakes up Senate primary," The Hill, May 31, 2017.

Possible GOP contenders struggling because of health care vote, leaving Pennsylvania Senate race open

The Republican field remains crowded with no clear front-runner



Bob Casey

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2006
- Focuses on agricultural issues and access to child care
- Targeted for his close relationship to the Obama administration



Mike Kelly

- Republican congressman
- Elected 2010
- Conservative on foreign policy but more moderate on economic issues



Lou Barletta

- Republican congressman
- Elected 2010
- Centrist except on issues of immigration



Jeff Bartos

- Political outsider and businessman
- Large Republican donor



Pat Meehan

- Republican congressman
- Declined to run

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Lisa Hagen, "GOP fundraiser enters crowded primary for Pa. Senate seat," The Hill, April 24, 2017.

In West Virginia race against centrist Manchin, no single candidate has emerged from field of Republican challengers

Possible GOP candidates have started attacking each other rather than their Democratic opponent



Joe Manchin

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2010
- Former West Virginia governor
- Frequently votes against Democratic Party
- Active on student loan issues, and increased gun control



Evan Jenkins

- Republican congressman
- Elected in 2014
- Major issue is protecting coal



Patrick Morrisey

- State attorney general
- Elected in 2012
- Advocate of gun rights and opposed to abortion rights

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017.

In bid for second term, Senator Tammy Baldwin faces a crowded field in Wisconsin

Key possibilities have dropped out and current candidates are less well-known, without unified party support



Tammy Baldwin

- Incumbent Democratic senator
- Elected in 2012
- Major proponent of a public option for health care
- Supporter of same-sex marriage as the first openly gay member of the U.S. Senate



Kevin Nicholson

- Veteran
- Former president of College Democrats of America



Leah Vukmir

- Republican state senator
- Elected in 2010



Eric Hovde

- Businessman
- Finished 2nd in 2012 primary



Sean Duffy

- Republican congressman
- Declined to run



Nicole Schneider

- Would have been able to self-fund
- Declined to run

Sources: Kevin Robillard and Burgess Everett, "Senate GOP recruiting slow-going for 2018," Politico, July 6, 2017; National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017.