

SSPA 2022 Priorities

Senate

Six priority states plus monitoring NH. Fundraising focused on PA, NC and WI. Will monitor the fundraising of AZ, GA, and NV but right now those Dems don't need \$\$.

Gov/SoS/AG/St Sct

Six priority states plus MI if that race tightens (right now, doesn't seem close). These states have multiple statewide races that are critical for the rest of Biden's term and for 2024. GA, AZ, NV, and PA are particularly critical states; statewide races in NC are more of a long-shot but a reasonable one so worth the effort.

House

- 1st priority: AZ-4, MI-3, MI-7, MI-8, NV-1, NV-3, NV-4 NH 1, NH-2, NC 13, NC-1, PA-7, PA-8, and PA-17.
- 2nd priority: NM-2, CO-8, OH-1, 9, & 13, OR-5, VA-2. May add IL-17 after further research.

State Legislatures

State legislative races are critically important. In red states, it is important that Republicans not be allowed to gain super-majorities that would the legislature to override a governor's veto – thwarting the ability of a Democratic governor in such state to effectively govern. At the same time, Democrats should take advantage of opportunities to flip control of one or both chambers in a state legislature. SSPA should get involved in the highlighted races below.

- **NC House:** 120 seats (51 Dems and 69 R's). Dems need net gain of 10 seats to win back the majority; R's need a net of three seats to get a three-fifths super-majority.

CN says there are only 67 safe/lean/tilt R seats, 47 safe/lean/tilt D seats, with the remaining six races as toss-ups. R's must win five of the six toss-ups to get a super-majority. However, two of the races that CN categories as likely R seem competitive – and may be even toss-ups. R's must win both of those too. CN says R's have 49% chance of getting a super-majority.

Toss Up races as of the end of 2022 Q1:

- **HD-5:** a 50/50 district¹ with MVAP of 47%.² Dem incumbent is Howard Hunter – a Black owner of a local funeral home. He comes from a political family with national connections in the Dem party. He raised \$23K and has \$45K COH with 169 donors; R challenger older white retiree from the sheriff's department. He has advocated for a govt based on "biblical values" and has a limited online and social media presence, but he does have an active campaign. He has raised \$1.5K with only \$800 COH. No sense of donor base. CN: toss-up, but that seems overly optimistic.
- **HD-9:** a 52% D/ 48% R district with MVAP of 42%. Dem inc is a Brian Farkas, young white politician that SSPA supported in 2020. He raised \$147K and has \$116K COH with 486 donors; R challenger is an older white emergency room physician who raised \$116K and has \$63K COH with 130 donors. Limited website or media presence, but wouldn't underestimate donor base and potential resources.

¹ Partisan lean from Princeton Redistricting Project estimates.

² MVAP is Minority Voting Age Population as a percent of the total electorate in the district.

- HD-24: a 51% D/ 49% R district with MVAP of 50%. Dem inc is Linda Cooper-Suggs – an older Black woman who was a teacher and more recently was an educational consultant. She raised \$2.4K and has \$2.2K COH with 5 donors; R challenger is Ken Fontenot – a vet and a young Baptist preacher who raised \$23K and has \$20K COH with 43 donors. CN has as a toss-up, but Dem does not seem competitive. Dem nominee has unperformed in fundraising and has relatively few endorsements; she has an official FB page, but it is not active and her campaign has little social media presence.
- HD-63: a 52% D/ 48% R district with MVAP of 47%. Dem inc is Ricky Hurtado – a professor at UNC Chapel Hill who we have liked in the past though we did not support him because we felt he did not need the support. He raised \$133K and has \$72K COH with 812 donors. R challenger is the older white male finance executive and former state lawmaker he beat two years ago. He has raised \$56K and has \$20K COH with an unknown number of donors.
- HD-73: a 52% D/ 48% R district with MVAP of 44%. D inc is Diamond Staton-Williams, a nurse and local govt official. She raised \$53K and has \$21K COH with 435 donors; R challenger is Brian Echevarria raised \$191K and has \$92K COH with 862 donors.
- HD-103: a 52% D/ 48% R district with MVAP of 28%. Dem challenger is Laura Budd, a white attorney. She raised \$15K and has \$3K COH with less than 100 donors; R challenger is William Brawley who held the office three cycles ago but has lost his last two attempts to regain it. He is a white male and a real estate agent. He has raised \$36K and has \$13K COH with 67 donors.

Other races that may also be competitive:

- HD-20: a 50/50 district with MVAP of 19%. R inc is Ted Davis, an older white male attorney. He has raised \$30K and has \$45K COH with 44 donors; Dem challenger is Amy DeLoach, an older white woman who is a real estate agent from a family that has been politically active for several generations. She has raised \$50k, has \$47K COH, and 262 donors. Democratic challenger for HD-20 is experienced and financially competitive with a strong donor base in a district that barely leans Dem; she has the support of Carolina Forward and has made the Dobbs decision a key part of her campaign. CN has likely R but seems competitive.
- HD-25: a 51% D / 49% R district with MVAP of 49%. Dem inc is James Gaillard, a pastor who has raised \$49K and has \$40K COH with 251 donors; R challenger is Allen Chesser, a white vet and law enforcement officer; R has raised \$30K and has \$45K COH with 44 donors. CN has as tilt R but seems more competitive? Race may have been overlooked because until recently the Dem incumbent was running for the 3rd congressional district. He has since dropped out of that race to run for re-election.
- HD-35: a 52% D/ 48% R district with a MVAP of 17%. Dem inc. – a middle aged white litigation and business attorney – raised \$77K and has \$22K COH with 393 donors. The R challenger is middle-aged white man who is a CEO of an IT business. He has raised \$62K and has \$34K COH with 95 donors. This is a rematch of 2020, in which the Dem won by 5 percentage points (approx.. 3100 votes.) CN has this race as tilt R but seems competitive.

