2018 Election: Key Races to Watch
As of November 2, 2018

Election Day is on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. NEFI strongly encourages its members and supporters to exercise their right to vote. To find ballot information and locate your polling place, we recommend visiting *Ballotopedia* at https://ballotpedia.org.

Where provided, incumbent seats are listed in red for Republican and blue for Democrat. "⇆" indicates that experts believe this seat is likely to change party control. Links may also have been provided to race forecasts from the following sites (as of 2/2/2018 at 11:30am):

Real Clear Politics (RCP)	www.realclearpolitics.com
The Cook Report	www.cookpolitical.com
Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball	http://crystalball.centerforpolitics.org
FiveThirtyEight	https://*FiveThirtyEight*.com

I. KEY BALLOT QUESTIONS

Below is a list of interesting ballot questions being put to voters that could affect the energy and transportation sectors. These ballot measures are being watched closely at the state level, particularly by energy industry advocates, environmentalists and local policymakers.

Carbon Taxes
Washington State Initiative 1631 - Enacts a carbon emissions fee (or "carbon tax") of $15 per metric ton of carbon, beginning on January 1, 2020. The fee will increase by $2 annually until the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals are met. Revenue is dedicated to help low-income individuals transition to renewable energy, improve the efficiency of buildings, expand electric vehicles, and a long list of other special programs and projects. A similar initiative on the 2016 ballot was defeated by 59%.

Fuel Taxes
California Proposition 9 - Repeals last year's gasoline and diesel fuel tax increases of 12 and 20 cents per gallon, respectively, and repeals the increase to annual vehicle registration fees.

Missouri Proposition D - Increases state motor fuel taxes by 10 cents, to 27 cents per gallon by 2022.

Utah Question 1 (Nonbinding) - Asks voters if they support a tax increase on motor fuels of 10 cents per gallon to fund local road construction and maintenance.

Washington State Advisory Vote 19 - Asks voters whether to maintain or repeal the state's one-cent-per-barrel oil spill tax on crude oil and petroleum products received through a pipeline.

Marijuana Legalization
Michigan Proposal 1 - Legalizes the commercial sale and recreational use of marijuana. Revenue from a 10% tax on marijuana sales is dedicated to the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges (35%), improvements to public schools (35%), and local governments with marijuana businesses (30%).

Missouri Amendment 2 - Amends the State Constitution to legalize marijuana for medical use. It includes a 4% sales tax, with revenue dedicated to veterans' services.

Missouri Amendment 3 - Amends the State Constitution to legalize marijuana for medical use. It includes a 15% sales tax, with revenue dedicated to the development of treatments for cancers and other diseases.

Missouri Proposition C - Changes the state law to legalize marijuana for medical use and creates a 2% sales tax to help fund veterans' services and drug treatment, education, and law enforcement programs.

North Dakota Measure 3 - Legalizes recreational use of marijuana and creates an automatic expungement process for individuals with convictions for a controlled substance that has been legalized.

Oklahoma Question 788 - Legalizes marijuana for medical use. This question was put to voters in a special ballot on June 26, 2018 and was approved by 57%.

Utah Proposition 2 - Legalizes marijuana for medical use.

Minimum Wage
Arkansas Issue 5 - Increases the state minimum wage from $8.50 to $11.00 per hour by 2021.

Missouri Proposition B - Increases the minimum wage from $7.85 to $12.00 in 2023, and indexes the state's minimum wage to inflation thereafter.

Utilities & Renewable Electricity
Arizona Proposition 127 - Amends the State Constitution to require that a certain percentage of the state's electricity be generated from renewable sources, starting with 12% in 2020 and increasing to 50% in 2030.

California Proposition 70 - Amends the State Constitution to require a one-time two-thirds vote in each chamber of the legislature in 2024 or thereafter to pass a spending plan for revenue from the state's cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gases. This question was included on the June 5, 2018 ballot and defeated by 63%.

Nevada Question 3 - Amends the State Constitution to require the legislature to pass laws establishing "an open, competitive retail electric energy market," prohibit electrical-generation monopolies, and protect "against service disconnections and unfair practices." It also declares a right to choose one's own electricity provider.

