

# 2018 midterms

A look ahead to the 2018 congressional and gubernatorial elections

**March 2018**

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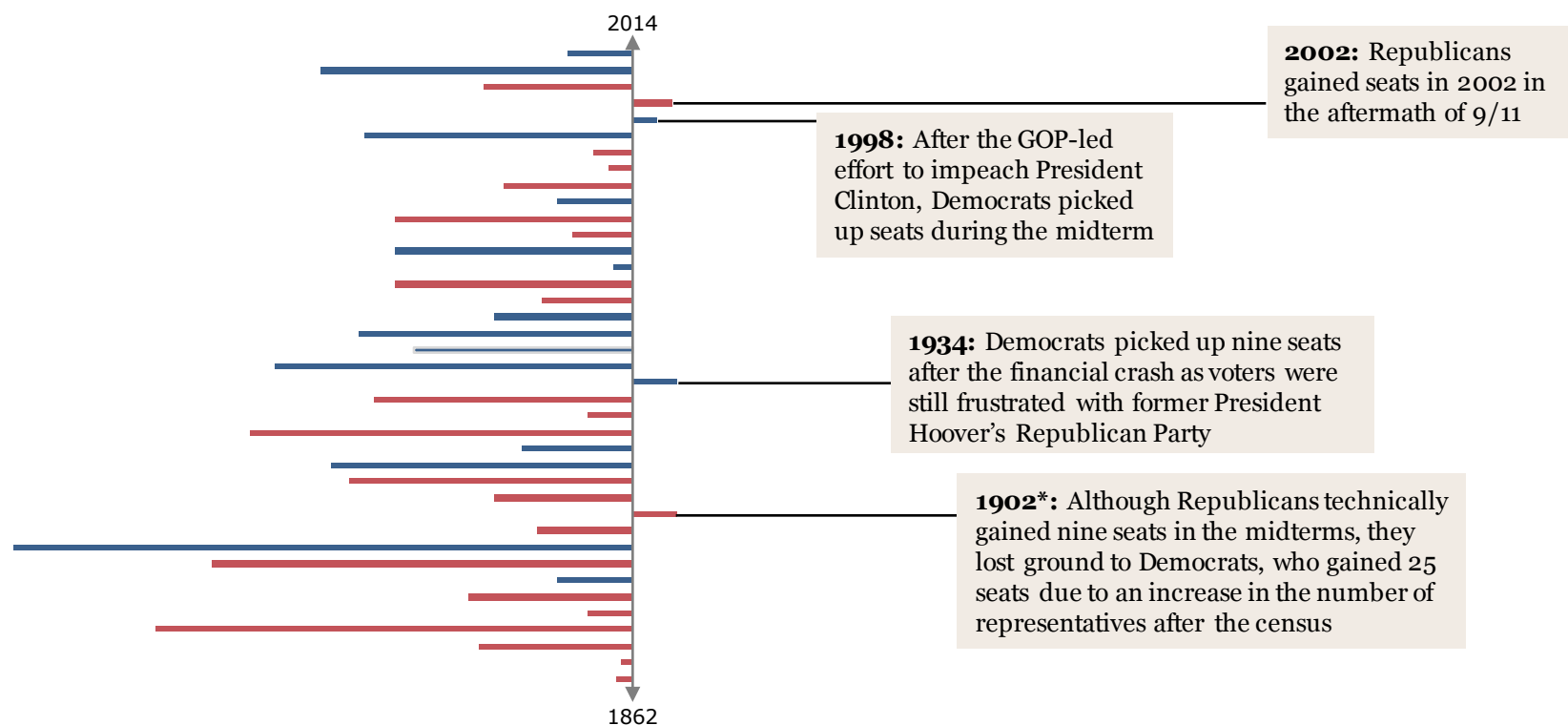
*Alistair Taylor*

