

A VIEW FROM THE STATES

Dentons 50 State
Network review of the
political landscape

Introduction

State legislatures, many of which have been on the sidelines for much of 2020, open new sessions in January with pent-up demand for legislative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and a need to quickly address pending revenue shortfalls that could cripple state economies.

At the start of 2020, states were flush with cash, reserve funds were full, and legislatures faced surpluses on their balance sheets. Ten months later, Moody's Analytics predicts that the combined state and local budget deficits brought on by the pandemic will exceed \$450 billion over the next two years; \$650 billion if there is a significant surge in the virus that causes governors or the federal government to shut down the economy again.

To ease the economic impact of COVID-19, national organizations like the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Association of Counties, the US Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities are calling on Congress to help backfill lost revenues as part of the next stimulus package. Without that aid, states, which must balance their budgets, will have to make deep cuts to services or raise revenues to fill budget holes -- actions that make a recession worse.

These budget concerns, along with the ongoing need to respond to the pandemic, mean legislators may have to curtail their agendas while they focus on COVID-19 response and balancing the budget. This does not mean that states will avoid prominent issues surrounding social equity, environmental protection, or criminal justice, but issues directly related to the pandemic such as protections for first responders, school reopening, access to broadband and support for small businesses will be paramount. Look also for potential revenue issues like cannabis legalization to also get a longer look from states in need of cash.

Finally, in the midst of pandemic and budget issues, states will take up redistricting as the final count comes in from the US Census. This heightens the importance of state house control since next year's legislatures will set the course for their states for the next decade.

Below is a synopsis of the political landscape for each state prepared by members of our Dentons 50 network -- experts from all 50 state capitols with a pulse on federal, state and local races in their respective states. We also highlight the states with governors races, attorneys general races and the 22 state chambers considered "battle grounds" with their current majorities.

The State of the States

Alabama

With less than three weeks until election day, the presidential race in Alabama is largely uneventful, with recent polling showing Trump leading Biden by a 20-point margin. The trend at the top of the ticket does not bode well for the incumbent US Senate candidate, Democrat Doug Jones. GOP challenger and former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville is campaigning as an ally of President Trump and leads Jones by double digits. A recent poll showed Tuberville at +12. Jones is widely considered the most vulnerable incumbent Democrat in the Senate.

Alabama also has two open seats in the US House—one to succeed Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-1st CD), who unsuccessfully ran for the GOP nomination to challenge Sen. Jones, and the other to succeed Rep. Martha Roby (R-2nd CD) who chose not to run for re-election. In the 1st Congressional District, which covers Mobile and southwest Alabama, Mobile County Commissioner Jerry Carl won a hotly contested Republican runoff over former State Sen. Bill Hightower and is a prohibitive favorite in November against Democratic nominee James Averhart. In the 2nd Congressional District, which includes most of Montgomery and the southeast corner of the state, former State Rep. Barry Moore came roaring back from a double-digit deficit in the March 3 GOP primary to stun Dothan businessman Jeff Coleman in the runoff by a 60-40 margin. Moore is considered a lock in the November general election against Democratic nominee Phyllis Harvey-Hall. 2020 is an “off election year” for state politics, with the entire Legislature and all executive branch officers on the ballot in 2022.

The upcoming 2021 legislative session begins the first week of February, and is expected to be a busy one as a result of all the legislative items dropped by the COVID-19-shortened session in 2020. Anticipated legislative priorities include pandemic civil liability immunity, rural broadband and criminal justice/prison reform.

Alaska

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 40 House seats are on the ballot. Majority R+8

In Alaska, a state where President Trump beat Hillary Clinton by nearly 15 points, several close contests are playing out. Republican US Sen. Dan Sullivan and the President hold identical 4-point leads in the most recent Alaska Survey Research poll over Democratic challengers Dr. Al Gross and former Vice President Joe Biden. Gross has raised a significant amount of money, including \$9 million since July 1. The same polling firm found US Rep. Don Young, who holds Alaska’s at-large seat, trailing Democratic challenger Alyse

Galvin by 2 points, within the margin of error. However, the Cook Political Report rates both the House and Senate races as likely to remain Republican.

The state Senate is in Republican control and the state House is, in practice, controlled by Democrats, thanks to a diverse coalition that includes some Republican members. However, the House has many competitive races that could shift the balance of power.

Arizona

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 60 House seats are on the ballot. Majority R+2

Arizona is one of the most hotly contested states in the 2020 election. Since voting for President Trump by four percentage points in 2016—the same year John McCain won reelection by 13 points—the state has consistently trended toward Democrats. Just two years later, Democrat Kyrsten Sinema bested Republican Martha McSally by three points in a race for US Senate. McSally would later be appointed to fill Senator McCain’s seat following his death. Public polling shows a tight race between Trump and Biden. The FiveThirtyEight tracker shows an average lead of 3.7 percent for Biden. Polls also show McSally trailing Democratic challenger Mark Kelly by anywhere between 5 and 10 points.

Incumbent Democratic Rep. Tom O’Halloran (1st CD) is expected to retain his seat. Arizona’s 6th Congressional District, which is currently by Republican Rep. Schwelkert, is rated as a toss-up by the Cook Political Report, one of 14 toss-ups being defended by Republicans nationwide.

Both the state Senate and House are in play but tilt toward remaining under Republican control.

Arkansas

Arkansas remains a reliably conservative state; it will almost certainly vote to re-elect President Trump in November. Arkansas’ incumbent US Senator Tom Cotton (R) faces a challenger this year. Although the Democratic candidate dropped out shortly after the filing deadline, a Libertarian challenger remains on the ballot. Senator Cotton should win handily. Of the four US House members up for re-election, only one has a competitive race—Republican Rep. French Hill (2nd CD), who is being challenged by Democratic State Sen. Joyce Elliott. The seat was thought to be safe for Hill, but recent polling in the district suggests that support for the GOP has eroded among white suburban voters, particularly women, and that Hill holds only a slight advantage over Elliott. Republicans hold a supermajority in both the state Senate and House, and that won’t change in the November election.

