

Political Affairs & Federation Relations

U.S. CHAMBER FEDERAL POLITICAL UPDATE

October 28, 2020

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Vice President and National Political Director



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber's Top 2020 Political Priorities

 **1** Maintain a pro-growth majority in the U.S. Senate as a backstop

 **2** Encourage bipartisan governing

 **3** Support more centrist House Democrats

January 2020 to October 2020

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY



38% thought the country was headed in the “**right direction**” while a **slight majority, 54%**, said “**wrong track.**”

POTUS JOB APPROVAL



The president’s job approval was net negative, but in the single digits: **44% approve;**
53% disapprove.

TOP CONCERNS

Health Care	19%
Economy	15%
Environment	14%
Immigration	12%
Social Security	10%

Voters had a **variety of top concerns** with double-digit support at the beginning of the year.

The Supreme Court Vacancy is the First, But Likely Not Last, Surprise



9/9/16
"Deplorables"



9/11/16
Pneumonia
overheating



10/7/16
Access
Hollywood



10/7/16
Wikileaks



10/28/16
Comey re-
opens



11/6/16
Comey re-
closes



9/18/20
RIP RBG



10/2/20
WH Covid



10/26/20
Confirmed?



MEHLMAN CASTAGNETTI
ROSEN & THORNS

Enthusiasm to Vote Hits Historic High

Compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic than usual about voting, or less enthusiastic?

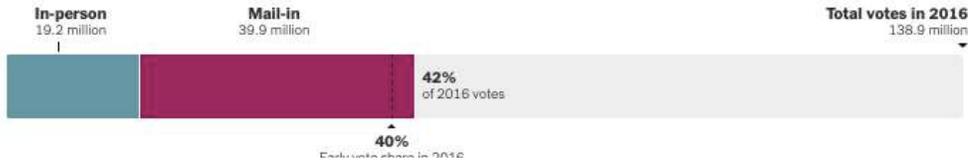
NOTE: TREND FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

	More enthusiastic	Less enthusiastic	Same (vol.)	No opinion
Registered Voters				
2020 Sep 14-28	71	18	11	*
2020 Jul 30-Aug 12	69	26	5	*
2020 Apr 14-28	59	26	14	1
2020 Feb 17-28	63	23	13	*
2020 Jan 16-29	67	18	14	1
2019 Oct 14-31	68	24	7	1
2016 Nov 1-6	50	41	9	1
2016 May 18-22	47	46	6	1
2012 Nov 3-4	64	21	13	2
2012 Sep 24-27	56	29	14	1
2012 Aug 20-22	49	37	11	2
2012 Jul 19-22	47	37	15	1
2012 Feb 16-19	50	40	10	1
2011 Nov 28-Dec 1	43	48	7	1
2011 Sep 15-18	50	38	10	2

2008 Oct 31-Nov 2 †	68	19	12	1
2008 Oct 23-26	69	19	11	1
2008 Oct 10-12	62	27	11	1
2008 Sep 5-7	64	21	14	1
2008 Aug 30-31 †	54	28	17	2
2008 Aug 21-23	48	37	14	1
2008 Jun 15-19	48	37	14	1
2008 Feb 8-10	63	29	8	*
2008 Jan 10-13 ^	62	28	10	1
2004 Oct 14-16 ^	67	21	12	*
2004 Sep 3-5 ^	65	23	11	1
2004 Aug 23-25 ^	60	29	11	--
2004 Jul 30-Aug 1 ^	69	22	9	--
2004 Jul 19-21 ^	60	25	14	1
2004 Mar 26-28	52	29	18	1
2004 Jan 29-Feb 1	56	32	12	*
2000 Oct 13-15	38	39	20	3
2000 Mar 10-12	39	38	22	1
2000 Jan 7-10	45	37	17	1
1996 Oct 23-24	17	36	45	2