Conclusion: Blocking a super-majority seems possible. Four of the six toss-up districts CN considers toss-ups (all except HD-24 and HD 73) look winnable, though the candidate for HD-103 will need financial help. It also appears there are potentially other competitive races that CN

may have overlooked. These include HD-20, HD-25, and HD-35. There are also three tilt D districts, HD-54, HD-104 and H-105 that may become toss-ups and are worth monitoring.

- **NC Senate:** 50 seats (28 R's and 22 D's). Dems need to gain a net of four seats to win a majority. Republicans only need a net gain of two seats to get a three-fifths super-majority.

CN says there are 30 safe/lean/tilt R seats, 18 safe/lean/tilt D seats and two toss-ups (SD-3 and SD-18). However, one race that CN categories as lean R seem competitive – SD 17 – and may be even toss-ups. CN says R's have a 67% chance of a super-majority. Dems would have to win two out of the three potentially competitive races to prevent the R's from getting a super-majority.

- **SD-3:** a 52% D/ 48% R district with MVAP of 49%. R is an incumbent from a dismantled House of Reps district and part of House of Reps leadership. R raised \$66K and has \$55K COH with 88 donors. Dem challenger is an activist beat a first-term Dem incumbent Senator in a primary by almost 20 points; she raised \$33K and has \$30K COH and 95 donors. Not bad COH for someone who had a tough primary, but concerned about rudimentary web/social media presence and whether Dem establishment will coalesce behind her.
- **SD-17:** a 51% D/ 49% R district with MVAP of 29%. Dem is incumbent Sydney Batch, appointed in 2021 after having lost reelection for a nearby seat in 2020. Well-respected lawyer focusing on family law, she has raised \$268K and has \$200K COH with 1,147 donors and a lengthy list of endorsing organizations. R is retired Marine and IT entrepreneur. He has raised \$43K and has \$40K COH and 147 donors.
- **SD-18:** a 51% D/49% R district with MVAP of 36%. Dem is Mary Wills Bode, an attorney from a political family. She raised \$302K and has \$275 COH and 147 donors. R is a businessman/entrepreneur who raised \$142K and has \$105K COH and 106 donors. He touts his biblical values and leadership.

Conclusion: Blocking will be hard, but it is doable. Dems have good candidates that are well-funded and at least two of them have significant momentum from advocacy groups, politicians. HD-5 is in part of SD-3, which is in part of CD-1; SD-17 seems to include CD-13; HD-63 is in part of SD-18, I think, so may be able to do double-duty. Consider involvement in highlighted races.

- **MI Senate:** 38 total seats (currently 22 R and 16 D). Dems need three seats to win the majority assuming they have Lt Gov.

CN says there are 17 seats that are safe/lean/tilt D, there are 19 that are safe/lean/tilt R and there are two toss-ups (SD-11 and SD-35).

Toss-Up Races:

- **SD-11:** a 51% D/ 48% R district with MVAP of 28%. Likely R nominee is Michael McDonald – a white male who is an exercise physiologist; he is incumbent in SD-10, which has significant overlap with SD-11. He raised \$157K and has \$50K COH with 50 donors. Likely D nominee Veronica Klinefelt – a white woman on Macomb Co. Commission who was vice-mayor of Eastpoint. Endorsed by local progressives. Fundraising unknown. Young Dem who was the first Black mayor of Eastpoint withdrew from the race abruptly; need to understand what that may mean for progressive and Black voter turnout.

- **SD-35**: a 52% D/ 48% R district with MVAP of 23%. Likely Dem nominee is Kristen McDonald Rivet, non-profit exec who is a Bay City Commissioner and vice-president of Michigan Future, a non-partisan organization focused on cultivating long-term economic prosperity in MI. Republican nomination is contested. No financial info on any of the candidates. SD-35 is wholly within CD-8, where Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI) is in a tough re-election.

Other race that may be competitive:

- **SD-9**: A 50/50 district with MVAP of 23%. Dem nominee will be Padma Kuppa the incumbent in SD-41. A mechanical engineer, she is the first Indian immigrant and first Hindu to serve in the Michigan Legislature. She raised \$354K and has \$215K COH with 4,051 donors. Kuppa has a long list of endorsements from state and local officials, labor, and advocacy groups. The Republican nominee will be Michael Webber, the former incumbent for HD-45. He has raised \$50K and has \$50K COH with 112 donors. CN has this race Lean R but seems competitive based on experience and fund-raising prowess of Dem candidate.

Conclusion: Flippable if Dems can hold seats expected to win. They may exceed CN forecast, even if lose two toss-ups.

- WI Assembly: 99 seats (61 Rs and 38 Ds). Rs need a net gain of five seats to have a two-thirds super-majority. CN forecast 34 safe/lean/tilt Dem seats, 64 safe/lean/tilt R seats and 1 toss-up (94th AD). R's need the toss-up and one tilt or Lean D districts (AD-54, AD-71, and AD-45). More research and decisions to come.