

2018 midterm elections overview

A look ahead to the 2018 congressional and gubernatorial elections

March 2018

Producer

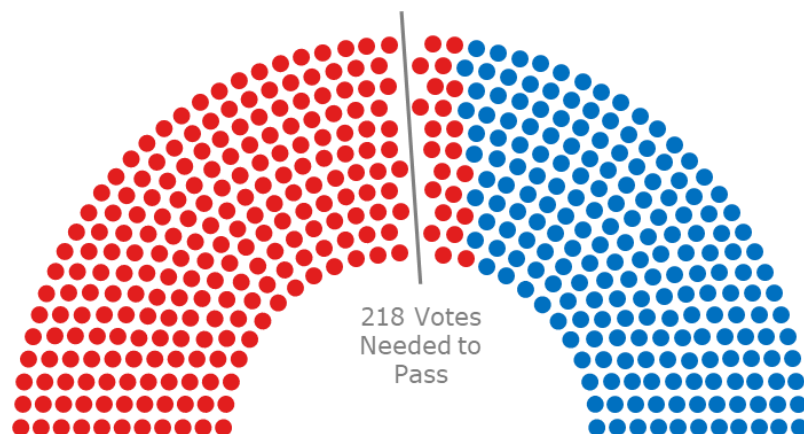
Presentation Center Staff

Director

Alistair Taylor

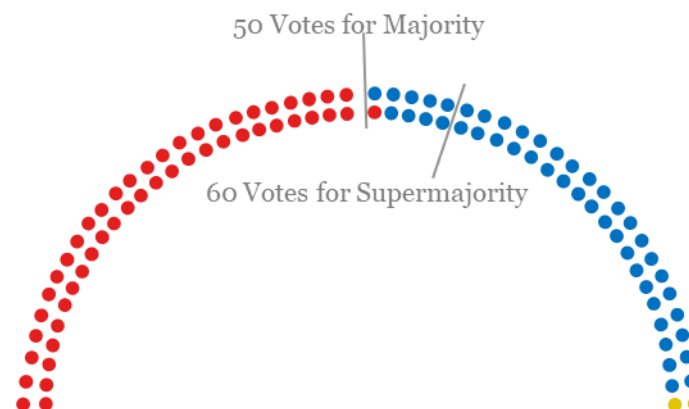
Democrats will need to pick up 23 seats in the House and two seats in the Senate to control both chambers of Congress

House of Representatives



Total Republicans	240*
Total Democrats	195*

Senate



Total Republicans	51
Total Democrats/Independents	49

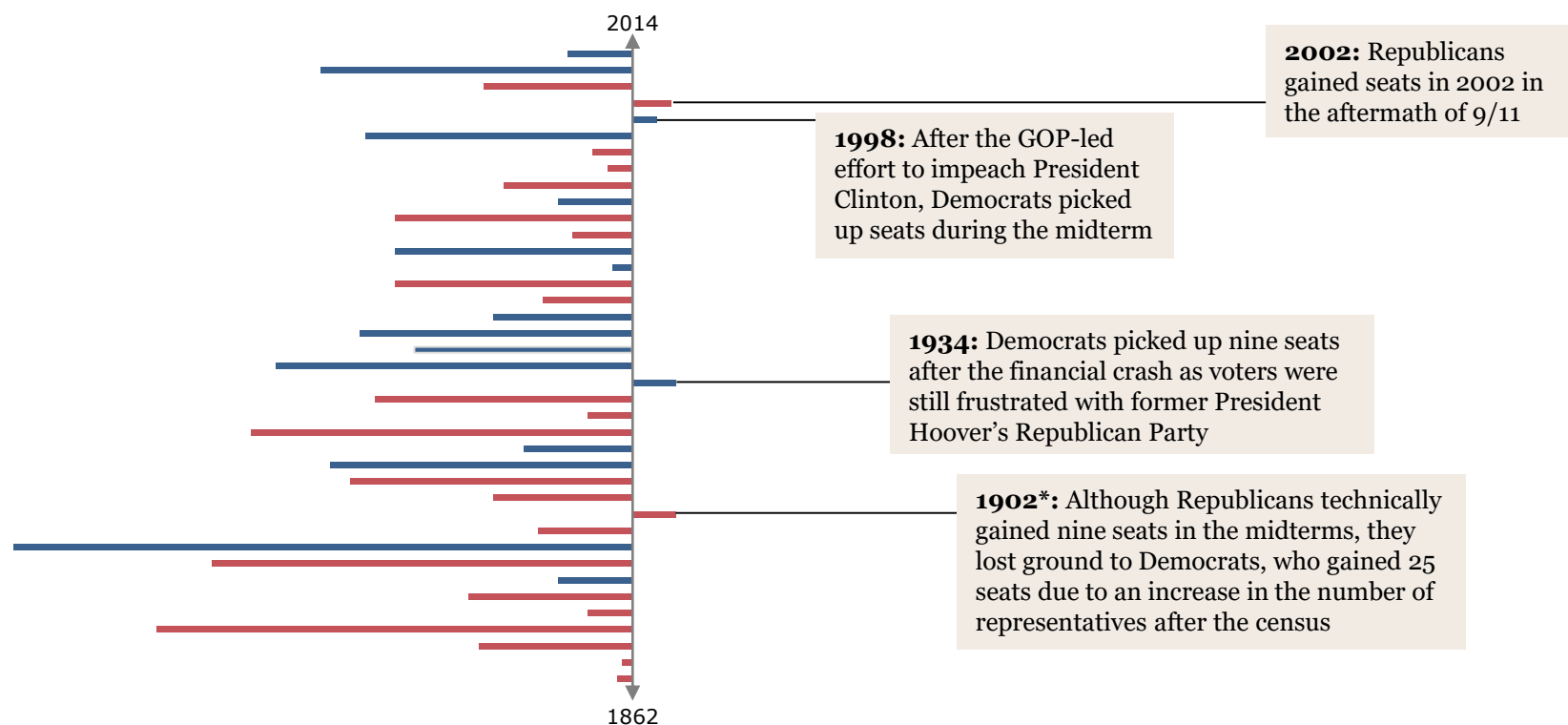
*There are currently four vacancies in the House but they are not expected to change parties in upcoming special elections

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



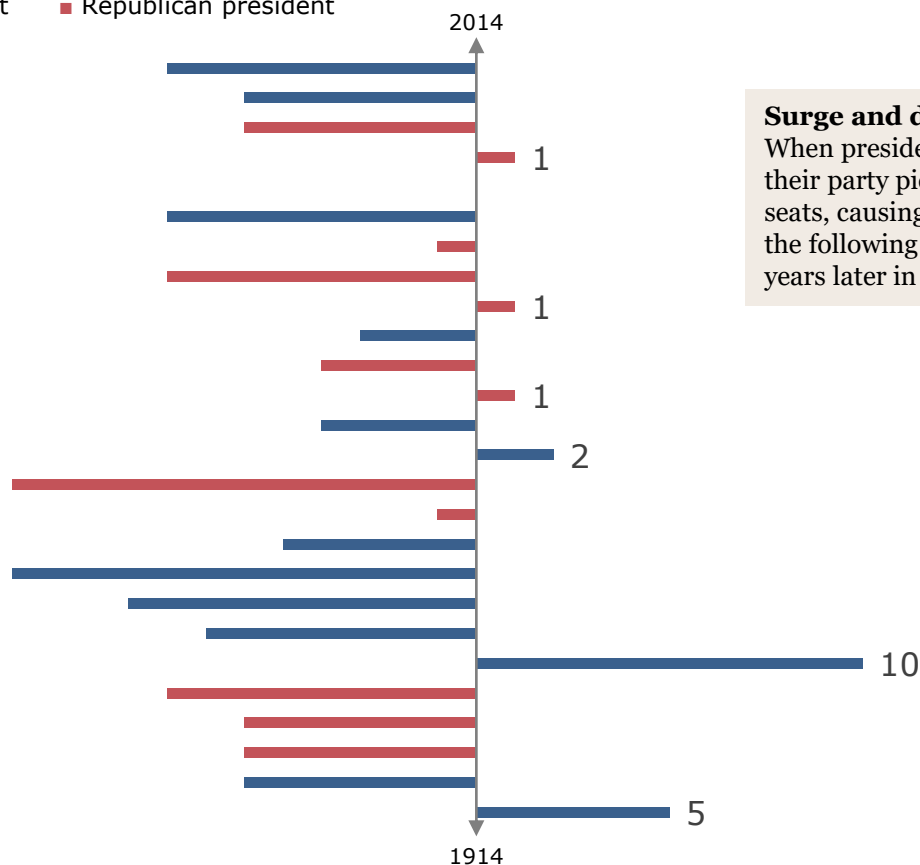
Sources: Charlie Cook, "Will History Hold in 2018 Midterms?" The Cook Political Report, January 9, 2017.

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

■ Democratic president ■ Republican president



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 House outcomes

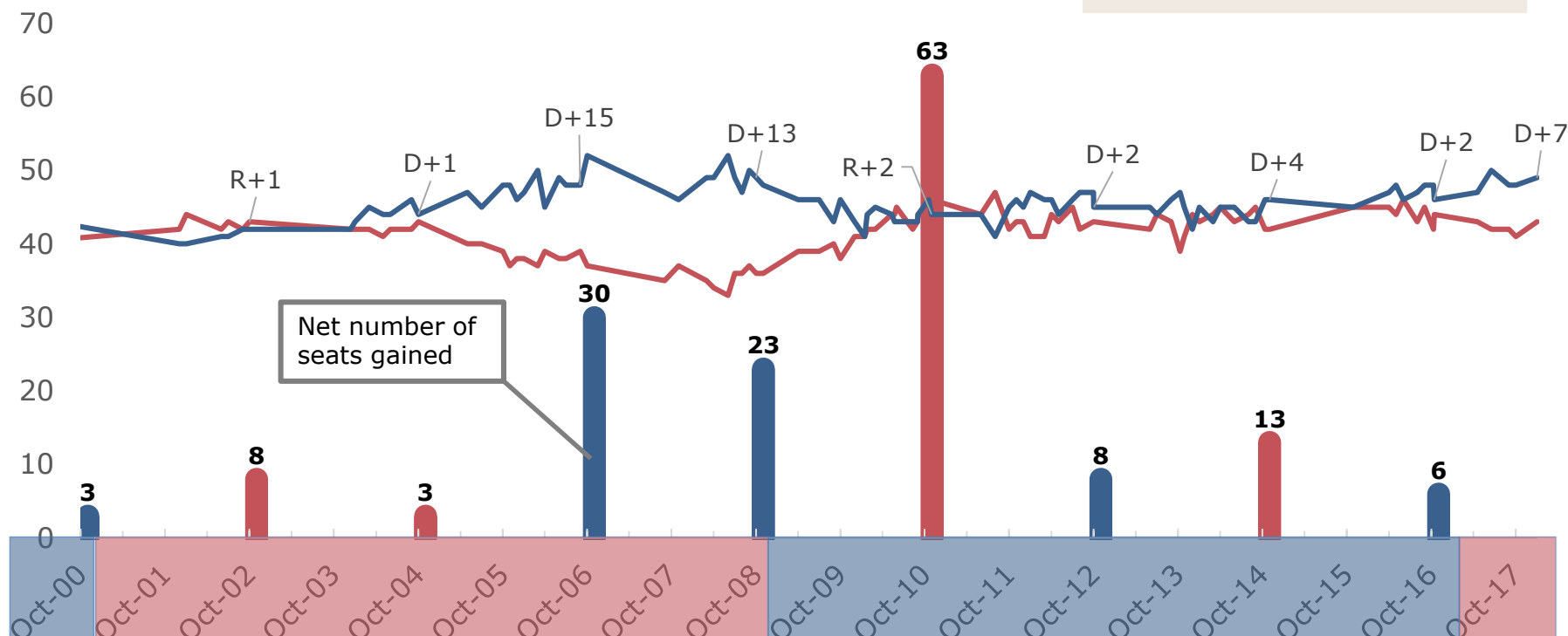
NBC/WSJ POLL

■ Democrats ■ Republicans ■ Not sure

Current generic ballot:

