Transportation (*and some Prognostication*) during the 115th Congress

Drew Marrs

Director, Government Relations

Norfolk Southern Corporation

NS NORFOLK SOUTHERN
One line, infinite possibilities.

Political Presentations in the 115th Congress

¯_(ツ)_/¯

Since We Last Met…

…Influencers on Policy, Politics Has Changed.

Major Activity in 115th Congress

- March 2018 Omnibus Bill ($1.3 Trillion)
  - $1.3B in new funding for border security but not for a wall along the US-Mexico border or ICE agents
  - $380M voting systems upgrades, $307M for FBI to combat cyberattacks
  - $4B to combat the opioid crisis
  - $1.3B increase in funding for Census 2020
  - $320M for IRS and Tax Cuts and Jobs Act staffing/systems changes
  - "Fix NICS" bill (updates to national gun background check system)
- National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
  - Defines the next year's military strategy and funding levels, and usually includes reforms to other government entities

Major Activity in 115th Congress

- Senate Confirmation (Advice and Consent) of Judiciary
  - Trump nominees to appeals court: 29
    - *Most since 1891*
  - Trump nominees to district court: 53
  - Trump nominees to the Supreme Court: 2
- "Regular Order" of Appropriations Bills (12 total)
  - "Minibus" of three bills (Energy & Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction & VA) signed by Pres. Trump 9/21
  - "Minibus" of two bills (Defense and Labor-HHS-Education) along with a continuing resolution for the remaining bills 'til Dec. 07 signed into law on 9/28.

Transportation Initiatives in 115th Congress

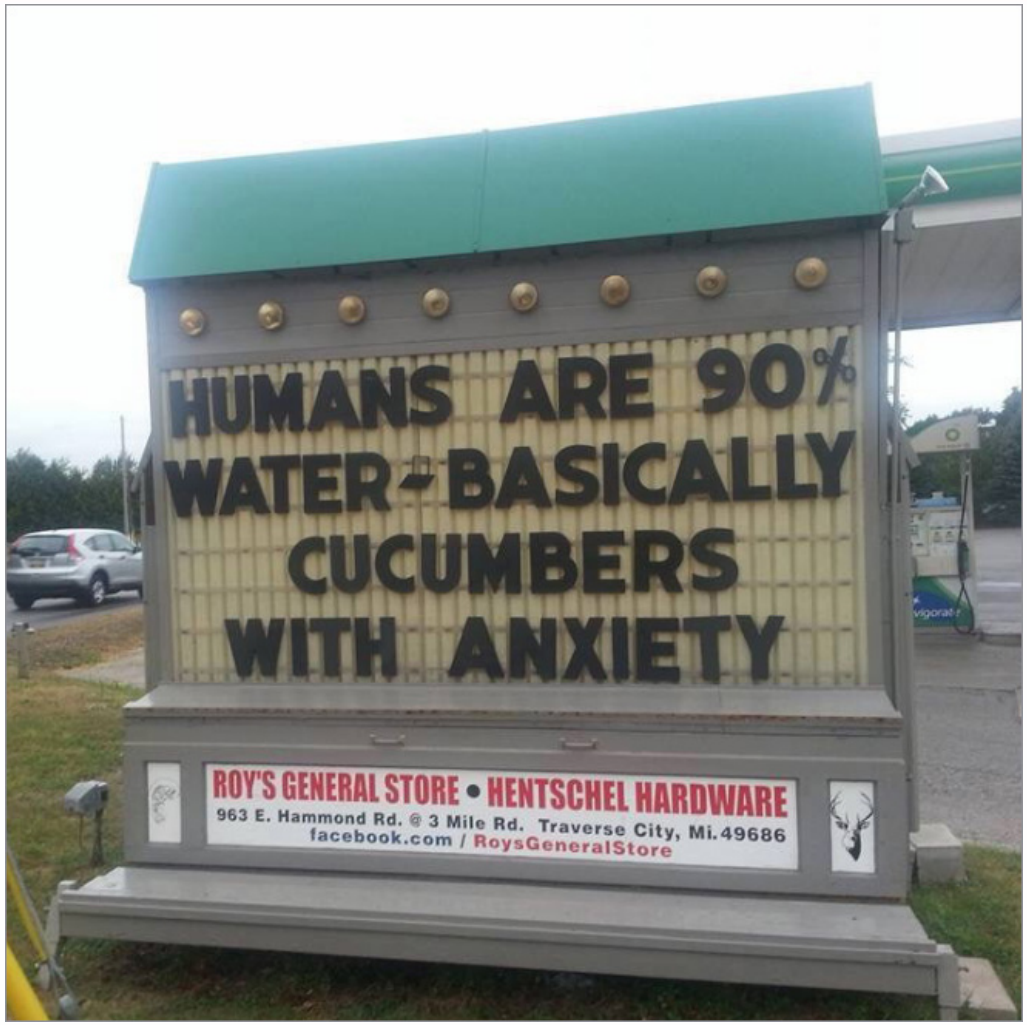
- THUD Appropriations Bill (House and Senate conference)
  - House: $71.8 billion; Senate: $71.4 billion
  - Conferees announced and negotiations underway
- FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018
  - Primarily aviation-related programs, such as FAA, NTSB, drones
  - Railroad items, too: critical infrastructure designation, tower markings
- March 2018 Omnibus
  - Funding for high-speed internet development, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, others
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) last week
  - Harbor/waterway investment, flood protection, USACE, hydropower

Speaking of Moving…Who's Leaving Congress?

