## Midterms DA

### 1NC UQ---GOP Win

#### Most polls are wrong, GOP win is possible

Gingrich 7-21 (Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Ph.D in European History @ Tulane University. “Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives”, https://www.newsweek.com/gops-coming-us-senate-landslide-opinion-1726465)LR

There is consensus that U.S. House Republicans will win a majority this fall, and that Kevin McCarthy will be the next speaker of the House. There is a lot more confusion about the U.S. Senate races. Republicans are handwringing, and Democrats are hopeful as they think through the state-by-state races for U.S. Senate. But there's a flaw in the popular Senate race analysis. Most people are thinking about Senate races as small, individual contests. When you think of each race as small and individual, there is hope the Democrats could keep the current 50-50 split—or lose only a few seats. This kind of small race analysis emphasizes candidate quality, money raised, and current polling (which is inconclusive, at best). But if the 2022 Senate elections are analyzed and run as a big, nationalized races, the Democrats will likely lose the Senate by a wide margin. When you have 9.1% inflation (compared to 1.4% inflation when Donald Trump left office), Democratic candidates at any level should feel like they are in trouble. The highest price of gasoline in history—more than double the price just two years ago—does not help them. And those aren't the only problems Americans are seeing and feeling every day. Add skyrocketing murder, rape, and robbery rates; millions of people entering the country illegally receiving taxpayer-funded benefits, and continuing labor and supply chain disruptions caused by destructive government programs. Further, consider the unpopular cultural policies being implemented by federal bureaucrats with aggressive agendas. Given all these big problems, it is difficult to see how we can expect small race outcomes in U.S. Senate races—unless Republicans are extraordinarily committed to self-destructive behavior and out-of-touch Washington-focused consultants. In Georgia, for example, Herschel Walker may have a hard time winning a small race campaign against an extraordinarily well-funded incumbent and professional preacher, such as Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA). These were not simply Republican or conservative tsunamis; they were American tsunamis. The American people were tired of policies that don't work being forced upon them by bureaucrats and politicians who don't live in the real world. We are now on the edge of another American tsunami. As I wrote in my new book, Defeating Big Government Socialism: Saving America's Future, there is an emerging tidal wave of Democrats, Republicans, and independents who want us to come together and solve problems with common sense rather than Washington sense. They are totally sick of Washington sense. Some 87% of Americans want to restore the America that works. By a 91% to 6% margin, the American people agree with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that the content of our character matters far more than the color of our skin. This American tsunami is going to defeat an amazing number of sitting Democratic senators, as well as hopeful Democratic candidates.

#### GOP will most likely win Congress

Schoen 7-24 (Douglas E. Schoen is a political consultant who served as an adviser to former President Clinton and to the 2020 presidential campaign of Michael Bloomberg. He is the author of “The End of Democracy? Russia and China on the Rise and America in Retreat.” “Republicans’ missing 2022 ingredient: A positive and constructive agenda”, https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/3571562-republicans-missing-2022-ingredient-a-positive-and-constructive-agenda/)LR

Republicans have every reason to be optimistic that their party will win control of the House — and likely the Senate — in the November midterm elections. The Democratic Party is defending razor-thin majorities in Congress at a time when Americans broadly disapprove of President Biden and are deeply pessimistic about the way things are going in the country, especially with the economy. Indeed, nearly three-quarters of Americans (72 percent) say that the country is on the wrong track, and a majority (51 percent) describe the economy as being in “poor shape.” There is also a widespread belief that inflation is a very serious problem (64 percent) and that Biden bears at least some responsibility for it (73 percent). Given how unfavorable the current national political environment is for Democrats — on top of the fact that the president’s party almost always loses House seats in midterm elections — criticizing the Biden administration for inflation and the rising cost of living could very well be a sufficient strategy for the G.O.P. to win control of Congress this year. That being said, in order for a true red-wave election to take place in 2022 — and to sustain itself through 2024 — Republicans need to do more at the national, state and local levels than just attack Democrats and oppose their agenda. Rather, the GOP must develop a positive and constructive agenda that offers centrist solutions to the key issues facing the country in order to show the American people that the party’s priorities are in line with their own. It is also critical that the new Republican agenda is forward-looking, and not focused on relitigating Donald Trump’s past grievances about the 2020 election. Continuing to dwell on the 2020 election is counterproductive to the G.O.P.’s short- and long-term political goals, as it alienates swing voters and Independents — who largely accept Joe Biden’s victory as legitimate, believe Jan. 6 was an attempted insurrection and are concerned about addressing the challenges of today, not fighting about alleged voter fraud in the last election. In order to reach these voters in the middle, Republicans should promote an economic plan that provides tax incentives for job creation, prioritizes deficit reduction, eases inflation and limits government spending to fiscally prudent programs that have broad public support, such as Medicare and Medicaid. Loosening overly burdensome regulations on America’s energy sector would also be immensely beneficial in terms of helping the U.S. achieve energy independence — which the public increasingly recognizes as an important goal, given the current crisis with gas prices. Furthermore, instead of criticizing Democrats for surging crime and the migrant crisis at the Southern border, Republicans should propose actual solutions such as increasing funding to bolster and better train law enforcement officers — both police officers in localities, and patrol agents at the southern border. To that end, the GOP can lead the way by proposing a long-overdue immigration compromise that strengthens our physical border security and also provides a pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants brought here illegally as children. National Republicans should also take a page from Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin’s 2021 playbook by promoting individual liberties generally, and specifically empowering parents through enhanced school choice opportunities and promoting greater parental involvement in curricula. This strategy helped Youngkin connect with moderate suburban voters, which is the precise coalition that the G.O.P. should be targeting in 2022. Perhaps most importantly, on hot-button social issues — namely, abortion and guns — the G.O.P. needs to establish a more moderate party line in order to distance itself from the party’s extreme fringes. Put another way, the Republican Party’s positions on these issues must reflect the reality that Americans broadly support abortion as a legal right with limitations, and widely favor common-sense restrictions on gun ownership that still allow law-abiding citizens to own guns. Towing the centrist line on abortion and guns can be enormously beneficial to the Republican Party. By assuming a more open stance on abortion legality, Republicans can better sell their party as one that protects individual liberties; similarly, by moving to the middle on guns, the GOP can position and promote themselves as the law and order party. Ultimately, Republicans merely opposing Democrats at every turn is not enough to produce a red-wave election in 2022 and will certainly not be enough to carry a pro-Republican trend through to 2024. In order for the G.O.P. to secure a red wave in 2022 and improve their chances of retaking the White House in 2024, the party needs to coalesce around a moderate agenda that offers real solutions, avoids relitigating past grievances, and rejects the party’s extreme fringes.

### 2NC UQ push---GOP Win

#### Only 7 states matter

Rothenberg 6-28 (Stuart, Senior Editor at Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales. He served for over two decades as the Editor and Publisher of The Rothenberg Political Report, a non-partisan political newsletter covering U.S. House, Senate and gubernatorial campaigns, and presidential politics. He also was a national columnist for Roll Call and for The Washington Post. B.A. from Colby College and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Connecticut. He has taught at Bucknell University and at the Catholic University of America. “A handful of voters will decide Senate control in 2022”, <https://rollcall.com/2022/06/28/a-handful-of-voters-will-decide-senate-control-in-2022%EF%BF%BC/>)LR

