

Following the Returns, Hour by Hour

How the Balance of Political Power Will Play Out Over the Course of the Evening as Votes Are Tallied Across the U.S.

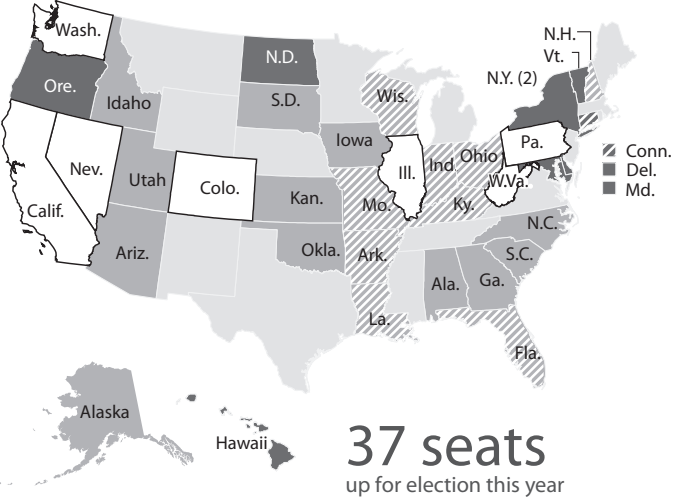
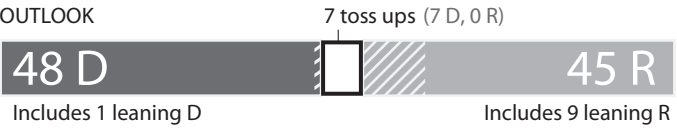
Senate

The top Senate race is in Nevada, where Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid faces Sharron Angle, a tea-party-backed Republican who wasn't the choice of GOP leaders. The Delaware race has also attracted attention—though Democrats are expected to keep the seat—because of controversial comments by Christine O'Donnell (R). Alaska has the most topsy-turvy race, with incumbent Sen. Lisa Murkowski staging a write-in campaign against Joe Miller (R) and Scott McAdams (D).

CURRENT DIVISION BY PARTY



OUTLOOK



Republicans are favored to take these Democratic seats...

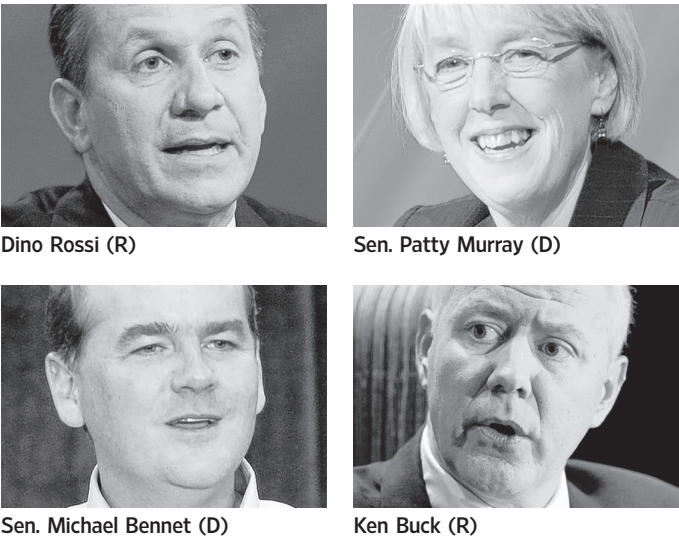
- Indiana**
Brad Ellsworth (D) vs. Dan Coats (R)
- North Dakota**
Tracy Potter (D) vs. John Hoeven (R)
- Arkansas**
Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D) vs. John Boozman (R)

...But they also need at least 7 of these 8 seats to take control

- Pennsylvania**
Joe Sestak (D) vs. Pat Toomey (R)
- West Virginia**
Joe Manchin (D) vs. John Raese (R)
- Wisconsin**
Sen. Russ Feingold (D) vs. Ron Johnson (R)
- Illinois**
Alexi Giannoulias (D) vs. Mark Kirk (R)
- Colorado**
Sen. Michael Bennet (D) vs. Ken Buck (R)
- Nevada**
Sen. Harry Reid (D) vs. Sharron Angle (R)
- California**
Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) vs. Carly Fiorina (R)
- Washington**
Sen. Patty Murray (D) vs. Dino Rossi (R)

Democrats could cut their losses by winning one or more of these Republican seats

- Missouri**
Robin Carnahan (D) vs. Roy Blunt (R)
- Kentucky**
Jack Conway (D) vs. Rand Paul (R)
- Alaska**
Scott McAdams (D) vs. Joe Miller (R) vs. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (I)