# Since 1862, the president's party has lost ground in the House in 92 percent of midterm elections

## President's party gain/loss of seats in House

VITAL STATISTICS ON CONGRESS

■ Democratic president ■ Republican president

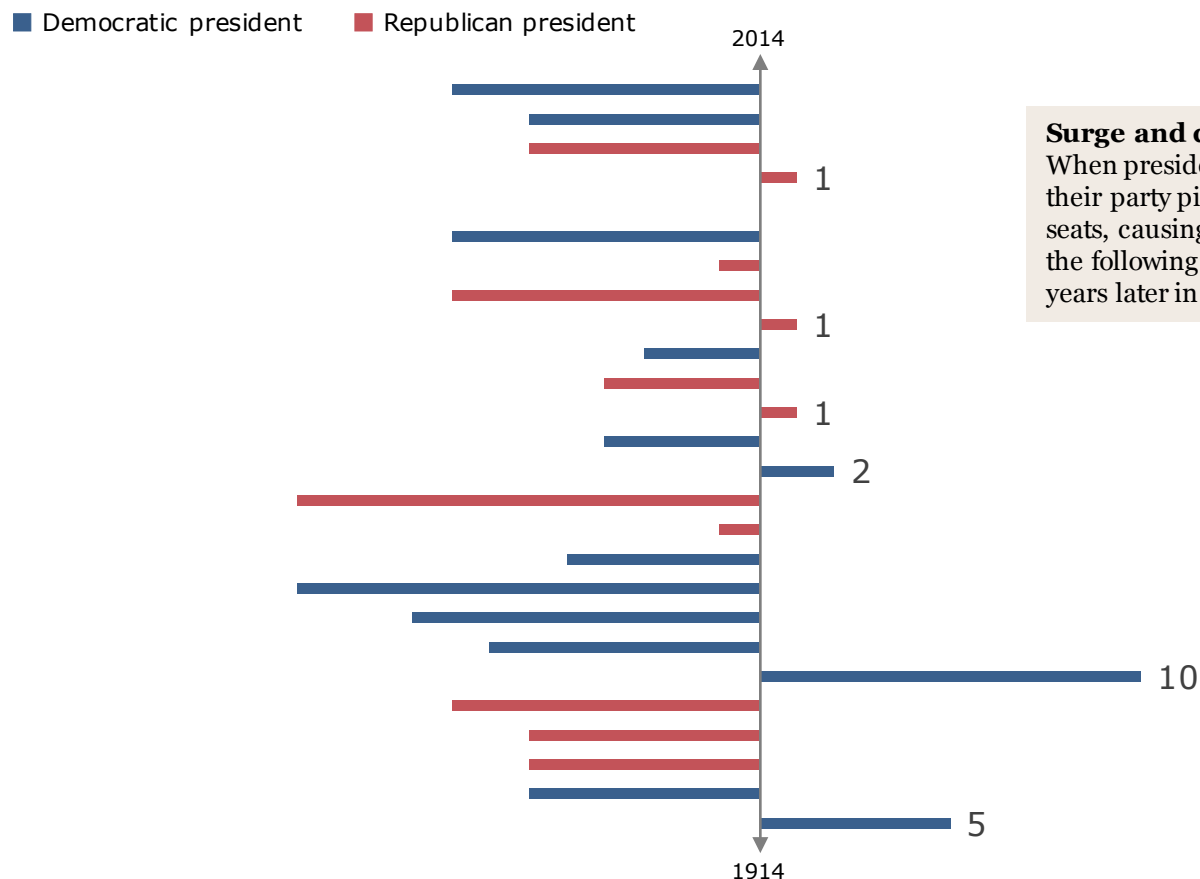


Sources: Charlie Cook, "Will History Hold in 2018 Midterms?" The Cook Political Report, January 9, 2017.

# The president's party has lost Senate seats in 19 of 26 midterms

## President's party gain/loss of seats in Senate

VITAL STATISTICS ON CONGRESS



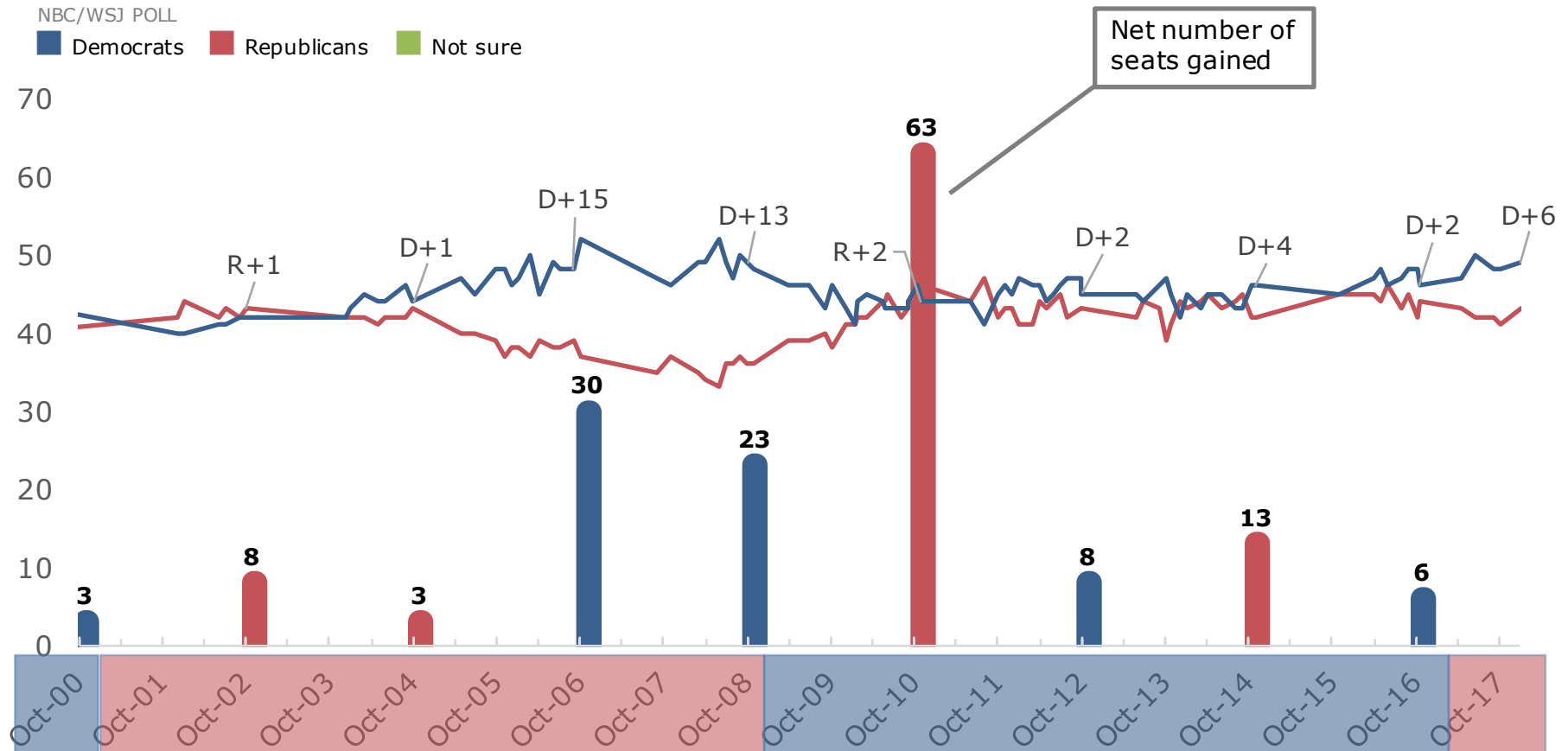
### Surge and decline theory

When presidents are elected or reelected, their party picks up House and Senate seats, causing them to be overexposed in the following midterm election, or six years later in the Senate

Sources: Charlie Cook, "Will History Hold in 2018 Midterms?" The Cook Political Report, January 9, 2017.

# Historic polling of generic ballots suggests Democrats will gain seats in 2018, but will it be enough to flip the House?

