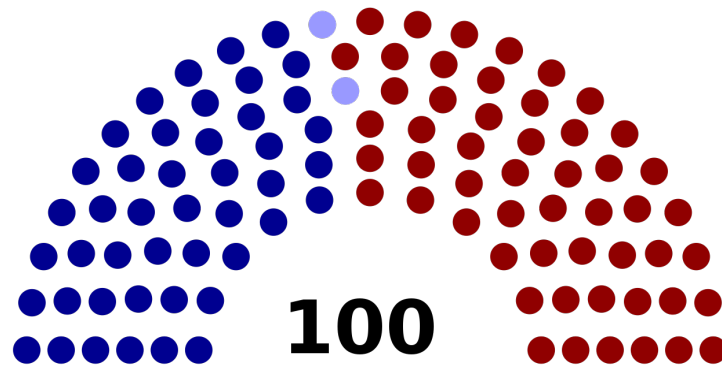


# Downstream Ballots 2020: Competitive Senate Races



*Because regardless of who wins the White House,  
the Senate will be key to enabling or checking  
what that person can and cannot do*

05 April 2020

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Noteworthy Items This Past Week.....	4
Pundit Forecast Summary .....	5

## Executive Summary

- *There is reason to be cautiously optimistic that Democrats can win the Senate this year.*
- In the worst case, Democrats need a net gain of five seats to win the Senate.
- In the best case, Democrats need a net gain of three seats – along with the Presidency – to win the Senate. Without the Presidency they need a net gain of four seats.
- Democrats have 12 seats to hold, all but one of which are considered safe.
- The only Democratic seat at real risk is Doug Jones in AL. If that seat is lost, Democrats need to pick up an additional seat to make up for it.
- Losing the White House and Alabama is the five-seat worst case scenario.
- Republicans have 23 seats to hold, and 10 are potentially competitive (some more so than others).
- Of the 10 potentially competitive seats Republicans have to hold:
  - Arizona and Colorado are very competitive at this point
  - North Carolina and Maine are competitive
  - Montana has good potential for moving there
- Georgia (Special), Iowa, and Kansas each offers a small glimmer of hope.
- And unbelievably, Mitch McConnell is having some real problems in Kentucky.
- So again, there is reason to be cautiously optimistic, but it's not a given. There is a lot of work to be done between now and November.

## Noteworthy Items This Past Week

State	Item
<b>AL</b> p. 11	
<b>AZ – Special</b> p. 12	Sabato changed forecast from Toss Up to Leaning Blue
<b>CO</b> p. 13	Gonzales changed from Toss Up to Tilt Blue
<b>GA</b> p. 14	
<b>GA – Special</b> p. 15	
<b>IA</b> p. 16	Cook changed from Likely Red to Leaning Red
<b>KA</b> p. 17	
<b>KY</b> p. 18	
<b>ME</b> p. 19	Collins's 2009 work to delete pandemic funding re-discovered Sabato changed forecast from Leaning Red to Toss Up Gonzales changed forecast from Leaning Red to Toss Up
<b>MT</b> p. 20	
<b>NC</b> p. 21	

## Pundit Forecast Summary

For a description of Cook, Sabato, and Gonzales, please see “Sources” on page 23.

<b>Current Incumbent Status</b>	<b>Cook 20 March</b>	<b>Sabato 02 April</b>	<b>Gonzales 03 April</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	Leaning Red	Likely Red	Leaning Red
<b>Arizona - Sp</b>	Toss Up	Leaning Blue	Toss Up
<b>Colorado</b>	Toss Up	Leaning Blue	Tilt Blue
<b>Georgia</b>	Likely Red	Likely Red	Likely Red
<b>Georgia - Sp</b>	Leaning Red	Leaning Red	Likely Red
<b>Iowa</b>	Leaning Red	Leaning Red	Leaning Red
<b>Kansas</b>	Leaning Red	Likely Red	Leaning Red
<b>Kentucky</b>	Likely Red	Likely Red	Solid Red
<b>Maine</b>	Toss Up	Toss Up	Toss Up
<b>Montana</b>	Leaning Red	Leaning Red	Leaning Red
<b>N. Carolina</b>	Toss Up	Toss Up	Toss Up