California

No significant changes to the Democratic supermajority in the state Legislature are expected on November 3. Most of the campaign dollars are being spent on the 12 initiatives on the ballot. Uber and Lyft have spent more than \$100 million on Prop 22 to overturn California's AB 5, a law that reclassifies their drivers as employees rather than independent contractors. Meanwhile, public employee unions are seeking to increase commercial property taxes by \$12 billion per year by undoing a portion of California's historic Proposition 13 property tax cutting initiative. Other issues voters will be facing on the ballot include privacy, cash bail, rental caps and affirmative action.

Colorado

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: 18 of 35 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority D+3

The 2020 elections in Colorado are shaping up to solidify the "lean blue" status the state finds itself in. On the federal side, Senator Cory Gardner (R) is up for reelection and is facing former Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) in a very heated race. Gardner has pulled within the margin of error for this race. Hickenlooper, in choosing to campaign virtually and as minimally as possible, seems to be following in the footsteps of Vice President Biden. We also have a race on the state's Western Slope, 3rd Congressional District, where GOP newcomer Lauren Boebert defeated incumbent Scott Tipton in the primary. Boebert now faces former State Rep. Diane Mitch Bush, who lost to Tipton in 2018 by 9 points. After Tipton lost his primary the Democrats felt they had this race in hand, but Boebert has turned out to be a much better candidate, and campaigner, than expected. As for the Colorado General Assembly, we anticipate the Democrats will pick up one seat in the Senate and the Republicans will pick up two seats in the House, with the Democrats retaining control of both chambers at least until after the census and redrawing of lines for the 2022 elections.

Connecticut

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 36 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority D+8

Connecticut is expected to heavily favor the Biden-Harris ticket, which is also likely to have significant impacts down-ballot. Democrats could pick up as many as three seats in the state Senate, and increase their control of the state House by six or more seats, if the "blue wave" many politicians are predicting does wash over the state. The state Senate is currently controlled by Democrats 22-14, and that could swell to 25-11. The House is currently controlled by Democrats 90-61, and the party's margin could increase to 96-55. If Democrats retain control of the House, Majority Leader Matt Ritter is expected to become speaker of the

house and Finance Committee Chairman Rep. Jason Rojas will likely become majority leader. Deputy Minority Leader Vin Candelora is expected to ascend to the minority leader position. If Democrats hold on to their majority in the Senate, leadership in their caucus is expected to remain the same, while Republicans will elect a new minority leader. Budget issues are expected to dominate the session, so revenue-driving policies, such as legalized marijuana, sports betting and i-gaming are expected to be high-priority issues.

Delaware

GOVERNOR RACE: John Carney Jr v Bryant Richardson

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: 11 out of 21 on the ballot. Majority D+3

Delaware remains staunchly Democratic. In 2016, the state voted for Hillary Clinton by 11 points and it is widely expected to favor Joe Biden by at least the same margin. Incumbent Democratic US Sen. Chris Coons is expected to sail to reelection. The latest public poll released in September showed Sen. Coons with a 30-point advantage. At-large US House Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D) is expected to win reelection by a wide margin. Finally, no major changes are expected in the Democratically controlled State General Assembly.

Florida

The GOP will maintain control of the 120-member state House of Representatives. The only question is will the GOP membership be in the 60s or 70s. The GOP also controls the 40-member state Senate 23-17. The conventional wisdom is that Republicans will maintain control 21-19 unless there is a true blue wave, in which case the Senate could be split 20-20, resulting in implementation of a shared-leadership model, an arrangement last utilized 25 years ago.

The legislative session that begins on March 2, 2021, will be overwhelmingly focused on budget challenges and addressing COVID-19. Republican Gov. Rick DeSantis and GOP lawmakers are nearly certain to do whatever it takes to maintain at least \$500 million in the budget to fund a law signed by the Governor in June boosting the minimum salaries of classroom teachers to at least \$47,500 and giving raises to veteran teachers.

Republicans also want to pass business liability protection from COVID-19-related lawsuits. Finally, they may pass some version of Gov. DeSantis' police protection and anti-violent protest proposal. These two ideas could be addressed during the organizational session in mid-November.

Georgia

The nation's eyes will be fixated on Georgia during the 2020 election cycle. President Trump hopes for a repeat victory in the Peach State although polls are indicating a very slim Trump margin over former Vice President Joe Biden. Both US Senate seats are in play, with Senior Senator David Perdue (R) engaged in a close race with unsuccessful 2017 Democratic congressional candidate Jon Ossoff. Polls indicate a close race with the possibility of a third-party candidate forcing a runoff to determine the final outcome in January 2021. Georgia's other Senate seat is also up for grabs due to the resignation of longtime Republican statesman Johnny Isakson. Sen Kelly Loeffler (R) currently holds the seat after being appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to fill the remainder of his term. She is facing more than 20 candidates in a mixed-party general election that is likely bound for a two-candidate runoff in January. Sen Loeffler is currently in a close race with Republican Congressman Doug Collins and Democrat Raphael Warnock.

Both chambers of the General Assembly have long been held by Republicans with comfortable margins, although in the last two cycles Democrats have inched closer to threatening the party's majority in the state House. While a flip of that chamber is possible, it would be an enormous task for Democrats. Most likely, both chambers will keep their Republican majority but lose seats, creating a slim margin for the legislators.

Hawaii

As Hawai'i completes its first all-mail-in ballot election, the Democratic Biden-Harris ticket is a near shoe-in for the traditionally blue state. Democrat State Sen. Kai Kahele is expected to win an open US House seat left vacant by former US House Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who resigned to mount an unsuccessful run for the Democratic presidential nomination. US House Rep. Ed Case (D) has no significant opponent, and will likely return to Washington. Democratic US Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono are not up for re-election. At the local level, the Honolulu Mayor's race is heating-up, with two non-politicians in a run-off in the general election. Rick Blangiardi and Keith Amemiya, both former business executives, are vying for the top seat in the City and County of Honolulu, home to about 80 percent of the state's population.

Idaho

Idaho remains a Republican stronghold. President Trump won the state by over 30 percentage points in 2016 and is expected to win by another large margin. Republican Senator Risch is also expected to win handily. Both US House

members, Russ Fulcher (R) and Michael Simpson (R), will be reelected. Finally, we don't expect the Republican party to lose control of either chamber of the state Legislature.