D+10

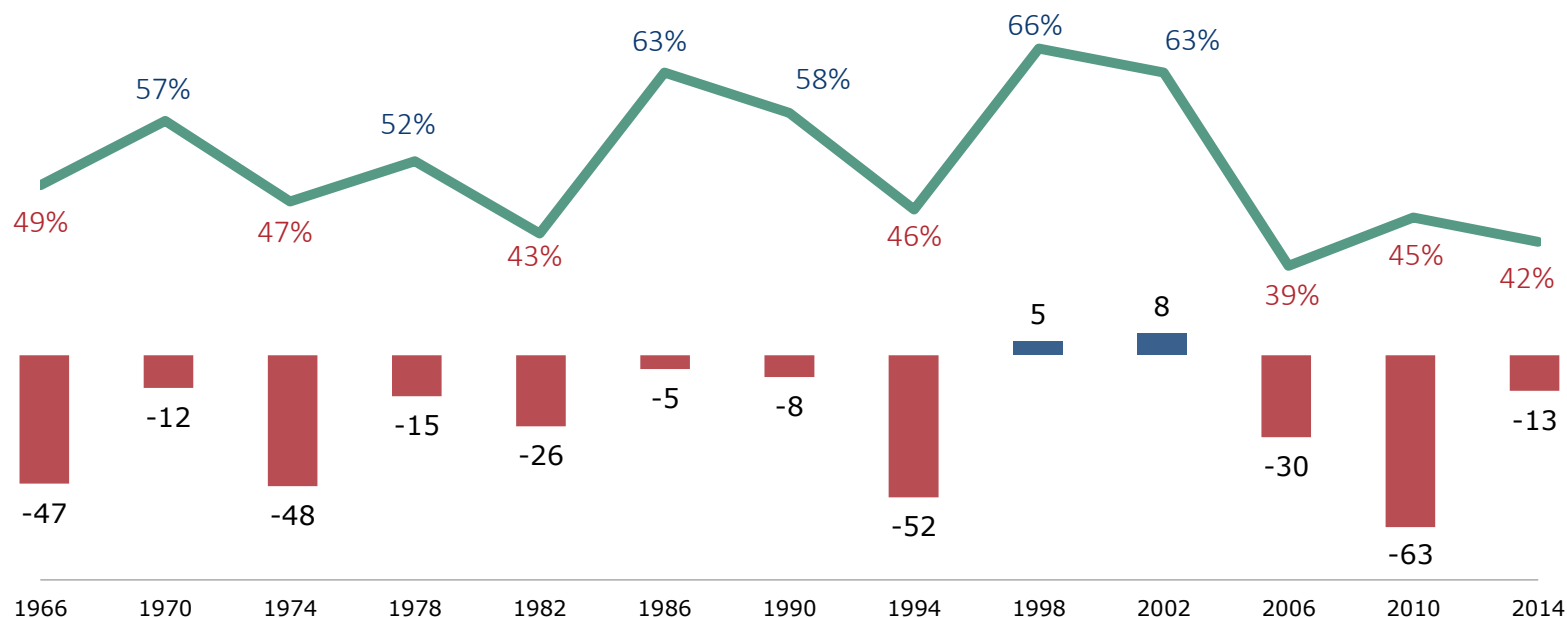
NBC/WSJ Poll: March 10-14, 2018



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
41.8%
 RCP Average: March 22, 2018

Job Approval	Average Change
Over 60%	+3 Seats
50%-60%	-12 Seats
Under 50%	-40 Seats

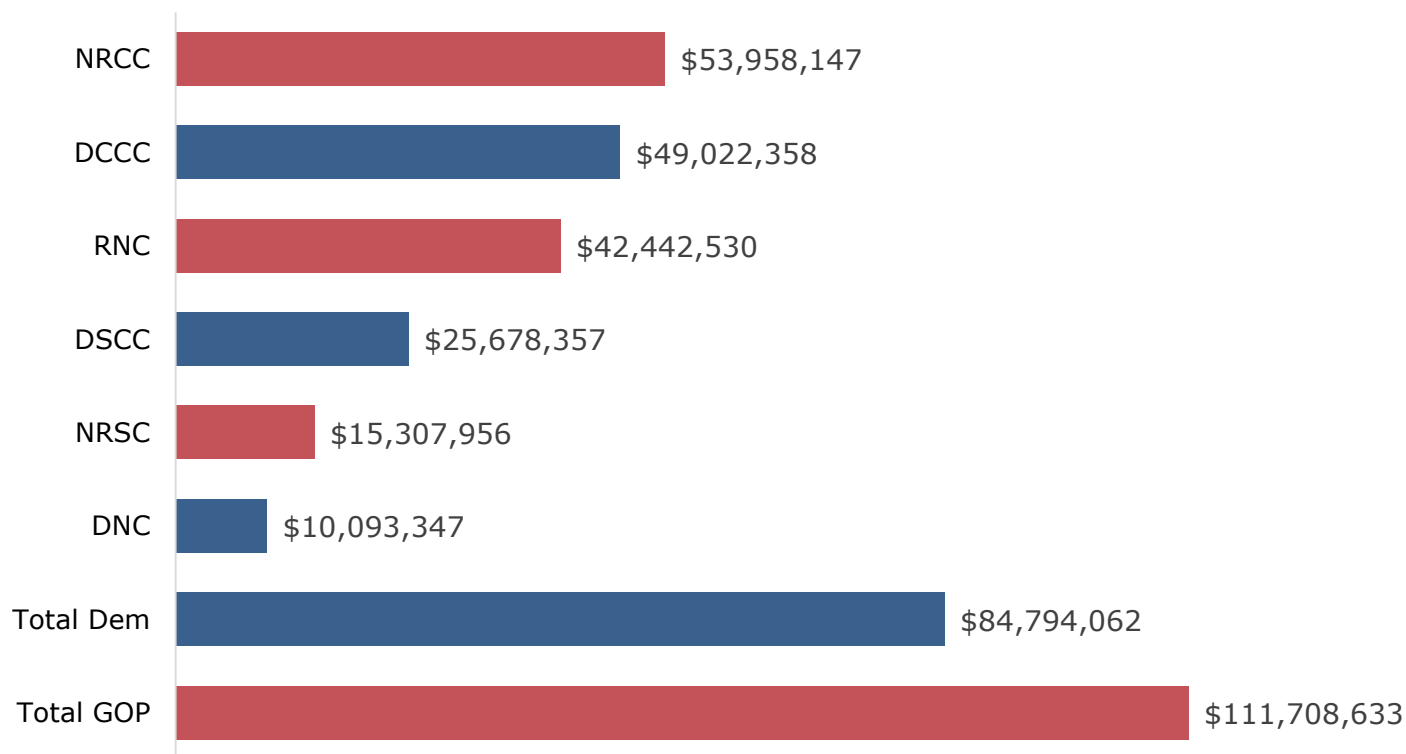
Sources: Gallup, The Cook Political Report, National Journal

The national GOP party committees ended February with \$27 million more cash on hand than Democratic committees

Total cash on hand by national party PACs

AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018

■ Democrat ■ Republican



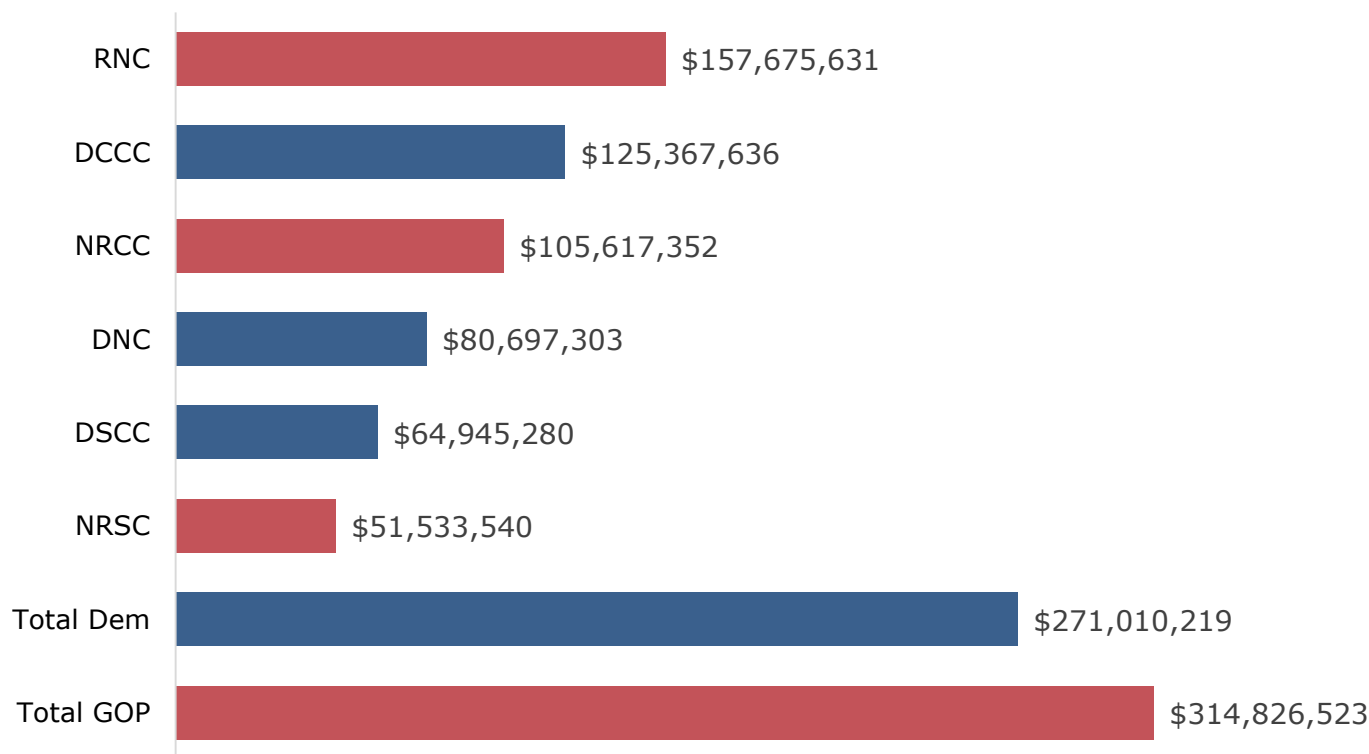
Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2017.

