

Sabato's Crystal Ball



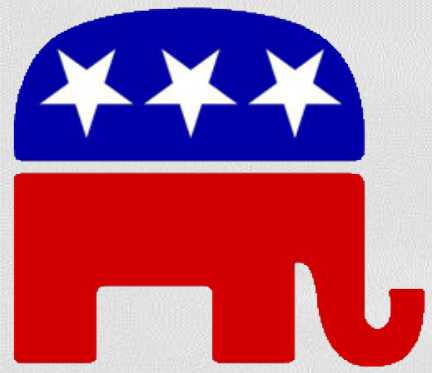
**March 20, 2018: National Association of
Development Organizations**

NCAA March Madness

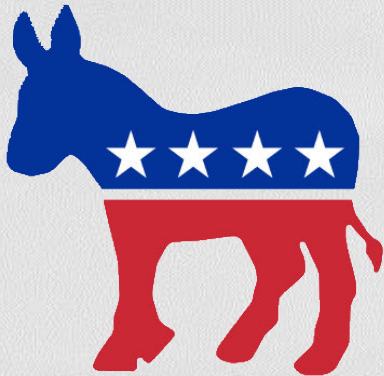


Will There be a Wave?





**Current
Congress**



U.S. Senate

- **51 Republicans**
- **49 Democrats** (including 2 independents)

U.S. House

- **238 Republicans (240)**
- **194 Democrats (195)**
- 3 vacancies (2 in R seats, 1 in D seat)