Illinois

Former Vice President Biden holds an 18-point lead over President Trump, which should net additional Democratic victories for Congress and the Illinois General Assembly. US Sen. Dick Durbin (D) holds a 14 point lead over Republican Mark Curran and Independent Willie Wilson. Democrats are looking to defeat Republican US House Rep. Rodney Davis in a rematch with Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, who lost to Davis by 2 points in 2018. The General Assembly remains solidly Democratic and veto-proof in both chambers. The state House and Senate are expected to add additional seats and increase their super majorities thanks to Trump's poor showing in suburban Chicago.

The largest referendum on the ballot is the Fair Tax which amends the state constitution by changing the income tax structure from a flat rate to graduated rate. Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker is pushing this initiative, which he claims will help in closing the huge budget deficit in Illinois and give tax relief to low-and middle-income wage earners. The referendum is currently polling even, with millions being spent on both sides of the issue. In order for the Fair Tax initiative to pass it needs 60 percent of those voting—a huge task, unless Chicago and the suburbs turn out in record numbers.

Indiana

GOVERNOR RACE: [Eric Holcomb](#) v [Woody Myers](#)

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: [Open \(Todd Rokita\)](#) v [Jonathan Weinzapel](#)

In 2016, President Trump won Indiana handily, with 56.5 percent of the vote compared to 37.5 percent for Hillary Clinton. The President is widely expected to do so again, albeit with a slightly smaller margin. Neither US Senators Mike Braun nor Todd Young, both Republican incumbents, is up for reelection, but there is an open US House seat that is expected to be hotly contested: Indiana's 5th Congressional District, which encompasses the suburbs directly north of Indianapolis. Two women, Democrat Christina Hale, a former member of the state House, is running against Republican State Senator Victoria Spartz, are running to fill the seat, which was vacated by Republican Susan Brooks, who won handily in 2018. Although the district is historically Republican, it has been trending Democratic and is widely viewed as a toss-up.

Both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly are expected to remain in Republican hands.

Iowa

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 100 House seats on the ballot. Majority R+6

Iowa returns to its traditional battleground status in 2020, with public polling showing the state with a toss-up presidential preference, a very close US Senate race, and competitive races in each of the state's four congressional districts. In 2016, Iowa voters handed President Trump a victory margin of 10 points but recent polls show his support has eroded among many independent voters, particularly women. First-term US Senator Joni Ernst, a Republican, is facing a tough challenge for re-election from Democratic businesswoman Theresa Greenfield. At the state level, Republicans are working to maintain their control of both chambers of the Legislature, while Democrats think they have a chance to regain control of the House and outside groups are investing heavily in the party's effort to flip the chamber.

Kansas

Generally, the political environment in Kansas should stay fairly consistent. In a state where President Trump captured 57 percent of the vote in 2016, there is a general sentiment he will win again. In the US Senate race, Republican US House Rep. Roger Marshall (1st CD) is taking on Democrat Barbara Bollier in a contest that has garnered national attention. Marshall represents one of the most conservative congressional districts in the country, while Bollier, a state senator, is a former Republican who switched to be a Democrat in 2018. If she flips the US Senate seat, Bollier will be the first Democrat to do so since 1932.

Other competitive races include: US House Rep. Sharice Davids (D-3rd CD) vs. Republican Amanda Adkins, an appointee of former Gov. Sam Brownback and a former healthcare executive; and Republican State Treasurer Jake LaTurner, who faces off against Topeka's Democratic Mayor, Michelle De La Isla, for control of the 2nd Congressional District formerly held by Republican Rep. Steve Watkins.

In state legislative races, the general sentiment is that the House and Senate will become both more conservative and more progressive, and that Republicans will maintain control. An extra layer of intrigue is added this year in the state Senate, where all three top leadership positions have been vacated. The Republican caucus will vote to fill those positions at the start of the 2021 legislative session in January. When Kansas lawmakers return to Topeka, high priorities may include fixing a budget impacted by COVID-19, retooling the Kansas Emergency Management Act, and providing relief to businesses and individuals impacted by the pandemic through possible tax reforms or incentive programs.

Kentucky

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 100 House seats on the ballot. Majority R+20

Despite a growing trend of Americans prioritizing the efficacy of the national response to the COVID-19 epidemic over the Trump administration's perceived ability to make the economy great again, it is clear that Kentucky voters will most certainly give President Trump a resounding victory in November. The state was one of the first called for Trump in 2016, when he beat Hillary Clinton by nearly 30 percentage points with 62.5 percent of the vote. With Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket, this year's race should prove closer, but the President is still expected to prevail by a large margin despite general uncertainty swirling around the state's economy.

Riding the coattails of Trump's popularity in the commonwealth, US Sen. Mitch McConnell (R), whose popularity trails the President's here by a wide margin, is expected to soundly defeat Lt. Colonel Amy McGrath (D) in what could turn out to be the most expensive (over \$100 million) congressional race in history, with McGrath outraising McConnell, a the deep dislike for McConnell among Democrats both within and outside the state. Other congressional incumbents are also expected to retain their seats. Issues of social unrest and law and order have played heavily in ads for Republicans at both the statewide and local levels, given that the Breonna Taylor shooting occurred in the state's largest city of Louisville.

Republicans hold a supermajority in both chambers of the Kentucky General Assembly. While Democrats look to gain seats in suburban areas around Louisville and Lexington and in Northern Kentucky, it is expected that the Republican supermajorities are safe.

In the **50 states**, there are **99 state legislative chambers** altogether. Eighty-six of those chambers are holding legislative elections in 2020. As of July 2, 2020, **Republicans controlled 52.13%** of all state legislative seats nationally, while **Democrats held 46.82%**. Republicans held a majority in 59 chambers, and Democrats held the majority in 39 chambers. One chamber (Alaska House) was sharing power between two parties. 21 state legislative battleground chambers in 2020. Heading into the 2020 elections, **Democrats control 11 battleground chambers** and **Republicans control nine**. The other battleground chamber is the Alaska House, which is split under a power-sharing agreement, although **Republicans currently have a 23-15 majority**.

Louisiana

Despite reelecting Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards in November 2019 (Trump visited the state twice to campaign for his opponent), Louisiana is reliably Republican in national elections. President Trump holds a double-digit lead over former Vice President Joe Biden and incumbent Republican US Senator Bill Cassidy is expected to easily win re-election.

None of the US House races are particularly competitive, nor are the state legislative chambers, which we expect will remain firmly in Republican control.