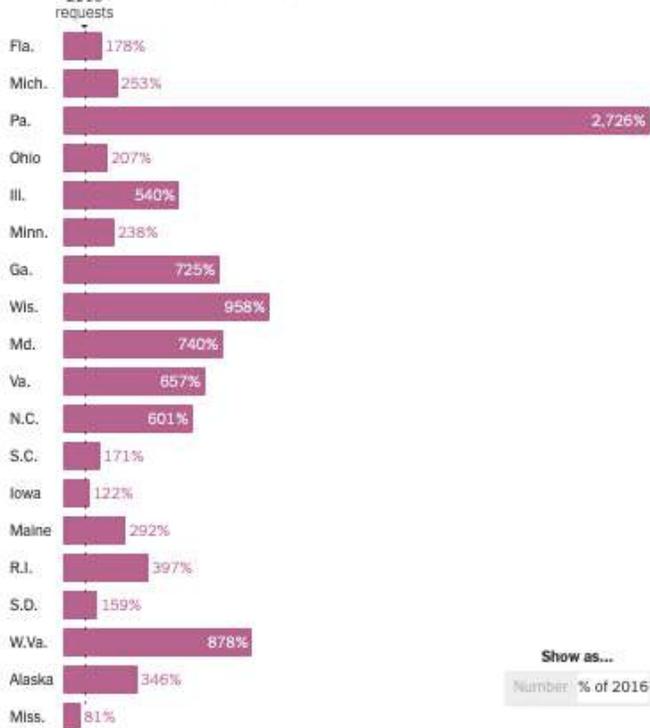
Absentee and Early Voting

How 2020 Compares With 2016 Turnout So Far
59 million ballots cast



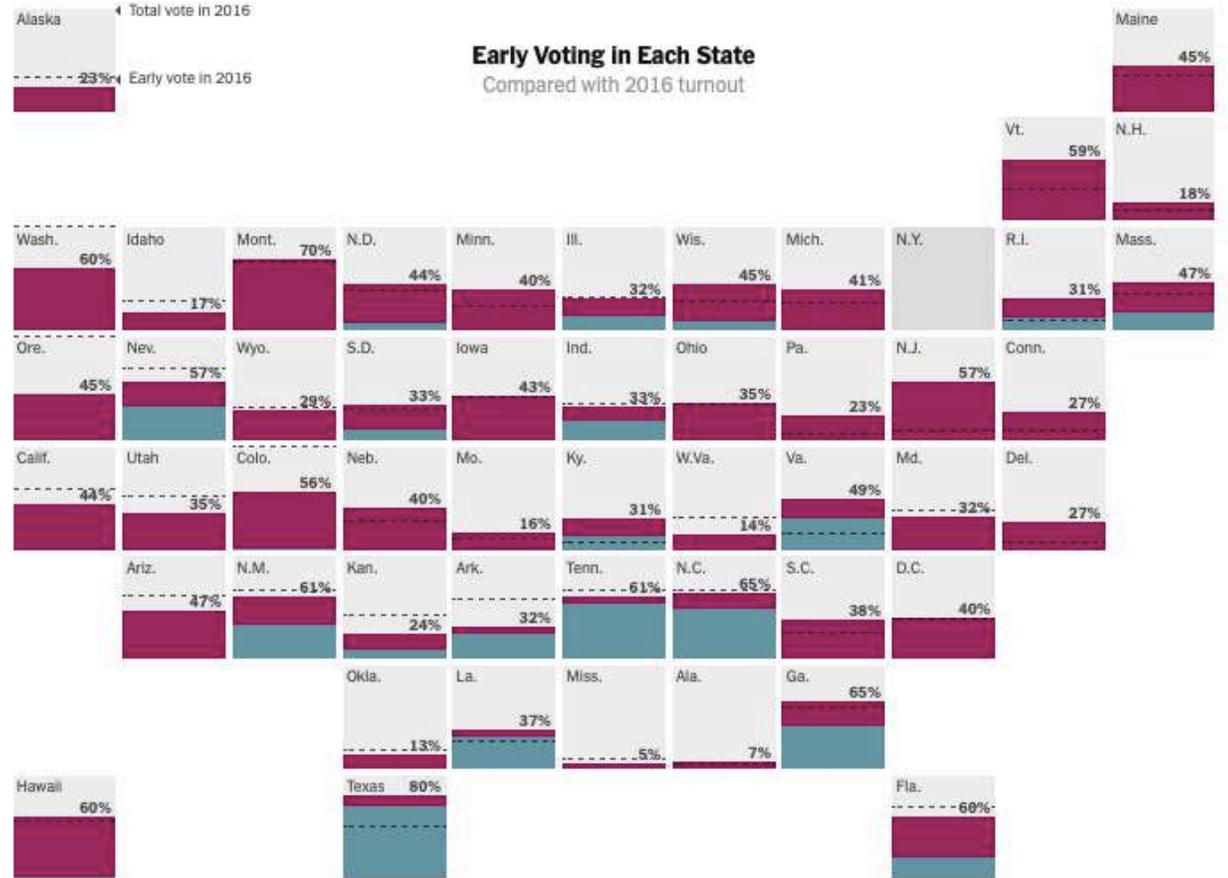
Absentee ballots requested

In states with ballot requests, compared with 2016 totals

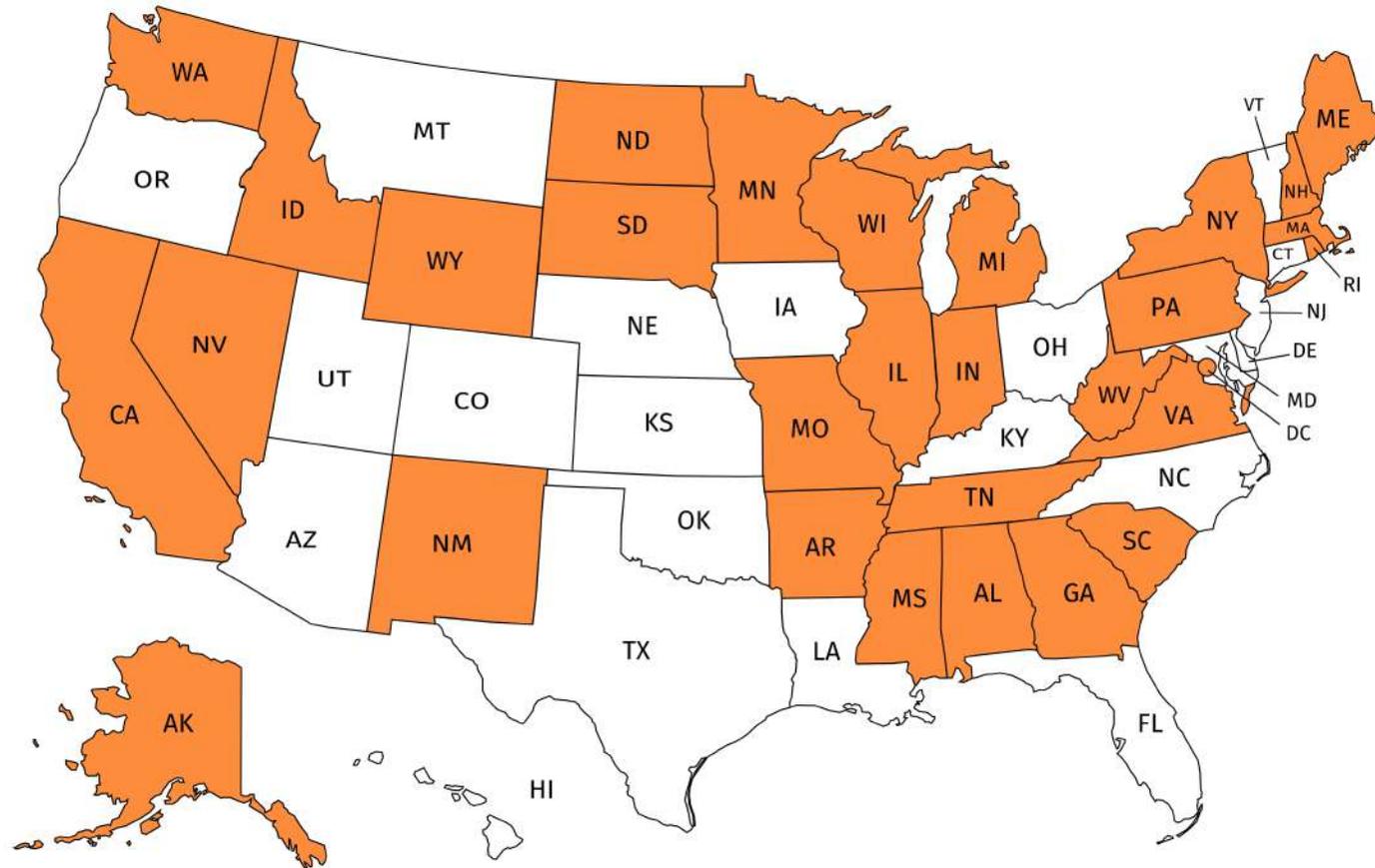


Show as...
Number % of 2016

Early Voting in Each State
Compared with 2016 turnout



Election Day Likely to be Election Week



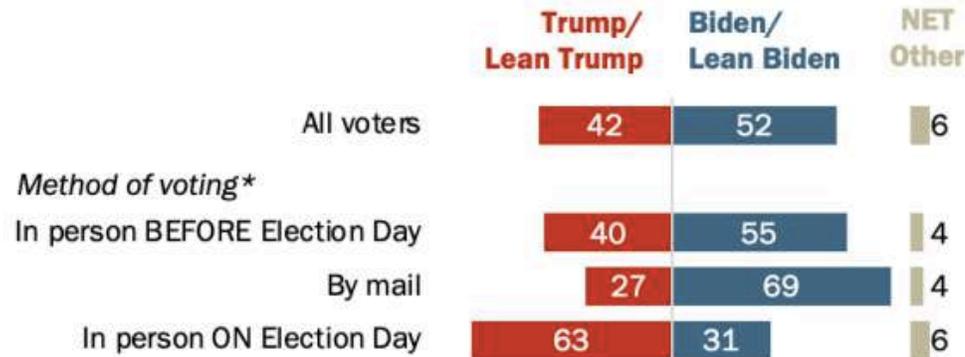
- 30 states won't begin counting absentee or early ballots until Election Day
- Includes battlegrounds:
 - MI
 - PA
 - WI
 - GA
 - MN
 - NV
 - NH
 - VA

Will Election Day be a “Red Mirage?”

Trump fares better among those who plan to vote on Election Day; Biden holds advantages among mail, early voters

Trump fares better among those who plan to vote on Election Day; Biden holds advantages among mail, early voters

% of registered voters who support ...



