



Week in Review

Friday, August 31

- Lawmakers and other officials paid tribute to the late Arizona Senator John McCain, who was [brought](#) to the US Capitol Rotunda to lie in state. A memorial service will be held Saturday at the Washington National Cathedral.
- A senior Justice Department lawyer [reportedly](#) told lawmakers that Christopher Steele, the ex-British spy who compiled the Trump-Russia dossier, told him Russian intelligence believed they had Donald Trump “over a barrel.”
- Samuel Patten, an associate of former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort, [pleaded](#) guilty to foreign lobbying violations. The case against Patten was referred by Special Counsel Robert Mueller.
- Trump [announced](#) on Twitter that he’s planning a “major rally” this fall for Texas Senator Ted Cruz in the “biggest stadium” he can find. Cruz is being challenged by Democratic Representative Beto O’Rourke.
- Former President Bill Clinton, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, and Reverend Al Sharpton were among the [speakers](#) at the funeral of Aretha Franklin, who died this month of cancer.

Monday, September 3

- *Happy Labor Day!*
- President Trump [criticized](#) Attorney General Jeff Sessions for bringing charges against two “very popular” Republican lawmakers ahead of the midterm elections.

- *The New Yorker* [announced](#) that Steve Bannon would no longer appear at this year's New Yorker Festival, following the dropouts of high-profile guests.

Tuesday, September 4

- In an [explosive](#) new book by journalist Bob Woodward, Trump administration officials and aides are quoted criticizing the president and questioning his ability to lead. The White House said the book was “nothing more than fabricated stories.”
- The first day of confirmation hearings for Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, got off to a rocky start: Democrats [objected](#) to the proceedings, citing the late release of documents, and dozens of protesters interrupted senators.
- Arizona Governor Doug Ducey [named](#) former Senator Jon Kyl to succeed the late Senator John McCain.
- Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel [announced](#) that he will not seek reelection.
- White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders [said](#) the administration is “closely monitoring” an imminent major Syrian regime attack on rebel holdouts.

Wednesday, September 5

- *The New York Times* [published](#) an anonymous op-ed in which a senior official in the Trump administration claims that there is a “resistance” within the administration, and that many Trump appointees have vowed to thwart the president’s “more misguided impulses.” The White House issued a statement denouncing the op-ed.
- During the second day of his confirmation hearings, Trump’s Supreme Court pick Brett Kavanaugh [stressed](#) the importance of judicial independence and declined to answer whether a sitting president could be subpoenaed.
- Trump [dismissed](#) the new tell-all book by journalist Bob Woodward in which administration officials and aides are quoted [criticizing](#) the president. “The book means nothing,” Trump told reporters.
- The White House is [reportedly](#) discussing potential replacements for Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who was quoted in Woodward’s book making disparaging comments about Trump. Mattis called the book “fiction” on Tuesday.
- Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg [testified](#) before the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Thursday, August 23

- During the second day of Kavanaugh's hearing, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) said he will [release](#) "committee confidential" documents related to racial profiling that have not been cleared for public release.
- President Trump [thanked](#) North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for his "unwavering faith" in the US president.
- The Department of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services have [proposed](#) a rule that would indefinitely detail immigrant children with their parents who crossed the border illegally, circumventing the Flores Settlement ruling.

Top Stories: Visualized

1. [Key potential votes on Brett Kavanaugh's nomination](#) — Who are the key senators that will decide whether Judge Brett Kavanaugh becomes the next Supreme Court justice?

Pivotal votes: Democrats up for reelection in states won by President Trump in 2016

Red-state Democrats



- Sens. Manchin (D-WV), Heitkamp (D-SD), and Donnelly (D-IN) are vulnerable Democrats in states won by Trump by 15+ points in Nov. 2016
- They all voted to confirm Trump's nominee Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court in 2017
- All of them have meet with Kavanaugh prior to his confirmation hearing, but declined to take a stance



"Judge Kavanaugh and I had a productive meeting and talked about his experience, record and a variety of issues that will impact West Virginians, including his views on healthcare"

- Sen. Manchin, in a July 30 statement after his meeting with Kavanaugh



"Politics should not be part of the vetting process or the decision-making process. Determining who should serve on the U.S. Supreme Court is too important."

- Sen. Heitkamp, in a Sept. 4 statement after her meeting with Kavanaugh

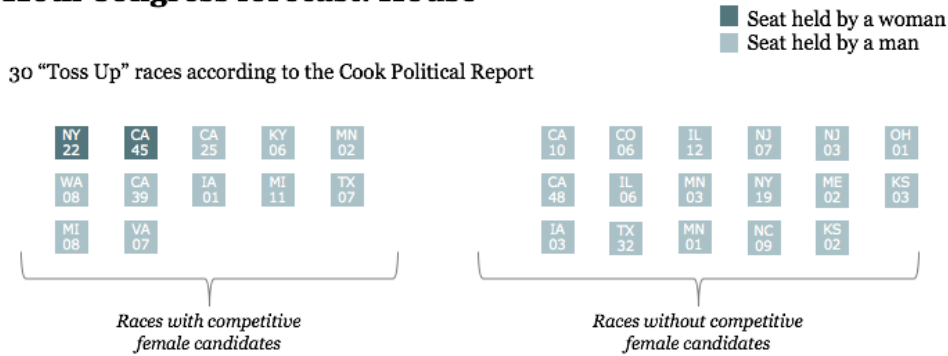


"Hoosiers rightly expect careful and thoughtful consideration of a nomination to our nation's highest court, and I plan to keep doing my homework and make a decision sometime after Kavanaugh's committee confirmation hearing,"

