Big I National – Election Update

With less than a week until Election Day, the race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump remains incredibly close. Seven battleground states between the Rust Belt (MI, PA, WI) and Sun Belt (AZ, GA, NC, NV) will decide the presidential election and all are within the margin of error.

In addition to the White House, both parties are locked in tight races that will determine control of Congress. Democrats currently control the U.S. Senate 51-49 but are playing defense in 23 states compared to just 11 for Republicans, who are extremely bullish that they will retake control of the chamber. Pundits agree that they are likely to do so. In presidential years, competitive Senate seats are more likely to break away from the party in power so keep an eye on that trend.

Republicans control the U.S. House by an extremely fragile 220-212 with 3 vacancies. Pundits agree that fewer than 40 seats will ultimately decide which party controls the House next session of Congress. Republicans are defending 17 districts that President Biden won in 2020, and Democrats are defending 5 districts that Trump carried in 2020.

Below is a list of highly competitive Senate and House races, sorted by poll closing times, to keep an eye on as election night unfolds and results come in. With the balance of power being so small, it is likely to be a very late night and the election outcome could very well spill into the days following. If you are interested in more insight into the 2024 elections, please click here to view The Big "I" pre-election video.

*7:00pm EST – Polls close in **GA, IN, KY, SC, VA & VT***

Highly Competitive House Races:

VA-7th District (OPEN) - Derrick Anderson (R) v. Eugene Vindman (D) – Virginia reports early and this is a true swing seat. If either party is overperforming here it bodes well for them beyond the Old Dominion.

*7:30pm EST – Polls close in **NC, OH & WV***

Highly Competitive Senate Races

OH Senate – Sherrod Brown (D-incumbent) v. Bernie Moreno (R): Brown is a democrat incumbent in an increasingly red state and facing his first election with Trump on the ballot. He'll need to significantly outperform the top of the ticket, as Trump could win Ohio by double digits.

WV Senate – Glenn Elliot (D) v. Jim Justice (R): The race is not competitive, but important to note since this open democrat seat will flip republican in a state where President Trump won by 39 points in 2020.

Highly Competitive House Races:

NC-1st District - Don Davis (D-incumbent) v. Laurie Buckhout (R)

OH-13th District – Kevin Coughlin (R) v. Emilia Sykes (D-incumbent)

*8:00pm EST – Polls close in **AL, CT, DE, DC, FL, IL, MA, MD, ME, MO, MS, NH, NJ, OK, PA, RI, & TN***

<u>Highly Competitive Senate Races</u>

MD Senate – Angela Alsobrooks (D) v. Larry Hogan (R) v. Mike Scott (L): Alsobrooks made it through a pricey primary against Congressman David Trone. Traditionally a solid democrat state, former MD governor and "centrist" candidate Larry Hogan jumped into the race. He faces an uphill battle to make a splash in a state President Biden won by 33 points in 2020.

PA Senate – Bob Casey (D-incumbent) v. Dave McCormick (R): Polling shows this race has tightened significantly. McCormick will need Trump to win by several points at the top of the ticket if he hopes to pull off the upset.

<u>Highly Competitive House Races:</u>

PA-7th District – Ryan MacKenzie (R) v. Susan Wild (D)

PA-8th District – Rob Bresnahan (R) v. Matt Cartwright (D)

PA-10th District – Scott Perry (R-incumbent) v. Janelle Stelson (D)

8:30pm EST – *Polls close in **AR***

9:00pm EST – *Polls close in **AZ, CO, IA, KS, LA, MI, MN, NE, NM, NY, ND, SD, TX, WI & WY***

<u>Highly Competitive Senate Races</u>

AZ Senate – Ruben Gallego (D) v. Kari Lake (R) v. Mike Norton (I): Congressman Gallego consistently leads in polling against 2022 gubernatorial nominee, Kari Lake.