Maine

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 35 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority D+7. All 151 House seats on the ballot. Majority D+33

In a potentially tight presidential election, Maine's electoral votes, which can be split between candidates, could be highly interesting. Currently, former Vice President Joe Biden is expected to win the state and Maine's 1st Congressional District easily. However, President Trump is polling ahead of him in Maine's 2nd Congressional District. US Senator Susan Collins (R) is one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the country. Recent polls show the Democratic challenger Sara Gideon leading by one point in two consecutive polls. The race is widely considered a toss-up.

US House Rep. Jared Golden (D-2nd CD) started in a vulnerable position but seems to be putting distance between himself and his Republican challenger. The Cook Political Report rates his race as likely Democratic. Both the state House and Senate are considered competitive but will likely remain Democratic.

Maryland

Although Maryland currently has a Republican governor, voters registered as Democratic largely outnumber those registered as Republican. In a recent poll, 61 percent of likely voters said they would vote to elect Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and 30 percent said they planned to vote for President Trump. Should this gap widen slightly, it would yield the largest margin of victory for a presidential candidate since President Lyndon B. Johnson defeated Barry Goldwater in 1964. Given Maryland's demographics, congressional races tend to not be competitive. However, the 7th District race between Democratic Rep. Kweisi Mfume and Republican nominee Kimberly Klacik is of interest. Rep. Mfume defeated Klacik during a special election in April to fill the vacant seat of the late Elijah Cummings. Mfume won 74 percent to Klacik's 25 percent, and the general election results are anticipated to be the same, despite Klacik's elevated profile, which includes the support of President Trump and

a speaking role at the Republican National Convention. Members of the General Assembly are not up for election this cycle.

Massachusetts

Vice President Joe Biden is all but guaranteed to win in Massachusetts, with the most recent polling by Axios showing him leading Trump 66 percent to 32 percent. In early October, Secretary of State Bill Galvin announced that more than 1.6 million of the state's voters applied to vote by mail in the general election. This is following a primary election on September 1 where the commonwealth saw record-breaking participation of 1.7 million votes, many of which were mail-in ballots. There is only one state-wide race taking place in November. US Senator Ed Markey, who beat Congressman Joseph Kennedy III in the primary election, is favored to best Republican challenger Kevin O'Connor. The only change to the commonwealth's congressional delegation will occur in the 4th Congressional District, where Democrat Jake Auchincloss is battling Republican Julie Hall for the seat Kennedy vacated to run against Markey.

At the Massachusetts General Court (the state Legislature), Democrats will maintain their supermajorities in both chambers, with 28 of the 40 state senators and 98 of the 200 state representatives facing no challengers this election cycle.

Michigan

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 110 House seats on the ballot. Majority R+6

Michigan, and its 16 electoral college votes, are hotly contested in this year's presidential election. After voting reliably for Democratic candidates for decades, President Trump beat Hillary Clinton by about 10,000 votes or 0.3 percent. At present, it seems unlikely that President Trump will repeat his surprise victory. In the majority of public polls former Vice President Joe Biden holds strong leads of between 5 and 10 percentage points.

The state also has a competitive US Senate race between the Democratic incumbent, Gary Peters, and Republican businessman and veteran John James, who is running again after losing in 2018. Michigan also has several competitive races, including in the 8th Congressional District where Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D) will defend the seat she flipped in the 2018 midterms. Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, which is an open seat, is also competitive; the Cook Political Report classifies it as a seat that leans Republican. Finally, while the state House of Representatives, which is currently controlled by Republicans, is a possible pickup for Democrats, it is more likely than not that Republicans will remain in control.

Minnesota

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 67 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority R+3. All 134 House seats on the ballot. Majority D+16

Given President Trump's performance there in 2016, Minnesota has frequently been identified as a state the Trump campaign could flip in 2020.

Minnesota has two extremely competitive congressional races in 2020. One is the 1st Congressional District, currently held by first-term GOP Congressman Jim Hagedorn. The challenge by DFL candidate Dan Feehan is a rematch of the 2018 race, in which the Congressman prevailed by the thinnest of margins, 50.13 percent to 49.68 percent. The other race to watch is in the 7th Congressional District, where 15-term DFL Congressman and Chair of the House Agriculture Committee Collin Peterson faces his toughest challenge yet in former Republican State Senator, Senate President and Lt. Gov. Michelle Fischbach. Peterson showed weakness in 2018 when he narrowly defeated an underfunded GOP challenger in a district Trump carried by more than 30 percent.

All 201 members of the state Legislature will be on the November ballot, which will also be the last election for members in their current legislative seats, as redistricting will take place prior to the 2022 election. Currently, the DFL controls the state House (+12 seats) and the GOP controls the state Senate (+2). Control of the Legislature rests in suburban swing districts where the House DFL made great gains in 2018 and in outstate seats held by Democrats in districts overwhelmingly carried by President Trump in 2016.

When the Legislature returns in January, the primary focus will be the need to balance the budget for the current biennium which ends on June 30, 2021. In February of this year, the state had a \$1.5 billion budget surplus for the current biennium and \$2.5 billion in budget reserves. Today's fiscal picture is dramatically different, with the state facing a minimum \$2.4 billion budget deficit in the current biennium and only 9 months to balance the budget. The state is required to have a balanced budget and the shortness of time remaining in the biennium limits the options to address the immediate shortfall to draining the budget reserves, delaying payments or reducing state spending. For the 2022-23 biennium the state's fiscal picture gets worse with a projected budget deficit of \$4.7 billion. The long-term budget shortfall will force the legislature to increasing spending. Based upon the outcome of the election, legalizing recreational marijuana or the expansion of sport gaming are potential sources of new revenue.

Mississippi

Mississippi, like much of the deep south, is consistently conservative. The state voted for President Trump by almost 18 percent in 2016 and is certain to vote for the President

again by a wide margin. One of the state's incumbent US senators, Cindy Hyde-Smith, is also up for reelection and is expected to win easily. The state Legislature is firmly in Republican hands and is expected to remain so post-election.

Missouri

GOVERNOR RACE: Mike Parson v Nicole Galloway

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: Eric Schmitt v Rich Finneran

Missouri is one of only six states with a competitive governor's race in 2020. Gov. Mike Parson (R) is seeking election to his first full term after ascending from the Lt. Governor's office when Gov. Eric Greitens resigned in 2018. Gov. Parson is being challenged by Democratic State Auditor Nicole Galloway. Gov. Parson and the rest of the statewide Republican incumbents (Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, Attorney General Eric Schmitt, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick) are all moderately favored in their races. The real battleground in Missouri is in the St. Louis suburbs—primarily the 2nd Congressional District represented by Republican Ann Wagner, who is in a tossup battle with State Senator Jill Schupp (D).