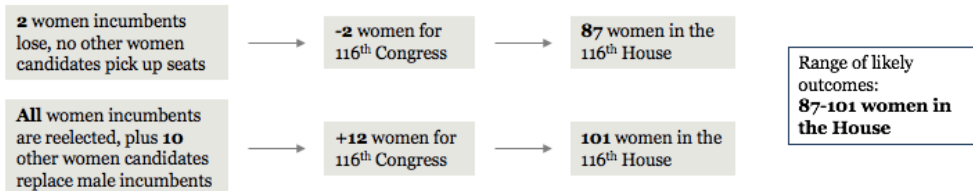
- Sen. Donnelly, in a August 15 statement after meeting with Kavanaugh

2. [Women in the 2017 and 2018 elections](#) — Tracking female candidates in local and national races

116th Congress forecast: House



Potential scenarios:

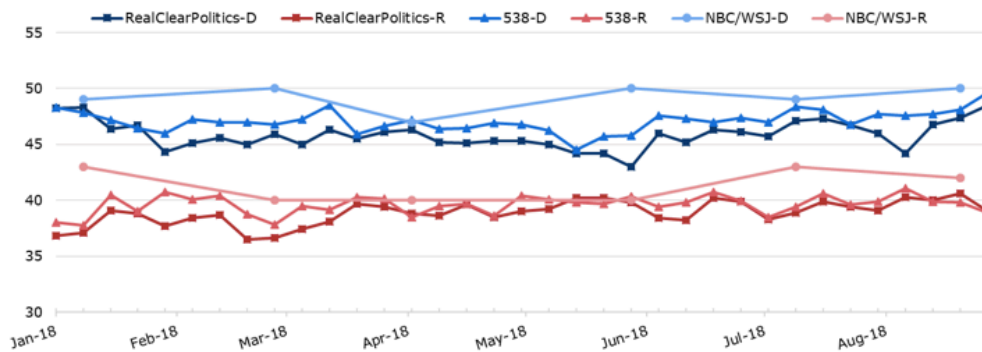


3. [Charlie Cook's Tour of American Politics](#) — A curated deck of the key indices Charlie Cook uses for insight on the American political landscape. Cook's Tour now includes Charlie's "Eight Things to Watch in 2018," as well as key historical trends that inform this year's races

Democrats hold about a 10-point lead in generic ballot polling

Do you prefer a Congress controlled by Republicans or Democrats?

AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RESPONSES



D+9.5
 RealClearPolitics Average
 Week of Sept. 2, 2018

D+10.7
 FiveThirtyEight Average
 Week of Sept. 2, 2018

D+8.0
 NBC News/WSJ
 Last poll: Aug. 18, 2018:

Hotline: Overlooked

The Hotline was on vacation between Friday, August 24th and Friday, August 31st.

Iron Women: The Arizona Senate primaries last week set up not only a general election between two female House members, but also two veterans of an Ironman competition, which includes a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride, and a marathon run, the Wall Street Journal [reports](#).

On the Way Out: Just three of the 30 most Democratic-leaning districts are represented by white men, journalist David S. Bernstein [pointed out](#) in July. All three are now leaving Congress: Rep. Bob Brady (D-PA 01) is retiring, and Reps. Joe Crowley (D-NY 14) and Michael Capuano (D-MA 07) were defeated in primaries by women of color.

Hotline: Quotes of the Week

"I delivered a vape pen one time and he thought it was the coolest thing that someone running for Congress was delivering it." — CA-53 candidate Morgan Murtaugh (R), on using her Postmates deliveries to meet voters, [KGTV](#), 9/3.

"I'm sorry it didn't work out, but this is life, and this is OK. America is going to be OK." — Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA), in a primary concession speech, [Boston Globe](#), 9/4.

Look Ahead

Monday, September 10

Columbia River Power System: The House Natural Resources Committee holds a hearing titled, "The Federal Columbia River Power System: The Economic Lifeblood & Way of Life for the Pacific Northwest" (1:00 PM)

Wednesday, September 12

Countering Russia: The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Countering Russia: Assessing New Tools" (10:00 AM)

Thursday, September 13

Agricultural trade: The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee holds a hearing titled, "Perspectives on U.S. Agricultural Trade" (10:00 AM)

Economic growth: The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Implementation of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act" (10:00 AM)

Domestic threats: The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Evolving Threats to the Homeland" (10:30 AM)

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