The national Republican Party committees raised \$43 million more than their Democratic counterparts in the 2018 cycle

Total receipts by national party PACs

AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018

■ Democrat ■ Republican

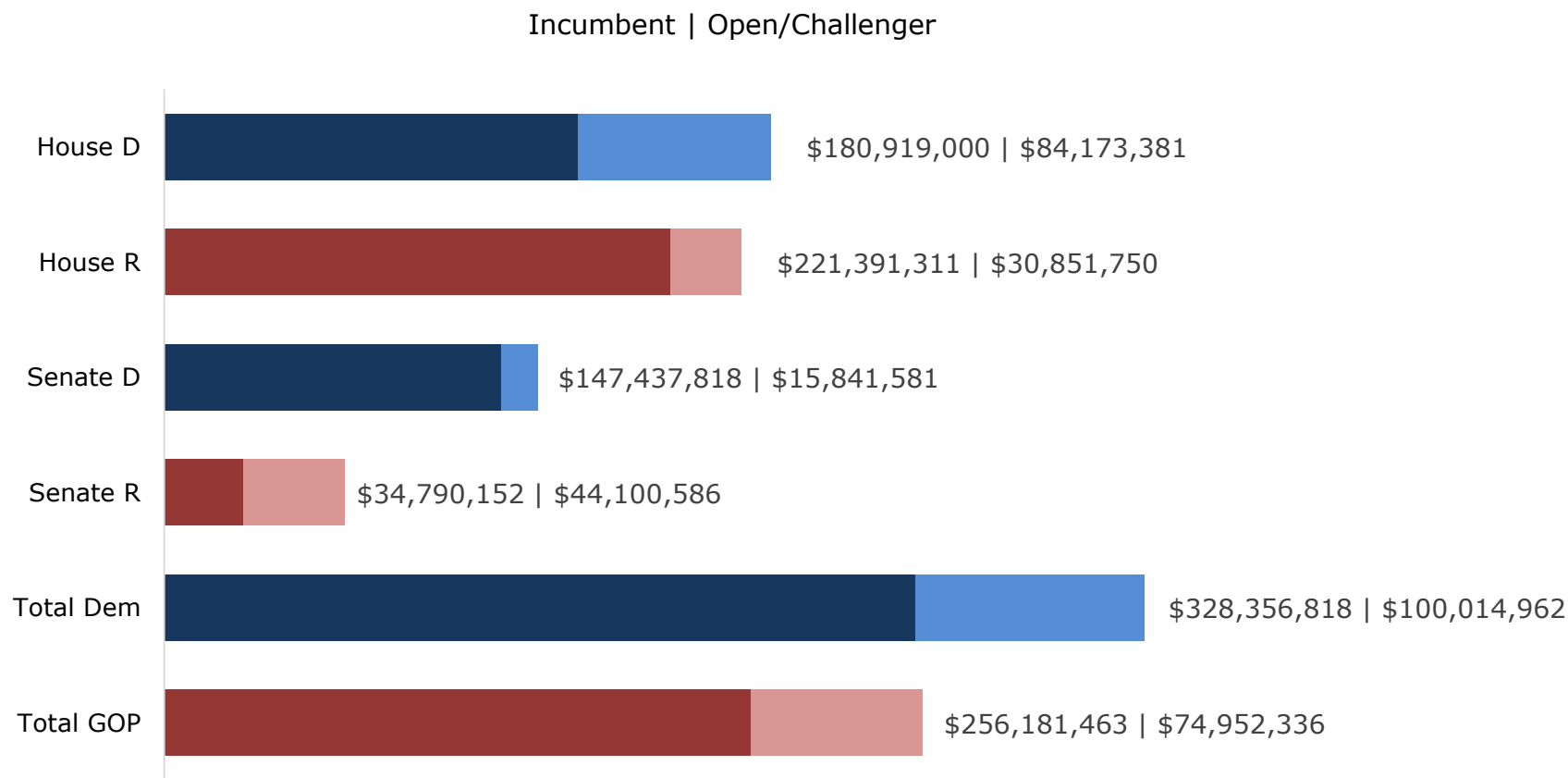


Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2017.

Democratic candidates have raised more than Republicans

Total cash on hand by federal candidates

AS OF JANUARY 31, 2018



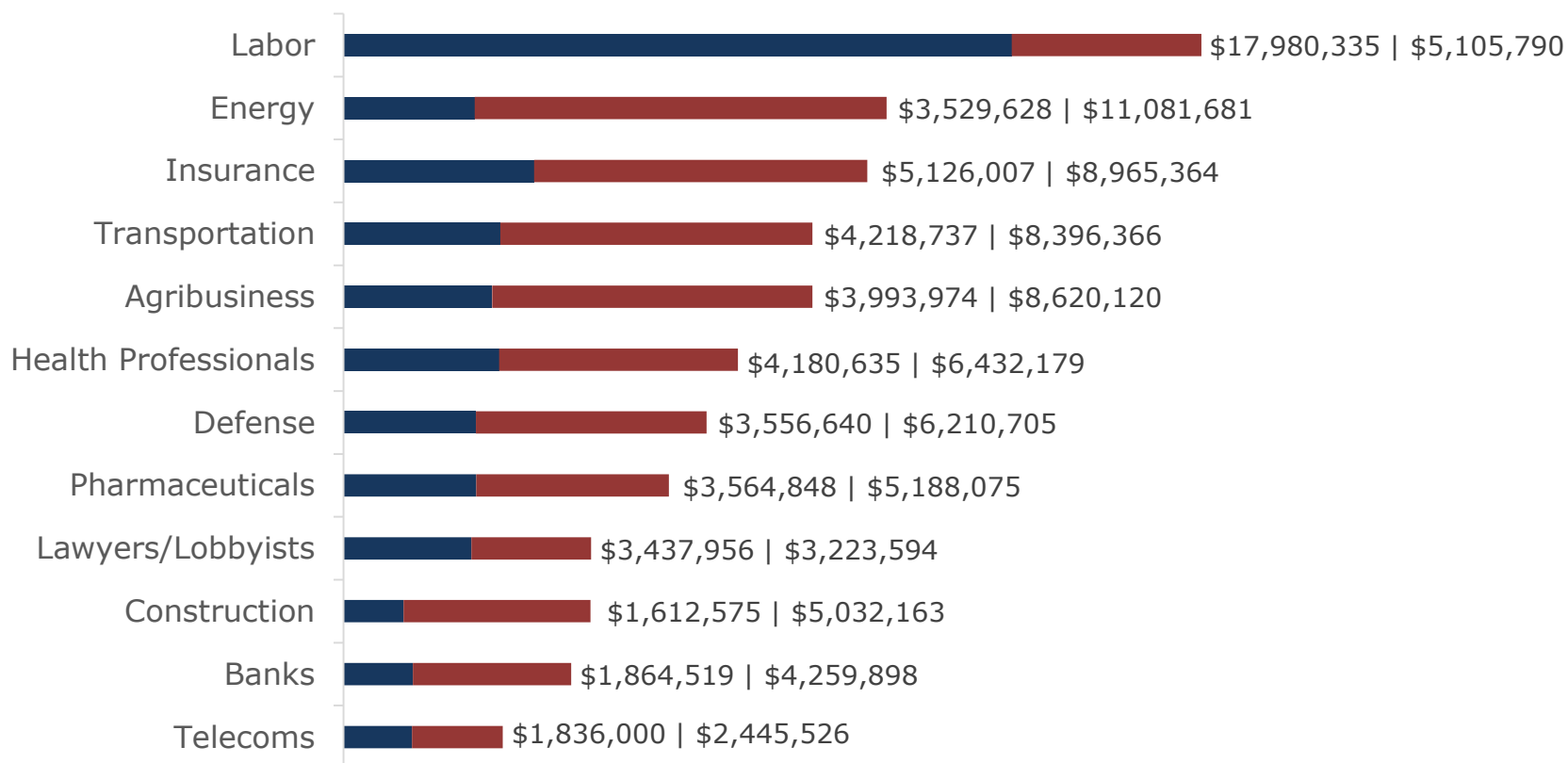
Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2018.

For the 2018 cycle, PACs from every sector except labor and law have given more to Republicans than Democrats

PAC federal campaign donations by sector

AS OF JANUARY 31, 2018

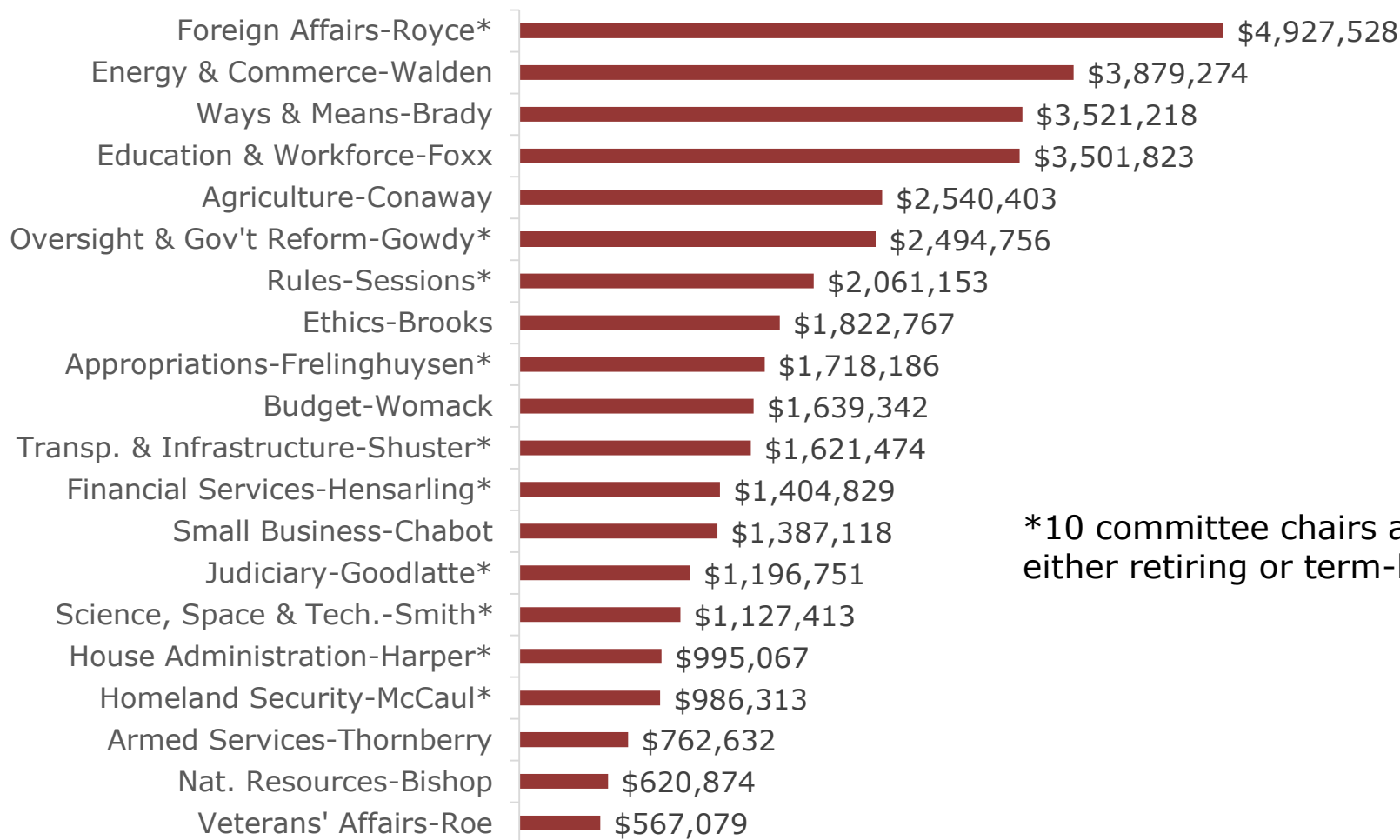
Democratic recipients | Republican recipients



Sources: Center for Responsive Politics, 2018.