Nevada Question 6 - Amends the State Constitution to require that 50% of the state's electricity come from renewable resources by 2030.

Other Issues of Interest
Florida Amendment 9 - Bans offshore oil and gas drilling beneath all state waters.

II. GOVERNORS & STATE LEGISLATURES

Republicans have complete control, including governorships and both houses of the legislature, in 26 state governments. Democrats have complete control in eight states, including Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Rhode Island. The 2018 election is likely to see some state legislatures flip and provide opportunities for both parties to consolidate control. This will help to decide the fate high-profile state and local issues including carbon tax proposals, gasoline and diesel fuel tax increases, truck tolling, electrification initiatives, marijuana legalization, minimum wage laws and other issues.

1. Governors

Republicans are defending 26 of 36 gubernatorial seats this November. Democrats are defending nine seats, and there is one independent, Gov. Bill Walker of Alaska. Below is a list of key governor's races in the Northeast. Note: Governor Phil Murphy (D) of New Jersey is not on the ballot this election.

Connecticut (Open Seat)
Former U.S. Senate and gubernatorial candidate Ned Lamont (D) vs. business executive Bob Stefanowski (R).
Cook Report: Toss-up
RCP: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight:Likely Democrat (78.7%)

Maine (Open Seat) ⇆
Businessman and former gubernatorial candidate Shawn Moody (R) vs. State Attorney General Janet Mills (D).
Cook Report: Toss-up
RCP: Leans Democrat
FiveThirtyEight:Likely Democrat (91.6%)

Massachusetts
Incumbent Gov. Charlie Baker (R) will face Jay Gonzalez (D). Gonzalez served as budget czar under Baker's predecessor, former Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick.
Cook Report: Solid Republican
RCP: Safe Republican
FiveThirtyEight:Solid Republican (99.9%)

New Hampshire
Incumbent Gov. Chris Sununu (R) vs. former State Senator Molly Kelly (D).
Cook Report: Leans Republican
RCP: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight:Likely Republican (93.8%)

New York
Incumbent Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) vs. Duchess County Exec. and former state lawmaker Marc Molinaro (R).
Cook Report: Solid Democrat
RCP: Safe Democrat
FiveThirtyEight:Solid Democrat (99.7%)

Pennsylvania
Incumbent Gov. Tom Wolf (D) vs. businessman and State Senator Scott Wagner (R).
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
RCP: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight:Solid Democrat (99.4%)

Rhode Island
Incumbent Gina Raimondo (D) vs. former Cranston mayor Allan Fung (R). If elected, Fung would become Rhode Island's first Asian-American Governor.
Cook Report: Leans Democrat
RCP: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight:Solid Democrat (97.9%)

Vermont
Incumbent Gov. Phil Scott (R) vs. former Vermont Electric Cooperative CEO Christine Hallquist (D). Hallquist is the first transgender person to receive a major party's nomination for governor.
Cook Report: Solid Republican
RCP: Likely Republican
FiveThirtyEight:Likely Republican (94.6%)

2. State Legislatures

According to an analysis by [*FiveThirtyEight.com*](), there are more than 6,000 seats up for election across 87 state legislative chambers in the U.S. this election. Of these, 16 currently have divided governments, including Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania. Major parties hold razor-thin majorities in several states, raising the stakes for the 2018 election. These states include Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and New York.

It is believed that Democrats will try to push-through state carbon taxes and initiatives to electrify the transportation and space heating markets in the coming years. This could become much easier if they obtain complete control in states like New York and Vermont, and greater control in other legislatures throughout the Northeast. Below is a list of *current* party control in each legislative chamber in the region, not including vacancies (TP=Third Party).

