

# Trump's golden touch in GOP primaries?

Tracking the “Trump bump”

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**Producer**

*Nicholas Wu*

**Director**

*Alistair Taylor*

# Trump's endorsees have won almost all contested races this year



## Trump endorsees are almost all undefeated in Republican primary elections in 2018

- Trump has made 50 gubernatorial and congressional endorsements in 2018
- Trump's endorsements make a large difference in Republican primaries, turning some little-known candidates into serious contenders
- But some Republican candidates are wary that Trump's endorsements may become liabilities in the general election, given his unpopularity among Democrats and independents



## Pennsylvania State Rep. Rick Saccone is the sole general election exception

- Saccone lost the March 13, 2018 PA-18 special election to Democrat Conor Lamb 49.86%-49.53%



## Businessman Foster Friess is the sole primary election exception this year

- Friess lost the August 22, 2018 Wyoming gubernatorial primary to Wyoming State Treasurer Mark Gordon 32% to 25%

# Trump's 2018 endorsees have won most contested races so far

Election	Date	Endorsee	Result
AZ 08	2/27/18	Debby Lesko	Special election win
TX SEN	3/7/18	Ted Cruz	Primary win
PA 18	3/14/18	Rick Saccone	Special election loss
CA GOV	6/5/18	John Cox	Primary win
PA SEN	6/12/18	Lou Barletta	Primary win
MIS SEN	6/12/18	Roger Wicker	Primary win
ND SEN	6/12/18	Kevin Cramer	Primary win
NV GOV	6/12/18	Adam Laxalt	Primary win
SC 01	6/12/18	Katie Arrington	Primary win
SC GOV	6/12/18	Henry McMaster	Primary win
NY 11	6/26/18	Dan Donovan	Primary win
UT SEN	6/26/18	Mitt Romney	Primary win
AL 02	7/17/18	Martha Roby	Primary win
GA GOV	7/24/18	Brian Kemp	Primary win
TN SEN	8/2/18	Marsha Blackburn	Primary win
TN 08	8/2/18	David Kustoff	Primary win
MI SEN	8/7/18	John James	Primary win
OH 12	8/7/18	Troy Balderson	Special election win
KS 03	8/7/18	Kevin Yoder	Primary win
MI GOV	8/7/18	Bill Schuette	Primary win
WY SEN	8/20/18	John Barrasso	Primary win
WY GOV	8/20/18	Foster Friess	Primary loss
AZ GOV	8/28/18	Doug Ducey	Primary win
FL 01	8/28/18	Matt Gaetz	Primary win
FL GOV	8/28/18	Ron DeSantis	Primary win
LA 03	11/6/18	Clay Higgins	tbd
TX GOV	11/6/18	Greg Abbott	tbd

Sources: Ballotpedia; National Journal Research, 2018; Josh Kraushaar, "Trump's Golden Touch in GOP Primaries," *National Journal*, July 29, 2018.

# Trump has improved on his endorsement record since 2017

Only one of his four endorsees won their race in 2017

Candidate	Race	Endorsement date	Result
 Karen Handel	GA-06 special election	June 19, 2017	Handel beats Democrat Jon Ossoff, 51.9%-48.1%
 Luther Strange	Alabama Senate Republican primary	August 17, 2017	Strange loses to Republican Roy Moore, 54.6%-45.4%
 Ed Gillespie	Virginia gubernatorial election	October 5, 2017	Gillespie loses to Democrat Ralph Northam, 53.9%-45%
 Roy Moore	Alabama Senate general election	December 4, 2017	Moore loses to Democrat Doug Jones, 49.9% to 48.4%

Sources: Ballotpedia; National Journal Research, 2018; Josh Kraushaar, "Trump's Golden Touch in GOP Primaries," *National Journal*, July 29, 2018.