

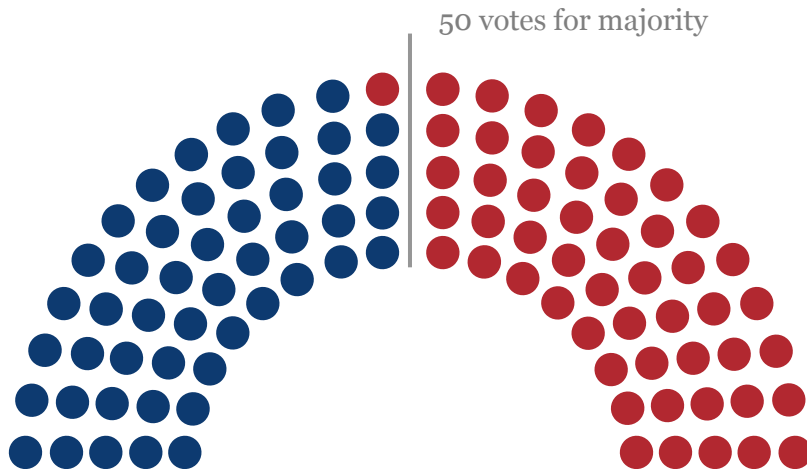
# Key Senate votes on Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh

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**Producer**

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# Current Senate divisions



Total Republicans	51
Total Democrats/Independents	49
Vacancies	0

## Republicans only hold a one-vote majority

- In April 2017, the Senate confirmed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch 54-45, with three Democrats joining all Republicans
- Democrat Doug Jones's (D-AL) surprise victory in the Alabama special Senate race has narrowed the Republican majority to two votes
- Trump must hold all Republicans together or woo enough vulnerable Democrats to confirm Kavanaugh

# 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 Trump won by Trump by 15+ points in 2016
- They all voted to confirm Trump's nominee Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court in 2017
- Sen. Donnelly has announced his opposition; Sens. Manchin and Heitkamp remain undecided



"It took courage to take a stand and call for a one-week FBI investigation to get to the bottom of the allegations against Judge Kavanaugh. This has been a partisan and divisive process."

- Sen. Manchin, in a September 28 statement



"This isn't an easy decision. And honestly, I don't think it should be easy for anyone".

- Sen. Heitkamp, in a Sept. 28 interview with the *Grand Forks Herald*

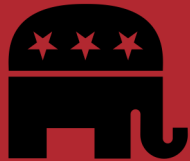


"While I would gladly welcome the opportunity to work with President Trump on a new nominee for this critically important position, if Judge Kavanaugh's nomination comes before the full Senate for a vote under these circumstances, I will oppose it,"

- Sen. Donnelly, in a September 28 statement announcing his opposition

# Pivotal votes: moderate Republicans

## Moderate Republicans



- Moderate Sens. Collins (R-ME) and Murkowski (R-AK) have historically supported pro-choice candidates and bucked party leadership on reforming the ACA repeal and other issues
- Both Collins and Murkowski voted to confirm Kavanaugh's federal judge nomination in 2006
- Both remain swing votes after the Judiciary Committee hearing with Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford
- Both support the FBI investigation



“In the end, I have to be able to look in the mirror and say I did what I thought was right.”

- Sen. Collins, reported in the *Boston Globe* on September 22



“We are now in a place where it's not about whether or not Judge Kavanaugh is qualified. It is about whether or not a woman who has been a victim at some point in her life is to be believed.”

- Sen. Murkowski, in an interview with the *New York Times* on September 25

# Outside political pressure

## Outside spending



- Outside groups plan to spend at least \$10 million dollars to pressure senators to confirm or oppose Kavanaugh
- Liberal-aligned group Demand Justice has committed at least \$5 million in an attempt to flip Sens. Murkowski and Collins, and to ensure the opposition of Sens. Donnelly, Heitkamp, and Manchin

