



Week in Review

Friday, April 20

- In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer [announced plans to introduce legislation](#) to decriminalize marijuana on the federal level, saying his thinking on the issue “has evolved.”
- The Democratic National Committee [filed a lawsuit](#) against the Trump campaign, the Russian government, and the WikiLeaks organization, alleging that the three parties conspired to disrupt the 2016 presidential campaign.
- Thousands of students across the country [participated in school walkouts](#) to protest gun violence on the 19th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting.
- President Trump [will not join Melania Trump](#) in attending Saturday's funeral service for former First Lady Barbara Bush. The White House said he's missing the event “to avoid disruptions” and out of respect for the Bush family and friends.

Monday, April 23

- After a 34-hour manhunt, authorities said the suspect in a deadly shooting at a Waffle House in Nashville, Tennessee, [was taken into custody](#). Travis Reinking is accused of killing four people at the restaurant early Sunday morning.
- French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte, arrived in Washington, D.C., for the Trump administration's first state visit. They [will have dinner](#) with President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate.
- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee [is expected to approve](#) Trump's pick for secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, after Senator Rand Paul, who had withheld support for Pompeo, changed his mind. The Senate is expected to confirm him later this week.
- Police said [nine people were killed](#) and 16 others injured after a van plowed into pedestrians on a sidewalk in Toronto. The driver is now in custody.

Tuesday, April 24

- President Trump defended his pick for veterans affairs secretary, Ronny Jackson, but [hinted that Jackson](#) might withdraw from consideration after a Senate panel [postponed his confirmation hearing](#) amid allegations of misconduct.
- Alek Minassian, the man accused of plowing a van into pedestrians in Toronto on Monday, [was charged](#) with 10 counts of first-degree murder and 13 counts of attempted murder.
- Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif [said](#) that his country would likely abandon the Iran nuclear deal should the United States withdraw.
- EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt [proposed a controversial rule](#) establishing new standards for the research that can be used to write agency regulations.
- President Trump and First Lady Melania [will host their first state dinner](#) for French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte, at the White House. The meal will consist of goat cheese gateau, rack of lamb, and jambalaya.

Wednesday, April 25

- In an address to a joint session of Congress, French President Emmanuel Macron [urged the U.S.](#) to engage more in global affairs, and stressed the growing threat of climate change.
- After a decades-long search, authorities [arrested a suspect](#) in the Golden State Killer case. Joseph James DeAngelo, 72, is believed to have committed at least 12 homicides, 45 rapes, and dozens of burglaries across California in the 1970s and 1980s.
- A [document compiled by Democrats](#) on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee alleges that Ronny Jackson, Trump's pick for veterans affairs secretary, prescribed "a large supply" of Percocet, wrote prescriptions for himself, and "wrecked a government vehicle" while intoxicated. Jackson [denied](#) having wrecked a car.
- After hearing oral arguments in Trump vs. Hawaii, the Supreme Court's conservative majority [appeared to agree](#) that President Trump has the authority to institute a travel ban if it is for national-security reasons. A decision is expected by late June.

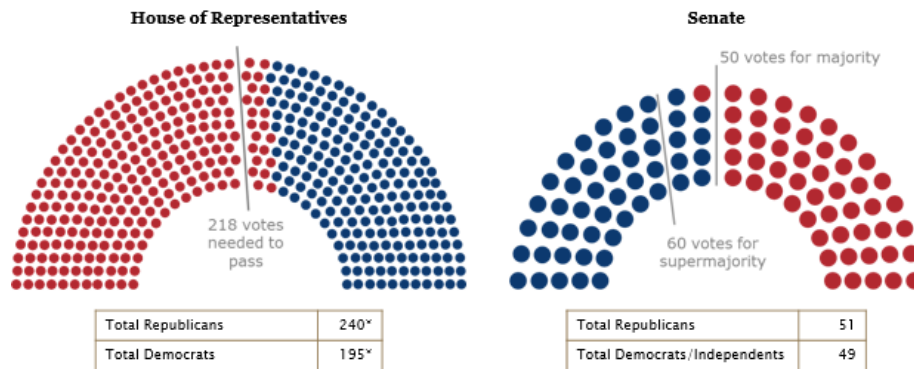
Thursday, April 26

- In a freewheeling [phone interview](#) to Fox and Friends, President Trump addressed his relationship with his embattled lawyer Michael Cohen
- Ronny Jackson, President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Veterans Affairs, [withdrew his nomination](#) after reports of drinking and over-prescribing medicine.
- EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt [testified in Congress](#) and seemingly contradicted himself that he was aware of controversial raises for his staffers.
- Following on the heels of French President Macron's state visit, German Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) will visit the United States on Friday and meet with Trump about tariffs and the Iran nuclear deal.