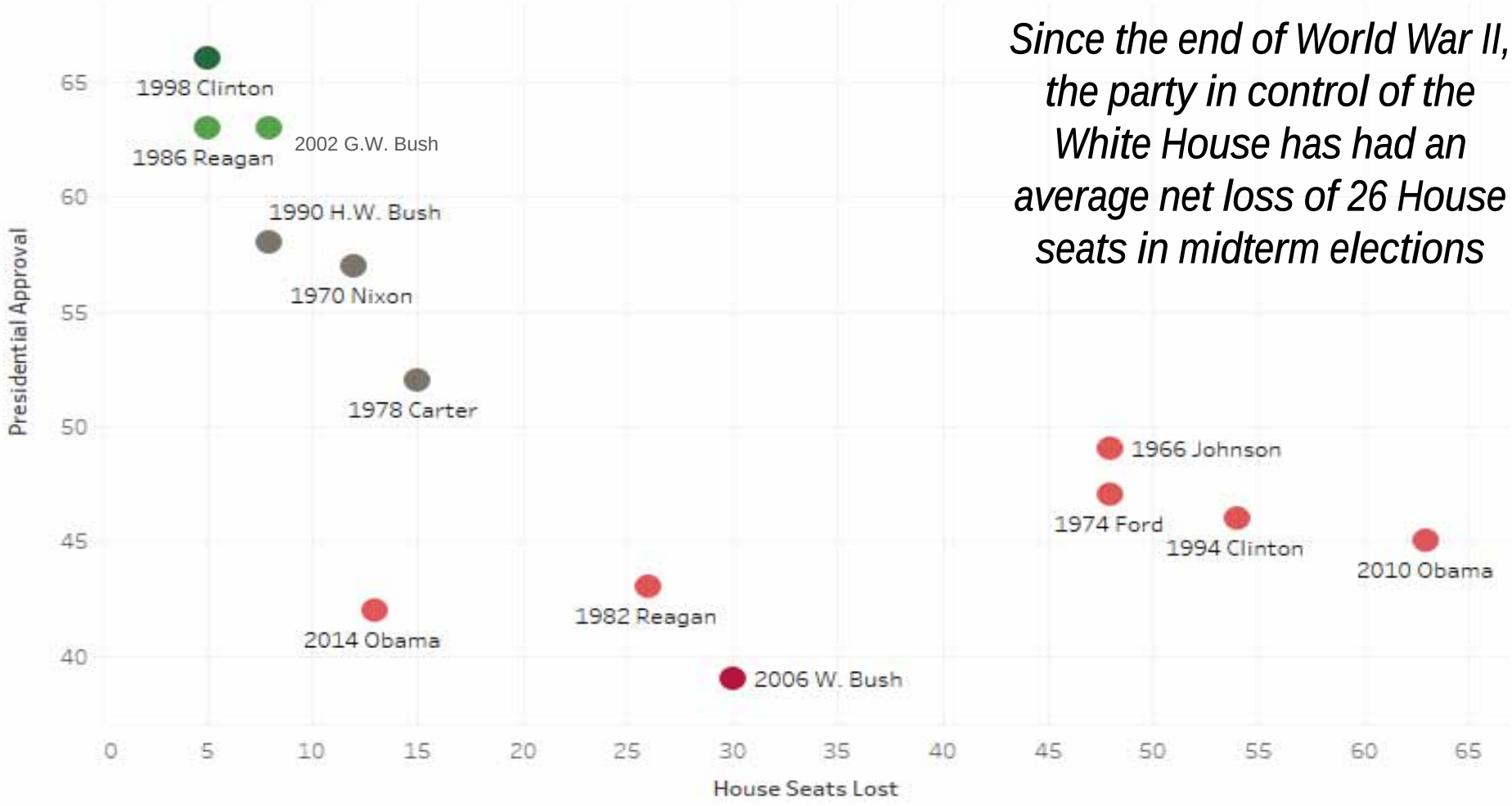
- Members of Congress not running for re-election:
  - 39 Republicans and 18 Democrats
  - *However*…13 Republicans and 10 Democrats are seeking another office (Governor, U.S. Senate, state office)
- True retirements: 26 Republicans, eight Democrats
  - Most Republican retirements since 2008; fewest among DEMs.
  - Open seats = competitive primaries and general elections
- But Why Leave?
  - Chairmanship ending, swamp creatures bite, tough re-election

