

# Competitive 2016 Senate Races

last updated 10/31/2016

## Notes:

- “Experts” and their most recent projection dates are in order: Cook Political Report (10/27), Sabato Crystal Ball (10/20), and Rothenberg Political Report (10/21) Changes in these projections since last chart update are now noted following the chart.

Endorsers are drawn from the following list, representing the indicated specific concerns. Click on organization name here to view its website. Click on a candidate’s endorser (eg “CLW” following candidate Feingold) to see what the endorser says about him/her.

- [CLW](#) (Council for a Livable World) – arms control and foreign policy
- [Emily’s List](#) – women’s issues
- [J Street](#) – balanced Israel-Palestine policy
- [LCV](#) (League of Conservation Voters) and [SC](#) (Sierra Club), – environmental issues
- [ECU](#) (EndCitizensUnited.org) – self explanatory

**New:** A candidate’s name, if underlined, is now a link to information Vote Smart provides about ratings and endorsements for the candidate by numerous organizations, organized in categories. From there, other Vote Smart info about the candidate is easily accessed.

State	Primary date in 2016	“Experts” forecast for Senate seat (Red or Blue)	Candidates (R red, D blue, I indicates Incumbent )	Candidate Funds on hand in M\$ 9/30/2016 (latest FEC report)	Endorsers	SuperPAC M\$: This column temporarily suspended	Notes provided by the Council for a Livable World’s John Isaacs
AK	Aug 16	likely safe safe	<a href="#">Lisa Murkowski (I)</a>	1.59			<a href="#">Alaska</a> : One of the major upsets in 2010 was Senator Lisa Murkowski’s primary loss to Tea Party candidate Joe Miller. Even more amazing, Murkowski came back to win as a write in candidate. She should have an easier run this time.
AZ	Aug 30	lean likely favored	<a href="#">John McCain (I)</a> <a href="#">Ann Kirkpatrick</a>	4.63 0.43	<a href="#">CLW</a> , <a href="#">Emily</a> , <a href="#">ECU</a>		<a href="#">Arizona</a> : Democrats hope for a surprise in the Grand Canyon state. U.S. Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D) is a tough campaigner who has been elected in a swing district in 2009 and 2013 and has high name recognition. Her argument is that Arizonians are tired of an out-of-touch incumbent Senator John McCain, who has served five terms, easily overcame a challenge from State Senator Kelli Ward (R). A month before the election, McCain held a sizable lead, but his dispute with Donald Trump may still affect his election.

<b>CO</b>	June 28	likely safe safe	<a href="#">Michael Bennet (I)</a> <a href="#">Darryl Glenn</a>	3.6 1.9	<a href="#">LCV</a> <a href="#">ECU</a>	<a href="#">Colorado</a> : Sen. Michael Bennett won his first Senate election in 2010 with the assistance of the Republican Party nominating a weak candidate. Republicans nominated a candidate who is probably too extreme for the state, Darryl Glenn.
<b>FL</b>	Aug 30	tossup likely lean	<a href="#">Marco Rubio</a> <a href="#">Parick Murphy</a>	5.50 2.78	<a href="#">CLW</a> , <a href="#">ECU</a> <a href="#">JStreet</a>	<a href="#">Florida</a> : Senator Marco Rubio (R) dropped his bid for re-election when he ran unsuccessfully for President. In June, Senator Rubio changed his mind and decided to run. Florida is a swing state for President and should be for Senator as well.
<b>IL</b>	March 15	Lean likely lean	<a href="#">Mark Kirk (I)</a> <a href="#">Tammy Duckworth</a>	1.37 4.32	<a href="#">Emily</a> , <a href="#">CLW</a> <a href="#">ECU_SC</a> <a href="#">LCV</a> <a href="#">JStreet</a>	<a href="#">Illinois</a> : Incumbent Senator Mark Kirk (R) is considered the most vulnerable Republican incumbent in the Senate. He has lingering health problems and has committed a series of gaffes. Even some Republicans have questioned whether Kirk should run for re-election. U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth easily won the March 15 primary and is favored.
<b>IN</b>	May 3	tossup tossup tossup/tilt D	<a href="#">Evan Bayh</a> <a href="#">Todd Young</a>	5.40 0.60		<a href="#">Indiana</a> : Senator Dan Coats (R) is retiring after one term. Republicans had been favored to hold the seat. On May 3, the Republican establishment favorite U.S. Rep Todd Young easily beat the more conservative U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman 67%-33% and was heavily favored in November. But on July 11, former U.S. Rep. Baron Hill dropped out of the race while former Senator and Governor Evan Bayh (D) dropped in to run for his old seat. A contest that was strongly Republican is a toss-up today, although Bayh's lead has disappeared.
<b>MO</b>	Aug 2	tossup tossup tossup/tilt R	<a href="#">Roy Blunt (I)</a> <a href="#">Jason Kander</a>	2.04 2.11	<a href="#">ECU</a>	<a href="#">Missouri</a> : While Missouri naturally favors Republicans, Democrats have come up with a strong candidate in Jason Kander, a 34-year old military veteran and state Secretary of State. Kander is an aggressive fundraiser. Incumbent Senator Roy Blunt is favored, but his ratings in the state are mediocre. The race looks very tight.
<b>NV</b>	June 14	tossup tossup tossup	<a href="#">Harry Reid (I,</a> retiring) <a href="#">Joe Heck</a> <a href="#">Catherine Cortez-</a> <a href="#">Masto</a>	3.33 2.25	<a href="#">Emily</a> <a href="#">CLW</a> <a href="#">JStreet</a>	<a href="#">Nevada</a> : This Senate contest looks like a clear toss-up. With Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid retiring after five terms, the field looks to be settled. Reid and the Democratic Party are rallying around former state Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. U.S. Rep. Joe Heck is the Republican nominee. This election will go down to the wire.

