

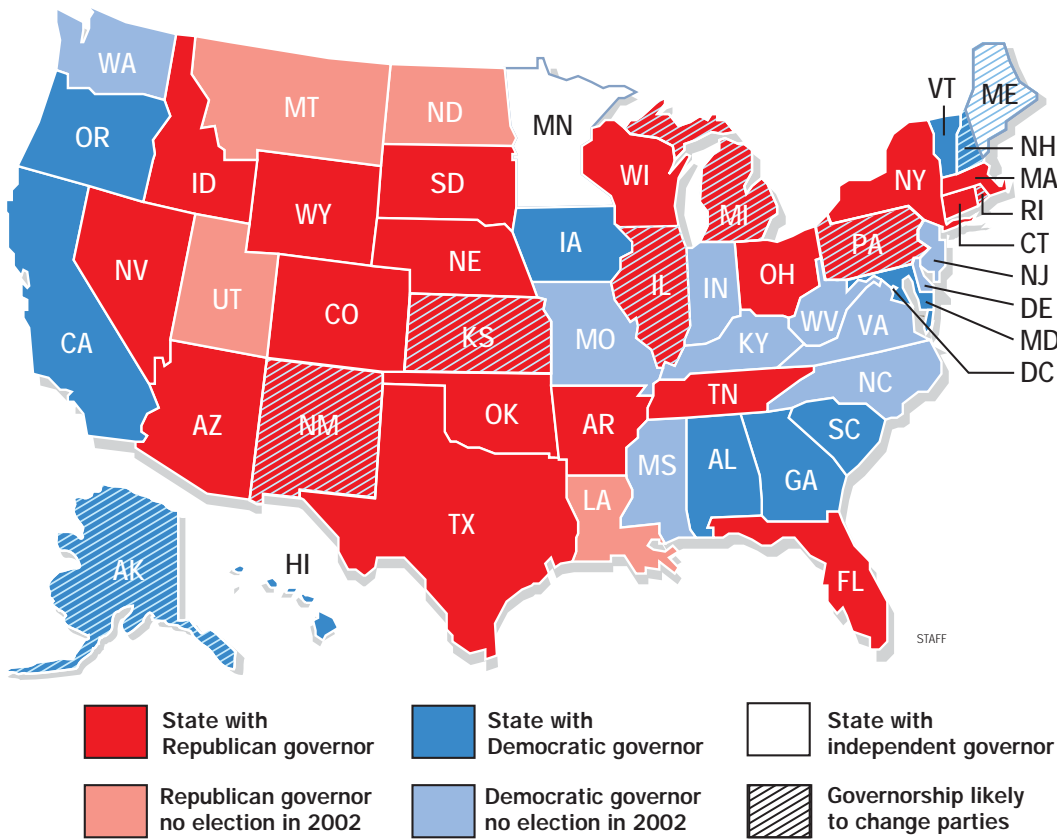


# Close races that will shape the nation's balance of power

## A changing mosaic of governors

On Tuesday, 36 states will choose governors. Republicans currently hold 23 of those seats, while Democrats are guarding 11 and independents hold two. Twenty states have no incumbent running.

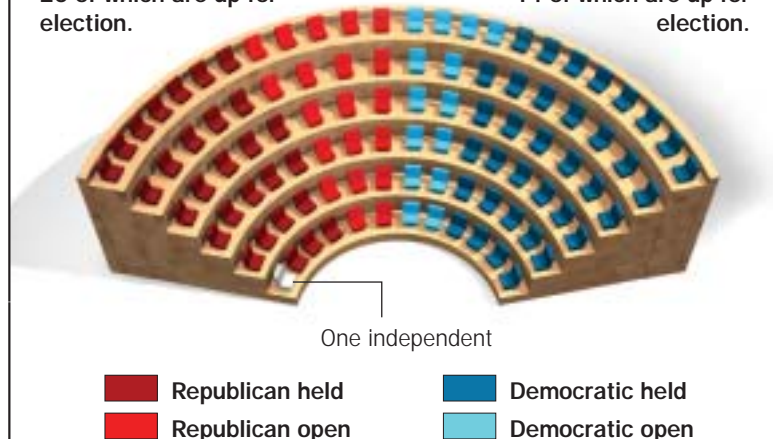
In nine states – Alaska, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island – control of the office is likely to switch parties. At least a dozen races remain too close to call.