MI Senate – Mike Rogers (R) v. Elissa Slotkin (D): This open race is between Congresswoman Slotkin and former Congressman Rogers in a state that has not voted in a republican senator since 2000. Slotkin has a strong edge with her fundraising numbers, but pundits believe the top of the ticket will likely play a role in the outcome of this race.

NE Senate – Deb Fischer (R-incumbent) v. Dan Osborn (I): This race has become unexpectedly competitive, with Senator Fischer facing a strong challenge from independent union leader Dan Osborn. Osborn has significantly out-fundraised Fischer and is heavily outspending her on ads, promoting his blue-collar background. Despite the close contest, pundits still predict Fischer will ultimately win.

TX Senate – Colin Allred (D) v. Ted Cruz (R-incumbent): Democrats look to Texas as their best possible pick-up opportunity this cycle and recruited a strong candidate with former NFL player and Congressman Allred. Allred has outpaced Cruz in fundraising but will need a Hail Mary to take home a win in a state that has voted republican over the last 10 presidential cycles.

WI Senate – Tammy Baldwin (D) v. Eric Hovde (R): Recent polling shows Baldwin with a slight edge over self-funding venture capitalist, Eric Hovde. As a swing state, Wisconsin is a top focus for both parties, pushing many political pundits believe this race will come up within the margin of error.

Highly Competitive House Races:

AZ-1st District – David Schweikert (R-incumbent) v. Amish Shah (D)

AZ-6th District - Juan Ciscomani (R-incumbent) v. Kristen Engel (D)

CO – 8th District - Yadira Caraveo (D-incumbent) v. Gabe Evans (R)

IA-1st District - Christina Bohannan (D) v. Miller-Meeks (R-incumbent)

IA-3rd District – Lanon Baccam v. Zach Nunn (R-incumbent)

ME-2nd District - Jared Golden (D-incumbent) v. Austin Theriault (R)

MI-7th District (OPEN) – Tom Barrett (R) v. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D)

MI-8th District (OPEN) – Paul Junge (R) v. Kristen McDonald Rivet (D)

NE-2nd District – Don Bacon (R- incumbent) v. Tony Vargas (D)

NM-2nd District – Yvette Herrell (R) v. Gabe Vasquez (D-incumbent)

NY-4th District - Anthony D'Esposito (R-incumbent) v. Laura Gillen (D) – watch these New York races, which could very well determine which party controls the House

NY-17th District – Mondaire Jones (D) v. Mike Lawler (R-incumbent)

NY-19th District – Marc Molinaro (R-incumbent) v. Josh Riley (D)

10:00pm EST – *Polls close in **MT, NV, & UT***

Highly Competitive Senate Races

NV Senate – Jackie Rosen (D-incumbent) v. Sam Brown (R) v. Chris Cunningham (L): Rosen is playing defense against Trump endorsed veteran Sam Brown.

MT Senate – Tim Sheehy (R) v. Jon Tester (D): Tester is a seasoned veteran when it comes to pulling through a tight race but the partisan pull of Montana and Trump leading by double digits puts his opponent and aerospace executive Tim Sheehy ahead in polling.

11:00pm EST – *Polls close in **CA, ID, OR & WA***

Highly Competitive House Races:

CA-13th District - John Duarte (R-incumbent) v. Adam Gray (D) – similar to New York, these California seats could determine control of the House

CA-22nd District – Rudy Salas (D) v. David Valadao (R-incumbent)

CA-27th District - Mike Garcia (R-incumbent) v. George Whitesides (D)

CA-41st District - Ken Calvert (R-incumbent) v. Will Rollins (D)

CA-45th District – Michelle Steel (R-incumbent) v. Derek Tran (D)

OR-5th District – Janelle Bynum (D) v. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-incumbent)

WA-3rd District – Joe Kent (D) V. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-incumbent)

12:00am EST – *Polls close in **HI***

1:00am EST – *Polls close in **AK***

Highly Competitive House Races:

AK-AL District - Mary Peltola (D-incumbent) v. Nick Begich III (R)