*Method of voting categories include those who have already voted.

Notes: Based on registered voters. No answer responses not shown. “Other” candidates include those who say they are voting for Jorgensen, Hawkins or someone else.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 5, 2020.

Historical Direction of the Country

Year	Right Direction	Party Change in White House
1980	20%	Yes
1992	16%	Yes
2008	12%	Yes
2020	28% (66%)	?

Voting Starts Early and It's Getting Late

Presidential Job Approval

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Early October</u>	<u>Late October</u>	<u>Election Day Share of Vote</u>
Reagan (1984)*	54%	57%	54%	58%	58.8%
Bush (1992)	34%	40%	32%	36%	37.4%
Clinton (1996)	53%	55%	56%	NA	49.2%
Bush (2004)	47%	47%	49%	49%	50.7%
Obama (2012)	48%	50%	49%	NA	51.1%
Trump (2020)	44%	45%	43%	43%	?

*From Gallup Job Approval Center **Among Likely Voters

PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL: Handling the Economy



Approve	50.5%
Disapprove	47.5%
Difference	+3.0%

Trump draws more confidence on economy than on coronavirus or race

% of voters who say they are *very or somewhat confident* that ___ can do each of the following

	Biden	Trump	ADVANTAGE
Make good decisions about economic policy	48	51	Trump +3

Note: Based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE BY KEY GROUPS

<i>Combined Choice</i>	Total	Trump	Biden	Total Vote Early	Election Day Voters
The Economy	44%	68%	23%	36%	55%
Healthcare	29%	16%	38%	31%	24%
Coronavirus	27%	9%	42%	36%	14%
Race Relations	21%	7%	33%	25%	13%
Crime and Violence	17%	30%	6%	15%	21%
Climate Change	15%	1%	27%	20%	8%
Abortion	11%	18%	6%	9%	15%
Immigration	10%	16%	6%	9%	14%
Guns	10%	22%	2%	7%	17%



Biden and DNC Lead in Fundraising

Biden and DNC: \$282 million (Q2)

\$365 million in August

\$383 million in September

\$177 million cash on hand

Biden + DNC \$432 million cash on hand

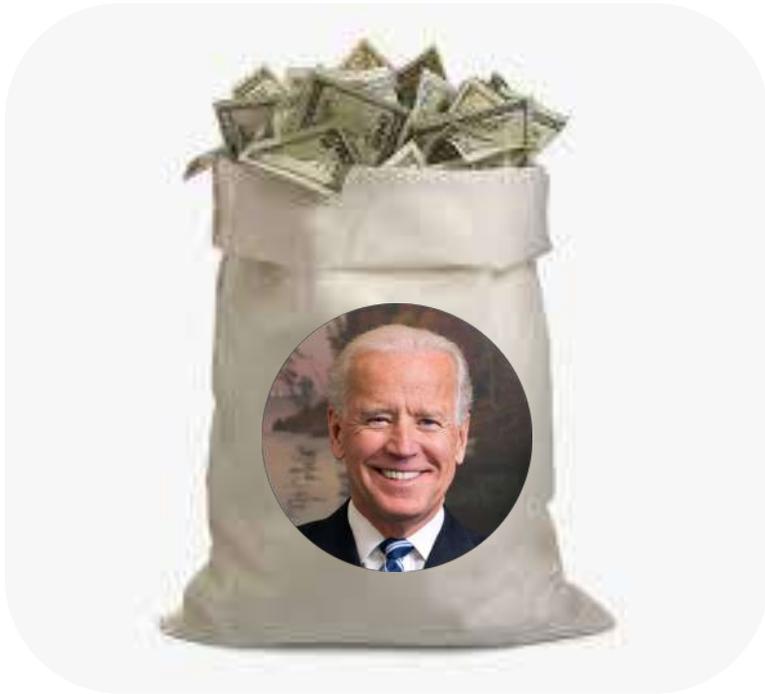
Trump and RNC: \$266 million (Q2)

