

THE NBC NEWS
2014 MIDTERM ELECTION
BRIEFING BOOK



CREATED BY THE NBC NEWS POLITICAL UNIT

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2014: THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL

THE SENATE

A top storyline of this election season: Can Republicans gain a net of six Senate seats to win back control of the chamber?

The last time the GOP had a majority was during the 109th Congress from 2005-2006. Currently, Democrats have a 55-45 advantage in the Senate, with the chamber's two independents (Angus King of Maine and Bernie Sanders of Vermont) caucusing with the party.

There are 36 Senate seats to be decided in November 2014, including both seats in Oklahoma and South Carolina.

As of this writing, Republicans have a better-than-50-50% chance of winning the majority. One reason is the playing ground. Republicans can capture control by winning six of seven Democratic-held seats in states that President Obama lost in 2012: Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

A second reason is that Republicans have expanded the map. Even if they lose in some of the red states, the GOP has put credible candidates in blue and purple states like Colorado, Iowa, even New Hampshire.

Still, Democrats could hang on to their majority. Many of their incumbents (like Mark Begich in Alaska and Kay Hagan in North Carolina) have run good races. And while President Obama's numbers are worse than they were in 2010, so are the Republican Party's numbers. A final late development: Democrats potentially have put two contests in play in traditional red states -- Kansas and South Dakota.

FIRST READ FAST FACT

If there's a 50-50 tie, the tiebreaker goes to Vice President Joe Biden, which would give Democrats the majority.

OVERTIME?

It's likely we won't know which party controls the Senate – even a month after Election Day. If no one gets more than 50% of the vote in Louisiana's Nov. 4 "jungle primary," then the state holds a runoff on Dec. 6. The same is true in Georgia: If no one gets more than 50%, the contest heads to a Jan. 6 runoff. (The last time this Georgia seat was up, in 2008, it did in fact go to a runoff election.)

OVERTIME, PART TWO?

If independent Greg Orman wins Kansas' Senate contest, it's also possible that the political world won't know which party controls the Senate until Orman announces the party with which he'll caucus.

2014: THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL

A top storyline of this election season: Democrats need to gain a net 17 House seats to take back control. That's not looking likely.

THE HOUSE

With Republicans enjoying a 233-199 advantage (two vacancies are Democrats and one is Republican), Democrats need to gain a net 17 House seats to take back the chamber. And the chances of that happening are significantly LESS likely than Republicans winning control of the Senate. The big reason why: Thanks to the GOP's redistricting gains after 2010, Democrats picked up only eight House seats in the 2012 election – and that was with President Obama winning the national vote by four percentage points. But this isn't 2012. President Obama's approval ratings are in the low 40s, and the Democratic base (younger voters, minorities) aren't your traditional midterm voters.

THE GOVS

There are 36 gubernatorial races this November, with control of governor's mansions at stake.

Currently, Republicans hold 29 governorships, while Democrats hold 21.

FIRST READ FAST FACT

The last time five or more incumbent governors lost re-election was in 1994, when five went down to defeat.

One story that shouldn't be overlooked is that 2014 might be the year when many incumbent governors could go down to defeat. One has already lost (Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie), and several other governors are vulnerable this cycle (Alaska's Sean Parnell, Florida's Rick Scott, Pennsylvania's Tom Corbett, Maine's Paul LePage, Colorado's John Hickenlooper, Wisconsin's Scott Walker, Connecticut's Dan Malloy, Illinois' Pat Quinn, Kansas' Sam Brownback and Michigan's Rick Snyder.)

MIDTERM ELECTIONS: A HISTORICAL LOOK

There is another reason Republicans are poised for gains: The party controlling the White House USUALLY loses seats.

Midterms for the Party Controlling the White House since World War II		
YEAR	HOUSE Gain/Losses	SENATE Gain/Losses
1946 Truman	-55	-12
1950 Truman	-28	-5
1954 Ike	-18	-1
1958 Ike	-48	-12
1962 Kennedy	-4	2
1966 LBJ	-48	-4
1970 Nixon	-12	1
1974 Ford	-48	-4
1978 Carter	-15	-3
1982 Reagan	-26	1
1986 Reagan	-5	-8
1990 Bush	-8	-1
1994 Clinton	-54	-8
1998 Clinton	5	0
2002 Bush	8	1
2006 Bush	-30	-6
2010 Obama	-63	-6
AVG	-26.4	-3.8

Only twice since 1946 has the incumbent party actually GAINED House seats.

And the Senate losses are even bigger in a president's second midterm election – often referred to as **the "Six-Year Itch."**

“THE SIX YEAR ITCH”

“Six-Year Itches” for the Party Controlling the White House since World War II

YEAR	HOUSE Gain/Losses	SENATE Gain/Losses
1950 Truman	-28	-5
1958 Ike	-48	-12
1974 Ford	-48	-4
1986 Reagan	-5	-8
1998 Clinton	5	0
2006 Bush	-30	-6
AVG	-25.6	-5.8

NOTE: Since Nixon resigned from office just months before the 1974 midterm elections – and the GOP’s losses were due primarily to the

Watergate scandal – this chart counts that midterm season as a “Six-Year Itch” election.

SOURCE: *Vital Statistics on Congress*

The most House seats the party controlling the White House lost in a midterm election since the Civil War?

116 in 1894
(Democrats)

The most House seats the party controlling the White House won in a midterm election since the Civil War?

9 in 1934
(Democrats)

The most Senate seats the party controlling the White House lost in a midterm election since the Civil War?

12 in 1958
(Republicans)

The most Senate seats the party controlling the White House won in a midterm election since the Civil War?

10 in 1934
(Democrats)

WHAT CHANGES (AND WHAT DOESN'T)IF REPUBLICANS CONTROL THE SENATE?

With Republicans having at least a 50%-50% shot at winning control of the U.S. Senate, it's important to note what a GOP-led Senate would change in Washington:

- It would increase the number of vetoes President Obama has issued so far (just two) during his time in the White House.** With Republicans controlling both the House and Senate, you can expect many more bills reaching his desk that he will oppose. Remember: It takes a two-thirds vote in each chamber for Congress to override a veto (so about 290 in the House and 67 in the Senate).
- It would hinder Obama's ability to make appointments to the executive branch and to the judiciary, even to the U.S. Supreme Court if there's a vacancy.** If Republicans have 51 votes at their disposal, then slam-dunks for confirmation become A LOT harder.
- It would raise the profiles of the Republican and Democratic centrists** -- like Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Joe Manchin, Angus King, Heidi Heitkamp. If legislation will need 60 votes to even reach Obama's desk, then those centrists will become kingmakers.