<b>NH</b>	Sept 13	Tossup tossup tossup	<a href="#">Kelly Ayotte (I)</a> <a href="#">Maggie Hassan</a>	4.53 3.15	<a href="#">Emily</a> <a href="#">CLW</a> <a href="#">ECU</a> <a href="#">JStreet</a>	<a href="#">New Hampshire</a> : In October 2015, Democratic Governor Maggie Hassan announced she will challenge Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R). This is a toss-up contest. Outside GOP groups have spent heavily to undermine Hassan's enormous popularity. Sen. Ayotte is one of a number of candidates whose ambivalence toward Donald Trump has hurt her campaign.
<b>NC</b>	March 15	tossup tossup tossup/tilt R	<a href="#">Richard Burr (I)</a> <a href="#">Deborah Ross</a>	7.18 1.14	<a href="#">CLW</a> <a href="#">Emily</a> <a href="#">ECU</a> <a href="#">LCV</a> <a href="#">JStreet</a>	<a href="#">North Carolina</a> : Deborah Ross (D), a former state House member, has entered the Senate race against Burr, who is seeking his third term. Before her legislative career, Ross served as state director for the American Civil Liberties Union. She easily won the March 15 primary. Burr is favored for a third term, but polls show the contest to be close.
<b>OH</b>	March 15	lean safe favored	<a href="#">Rob Portman (I)</a> <a href="#">Ted Strickland</a>	7.73 0.60	<a href="#">CLW</a> <a href="#">ECU</a> <a href="#">JStreet</a>	<a href="#">Ohio</a> : The low-key Senator Rob Portman (R) is running for re-election. Initially his Democrat opponent, Ted Strickland, was close to Portman in polls, but massive attacks by the NRA and other superpacs have taken a big toll. Recent polls put Strickland behind Portman by as much as 17 percentage points.
<b>PA</b>	April 26	tossup tossup tossup	<a href="#">Pat Toomey (I)</a> <a href="#">Katie McGinty</a>	6.19 2.43	<a href="#">CLW</a> <a href="#">Emily</a> <a href="#">LCV</a> <a href="#">JStreet</a>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a> : In 2010, a good year for Republicans, Senator Pat Toomey (R) won a close election against U.S. Representative Joe Sestak (D). Sestak tried to run again, but Katie McGinty, former chief of staff to Gov. Tom Wolf, surged at the end to defeat Sestak 43%-33% with Braddock Mayor John Fetterman taking 19%. This is a toss-up contest.
<b>WI</b>	Aug 9	lean likely lean	<a href="#">Ron Johnson (I)</a> <a href="#">Russ Feingold</a>	5.37 2.89	<a href="#">CLW</a> , <a href="#">LCV</a> <a href="#">SC</a> <a href="#">J Street</a> <a href="#">ECU</a>	<a href="#">Wisconsin</a> : Democrats are slightly favored to retake this seat, with former Senator Russ Feingold (D) challenging the person who beat him in 2010, Sen. Ron Johnson (R). Several polls show the challenger in the lead, unusual against an incumbent. Johnson has made little impression in the state. Having largely self-funded in 2010, his campaign treasury is only slightly larger than Feingold's. If Feingold is successful, it will be first time that a defeated Senator has come back to beat the previous winner since 1934.

## Changes in “expert” prognostications since last chart update:

**Florida:** Sabato – “likely R” becomes “lean R”

**Indiana:** Rothenberg—“tossup/tilt D” becomes “tossup”

**Missouri:** Rothenberg—“tossup/tilt R” becomes “tossup”

**North Carolina:** Rothenberg—“tossup/tilt R” becomes “tossup”

**This document includes links to Vote Smart, a nonpartisan organization that provides facts about current officials and candidates for political office. The links to their website are for informational purposes and do not associate Vote Smart to any above-stated opinions.**

[VoteSmart.org](https://www.VoteSmart.org) provides a treasure chest of information about many of the candidates in our chart. Vote Smart sends a “Political Courage Test” to candidates – a questionnaire asking for his/her position on a range of issues. Unfortunately, in recent years candidates are increasingly unwilling to respond to this test. So Vote Smart’s website now presents what it thinks a candidate’s answers would have been, based on Vote Smart’s analysis of the candidate’s past statements and votes. The links in our chart take you directly to the Vote Smart page for each candidate. Far more information is readily accessed from this Vote Smart section, including the candidate’s biography, voting record, copies of speeches and statements, and funding. In addition, Vote Smart provides a huge nicely-organized table showing ratings and endorsements of the candidate by a wide range of organizations – an excellent way to explore evaluations of the candidate by organizations that address particular concerns the reader may have.