Total money raised by committee chairs in the 2018 cycle

AS OF JANUARY 31, 2018

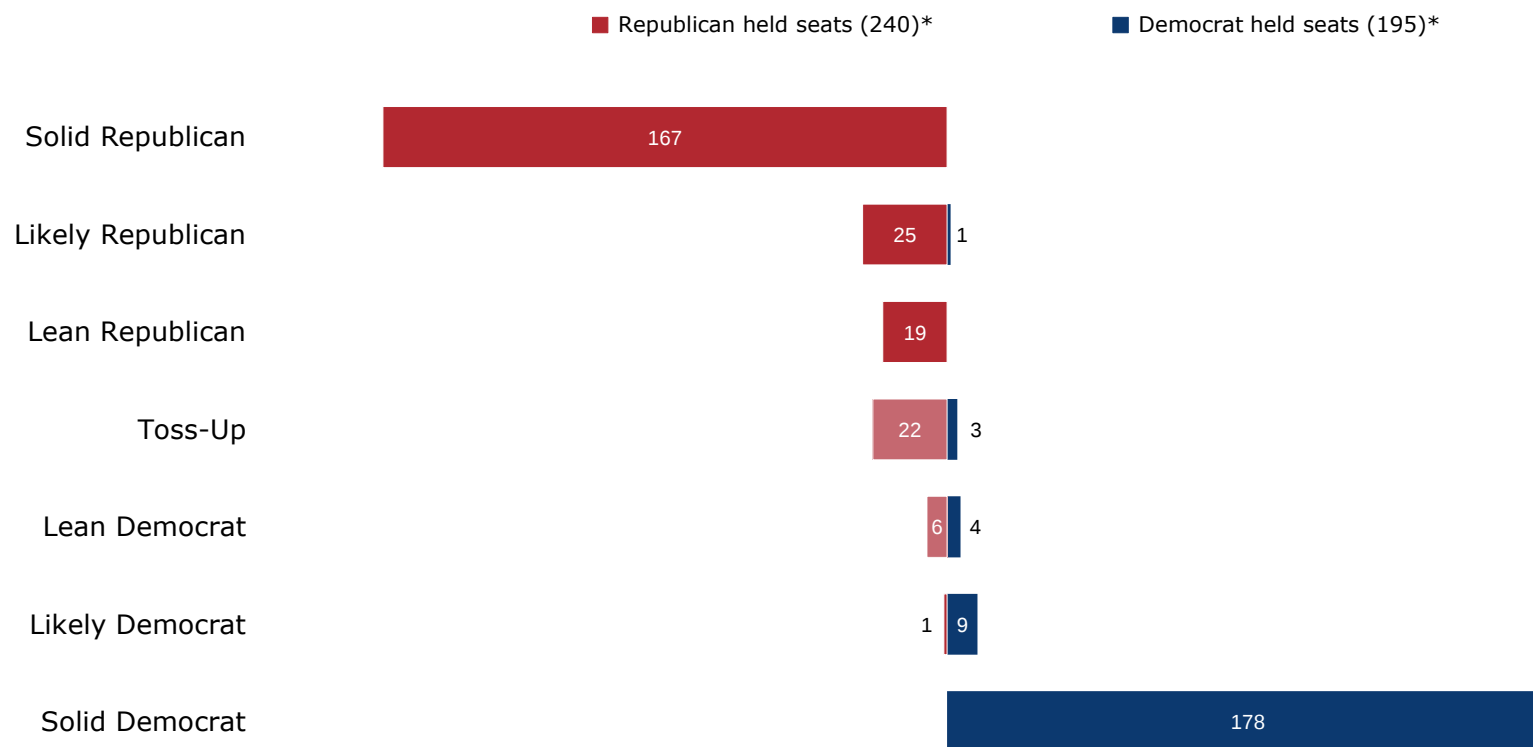


*10 committee chairs are either retiring or term-limited

Sources: FEC

If Democrats capture all likely and lean-D seats held by Republicans they still need 16 more seats to win the House

Cook Political Report ratings: House



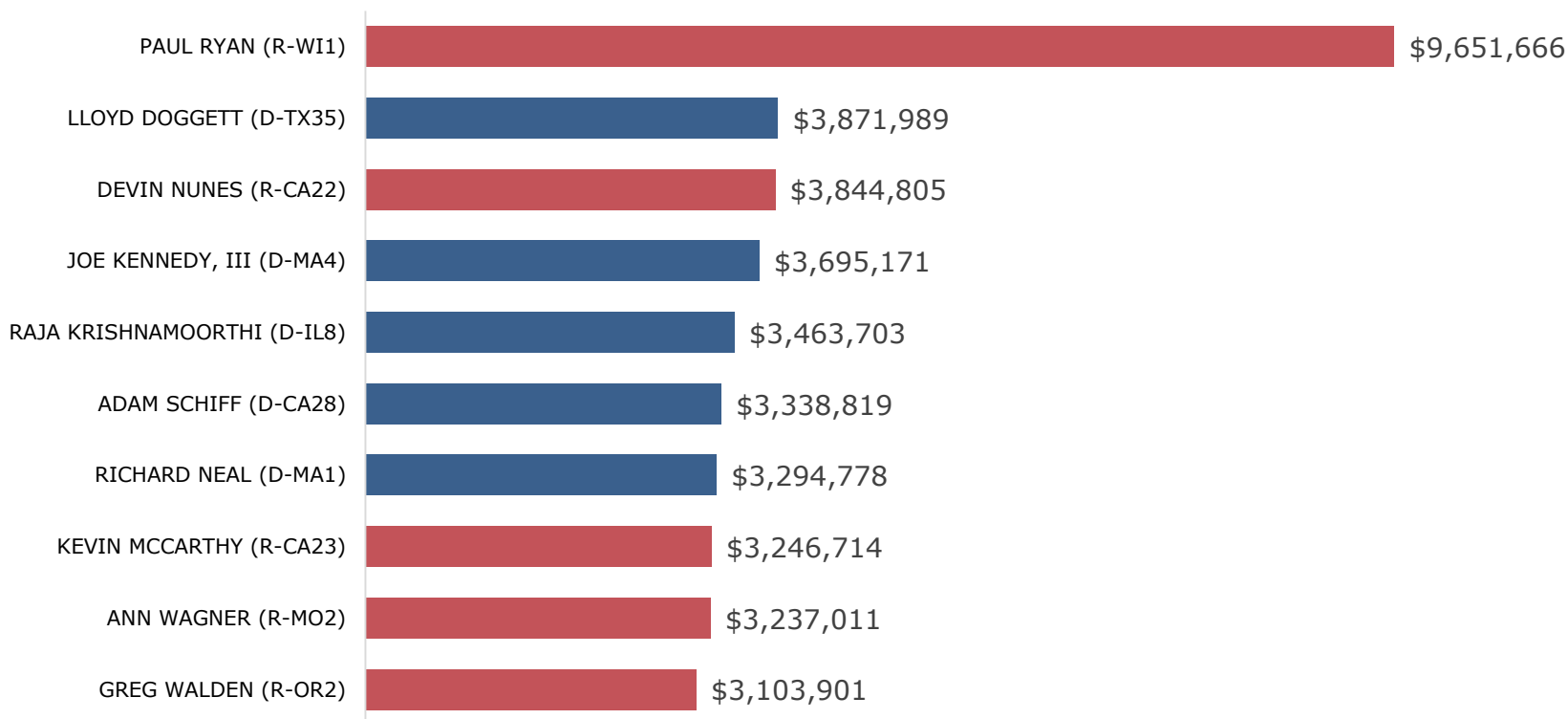
*There are currently three vacancies in the House, two Republican and one Democratic seat, but they are included in this graph.
Source: Cook Political Report.

House members with the largest war chests for the 2018 midterm elections

Top 10 House candidates with the most cash on hand

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

■ Democrat ■ Republican

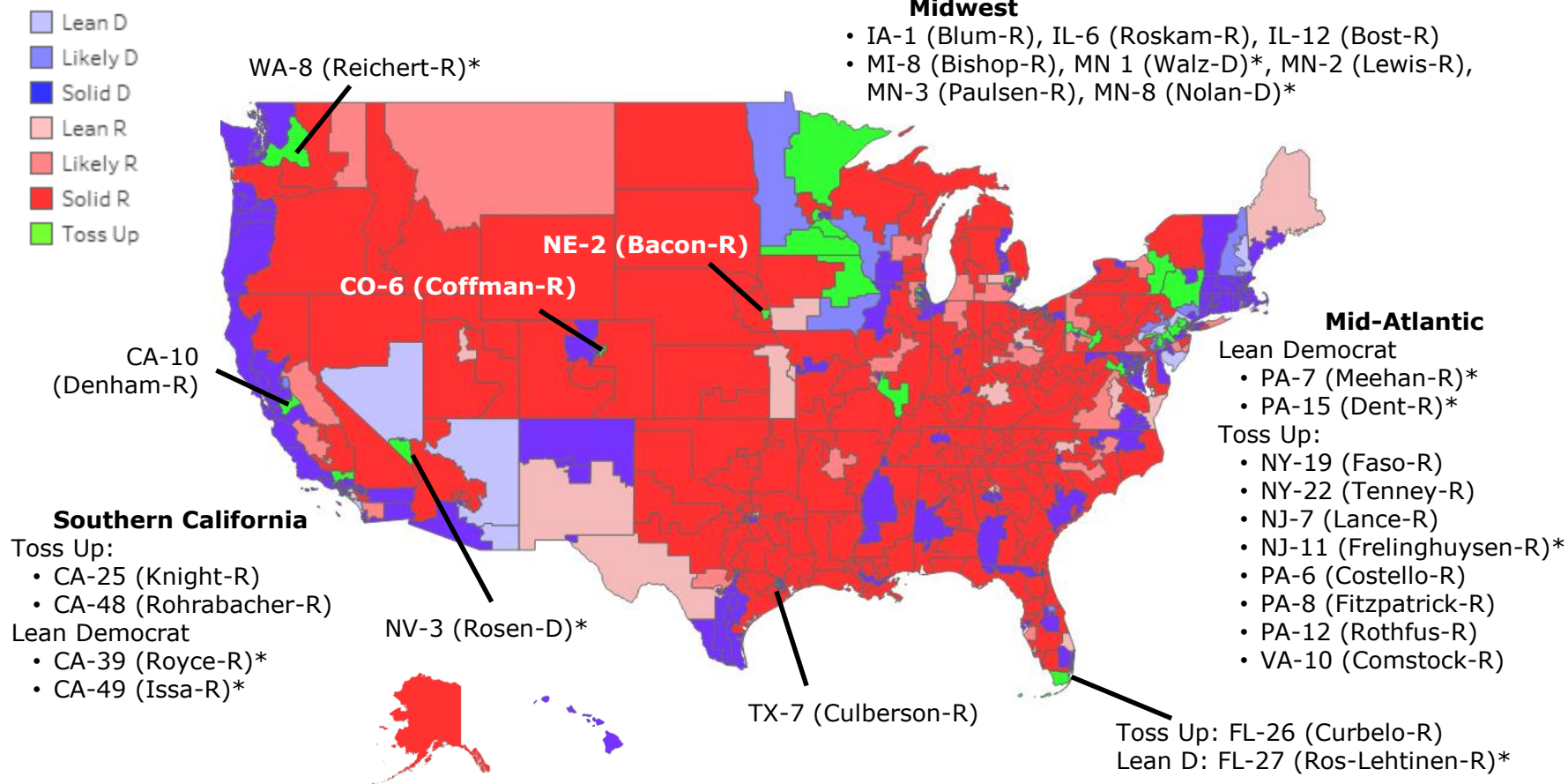


Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2017.