FIRST READ FAST FACT

*Bills vetoed by Obama (to date): 2
Bills vetoed by Bush (total): 12
Bills vetoed by Clinton (total) : 37*

FIRST READ (BONUS) FAST FACT

*The president who issued the most vetoes?
Franklin Delano Roosevelt (635 bills)*

WHAT PROBABLY WON'T CHANGE?

With the 113th Congress on track to reach a historic low in the number of bills becoming law, the GOP controlling the Senate won't really change that. What will change is that legislation will likely die via presidential veto rather than due to inactivity in the House or Senate.

As of October 15, the 113th Congress had passed just 184 bills into law – fewer than the 195 the 112th Congress passed in the same time period.

CONGRESS'S PRODUCTIVITY.

THE SPRINGBOARD TO 2016

The midterms also traditionally serve as a springboard for the next presidential election. In other words, the 2016 presidential election will start to get underway the day after Nov. 4, 2014.

Here are a few midterm-related items to keep in mind about 2016:

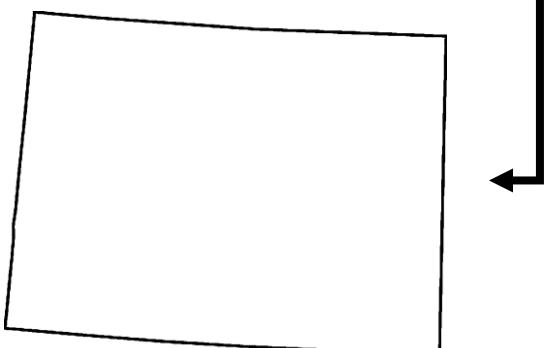
- The party that wins big in the midterms often – but not always – has **the momentum** heading into the presidential election. Think 1960 (after the Dems' success in the '58 midterms), 1976 (after Watergate in 1974), and 2008. But there are exceptions: For example, Reagan and Republicans lost big in the '86 midterms, but the GOP won the presidential election two years later.



- A potential GOP presidential candidate, **Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker** is on the ballot in a VERY close race for re-election. If he wins, he'll have a great talking point (winning this battleground state three times in the past four years). But if he loses, there goes any '16 bid.

- Maybe the best 2016-related state to watch on Election Night is **battleground Colorado.**

The GOP winning the Senate and/or gubernatorial contests would snap what has essentially been a 10-year losing streak in the state, which could give Republicans a boost about their chances of Colorado's nine electoral votes in 2016. But losing there – in this climate and with its top challengers – would signal that Republicans are a long way from winning back Colorado.



MIDTERM CHRONOLOGY: 2013-2014

JANUARY 21, 2013: Obama delivers second inaugural address

Jan. 23: Hillary Clinton testifies before Congress on deadly Benghazi attacks

April 17: Filibuster blocks Senate background-check legislation

May 10: IRS acknowledges special scrutiny of Tea Party groups applying for tax-exempt status

June 5: First Edward Snowden NSA revelations appear in the Guardian newspaper

June 25: U.S. Supreme Court invalidates key parts of the Voting Rights Act

JUNE 26: U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the Defense of Marriage Act

JUNE 27: Bipartisan comprehensive immigration legislation passes the Senate

Oct. 1: Enrollment begins in health-care exchanges

OCTOBER 1 : Government shutdown begins, lasting until October 17

Oct. 21: Obama addresses problems associated with HealthCare.Gov

Oct. 23: Der Spiegel reports German Chancellor Merkel's "strong suspicion" of NSA tracking her phone

JANUARY 9, 2014: Chris Christie says he “knew nothing” and was “misled” by his staff about the closure of lanes on the George Washington Bridge

Jan. 17: Obama calls for significant changes in NSA data-collection methods

April 2: U.S. Supreme Court strikes down limits on total individual campaign contributions

APRIL 10: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius resigns

April 17: Obama announces 8 million enrolled in health-care exchanges

May 6: Thom Tillis wins GOP Senate primary in North Carolina

May 20: Mitch McConnell wins GOP Senate primary in Kentucky

May 27: Rep. Ralph Hall (R-TX) becomes first congressional incumbent to lose a primary/runoff

MAY 30: Obama accepts Eric Shinseki's resignation after scandal engulfs Veterans Department

May 31: Obama announces release of U.S. soldier Bowe Bergdahl from Taliban captivity

JUNE 10: House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) loses GOP primary

June 24: Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) wins GOP runoff, despite finishing second in original primary

July 17: Surface-to-air missile destroys Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 over Eastern Ukraine

Aug. 5: Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) wins GOP primary

Aug. 7: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) wins GOP primary

Aug. 8: U.S. begins first airstrikes against ISIS – outside of Kurdish city of Erbil

Aug. 9: Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie (D) loses primary

Aug. 9: Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, is shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson, MO

AUGUST 19: ISIS releases video showing beheading of American journalist James Foley

Sept. 3: Democratic Senate nominee in Kansas, Chad Taylor, withdraws from race

Sept. 6: White House announces it will delay executive action on immigration until after the midterms

Sept. 10: Obama delivers primetime speech outlining U.S. strategy against ISIS

SEPTEMBER 22: U.S. launches first airstrikes against ISIS in Syria

Oct. 8: Thomas Eric Duncan dies of Ebola in Dallas, Texas

WHO VOTED – AND HOW – IN THE LAST KEY ELECTIONS?