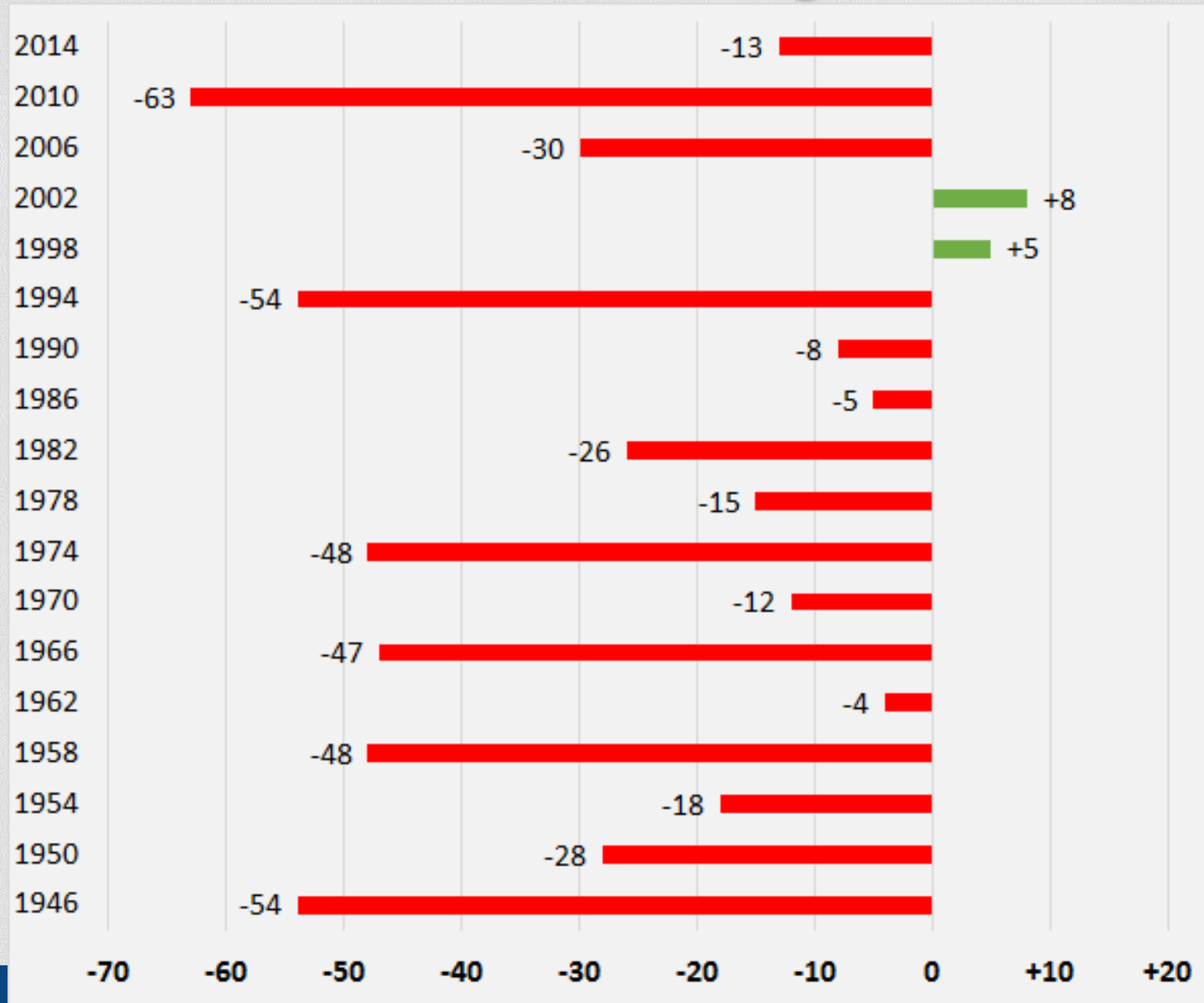
Midterm elections

• Lower turnout, presidential penalty



Source: United States Elections Project

2018 House: Pres Party in Midterms



