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

The basic strategy is to win the House <u>decisively</u> 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! The Senate is more challenging, but we have good opportunities there too.

Race Categories. Winning at least 40 seats is quite feasible. In fact the spreadsheet lists almost 70 potentially winnable seats currently held by Republicans. But a <u>key strategy</u> 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 candidates we think are the **best investment for donation now.**
- **Next Best and Also Good** – Good Mid-Tier races, but just not as high a priority as Best Picks Now.
- **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:

- Donate Now – For priority candidates, click on the link and make a donation
- Video – For some candidates, a direct link to a candidate video
- 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.
- Hillary 2016 and Obama 2012 margins in the district
- Betting Odds D/R – The odds of a D vs R victory at the PredictIt online betting site. (These change 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.
- Polls – Selected poll results or Real Clear Politics average

Dem House Preference is the average preference in national polls for a Democratic House as reported by Real Clear Politics (RCP)

Weighing the factors for donation. Deciding which candidates to support is clearly a matter of judgment. One key consideration is where the Dem nominee has a substantial funding disadvantage, especially where they need money for a robust campaign structure. Costs 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!