Key exit poll data from 2006, 2010 and 2012

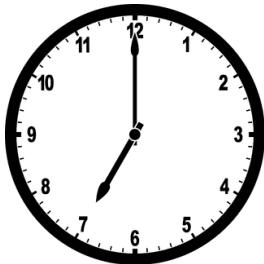
EXIT POLLS			
Gender	2012 Presidential	2010 House	2006 House
Men	Romney 52-45 (47% of total)	Rep 55-41 (48% total)	Dem 50-47 (49% of total)
Women	Obama 55-44 (53% of total)	Rep 49-48 (52% total)	Dem 55-43 (51% of total)
<u>Key subgroups</u>			
Women – not married	Obama 67-31 (23% of total)	-----	Dem 66-32 (18% of total)
Men – married	Romney 60-38 (29% of total)	-----	Rep 51-47 (35% of total)
White men	Romney 62-35 (34% of total)	Rep 62-34 (38% of total)	Rep 53-44 (39% of total)
White women	Romney 56-42 (38% of total)	Rep 58-39 (40% of total)	Rep 50-49 (40% of total)
Race	2012	2010	2006
White	Romney 59-39 (72% of total)	Rep 60-37 (77% of total)	Rep 51-47 (79% of total)
Black	Obama 93-6 (13% total)	Dem 89-9 (11% of total)	Dem 89-10 (10% of total)
Hispanic	Obama 71-27 (10% of total)	Dem 60-38 (8% of total)	Dem 69-30 (8% of total)
Asian	Obama 73-26 (3% of total)	Dem 58-40 (2% of total)	Dem 62-37 (2% of total)
Other	Obama 58-38 (2% of total)	Dem 53-44 (2% total)	Dem 55-42 (2% of total)
Age	2012	2010	2006
18-24	Obama 60-36 (11% of total)	Dem 57-39 (6% of total)	-----
18-29	Obama 60-37 (19% of total)	Dem 55-42 (12% of total)	Dem 60-38 (12% of total)
25-29	Obama 60-38 (8% of total)	Dem 54-44 (6% of total)	-----
30-39	Obama 55-42 (17% of total)	Rep 48-47 (14% of total)	-----
30-44	Obama 52-45 (27% of total)	Rep 50-46 (24% of total)	Dem 53-45 (24% of total)
40-49	Romney 50-48 (20% of total)	Rep 54-43 (21% of total)	-----
45-59	-----	-----	Dem 53-46 (34% of total)
50-64	Romney 52-47 (28% of total)	Rep 52-46 (32% of total)	-----
60+	-----	-----	Dem 50-48 (29% of total)
65+	Romney 56-44 (16% of total)	Rep 59-38 (21% of total)	49-49 (19% of total)
Education	2012	2010	2006
No high school diploma	Obama 64-35 (3% of total)	Dem 57-36 (3% of total)	Dem 64-35 (3% of total)
High school graduate	Obama 51-48 (21% of total)	Rep 52-46 (17% of total)	Dem 55-44 (21% of total)
Some college or assoc. degree	Obama 49-48 (29% of total)	Rep 53-43 (28% of total)	Dem 51-47 (31% of total)
College graduate	Romney 51-47 (29% of total)	Rep 58-40 (30% of total)	49-49 (27% of total)
Postgrad study	Obama 55-42 (18% of total)	Dem 53-45 (21% of total)	Dem 58-41 (18% of total)
College graduate	Obama 50-48 (47% of total)	Rep 53-45 (52% of total)	Dem 53-46 (45% of total)
No college degree	Obama 51-47 (53% of total)	Rep 52-45 (48% of total)	Dem 53-45 (55% of total)
Income	2012	2010	2006
Under \$30,000	Obama 63-33 (20% total)	Dem 57-40 (17% of total)	Dem 64-33 (19% of total)
\$30-50,000	Obama 57-42 (21% of total)	Dem 51-46 (19% of total)	Dem 56-43 (21% of total)
\$50-100,000	Romney 52-46 (31% total)	Rep 53-44 (37% of total)	Dem 51-48 (38% of total)
\$100-200,000	Romney 54-44 (21% of total)	Rep 56-43 (19% of total)	Rep 51-47 (18% of total)
Over \$200,000	Romney 54-45 (7% of total)	Rep 64-34 (8% of total)	Rep 53-45 (5% of total)

WHO VOTED – AND HOW – IN THE LAST KEY ELECTIONS?

Key exit poll data from 2006, 2010 and 2012

EXIT POLLS			
Party Identification	2012	2010	2006
Democrat	Obama 92-7 (38% of total)	Dem 91-7 (35% of total)	Dem 93-7 (38% of total)
Republican	Romney 93-6 (32% of total)	Rep 94-5 (35% of total)	Rep 91-8 (36% of total)
Independent/Other	Romney 50-45 (29% of total)	Rep 56-37 (29% of total)	Dem 57-39 (26% of total)
Ideology	2012	2010	2006
Liberal	Obama 86-11 (25% of total)	Dem 90-8 (20% of total)	Dem 87-11 (20% of total)
Moderate	Obama 56-41 (41% of total)	Dem 55-42 (38% of total)	Dem 60-38 (47% of total)
Conservative	Romney 82-17 (35% of total)	Rep 84-13 (42% of total)	Rep 78-20 (32% of total)
Religion	2012	2010	2006
Protestant/Other Christian	Romney 57-42 (53% of total)	Rep 59-38 (55% of total)	Rep 54-44 (55% of total)
Catholic	Obama 50-48 (25% of total)	Rep 54-44 (23% of total)	Dem 55-44 (26% of total)
Jewish	Obama 69-30 (2% of total)	-- (2% of total)	Dem 87-12 (2% of total)
Other	Obama 74-23 (7% of total)	Dem 74-24 (8% of total)	Dem 71-25 (6% of total)
None	Obama 70-26 (12% of total)	Dem 68-30 (12% of total)	Dem 74-22 (11% of total)
Condition of economy	2012	2010	2006
Excellent/good	Obama 90-9 (23% of total)	Dem 77-20 (9% of total)	Rep 70-28 (49% of voters)
Not so good/poor	Romney 60-38 (77% of total)	Rep 56-41 (90% of total)	Dem 77-21 (50% of voters)

Most important issue (of the 4)	2012
Economy	Romney 51-47 (59% of total)
Health care	Obama 75-24 (18% of total)
Federal budget deficit	Romney 66-32 (15% of total)
Foreign policy	Obama 56-33 (5% of total)
Most important issue (of the 4)	2010
Economy	Rep 54-43 (63% of total)
Health Care	Dem 51-47 (18% of total)
Illegal Immigration	Rep 68-26 (8% of total)
War in Afghanistan	Dem 58-40 (7% of total)



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 7:00 PM ET

(GEORGIA, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, SOUTH CAROLINA, VERMONT, VIRGINIA)

GEORGIA

- SENATE:** Newcomers **David Perdue** (R) and **Michelle Nunn** (D) – the former manager of the George H.W. Bush-founded Points of Light Foundation -- may not have previous political experience, but both hope to leverage deep family ties in the state. (Perdue is the cousin of former governor Sonny Perdue, while Nunn is the daughter of longtime Sen. Sam Nunn.)
- GOVERNOR:** Democrat **Jason Carter**, the grandson of former President Jimmy Carter, has given the party a shot at unseating incumbent Republican **Nathan Deal**, who's struggled with ethics issues.
- HOUSE, GA-12:** The last white Democratic congressman in the Deep South, **John Barrow** is a perennial but resilient target for Republicans, who think they might finally have the right candidate this year in construction company owner **Rick Allen**.