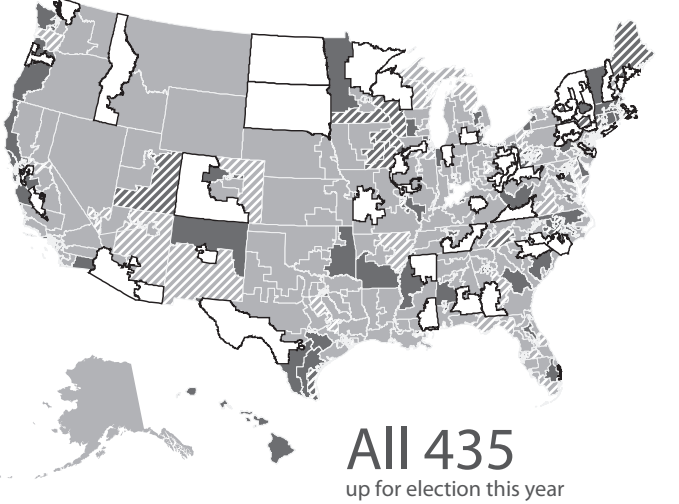
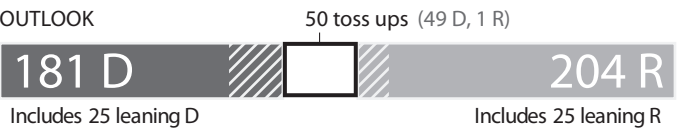
House of Representatives

A growing number of analysts say close to 100 seats are at least marginally competitive, the great majority of them held by Democrats. In Pennsylvania and Ohio, for example, five Democrats are at risk in each state; whether the GOP wins them all could signal what kind of night it's going to be.

CURRENT DIVISION BY PARTY



OUTLOOK



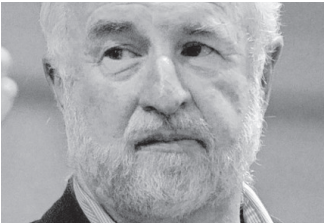
Democratic incumbents whose fate may decide the size of the GOP wave



Rep. Ben Chandler won re-election in 2008, but his conservative district went for John McCain.



Rep. John Bocchieri is a freshman who took his Ohio swing district from the Republicans in 2008.



Rep. Tim Bishop faced one of the earliest raucous town-hall meetings in August 2009.



Rep. Patrick Murphy, the first Iraq War veteran in Congress, faces the man he unseated in 2006.

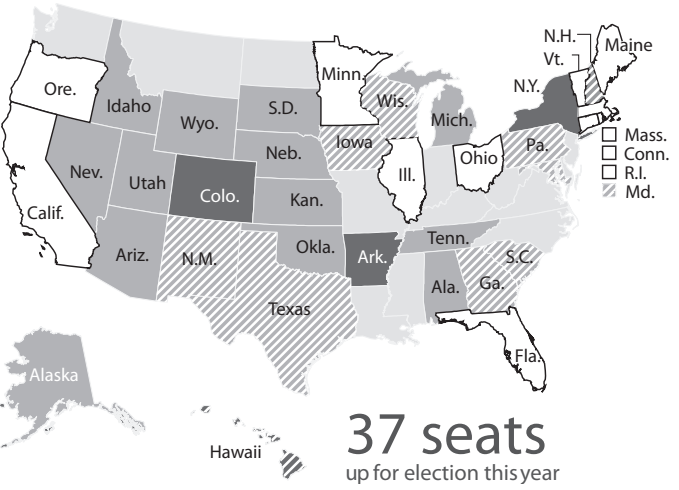
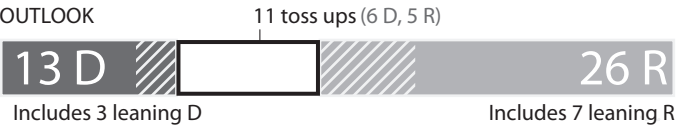
Governors

Some of the states most important to the 2012 presidential election are holding governor's races, among them Florida and Ohio, both rated as tossups. The winning party could gain advantages for 2012.

CURRENT DIVISION BY PARTY



OUTLOOK



Races for governor often defy the national political currents, often turning on personalities in addition to issues. Below are some to watch:



Tom Tancredo (Colo.) The conservative firebrand, known for his opposition to illegal immigration, is running on the Constitution Party ticket and has gained in some polls. **Opponents:** John Hickenlooper (D), Dan Maes (R)



Lincoln Chafee (I., R.I.) The rare independent who could win in a partisan climate. **Opponents:** Frank Caprio (D), John Robitaille (R), Ken Block (Moderate)



Jerry Brown (D., Calif.) He was governor three decades ago and is looking for another shot. **Opponent:** Meg Whitman (R)



Nikki Haley (R., S.C.) A former long-shot, endorsed by Sarah Palin. **Opponent:** Vincent Sheheen (D)



Rick Scott (R., Fla.) Suffered from his former company's legal woes **Opponent:** Alex Sink (D)

Watching the Tide Roll Out

Here are results to watch for through the night (in Eastern time), based on when the majority of polls close in each state.

6:00 PM The Early Show

POLLS CLOSE IN 6 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>



Indiana (most of the state): Democrats are in for an ugly night if they lose all three of their House seats at risk here. Rep. Baron Hill (D-9th) represents the ultimate swing district. Former Sen. Dan Coats (R) is favored to take a seat vacated by Sen. Evan Bayh (D).
Kentucky (eastern part of state): Watch for whether Rep. Ben Chandler (D-6th) keeps his seat.