A handful of competitive state Senate and House races within that district are following a national suburban trend and leaning toward the Democrat candidates. While the Republican majorities in the state Senate and House are not in jeopardy, Democrats are expected to pick up seats in both chambers.

Montana

GOVERNOR RACE: Open (Cooney) v Greg Gianforte

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: Open (Austin Knudsen) v Raph Graybill

For this on-year presidential election, the biggest race to watch in Montana is the one for governor. Current Gov. Steve Bullock is term-limited and Republicans are hoping to end the Democrat's 16-year reign over the executive branch. Montana's Republican at-large US House Rep. Greg Gianforte is facing the state's Democrat Lt. Governor, Mike Cooney. Polls have Gianforte up 6 points on average, although some internal polls have Cooney well within the margin of error. This race could be closer than it appears.

The race for US Senate between incumbent Steve Daines and term-limited Gov. Bullock is one of several senatorial races that could determine party control of the US Senate. The race is being watched closely nationally and is on pace to be the most expensive election in Montana history. Ads from the NRSC and the DSCC are flooding TV, print, radio and digital formats. Most polls and pundits see the race as a tossup.

The outlook for both the state Senate and House is another two years of Republican control. Republicans maintain a

57-43 lead in the House and a 30-20 lead in the Senate. Due to the lack of competitive legislative seats in Montana, majorities for the 2021 Legislature are expected to look very similar. The next session will be dominated by efforts to adjust the state's budget to address an anticipated budget shortfall resulting from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially since Montana's constitution requires a balanced budget.

Nebraska

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: 25 out of 49 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority R+12

Republican Senator Ben Sasse will easily win reelection. In the 1st Congressional District (metro Omaha), incumbent Republican Don Bacon is in a virtual dead heat with Democrat Kara Eastman. The 2nd and 3rd Congressional Districts will see Republican incumbents Jeff Fortenberry and Adrian Smith re-elected overwhelmingly. State constitutional officers do not stand for election this year. Of the Nebraska Unicameral's 49 seats, 25 are in play this election. Republicans hold a 30-17 advantage and likely will increase that majority by 1. Three constitutional amendments that would legalize, regulate and distribute revenues from casino gambling at horse racing facilities are on the ballot.

Nevada

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: 10 out of 21 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority D+5

Nevada hasn't voted Republican in a presidential election in the last three cycles, and we predict it won't this cycle either. Biden has consistently led in the polls, although at times they have been all over the place. At this point in the election, we are not sure how many undecideds remain. Nonpartisans make up roughly 20 percent of registered voters. Current polling indicates these voters are likely to lean Democratic.

At the federal level, there are no US Senators up for election this year. As such, all congressional races this cycle are in the House. Representatives Mark Amodei (R) and Dina Titus (D) will easily win re-election based on voter registration advantages in their districts. Rep. Steven Horsford (D) will likely win re-election based predominately on a lack of competition in an otherwise competitive seat. We predict Rep. Susie Lee (D) will win re-election, though it could come down to the wire as Dan Rodimer (R) has substantial soft-money support buying tons of airtime. As long as enthusiasm among Democratic voters holds, Democrats will win all but one of the national contests in Nevada.

At the state level, no constitutional offices are up for election this cycle. Both houses of the Legislature are controlled by Democrats, and we don't expect that to change. There are possible pick-up opportunities for Republicans in spite of their near-certain minority destination this cycle. In the state

Senate, Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro (D) is facing a tough race against April Becker (R), who is well-funded and is supported by IE activity. Senate District 5, an open seat, pits relative newcomer Kristee Watson (D) against Carrie Buck (R), a perennial challenger in state races. Finally, Senate District 18 has incumbent Republican Heidi Gansert battling Democratic challenger Wendy Jauregui-Jackins. Even if the Republicans picked up Districts 5 and 6, the Senate would remain in Democratic control at 11 seats to 10 seats. Democrats in the Assembly have a supermajority and although there are a handful of competitive races, overall there are not enough to change the dynamic in the Assembly as Democrats will likely hold onto enough seats to retain their position of dominance.

Of note, in the Summer of 2020, the Nevada Legislature met twice in special session to discuss substantial budget shortfalls and policy issues related to COVID-19. We anticipate that the 2021 Legislative Session will again be dominated by such issues; specifically, we expect to see budget shortfalls associated with declining economic trends from COVID-19 taking center stage once again. Finally, redistricting will need to be addressed in either the 2021 legislative session or a subsequent special session.

New Hampshire

GOVERNOR RACE: [Chris Sununu](#) v [Dan Feltes](#)

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 24 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority D+4. All 400 House seats on the ballot. Majority D+67

Traditionally a battleground state, New Hampshire is looking relatively uneventful. Former Vice President Joe Biden is leading by about 10 points in most public polls and US Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D) is expected to cruise to re-election. There is one competitive house race in the state to unseat Rep. Chris Pappas (D), but most believe he will prevail.

Finally, both the state House and Senate could flip but are likely to remain in Democratic control.

New Jersey

In 2016, Hillary Clinton won New Jersey handily with 55 percent of the vote. The state has only grown more Democratic over the past four years. At present, the past two general election polls show former Vice President Joe Biden with a substantial double-digit lead. Incumbent Democratic Senator and former presidential candidate Cory Booker is expected to be reelected handily.

While the statewide races may be easy to predict, several US House races are anything but. Three Democratic seats are under pressure, including the 5th Congressional District, currently held by Rep. Josh Gottheimer; the 3rd Congressional District currently held by Rep. Andy Kim; and the 7th Congressional District, currently held by Rep.

Tom Malinowski. In addition, New Jersey is home to one of the more interesting House races in its 2nd Congressional District, where incumbent Republican Jeff Van Drew, previously ran as a Democrat, is now in jeopardy of losing his seat to Democratic challenger Amy Kennedy. Public polling shows Van Drew narrowly trailing her.

The state House and Senate are expected to remain in Democratic control.