State	Current Governor	Current Senate	Current House
CT	Democrat	Democrat (18D-18R)*	Democrat (80D-71R)
ME	Republican	Republican (18R-17D)	Democrat (73D-70R-10TP)
MA	Republican	Democrat (31D-7R)	Democrat (117D-34R-2TP)
NH	Republican	Republican (14R-10D)	Republican (217R-167D-3TP)
NJ	Democrat	Democrat (25R-15D)	Democrat (54D-26R)
NY	Democrat	Republican (32D-31R)*	Democrat (104D-41R-1TP)
PA	Democrat	Republican (33R-16D)	Republican (119R-81D)
RI	Democrat	Democrat (31D-5R-1TP)	Democrat (62D-12R-1TP)
VT	Republican	Democrat (23D-7R)	Democrat (90D-53R-7TP)

*Note: The Connecticut Senate's current tie is broken by the Lieutenant Governor, a Democrat. The New York Senate is Republican-controlled because one Democrat, Simcha Felder, caucuses with the Republicans.

III. U.S. House of Representatives

All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are on the ballot this year. Republicans have enjoyed a sizable majority in the House since the 2010 election and prior to current vacancies they've held 241 seats. At least 218 seats are needed for a majority in that chamber. Therefore, Democrats need a net-gain of 23 seats to obtain the majority. *The Cook Report* rates 48 House seats as "Toss-up or Worse," 45 of which are Republican-held. Another 65 districts are rated competitive ("likely or "lean"), 55 of which are Republican-held. More than two-dozen Republican-held districts voted for Obama or Clinton - these districts alone could win Democrats the majority. Computer modeling by [*FiveThirtyEight*]() currently sees around an 85% chance that Democrats will win control. Below are key races in the Northeast that may help decide the fate of the House of Representatives.

Maine 2nd District ⇆
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R) vs. State Rep. Jared Golden (D).
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Leans Democrat (62.7%)

New Hampshire 1st District (Open Seat)
Businessman and politician Chris Pappas (D) vs. former law enforcement official Eddie Edwards (R).
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat (83.7%)

New Jersey 2nd District (Open Seat) ⇆
Attorney Seth Grossman (R) vs. State Senator Jeff Van Drew (D).
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Safe Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (98%)

New Jersey 3rd District **Pure Toss-up**
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Tom MacArthur (R) vs. former Obama-era national security advisor Andy Kim (D).
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Toss-up (55.2% Chance Democrat)

New Jersey 4th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R) vs. businessman and Navy veteran Josh Welle (D).
Cook Report: Safe Republican
Crystal Ball: Safe Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (93%)

New Jersey 5th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D) vs. attorney John J. McCann, Jr. (R).
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (98.4%)

New Jersey 7th District ⇆
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance (R) vs. former Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Tom Malinowksi (D).
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat (77.4%)

New Jersey 11th District (Open Seat) ⇆
General Assembly Member Jay Webber (R) vs. former Navy helicopter pilot Mikie Sherrill (D).
Cook Report: Leans Democrat
Crystal Ball: Leans Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat (84.5%)

New York 1st District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin (R) vs. businessman Perry Gershon (D).
Cook Report: Likely Republican
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (93.1%)

New York 2nd District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Pete King (R) vs. political activist Liuba Grechen Shirley (D).
Cook Report: Likely Republican
Crystal Ball: Likely Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Lean Republican (72.6%)

New York 11th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Dan Donovan (R) vs. Afghan War veteran Max Rose (D).
Cook Report: Leans Republican
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (76.1%)

New York 18th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D) vs. veteran law enforcement officer James O'Donnell (R).
Cook Report: Safe Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (99.2%)

New York 19th District **Pure Toss-up**
Incumbent U.S. Rep. John Faso (R) vs. attorney Antonio Delgado (D).
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Toss-up (58.8% Chance Democrat)

New York 21st District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R) vs. businesswoman Tedra Cobb (D).
Cook Report: Likely Republican
Crystal Ball: Likely Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (88.9%)

New York 22nd District **Pure Toss-up**
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Claudia Tenney (R) vs. State Assembly Member Anthony Brindisi (D).
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Toss-up (55.9% Chance Democrat)

New York 23rd District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Tom Reed (R) vs. cybersecurity analyst Tracy Mitrano (D).
Cook Report: Likely Republican
Crystal Ball: Likely Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (83.1%)

New York 24th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. John Katko (R) vs PhD candidate Dana Balter (D)
Cook Report: Leans Republican
Crystal Ball: Likely Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (81.9%)

New York 27th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Chris Collins (R) vs. Grand Island Town Supervisor Nate McMurray (D).
Cook Report: Leans Republican
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Leans Republican (75.9%)