ANALYSIS — If you are from New York, Nebraska, Oregon, Vermont or Mississippi, you have the same right to vote that everyone else in the country does. But that doesn’t mean that you will have the same political clout. In fact, you are likely to be irrelevant in this fall’s elections. The midterm dynamic tends to be far stronger in the House than in Senate contests, where individual candidates matter more. So, the focus for 2022 is very much still on the midterm Senate races. Voters in seven states will decide who controls the U.S. Senate in 2023-24: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. If Republicans net even one seat in the fall midterms, they can block President Joe Biden’s judicial, diplomatic and executive branch appointees for the rest of his term. While some of those seven states have large populations — Pennsylvania is the fifth most populous, Georgia the eighth, North Carolina the ninth, Arizona the 14th, Wisconsin the 20th, Nevada the 32nd and New Hampshire the 41st, according to the 2020 census — only a handful of voters in each state will decide who wins their 2022 Senate races. That is because most voters are reliably Republican or reliably Democratic. They may well tell you that they are independents who cast their votes depending on their evaluation of the candidates, but that is usually poppycock. Most are closet partisans who vote consistently for one party or the other but like the idea of being “independent.” Since each of the seven states is almost evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, those partisans generally don’t decide who wins. It is true swing voters — “soft” Democrats, and “soft” Republicans in those states who have the power to pick winners in any statewide contest. Traditionally, turnout in midterm elections is significantly below that in presidential years, so part of the parties’ electoral calculations includes their ability to turn out out voters who otherwise would not show up at the polls in a typical midterm. In most of these states, the handful of crucial voters come from one of two demographic categories. Either they are minority voters who don’t always turn out — such as in Philadelphia, DeKalb County (Atlanta) or Nevada, for example — or they are suburban white swing voters, who are fiscally conservative but culturally progressive and live and work in places like the Philadelphia suburbs, the Atlanta suburbs, and Maricopa County (Phoenix). Candidates matter in the handful of competitive House races in 2022, but they will matter much more in the fight for the Senate. Senate campaigns spend dramatically more money and get far more media attention than do House contests, and voters get to know Senate hopefuls better than they do House candidates. Moreover, few House districts are competitive. Swing voters and base turnout will be crucial in a state like Georgia, where Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and Senate hopeful Raphael Warnock squeezed out narrow victories in 2020. Warnock beat appointed Sen. Kelly Loeffler 51 percent to 49 percent, a margin of about 95,000 votes out of 4.5 million cast. Warnock is likely to win or lose narrowly in November, depending on whether minority voters turn out and whether suburban women are more upset about inflation or the Republican Party’s continued veer to the right — as well as the Supreme Court’s decisions. The same is true in Pennsylvania, where blue-collar Democrat John Fetterman and TV celebrity and Trump-backed Republican Mehmet Oz are expected to be locked in a close contest. Can Fetterman turn out minority voters and people in the Philadelphia suburbs the way Biden did (carrying the state by 80,000 votes in 2020), or will Fetterman underperform among those groups in November the way Hillary Clinton did (losing the state by 45,000 voters in the 2016 presidential race), increasing the likelihood of an Oz victory? A relative handful of voters will decide. In Arizona, Democrat Mark Kelly defeated appointed GOP Sen. Martha McSally 51.2 percent to 48.8 percent — a margin of about 80,000 votes out of 3.3 million votes cast for the two nominees. Can Kelly hold the suburbs in 2022 without Trump on the ballot and with inflation among voters’ top concern? The one thing that is almost inevitable is that the winners will claim a mandate and act as if they won decisively. In fact, it is likely that relatively small percentages of swing voters — as well as turnout rates — will separate the winners from the losers.

#### GOP narrowly wins Arizona

Medina 5-5 (Jennifer Medina, graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in print journalism and political science. Jennifer Medina is a national politics reporter, covering political attitudes and power, with a focus on the West. “In Arizona, a Swing State Swings to the Far Right”, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/05/us/politics/arizona-midterms-swing.html?scrlybrkr=4d80f4c8)LR>

Minutes into her pitch at the Cochise County Republican headquarters in the suburbs of southern Arizona, Ms. Lake zeroed in on the presidential election 18 months ago, calling it “crooked” and “corrupt.” She claimed nearly a dozen times in a single hour that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald J. Trump, a falsehood that the audience — some of whom wore red hats reading “Trump Won” — was eager to hear. Ms. Lake, a former local Fox anchor who won Mr. Trump’s endorsement as she campaigns to become Arizona’s next governor, calls the 2020 election a key motivation in her decision to enter the race. “We need some people with a backbone to stand up for this country — we had our election stolen,” Ms. Lake said in an interview after the Cochise County event in March, adding, “I don’t know if it’s a winning issue, but it’s a winning issue when it comes to saving this country.” Republicans in many states have grown increasingly tired of the Stop the Steal movement and the push by Mr. Trump to reward election deniers and punish those who accept President Biden’s victory. At a time when Mr. Biden’s approval ratings are sinking, leaders in the party are urging candidates to focus instead on the economy, inflation and other kitchen-table issues. But 12 weeks before its Republican primary in August, Arizona shows just how firm of a grasp Mr. Trump and his election conspiracy theories still have at every level of the party, from local activists to top statewide candidates. And this week’s victory for J.D. Vance, the “Hillbilly Elegy” author who received the former president’s endorsement in the Republican primary for an Ohio Senate seat, shows that loyalty to Trumpism goes a long way in battleground states. Two forces have helped ensure election denialism remains a core issue in Arizona: the Republican-sponsored and widely derided review of the presidential vote in the state’s largest county, and Mr. Trump’s continued attacks on the Republican governor, Doug Ducey, for rebuffing his efforts to block election certification. More than three dozen Republicans running for office in Arizona — including six candidates for statewide posts — have made denying the 2020 results a centerpiece of their campaigns, according to two groups tracking candidates, States United Action and Pro-Democracy Republicans. States United Action is nonpartisan; Maricopa County’s top elections official, a Republican, began Pro-Democracy Republicans last year. “There’s nothing but elitists in charge,” said Suzanne Jenkins, a 75-year-old retiree who described herself as a Tea Party Republican and who drove about an hour to Sierra Vista to hear Ms. Lake speak. But winning the crowded Republican primary is far from certain. Ms. Lake faces especially fierce opposition from Karrin Taylor Robson, a Phoenix-based business owner who has contributed millions to her own campaign. Already, the race to replace Mr. Ducey, who cannot run again because of term limits, has become among the most expensive governor’s races in state history, with $13.6 million in spending so far.

#### Georgia – graph

NBC 7-25 (NBC Midterms Predictions. “Georgia Senate Primary Election Results: Warnock, Walker win”, https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2022-primary-elections/georgia-senate-results)LR

How are votes in Georgia cast? Some states and some individual counties provide results broken down by type of ballot cast, which can include Election Day votes, or those cast early, either in person or by mail. Whenever that information is widely available in a state on election night, NBC News will display it.

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

#### Nevada – Roe doesn’t save the dems lol

Reid 7-20 (Tim, Political Correspondent of Reuters. “'The Supreme Court did us a favor': Democrats seize on abortion ruling as midterm lifeline”, https://www.reuters.com/world/us/the-supreme-court-did-us-favor-democrats-seize-abortion-ruling-midterm-lifeline-2022-07-20/)LR

LAS VEGAS, July 20 (Reuters) - Susie Lee, one of the U.S. Congress's most endangered Democrats, has spent this year fighting a tough re-election campaign in the face of soaring inflation and weighed down by President Joe Biden's dismal approval numbers. Then on June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court threw a potential lifeline to the Nevada congresswoman as she seeks a third term in this November's midterm elections: the justices ended federal abortion rights by overturning the landmark 1973 Roe-v-Wade decision. Within 24 hours, armed with an issue she hopes will galvanize voters and reverse a disastrous-looking election year for Democrats, Lee launched the first ad of her campaign - a $500,000 TV and digital attack on her pro-life Republican opponent on the issue of abortion rights. "We have a stark choice in the race for Congress," the ad declares. Lee, like dozens of fellow endangered Democratic incumbents across the United States, is refocusing much of her campaign on abortion rights, hoping the Supreme Court's decision can help win back suburban voters who have soured on her party because of high food and gas prices and an unpopular president. Frustrated with what they see as weak messaging by national party leaders on Biden's policy achievements, some Democratic foot soldiers say the overturning of Roe-v-Wade has thrown them a political lifeline, a foot in the door of voters otherwise disinclined to listen to them because of high inflation. Party strategists and analysts warn, however, that the **issue of abortion rights will** likely **not be enough to save Democrats from losing control** of the U.S. House of Representatives, and possibly **the Senate too**. Brian Stryker, a Democratic pollster, said that while there has been a shift of about three percentage points in national opinion surveys toward Democrats since the court's ruling, "inflation is still far and away voters' top concern." Some of the eight on-the-ground Democrat workers and abortion activists who talked to Reuters conceded that surging inflation is still a big problem for Democrats, and that the abortion issue may not be enough keep Congress in Democrats' hands. "Everyone feels the pinch at the gas pump, the bite every time you go to the grocery store," said Lani Paz, head of the Southwest Democratic Club.