\$210 million in August

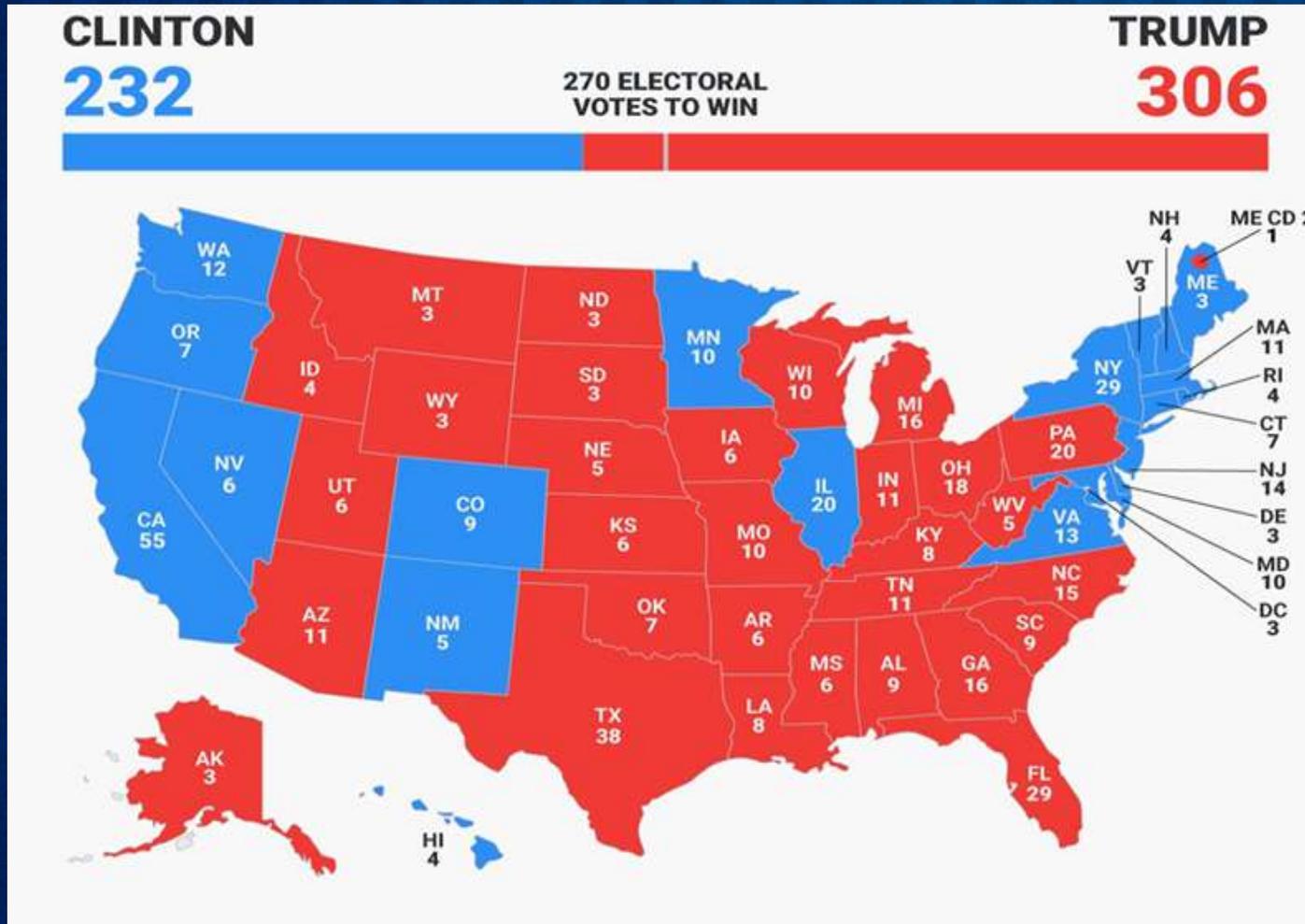
\$248 million in September

\$63 million cash on hand

Trump + RNC \$251 million cash on hand



2016 Electoral College Results



Six States to Watch:

Arizona – Biden +2.4

Florida – Biden +1.5

North Carolina – Biden +1.2

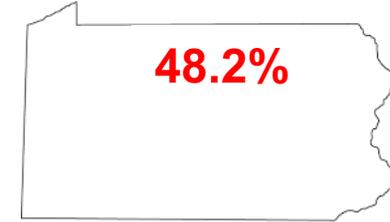
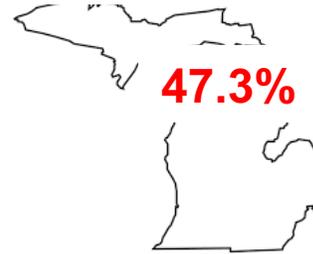
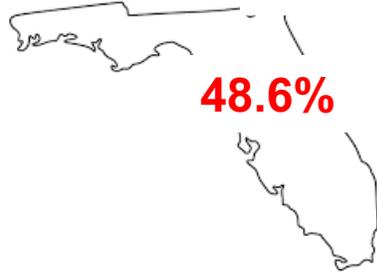
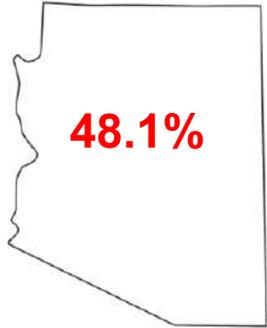
Michigan – Biden +8.1