2018 House: President Trump – the #1 issue in November

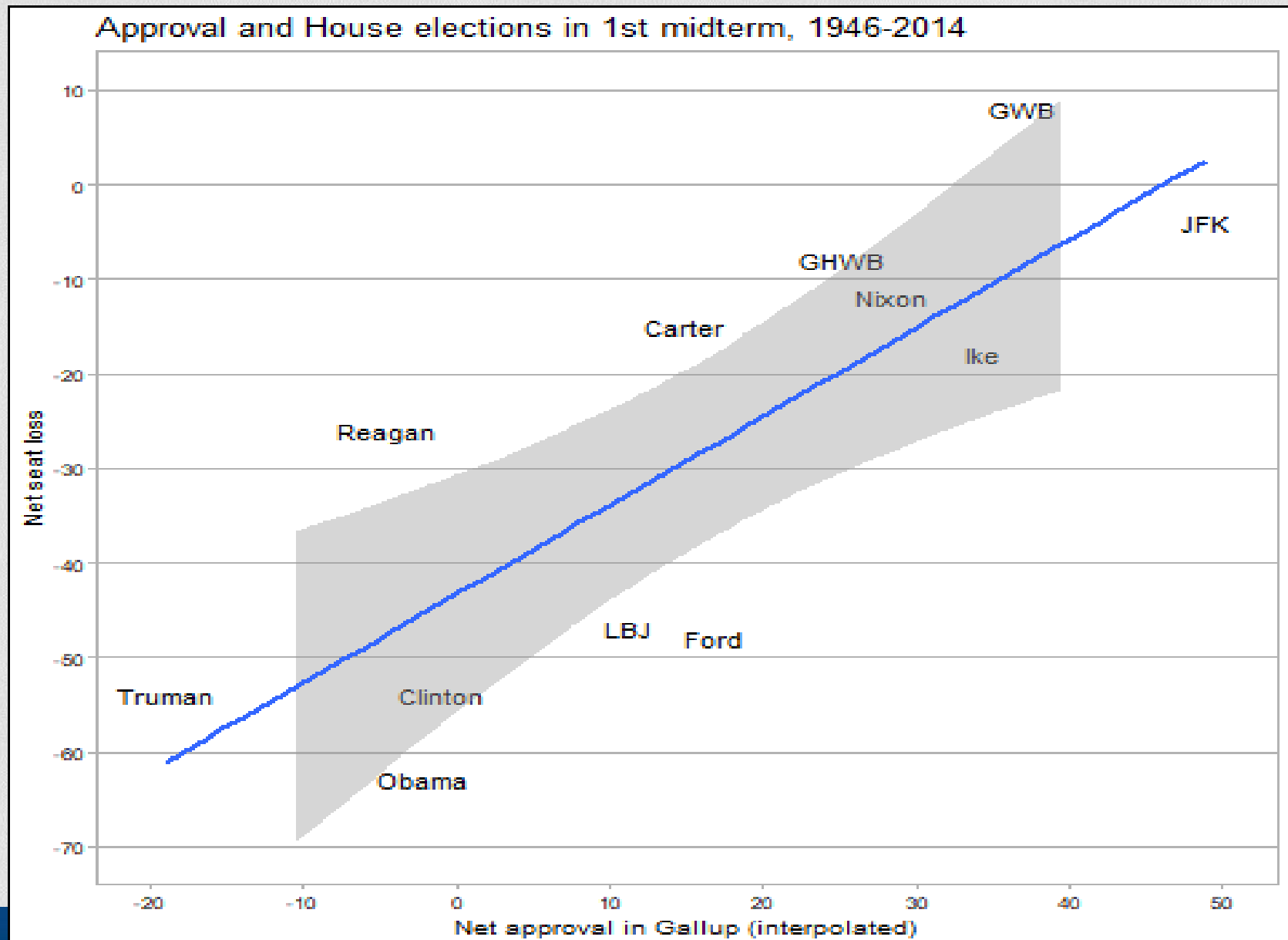
● **Trump approval in polling averages (as of March 19):**

