



Week in Review

Friday, September 28

- President Trump ordered the FBI to conduct an additional investigation into Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. The Senate Judiciary Committee [made the request](#) following demands from Republican Senator Jeff Flake and other senators.
- Earlier in the afternoon, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted along [party lines to advance](#) Kavanaugh's nomination to a full Senate vote, but Flake warned that he wouldn't vote to confirm Kavanaugh without an FBI investigation into the allegations against him.
- Trump [signed a \\$854 billion spending bill](#) that averts a government shutdown.
- Facebook [announced](#) that a security flaw could have exposed the data of almost 50 million users.
- The House Intelligence Committee [voted to release the transcripts](#) from its now-completed investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Monday, October 1

- The White House [has reportedly authorized](#) the FBI to interview anyone necessary in its investigation into sexual-assault allegations against Brett Kavanaugh, after the administration previously limited the scope of the agency's probe.
- In a [wide-ranging press conference](#), President Trump said he wants the investigation to be "comprehensive" and, contradicting earlier White House talking points, said that it "wouldn't bother" him if the FBI speaks with Julie Swetnick, who has accused Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct.

- Trump also [praised](#) the revised trade agreement between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, which was announced late Sunday, as “a great deal for all three countries.” Trump said he will sign the new deal, called the “United States Mexico Canada Agreement,” by late November.
- Trump, speaking on the first anniversary of the mass shooting at a concert in Las Vegas, [said he expects](#) his administration to ban so-called “bump stocks” in a matter of weeks.
- Former FBI Director James Comey [rejected a request](#) from the House Judiciary Committee to attend a private hearing as part of the panel’s probe into allegations of political bias at the Justice Department, but said he’d participate in a public hearing.

Tuesday, October 2

- Speaking at The Atlantic Festival in Washington, D.C., Senator Jeff Flake [criticized](#) Brett Kavanaugh for his recent appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee, calling his interactions with lawmakers “sharp and partisan.” “We can’t have that on the Court,” he said.
- In response to questions about the allegations against Kavanaugh, President Trump [told reporters](#), “[i]t is a very scary time for young men in America, where you can be guilty of something you may not be guilty of.”
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the FBI’s final report on the sexual-assault allegations against Kavanaugh [will not be made public](#).
- Four members of a militant white-supremacist group [were arrested](#) in connection with last year’s Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.
- Jason Kander, a rising star within the Democratic Party, [announced](#) that he’s dropping out of the Kansas City mayor’s race to seek treatment for PTSD.

Wednesday, October 3

- Republican Senators Jeff Flake, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski [criticized President Trump](#) for mocking Christine Blasey Ford at a rally in Mississippi on Tuesday. Speaking at The Atlantic Festival, Senator Lindsey Graham also [said he “didn’t particularly like”](#) Trump’s comments.
- Republican senators said the FBI’s report on its investigation into allegations of sexual assault against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh could come [as early as tonight](#).

- The Senate easily [passed a bipartisan bill](#) to address the growing opioids crisis, sending the legislation on to Trump to sign.
- The federal government tested a new presidential alert system at 2:18 p.m. ET. The alert, designed to warn Americans of a threat, [went out to about 225 million cellphones nationwide](#).
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo [withdrew the United States](#) from a 1955 treaty with Iran after the United Nations' top court ordered the U.S. to lift sanctions on certain “humanitarian” goods.

Thursday, October 4

- Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) [confirmed that he has received the FBI report](#) on Judge Brett Kavanaugh.
- Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) both indicated they were [satisfied with the FBI's investigation](#), with reports that no witnesses corroborated the accusations of sexual assault.
- Dutch and British officials [accused the Russian military intelligence unit GRU](#) of attempting to hack the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which has been probing the chemical attack on a Russian ex-spy that took place in the UK.