Wisconsin – Biden +5.4

Pennsylvania – Biden +5.3

2016 vs. 2020 Averages in Battlegrounds

President Trump's winning percentages in 2016



ARIZONA

Trump: 46.4%
Biden: 48.8%
-2.4%

Trump: 46.3%
Clinton: 42.3%
+4.0%

FLORIDA

Trump: 47.2%
Biden: 48.7%
-1.5%

Trump: 46.6%
Clinton: 46.4%
+.2%

NORTH CAROLINA

Trump: 47.8%
Biden: 49.0%
-1.2%

Trump: 46.5%
Clinton: 45.5%
+1.0%

MICHIGAN

Trump: 42.5%
Biden: 50.6%
-8.1%

Trump: 42.0%
Clinton: 45.4%
-3.4%

PENNSYLVANIA

Trump: 44.5%
Biden: 49.8%
-5.3%

Trump: 44.3%
Clinton: 46.2%
-1.9%

WISCONSIN

Trump: 44.3%
Biden: 49.7%
-5.4%

Trump: 40.3%
Clinton: 46.8%
-6.5%

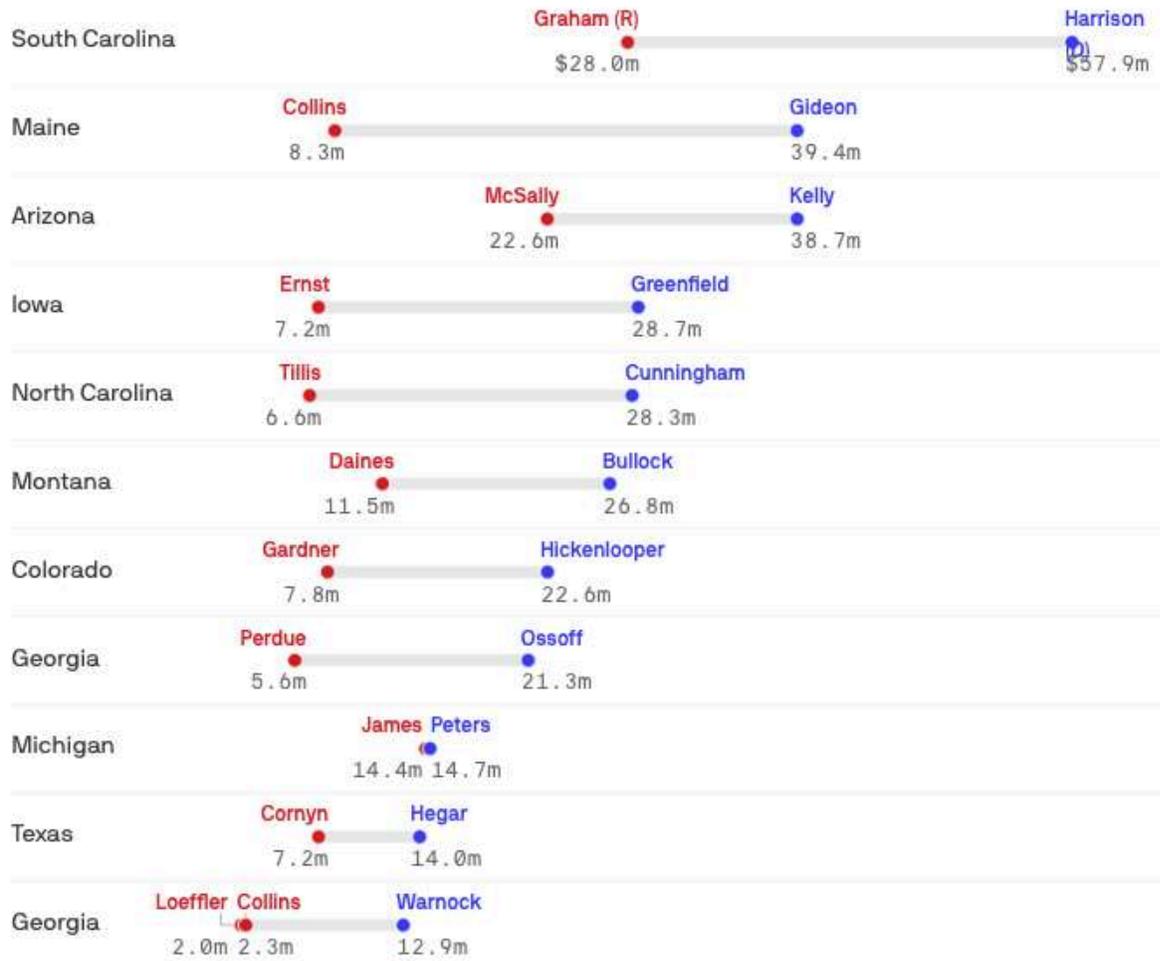
Democrats need four seats to secure a majority in the U.S. Senate

Solid Democrat	Likely Democrat	Lean Democrat	Toss Up	Lean Republican	Likely Republican	Solid Republican
10 Seats		Michigan Arizona Colorado	Georgia – 1 Georgia – 2 Iowa Maine Montana North Carolina South Carolina	Alabama Alaska Kansas Texas	Kentucky	10 Seats

Balance of Power: 53 GOP/ 45 Democrat and 2 Ind = 47

Dems Outraise GOP in Q3 Senate Races

Gap in select Q3 2020 Senate race fundraising



The New York Times

Jaime Harrison's Stunning Haul



South Carolina Democratic Senate nominee Jaime Harrison. AP Photo/Meg Kinnard, File

- Harrison beat the fundraising record of then-Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas, who amassed \$38.1 million in the third quarter in 2018 for his Senate race against Republican Ted Cruz.