Polling average	Approval	Disapproval	Net approval
FiveThirtyEight	40.7	53.6	-12.9
HuffPost Pollster	41.9	53.7	-11.8
RealClearPolitics	41.4	54.1	-12.7

● **Gallup as of March 19:**

- **40% approve, 56% disapprove**
- **-16 point net approval**

2018 House: Presidential referendum?



Source: Approval data from Gallup

2018 House: Generic Ballot

- Some form of “will you vote for the Democrat or Republican in your House district?”

(as of March 19)

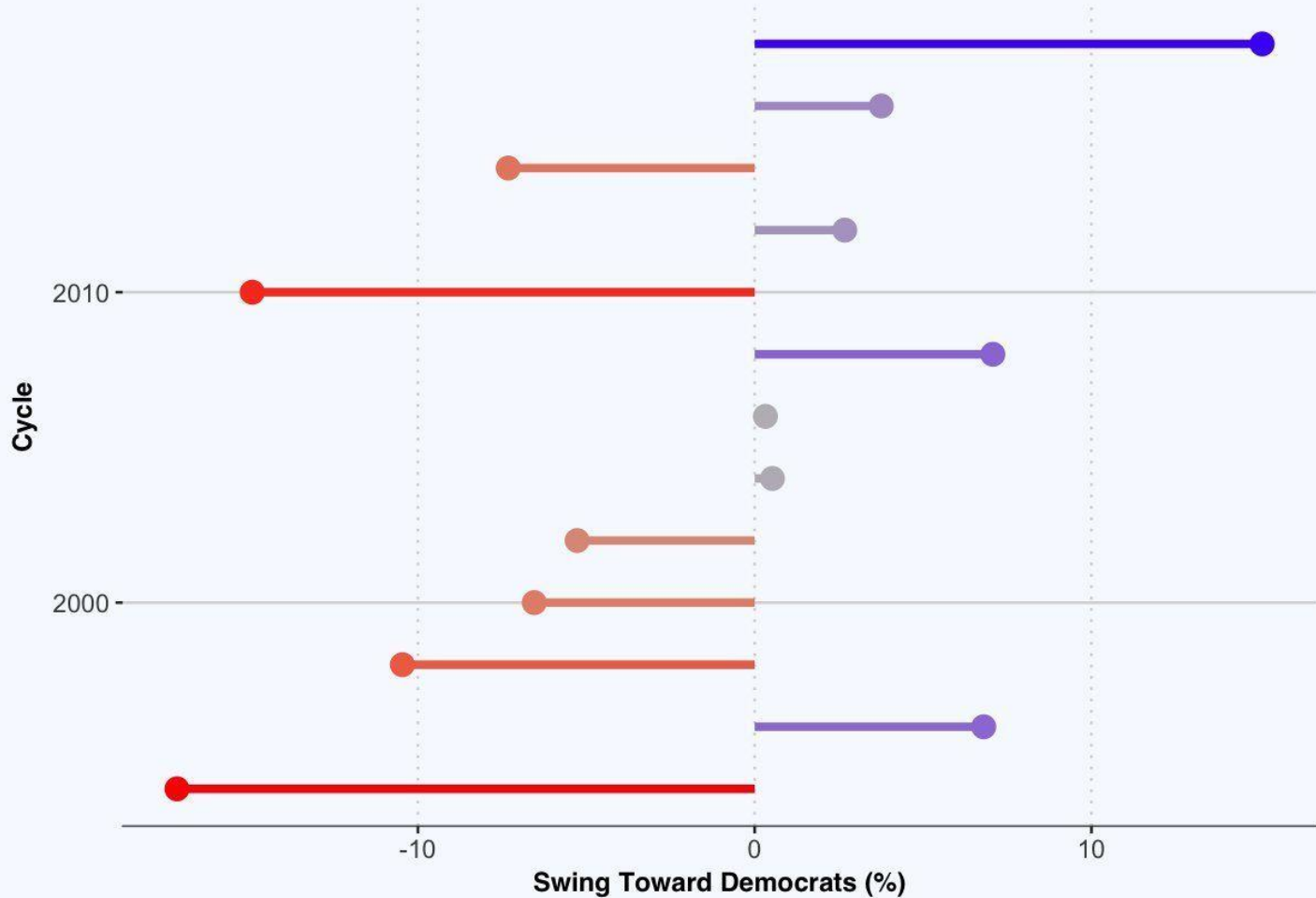
Polling average	Dem	Rep	Margin	
FiveThirtyEight	48.5	39.1	D	+9.4
HuffPost Pollster	42.6	36.0	D	+6.6
RealClearPolitics	46.3	38.1	D	+8.2