#### New Hampshire

Silver 7-22 (Nate Silver is the founder and editor in chief of FiveThirtyEight and the author of “The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail — But Some Don’t.” “New Hampshire Is Tiny And Pretty Weird. That Could Help Maggie Hassan.”, https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/new-hampshire-is-tiny-and-pretty-weird-that-could-help-maggie-hassan/)LR

In the Deluxe version of our midterm election forecast, Republicans have a 85 percent chance to win the House and a 51 percent chance to win the Senate, both largely unchanged from when we launched the model three weeks ago. Meanwhile, in the Classic version of the model, which sticks to purely quantitative factors and leaves out the expert race ratings published by the Cook Political Report and other such groups, Republicans are actually underdogs to win control of the Senate, with a 39 percent chance. Part of the reason Republicans are not better positioned in the Senate is they don’t have a lot of easy pick-up opportunities, but **one race where Republicans could gain traction is the New Hampshire Senate race**. Democratic incumbent Sen. Maggie Hassan has led in all but one poll this year against a series of potential Republican opponents, but the GOP shouldn’t write the race off. **Hassan’s lead is small** in most of these polls, and **it’s still early**, with the primary not scheduled until Sept. 13.1 New Hampshire is also an unusual state in that it has some factors that should make it relatively fertile ground to defeat an incumbent, and others that should make it a challenging one. So let’s take a look under the hood. The factor that could help Republicans most is that New Hampshire — **famous for polling leads that seem to evaporate overnight,** like Barack Obama’s against Hillary Clinton’s in the Democratic primary there in 2008 — is notoriously swingy. I don’t just mean that it’s a swing state, although it frequently is in general elections. I also mean that it has a lot of swing voters: moderate**, independent voters who split their tickets**. Consider that, in 2020, Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen won reelection there by 16 percentage points, while Republican Gov. Chris Sununu was reelected by 32 points on the same ballot.2

#### North Carolina

Mercer 7-21 (Matt, BA in Political Science @ University of North Carolina at Charlotte, current Editor in Chief for North State Journal. “Beasley leads fundraising, but Budd holds US Senate advantage”, <https://nsjonline.com/article/2022/07/beasley-leads-fundraising-but-budd-holds-us-senate-advantage/)LR>

RALEIGH — Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Cheri Beasley raised more money through the first half of 2022 than Republican Ted Budd, but in most campaign metrics, the three-term U.S. representative holds the advantage in the closely watched contest. Through June 30, Beasley raised $16 million for her campaign and Budd has raised $6.5 million. Beasley’s campaign also holds a cash on hand advantage, with $4.8 million to Budd’s $1.8 million. Beasley’s campaign was bullish about their efforts, with spokeswoman Dory MacMillan crowing about the advantage on Twitter, writing on July 18 “it’s Monday afternoon but its already been a bad week for Ted Budd.” But the importance of a candidate’s personal fundraising means much less when outside groups account for hundreds of millions campaign spending. Budd quipped in a statement that “With her huge cash advantage, maybe Cheri Beasley can afford enough gas to finally visit voters in all 100 counties in North Carolina instead of ignoring them like she did the during her three previous statewide campaigns.” “Republican Rep. Ted Budd enters the general election with a built-in advantage in the race to succeed retiring GOP Sen. Richard Burr given that Trump twice carried the state,” the story says. The RealClearPolitics polling average also shows Budd ahead of Beasley. As of July 18, Budd led by a nearly four-point margin in the five polls in the race since May. The most recent poll in race, conduct-d by the Trafalgar Group, showed Budd with a 48% to 45% lead. Last Friday, Budd received a boost from former U.N. Ambassador and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who formally endorsed Budd. In 2020, longtime Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Mitch McConnell of Kentucky saw their challengers raise unprecedented amounts of money from national donors, but those challengers both lost by double-digit margins.

### Generic Nato/FoPo Links

#### FoPo matters to voters

Koberg 3-29(Kelsey holds a M.A. in Communication from Johns Hopkins University and degrees in Business Administration and Public Relations from Northwest Nazarene University. Kelsey Koberg is an experienced communicator with significant expertise in strategic, crisis, and financial communications with a background that includes work in both the public and private sectors. “Foreign policy could play a major role in 2022 midterm elections, according to GOP candidates”, <https://www.foxnews.com/media/foreign-policy-major-role-2022-midterm-elections)LR>

The war in Ukraine and botched withdrawal from Afghanistan are front and center in voters' minds, said several Republicans In 2020, foreign affairs ranked 12th in issues voters viewed as "extremely important," behind the economy, health care, crime and education, according to a Gallup poll. But several candidates running in competitive districts believe President Joe Biden’s botched withdrawal from Afghanistan and the war between Russia and Ukraine may put foreign affairs front and center in the 2022 midterms. Anna Paulina Luna, a veteran who is running for Congress in Florida’s 13th district, told Fox News Digital foreign policy is now affecting things like gas prices in America, making it a top issue in the upcoming midterms. "I really think that people, although they might not understand the nuts and bolts of it, they understand that if you have bad foreign policy, it’s going to hit you in your pocketbook. And that’s really how I break it down to voters," she said. Morgan Ortagus, who is running for Congress in Tennessee and is also an active U.S. Navy Reserve Officer, told Fox News Digital she believes Americans are "embarrassed" by Biden’s actions on the world stage, bringing foreign policy to the forefront in their minds. "In just over a year, Joe Biden’s foreign policy has unraveled, whether it was Israel under attack, whether it was the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan or whether it’s now the most significant war in Europe since the end of World War II. And Americans know they want peace through strength," Stefanik added.

### 2NC---Link---AT: Republican Turnout

#### Republicans hate NATO expansion.

Isaac Stanley-Becker, 22 (Isaac Stanley-Becker, National political reporter, Yale University, BA in History from University of Oxford, MA in History from University of Oxford, DPhil in History; Marianna Sotomayor, Congressional reporter covering the House of Representatives, George Washington University, BA in political communications from George Washington University, MA in strategic communications; Ashley Parker, White House Bureau Chief, University of Pennsylvania, BA in English, 4-29-2022, accessed on 7-25-2022, The Washington Post, “Inside the Republican drift away from supporting the NATO alliance”, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/04/29/nato-republicans-trump/>, HBisevac)