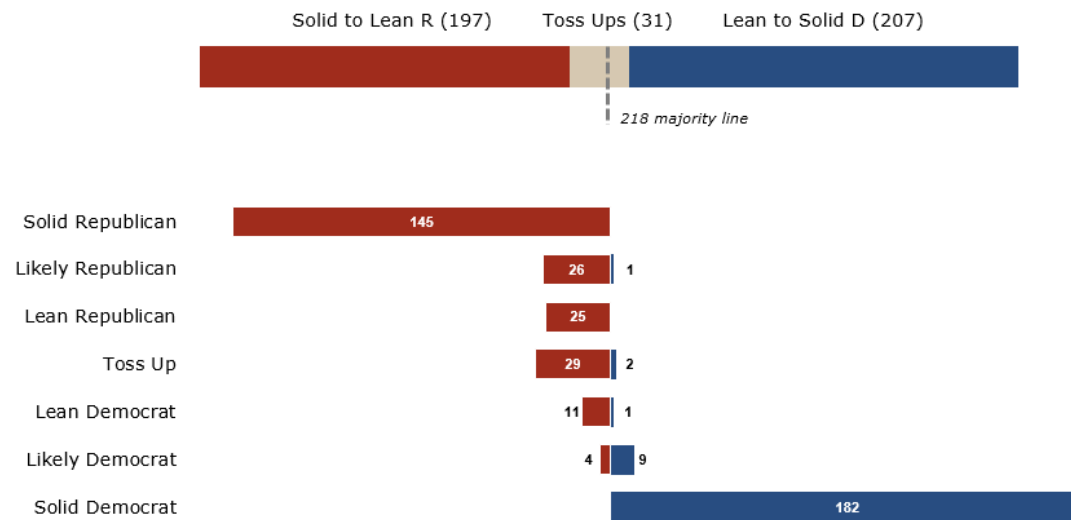
Top Stories: Visualized

1. [Charlie Cook's 2018 Look Ahead: House](#) — What are the prospects for Republicans maintaining their majority in the House of Representatives?
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How big of a swing? Control of the House will depend on whether Democrats can win most “Toss Up” races

Cook Political Report ratings

ALL 2018 HOUSE RACES

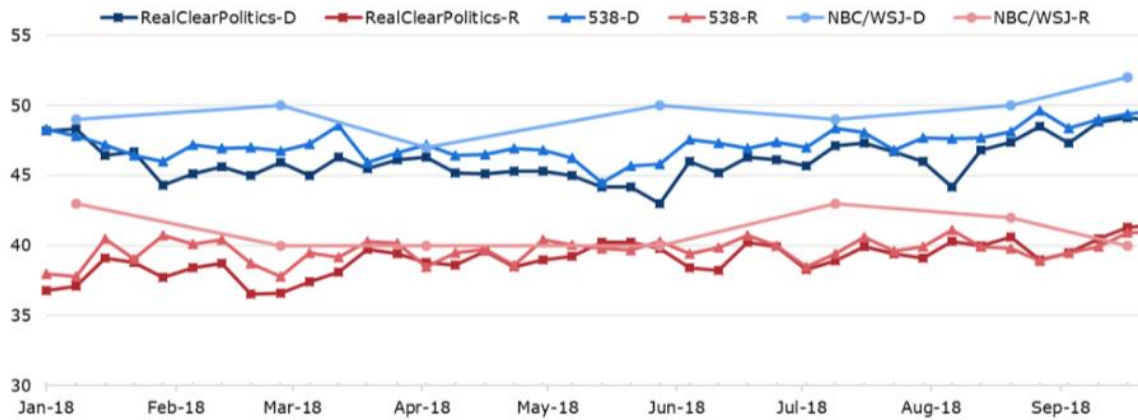


2. [Charlie Cook's Tour of American Politics](#) — A curated deck of the key indices Charlie Cook uses for insight on the American political landscape. Cook's Tour now includes Charlie's "Eight Things to Watch in 2018," as well as key historical trends that inform this year's races.