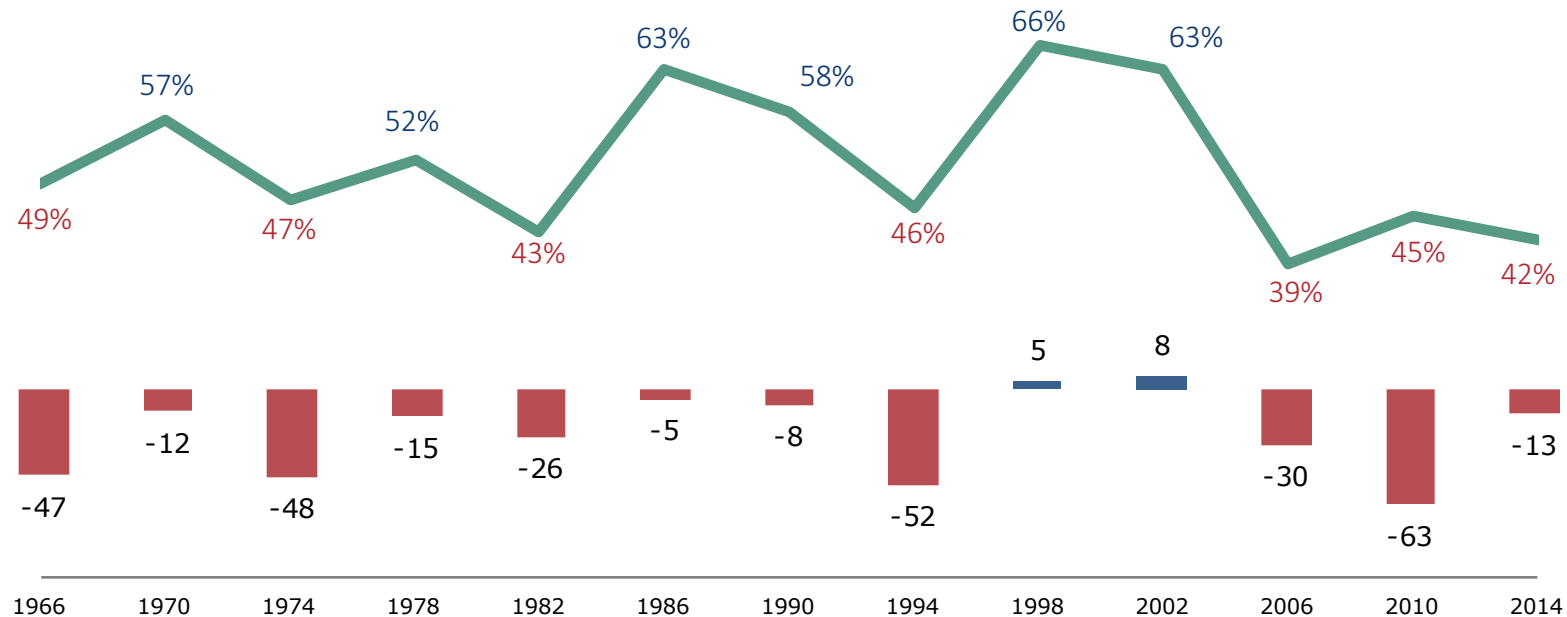
## Comparison between generic ballot polling and outcomes



Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2017.

# Presidents with a sub-50% approval rating lose an average of 40 seats in the midterms

## Presidential job approval vs. midterm results since 1966



Trump Job Approval

**41.6%**

RCP Average: February 19, 2018

### Job Approval

Over 60%

50%-60%

Under 50%

### Average Change

+3 Seats

-12 Seats

-40 Seats

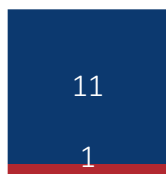
Sources: Gallup, The Cook Political Report, National Journal

# If Democrats retain all their seats in 2018, they must pick up all “toss-ups”

## Cook Political Report ratings

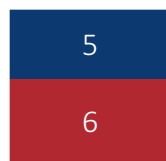
COMPETITIVE 2018 HOUSE RACES

■ Democrat held seats ■ Republican held seats



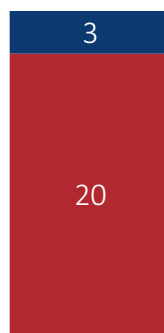
### Likely Democrat

AZ-9 Sinema\*  
CA-24 Carbajal  
FL-7 Murphy  
FL-13 Crist  
IA-2 Loebsack  
MN-7 Peterson  
NH-2 Kuster  
NY-3 Suozzi  
NY-18 Maloney  
PA-17 Cartwright  
WI-3 Kind  
PA-7 Meehan\*



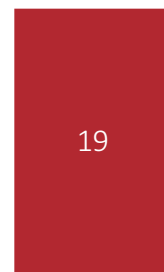
### Lean Democrat

AZ-1 O'Halleran  
CA-7 Bera  
NH-1 Shea-Porter\*  
NJ-5 Gottheimer  
NV-4 Kihuen\*  
AZ-2 McSally\*  
CA-39 Royce\*  
CA-49 Issa\*  
FL-27 Ros-Lehtinen\*  
NJ-2 LoBiondo\*  
PA-15 Dent\*



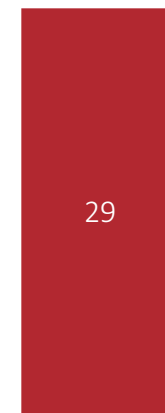
### Toss Up

MN-1 Walz\*  
MN-8 Nolan\*  
NV-3 Rosen\*  
CA-10 Denham  
CA-25 Knight  
CA-48 Rohrabacher  
CO-6 Coffman  
FL-26 Curbelo  
IA-1 Blum  
IL-6 Roskam  
IL-12 Bost  
MI-11 Trott\*  
MN-2 Lewis  
MN-3 Paulsen  
NE-2 Bacon  
NJ-11 Frelinghuysen\*  
NY-19 Faso  
NY-22 Tenney  
PA-6 Costello  
PA-18 Vacant  
TX-7 Culberson  
VA-10 Comstock  
WA-8 Reichert\*



### Lean Republican

CA-45 Walters  
FL-18 Mast  
GA-6 Handel  
IA-3 Young  
KS-2 Jenkins\*  
KS-3 Yoder  
KY-6 Barr  
ME-2 Poliquin  
MI-8 Bishop  
NC-13 Budd  
NJ-7 Lance  
NY-11 Donovan  
PA-8 Fitzpatrick  
PA-12 Rothfus  
TX-23 Hurd  
TX-32 Sessions  
UT-4 Love  
VA-2 Taylor  
VA-7 Brat



### Likely Republican

AR-2 Hill  
CA-4 McClintock  
CA-21 Valadao  
CA-50 Hunter  
FL-16 Buchanan  
GA-7 Woodall  
IL-13 Davis  
IL-14 Hultgren  
IN-2 Walorski  
MI-6 Upton  
MI-7 Walberg  
MO-2 Wagner  
MT-AL Gianforte  
NC-2 Holding  
NC-9 Pittenger  
NJ-3 MacArthur  
NM-2 Pearce\*  
NY-1 Zeldin  
NY-24 Katko  
OH-1 Chabot  
OH-12 Vacant  
OH-15 Stivers  
OH-16 Renacci\*  
PA-3 Kelly  
PA-4 Perry  
TX-21 Smith\*  
VA-5 Garrett  
WI-6 Grothman  
WA-5 McMorris Rodgers

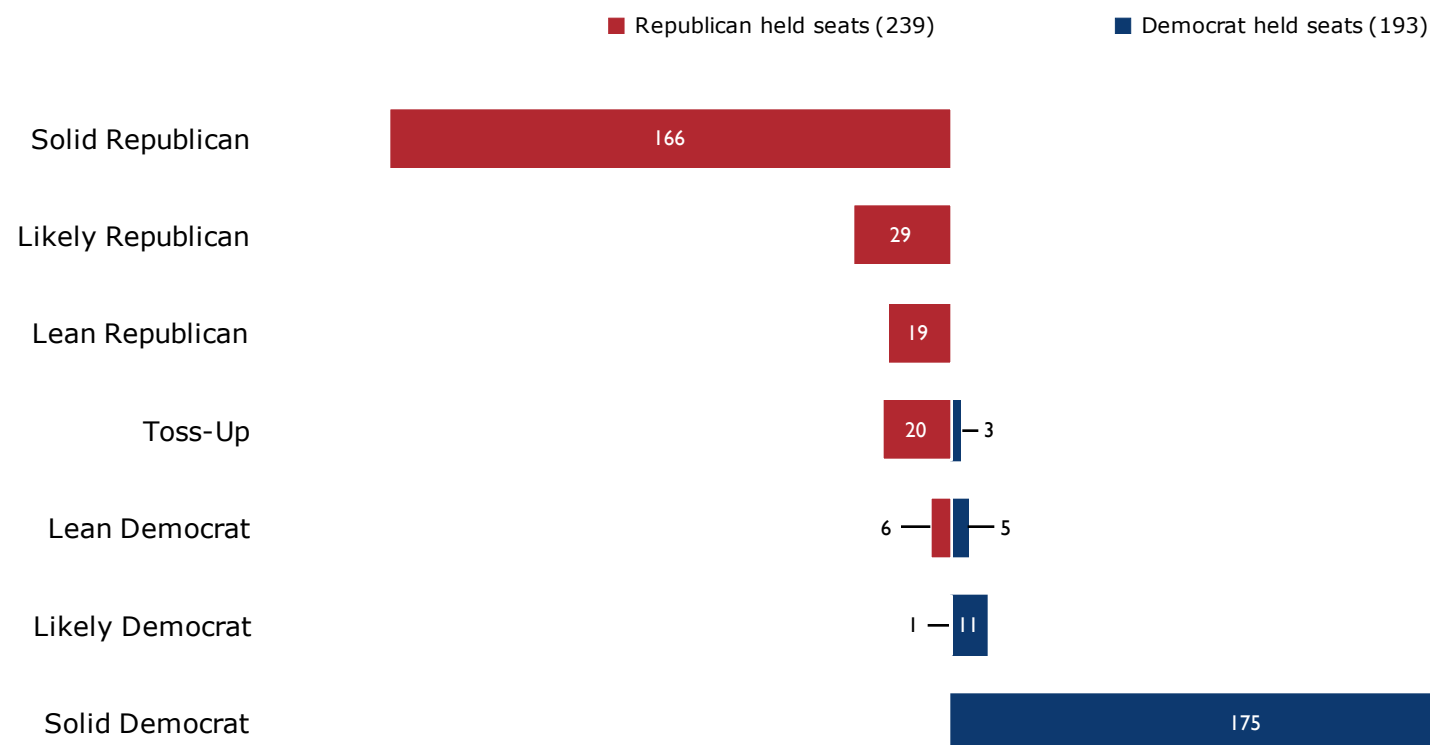
\*Incumbent not seeking reelection

Source: Cook Political Report.