In early 2019, several months after President Donald Trump threatened to upend the North Atlantic Treaty Organization during a trip to Brussels for the alliance’s annual summit, House lawmakers passed the NATO Support Act amid **overwhelming bipartisan support**, with only **22 Republicans** voting against the measure. But this month, when a similar bill in support of NATO during the Russian invasion of Ukraine again faced a vote in the House, the support was **far more polarized**, with 63 Republicans — **30 percent** of the party’s conference — voting against it. The vote underscores the Republican Party’s **remarkable drift away** from NATO in recent years, as positions once considered part of a libertarian fringe have become doctrine for a growing portion of the party. The isolationist posture of some Republicans is in line with the “**America First**” ethos of Trump, the GOP’s de facto leader, who has **long railed against NATO**. Last week, speaking at a Heritage Foundation event in Florida, Trump implied that as president he had threatened not to defend NATO allies from Russian attacks as a negotiating tactic to pressure them to contribute more money toward the organization’s shared defense. The vote also comes against the backdrop of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which has catapulted NATO to its most prominent role in decades. And it comes as some hawkish Republicans seek to cast themselves as **stronger opponents** of **Russia** than Democrats. Metin Hakverdi, a German lawmaker who chairs the North America working group within the ruling Social Democratic Party, said the question that preoccupies him is, “Was Donald Trump the exception, or will Joe Biden be the exception?” Some two dozen House GOP lawmakers who voted for the 2019 NATO Support Act voted against the similar resolution this month, which reaffirmed support for the alliance and its principles. But in interviews, several of those House Republicans said they still support the organization and simply objected to what they viewed as problematic provisions that Democrats had added to the bill for perceived political purposes. Several who switched their votes since 2019 objected to measures they said did not specifically address strengthening NATO to help Ukraine. Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.) found it particularly problematic that the resolution instructed NATO to be involved when a country has “internal threats from proponents on illiberalism,” which he says could be interpreted as conservatism. “I am a huge supporter of NATO — I served in the Air Force during the Cold War, worked with NATO during that time period,” he said. “These issues should be left to those individual nations.” Loudermilk argued that Democrats had inserted “poison pills” into the symbolic resolution, which could be used against Republicans in the 2022 midterms. “It was the Democrats trying to politicize something and add things in there that we have no business working on,” he said, explaining his vote against the bill. Similarly, from Rep. Robert B. Aderholt (R-Ala.): “I am wholeheartedly, unequivocally, without reservation, supportive on NATO.” But Aderholt said he worried that the resolution “had some language in that I thought went on the political side. And I don’t want to see NATO go political. I want to see NATO stand up for, you know, what’s going on in Ukraine — stand up for Ukraine against Russia.” The two bills are not exactly the same. The legislation in 2019 reaffirmed that federal money should not be used to remove the United States from NATO — which Trump was threatening at the time — while the bill from this month called on the government to “uphold the founding democratic principles of NATO,” as well for NATO “to continue to provide unwavering support to the people of Ukraine as they fight for their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and a democratic future.” Another sign of the party’s isolationist wing emerged Thursday, as the House passed an update to a World War II-era military bill creating a lend-lease program intended to make it easier for the United States to supply Ukraine with military aid. Only 10 lawmakers — all Republicans — voted against the measure. In an exchange earlier in the week between Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was testifying before Congress, and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Paul pushed back on Blinken’s assertion that over the years Russia has shown a willingness to attack countries like Georgia that are not part of NATO, while giving wider berth to countries that are members of the alliance. “You could also argue the countries they’ve attacked were part of Russia, or were part of the Soviet Union,” said Paul, who was one of just two senators who voted against a 2018 bill reaffirming support for a NATO, in what was at the time a pointed rebuke of Trump. “Yes, and I firmly disagree with that proposition,” Blinken responded. For some foreign policy experts and international allies, the mere fact that nearly one-third of the Republican conference voted against a bill that fundamentally seeks to support both NATO and Ukraine highlights a marked **foreign policy evolution** in the Republican Party. “We now are really seeing the true impact of deep, deep political polarization, where it is better to harm the other side than do what’s right for the country,” said Heather Conley, president of the German Marshall Fund. “This deep domestic polarization has now crept into foreign and security policy. There has always been strong bipartisan support for NATO, but everything now has become polarized and can be weaponized against the other side, even if it supports U.S. national security interests.” Many European diplomats breathed a sigh of relief when President Biden, a staunch Atlanticist, denied Trump another term in 2020. Now, 16 months later, Biden’s role in marshaling Western allies behind Ukraine — and his recent vow to protect “every inch of NATO territory” — has alleviated doubt in Europe about U.S. commitments, at least in the short term. But Europeans who were heartened by the outcome of the last American election are beginning to eye upcoming contests, including this year’s midterms and the 2024 presidential race. Their apprehension about a Republican takeover of Congress, which could revive Trump’s brand of foreign policy, is offset by hope that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine will strengthen the Republican Party’s internationalist wing and compel the party to lock arms with Europe. “I’m very concerned about the situation in America — the split of the society, the concentration on domestic issues, the underestimation of the importance of America’s international role,” said Thomas de Maizière, a former center-right lawmaker and high-ranking government minister in Germany who co-chaired a NATO working group convened in 2020. “But there are Republicans we work excellently with, and I would expect them to take on a larger role if their party takes power.” Whether that assessment reflects an accurate reading of Republican politics is an open question. The answer, however, is existential in Europe, where the fallout from the war in Ukraine has showcased the importance of the United States and the limits of aspirations for European autonomy on matters of technology and defense, according to lawmakers and diplomats. Flash points are already coming into view. In 2020, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg started a working group aimed at strengthening NATO. The group’s final product, “NATO 2030: United for a New Era,” included proposals, such as the creation of a Center for Democratic Resilience, that have been scorned by pro-Trump Republicans, including many of the 63 Republicans who recently voted against the House resolution affirming support for NATO. The outcome of that vote surprised even Trump’s former ambassador to NATO, Kay Bailey Hutchison, who argued that the U.S. commitment to the alliance has remained ironclad across administrations, despite bellicose rhetoric. “I was nonplussed by that vote,” she said in an interview. A diplomat from a Baltic state, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid alienating U.S. partners, called the vote a “Trump effect.” “But how many voted for it?” the diplomat added. “The mainstream is clearly in favor of NATO and strengthening NATO.” Similarly, Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), the co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group, who just returned from a trip to the alliance’s headquarters in Brussels, said the recent Republican votes against NATO were “poorly timed,” but he dismissed the 63 House Republicans as an “inconsequential” number. Amid the war in Ukraine, Tillis said, “this is a time where the alliance has really proven its mettle.” Another European diplomat said the war in Ukraine has caused European nations to address some of the complaints leveled by Trump, including insufficient spending on defense and reliance on Russian oil and gas. Those were the two issues raised by the former president when he criticized Stoltenberg at an alliance summit in 2018. “It should no longer be a big issue for his supporters,” the diplomat said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to be candid on a sensitive issue. But for some, the changes are not enough. Rep. Warren Davidson (R-Ohio), who voted against the recent resolution, said he objected not to NATO but to its **future direction**, which in his view places **too large a burden** on the United States and involves too much promotion of specific values. The resolution’s affirmation of “unequivocal support” risks being mistaken for unconditional support, Davidson said. When asked whether he could envision the United States exiting the alliance — as Trump considered with former advisers — Davidson said the real issue is rather whether other member nations who are not spending sufficiently on defense should leave the club. “Is there a point where America would consider pulling out? It’s something we should discuss,” said Davidson, an Army veteran who was stationed in Germany when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. “The better question is whether there’s a point where we would say to other member countries, ‘This might not be your place — you’re disinvited.’” Davidson said he objected in particular to the resolution’s endorsement of the Center for Democratic Resilience, which he called an “entity designed to meddle in other countries’ domestic politics.” Disagreements have broken out among member nations over the erosion of democracy within the alliance, with criticism directed in particular at Turkey, Hungary and Poland. A Central European diplomat said objections to the democracy center reflect admiration for the likes of Hungary’s Viktor Orban in other Western nations. De Maizière echoed that view, saying his primary concern about upcoming U.S. elections was that “right-wing Republicans are **drifting away** from this **common path** of **Western values**.”

### 2NC---UQ---AT: Overwhelms

#### It’s not inevitable---Republicans could still fumble the lead.

Stuart Rothenberg, 6-28 (Stuart Rothenberg is an American editor, publisher, and political analyst, 6-28-2022, accessed on 7-24-2022, Roll Call, “A handful of voters will decide Senate control in 2022”, <https://rollcall.com/2022/06/28/a-handful-of-voters-will-decide-senate-control-in-2022%EF%BF%BC/>, HBisevac)

The midterm dynamic tends to be far stronger in the House than in Senate contests, where individual candidates matter more. So, the **focus** for 2022 is **very much still** on the midterm Senate races.

Voters in seven states will decide who controls the U.S. Senate in 2023-24: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. If Republicans net even one seat in the fall midterms, they can block President Joe Biden’s judicial, diplomatic and executive branch appointees for the rest of his term.

While some of those seven states have large populations — Pennsylvania is the fifth most populous, Georgia the eighth, North Carolina the ninth, Arizona the 14th, Wisconsin the 20th, Nevada the 32nd and New Hampshire the 41st, according to the 2020 census — only a **handful** of voters in each state will **decide** who wins their 2022 Senate races.

That is because **most voters** are **reliably Republican** or **reliably Democratic**. They may well tell you that they are independents who cast their votes depending on their evaluation of the candidates, but that is usually poppycock. Most are closet partisans who vote consistently for one party or the other but like the idea of being “independent.”

Since each of the seven states is almost **evenly divided** between Democrats and Republicans, those partisans generally **don’t decide** **who wins**. It is true **swing voters** — “soft” Democrats, and “soft” Republicans in those states who **have the power** to **pick winners** in any statewide contest.

Traditionally, turnout in midterm elections is significantly below that in presidential years, so part of the parties’ electoral calculations includes their ability to **turn out** out **voters** who otherwise would **not show up** at the polls in a typical midterm.

### 2NC---UQ---Can’t Predict

**PoliAnalysis---even if the specifics are unclear---early data shows it’s possible to identify the direction of an election cycle**

Nathan Gonzales, 21 (Nathan L. Gonzales, elections analyst for CQ Roll Call, 11-10-2021, accessed on 7-23-2022, Roll Call, "It’s not too early to say GOP is well positioned to take Congress", https://www.rollcall.com/2021/11/10/its-not-too-early-to-say-gop-is-well-positioned-to-take-congress/, HBisevac)

So it’s fair to ask: How helpful is analysis a year away from the **midterms**? As it turns out, quite a bit.

A look back at **political** **analysis** over the last couple of **decades** shows that, even a year out from the election, it’s possible to accurately identify the direction of an election cycle, even if the magnitude or **specifics** are unclear.

That’s great news for **Republicans**, who are looking at anything from a good to a great 2022 considering the positive **historical trend** of midterm elections for the party out of the White House and the current **political environment**. And it’s bad news for Democrats hoping for a dramatic rebound next year.

2020 Elections

In November 2019, I laid out four potential scenarios for 2020, in order of likelihood. A year out from the elections, the most likely outcome was Democrats winning the White House, Republicans holding the Senate and Democrats maintaining control of the House. That came within one Senate seat of being the case.

While the second most likely scenario (a Democratic sweep) ended up being the final result, it was in the same general direction of the **first one**. It wasn’t as if, a year out from the election, Republicans were riding high and then things shifted. The elections maintained their trajectory for **12 months**, even through a **pandemic**.

That 2019 analysis of a Democratic sweep also included an ominous warning for Democrats three years before the midterms: “Such a sweep would have Democrats riding high and the media pronouncing the end of the Republican Party. While the election would be more of a repudiation of Trump, Democrats could declare a legislative mandate for their most polarizing policies. … That would set up a potential backlash election in 2022 allowing the GOP to bounce back.”

And that’s where we sit today. Republicans are well-positioned to win back the House and the Senate, although the latter is more difficult.

2018 Elections

“Democrats haven’t struggled to recruit candidates, but this week’s results in Virginia should encourage any wavering House challengers to get off the sidelines,” Inside Elections wrote in November 2017. “Even so, it remains unclear whether Tuesday’s sweeping victories portend a national electoral wave next year. Democrats are poised to gain seats, but the most likely outcome ranges from a modest gain in the teens to a more dramatic political wave.”

Indeed, it was the wave that developed as Democrats saw a net gain of 41 seats a year later and regained the House majority. Once again, even though the magnitude of the cycle wasn’t identified a year out, the conditions for a wave were apparent.