New Mexico

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 70 House seats on the ballot. Majority D+22

Although New Mexico has become a reliably Democratic state and former Vice President Joe Biden is expected to win there by double digits, the state does have one of the most hotly contested House races in the country with Rep. Torres Small, a freshman Democrat, attempting to protect the seat she narrowly won in 2018. Finally, after Democratic Sen. Tom Udall announced he would not run for reelection, the election to fill his seat is between Democratic Rep. Ben Ray Lujan and Albuquerque meteorologist Mark Ronechetti (R). Lujan is expected to win handily.

The state Legislature is expected to remain in Democratic control.

New York

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 63 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority D+18

The state Legislature is currently under Democratic control and no change is expected in the current state of play. The state Senate currently has 40 Democrats and 20 Republicans with 3 open seats. This year it is highly unlikely that the Republicans will pick up any new seats, and the Senate will remain heavily Democratic. The state Assembly has been in a similar position for many years, with the Democrats holding a 103 to 47 majority. Given the existing large majorities and financial advantage the Democrats have in fundraising, no change in control is expected in either chamber.

North Carolina

GOVERNOR RACE: Roy Cooper v Dan Forest

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 50 Senate seats on the ballot. Majority R+8. All 120 House seats on the ballot. Majority R+10

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: Josh Stein v Jim O'Neill

November 3 is a big day for the state's 7.1 million registered voters, who will not only be casting votes for the President of the United States, but also a US Senator and members

of the US House; a Governor and Lieutenant Governor; Council of State (Commissioners of Agriculture, Insurance and Labor; Attorney General; State Treasurer; Secretary of State and Superintendent of Public Instruction); members of the state Senate and House; state Supreme, Appellate and District Court judges; school boards; and local government positions. A series of opinion polls conducted in mid- to late September in North Carolina are in agreement: the presidential race is almost a dead heat. Former Vice President Joe Biden is ahead of President Trump by 0.5 percentage points. In what is considered the nation's most expensive US Senate race, Democratic challenger Cal Cunningham had a six percentage point lead over Republican US Senator Thom Tillis—until last week, that is, when news stories broke about his recent extramarital affair and illicit text messages and Tillis contracting COVID-19, supposedly at the White House Rose Garden "super-spreader" event.

Finally, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper holds a nine- point lead over his challenger, Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest. In the State Legislature, Republicans hold majorities in both chambers. To take control, Democrats need to net five seats in the Senate and six in the House. They definitely have a cash advantage going into the election, but control of both chambers is too close to call and will be determined on election day. Next year, the Legislature will preside over another round of redistricting for both the state Legislature and for Congress. It is likely North Carolina will pick up one or two new congressional districts, so the stakes are high.

North Dakota

GOVERNOR RACE: Doug Burgum v Shelley Lenz

President Trump will win North Dakota by a wide margin, as he did in 2016. There are no competitive US House races in North Dakota and the state Legislature is expected to stay in Republican hands.

Ohio

Ohio, which has been trending red for the last few election cycles, is an opportunity for both President Trump and former Vice President Biden. FiveThirtyEight's polling average has Biden with a lead of less than one percent, with the majority of polls within the margin of error. President Trump won the state handily in 2016 with 51.3 percent of the vote.

While neither of Ohio's US Senators is up for reelection, the state's 1st Congressional District, currently represented by Rep. Steve Chabot (R) is considered a toss-up by the Cook Political Report. The 10th and 12th Congressional Districts are also competitive but will most likely remain in Republican control. Finally, the state Legislature is expected to remain Republican.

Oklahoma

Trump is expected to win Oklahoma easily as he did in 2016. He is up by over 20 percent in the majority of public polling available. Similarly, we expect Republican Senator Jim Inhofe to make short work of his challenger, Democrat Abby Broyles, a former TV reporter. On the House side, Democratic incumbent Kendra Horn in 2018 defeated two-term incumbent Republican Steve Russell and now has the task of defending her seat in a race both parties will focus intently on. The state Legislature is firmly in Republican control and that is highly unlikely to change come November.

Oregon

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: [Ellen Rosenblum](#) v [Michael Cross](#)

Oregon's electoral votes are expected to go to Biden-Harris. Also expected is the re-election of incumbent Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley and the state's four incumbent Democratic US House members. In the open 2nd Congressional District seat, former Republican State Senator Cliff Bentz is widely expected to win the seat formerly held by Republican Greg Walden.

Oregon's only hotly contested statewide race is for Secretary of State, where State Senator Shemia Fagan (D) is expected to come out on top in her battle with State Senator Kim Thatcher (R). Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum (D) and State Treasurer Tobias Read (D) should easily win their re-election campaigns against unknown Republican challengers. In both the state House and Senate, where Democrats currently hold 38-22 and 18-12 majorities, respectively. The Oregon Coast and Central Oregon regions are the focus, with two Republican incumbents facing challenges in increasingly purple districts in Central Oregon, and promising pickup opportunities for Republicans in three competitive open seats on the Coast.

Pennsylvania

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 203 House seats on the ballot. Majority R+17

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: [Josh Shapiro](#) v [Heather Heidelbaugh](#)

A series of polls recently released in Pennsylvania shows Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden with leads over President Trump ranging from 7 to 12 points depending on sample type and turnout, demonstrating a firm foothold for Biden in an historically battleground state. Pennsylvania is currently experiencing a surge in mail-in ballot applications enabled by recent legislative changes to its election code. Deployment of ballots in some counties has been stalled by delays in processing, system crashes and glitchy monitoring programs. How the uneven handling of mail-in ballots will ultimately impact election results is unclear. With limited

session days remaining, legislative leaders are presently in talks to attempt to reach a compromise on a bill to lengthen pre-canvassing times and enhance ballot security. Six state Senate seats are subject to competitive races, with more in the state House. Although Republican majorities are expected to be maintained in both chambers, many observers expect the GOP majorities to be narrower in the next legislative session.

Democratic Senator Pat Toomey's announcement that he will retire from public service in 2022 has led to a flurry of discussions statewide about who may emerge as a frontrunners for the US senate and gubernatorial elections in 2020.

Rhode Island

Former Vice President Joe Biden should carry the state comfortably. In 2016, President Trump received 38.9 percent to Secretary Clinton's 54.4 percent.

US Senator Jack Reed is on the ballot and is expected to comfortably win re-election to a fifth term against relatively unknown Republican candidate Allen Waters.