7:00 PM Florida Key

POLLS CLOSE IN 2 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>

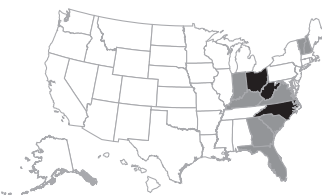


Kentucky (remaining precincts): Rand Paul (R) is favored for Senate. A big margin could foreshadow other GOP gains.
Virginia: If endangered Rep. Tom Perriello (D-5th) hangs on, that's a strong sign for Democrats. If the GOP topples Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-11th) or Rick Boucher (D-9th), look for the GOP wave to be high.
Florida: Results from a close governor's race could indicate how the night is going. Marco Rubio (R) is favored to take the Senate seat over Gov. Charlie Crist (I).

7:30 PM Ohio Players

POLLS CLOSE IN 3 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>

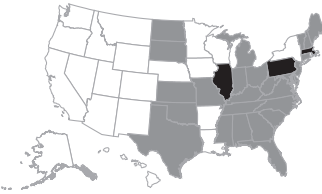


Ohio: The GOP is looking for five of the 39 pick-ups it needs to control the House. Defeating Gov. Ted Strickland (D) would give the GOP a leg up in a crucial 2012 presidential swing state.
West Virginia: If Democrats retain the late Sen. Robert Byrd's seat, the GOP has slim hopes of controlling the Senate.
North Carolina: The GOP has four potential House pick-ups (2nd, 7th, 8th and 11th districts). A sweep would augur strong GOP gains.

8:00 PM Down to the Wire

POLLS CLOSE IN 18 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>

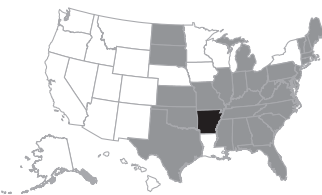


Pennsylvania: The state has a hotly contested Senate race and five competitive House races.
Illinois: Alexi Giannoulias (D) and Mark Kirk (R) are in a dead heat for President Obama's old Senate seat.
Massachusetts: Defeat of Gov. Deval Patrick (D) or any member of the all-Democratic House delegation would signal a big night for the GOP.

8:30 PM The Lincoln Log

POLLS CLOSE IN 1 STATE

HOT SPOTS >>

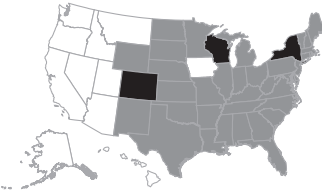


Arkansas: Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D) has been trailing in her bid to hold onto her seat. The GOP also is in a strong position to pick up two House seats, despite a valiant campaign effort by Arkansas Bill Clinton.

9:00 PM Wisconsin Running Red

POLLS CLOSE IN 9 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>

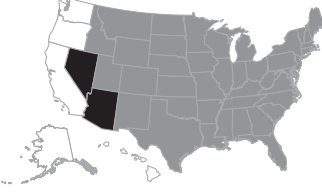


New York: The GOP is eyeing six Democratic House seats, while Andrew Cuomo (D) is expected to become governor.
Colorado: Sen. Michael Bennet (D) faces a tough re-election fight, and Constitution Party candidate Tom Tancredo is in a long-shot bid for governor.
Wisconsin: Sen. Russ Feingold (D) seems likely to lose, and Republicans are well-positioned to take two House seats and the governorship.

10:00 PM Harry Today, Gone Tomorrow?

POLLS CLOSE IN 6 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>

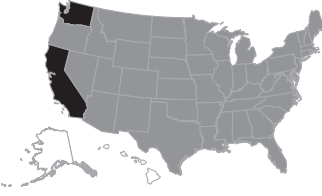


Nevada: Will Sen. Harry Reid (D) hang onto his job?
Arizona: Three House members are vulnerable—Ann Kirkpatrick (D-1st), Raul Grijalva (D-7th) and Gabrielle Giffords (D-8th).

11:00 PM Best of the West

POLLS CLOSE IN 3 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>

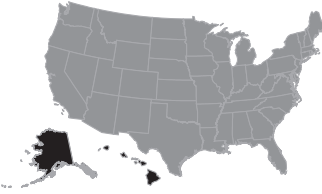


Washington: Control of the Senate could come down to Sen. Patty Murray's (D) ability to hold off Dino Rossi (R). The 3rd House District is a bellwether.
California: Marquee matchups include races for Senate, with Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) vs. Carly Fiorina (R), and governor, with Jerry Brown (D) vs. Meg Whitman (R).

12:00 PM The Late Late Show

POLLS CLOSE IN 2 STATES

HOT SPOTS >>



Alaska (most precincts): Officials won't look at the names on write-in ballots for days. But if total write-ins outnumber votes for Joe Miller (R) or Scott McAdams (D), then write-in candidate Sen. Lisa Murkowski may have a chance of holding her seat.