The Senate picture was always a bit murkier considering the GOP lean of the battleground states. “The Senate is still less likely to flip control than the House, but Democrats have an easier path after Alabama,” Inside Elections said in January 2018. This was the right sentiment considering Republicans gained two seats and held their majority.

2016 elections

“A year out from the 2016 elections, control of the Senate is up for grabs,” Inside Elections wrote in November 2015. “Based on the blue and purple tinge of the states up this cycle, and presidential election turnout drawing out more Democratic friendly voters, Democrats are likely to pick up seats. But there is a broad range of outcomes from minimal net change to significant Democratic gains.” A year later, Democrats gained two Senate seats.

“Democrats are likely to pick up [House] seats but gains depend on presidential nominees,” read an analysis in early January 2016, still 10 months from the elections. I looked at that January because we haven’t always written projections exactly one year out. “At this stage, the potential House outcomes range from Democratic gains of a couple of seats to a couple dozen or more seats, based in part on the volatility at the top of the ticket,” according to Inside Elections. In the end, Democrats gained six House seats.

Once again, there was more than an inkling about what would happen nearly three years out from the next midterm elections. “The margin after the 2016 elections is also important because 2018 will likely be a challenging election for the party in control of the White House. … [If] the GOP wins the White House, 2018 could be a difficult year for the party.” And that’s what happened.

2014 elections

“A ‘typical’ midterm currently seems to be shaping up for next year,” Stuart Rothenberg wrote in CQ Roll Call in early December 2013. “That means that the president will be a drag on his party’s nominees in competitive contests and Democrats will spend much of their time on the defensive, trying to convince voters that they should not base their votes on their dissatisfaction with [Barack] Obama’s performance.”

“The current trajectory of the midterms now strongly favors the GOP,” Rothenberg added. A year out from the midterm elections, Republicans were projected to gain three to six Senate seats, and “a small net House gain” was materializing. In the end, the GOP gained a whopping nine Senate seats and 13 House seats. Once again, the very early projections were off in the magnitude, not the direction.

2012 elections

This cycle had a more pronounced difference between the year-out analysis and the final results, although it was in a cycle with minimal changes overall.

In November 2011, the most likely outcome was a GOP gain of two to four Senate seats, according to what was then the Rothenberg Political Report. Democrats ended up gaining two Senate seats, coupled with Obama’s reelection.

The early House outlook was more muddled because it was a redistricting cycle. Sound familiar? Close to half of the districts hadn’t been redrawn and finalized in November 2011. A year later, Democrats gained eight House seats, recapturing a few of the 63 they lost in 2010.

2010 elections

A year after Obama’s historic election in 2008, it was becoming clear Democrats were going to have problems in his first midterm.

“Substantial Republican gains now look almost inevitable, with net Democratic losses likely to exceed a dozen,” read the Rothenberg Political Report in mid-December 2009. “While Democratic control of the House is not yet at risk, losses of 15-20 seats are likely, and that target range could well grow with additional Democratic retirements and voter anger.”

GOP prospects kept ticking upward over the next year to a final, pre-election projection of a 55- to 65-seat gain for the party. Republicans ended up with a net pickup of 63 seats and recaptured the House majority they had lost four years earlier.

It was a similar story on the Senate side, but on a smaller scale. The tide had started to shift in favor of the GOP. “With the landscape changing noticeably over the summer, Democrats can no longer assume that they will have a net gain of seats in next year’s midterm elections,” the Rothenberg Report stated in October 2009. A year before the midterms, the most likely outcome ranged from a GOP gain of two seats to a Democratic gain of two seats. Republicans ended up with a net gain of six Senate seats in what was as close to a textbook wave election as it gets.

2008 elections

After getting swamped in the 2006 elections, Republicans were hoping to bounce back and turn the page from unpopular, outgoing President George W. Bush. But by November 2007, it was pretty clear that wasn’t going to happen.

“At this point, a net Democratic gain looks extremely likely. But for Congress-watchers, it makes a huge difference if Democrats gain a seat or two — or six or seven,” read the Rothenberg Report’s analysis of the Senate landscape. “Right now, 3-5 seems like the most likely guess, with Virginia, New Hampshire, Colorado and Louisiana currently the most likely seats to turn.” A year later, all but Louisiana from that group flipped, and Democrats gained eight seats overall.

“Democrats continue to have several advantages in the fight for the House: retirements/open seats, money and the broad national environment,” according to the January 2008 report. “Growing concerns about the economy could also drag down the President’s (and his party’s) numbers further, giving Democratic candidates another powerful message.” We hadn’t published a likely range for the House yet, but Democrats ended up gaining 21 seats overall.

2006 elections

“National atmospherics strongly favor Democrats. President Bush’s ratings are down and a majority of Americans believe things in the country are ‘off on the wrong track,’” the Rothenberg Report wrote in late October 2005. “The GOP’s danger next year is that, because of the national environment, Democrats win most or all of the close races. That often happens (as it did in 1980, 1986 and 1994), and if it does in 2006, Democrats could add as many as five or even six senators.”

And that’s what happened. Even though Bush won reelection in 2004, the tide completely turned against him shortly thereafter. (His response to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 might have been the final straw.) Democrats ended up gaining the six Senate seats and the majority.

On the House side, the wave was still developing. “Democrats don’t have as many top tier candidates as they need to make major gains. That means that their ability to pick up the 15 seats that they need for a majority depends on the size of the midterm wave,” the report stated. “Democrats still have the potential for major gains (even taking the House), but their current prospects are somewhat lower.”

In January 2006, the Rothenberg team projected a Democrat gain of five to eight seats with a bias toward even greater Democratic gains. Along that trajectory, Democrats gained 31 House seats (and the majority) 11 months later.

2004 elections

“Barring events that change the dynamics next year, President Bush will begin as a favorite for re-election even with the country’s polarization. Over on Capitol Hill, Democrats remain long-shots in their efforts to retake the US House and the US Senate,” read the Rothenberg Political Report in December 2003.

“Unless there are more GOP retirements or a national Democratic surge, it is still very difficult to see the Republicans losing the House next year,” the report said in November 2003. “Fewer than three dozen races appear very interesting, and the sheer lack of competitive districts almost guarantees Republican control of the House after the 2004 elections.” A year later, Republicans gained a modest three seats and expanded their majority slightly.

It was a somewhat similar story on the Senate side. “The numbers don’t look great for the Democrats these days,” the Rothenberg Report noted at the beginning of January 2004. “We still believe the Republicans should make Senate gains, most likely in the range of one to three seats.” Ten months later, Republicans expanded their majority by four seats.

2002 elections

“National events — from the terrorist attacks of September 11 and the war on terrorism to the economy — are likely to play an important role in next year's elections, but it is far too early to know exactly how they will impact each race,” read the Rothenberg Report’s November 2001 Senate overview. “Given candidate recruiting and initial vulnerability assessments, we could see either party making a small gain.” A year later, Republicans saw a net gain of two Senate seats.

“Bush’s popularity, the economy, the war on terrorism and other factors will determine whether the Republicans can avoid the midterm losses that normally find the president’s party,” according to a January 2002 analysis. “At this point, the most likely outcome seems to be a small Democratic gain that would leave the Republicans in tenuous control of the House.”

That’s close to what happened. With help from a continued post-9/11 environment and redistricting, Bush’s GOP gained eight House seats, bucking the typical historical trend for the president’s party in a midterm.

Even though each election cycle is **unique** and it’s impossible to predict unforeseen news events, there’s a rhythm to partisan **politics** and an opportunity to make **educated projections** based on **history** and **data**, even a year out from an election.