Republicans are defending 29 seats considered “toss-ups” or “lean Democrat,” nine without an incumbent

Cook ratings for 2018 House races

ASTERISKS DENOTE RETIRING INCUMBENTS



Special election: Pennsylvania's 18th district

Seat previously held by



Tim Murphy (R)
*Resigned amidst
abortion scandal*

Election dates



Pittsburgh suburbs,
SW Pennsylvania

GOP nominating
convention: Nov. 11

Dem nominating
convention: Nov. 19

General Election:
3/13/17

Other notes

- Rep. Tim Murphy ran uncontested in the past two elections
- This district will be completely changed for the Nov. 2018 election pursuant to a 2018 Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling

Special election candidates



- Conor Lamb (D)**
- Former assistant US attorney
- Former marine

Votes



- Rick Saccone (R)**
- Current PA representative (R-39)
- Former defense intelligence officer



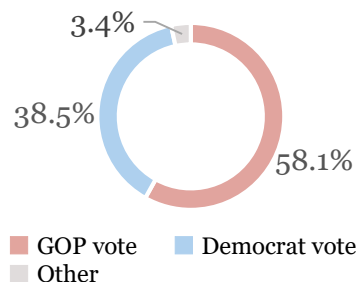
Cook Political
Report Rating:
Toss-Up

Libertarian:

1,379

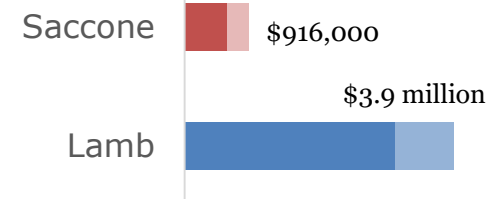
District overview

'16 Presidential race results



Total spent + cash on hand

As of February 21st

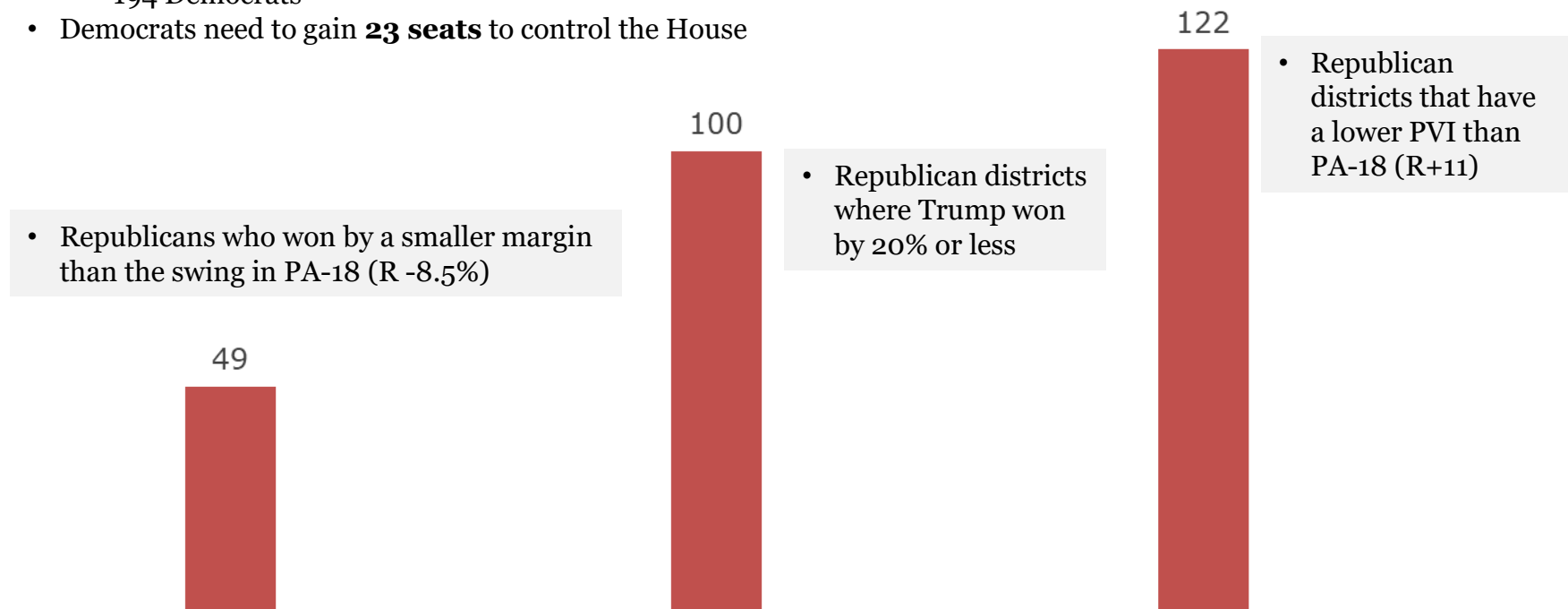


Sources: Ballotpedia, National Journal Research, 2018. DailyKos, "Presidential election results by congressional district"

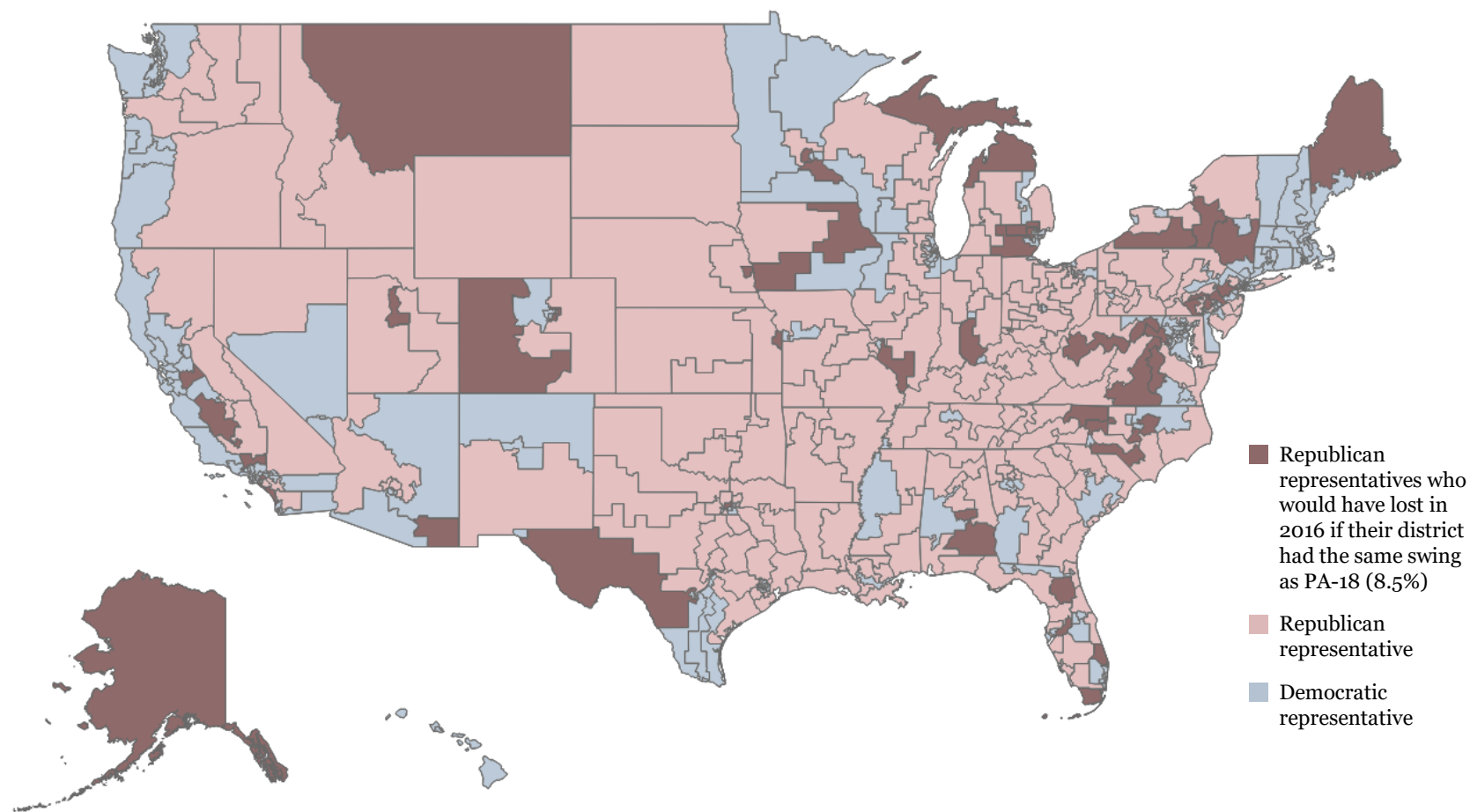
Why are Republicans worried about the midterms?

House of Representatives

- Current stats (3 vacancies):
238 Republicans
194 Democrats
- Democrats need to gain **23 seats** to control the House



Republican representatives who would have lost in 2016 if their district had the same swing as PA-18 (R-8.5% & D+8.5%)



Sources: National Journal Research.