# How big of a swing? Control of the House will depend on whether Democrats can win all “toss-up” races

## Cook Political Report ratings

House 2018 races

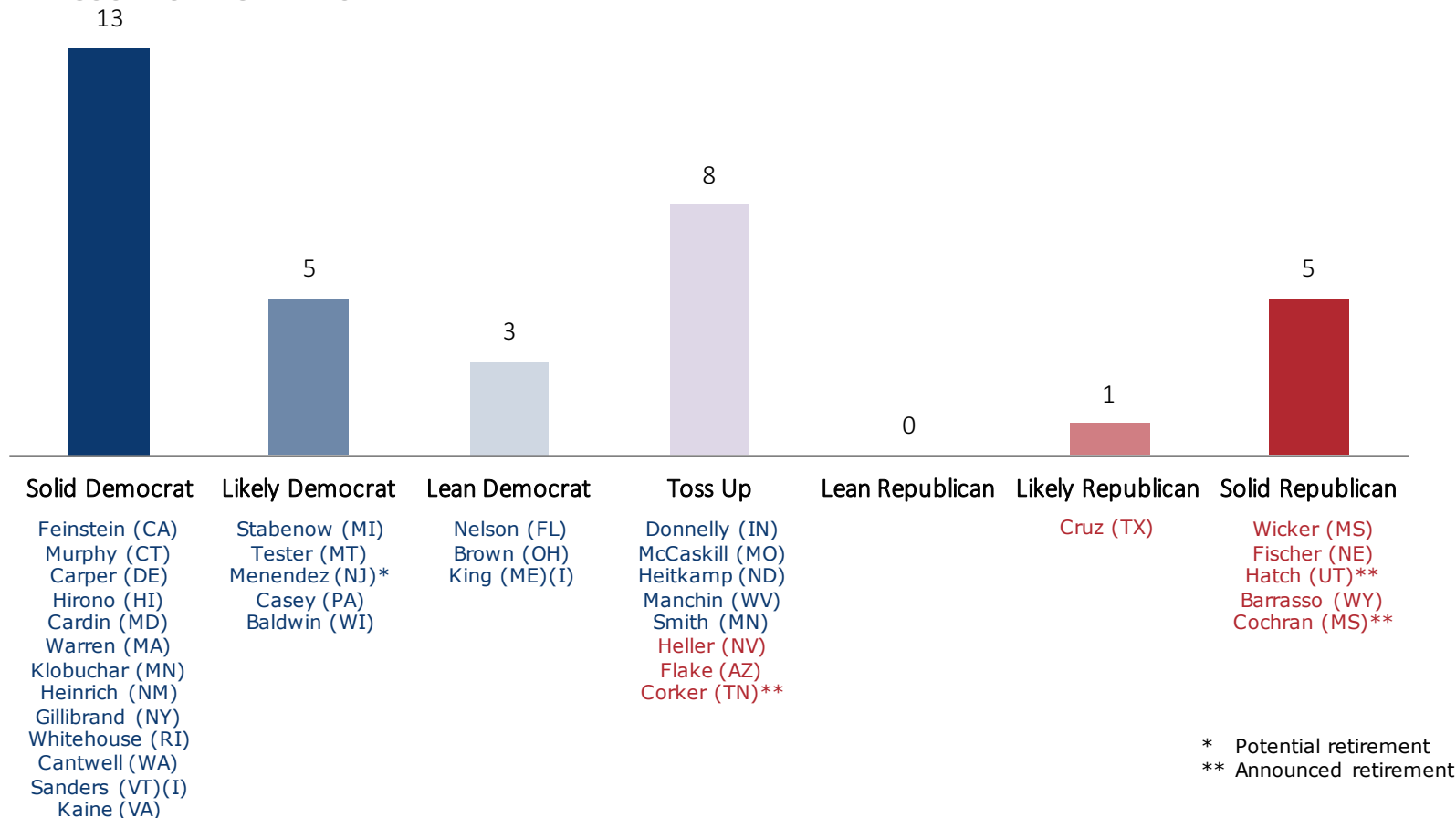


Source: Cook Political Report.

# Senate Dems are defending 26 seats in 2018, five toss-ups

## Breakdown of 2018 Senate races

THE COOK POLITICAL REPORT



NB: Corker and Strange refer to their seats rather than the candidates who announced retirement and lost a special election primary challenge, respectively.

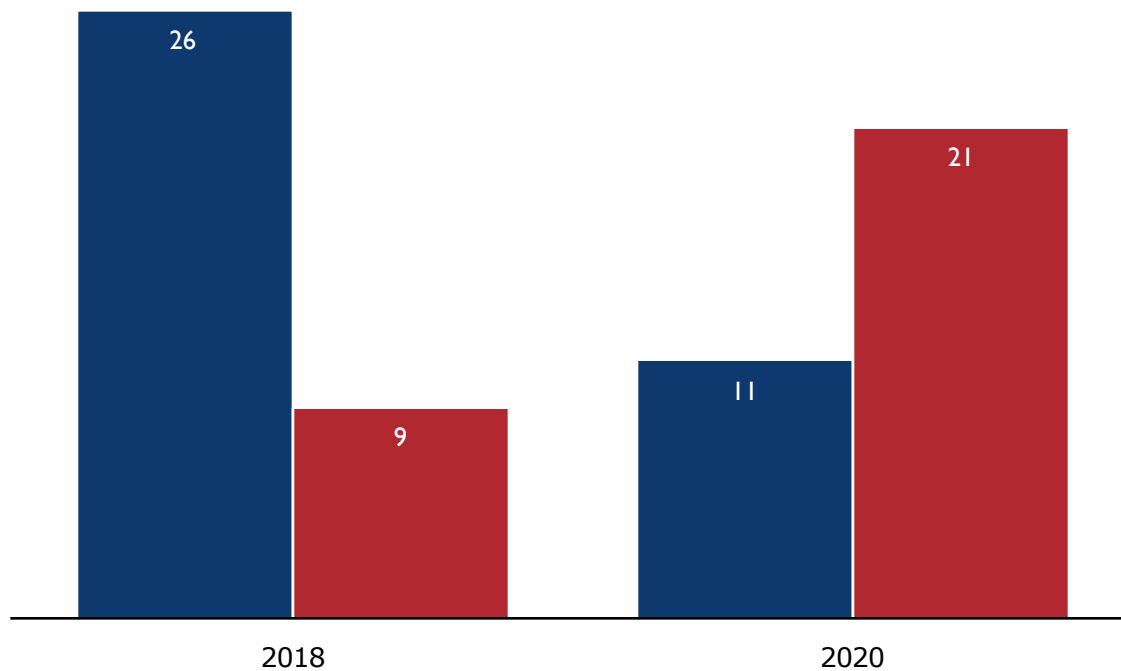
Source: The Cook Political Report, September 29, 2017.