## AT: Midterms DA

### UQ---Dems Win

#### Dems expected to win but it’s not all cupcakes and rainbows

* Assumes inflation and econ
* Also can be i/L and ! for democracy

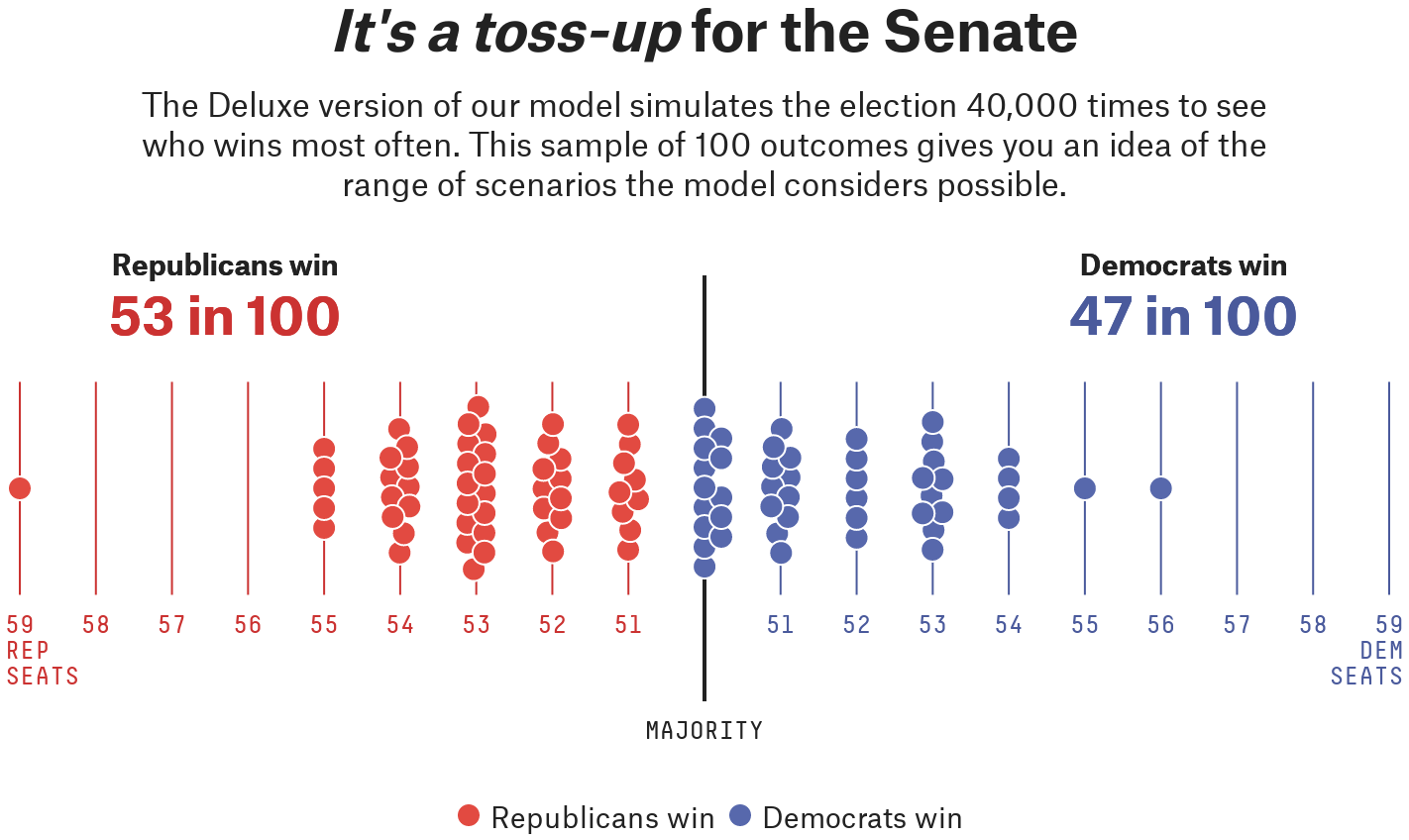
MSNBC 7-24 (MSNBC is an American news-based pay television cable channel based in New York City. It is owned by the NBCUniversal News Group division of NBCUniversal (a subsidiary of Comcast). It provides NBC News coverage as well as its own reporting and political commentary on current events. Ft. Rachel Bennet, political strategist and John, director of polluting at Harvard Kennedy School-Institute of Politics. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6wvxOJri4I&ab_channel=MSNBC>, accessed 7/25/2. Transcribed by YT.)LR

\*\*\*[edited for punctuation]

As we roll into midterm election season, the democratic season is looking surprisingly strong. but here Miya, President Biden’s polling numbers may be underwater, we are looking at who they will choose in the races, democrat, or republican candidates. It shows democrats basically even with republicans. or in some cases even ahead. Joining me now, Rachel Bennett cough, or political strategist and host of the cycle on sub stack. and John -- director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics. and author of “A Fight. How Gen Z is Channeling Their Fear and Passion to Save America. Rachel, John, thank you both for joining me on the Sunday show. this question is for both of, you but Rachel, I want you to go first. how do you explain this discrepancy, Biden underwater, but his fellow democrats holding their own on the generic ballot? >> yes. a couple of things i would. same number, one but we are seeing that generic ballot and then do easy as a gap, which is how excited republicans are relative to democrats, is some evidence that recent political turbulence, primarily the evisceration of roe and the threat to privacy. But also, the absolutely stunning conclusion of the plot, bringing to life the idea that the armed insurrection was intentional, followed by Donald Trump. we are seeing his movement there, John. and it is a reason to get excited. Because we have not seen movement in months, and those numbers. I do want to temper people’s enthusiasm, saying it is a trend in the right direction. Certainly not telling us that as of today everything is going to be cupcakes and rainbows for democrats. but it is telling us that they have a chance to compete. And also telling us that the Republican’s kind of squander some of the structural fundamental -- both by their radicalism and also about this roe decision. >> John your thoughts. how do you explain this discrepancy? >> Jonathan, over the last couple of cycles, we have learned nothing other than that conventional wisdom is not what it used to be. And as you said, from the break, that you would expect republicans to have a significant advantage given President Biden’s approval ratings, rate of inflation and gas prices and etcetera. That is not happening. As you mention, the generic ballot has one or two points. it is basically frozen there over the course of the last few months, inflation numbers have ticked up. and not in a positive direction, for the current administration. But we are seeing, I think, is a combination of January six and supreme court really beginning to focus the mind of key constituencies in this electorate. We have seen them evolving their views in the last several weeks. We have seen an 11-point shift in the cnn polling that was released a few weeks ago among independents. We've seen an 11-point shift among women. When we have seen a significant shift lot of meng 11 points among folks 65 years and older. In addition to that, as you know we have been measuring the enthusiasm of young people for 20 years now. We are seeing numbers that look like 2018, if not exceeding that. That was a high-water mark, 15 years of participation. All of, that again, you can't -- you have to put work, it but I think the environment is far different than you would expect a traditional cycle. Let's talk more about this environment, history shows that in recent memory, only one time has the president’s party not lost seats in the midterm election of the first term. That was in 2002, that was President George W. Bush. the headwinds democrats are facing, at least inside inflation and everything, they were already strong, you have inflation. When I’m wondering, Rachel, is the overturning of roe the threat from Justice Thomas to contraception, and marriage equality, on top of a whole bunch of other things, is that enough to blunt the impact of peoples fear of inflation in terms of helping democrats of the ballot box in November? >> John, you know the reporting that I’ve done on this has really focused on, okay there is this midterm fundamentalism, we know they're gonna be against the left, we know that this time democracy, the survival of democracy depends on their electoral survival. so, you know, we think about these fundamentals that drive the midterm effect, it's a preference for change, it's a bias against the status quo, it's a lack of enthusiasm to the party in power. we talked a little bit how we're seeing those things reset. what you need to do is set in 2002, the exception that you cite, the exception occurred because the national narrative was destructed from domestic inviting in normal politics to national crisis. So, democrats really want to make sure that they are hammering the abnormality of the moment, the last thing they want to do is -- a long lines of inflation and normal politics, they have to make it very clear to the American electorate that we're facing an existential crisis. here's the nice thing, I’ll tell you, it's not usually, there's some component of this media, it's a joke that the out party will put up, or they're ex-president missed media. no one misses trump. no one. there is no missed media effect. I think as long as we remind the electorate white Shane means, it.

#### Dems set to win Senate, but it’s still a toss-up

Silver 6-30 (Nate Silver is the founder and editor in chief of FiveThirtyEight and the author of “The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail — But Some Don’t.” “Why Republicans Are Favored To Win The House, But Not The Senate”, https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/why-republicans-are-favored-to-win-the-house-but-not-the-senate/)LR