Pennsylvania 1st District **Pure Toss-up**
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R) vs. former Congressional staffer Scott Wallace (D).
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Toss-up (57.2% Chance Republican)

Pennsylvania 6th District (Open Seat) ⇄
Attorney Greg McCauley (R) vs. Air Force veteran Chrissy Houlahan (D).
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Safe Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (99%)

Pennsylvania 7th District (Open Seat) ⇄
Former Olympic cyclist Marty Nothstein (R) vs. attorney Susan Wild (D).
Cook Report: Leans Democrat
Crystal Ball: Leans Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat (94.9%)

Pennsylvania 8th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright (D) vs. businessman John Chrin (R).
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (96%)

Pennsylvania 10th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Scott Perry (R) vs. military veteran and pastor George Scott (D).
Cook Report: Leans Republican
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Leans Republican (67.7%)

Pennsylvania 14th District (Open Seat) ⇆
Businesswoman Bibiana Boerio (D) vs. Navy veteran, attorney and judge Guy Reschenthaler (R).
Cook Report: Likely Republican
Crystal Ball: Safe Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Republican (99.2%)

Pennsylvania 16th District
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (R) vs. attorney Ron DiNicola (D)
Cook Report: Leans Republican
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (87.5%)

Pennsylvania 17th District ⇆
Court-ordered redistricting is forcing two incumbent U.S. Representatives to face-off for control of the 17th District. Democrat Conor Lamb of the 18th District will face Republican Keith Rothfus of the 12th District.
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Safe Democrat (95.6%)

IV. U.S. Senate

Democrats are defending 24 of the 33 Senate seats on the ballot this year. To retake the majority, they must flip two of nine Republican-held seats, many of which are in traditionally red states. All the while, Democrats are defending some extremely competitive seats. This includes Senate seats in 10 states won by President Trump in 2016. There is also an unexpectedly competitive race in deep-blue New Jersey, where Democratic incumbent Robert Menendez is struggling due to ethics concerns.

Polling was favorable towards Democrats over the summer, likely due in part to the President's then-sagging poll numbers and the strength of Democratic incumbents this election cycle. Since then polls have inched towards the GOP, driven mainly by Democrats' handling of the Kavanaugh nomination. Not only should Republicans keep the Senate, but they could even pick up a seat or two. GOP leaders see this as key if control of the House flips. It would also provide a "cushion" heading into the 2020 election and its more Democrat-favored map. Democrats are of course hoping for a record turnout and a "blue tsunami" that would carry them to victory and complete control of Congress. *FiveThirtyEight'*s current election forecast only gives them about a 15% chance, however. Key Senate races from around the country that you should watch on election night include:

Arizona (Open Seat) **Pure Toss-up**
This seat is being vacated by retiring Republican Senator Jeff Flake. Two popular sitting U.S. Representatives Martha McSally (R) and Kyrsten Sinema (D) face-off for this highly contested seat.
Trump 2016 Margin: +3.6
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Toss-up (59% Chance Democrat)

Florida

Incumbent Senator Bill Nelsen (D) vs. Governor Rick Scott (R), who's moderate tone and handling of recent hurricanes have boosted his popularly. While Nelsen has recovered slighly in recent polls, this remains one of the most competitive races in the country and could determine control of the Senate.
Trump 2016 Margin: +1.2
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Leans Democrat (69.6%)

Indiana

Incumbent Senator Joe Donnelly (D) faces former State Representative Mike Braun (R). Donnelly is one of the most conservative Democrats in Congress. In campaign ads he has said that healthcare will be socialized over his "dead body" and has given emphasis on his opposition to illegal immigration. He is favored in recent polls.
Trump 2016 Margin: +18.9
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Leans Democrat (69.1%)

Michigan

Incumbent Senator Debbie Stabenow (D) faces military veteran John James (R). Stabenow has highlighted her bipartisanship in helping to draft the Senate Farm Bill, an issue that has played well in Michigan.
Trump 2016 Margin: +0.2
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Safe Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (97.9%)

Minnesota (Special Election)

Incumbent Senator Tina Smith (D) vs. State Senator Karin Housley (R).
Trump 2016 Margin: -1.5
Cook Report: Lean Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat (89.6%)