The Senate is less of a problem for Republicans

Senate

- Current stats:
 - 51 Republicans
 - 49 Democrats
- Democrats need to gain **2 seats** to control the Senate

Republican senators currently up for re-election who would have lost their 2012 election with the same swing as PA-18 (8.5%)



Republican senators up for re-election that are considered toss-ups



Republican senators up for re-election where Trump won by 20% or less



Democrats up for re-election in states where Trump won by greater than 10%

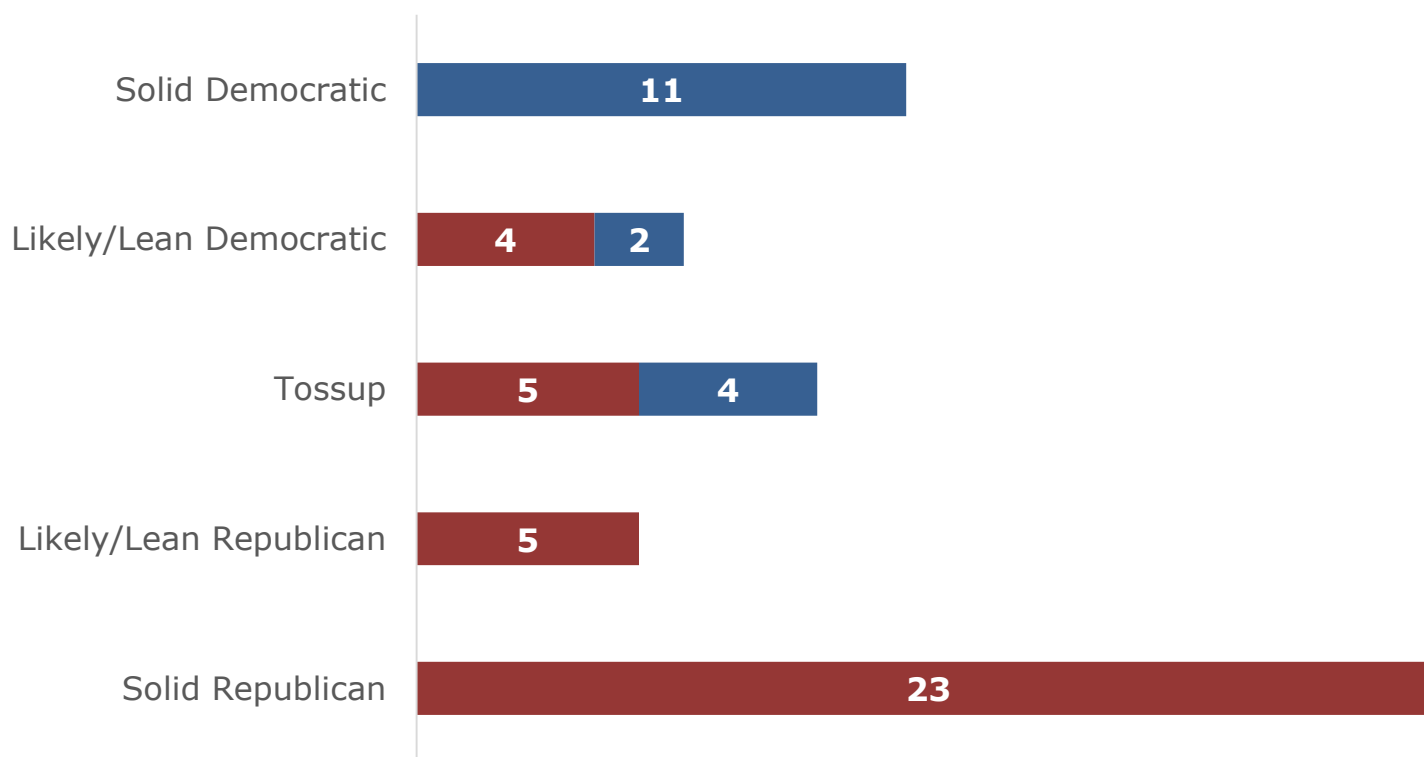


Democrats up for re-election in states where Trump won by less than 10%

Republicans retiring from “likely/lean Democratic” districts makes it easier for Democrats to flip those seats

Representatives not seeking re-election

BASED ON THE COOK PARTISAN VOTER INDEX



Sources: “2018 House summary” The Cook political report, January 29, 2018.

Regardless of the 2018 outcome, many House chairmanships will change hands due to 11 retirements

Republican committee and subcommittee chairs retiring after 2018

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE RULES LIMIT CHAIRMANSHIPS TO 6 YEARS

Term-limited and retiring



Space, Science & Technology
Lamar Smith (R-TX21)



Transportation & Infrastructure
Bill Shuster (R-PA9)

Retiring but not term-limited



Budget
Diane Black (R-TN6)



Oversight
Trey Gowdy (R-SC4)

Term-limited but still running



Rules
Pete Sessions (R-TX32)



Judiciary
Bob Goodlatte (R-VA6)



Foreign Affairs
Ed Royce (R-CA39)



Financial Services
Jeb Hensarling (R-TX5)



Administration
Gregg Harper (R-MS3)



Homeland Security
Michael McCaul (R-TX10)



VA Appropriations Sub.*
Charlie Dent (R-PA15)



Aviation Sub.
Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ2)



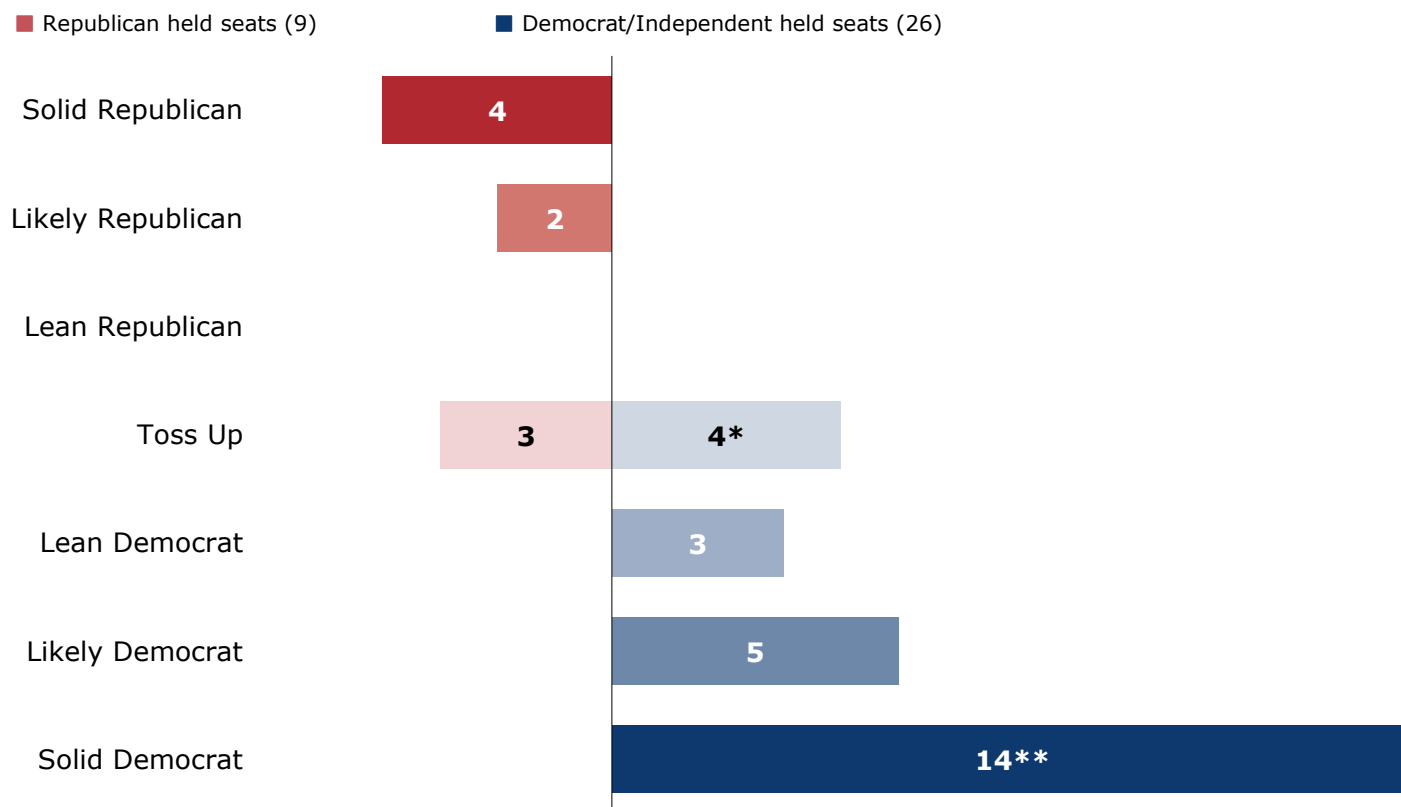
Appropriations
Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ11)

*Dent is also the chair of the House Ethics Committee but is not term-limited from that position
Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

Democrats need to gain two seats to control the Senate, but are defending 25 seats, three of which are considered “toss-Ups”

Cook Political Report ratings

2018 SENATE RACES



* Includes independent Angus King (ME) who caucuses with the Democrats

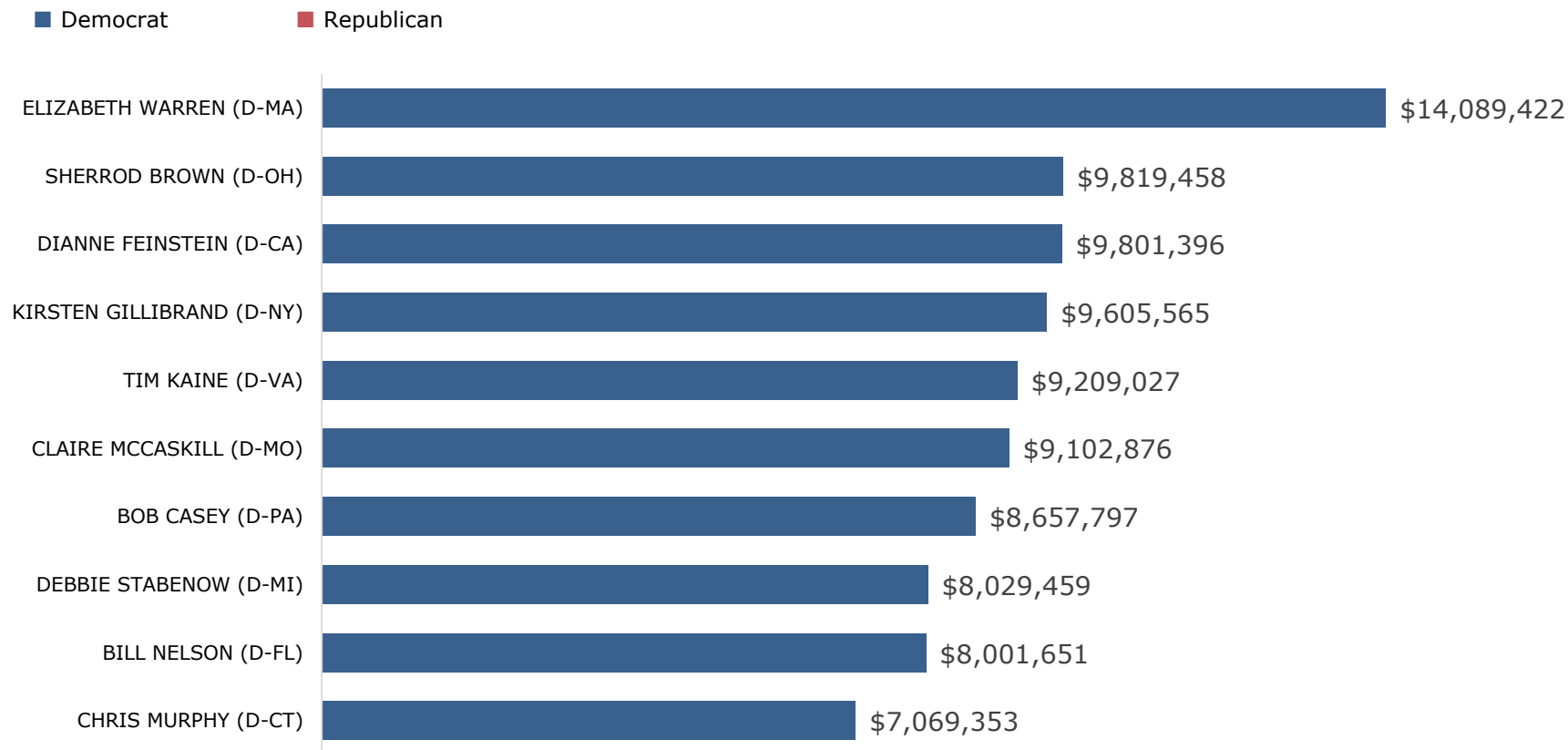
** Includes independent Bernie Sanders (VT) who caucuses with the Democrats

Sources: Cook Political Report, 2017.