Top Stories: Visualized

1. [2018 Midterm Toolbox: House, Senate, and gubernatorial](#) — Up-to-date visualizations on fundraising, retirements, Cook ratings and insights about the 2018 House, Senate and gubernatorial elections

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

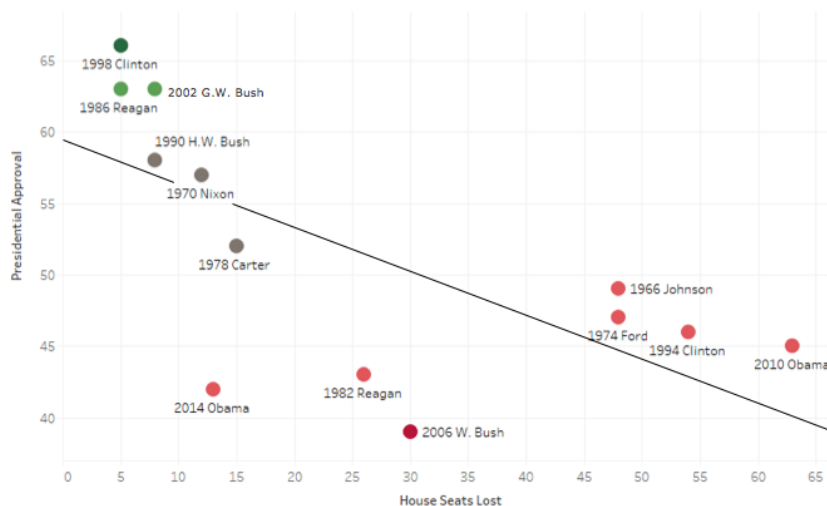


*There are currently four vacancies in the House but they are not expected to change parties in upcoming special elections

2. [Signs of a wave election](#) — Using history as a guide to the 2018 midterms with The Cook Political Report

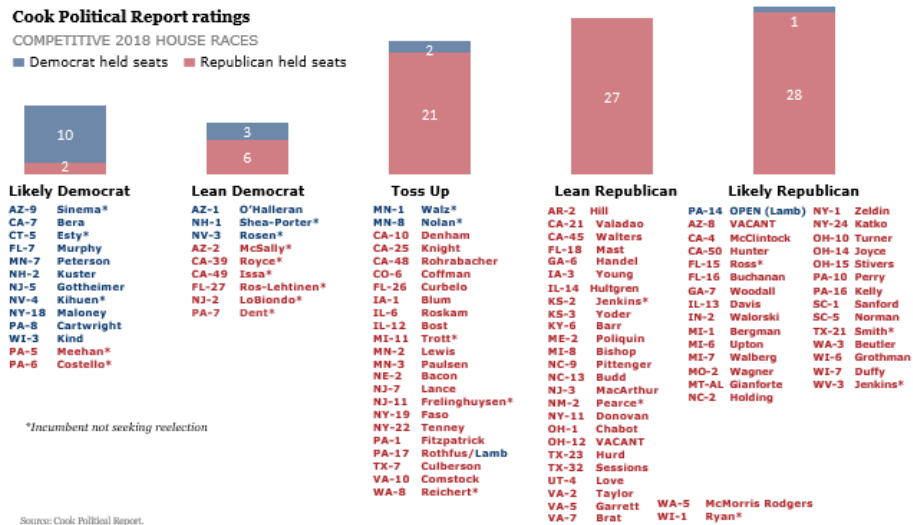
History tells us that the president's party will lose seats in midterm elections

Presidential approval ratings vs. House seats lost, 1966-2014



3. [Charlie Cook's 2018 Look Ahead: House](#) — What are the prospects for Republicans maintaining their majority?

House Republicans are defending many more vulnerable seats



Hotline: Overlooked

Dear John: There are fewer Democratic female governors (2: **Kate Brown** of Oregon and **Gina Raimondo** of Rhode Island) than Democratic male governors named John (3: **Hickenlooper** of Colorado, **Carney** of Delaware, and **(Bel) Edwards** of Louisiana), the [New York Times](#) noted.

More Money, No Problems: Retiring House members are sitting on a combined \$57.6 million in cash on hand, according to [Political MoneyLine](#).

Get What You Deserve: Just 37 percent of registered voters said President Trump deserves to be reelected in 2020, according to a [Gallup](#) poll conducted April 9-15. While that's lower than either **Bill Clinton** (40 percent) or **Barack Obama** (46 percent) at this point in their presidencies, it's about where they were a few months later—just ahead of the Democrats' shellacking in the 1994 and 2010 midterms, and two years before they won second terms.

1 Is the Loneliest Number: Charlotte is the only city publicly bidding to host the 2020 Republican National Convention, [Charlotte Agenda](#) pointed out. At this time in 2014, at least eight cities were openly in the running.

Hotline: Quotes of the Week

"You need to understand what's happening. They've got money. They've got good candidates. They can speak well about issues. And they're engaged." —Rep. **Paul Gosar** (R-AZ 04), repeating Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy**'s message to the conference after the AZ-08 special, [Washington Post](#), 4/25.

"If you're a lobbyist who never gave us money, I didn't talk to you." —CFPB Interim Director **Mick Mulvaney**, giving banking executives tips on pushing their agenda in Congress, [New York Times](#), 4/24.

"I started laughing. And he wasn't laughing." —Rep. **Kristi Noem** (R-SD), when President Trump told her it was his dream to have his face on Mount Rushmore, [Argus Leader](#), 4/24.

"I can honestly say, we've got the best weed in the United States of America." —Washington Gov. **Jay Inslee** (D), HBO's "[Real Time with Bill Maher](#)", 4/21.

"I have always had to run a marathon, so I'm not going from a 5K to a marathon." —Rep. **Barbara Comstock** (R-VA 10), on her reelection, [Washington Post](#), 4/19.

Look Ahead

The House and Senate will be on recess all next week.

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