Both US House members David Cicilline (D) and James Langevin (D) should also win re-election in their safe Democratic districts.

The state House and Senate will remain overwhelmingly Democratic. The September primary resulted in a change of 10 seats in the General Assembly going to progressive candidates following the trend we are seeing across New England.

South Carolina

The toss-up race between Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democrat challenger Jamie Harrison is one of the most watched contests in the country. Harrison, given little chance at the outset in a state that leans red, has closed the gap with an effective campaign fueled by record on-line

There are **11 governorships up in 2020**; considerably fewer than in 2018.

Seven are held by **Republicans**; **four** are held by **Democrats**

Each party is defending one open seat, with **no incumbent**

fundraising in a contest where total spending could reach \$100 million. Private polls largely match the public polls showing the race within the margin of error. Freshman US House Democrat Joe Cunningham, who flipped the coastal 1st Congressional District in 2018, is challenged by State Rep. Nancy Mace, the first female to graduate from The Citadel. Cunningham is a slight favorite for re-election in a district that Trump won by double digits in 2016.

All state House and Senate seats are on the ballot, with Republicans currently controlling both chambers. The 2-1 Republican House majority is not in play as only a handful of seats are competitive. Democrats stand a chance to gain seats in the state Senate in several races in the Charleston area, which is trending purple.

South Dakota

President Trump is expected to win South Dakota by a wide margin, as he did in 2016 when he received over 60 percent of the vote. Additionally, Republican US Senator Mike Rounds is expected to win reelection easily. There aren't any competitive US house races to speak of and the state Legislature will remain in Republican control.

Tennessee

Republican Bill Hagerty will face Democrat Marquita Bradshaw for the US Senate seat being vacated by Lamar Alexander. Hagerty, who is heavily favored to win, has served as US Ambassador to Japan under President Trump and Commissioner of Economic and Community Development under former Gov. Bill Haslam. Bradshaw, who upset the DSCC-backed candidate for her party's nomination, is an environmental activist and the first African American woman to win a major party's nomination for statewide office in Tennessee.

Only 5 Democrats serve in the 33-member state Senate, and that number is not likely to increase by more than 1 or 2 seats. Similarly, in the state House, Republicans hold a 73-26 supermajority. A net gain of more than 3 seats is not anticipated for the Democrats. The seats most likely to flip in Democrats' favor are in and around Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

The state's 9 congressional seats are expected to remain a 7-2 majority for Republicans with Diana Harshbarger, a licensed pharmacist, expected to retain the 1st Congressional District seat vacated by retiring physician cum politician Phil Roe.

Texas

President Trump won Texas by 9 points in 2016 and is currently clinging to a 2 percent lead, according to polling averages. Texas has been trending purple for a few cycles and while Democrats are bullish on the state we expect the President to come out victorious. Republican Sen. John Cornyn is in better shape than President Trump and will likely win reelection.

There are several close House races in the state, including in the 7th and 32nd Congressional Districts, where Democratic freshman will attempt to protect their seats. The 23rd Congressional District, which was a Republican seat, is seen as a prime pickup opportunity for Democrats and is currently leaning Democratic according to the Cook Political Report. Both the 22nd and 24th Congressional Districts are open tossup seats and freshman Republican Rep. Chip Roy is trying to hold the 21st Congressional District. Finally, there are six seats that are leaning or likely Republican but will generate interest from Democrats—the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 10th, 25th and 31st Congressional Districts.

Democrats contend the state House is in play, however it is unlikely to flip.

Utah

GOVERNOR RACE: [Open \(Spencer Cox\)](#) v [Chris Peterson](#)

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: [Sean Reyes](#) v [Greg Skordas](#)

Trump is likely to win Utah by 8 to 10 points. He isn't as popular in the state as previous Republican nominees due to his attacks on religion and what many in the Church of Latter Day Saints view as immoral behavior. Ben McAdams, the lone Democrat in the state's congressional delegation, is in a close race for reelection. His seat, the 4th Congressional District, is one of the few opportunities for Republicans nationally to win back seats in the House this year.

The state Legislature is expected to remain firmly in Republican control.

Vermont

GOVERNOR RACE: [Phil Scott](#) v [David Zuckerman](#)

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: [T.J. Donovan](#) v [H. Brooke Paige](#)

All Vermont office holders, from the Governor on down, are up for election this year. There will be some changes in the legislature as the current Senate President Pro Tempore, Tim Ashe, is leaving public service after 12 years after losing his bid to be the Democratic party's nominee for Lt. Governor to political newcomer Molly Gray, an assistant attorney general. The current Lt. Governor, Progressive Party member David Zuckerman, is running for Governor and if he loses will be out of public office for the first time since 1997. Republican Governor Phil Scott is looking to win a third term. He is currently the only Republican statewide office holder, but that could change if Gray loses to her Republican rival, Scott Milne, who came within 2,000 votes of defeating incumbent Gov. Peter Shumlin in 2014. The latest polling shows Gray and Milne in a statistical dead heat.

The state Legislature is expected to remain overwhelmingly Democratic.

Virginia

In the race for US Senate, Democratic incumbent Mark Warner enjoys significant statewide name recognition as well as a 10 to 1 fundraising advantage over Republican challenger Daniel Gade.

All but one of Virginia's 11 congressional seats are contested in the November election, the 9th Congressional District seat held by Republican Morgan Griffith being the sole uncontested race. Democrats currently hold 7 of the 11 seats and have poured millions of dollars into the commonwealth to retain or expand their majority in the delegation. Three of the hardest fought races are in the 2nd, 5th and 7th Congressional Districts. In each of these races, Democrats are carrying a 4 to 1 (or greater) fundraising advantage over the Republican candidates, according to the latest campaign finance reports.

In the 2nd Congressional District, which includes the Hampton Roads area, Democratic incumbent Elaine Luria is defending her seat in a rematch against Republican Scott Taylor, whom she defeated in 2018. In the 5th Congressional District, Republicans nominated social conservative Bob Good over the party's incumbent, Denver Rigglesman. Good faces Democrat Cameron Webb. And in suburban Richmond's 7th Congressional District, Democratic Rep. Abigail Spanberger faces Republican Nick Freitas, a state delegate.