Senate members with the largest war chests for the 2018 midterm elections

Top 10 Senate candidates with the most cash on hand

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017



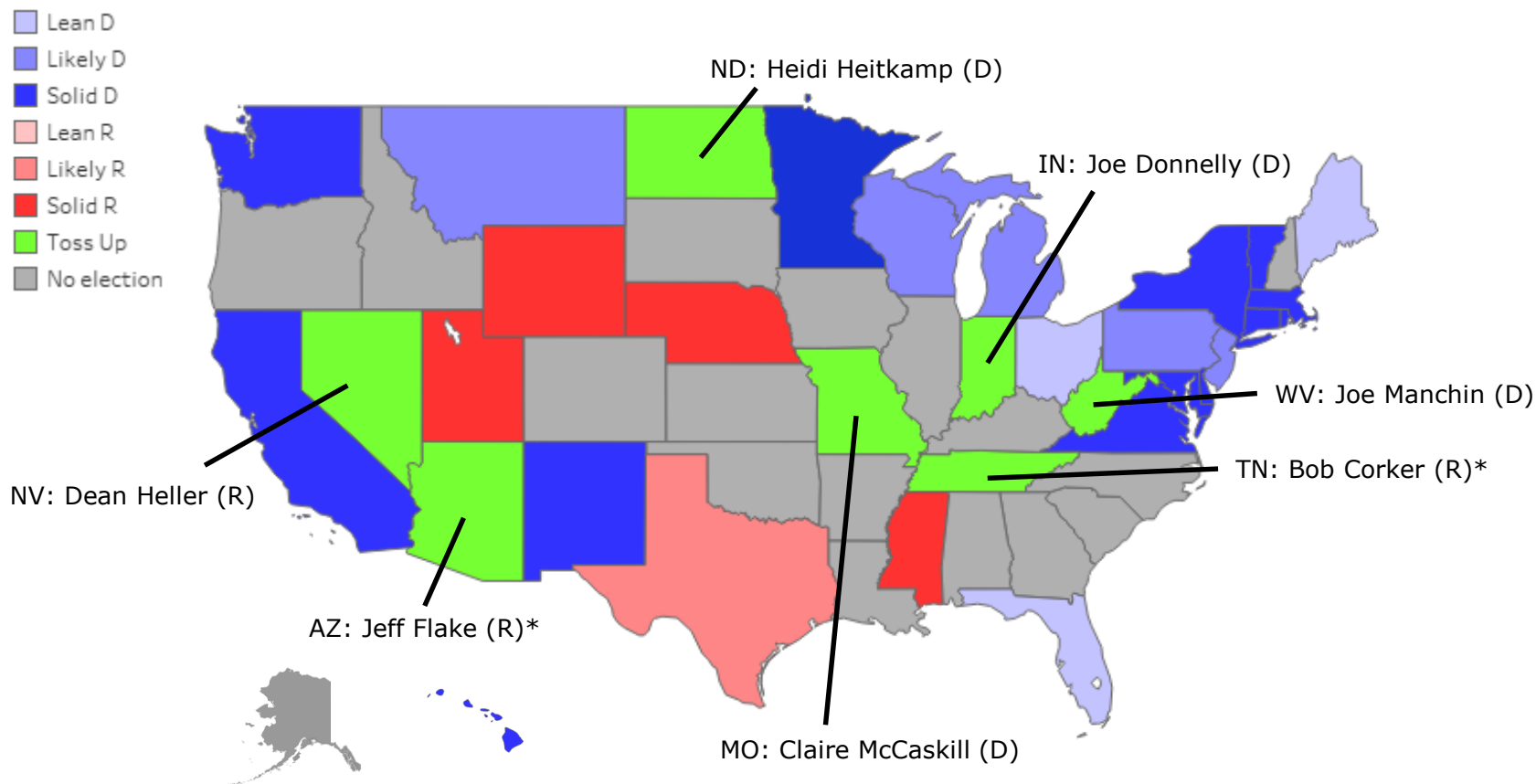
*Sen. Corker has announced he is not seeking re-election.

Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2017.

Democrats have four “toss-up” Senate seats in 2018, although two out of three Republican “toss-ups” do not have incumbents

Cook ratings for 2018 Senate races

ASTERISKS DENOTE RETIRING INCUMBENTS

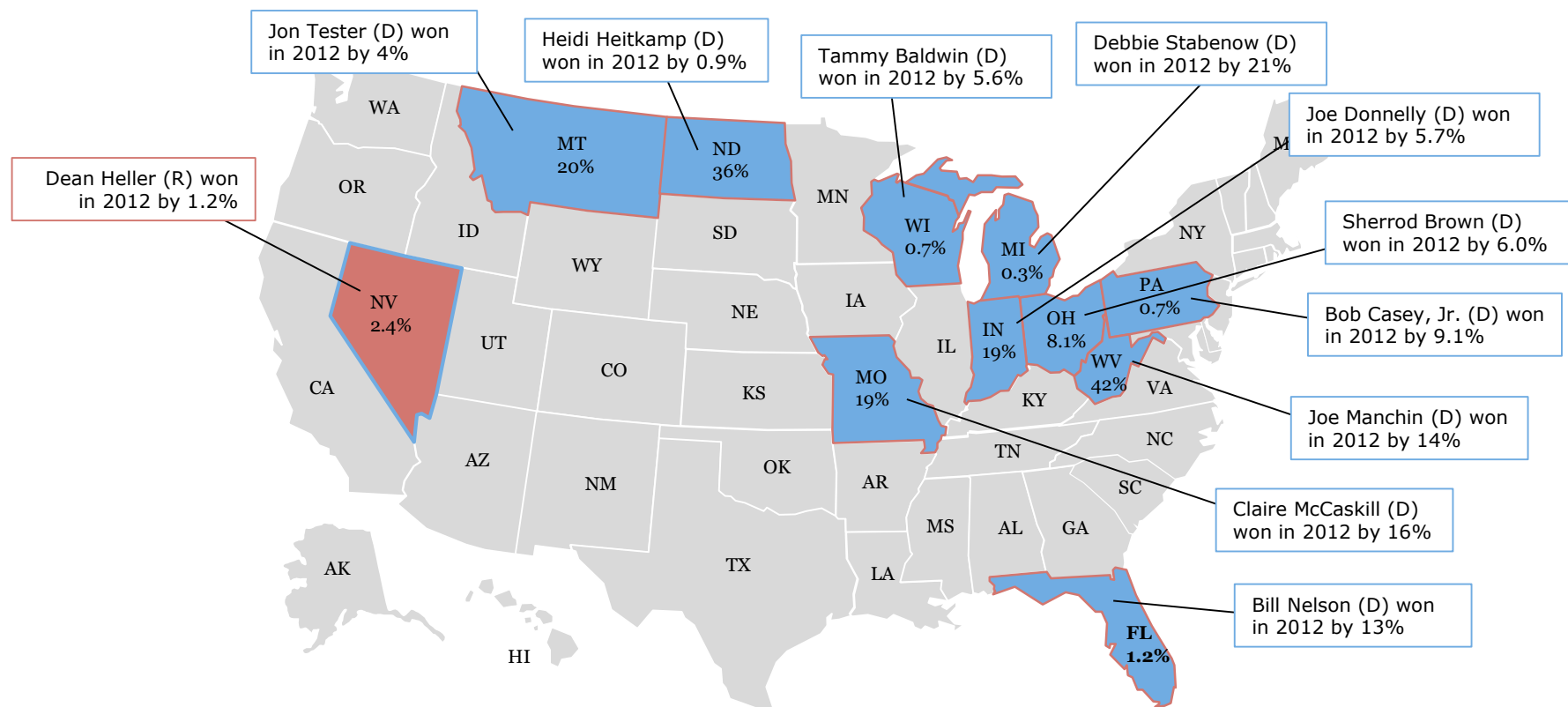


Of the 26 Democratic senators up for re-election, Trump won 10 of their states – and five by double digits

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)

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



Jeff Flake
(R-AZ)

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



Orrin Hatch
(R-UT)

- 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 and is expected to win nomination and the seat



Thad Cochran
(R-MS)

- Cochran announced his resignation due to health concerns
- Gov. Phil Bryant (R) appointed Ag Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith, a former Democrat, to fill the seat until a Nov. 2018 special election
- She will be challenged by hard-right state senator Chris McDaniel (R)
- Mike Espy (D), a former US Secretary of Agriculture intends to run
- Sen. Roger Wicker (R) is also up for re-election in 2018



Al Franken
(D-MN)

- Franken resigned on January 2nd amid a sexual harassment scandal
- He was replaced by Tina Smith (D) to fill his seat until a special election in November 2018
- Both Minnesota Senate seats will be on the ballot in November

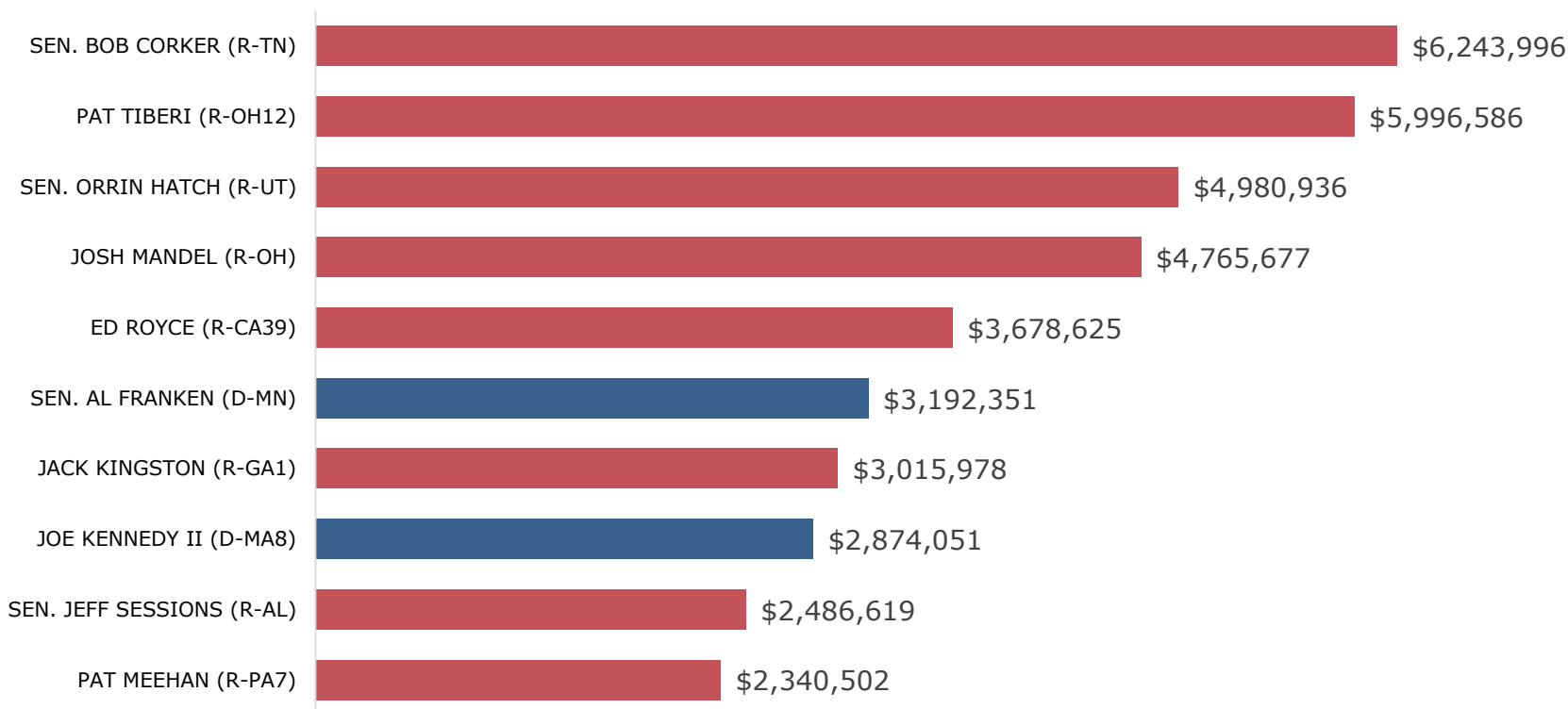
Sources: National Journal Research 2017. *Includes Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) who resigned in January and was replaced by the Tina Smith (D)

