

CQ's Senate Race Rankings — Republican Seats

The following are CQ's rankings of the 20 contests for Senate seats held by Republicans. "No Clear Favorite" means neither party has a definite lead. "Leans Republican" means the GOP has an edge, but the race appears competitive. "Republican Favored" means that party has a definite lead, but an upset cannot be completely ruled out. "Safe Republican" means that party appears certain to win.

State	Incumbent	First Won	1996 Vote	Contenders
No Clear Favorite				
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Robert C. Smith	1990	49-46%	D: Gov. Jeanne Shaheen R: Rep. John E. Sununu
Leans Republican				
ARKANSAS	Tim Hutchinson	1996	53-47%	D: State Atty. Gen. Mark Pryor (nominated in May 21 primary)
COLORADO	Wayne Allard	1996	51-46%	D: '96 Senate nominee Tom Strickland
NORTH CAROLINA	Jesse Helms (retiring)	1972	53-46%	D: Ex-Clinton chief of staff Erskine Bowles; N.C. Secy. of State Elaine Marshall; state Rep. Dan Blue R: ex-Cabinet secretary Elizabeth Dole
TENNESSEE (Primary Aug. 1)	Fred Thompson (retiring)	1994	61-37%	D: Rep. Bob Clement R: Ex-Gov. Lamar Alexander; Rep. Ed Bryant
TEXAS	Phil Gramm (retiring)	1984	55-44%	D: Ex-Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk (nominated in April 9 runoff) R: State Atty. Gen. John Cornyn (nominated in March 12 primary)
Republican Favored				
MAINE	Susan Collins	1996	49-44%	D: Ex-state Sen. Chellie Pingree (nominated in June 11 primary)
OREGON	Gordon H. Smith	1996	50-46%	D: Ore. Secy. of State Bill Bradbury (nominated in May 21 primary)
SOUTH CAROLINA	Strom Thurmond (retiring)	1954	53-44%	D: Ex-Coll. of Charleston Pres. Alex Sanders; R: Rep. Lindsey Graham (nominated in June 11 primary)
Safe Republican				
ALASKA	Ted Stevens	1970	77-10-13%	D: Lawyer/engineer Frank Vondersaar
ALABAMA	Jeff Sessions	1996	53-46%	D: State Auditor Susan D. Parker (nominated in June 25 runoff)
IDAHO	Larry E. Craig	1990	57-40%	D: Ex-ambassador Alan Blinken (nominated in May 28 primary)
KANSAS	Pat Roberts	1996	62-34%	D: None met June 10 filing deadline
KENTUCKY	Mitch McConnell	1984	55-43%	D: Education activist Lois Combs Weinberg (nominated in May 28 primary)
MISSISSIPPI	Thad Cochran	1978	71-27%	D: Ex-private investigator Steven Turney (nominated in June 4 primary)
NEBRASKA	Chuck Hagel	1996	56-42%	D: Construction worker Charlie Matulka (nominated in May 14 primary)
NEW MEXICO	Pete V. Domenici	1972	65-30%	D: Ex-FCC Comm. Gloria Tristani (nominated in June 4 primary)
OKLAHOMA	James M. Inhofe	1994	57-40%	D: Ex-Gov. David Walters; lawyer Tom Boettcher
VIRGINIA	John W. Warner	1978	52-47%	I: Defense Dept. employee Gail Crook
WYOMING	Michael P. Enzi	1996	54-42%	D: Ex-Lander Mayor Joyce Corcoran