INDIANA

- HOUSE, IN-2:** Republican **Jackie Walorski** is a top target on Democrats' list after a close win in 2012. She's up against Democrat **Joe Bock**, an expert in humanitarian aid and disaster response.

KENTUCKY

- SENATE:** In one of the most high-profile races in the country, Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes is trying to unseat powerful Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. While McConnell doesn't exactly enjoy sky-high approval in the state, Grimes must distance herself from a president who's widely unpopular there.

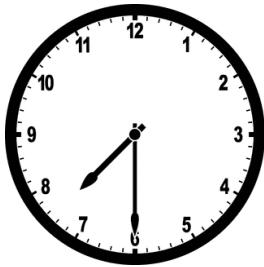
SOUTH CAROLINA

- GOVERNOR :** South Carolina Gov. **Nikki Haley** faces a rematch against Democrat **Vincent Sheheen**, who lost the 2010 contest to her by a little less than five percentage points.

VERMONT No major races to watch.

VIRGINIA

- SENATE:** Incumbent Democrat **Mark Warner**, a former governor, remains popular in the state, but he's getting a challenge from Republican **Ed Gillespie**, a lobbyist and former RNC chair.
- HOUSE, VA-10:** Republicans feel they're well positioned to hand retiring Rep. Frank Wolf's seat off to one of his former aides, state Delegate **Barbara Comstock**, a former RNC oppo researcher and Oversight panel lawyer known for digging up dirt on the Clinton family and Al Gore. She faces Fairfax County Supervisor **John Foust**.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 7:30 PM ET

(NORTH CAROLINA, OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA)

NORTH CAROLINA

- SENATE:** Freshman Sen. **Kay Hagan** is counting on big turnout from minorities and women to buoy her above Republican House Speaker **Thom Tillis**.
- HOUSE, NC-2:** American Idol runner-up **Clay Aiken** has gotten plenty of media attention for his turn from entertainment to politics as he tries to unseat Rep. **Renee Ellmers**, but he's a longshot in this heavily Republican district.

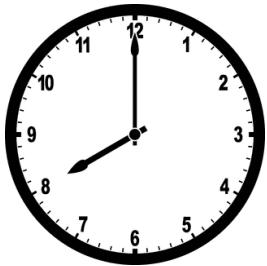
OHIO No major races to watch.

WEST VIRGINIA

- SENATE:** West Virginia is one state where Democrats are all but certain to lose a Senate seat with the retirement of Jay Rockefeller. In a coal-heavy state with little warmth for President Barack Obama, Secretary of State **Natalie Tennant** is little match for Republican Rep. **Shelley Moore Capito**, who's expected to win soundly.

FIRST READ FAST FACT

There are 310 female candidates who ran for governor, House, and Senate, including in primaries. That's fewer than last cycle, when there were 339 female candidates for the same offices.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 8:00 PM ET

(ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, FLORIDA, ILLINOIS, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, TENNESSEE, WASHINGTON DC)

ALABAMA No major races to watch.

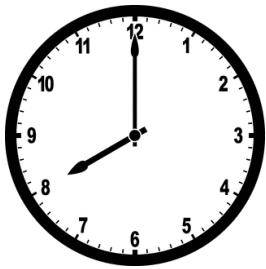
CONNECTICUT

- GOVERNOR:** Incumbent Democrat **Dan Malloy** isn't terribly popular in the state, and he's facing a tough challenge from his 2010 GOP foe (and onetime U.S. ambassador to Ireland) **Tom Foley**.

DELAWARE No major races to watch.

FLORIDA

- GOVERNOR:** Republican Gov. **Rick Scott** barely won in 2010, and he's suffered from poor approval ratings during his tenure. His opponent is Republican-turned-independent-turned-Democrat **Charlie Crist**, who's got plenty of charisma but may have trouble shaking the perception of political opportunism.
- HOUSE, FL-2:** Tea Party Rep. **Steve Southerland** was swept into office in the 2010 wave. Despite the district's GOP lean, he's got a formidable challenger this cycle from Democrat **Gwen Graham**, the daughter of beloved former Sen. and Gov. Bob Graham.
- HOUSE, FL-18:** Democratic incumbent **Patrick Murphy**, who defeated polarizing Republican Allen West two years ago by fewer than 2,000 votes, is running against Republican **Carl Domino**.
- HOUSE, FL-26:** Incumbent Democrat **Joe Garcia** and Republican **Carlos Curbelo** are both fighting accusations of ethical impropriety in this heavily Latino Miami-area district.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 8:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, FLORIDA, ILLINOIS, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, TENNESSEE, WASHINGTON DC)

ILLINOIS

- GOVERNOR:** Gov. Pat Quinn is one of the most unpopular politicians in the country, so he's one of the most vulnerable – even in this reliably blue state. Businessman Bruce Rauner is making this a real race, although Democrats are painting him as a Romney-esque rich guy who can't relate to everyday voters.
- HOUSE, IL-10:** GOP Rep. Robert Dold is making a comeback bid against the man who ousted him from his suburban Chicago seat in 2012, Democrat Brad Schneider.
- HOUSE, IL-12:** In 2012, Bill Enyart proved to be a stronger-than-expected Democratic candidate. Now, he's facing 10-term state House member Mike Bost (whose name might be familiar from his viral paper-throwing rant at the Illinois General Assembly in 2012).

MAINE

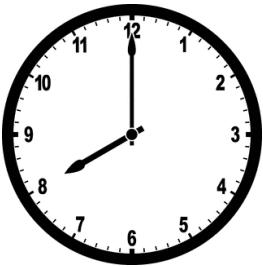
- Governor:** GOP Maine Gov. Paul LePage has made plenty of headlines for his not-so politically correct statements since being elected in a three-way race in 2010. He could win again -- mostly because the anti-LePage vote could once again be split between an independent, Eliot Cutler, and a Democrat, Rep. Mike Michaud.

MARYLAND

- Governor:** Republican businessman Larry Hogan has surprised political observers by remaining fairly competitive in this race against Democrat Anthony Brown. But Brown is still favored to win in this heavily Democratic state.

MASSACHUSETTS

- Governor:** Remember Martha Coakley? The Democratic attorney general who couldn't beat Scott Brown is in a close race for governor in heavily blue Massachusetts. Her GOP opponent is former health care CEO Charlie Baker.
- House, MA-6:** Incumbent Democrat John Tierney got beat in the state's late primary by Iraq veteran Seth Moulton. Moulton will face previous candidate and former state senator Richard Tisei, one of the few openly gay Republicans running this cycle.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 8:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, FLORIDA, ILLINOIS, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, TENNESSEE, WASHINGTON DC)

MISSISSIPPI

- Senate:** Thad Cochran barely survived a drawn-out primary challenge by state Sen. Chris McDaniel, who still argues that Cochran's courtship of African-American voters constituted voter fraud. But despite Cochran's near-loss, Democratic rival and former congressman **Travis Childers** faces an uphill battle in this heavily Republican state

MISSOURI No major races to watch.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- GOVERNOR:** In this politically unpredictable state, incumbent Democratic Gov. **Maggie Hassan** has been polling ahead of GOP nominee **Walt Havenstein**, who's new to politics and relatively unknown.
- SENATE:** Former Massachusetts Sen. **Scott Brown** is now the Republican nominee for Senate in neighboring New Hampshire. He'll have to fight accusations of carpetbagging in his effort to bring down incumbent Democrat **Jeanne Shaheen**.
- HOUSE, NH-1:** Democrat **Carol Shea-Porter** and Republican **Frank Guinta** have been battling each other for this seat for going on 10 years. Shea-Porter won it in 2006 against Jeb Bradley, lost it in 2010 to Guinta and won it back in 2012. But without the president on the ballot, Guinta may have the advantage this cycle.
- HOUSE, NH-2:** GOP state Rep. **Marilinda Garcia** is everything Republicans could want in a rising star—she's young, telegenic and Hispanic. She's also an unapologetic conservative (she suggested that the president has "many, many impeachable offenses") who may just be too far to the right in a district that's supported Obama by double digits twice. She's facing incumbent Democrat Rep. **Ann McLane Kuster**.

NEW JERSEY

- House, NJ-3:** Tom MacArthur, an insurance company CEO and former mayor of Randolph, recently moved to the Burlington area district from northern New Jersey. But with deep pockets, he's considered to be a favorite over Democratic challenger **Aimee Belgard**.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 8:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, FLORIDA, ILLINOIS, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, TENNESSEE, WASHINGTON DC)

OKLAHOMA No major races to watch.

PENNSYLVANIA

- GOVERNOR:** Plagued by poor approval ratings, Republican **Tom Corbett** is in deep trouble. Businessman **Tom Wolf**, who beat early frontrunner Allyson Schwartz in the Democratic primary, seems poised to oust him after just one term.

RHODE ISLAND

- GOVERNOR:** If she can hold off Republican **Allan Fung**, Democratic State Treasurer **Gina Raimondo** will be Rhode Island's first female governor.

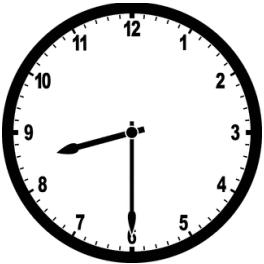
TENNESSEE

- SENATE:** Lamar Alexander survived a primary challenge from state Rep. Joe Carr and is well positioned in this heavily Republican state. The Democrat in the race, **Gordon Ball**, is an attorney who's put a LOT of his own money into his effort.

FIRST READ FAST FACT

The most conservative congressional district in the country is TX-13 in the Texas Panhandle. It's currently held by Republican Mac Thornberry.

This district's voters chose Romney over Obama 80% to 19% in 2012.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 8:30 PM ET

(ARKANSAS)

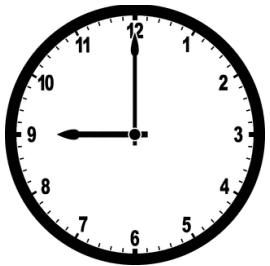
ARKANSAS

- GOVERNOR:** The race to replace term-limited Gov. Mike Beebe is a competitive matchup between two ex-congressmen: Democrat **Mike Ross** and Republican **Asa Hutchinson**. Democrats in both the Senate and gubernatorial races will have to contend with Obama's dismal approval rating in the low 30s.
- SENATE:** The contest between Republican Rep. **Tom Cotton** and Democratic Sen. **Mark Pryor** is one of the most closely watched in the country. Pryor has deep roots in the state, while Cotton has a military background and anti-Obama momentum on his side.
- HOUSE, AR-2:** Democrats are bullish about candidate **Patrick Henry Hays**, the former six-term mayor of North Little Rock, in this Republican-leaning district. He's facing banker **French Hill** in the open seat race to replace Republican Tim Griffin.
- HOUSE, AR-4:** Clinton-era FEMA director **James Lee Witt** hopes he can overcome the district's deepening red hue in this race against Republican state House Majority Leader **Bruce Westerman**. They're vying to replace Tom Cotton, who's running for Senate.

FIRST READ FAST FACT

*The most liberal congressional district in the country is NY-15, in the South Bronx.
It's currently held by Democrat Jose Serrano*

Its voters chose Obama over Romney 97% to 3% in 2012.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 9:00 PM ET

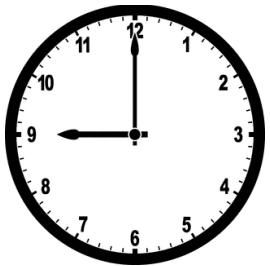
(ARIZONA, COLORADO, KANSAS, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, WISCONSIN, WYOMING)

ARIZONA

- GOVERNOR:** The candidates vying to replace term-limited GOP Gov. Jan Brewer are Democrat **Fred DuVal**, a former Clinton staffer and Board of Regents head, and Republican State Treasurer **Doug Ducey**, who helped found Cold Stone Creamery.
- HOUSE: AZ-1:** Democrat **Ann Kirkpatrick** is fighting to keep a seat she lost in 2010 but won back in 2012. Her opponent is Republican House Speaker **Andy Tobin**.
- HOUSE: AZ-2:** **Martha McSally**, the first female fighter pilot to fly in combat, came within a point of beating Democrat **Ron Barber** two years ago. Barber's getting a boost in ads from his old boss and predecessor, gun violence victim Gabrielle Giffords.
- HOUSE, AZ-9:** Freshman Democrat **Kyrsten Sinema** won with less than 50 percent of the vote in 2012, but has worked hard to reach out to business groups and portray herself as a centrist since foes tried to brand her as a radical liberal last cycle. Her opponent, retired Air Force pilot **Wendy Rogers**, is well behind Sinema in fundraising.

COLORADO

- GOVERNOR:** Incumbent **John Hickenlooper** is getting a formidable challenge from former congressman **Bob Beauprez**, who (to the relief of Republicans) beat anti-immigration candidate Tom Tancredo in the GOP primary. Hickenlooper has struggled with perceived indecision on the issues of gun control and capital punishment.
- SENATE:** In another of the nation's marquee Senate races, incumbent Democrat **Mark Udall** faces Republican Rep. **Cory Gardner**. Women's issues – particularly contraception -- and immigration have played big in this race as Democrats try to boost turnout in this purple-trending state.
- HOUSE, CO-6:** The battle between Republican incumbent **Mike Coffman** and former Colorado House Speaker **Andrew Romanoff** is slated to be one of the tightest and most expensive House races in the country.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 9:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ARIZONA, COLORADO, KANSAS, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, WISCONSIN, WYOMING)

KANSAS

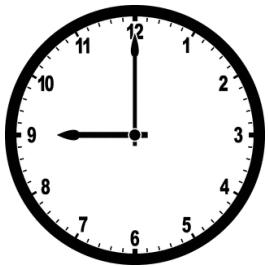
- GOVERNOR:** Republicans are generally fans of spending cuts, but the ones made by Gov. **Sam Brownback** were so deep that he now faces a financial crisis – and substantial backlash from his own party. Democrat **Paul Davis**, the state House minority leader, isn't well known in the state, but he's getting serious traction because of Brownback's unpopularity.
- SENATE:** With Democratic Senate candidate Chad Taylor deciding to drop his bid late in the race, it's a brawl between incumbent Sen. Pat Roberts – who faces questions about his residency – and independent Greg Orman. This wasn't supposed to be a race at all; now, it could be a barnburner.

LOUISIANA

- SENATE:** Democratic incumbent **Mary Landrieu** is one of the most vulnerable senators in the country. She's hoping to hold off a challenge from Republican Rep. **Bill Cassidy**. But there's a twist: Louisiana law requires that one candidate get to 50 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff. That doesn't look likely, so this one may be going into overtime – until a runoff election Dec. 6.

MICHIGAN

- GOVERNOR:** Onetime Gateway Computers president **Rick Snyder** ran four years ago as “one tough nerd,” winning by nearly 20 points in the fairly Democratic-leaning state. Now, he’s battling unions in the state displeased with his Republican policies. This could be a down-to-the-wire race between Snyder and Democratic nominee **Mark Schauer**, a former congressman.
- SENATE:** Democrat Rep. **Gary Peters** appears to have opened up a lead over Republican candidate **Terri Lynn Land**, Michigan’s former secretary of state. The winner replaces retiring Sen. Carl Levin.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 9:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ARIZONA, COLORADO, KANSAS, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, WISCONSIN, WYOMING)

MINNESOTA

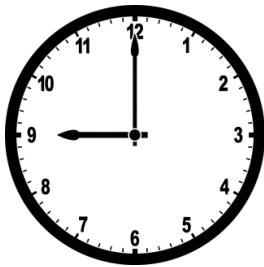
- GOVERNOR:** Mark Dayton barely won his seat four years ago. But in this blue state, he's doing well in his re-election bid against the Republican in the race, Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson.
- SENATE:** Speaking of past close races... Six years ago, Al Franken's race against Norm Coleman was so close that it was contested for months in an intense legal battle. Now, the Democrat doesn't appear to be facing another nailbiter; he's comfortably leading Republican Senate nominee Mike McFadden in public polls.
- HOUSE, MN-2:** GOP Rep. John Kline is seeking a seventh term in this recently redistricted seat. Democratic challenger Mike Obermuller came within eight points of ousting him in 2012. HBO comedian Bill Maher has Kline in his sights in a segment called "Flip a District."
- HOUSE, MN-8:** Democrat Rick Nolan took a three-decade break from Congress before returning to the Hill last cycle. But he's been outraised by Republican rival and wealthy businessman Stewart Mills. Mills is sure to get some media attention for more than just his quarterly FEC filings; with long blond hair and good looks, he's been dubbed the "Brad Pitt of the Republican Party."

NEBRASKA

- HOUSE, NE-2:** Republican Lee Terry faces a challenge from Democratic state Sen. Brad Ashford in this Omaha-area district.

NEW MEXICO

- GOVERNOR:** Susana Martinez, sometimes mentioned as a potential GOP candidate for national office, is leading Democratic challenger and attorney general Gary King – the son of a three-term governor of the state.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

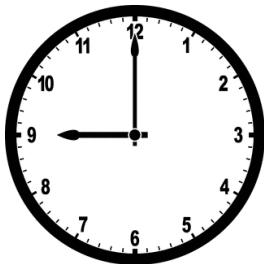
FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 9:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ARIZONA, COLORADO, KANSAS, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, WISCONSIN, WYOMING)

NEW YORK

- GOVERNOR:** Liberal Democrats haven't been too enamored of Gov. **Andrew Cuomo** for what they call his failures to advance some progressive agenda items (as well as an ongoing fracas over an anti-corruption commission). About a third of Democrats registered that discontent by voting for primary opponent Zephyr Teachout. But in this blue state, Cuomo's still running strong against Republican **Rob Astorino**.
- HOUSE, NY-1:** Republican **Lee Zeldin** will be the House's only Jewish Republican (following the defeat of Eric Cantor) if he wins this rematch of his 2008 contest against Democratic Rep. **Tim Bishop**.
- HOUSE, NY-11:** A 20-count federal indictment against incumbent Rep. **Michael Grimm** hasn't made this a slam dunk for his Democratic opponent, **Domenic Recchia**. Many voters in this mostly Staten Island district like Grimm's unapologetic style. Plus, Recchia is from rival borough Brooklyn.
- HOUSE, NY-19:** Venture capitalist **Sean Eldridge**, the husband of Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, moved to this Catskills-area district to challenge Republican Rep. **Chris Gibson**, an Iraq war veteran. Eldridge will have plenty of cash to compete in this pricey area, but he'll have to fight perceptions that he's an overly ambitious rich outsider.
- HOUSE NY-21:** Republican **Elise Stefanik** would be the youngest woman ever elected to Congress if she wins in November. She's favored over documentary filmmaker **Aaron Woolf** in this open seat race.
- HOUSE, NY-23:** Republican Rep. **Tom Reed** managed a narrow win again in 2012, and Democrats would love to take him down for good in 2014 – especially after the Buffalo News reported last year that he'd been late on his property taxes 38 times in 8 years. Tompkins County Legislator **Martha Robertson** is Democrats' pick to challenge him.

NORTH DAKOTA No major races to watch.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 9:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ARIZONA, COLORADO, KANSAS, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, WISCONSIN, WYOMING)

SOUTH DAKOTA

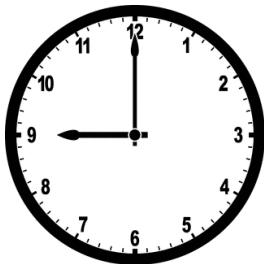
- SENATE:** Independent candidate and former senator **Larry Pressler** is mixing up this race, which had been looking like a sure thing for Republicans. He's performing well in the competition with Democrat **Rick Weiland** and former GOP governor **Mike Rounds**. Rounds is still a favorite, but it's become an unpredictable contest.

TEXAS

- GOVERNOR:** Despite national name recognition, Democrat **Wendy Davis** – famous for her filibuster of Texas abortion restrictions – hasn't run the kind of campaign she needed to turn this demographically-changing state blue quite yet. Former Attorney General **Greg Abbott**, who's been confined to a wheelchair since a tree fell on him at age 26, is favored to take the job from retiring Gov. Rick Perry.
- LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:** Republican **Dan Patrick**, a Houston radio show host, knocked off incumbent David Dewhurst in a hard-fought primary. Democrat **Leticia Van de Putte**, a state senator, is trying to knock the conservative firebrand off balance in the waning days of the election.
- HOUSE, TX-23:** Immigration is a huge issue in this southern Texas district, where seven in 10 residents are Hispanic, and where voters narrowly picked Mitt Romney over Barack Obama in 2012. Freshman Democrat **Pete Gallego**, who is Hispanic, is in a fairly competitive race with former CIA officer **Will Hurd**.

WISCONSIN

- GOVERNOR:** Republican Gov. **Scott Walker** is facing his third election in just four years after he survived a recall in 2012. He's been talked about as a potential 2016 candidate, but first he'll have to fend off a surprisingly resilient challenge from **Mary Burke**, whose father founded the Trek Bicycle company.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

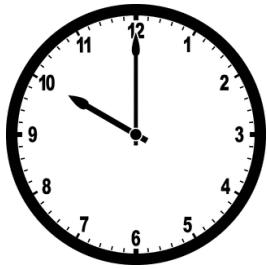
The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 9:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(ARIZONA, COLORADO, KANSAS, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, WISCONSIN, WYOMING)

WYOMING

- SENATE:** Mike Enzi is set for re-election – but what's noteworthy about this race is what didn't happen. Liz Cheney, daughter of the former vice president, dropped her primary challenge against Enzi in January, citing family reasons. The Democrat is former priest **Charlie Hardy**.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

**FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 10:00 PM ET
(IOWA, MONTANA, NEVADA, UTAH)**

IOWA

- GOVERNOR:** Gov. Terry Branstad is expected to cruise to re-election. He's popular in the state, and his name at the top of the ticket could be a boon for other Republicans on the ballot. Democrats had trouble recruiting a challenger to Branstad, ending up with state Sen. **Jack Hatch**.
- SENATE:** The Senate race between Republican **Joni Ernst** and Democrat **Bruce Braley** is one of the nation's hottest contests. Not only is it a key race for determining Senate control, there are also high stakes for Iowa and 2016. If she wins, Ernst would be the first woman elected to Congress from Iowa. And the winner will instantly become a must-seek endorsement for 2016 presidential candidates.
- HOUSE, IA-3:** Former Chuck Grassley staffer **David Young** won the GOP nomination after a contentious convention in June. One of the Republicans he beat out, Brad Zaun, threatened an independent bid but eventually backed down. This race is a toss-up between Young and Democrat **Staci Appel**.

MONTANA

- SENATE:** Max Baucus' decision to retire may have cost Democrats their Senate control. After top recruit former Gov. Brian Schweitzer declined to run, they settled on Lt. Gov. John Walsh. Walsh was forced to end his campaign in August due to a plagiarism scandal. The Democratic candidate is now state Rep. **Amanda Curtis**, who'll face overwhelming front-runner GOP Rep. **Steve Daines**.

NEVADA

- LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:** This downballot race is worth mentioning, and not just because of the stakes for the governorship of the state. Republicans would like to see the current governor, Brian Sandoval, challenge Harry Reid in 2016 if he can leave the job in the hands of a GOP lieutenant. Their candidate is state Sen. **Mark Hutchinson**. But the Democrat in the race may be the most compelling part of the story; Assemblywoman **Lucy Flores** is a former gang member who grew up stealing cars in Las Vegas.

UTAH

- HOUSE: UT-4:** **Mia Love** is poised to become the first Republican black woman elected to Congress if she wins this race, her second attempt at the seat. She narrowly lost to Democrat Jim Matheson in 2012, but he's retiring. The Mormon mom of three is now facing attorney **Doug Owens**, and she's the big favorite in this heavily conservative district.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 11:00 PM ET

(CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON)

CALIFORNIA

- GOVERNOR:** Democrat **Jerry Brown** is already the longest-serving governor in the state's history. The man once ridiculed as "Governor Moonbeam" is a much more pragmatic pol than his 1970s nickname might suggest – and he's on a glide path to his fourth term. He's expected to easily beat Republican and former Bush Treasury official **Neel Kashkari**.
- HOUSE, CA-7:** Freshman **Ami Bera** is a top target for Republicans, who think they have a strong challenger in former Rep. **Doug Ose**. But Bera, a doctor and the only Indian American currently serving in Congress, has a deep donor network.
- HOUSE, CA-21:** – Incumbent Rep. **David Valadao** is one of just five Republicans in a seat won by Obama in 2012 by more than 52 percent of the vote, making him a prime Democratic target. In this heavily Hispanic district, disapproval of congressional Republicans – especially on immigration – could help push challenger **Amanda Renteria** to victory, even though Valadao has tried to distance himself from his party on the issue by vocally supporting comprehensive immigration reform.
- HOUSE, CA-26:** Republicans list challenger **Jeff Gorrell** as one of their top challengers this cycle as they hope to knock out freshman Democratic Rep. **Julia Brownley**. Gorrell is a decorated Afghanistan war veteran as well as a former criminal prosecutor and budget vice chairman in the state assembly.
- HOUSE, CA-31:** Democrat **Pete Aguilar** scraped into this general election contest, barely clinging to second place in the state's jungle primary in June. In the wake of the retirement of GOP Rep. Gary Miller, Aguilar looks like a favorite against GOP businessman Paul Chabot.
- HOUSE, CA-52:** Candidate Carl DeMaio was raised by Jesuits after his young mother's death and is one of a handful of openly gay GOP candidates. He's running against Democratic incumbent **Scott Peters**, one of the House's top self-funders. DeMaio has been accused of sexual harassment by a former staffer, an allegation he vigorously denies.



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 11:00 PM ET, CONTINUED

(CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON)

HAWAII

- GOVERNOR:** Incumbent Neil Abercrombie lost his primary against state Sen. **David Ige**, who's now trying to keep the governorship in Democratic hands in the race against former Lt. Gov. **Duke Aiona**. This is a complex race though; Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann is also in the mix, running as an independent.
- HOUSE, HI-1:** Democrat and state lawmaker **Mark Takai** is facing Republican former Rep. **Charles Djou** in this close race. Djou could be helped by strong performance by fellow Republican Duke Aiona in the governor's race.

IDAHO No major races to watch.

OREGON

- SENATE:** Incumbent Democrat **Jeff Merkley** could have been in trouble this cycle, but the Republican candidate in this race – pediatric neurosurgeon **Monica Wehby** -- has struggled despite moderate positions that made her relatively palatable on paper for voters in this blue state. She's had to face reports of past "stalking" incidents involving a former boyfriend and ex-husband, and she's also had to deal with a web site plagiarism dust-up.

WASHINGTON No major races to watch.

FIRST READ FAST FACT

*Of the 233 congressional districts currently held by Republicans,
87 have a Latino population over 10%.*



MIDTERMS 2014: A VIEWER'S GUIDE

The nation's top races to watch, listed by poll closing time

**FINAL POLLS CLOSE at 1:00 AM ET
(ALASKA)**

ALASKA

- GOVERNOR:** Gov. Sean Parnell's life got a lot more complicated in September, when his two opponents – Independent **Bill Walker** and Democrat Byron Mallot – agreed to join forces in a unity ticket against him. Walker is now facing the Republican Parnell in a two-man race, with Mallot running for lieutenant governor instead.
- SENATE:** Incumbent Democrat **Mark Begich** and Republican **Dan Sullivan** have pulled no punches in this tight contest. Begich has worked to distance himself from Obama – including a vote against the president's plan to arm the Syrian rebels.

TOP BALLOT INITIATIVES AROUND THE COUNTRY

Some of the hot-button issues facing voters on the 2014 ballot

ABORTION

COLORADO, Measure 5 (Amendment 67): A “personhood” abortion ban, includes unborn human beings in Colorado criminal code

NORTH DAKOTA, Measure 1: Defines life as beginning of conception; provides “inalienable right to life” at every stage in human development

TENNESSEE, Amendment 1: Adds language to TN Constitution empowering legislature to enact, amend or repeal state statutes regarding abortion

EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, Initiative 1351: Requires fewer students per classroom in grades K-12 (*would require hiring of some 15,000 new teachers*)

MISSOURI, Amendment 3: Implements teacher performance evaluations used to determine if a teacher should be dismissed, retained, demoted or promoted (*also prevents collective bargaining against these terms*)

FIREARMS

ALABAMA, Amendment 3: Amends constitution to "provide that every citizen has a fundamental right to bear arms and that any restriction on this right would be subject to strict scrutiny."

WASHINGTON, Initiatives 591 and 594 (counter-measures): Prevents government from confiscating firearms without due process and prevents statewide background checks unless federal standard is established; Implements standardized background check prior to any gun purchase, including private sales

HEALTH CARE

ARIZONA, (HCR 2005): Allows certain non-approved drugs/treatments to be eligible for terminally ill patients

CALIFORNIA, Propositions 45 and 46: Requires public notice for insurance company rates initiative; Medical malpractice lawsuits cap and drug testing of doctors

ILLINOIS, Amendment to HB5755: Asks voters whether prescription birth control should be covered in health insurance plans with prescription drug coverage

LOUISIANA, Amendments 1 and 2 : Gives constitutional protection to the Medical Assistance Trust Fund; Creates a “Hospital Stabilization Fund,” which hospitals could deposit money in order to draw down more federal Medicaid matching funds

TOP BALLOT INITIATIVES, continued

Some of the hot-button issues facing voters on the 2014 ballot

HEALTH CARE, continued

[**MASSACHUSETTS, Question 4:**](#) Allows certain employees earned sick time

[**SOUTH DAKOTA, Measure 17:**](#) Ends restrictions placed by insurance companies on which health care providers their clients can and can't see

MARIJUANA

[**ALASKA, Measure 2:**](#) Allows adults 21 and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana and up to six marijuana plants.

[**WASHINGTON D.C., Measure 71:**](#) Allows adults 21 and older to possess up to two ounces of marijuana and up to six marijuana plants

[**FLORIDA, Amendment 2:**](#) Allows qualifying patients and personal caregivers to use marijuana for medical use

[**OREGON, Measure 91:**](#) Allows adults 21 and older to possess up to eight ounces of "dried" marijuana and up to four plants.

MINIMUM WAGE

Note: Since 2000, all 10 proposed minimum wage hikes have been approved

[**ALASKA: Measure 3:**](#) Increases state minimum wage to \$8.75 in 2015, \$9.75 in 2016 and adjusted for inflation thereafter

[**ARKANSAS: Act to Increase the Arkansas Minimum Wage:**](#) Increases state minimum wage from \$6.25 (federal minimum: \$7.25) to \$8.50

[**ILLINOIS:**](#) Asks voters (in a non-binding measure) if state minimum wage should increase to \$10

[**NEBRASKA, Measure 425:**](#) Increases state minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.00 in 2015, and \$9.00 in 2016

[**SOUTH DAKOTA, Measure 18:**](#) Increases state minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 in 2015, then annually adjusted by any increase in cost of living (measured by Consumer Price Index)

TOP BALLOT INITIATIVES, continued

Some of the hot-button issues facing voters on the 2014 ballot

POLITICAL REFORM

[**OREGON, Initiative 90:**](#) Creates top-two system of general election voting regardless of party

VOTING RIGHTS

[**CONNECTICUT: Question 1:**](#) Allows legislature to eliminate restrictions on early voting and expand absentee ballot access

[**ILLINOIS:**](#) Protects voter discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, etc.

[**MISSOURI, \(Amendment 6\):**](#) Requires six-day early voting period before a general election

[**MONTANA, \(Referendum 126\):**](#) Revises close of late voter registration (eliminate same-day voting)