Pre-Election Finance and Cash Reports

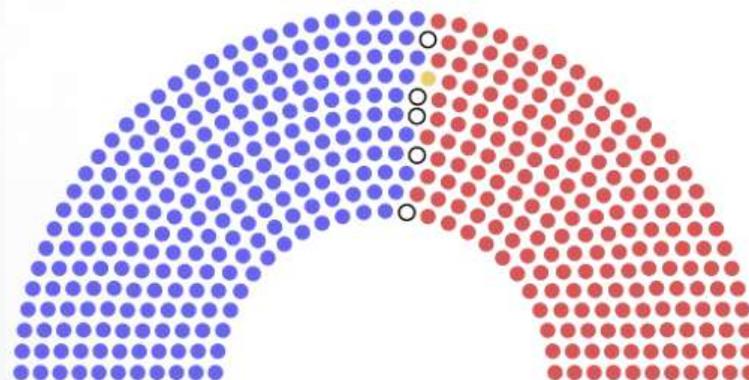
State	Candidate	Raised	Spent	COH
AL	Doug Jones (D)	\$ 1,819,598	\$ 5,714,743	\$ 4,014,496
AL	Tommy Tuberville (R)	\$ 712,619	\$ 948,938	\$ 1,495,858
AK	Al Gross (D)	\$ 3,006,495	\$ 5,184,803	\$ 2,993,218
AK	Dan Sullivan (R)	\$ 457,567	\$ 907,457	\$ 2,140,437
AZ	Mark Kelly (D)	\$ 6,983,770	\$ 14,800,018	\$ 11,001,810
AZ	Martha McSally (R)	\$ 5,954,311	\$ 8,998,799	\$ 9,112,827
CO	John Hickenlooper (D)	\$ 3,090,024	\$ 6,153,586	\$ 4,113,239
CO	Cory Gardner (R)	\$ 1,450,357	\$ 4,026,847	\$ 4,220,171
GA	Jon Ossoff (D)	\$ 4,173,563	\$ 8,304,675	\$ 4,196,280
GA	David Perdue (R)	\$ 1,011,396	\$ 3,353,797	\$ 5,838,961
GA	Raphael Warnock (D)	\$ 4,665,907	\$ 5,622,398	\$ 5,518,846
GA	Kelly Loeffler (R)	\$ 3,484,329	\$ 3,122,525	\$ 5,930,109
GA	Doug Collins (R)	\$ 252,130	\$ 1,179,980	\$ 1,466,490
IA	Theresa Greenfield (D)	\$ 7,161,114	\$ 12,847,606	\$ 3,772,805
IA	Joni Ernst (R)	\$ 1,942,612	\$ 3,750,253	\$ 2,493,637
KS	Barbara Bollier (D)	\$ 3,839,579	\$ 6,585,037	\$ 4,813,494
KS	Roger Marshall (R)	\$ 494,622	\$ 783,386	\$ 1,426,527

State	Candidate	Raised	Spent	COH
KY	Amy McGrath (D)	\$ 5,857,263	\$ 11,066,933	\$ 14,751,939
KY	Mitch McConnell (R)	\$ 3,593,873	\$ 5,738,367	\$ 11,801,187
ME	Sara Gideon (D)	\$ 5,911,485	\$ 7,975,026	\$ 20,670,197
ME	Susan Collins (R)	\$ 1,880,960	\$ 4,019,376	\$ 4,429,900
MI	Gary Peters (D)	\$ 7,379,650	\$ 7,008,522	\$ 3,869,934
MI	John James (R)	\$ 3,346,843	\$ 5,890,665	\$ 6,213,036
MN	Tina Smith (D)	\$ 718,275	\$ 1,894,164	\$ 1,806,195
MN	Jason Lewis (R)	\$ 521,900	\$ 865,718	\$ 1,105,964
MT	Steve Bullock (D)	\$ 5,335,169	\$ 3,234,141	\$ 4,078,188
MT	Steve Daines (R)	\$ 2,607,418	\$ 4,327,440	\$ 1,751,154
NC	Cal Cunningham (D)	\$ 4,133,583	\$ 7,485,795	\$ 886,446
NC	Thom Tillis (R)	\$ 1,520,138	\$ 4,658,554	\$ 3,499,729
SC	Jaime Harrison (D)	\$ 22,097,782	\$ 26,597,419	\$ 3,475,909
SC	Lindsey Graham (R)	\$ 9,041,570	\$ 16,464,186	\$ 7,336,487
TX	MJ Heger (D)	\$ 3,683,262	\$ 5,329,215	\$ 6,859,973
TX	John Cornyn (R)	\$ 1,316,255	\$ 5,553,330	\$ 3,803,468

House of Representatives:

“As of mid-October, national Republicans are playing more defense than offense, airing TV ads in 28 GOP-held districts compared to 25 Democratic-held ones, according to a POLITICO analysis of data from Advertising Analytics, a TV tracking firm.”