Former candidates also retain large amounts of cash on hand

Top 10 former candidates with the most cash on hand

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

■ Democrat ■ Republican



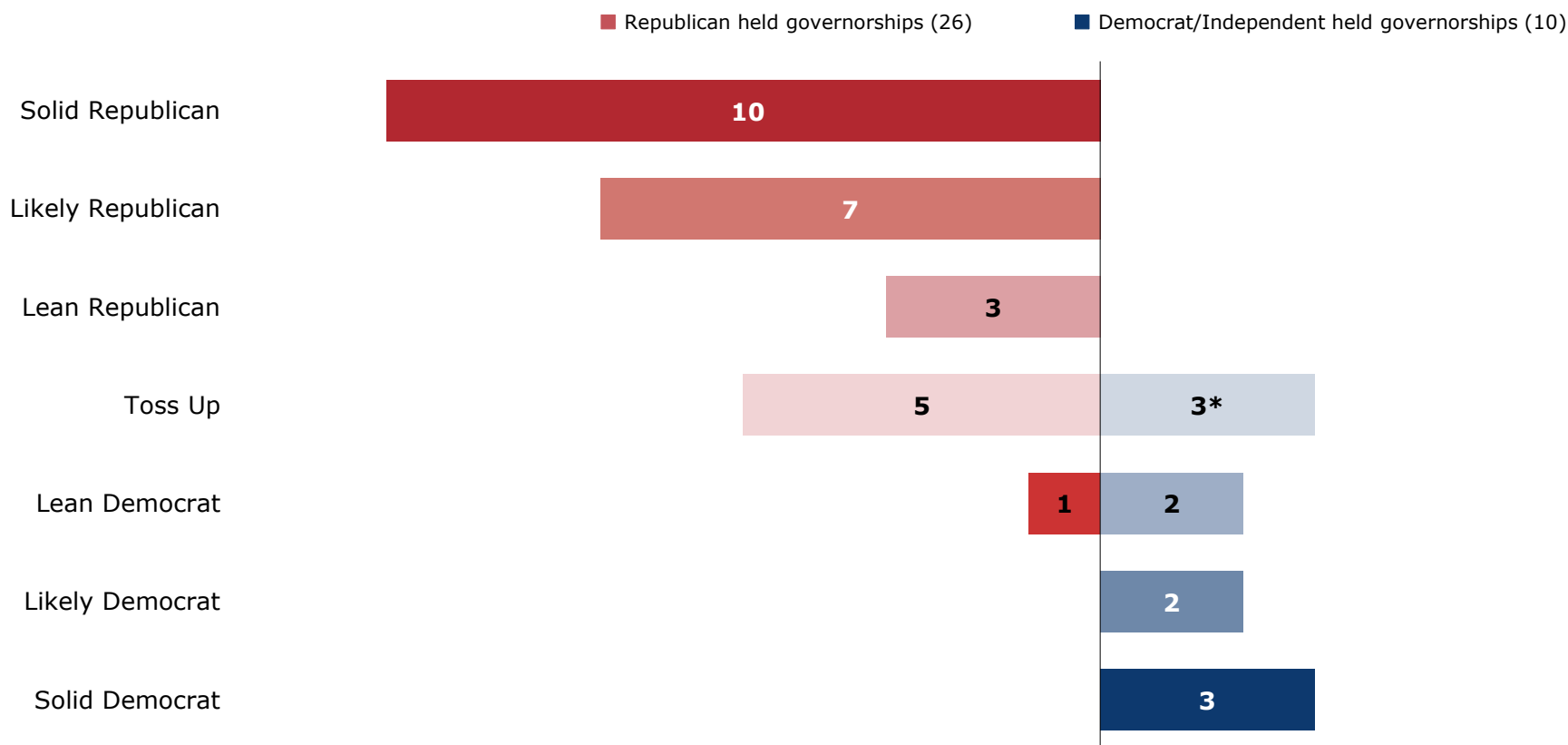
*Rep. Tiberi announced he will not seek re-election and will resign by 2018

Sources: Federal Election Commission, 2017.

At least one Republican-held governorship is likely to flip although five are considered “toss-ups”

Cook Political Report ratings

2017 & 2018 GUBERNATORIAL RACES



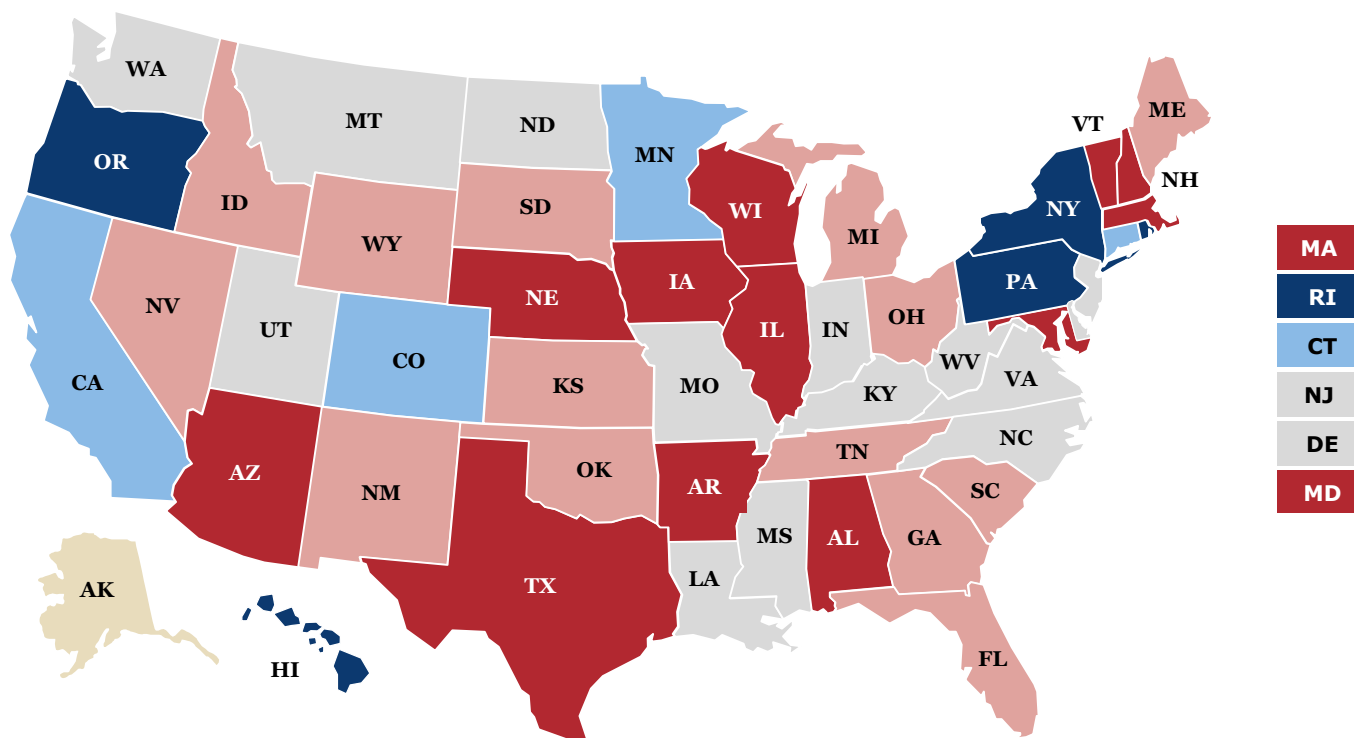
*One toss-up seat is held by Alaskan governor Bill Walker, an independent

Sources: Cook Political Report, 2018.

In 2018, Republicans must defend 14 governorships without an incumbent running, as opposed to only 4 for Dems

2018 gubernatorial races by incumbent and status

■ Dem. incumbent (5) ■ Dem. open* (4) ■ Ind. incumbent (1)
■ GOP incumbent (12) ■ GOP open* (14) ■ No election (14)



*"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.

Most states have primary filing deadlines in March or April

2018 congressional filing deadlines by state

■ Filing deadline for primary candidates

January

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jan 30: KS and KY

Feb 9: AL and IN

Feb 27: MD

Feb 28: NC

Mar 1: AR and MS

Mar 6: OR

Mar 9: CA, GA, and ID

Mar 12: MT

Mar 13: NM

Mar 15: Utah

Mar 16: IA and NV

Mar 20: CO

Mar 27: MO and SD

Mar 30: SC

Apr 5: TN

Apr 9: ND

Apr 13: OK

Apr 23: VT

Apr 24: MI

May 4: FL

Jun 1: AK and WY

Jun 5: MN

Jun 25: RI

Jul 20: LA

No data as of October 6, 2017 for the following states: AR, CT, DE, ME, MA, NE, NH, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV, WI

Sources: Ballotpedia, 2017

Most states will hold their primaries in June or August of 2018

2018 congressional primary calendar

■ Primary election

March

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Mar 6: TX

Mar 20: IL

Aug 2: TN

Aug 7: KS, MI, MO, WA

Aug 11: HI

Aug 14: CT, MN, VT, WI

Aug 21: AK, WY

Aug 28: AZ, FL

May

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 8: IN, NC, OH

May 15: ID, NE, OR, PA

May 22: AR, GA, KY

Sept 11: DE, NH, RI

Sept 18: MA

June

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

November

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jun 5: AL, CA, IA, MS, MT, NJ, NM, SD

Jun 12: ME, NV, ND, SC, VA

Jun 26: CO, MD, NY, OK, UT

Nov 6: LA

***No primary elections in April, July or October**

Introducing the 2018 Election Dashboards: insights on key races for the House, Senate and governorships

Download them through the search bar or visit National Journal's [Midterm Election Hub 2018](#)