- Common poll question, highly predictive even well before the midterm election.

2018 House: Special Elections

Special Elections Show Biggest-Ever Democratic Wave

Democrats in state legislative districts have beat their predecessors' margins by 15 percentage points on average. The only larger wave is the 1994 Republican surge.



Source: Daniel Donner, DailyKOS Elections



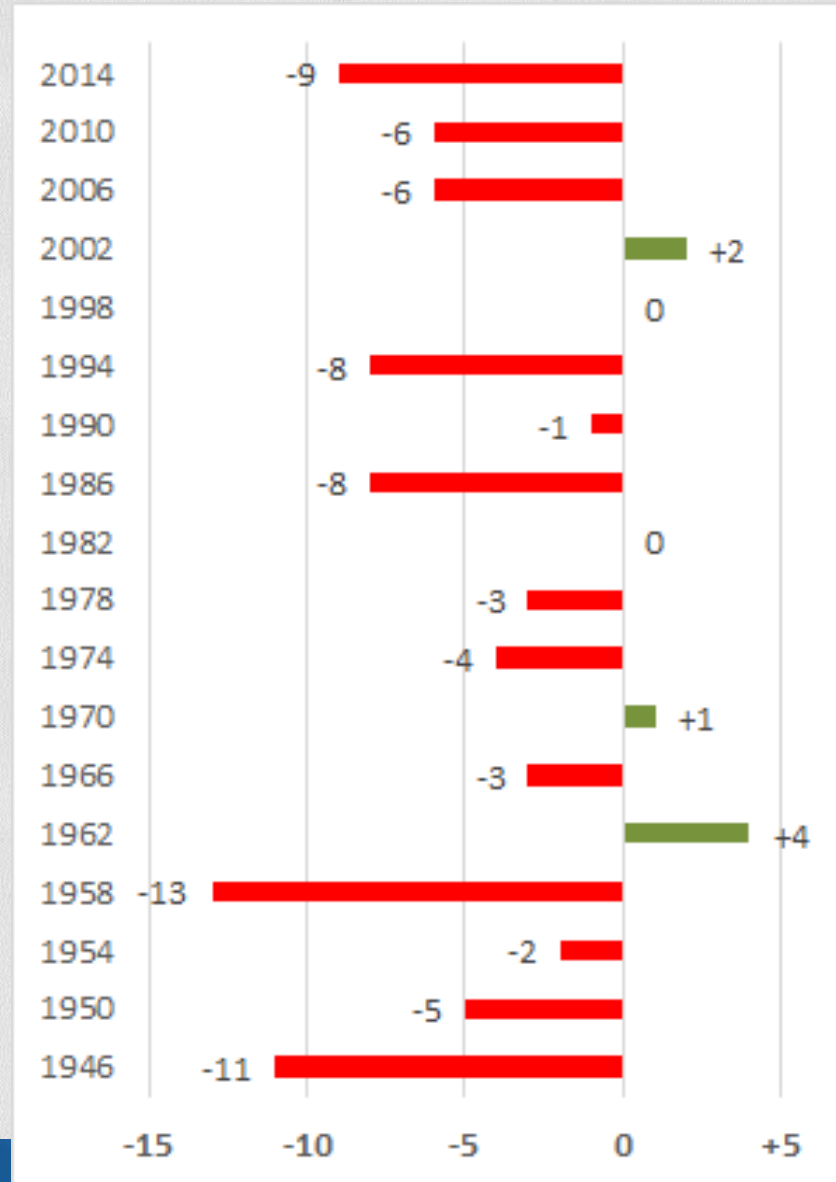
TheCrosstab.com | @GElliottMorris

2018 House: Zooming in

- Democrats need 23-24 net seats to win the House
- Yet the *Crystal Ball* rates only 27 GOP-held seats as Toss-up or worse for Republicans – so Democrats will probably have to win some seats where the GOP remains favored
- GOP gerrymandering edge after 2010 election
- “Inefficient” distribution of Democratic voters
- Democrats may have to win the House popular vote by 8 or more percentage points to win a House majority

2018 Senate: Opposing Trends

On the one hand, the president's party usually struggles in midterms, losing average of 4 Senate seats since 1946