## Senate in the balance

The Senate faces one of the closest elections in US history. With 34 seats up for grabs – and 20 Republican spots on the line – power could tip either way. Six races are too close to call, and at least eight others are hotly contested. Currently, the Senate teeters between 50 Democrats and 49 Republicans, with one independent.

**49 Republican seats, 20 of which are up for election.** **50 Democratic seats, 14 of which are up for election.**



Source: Associated Press

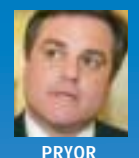
AP

## Year of the tossup / The Senate



HUTCHINSON

**ARKANSAS:** Incumbent **Tim Hutchinson (R)** – Arkansas's first GOP senator since Reconstruction – is considered the Senate's most endangered Republican. Attorney General **Mark Pryor (D)** portrays Hutchinson as too conservative. Hutchinson attacks Pryor as inexperienced and waffling on issues like abortion.



PRYOR



ALLARD

**COLORADO:** In this rematch of 1996 – when **Tom Strickland (D)** lost by just five percentage points – Sen. **Wayne Allard (R)** has enjoyed few advantages of incumbency, struggling with low name recognition. Both candidates have made corporate responsibility an issue in one of the year's most negative campaigns.



STRICKLAND



MONDALE

**MINNESOTA:** With former Senator and Vice President **Walter Mondale's (D)** candidacy announced only Wednesday, the race has turned swiftly. It had seemed one of the GOP's best hopes, but emotion over Sen. Paul Wellstone's (D) death may sweep Mondale to victory over **Norm Coleman (R)**, a former St. Paul mayor.



MONDALE



CARNAHAN

**MISSOURI:** Sen. **Jean Carnahan (D)** is struggling to retain the seat she took in place of her husband, Mel, who won posthumously in 2000. Republicans are counting on Missouri, with Rep. **Jim Talent (R)** on the ballot. Republicans have attacked Carnahan as unqualified. Democrats paint Talent as too conservative.



CARNAHAN



SHAHEEN

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Three-term governor **Jeanne Shaheen (D)** and Rep. **John Sununu (R)** have sparred over education, Social Security, and taxes. Sununu won a handy victory over iconoclastic GOP incumbent Bob Smith in the primary, but could be hurt on Tuesday by angry Smith supporters writing in the senator's name.



SHAHEEN



DOLE

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Former Cabinet member **Elizabeth Dole (R)** has enjoyed full coffers, high name recognition, and an early lead in her race against former Clinton Chief of Staff **Erskine Bowles (D)**. Yet Bowles has narrowed that gap in a state that's becoming increasingly competitive for Democrats.



DOLE



THUNE

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** The feisty campaign between **John Thune (R)** and incumbent Sen. **Tim Johnson (D)** has become a proxy battle between the White House agenda and the state's senior senator, Democrat Tom Daschle. Bush encouraged Thune to run, and a Johnson defeat could cost Daschle his post as majority leader.



THUNE



KIRK

**TEXAS:** Former Dallas mayor **Ron Kirk (D)** is vying to become the state's first black senator. A moderate, Kirk aligns himself with President Bush on tax cuts and defense, but Texas Attorney General **John Cornyn (R)** has stayed ahead. Democrats are counting on a large black and Latino turnout to swing the vote.



KIRK

## Year of realignment / The governorships

State	Candidates and parties	*indicates incumbent	State leaning toward
Alabama	Bob Riley (R) vs. Don Siegelman* (D)		Republican
Arizona	Matt Salmon (R) vs. Janet Napolitano (D)		Democrat
Arkansas	Mike Huckabee* (R) vs. Jimmie Lou Fisher (D)		Republican
Florida	Jeb Bush* (R) vs. Bill McBride (D)		Republican
Hawaii	Linda Lingle (R) vs. Mazie Hirono (D)		Tossup
Iowa	Doug Gross (R) vs. Tom Vilsack* (D)		Democrat
Kansas	Tim Shallenberger (R) vs. Kathleen Sebelius (D)		Democrat
Maryland	Bob Ehrlich (R) vs. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (D)		Tossup
Massachusetts	Mitt Romney (R) vs. Shannon O'Brien (D)		Tossup
Minnesota	Tim Pawlenty (R) vs. Roger Moe (D) vs. Tim Penny (I)		Tossup
Oklahoma	Steve Largent (R) vs. Brad Henry (D)		Republican
South Carolina	Mark Sanford (R) vs. Jim Hodges* (D)		Republican
Tennessee	Van Hilleary (R) vs. Phil Bredesen (D)		Democrat

STAFF

STAFF GRAPHIC PHOTOS: AP, STAFF