CQ's House Race Ranking Update

The following are the rankings for the House contests classified by CQ as the year's most competitive between the parties. The contests are listed by state, district and incumbent's name. Incumbents are running unless the seat is noted as open, with an indicator of the incumbent's situation: retiring (ret.), running for Senate (Sen.), running for governor (gov.) or defeated in a primary (def.).

Redistricting produces a number of districts across the country in which there is no incumbent running. It also produces a handful of contests in which two incumbents must run against each other. Because these seats cannot be accurately listed as Republican-held or Democratic-held, they are grouped in the "Redistricting" category below.

CQ rankings are defined as follows: **No Clear Favorite** means neither party has a definite lead. **Leans** means that the named party has an edge, but the contest appears competitive. **Favored** means that the named party has a definite lead, but an upset cannot be completely ruled out. All contests not listed are presumed to be **Safe**, meaning the incumbent party appears certain to win the contest.

Republican-held Seats (33)

State (District) . . . . . Member

Leans Democratic (2)
Md. 2 . .Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (open/gov.)
Tenn. 4 . . . . . .Van Hilleary (open/gov.)

No Clear Favorite (4)
Ala. 3 . . . . . .Bob Riley (open/gov.)
Md. 8 . . . . . .Constance A. Morella
Minn. 2 . . . . . .Mark Kennedy (open)[1]
N.H. 1 . . . .John E. Sununu (open/Sen.)

Leans Republican (13)
Colo. 4 . . . . . .Bob Schaffer (open/ret.)
Conn. 2 . . . . . .Rob Simmons
Fla. 22 . . . . . .E. Clay Shaw Jr.
Iowa 1 . . . . . .Jim Nussle
Iowa 2 . . . . . .Jim Leach
Iowa 4 . . . . . .Tom Latham
Ky. 3 . . . . . .Anne M. Northup
N.J. 5 . . . .Marge Roukema (open/ret.)
N.M. 2 . . . . . .Joe Skeen (open/ret.)
N.C. 8 . . . . . .Robin Hayes
Okla. 4 . . . . . .J.C. Watts (open/ret.)
Pa. 15 . . . . . .Patrick J. Toomey
W.Va. 2 . . . . . .Shelley Moore Capito

Republican Favored (14)
Fla. 8 . . . . . .Ric Keller
Ill. 10 . . . . . .Mark Steven Kirk
Ind. 6 . . . . . .Mike Pence
Ind. 8 . . . . . .John Hostettler
Ky. 1 . . . . . .Edward Whitfield
La. 5 . . . . . .John Cooksey (open/Sen.)
Mich. 9 . . . . . .Joe Knollenberg
N.H. 2 . . . . . .Charles Bass
N.J. 7 . . . . . .Mike Ferguson
N.M. 1 . . . . . .Heather A. Wilson
N.Y. 1 . . . . . .Felix J. Grucci Jr.
S.D. AL . . . . . .John Thune (open/Sen.)
Texas 5 . . . . . .Pete Sessions (open)[2]
Texas 23 . . . . . .Henry Bonilla

Democratic-held Seats (27)

State (District) . . . . . Member

Republican Favored (1)
Pa. 18 . . . .Frank R. Mascara (open)[3]

Leans Republican (3)
Ind. 2 . . . . . .Tim Roemer (open/ret.)
Minn. 6 . . . . . .Bill Luther (open)[1]
Ohio 3 . . . . . .Tony P. Hall (open/ret.)

Leans Democratic (11)
Fla. 5 . . . . . .Karen L. Thurman
Ind. 7 . . . . . .Julia Carson
Ind. 9 . . . . . .Baron P. Hill
Iowa 3 . . . . . .Leonard L. Boswell
Kan. 3 . . . . . .Dennis Moore
Ky. 4 . . . . . .Ken Lucas
Maine 2 . . .John Baldacci (open/gov.)
N.D. AL . . . . . .Earl Pomeroy
Texas 25 . .Ken Bentsen (open/Sen.)
Utah 2 . . . . . .Jim Matheson
Wash. 2 . . . . . .Rick Larsen

Democrat Favored (12)
Ark. 4 . . . . . .Mike Ross
Calif. 18 . . .Gary A. Condit (open/def.)[4]
Nev. 1 . . . . . .Shelley Berkley
N.J. 12 . . . . . .Rush D. Holt
Ohio 17 . . . .Tom Sawyer (open/def.)[5]
Ore. 5 . . . . . .Darlene Hooley
Pa. 13 . . . . . .Joseph M. Hoeffel
R.I. 1 . . . . . .Patrick J. Kennedy
Texas 11 . . . . . .Chet Edwards
Texas 17 . . . . . .Charles W. Stenholm
Wash. 3 . . . . . .Brian Baird
Wis. 2 . . . . . .Tammy Baldwin

Redistricting: Open Seats, Incumbent Matchups (15)

State (District) . . . . . Member

Democrat Favored (3)
Ga. 3 . . . . . .open
Ga. 11 . . . . . .open
N.C. 13 . . . . . .open

No Clear Favorite (2)
Ariz. 1 . . . . . .open
Colo. 7 . . . . . .open

Leans Republican (8)
Conn. 5 . . . . . .Nancy L. Johnson (R)/ Jim Maloney (D)
Fla. 24 . . . . . .open
Ill. 19 . . . . . .John M. Shimkus (R)/ David Phelps (D)
Mich. 10 . . . . . .open
Miss. 3 . . . . . .Ronnie Shows(D)/ Charles W. "Chip" Pickering Jr. (R)
Nev. 3 . . . . . .open
Pa. 6 . . . . . .open
Pa. 17 . . . . . .George W. Gekas (R)/ Tim Holden (D)

Republican Favored (2)
Fla. 25 . . . . . .open
Mich. 11 . . . . . .open

Changes this week: Nev. 3 (No Clear Favorite to Leans Republican); NJ 5 (Republican Favored to Leans Republican); NY 1 (Safe Republican to Republican Favored); Pa. 4 (Republican Favored to Safe Republican); Pa. 18 (Leans Republican to Republican Favored)

1 - Because of major changes to their districts in redistricting, Kennedy, who currently represents the 2nd District, is running in the 6th, and Luther, who currently represents the 6th, is running in the 2nd.

2 - Sessions, who represents the current 5th District, has decided to run in Texas' new 32nd District, where he appears certain to win.

3 - Mascara, whose home is in the 18th District, ran in the neighboring 12th District, but lost a May 21 primary to Democratic Rep. John P. Murtha.

4 - Condit lost the March 5 Democratic primary to state Rep. Dennis Cardoza.

5 - Sawyer lost the May 7 Democratic primary to state Sen. Tim Ryan.