# Democrats, Republicans will take turns playing defense in upcoming elections

Senate seats in play, by election year

■ Republican seats ■ Democrat seats

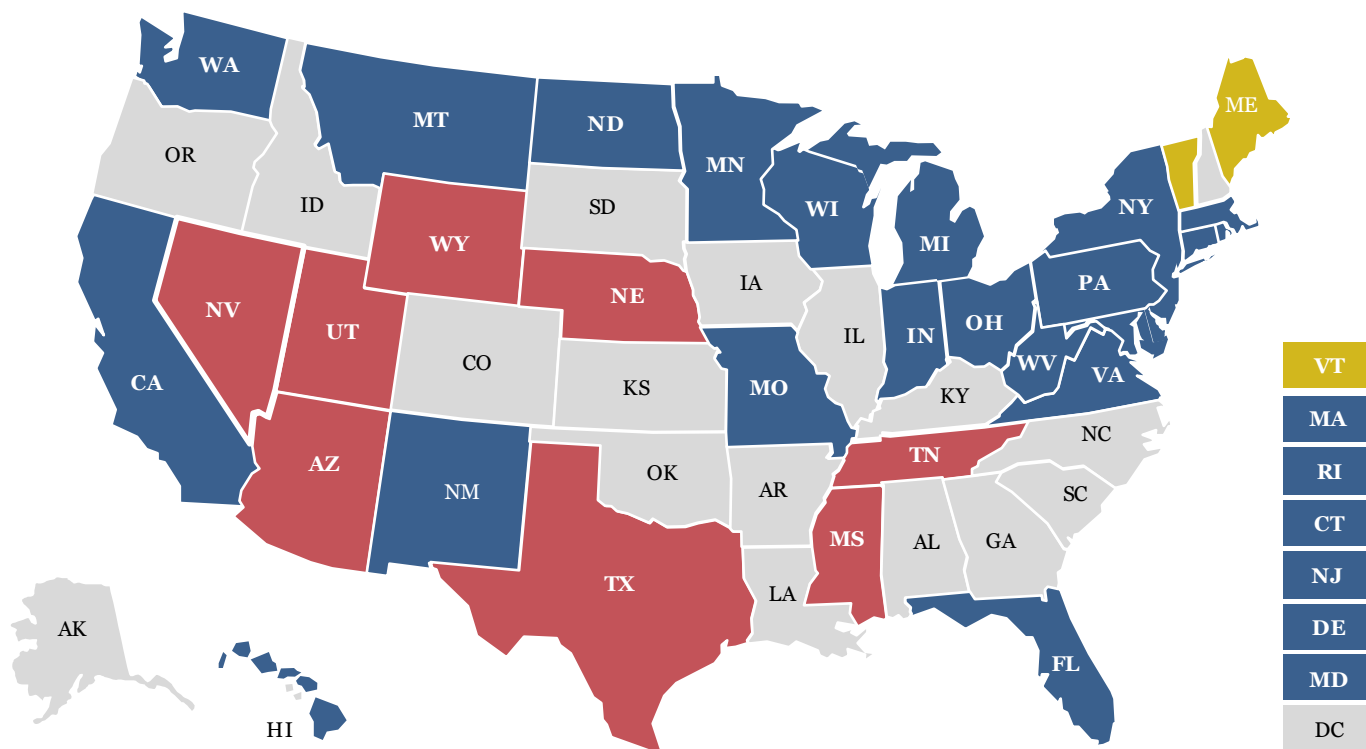


Source: The Cook Political Report, 2017.

# 26 seats up for election in 2018 are held by Democrats and Independents out of a total of 34

## States with U.S. Senate seats up for election

■ Republican held seat ■ Democrat held seat ■ Independent held seat



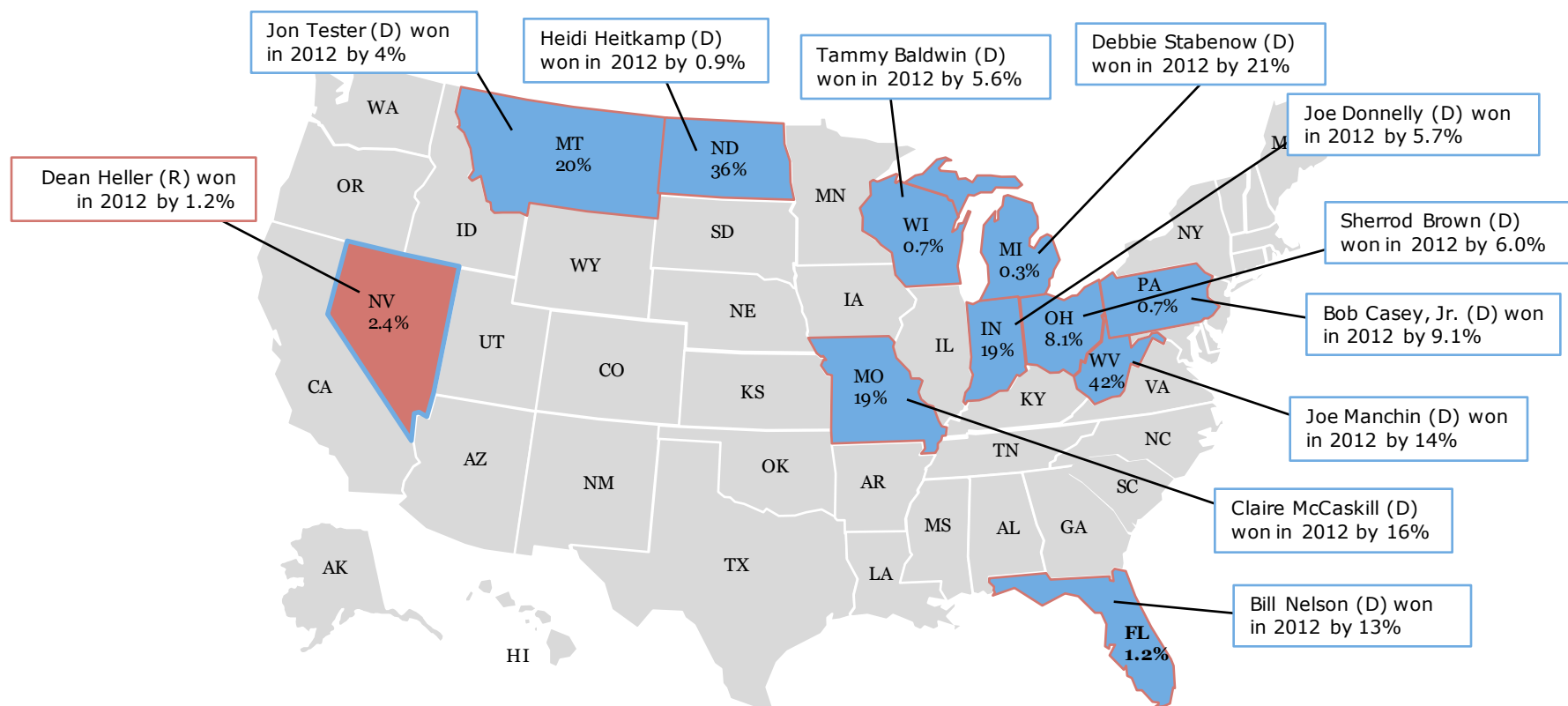
Sources: Charlie Cook, "Will History Hold in 2018 Midterms?" The Cook Political Report, January 9, 2017, National Journal Research, 2017.