Republicans are substantial favorites to take over the U.S. House of Representatives following this November’s midterm elections, but the U.S. Senate is much more competitive, according to FiveThirtyEight’s 2022 midterm election forecast, which launched today. Democrats are also favored to hang on to the governorships in a trio of swing states in the Rust Belt — Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan — although they are significant underdogs to win high-profile gubernatorial races in Georgia and Texas against Republican incumbents. The split diagnosis reflects the difference between macro- and micro-level conditions. The national environment is quite poor for Democrats. Of course, this is typical for the president’s party, which has lost seats in the House in all but two of the past 21 midterm elections. But Democrats are also saddled with an unpopular President Biden and a series of challenges for the country, including inflation levels that haven’t been seen in decades, the lingering effects of the still-ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and fraying trust in civic institutions — caused, in part, by Republican efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Democrats, as a predominantly urban party, also face a longstanding problem in the Senate, where every state has equal representation regardless of its population, resulting in a substantial built-in bias toward white, rural states. And although Democrats are very slightly better off following the redistricting process in the House than they were under the 2020 maps, there are still more Republican-leaning seats than Democratic-leaning ones. True, the political environment is dynamic. The Supreme Court’s decision last week to overturn Roe v. Wade is too recent to be fully reflected in polls, but there are reasons to think it will help Democrats. Roe, which granted the constitutional right to abortion, was a popular precedent, and Democratic voters are more likely than Republican ones to say the decision will encourage them to vote at the midterms. Moreover, in striking down Roe and other popular laws like restrictions against the concealed carry of firearms, the Supreme Court has in some ways undermined one of the traditional reasons that the president’s party tends to lose seats at the midterms. Typically, voters like some degree of balance: They do not want one party to have unfettered control of all levers of government. But the Supreme Court, with its 6-3 conservative majority, is a reminder of how much power Republicans have even if they don’t control the White House. The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 can also serve as a reminder to voters about what might happen if the Electoral College certification process takes place in 2024 amid Republican control of both chambers of Congress.1 Democrats have had trouble getting the public to treat threats to democracy as a high priority, but polls do show that the public is sympathetic to the Democrats’ case, especially after the recent congressional hearings on the events of Jan. 6. So, this is not a typical, low-stakes midterm election. On the contrary, there are strong forces tugging at each side of the rope, some of which are potentially of existential importance. But Democrats’ majorities in both chambers of Congress are narrow, the historical precedent toward the president’s party losing seats is strong, and polls so far — such as the generic congressional ballot, which asks voters which party they would support in an election — suggest that voters slightly prefer Republican control of Congress. In the Senate and gubernatorial races, by contrast, individual factors can matter more. And the GOP has nominated — or is poised to nominate — candidates who might significantly underperform a “generic” Republican based on some combination of inexperience, personal scandals or having articulated unpopular conservative positions. This is not a new problem for Republicans: underqualified or fringy candidates have cost them seats in the Senate in other recent cycles. So let’s briefly run through the model’s forecast for House, Senate and gubernatorial races. Then I’ll describe some changes to the model since 2020 — which are modest this year but reflect how congressional races are changing in an increasingly polarized political environment. Democratic hopes of keeping the Senate are much more viable, however. Part of this, as I mentioned, is because they appear to have stronger candidates in a handful of key races. Pennsylvania, for instance — which is an open seat after the retirement of Republican Sen. Pat Toomey — is ordinarily the sort of seat that you’d expect Republicans to win since Pennsylvania is a purple state in a Republican year. However, the Democratic candidate, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, is ahead of Republican Mehmet Oz, the doctor and TV personality, in every poll conducted so far. The model, though, is trained to be a bit skeptical given the fundamentals of the race, so it hedges against those polls and, at this point, has determined that Pennsylvania is best thought of as a toss-up. Still, that means Democrats have roughly a 50-50 chance of gaining a GOP-held Senate seat, offsetting potential losses elsewhere. Indeed, our forecast sees the overall Senate landscape to be about as competitive as it gets. The Deluxe forecast literally has Senate control as a 50-50 tossup. The Classic and Lite forecasts show Democrats as very slight favorites to keep the Senate, meanwhile, with a 59 and a 62 percent chance, respectively.  It’s a toss-up for the Senate. Part of this is because Senate terms last for six years, and so most of these seats were last contested in 2016,3 a mediocre year for Democrats in which they lost the popular vote for the House and also lost Senate races in swing states such as Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Arizona. Of the 35 Senate seats up for grabs in November, 21 are currently held by Republicans. True, most of these are not competitive, but in addition to their chances to gain a GOP-held seat in Pennsylvania, Democrats also have credible chances in Wisconsin and North Carolina (and outside chances in Ohio and Florida, although those are a stretch given how GOP-leaning both states have become). Republicans don’t have any surefire pickups, meanwhile. Our model regards their best chances as being in Georgia, but that race is rated as a toss-up. And the races in Arizona and New Hampshire merely lean toward the Democratic incumbent, meaning they are still highly plausible GOP pickup opportunities. Still, the picture isn’t as bad as you might expect for Democrats. If the political environment really deteriorates for them, they’ll be in trouble, lose most of the competitive races and even blue states like Colorado could come into play. But if things are merely pretty bad for Democrats instead of catastrophic, the outcome of the Senate will remain uncertain enough that stronger candidates could make the difference for them.

### AFF – AT: 7 states

#### Arizona deadlocked between same party face off, dooms GOP win

* Rehighlight Medina, or say Medina concedes party divides

Smith 7-22 (Allan Smith is a political reporter for NBC News. B.S in Journalism @ Ohio University. “Arizona's GOP governor primary brawl tries to define the 'real' Republican”, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2022-election/arizonas-gop-governor-primary-brawl-tries-define-real-republican-rcna38825)LR>

QUEEN CREEK, Ariz. — The closing days of Arizona’s close, contentious GOP primary for governor have turned into an all-out slugfest over which candidate is the most authentically Republican. Kari Lake, a former newscaster backed by former President Donald Trump, says opponent Karrin Taylor Robson’s unwillingness to fully embrace Trump’s stolen election lie makes her the RINO, or “Republican in name only.” Taylor Robson, a real estate developer who worked in former President Ronald Reagan’s White House, says it’s Lake who’s the fake, given her more recent turn to hard-line Trumpism. While it’s hardly new for a GOP primary to feature allegations of being a “RINO,” or for candidates to litigate issues of political authenticity, the contest provides one of the purest tests yet of how highly Republican voters prize fealty to Trump and allegiance to his claims of a stolen election. More broadly, the contest will reveal who can credibly lay claim to the mantle of “Republican” in a party where Trump is still the most dominant and influential figure. It’s a debate playing out not just in Arizona, but nationwide and tested in primaries spanning from state Senate contests to congressional races. Here in the Grand Canyon State, one that has reliably elected Republicans to statewide office for decades but in which Democrats have recently turned their fortunes around, how the conservative mantle is defined could go a long way in determining which party controls the governor’s mansion in what is now a critical presidential swing state. Former Rep. Matt Salmon, an Arizona Republican who ran for governor but dropped out and endorsed Taylor Robson last month, said after a recent Taylor Robson campaign event here that Lake and Taylor Robson are both talking about similar issues like undocumented immigration, inflation and supporting law enforcement on the stump, but Lake is building her case for being a true Republican solely off of her stance on 2020, hoping voters ignore other contradictions from her past. “But what people are looking for is, ‘OK, who’s the real deal?’” Salmon, a co-founder of the House Freedom Caucus, said. “And you got one candidate that says that they had a born-again experience, a come-to-Jesus moment, and now is the most conservative thing since sliced bread. The problem is, you can’t find one conservative thing that candidate ever did before she announced her governorship.” Whether Lake or Taylor Robson is successful in convincing more voters that they are the true Republican will have major implications for both Trump’s standing in the party and his continued efforts to overhaul how elections are conducted in one of the most pivotal presidential swing states. The Arizona primary is the latest in a series of high-stakes gubernatorial contests taking place in states he needs to win in 2024 and where he has sought to make 2020 the defining issue of the campaign. So far he’s had mixed results. But her standing as a conservative has been increasingly called into question as years-old social media clips and photos that contradict positions she now takes have surfaced. Taylor Robson calls her a “fake” and an “actress.” Taylor Robson, who polling suggests is within striking distance, is winning over more traditional Republicans in the state and has the backing of Republican Gov. Doug Ducey and former Vice President Mike Pence. (Pence and Trump are holding dueling Arizona rallies for their preferred candidates Friday.) Her path to victory is twofold: convincing enough voters who worry Lake won’t govern as she promises to come join her side while maintaining a more moderate base that is worried Lake will. But in recent weeks, Taylor Robson and other conservatives have highlighted a number of past positions and statements that don’t line up with how Lake is campaigning now. A donor to former President Barack Obama’s first presidential campaign, Lake, who has repeatedly cast doubt on the legitimacy of her state’s elections, expressed support for voting by cell phone in 2016. Now attacking “the transgender movement” and “woke gender activists,” Lake previously offered sympathetic views of gender transition as a reporter, calling one story “inspiring.” And though she has blasted drag performers as dangerous for kids, a local drag queen said Lake allowed her daughter to attend a drag show. (Lake’s campaign said the drag queen was performing as an impersonator rather than in drag.)