– Politico, 10/13/20



Republicans need **17 seats** to gain a majority.



PARTY BREAKDOWN

116th Congress House Lineup



198
Republicans



232
Democrats



1
Independents

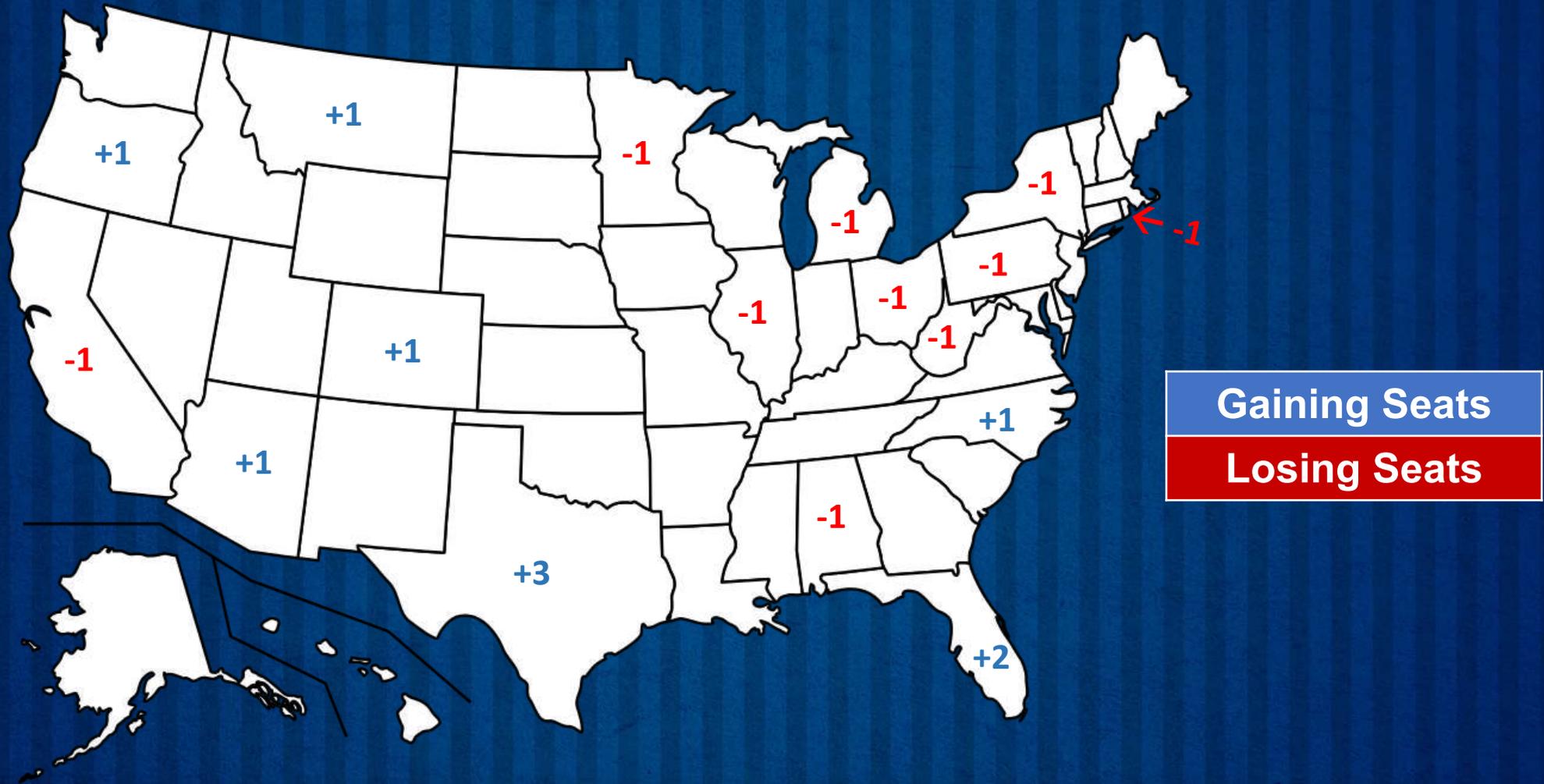


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Vacancies

*Hunter, Duncan (R), CA resigned effective 1/13/2020
*Meadows, Mark (R), NC resigned effective 03/30/2020
*Ratcliffe, John (R), TX resigned effective 05/22/2020
*Lewis, John (D), GA died 07/17/2020

Source: [U.S. House of Representatives Press Gallery](#)

2020 Census Projections



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