# Of the 26 Democratic senators up for re-election, Trump won 10 of their states – and five by double digits

## Senators up for re-election in states won by the opposing party's 2016 presidential candidate

PERCENTS INSIDE THE STATE REPRESENT BY HOW MUCH THE OTHER PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WON IN 2016

  Clinton victory  
   Trump victory  
   Democratic senator up for re-election  
   Republican senator up for re-election



Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

# Retirements from the Senate open seats to costly primaries and potentially contentious general elections

## Senators retiring and not seeking reelection in 2018



**Bob Corker**  
(R-TN)

- Senator Corker has been an outspoken critic of President Trump
- Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) announced her candidacy
- Former Democratic TN governor Phil Bredesen (2003-2011) also announced his candidacy



**Thad Cochran**  
(R-MS)

- Cochran, 80, chairs the Appropriations Committee and has been absent from the Senate for long stretches over the past year
- His resignation means both of Mississippi's Senate seats will be on the ballot come November



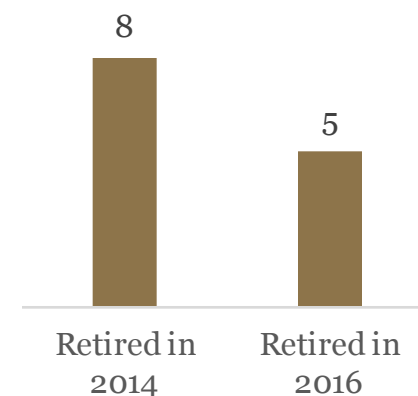
**Orrin Hatch**  
(R-UT)

- Senator Hatch announced his retirement after initially deciding to run
- Former MA governor and presidential candidate Mitt Romney announced he was running for the open seat in mid-February



**Jeff Flake**  
(R-AZ)

- Senator Flake decided not to run in light of low polling numbers and a strong challenge by State Rep. Kelli Ward
- Competitive Republican primary between Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ02), Kelli Ward and former sheriff Joe Arpaio
- Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ09) is considered the Democratic frontrunner