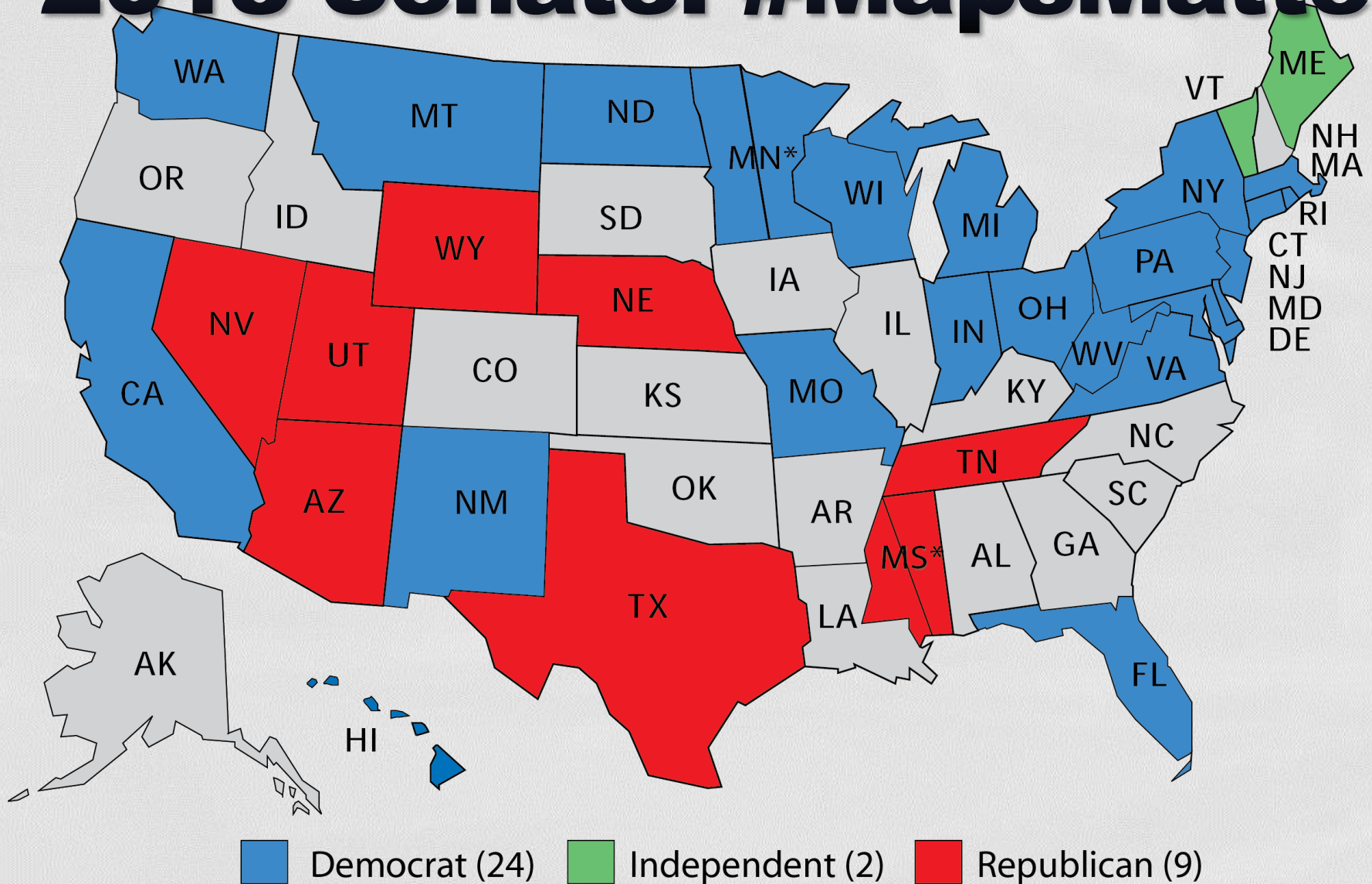


2018 Senate: Opposing Trends (2)

- On the other hand, Dems are more “exposed” than any non-pres party ever in a midterm
- Dems defending 10 seats in Trump states

