

## NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

The new year starts the second session of the 114th Congress, but it also means we are much closer to the November elections, when we will elect a new President and vote on all 435 House seats and 34 Senate seats.

### Presidential Primaries

Already many months into the presidential campaign season, we are now fast approaching the actual casting of ballots, with Iowa kicking things off with its caucuses on February 1, followed by the New Hampshire primary on February 9. Nevada, South Carolina, and Washington hold primaries and caucus in February, and then from there things will really heat up.

**March 1:** Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota (Republican), Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming (Republican).

**March 5:** Kansas, Kentucky (Republican), Louisiana, Maine (Republican), Nebraska (Democratic).

**March 6:** Maine (Democratic)

**March 8:** Hawaii (Republican), Idaho (Republican), Michigan, Mississippi

**March 15:** Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio

**March 22:** Arizona, Idaho (Democratic), Utah

**March 26:** Alaska (Democratic), Hawaii (Democratic), Washington (Democratic)

**April 5:** Wisconsin

**April 9:** New York

**April 26:** Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island

**May 3:** Indiana

**May 10:** Nebraska (Republican)

**May 17:** Kentucky (Democratic), Oregon

**May 24:** Washington (Republican)

**June 7:** California, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota (Democratic), South Dakota

**June 14:** District of Columbia

### Senate Races to Watch

Of the 34 Senate seats up this year 24 are held by Republicans. Democrats need to gain only four or five seats (depending on the outcome of the presidential election) to take control of the Senate in 2017.

There are several key races that bear watching.

**Colorado:** Reelection of Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) in the Centennial State would put Democrats on the way to a majority, and the senator, thus far, is benefitting from the absence of a strong Republican candidate. However, Bennet was narrowly reelected in 2010 and is no doubt mindful of the defeat of his former Democratic colleague Mark Udall in the 2014 election. President Obama received 51% of the Colorado vote in 2012.

**Florida:** Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) has foregone seeking reelection to the Senate in order to concentrate his efforts on his presidential campaign, with the focus in the Sunshine State currently focused on the Democratic primary where Rep. Patrick Murphy and Rep. Alan Grayson are in a battle for the nomination. Many view this race as a required win for Democrats if they hope to retake the Senate majority. President Obama received 50% of the Florida vote in 2012.

**Illinois:** Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) is facing a strong challenge from Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) in the Prairie State. President Obama received 58% of the Illinois vote in 2012.

**Nevada:** The retirement of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) puts this Silver State seat in play with numerous declared and potential candidates for both parties. President Obama received 53% of the Nevada vote in 2012.

**New Hampshire:** Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) is facing a strong challenge from the Granite State's Democratic governor Maggie Hassan. Many perceive this race as vital to Republicans maintaining control of the Senate. President Obama received 52% of the New Hampshire vote in 2012.

**North Carolina:** Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) appears to be in good shape for reelection, but the uncertainty of the presidential race in the Tar Heel State could put the seat in play, especially if Democrats are able to recruit a strong challenger. Mitt Romney received 51% of the North Carolina vote in 2012.

**Ohio:** Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) will likely face former Buckeye State Democratic governor Ted Strickland, who still must win the Democratic primary against a Cincinnati council member. President Obama received 51% of the Ohio vote in 2012.

**Pennsylvania:** Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) is a strong candidate whose strongest concern at this point is likely the presidential campaign, given that his state will be a battleground. However, former Democratic congressman Joe Sestak and Katie McGinty, the former chief of staff to the Keystone State's governor, are seeking the Democratic nomination and either will make a formidable opponent for Toomey. President Obama received 52% of the Pennsylvania vote in 2012.

**Wisconsin:** Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) will face off against former Democratic Senator Russ Feingold, whom he defeated for the seat in 2010. Many observers believe that this rematch in the Badger State is a big opportunity for a Democratic pick-up with some ranking Senator Johnson as one of the most vulnerable Senators in this year's election. President Obama received 53% of the Wisconsin vote in 2012.

## House Races to Watch

While Republicans are almost certain to retain their House majority, a number of House seats are poised for highly competitive races for both Republicans and Democrats.

- Arizona's 1<sup>st</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) who is running for the Senate
- Florida's 18<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-FL) who is running for the Senate
- Florida's 26<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL)
- Illinois' 10<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Bob Dold (R-IL)
- Iowa's 1<sup>st</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Rod Blum (R-IA)
- Iowa's 3<sup>rd</sup> District, seat held by Rep. David Young (R-IA)
- Maine's 2<sup>nd</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R-IA)
- Michigan's 7<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Tim Walberg (R)
- Minnesota's 2<sup>nd</sup> District, seat held by Rep. John Kline (R-MN) who is retiring
- Nebraska's 2<sup>nd</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Rep. Brad Ashford (D-NV)
- Nevada's 3<sup>rd</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV) who is running for the Senate
- Nevada's 4<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Crescent Hardy (R-NV)
- New Hampshire's 1<sup>st</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Frank Guinta (R-NH)
- New York's 1<sup>st</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)
- New York's 3<sup>rd</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) who is retiring
- New York's 19<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY)
- New York's 24<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. John Katko (R-NY)
- Pennsylvania's 8<sup>th</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA) who is retiring
- Texas's 23<sup>rd</sup> District, seat held by Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX)