

STATE & BROADWAY

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Contested Congressional Races

- NY 2nd - Congressman Peter King (R) is seeking a 14th term to this R+7.0 Long Island seat. King has spent years building a reputation as a moderate, independent voice within the Republican Party. His challenger, Liuba Grechen Shirley (D), made national headlines early on in her campaign when she successfully petitioned the Federal Election Commission for permission to use campaign funds to pay for child care (a new policy which has since been replicated by the state Board of Elections), and she has seen a late surge in fundraising. Though King remains the favorite, a lack of public polling data creates the possibility of a surprise upset on election night.
- NY 11th - Congressman Dan Donovan (R) survived a primary challenge from his predecessor, Michael Grimm, and now faces Army veteran Max Rose (D).



Pre-Election Update

The 2018 national midterms and state elections are tomorrow, November 6. While there are no assurances as to winners and losers, polls indicate that Democrats will do better in Congressional House races and Republicans in the US Senate. It is presumed that New York State election results will mirror national results, thus if a Democratic wave occurs, it will correlate in the Democrats taking control of the NY State Senate. If Republicans hold their own nationally, then Republicans may well continue with a majority in the NY State Senate.

In prelude to tomorrow's elections, we have put together a cheat sheet of election races that may be impactful on the organization of the 2019 NY State government or control of the federal government. While some pundits look to the latest polls to project likely winners, it should be noted that these surveys present a mere snapshot. And as we know, depending on methodology, many polls may not be accurate.

Donovan is the favorite to win reelection, however Rose has the goodwill and fundraising to take advantage of a blue wave if one floods this R+7.5 Staten Island district.

- NY 19th - First term
Congressman John Faso (R) is locked in a heated race against Antonio Delgado (D). This R+4.8 Hudson Valley district is closely watched every election cycle, and its perennial swing status has led to national attention, including scathing attack ads sponsored by national super PACs. Delgado has out-raised Faso, however it remains to be seen whether it is enough to break the Republican winning streak on this seat.
- NY 22nd - First term
Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R) is running for reelection in her Mohawk Valley district against challenger Anthony Brindisi (D), a moderate Democratic Assemblyman. Though Trump remains popular in this R+12.8 district, Tenney is anchored by high disapproval ratings within her own party, illustrated by her Republican predecessor, Richard Hanna, endorsing Brindisi. Polls consistently show Tenney and Brindisi neck and neck, thus this race remains a toss-up.

Statewide Races

Governor - Governor Cuomo has long recognized the national overtones of the election cycle, casting his own reelection as a counterweight to Trump. Heading into election day, Cuomo holds a commanding lead, though trending downward, over Marc Molinaro (R), as well as third party challengers Howie Hawkins (G), Larry Sharpe (L), and Stephanie Miner on the "Serve America Movement" (SAM) ballot line. The final Siena College poll of likely voters on November 4 shows Cuomo leading with 49% to Molinaro's 36%, with the third party candidates trailing, dividing 7% between them. The major questions in this race are likely to be: (1) Cuomo's margin of victory, which may influence his future ambitions, and (2) which third parties gain or lose permanent ballot status for the next four years.

To earn ballot status, a party's gubernatorial candidate needs to earn a minimum of 50K votes; parties are listed down the ballot ranked in order by the number of votes they receive. Hawkins' Green Party currently sits on Ballot Row D (after Democrats, Republicans, and the Conservative Party), while Sharpe appears



- NY 23rd - Congressman Tom Reed (R), long considered the safest bet for reelection among NY Republicans, saw his Democratic challenger Tracy Mitrano report raising just shy of a million dollars in her third quarter filings - outracing Reed by hundreds of thousands within that same period. At the same time, Mitrano has managed to significantly close the polling gap between her and Reed. Though Reed remains the odds-on favorite in this R+12.6 Southern Tier district, a Mitrano upset is within the realm of possibility.
- NY 27th - What began as a safe reelection bet for Congressman Chris Collins (R) in this R+22.8 Western New York district turned into a topsy turvy race against challenger Nate McMurray (D) after Collins was indicted on insider trading charges. Collins initially withdrew, but at the last minute opted to continue the race (hoping to coast to victory on GOP enrollment advantage), but McMurray has closed much of the gap between the two while vaulting ahead in fundraising. McMurray remains the underdog in this pro-Trump district, but anything could happen in this crazy race.

likely to deliver ballot status to the Libertarian Party for the first time after decades of failed attempts. If Miner can earn ballot status for SAM, the centrist party will begin a rollout in additional states with eyes towards running a third party presidential candidate in 2020. Additionally, it remains to be seen how the WFP will fare with its apprehensive endorsement of Cuomo (after originally nominating his progressive Democratic primary challenger Cynthia Nixon).

Attorney General - NYC Public Advocate Letitia James (D) remains the frontrunner to succeed Attorney General Barbara Underwood. James is leading her opponent, Keith Wofford (R), 49% to 37%. Assuming James prevails, a special election to succeed her as Public Advocate will be called by Mayor de Blasio, likely in February. With great confidence that James will win the Attorney General election, a number of politicians have already announced their intention to run for her current seat, including City Councilman Jumaane Williams (D) and Assemblyman Michael Blake (D).

Comptroller - Comptroller Tom DiNapoli is running a much more low-key race for his third full term. He is currently leading his opponent, Jonathan Trichter (R), by the highest margin of any statewide candidate - 62% to 25%. Keep an eye on the margins in this race to see if he can beat the record 72% reelection landslide won by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in 2012.

US Senate (Class 1) - Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D) is once again the overwhelming favorite to win reelection against her challenger, Chele Farley (R). What makes this race noteworthy is that, according to the New York Times, Senator Gillibrand "has invested zero dollars on television and has spent a fraction of what she did in 2012" and her "limited spending has been geared to an audience far beyond New York" as she makes appearances campaigning for candidates across the country. Despite pledging in a debate to serve out her full six-year term, Gillibrand will begin her new term with a federal campaign balance of over \$10 million - potentially seeding a 2020 presidential primary campaign.

State Senate Races

The major battlefield in New York's elections this year is the New York State Senate. When the legislature gavelled out in June, the Senate was evenly divided: 31-31 (with one vacancy). The Senate Republican Majority, built on an alliance of conservative upstate seats and moderate downstate seats, has seen its majority whittled away to the point of existential threat: Democrats need only net a single seat to gain control of the chamber (and single-party control of the entire state government).

The conventional wisdom holds that, with a number of open Republican seats to defend upstate combined with a potential blue wave in the suburbs, Democrats are modest favorites (though not guaranteed) to win control. If the Democrats do win control, Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (SD-35; Westchester) is poised to become the first female leader in New York. Here are the toss-up races, as well as Republican-leaning races where Democrats are on the offensive:

Upstate

- SD-3 - Assemblyman James Skoufis (D) is the favorite in his race against Tom Basile (R) to replace longtime Senator William Larkin (R). The district has shifted blue and the assumption is that without Larkin's decades of incumbency and goodwill, Skoufis has the advantage.
- SD-40 - Senator Terrence Murphy (R) faces Peter Hackam in a highly contentious campaign. While Democrats enjoy a significant enrollment advantage, this district has consistently voted to elect Republicans, with Senator Murphy seeking his third term.
- Murphy continues to be favored for reelection.
- SD-41 - This district has flipped between parties in recent years, however Senator Sue Serino (R) is favored to gain reelection over Karen Smythe (D).
- SD-42 - Orange County Clerk Ann Rabbit (R) is the favorite over Rosendale Councilwoman Jen Metzger (D) to hold this Republican-leaning seat vacated by Senator John Bonacic (R).
- SD-43 - Daphne Jordan (R) is the Republican running to replace retiring Senator Kathleen Marchione (R). She is the favorite over Aaron Gladd (D) in this conservative district, where the Republicans are trying to tie Gladd to the Governor, who is unpopular in the district.
- SD-50 - Onondaga County Comptroller Robert Antonacci (R) is running against high school teacher and first-time candidate John Mannion (D) to replace Senator John DeFrancisco. Though Antonacci was largely considered the favorite, the Democrats and Democratic-leaning groups have made a push to put this seat into play.

Downstate

- SD-3 - This seat opened up after Senator Tom Croci (R) opted to return to the Navy rather than seek reelection. Assemblyman Dean Murray (R) is running against Suffolk County Legislator Monica Martinez (D), who was recruited by Governor Cuomo to try and flip the seat. This seat has been the target of huge last-minute investments, with both sides hoping to secure victory.
- SD-4 - Senator Phil Boyle (R) is facing former Suffolk County Legislator Louis D'Amaro (D), another recruit of Governor Cuomo. Conventional wisdom holds that this seat leans towards Boyle, however there remains the possibility of an upset.
- SD-5 - Senator Carl Marcellino (R) is locked in a tight race against challenger James Gaughran (D) in this Long Island district. In 2016, Clinton won this suburban district by +3 percentage points and Marcellino himself scraped by with a margin of 1.2 percentage points against Gaughran in an arguably more favorable electoral environment. Both parties recognize the significance of winning SD-5, with both sides spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on the race to tilt the outcome.
- SD-6 - Longtime Senator Kemp Hannon (R) is the presumed frontrunner against attorney Kevin Thomas (D), however, like many Long Island districts, Democratic enrollment exceeds Republican enrollment and Hannon's margins of victory have shrunk over election cycles. Though Hannon is the favorite to win, a perfect storm could push his challenger over the top.
- SD-7 - Freshman Senator Elaine Phillips (R) is running for reelection against North Hempstead Councilwoman Anna Kaplan. Though Kaplan has the support of Cuomo and an endorsement from former president Barack Obama, Phillips is a strong campaigner and maintains the status of favorite.
- SD-8 - Freshman Senator John Brooks (D) is the only Democratic incumbent on the defensive against his challenger, Massapequa Park Mayor Jeff Pravato (R). In 2016, Brooks defeated then-incumbent Michael Venditto (R) by a mere 314 votes (a .22% margin) shortly after Venditto's father was indicted on unrelated charges. The Senate Republicans have long recognized the importance of flipping back the seat (without flipping the seat, the Senate Republicans have no margin for error in the other contested races) and have campaigned accordingly.
- SD-22 - Senator Marty Golden is one of two Republican senators within New York City. He is challenged by Andrew Gounardes (D), who has the support of the anti-IDC activist groups fresh off their primary victories against six of the eight former members of the Independent Democratic Caucus. Golden has long sailed to reelection (sometimes unopposed), but the political headwinds combined with a handful of poor public relations incidents push this seat into contested status. If the Democrats flip this seat, they will hold every Senate seat in the City aside from SD-24 (Andrew Lanza) on Staten Island.