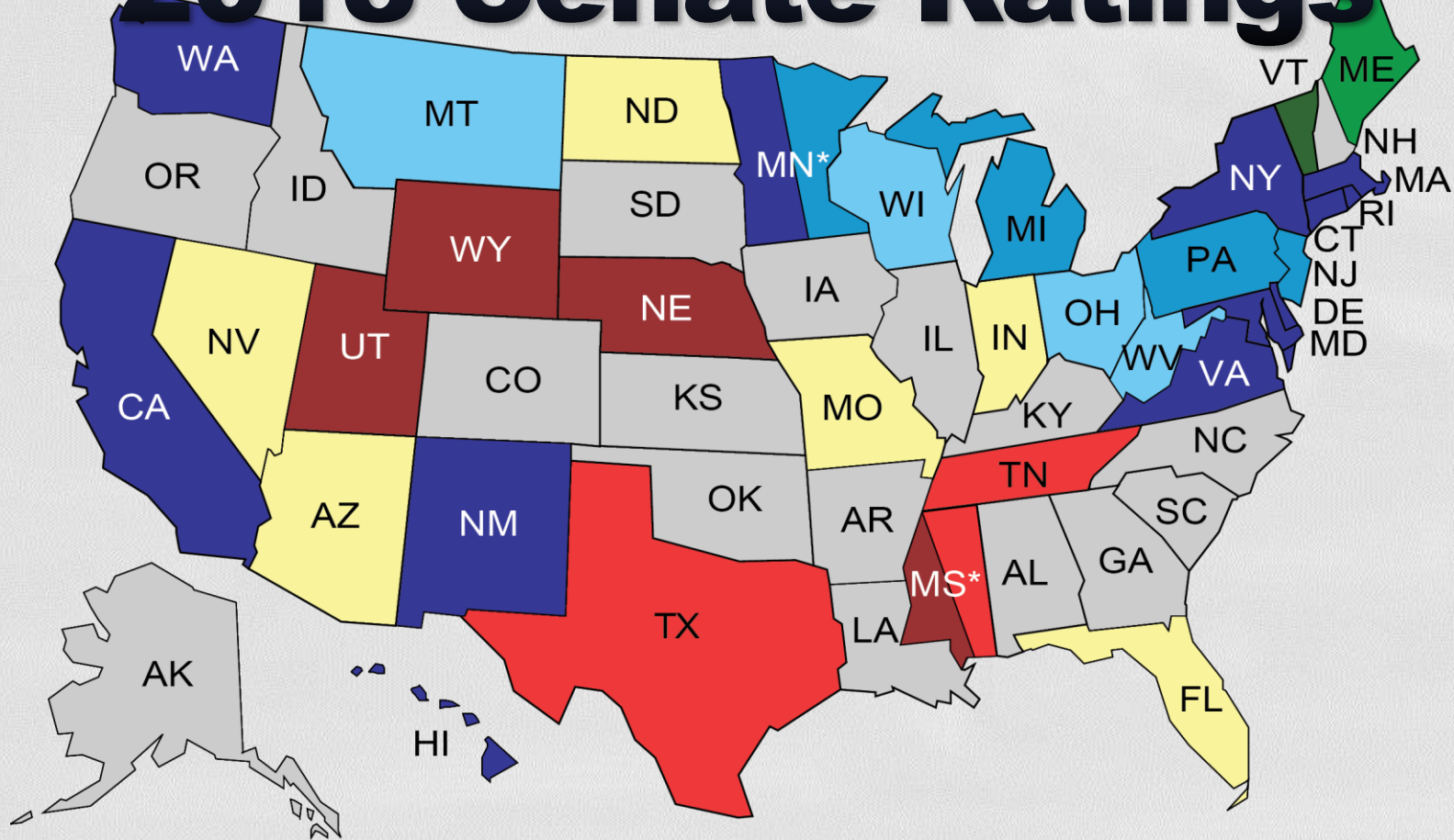
Rank	Cycle	Non-pres party	D on Elec Day	R on Elec Day	Oth on Elec Day	Non-pres party caucus exposure	Net gain/loss
1	2018	D	24	8	2	76%	?
2	1970	D	25	10	0	71%	-3
3	1982	D	19	13	1	61%	+1
4	1974	D	20	14	0	59%	+4
5	1954	D	22	16	0	58%	+2
6	2006	D	17	15	1	55%	+5
7	2010	R	19	18	0	49%	+6
8	1934	R	17	17	1	49%	-10
9	1978	R	18	17	0	49%	+3
10	1990	D	17	18	0	49%	+1

2018 Senate: #MapsMatter



Notes: Both independents caucus with Democrats. *Minnesota and Mississippi will each hold special elections in Nov. 2018 for their Class II seats along with the regularly-scheduled elections for their Class I seats.

2018 Senate Ratings



Democrats/Independents[†] **45**
(-4)

No election

Toss-up

Toss-ups **6**
(+6)