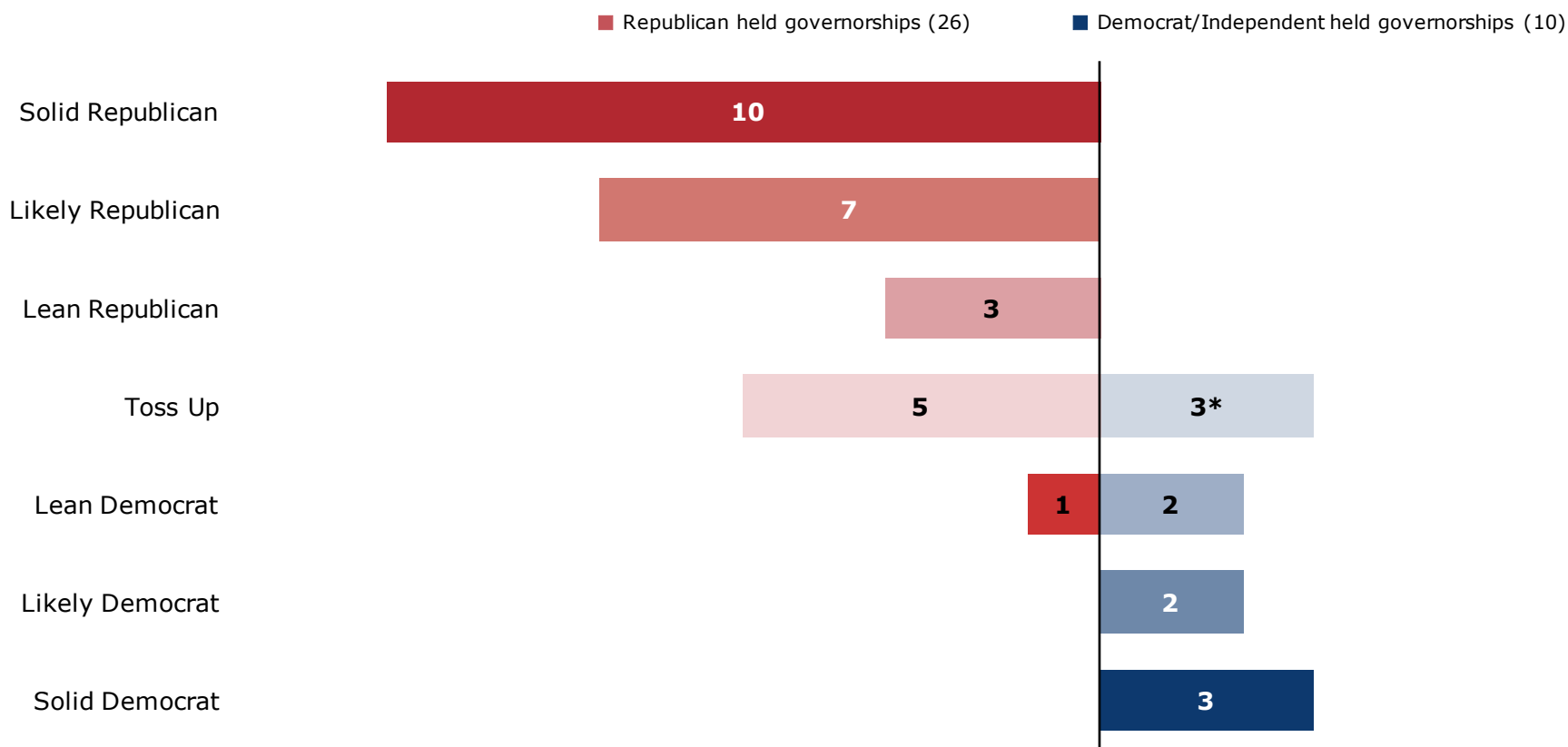


Sources: National Journal Research 2017.

# Five Republican-held governorships are considered “Toss-ups”

## Cook Political Report ratings

2017 & 2018 GUBERNATORIAL RACES

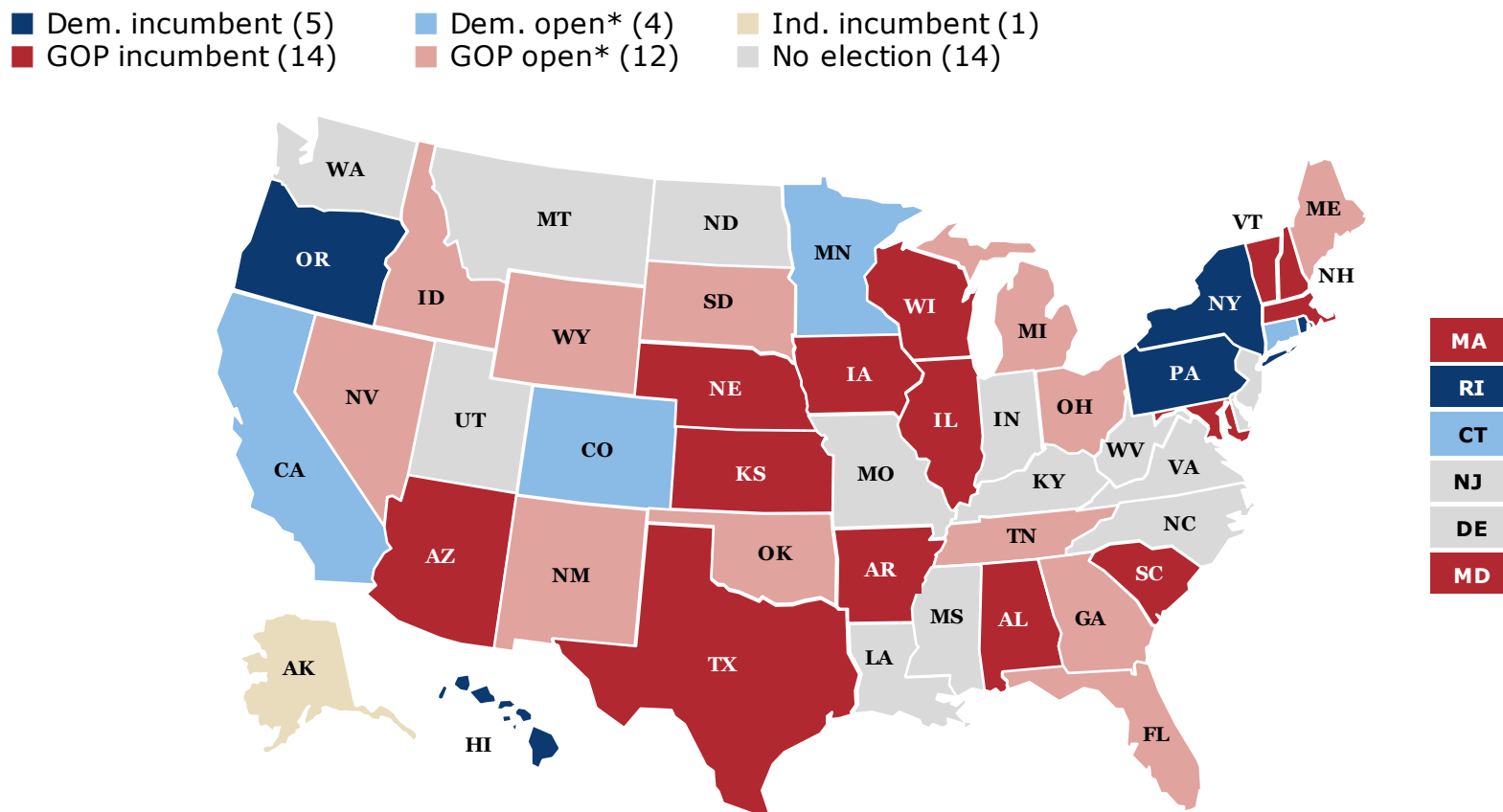


\*One toss-up seat is held by Alaskan governor Bill Walker, an independent

Sources: Cook Political Report, 2018.

**In 2018, Republicans must defend 12 governorships without an incumbent running, as opposed to only four for Dems**

## 2018 gubernatorial races by incumbent and status



\*“Open seats” are governorships where incumbent governors are term-limited or they have announced that they are not running for re-election

Sources: Cook Political Report, 2017.