Missouri

Incumbent Senator Claire McCaskill (D) vs. State Attorney General Josh Hawley (R). This is perhaps the GOP's best chance at an upset due to the state's increasing rightward-lean and McCaskill's "no" vote on Justice Kavanaugh.
Trump 2016 Margin: +18.6
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Leans Democrat (60.4%)

Montana

Incumbent Senator John Tester (D) vs. State Auditor Matt Rosendale (R). Senator Tester, a former rancher, has focused on the impact of federal policy on farmers in his state. The race remains close.
Trump 2016 Margin: +20.5
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Leans Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat (87.5%)

Nevada ****Pure Toss-up****

Incumbent Senator Dean Heller (R) vs. U.S. Representative Jacky Rosen (D). Democrats had polled well in Nevada prior to the fight over the Kavanaugh nomination. Heller has shown strength in polling ever since.
Trump 2016 Margin: +2.4
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Toss-up
FiveThirtyEight: Toss-up (51.1% Chance Republican)

New Jersey

Incumbent Senator Robert Menéndez (D) vs. business executive Bob Hugin (R). Senator Menéndez is wounded from a corruption scandal for which the Senate Ethics Committee "severely admonished" him. While Menéndez is heavily favored, he has polled weakly in recent weeks. Republicans hope for an upset here.
Trump 2016 Margin: -14.1
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat *(*90.7%)

North Dakota ⇆

Incumbent Senator Heitkamp (D) vs. U.S. Representative Kevin Cramer (R). Heitkamp voted against the Kavanaugh nomination despite his strong support in the state. Her polls have slipped ever since.
Trump 2016 Margin: +35.7
Cook Report: Leans Republican
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Leans Republican (74.9%)

Ohio

Incumbent Senator Sherrod Brown (D) vs. U.S. Representative Jim Renacci (R).
Trump 2016 Margin: +8.1
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (96.1%)

Pennsylvania

Incumbent Senator Bob Casey, Jr. (D) vs. U.S. Representative Lou Barletta (R).
Trump 2016 Margin: +0.7
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Safe Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (96.9%)

Tennessee (Open Seat)

This seat is being vacated by retiring Republican Senator Bob Corker (R). U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn (R) will face popular former Governor Phil Bredesen (D) in this highly competitive contest.
Trump 2016 Margin: +26
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (83.8%)

Texas

Incumbent Senator Ted Cruz (R) vs. State Representative Beto O'Rourke (D). Despite national attention and historic fundraising, O'Rourke remains behind in the polls.

Trump 2016 Margin: +9
Cook Report: Toss-up
Crystal Ball: Leans Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (78.5%)

West Virginia

Incumbent Senator Joe Manchin (D) vs. State Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R). Manchin is a popular politician in the state due to his moderate policies and friendliness towards President Trump.

Trump 2016 Margin: +42.1
Cook Report: Lean Democrat
Crystal Ball: Lean Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Democrat (86.9%)

Wisconsin

Incumbent Senator Tammy Baldwin (D) vs. State Senator Leah Vukmir (R). Wisconsin is a solid swing state where Senator Baldwin has been able to maintain relatively modest approval ratings.

Trump 2016 Margin: +0.8
Cook Report: Likely Democrat
Crystal Ball: Likely Democrat
FiveThirtyEight: Solid Democrat (97.7%)

BONUS:

Mississippi

This Senate race is unlikely to be resolved on Election Day due to its "run-off" law. Incumbent Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, a gubernatorial appointee to replace retiring Senator Thad Cochran (R), will face three challengers on election day: State Senator Chris McDaniel (R), former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy (D), and independent candidate Tobey Bartee. If no candidate gains 50% of votes, a runoff will be held between the top two candidates on November 27, 2018 (this is almost certain to happen). Democrats are hoping the split Republican vote will provide a pick-up opportunity. If control of the Senate remains undecided after Election Day, this run-off election will attract unprecedented national attention, not to mention money.

Trump 2016 Margin: +17.8
Cook Report: Leans Republican
Crystal Ball: Likely Republican
FiveThirtyEight: Likely Republican (87.7%)

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