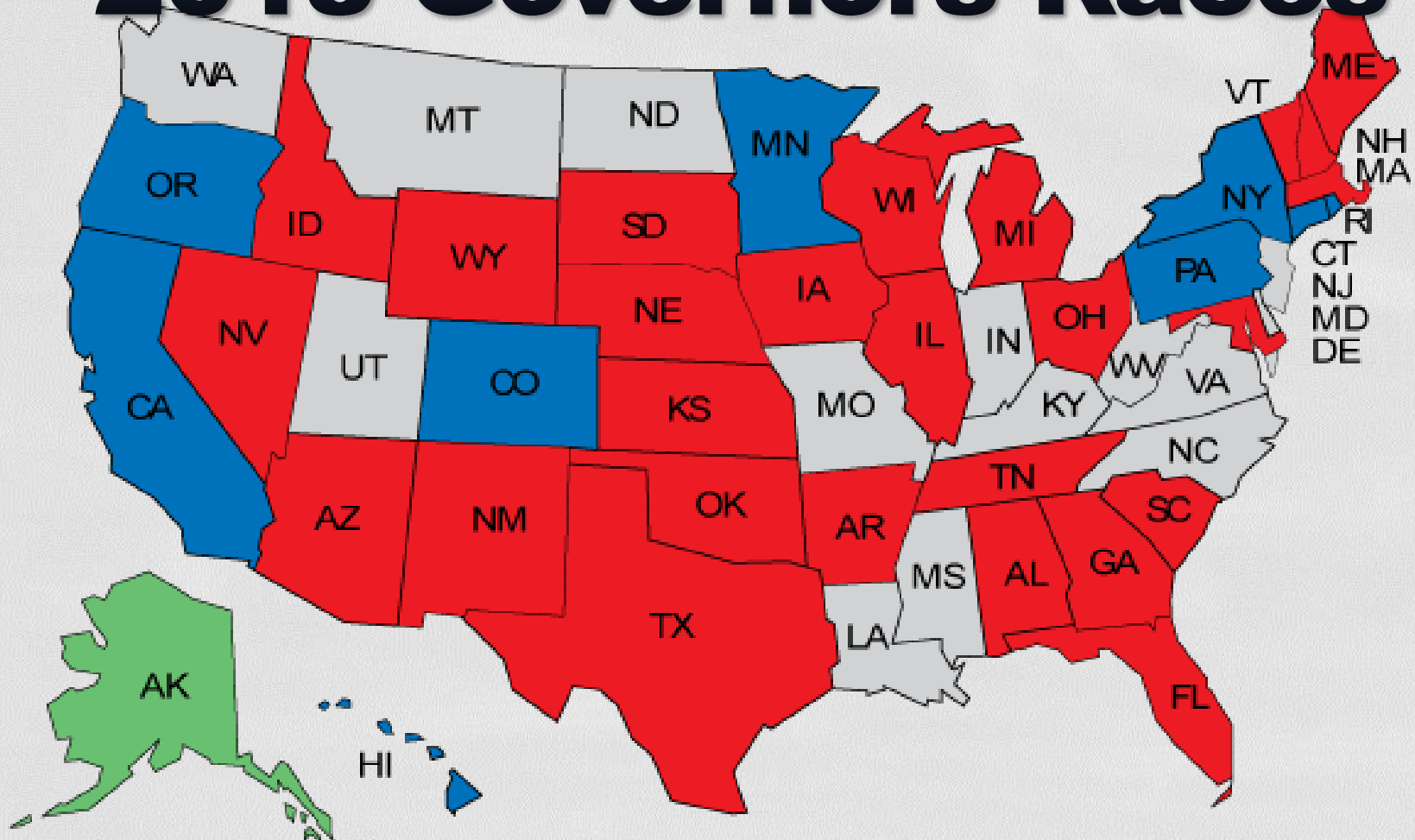
Republicans **49**
(-2)

Notes: [†]Angus King (I-ME) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) caucus with the Democrats in the Senate.

*In Nov. 2018, both Minnesota and Mississippi will hold special elections for their Class II Senate seats concurrently with the regularly-scheduled elections for their Class I seats. The shading on the left side of each state represents the rating for the regular election; the shading on the right side represents the rating for the special election.



2018 Governors Races



Democrat

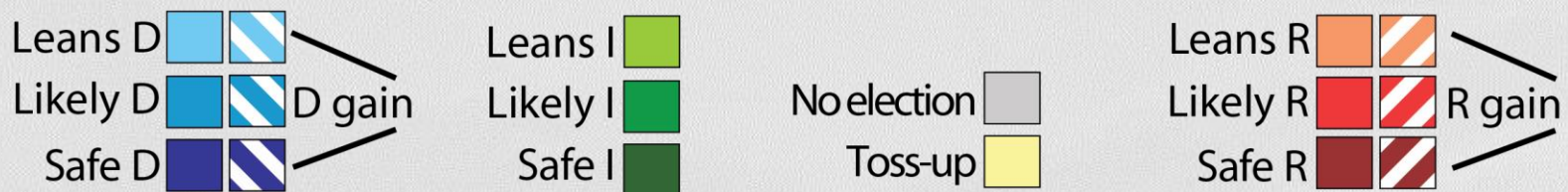
9

Independent

1

Republican

26



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SABATO'S CRYSTAL BALL

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