Washington

GOVERNOR RACE: [Jay Inslee](#) v [Loren Culp](#)

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: [Bob Ferguson](#) v [Matt Larkin](#)

Washington state is a solidly blue and widely expected to show up for former Vice President Biden in November. Recent polling indicated that Joe Biden was leading Donald Trump by a margin of 58 percent to 36 percent. In the same poll, Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee, running for a third term, was leading Republican small town Sheriff Gordon Culp 53 percent to 36 percent. Inslee is frequently mentioned as a potential cabinet member in a Biden administration.

Last December, US House Rep. Denny Heck (D-10th CD) announced he would not be seeking re-election. In April he threw his hat in the ring for lieutenant governor after Cyrus Habib's surprise announcement not to seek reelection. In the battle for Heck's seat, moderate Democrat Marilyn Strickland, former Tacoma Mayor and Seattle Chamber Executive, is favored to win against progressive Democrat Beth Doglio, a state representative and climate activist, in Washington's unique top-two run-off election. Another House race is being vigorously contested.

Freshman House Member Kim Schier (D-8th CD) is being challenged by Republican newcomer Jesse Jenson, a tech industry program manager. In 2018, Dr. Kim Schrier became

the first Democrat to represent the 8th Congressional District since it was created in the early 1980s. In the 2020 primary, Republicans collectively took 49.2 percent to the Democrats' 47.6 percent. Schrier won 43 percent of the vote, the weakest among the state's congressional incumbents. The Cook Political Report recently downgraded the race from "likely Democrat" to "leans Democrat."

All the other US House races heavily favor the incumbents. In the 3rd Congressional District, five-term incumbent Republican Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler is being vigorously challenged by Democrat Carolyn Long, a Clark College professor, in a rematch from 2018. Polls are tightening in the race, but Herrera -Beutler remains favored to win. And incumbent Representatives Suzan DelBene, Rick Larsen, Dan Newhouse, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Derek Kilmer, Pramila Jayapal and Adam Smith are all expected to be reelected.

Democrats are heavily favored to continue to control both the state House and Senate. Democrats could have a net increase of one or two seats from their current 28-21 majority in the state Senate and a net loss of one or two seats from their current 57-41 majority in the state House. Both chambers are also trending more liberal—with Democratic open seats being filled by more liberal members. In the 2021 legislative session, legislators will be struggling to address a multi-billion dollar revenue shortfall created by COVID-19.

West Virginia

GOVERNOR RACE: [Jim Justice](#) v [Ben Salango](#)

STATE LEGISLATURE BATTLE GROUND: All 100 House seats on the ballot. Majority R+17

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: [Patrick Morrisey](#) v [Sam Petsonk](#)

Bucking many national trends, President Trump remains poised for a strong victory in West Virginia. But even in West Virginia there is some tightening. Trump won the state in 2016 by 42 percentage points—the largest margin of any presidential candidate in the state's history. But current polling shows the President with a lead of around 22 percent. US Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R) along with the state's entire US House delegation are also poised for commanding victories as Democrats only mounted token opposition in each race. The lone Democrat in the state's federal delegation, Joe Manchin, is not up for re-election until 2024.

West Virginia does not have an incredibly rich history of ticket-splitting. Thus, only a few statewide Board of Public Works offices are in question at this point. Gov. Jim Justice, who switched parties from Democrat to Republican, will likely win re-election but will not by the same margin as the federal delegation. The most competitive statewide race is for state Treasurer, where lone Democrat incumbent John Perdue is facing a stiff challenge from former state legislator Riley Moore, who happens to be a nephew of Senator Shelley Moore Capito and a grandson of former Gov. Arch Moore.

Things get more interesting in the State Legislature. While Republicans are poised to retain control of both chambers, large financial efforts by Democrat groups coupled with weakness in many Republican efforts may make the historic gains Mountain State Republicans have been used to in recent elections more difficult to achieve. Interestingly, the Republican president of the state Senate was defeated in his primary in June, leaving some jockeying for position for senate leadership brewing prior to the November election.

Major issues in the 2021 legislative session will include broadband, education and healthcare.

Wisconsin

In the latest polling from the Marquette University Law School, the gold standard for polling in Wisconsin, former Vice President Joe Biden leads President Trump by 5 points, 46 percent to 41 percent. Vice President Biden's lead in the state has remained stable in the MU Law School poll since he became the presumptive Democratic nominee, hovering between a 4 and 6 percent lead. Wisconsin only has one US House race on the national watch list as "slightly competitive," which is Congressman Ron Kind (D-3rd CD). President Trump handily won the 3rd Congressional District in 2016, but Rep. Kind was unopposed. In this election, Kind is up against a retired Navy Seal.

Republicans in the state Legislature should retain both chambers by wide margins. Currently Republicans have a 19-14 majority in the state Senate and a 63-36 majority in the State Assembly. In the former, there is potential for the Republicans to pick up a seat or two because of open seat elections in rural districts. In the State Assembly, while there are opportunities for Republicans to pursue Democratic seats in rural districts, the GOP's focus will be on defending seats in suburban Milwaukee where President Trump has been polling poorly.

Wyoming

Wyoming is one of the most conservative states in the Union. President Trump won nearly 70 percent of the vote there in 2016 and is likely to beat former Vice President Biden in a similarly decisive fashion in November. In fact, recent polls show him firmly above the 70 percent mark. Cynthia Lummis, a Republican and former at-large US House representative for the state, is running to fill the US Senate seat vacated by Mike Enzi (R). She is expected to win easily. At-large Rep. Liz Cheney (R) is also expected to prevail in her re-election bid without much of a fight.

Finally, the state Legislature is expected to remain firmly in Republican control.

REDISTRICTING

As the US Constitution requires,, every 10 years at the beginning of a new decade the Department of Commerce conducts the U.S. Census to produce an **accurate count of the nation's population**. The US House has had 435 seats since 1963 when two temporary, extra seats for **Alaska and Hawaii were removed**.

Texas and Florida are the only two states that have received an increase in House seats in all of the past five reapportionments.

Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York have all lost House seats in each of the past five reapportionments.

Current population trends suggest that several southern states will gain a seat in 2020 while many **Midwestern states are expected to lose a seat**.

The 2020 U.S. Census is the most heavily litigated census in recent history. As a result, the next Congressional reapportionment process is likely to be highly contentious, and could be subject to legal challenges.

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