Democrats hold about a 8-point lead in generic ballot polling

Do you prefer a Congress controlled by Republicans or Democrats?

AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RESPONSES



D+7.4

RealClearPolitics Average
Week of Sept. 30, 2018

D+8.7

FiveThirtyEight Average
Week of Sept. 30, 2018






D+12.0

NBC News/WSJ
Last poll: Sept. 22, 2018:

3. [US trade overview](#) — A briefing on trade policy under the Trump administration regarding tariffs, China and trade agreements

The US, Canada and Mexico reached an agreement to replace NAFTA called the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)

Key elements of the USMCA (2/2)

	Topic	Under NAFTA	USMCA
	Labor and environmental rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to existing provisions 	N/A	Mexican trucks that cross the border must have higher safety regulations; Mexican workers must be able to organize unions
	Intellectual property protections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status of IP protections in NAFTA 	N/A	IP chapter is now 63 pages long and has stronger protections for patents and trademarks
	Pharmaceutical competition in Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of time U.S. drug companies can sell pharmaceuticals in Canada without facing generic competition 	8 years	10 years
	Chapter 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gives investors a way to fight government decisions 	Gave companies and investors a process to resolve disputes with a NAFTA signatory government	Chapter 11 eliminated entirely for Canada and mostly for Mexico
	Sunset clause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date at which the agreement would automatically expire unless renewed 	N/A	16 years, new talks in 6 years

Hotline: Overlooked

Down to 1: We [mentioned](#) Tuesday that there could be just one Republican left in the New Jersey delegation after the midterms. According to the University of Minnesota's [Smart Politics](#), that would be the fewest Republicans in the delegation since after the 1912 election.

What Was I Doing at 19?: At 19 years old, Cardinal Stritch University student **Kalan Haywood** (D) will likely be the youngest state legislator in the country when he's elected next month to a Milwaukee-based state Assembly seat, the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) reported.

Something to Agree On: Most Americans don't think President **Trump** is even-tempered (70 percent say that doesn't describe him), trustworthy (61 percent), or well-informed (57 percent), according to [Pew Research Center](#). But two-thirds of those surveyed last month said he does stand up for what he believes.

Everybody Now: A record number of people registered to vote last week on National Voter Registration Day, [Time](#) reported. The more than 800,000 registrations blew away expectations by some 500,000 and narrowly surpassed the 2016 record of 771,321 registrations.

Hotline: Quotes of the Week

ex: "Yeah, I'm not going to do that." — Sen. **Al Franken** (D-MN), on running for president in 2020, [People](#), 5/24.

"If she was making this up, why would she put his best friend in the room?" — Sen. **Claire McCaskill**(D-MO), on **Christine Blasey Ford**, Hotline reporting, 9/27.

"Iowa is kind of like doing the stations of the cross." — Montana Gov. **Steve Bullock** (D), joking about his visits to the early-voting state, [BuzzFeed](#), 9/29.

"You have to really want the job. I don't really want the job." — Sen. **Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), on running for president, [Cleveland.com](#), 10/1.

"What is she going to attack me on — I'm old? Bring it on." — FL-27 nominee **Donna Shalala** (D), 77, on her Republican opponent, [New York Times](#), 10/2.

Look Ahead

Wednesday, October 10

Homeland Security: The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Threats to the Homeland" (8:30)

Air Force: The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support holds a hearing on United States Air Force readiness (9:30)

Nominations: The Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing on pending nominations (10:00)

Data privacy: The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee holds a hearing on data privacy, focusing on lessons from the European Union's general data protection regulation and the California Consumer Privacy Act (10:00)

Environment: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds a hearing titled, "From Yellowstone's Grizzly Bear to the Chesapeake's Delmarva Fox Squirrel - Successful State Conservation, Recovery and Management of Wildlife" (10:00)

Thursday, October 11

Cryptocurrency: The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee holds a hearing on cryptocurrency and blockchain ecosystem (10:00)

The House is out until after Midterms

National Journal

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