

Guide to Best U.S. House Races for Strategic Donations in 2018

The basic premise is to win the House decisively in 2018. Simple control would mean about a 24 seat gain. However, winning at least 40 would give a more manageable majority and send a much stronger message that the direction of our country must change. And we have a great crop of candidates - best in a generation!

Race Categories. Winning at least 40 seats is quite feasible. In fact the spreadsheet lists some 67 potentially winnable seats currently held by Republicans. But a key strategy is to reach beyond the 20 or so seats most likely to win, and put priority on more “Mid-Tier” races. Thus we show the following categories:

- **Best Picks Now** – These are Mid-Tier races with standout Dem nominees already (either with no primary opposition or not very substantial competition). Most are designated by the DCCC as a “Red to Blue” priority. These are the candidates we think are the **best investment for donation now**.
- **Also Good** – Good Mid-Tier races, but just not as high a priority as Best Picks Now.
- **Good Bets Later** – Also highly winnable and worthy but awaiting primaries.
- **Bigger Reach** – Potentially winnable, but not as likely.
- **Too Good?** – These Top Tier candidates/races, we think are winnable, but are already well positioned and not as good a strategic investment.
- **Well Funded** – Winnable races, but which have decent direct funds already, especially compared to their opponents.

Column Headings. Here is some additional explanation:

- Cook Rating – Rating of the race by the Cook Report
- Cook PVI – The “Partisan Voting Index” – an index of how the district leans based on previous voting patterns.
- Dem Odds – The odds of a D vs R victory at the PredictIt online betting site. (These change very frequently and may not be perfectly up to date.)
- Priority Opponent – R incumbents that would be particularly good to oust.
- D-Cash Latest and R-Cash Latest – Cash on hand as of the latest FEC report. When there is no standout candidate, it’s the competitor with the most cash.
- SL+\$ - Swing Left national has collected money for many races to be given to the Dem candidate once he/she is selected. (May not be perfectly up to date.)
- Polls – Selected poll results or Real Clear Politics average.
- Prim. Date – Date of primary, or run-off. Or may be date of special election.

Weighing the factors for donation. Deciding which candidates to support is clearly a matter of judgment. One priority should be situations where the Dem nominee is at a substantial funding disadvantage, especially where they need early money to set up a robust campaign structure. Costs of waging campaigns also vary considerably by location – for example costing more in places like California and NY. But in those areas, local donors may provide substantial support. Also races that get lots of national attention typically garner significant support, and races that get less attention may be a better investment.

Thanks for looking at this tool. With your help we will win our great country back!

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