#### GOP loses Georgia lol – Warnock will win again

Murphy, Bluestein, and Mitchell 7-25 (Patricia Murphy joined the AJC’s politics team in 2020 from CQ Roll Call, where she was a nationally syndicated political columnist. Previously, she was the Capitol Hill Bureau Chief for Politics Daily, founder and editor of Citizen Jane Politics, and a contributor to The Washington Post’s She the People blog. Before working in journalism, Patricia was a staffer for three senators. She graduated from Vanderbilt University and holds a master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University. Greg Bluestein is a political reporter and author who covers the governor's office and Georgia politics for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He writes for the front-page of the AJC, contributes to the Political Insider blog and morning Jolt newsletter, hosts the Politically Georgia podcast and is a frequent guest on local and national TV and radio programs. He's an MSNBC and NBC News contributor and the author of "Flipped," a book on Georgia's epic 2020 election. He's a proud graduate of the University of Georgia with degrees in journalism and political science. Tia Mitchell is the AJC’s Washington correspondent. In this role, she writes about Georgia’s congressional delegation, campaigns, elections and the impact that decisions made in D.C. have on residents of the Peach State. Before that, she served as the AJC’s DeKalb County reporter. Prior to joining the paper in 2017, Tia spent her entire career in Florida covering local and state government for publications like the Tampa Bay Times and The Florida Times-Union. Tia is a graduate of Florida A&M University and is originally from Louisville, Ky. She currently serves as chair of the Political Task Force for the National Association of Black Journalists. “The Jolt: Sen. Raphael Warnock keeps distance from Joe Biden as president’s ratings sink”, https://www.ajc.com/politics/politics-blog/the-jolt-sen-raphael-warnock-keeps-distance-from-joe-biden-as-presidents-ratings-sink/IXWQC3Z4MVBKTFNVNDTV2A4SWI/)LR

With President Joe Biden’s approval rating in Georgia hovering in the low 30’s, Democrats and Republicans know tying U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock to Biden and the White House is GOP Senate hopeful Herschel Walker’s best bet to win in November. That may be why Warnock is taking new steps to put daylight between himself and Biden’s administration. The senator’s weekend rally in southwest Atlanta offered only the latest example. At the event, he stressed his bipartisan work with the likes of Republican U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Tommy Tuberville. As he’s said at other rallies, “I’ll work with anyone to get things done for Georgia.” But he drew a finer line when our AJC colleague Shannon McCaffrey pressed him after the event on whether he thinks Biden is doing a good job as president. Warnock, who campaigned on a promise to promote Biden’s agenda, essentially deflected when asked about his performance. “I’m focused on the job that I’m doing standing up for the people of Georgia,” Warnock said. He repeated himself when asked a second time. “I am standing up for the people of Georgia. I’m going to fight for them every single day. When that means standing with this person, it’s based on what it does for Georgia.” It’s not the first time Warnock has distanced himself from the administration. He helped buck a White House plan earlier this year to close a Savannah military installation and has pressed Biden to forgive student debt. He also badgered Biden to support a proposed federal gas tax holiday after months of lobbying. Clearly, the prospect of Walker dodging another debate — he refused to participate in showdowns ahead of the GOP primary — is one that Warnock‘s campaign expects to come back to haunt the Republican.

#### Nevada – Cortez will win by narrow margin

Lemon 6/16 (Jason, BA in Spanish Studies and Liberal Studies @ Andrews University. MA in Media Studies @ America University of Beirut. “Adam Laxalt's Chances of Beating Catherine Cortez Masto in Nevada: Polls”, https://www.newsweek.com/adam-laxalts-chances-beating-catherine-cortez-masto-nevada-polls-1716584)LR

Former Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt, a Republican, aims to unseat Democratic Senator Catherine Cortez Masto to flip her seat red in November, and recent polls show a potentially close race. Laxalt, who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump, won the GOP primary on Tuesday with well over 50 percent of the vote. Meanwhile, Cortez Masto handily beat her Democratic opponents with about 90 percent support. Recent polls suggest the incumbent has an edge in the race, but Nevada has been leaning toward the GOP, giving Republicans hope of winning the seat in November's midterm race. Polling and news analysis site FiveThirtyEight's average of recent polls for the Nevada Senate contest gives Cortez Masto a 4.3 percent lead. The Democrat has the support of about 43.4 percent of Nevada voters, compared with approximately 39.1 percent who back Laxalt. Meanwhile, FiveThirtyEight also assesses that Nevada has a 2.5-point lean in favor of Republicans, compared with the rest of the country. However, the most recent poll carried out in Nevada shows Cortez Masto with a wide double-digit lead over her Trump-backed challenger. The survey, conducted by the University of Nevada, Reno from May 17 to 27, showed the Democrat 21 points ahead of Laxalt. Cortez Masto was backed by 48 percent of respondents, compared with just 27 percent who supported the Republican contender. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent and surveyed 1,048 Nevadans. An early-April poll by Reno Gazette-Journal/Suffolk showed Laxalt leading Cortez Masto by 3 points. The survey of 500 likely voters had the Republican at 43 percent and the Democrat at just 40 percent. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percent. Another April survey, from The Nevada Independent and OH Predictive Insights, showed Cortez Masto in the lead by 8 points. The Democrat had the backing of 43 percent of registered voters, compared with 35 percent who supported Laxalt. The poll included 748 registered voters and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 points.

#### Dems win New Hampshire – Republicans don’t even have a contender

Treene 7-18 (Alayna Treene, is a congressional reporter at Axios. She is a co-author of the weekly Axios Sneak Peek newsletter and covers Capitol Hill, the Biden administration and elections. “Maggie Hassan's lucky break”, https://www.axios.com/2022/07/19/new-hampshire-maggie-hassan-senate-republicans)LR

Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) was initially seen as one of the most vulnerable Senate Democrats up for re-election this year. But as New Hampshire's Sept. 13 primary draws closer, there's still no clear Republican frontrunner to take her on in November. Why it matters: The GOP establishment's failure to coalesce around one viable candidate after its initial favorite — New Hampshire's current Gov. Chris Sununu — decided not to enter the race has helped clear the way for Democratic incumbent. "Sununu's decision to forego the Senate race turned the race from a slam dunk into a coin toss," Ken Spain, a Republican strategist and former GOP campaign official, told Axios. "New Hampshire falls into the growing category of races where Republicans are relying on the political environment to carry some of their candidates across the finish line." Driving the news: Hassan raised $5 million in the second quarter of 2022, with roughly $7 million in the bank, according to her campaign. That's more than five times the combined amount raised by the three main Republican candidates backed by the GOP establishment: Chuck Morse, president of the New Hampshire Senate; Kevin Smith, former director of a conservative advocacy group, and Don Bolduc, a retired Army general. Morse in particular has been name-dropped by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), chair of Senate Republicans' campaign arm. By the numbers: The leading Republicans in the primary all raised less in the second quarter of 2022 than they did in the first quarter. Morse’s campaign raised $538,000 in Q2, $100,000 of which he personally gave to his campaign, according to his latest FEC filing. That's more than $200,000 less than what he brought in during Q1. Morse has $975,000 cash on hand. Smith raised $318,000 in Q2, nearly $100,000 less than last quarter. He has roughly $349,000 cash on hand. Bolduc raised $84,000 in Q2, roughly $15,000 less than what he raised in Q1. His campaign has $65,000 in the bank. Meanwhile, Bitcoin millionaire Bruce Fenton is leading in Q2 fundraising numbers, but that's because he donated more than $1 million to his campaign. He raised roughly $20,000 in Q2 and has more than $1.6 million cash on hand. Vikram Mansharamanni, a businessman, brought in the second highest Q2 total. He raised $831,000, roughly $250,000 of which he personally contributed. The bottom line: "The race depends on a couple of things. One is, do the Republicans nominate an electable candidate? And there's no guarantee that that would happen," Tom Rath, former attorney general of New Hampshire and adviser to several GOP presidential candidates, tells Axios.

#### Beasley will win North Carolina

Crowd Wisdom 7-25 (In-depth Analysis and Insights on Election Polls, Crypto Price Predictions, Stock Forecasts and Sports Odds. “2022 North Carolina Senate Race Polls: Cheri Beasley to win North Carolina Senate Race?”, <https://crowdwisdom.live/us-politics/2022-north-carolina-senate-race-polls/)LR>

North Carolina Senate Primary 2022 Date The North Carolina Senate Race will be held on November 8th, 2022 to elect the representative. The Primaries were due to be held on May 17th, but a ruling by the North Carolina Supreme Court has delayed them indefinitely over a challenge to the congressional maps passed by the GOP-held legislature earlier in 2021. The Current incumbent of North Carolina is Richard Burr, who will not seek another term in 2022. The maps are being challenged by Democratic-aligned groups partisan and racial gerrymanders. In the last decade, North Carolina’s map was struck down 3 times so this is not without precedent. 2022 North Carolina Senate Race Polls: Google Search Data Google Trends has turned out to be one of the efficient tools for forecasting an election. The latest trends are highly in the favor of Cheri Beasley. Ted Budd has to up his ante to stop Cheri Beasley’s Juggernaut. Table

Description automatically generated Democratic vote strength comes from minorities and urban areas especially the research triangle and the Charlotte metro area. Joe Biden won Mecklenburg county – home to 1.1m people – by 35 points, while Clinton only won it by 29. Republican strength is centered in the exurban county around Charlotte and Sandhill area.

### UQ overwhelms Link O/v

#### UQ overwhelms the link – concede all their ev that GOP contenders all have a slight lead, no way a singular NATO policy causes independent voters will change their opinions when inflation is top of the ballot. All we have to do is when enough link defense to win.