Favorite Halloween Movie

Signs of the Times…for Political Parties



Good Signs for House Democrats
Bad Signs for House Republicans



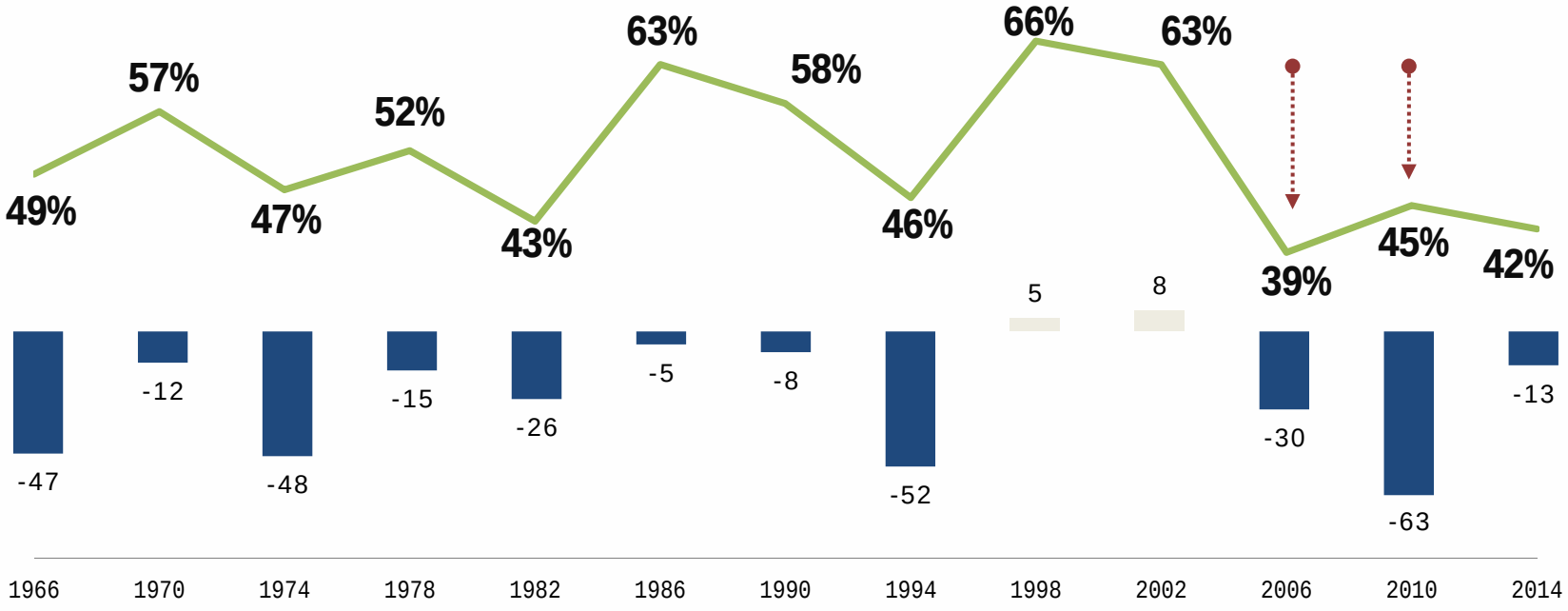
Since the end of World War II, the party in control of the White House has had an average net loss of 26 House seats in midterm elections

Sources: Ally Flinn, David Wasserman, "Follow 2018 with us," The Cook Political Report, April 10, 2018.

Presidential approval ratings vs. House seats lost, 1966-2014

Good Signs for House Democrats
Bad Signs for House Republicans

Presidents with a sub-50% approval rating lose an average of 40 House seats in the midterms



Job approval	Average change
Over 60%	+3 Seats
50%-60%	-12 Seats
Under 50%	-40 Seats

Presidential job approval vs. midterm results since 1966

Sources: Gallup, The Cook Political Report, National Journal research, 2018.

Good Signs for House Democrats
Bad Signs for House Republicans

House Republicans are defending 98 competitive seats to only 13 competitive Democratic seats

(8 Dem, 4 GOP)

AZ-1	O'Halleran
CA-7	Bera
CA-16	Costa
FL-7	Murphy
MN-7	Peterson
NH-1	Shea-Porter*
NJ-5	Gottheimer
PA-8	Cartwright
PA-17	Rothfus/Lamb
NJ-2	LoBiondo*
PA-5	VACANT-Meehan
PA-6	Costello*

(2 Dem, 13 GOP)

NV-3	Rosen*
NV-4	Kihuen*
AZ-2	McSally*
CA-49	Issa*
CO-6	Coffman
IA-1	Blum
IL-6	Roskam
FL-27	Ros-Lehtinen*
KS-3	Yoder
MI-11	Trott*
MN-2	Lewis
MN-3	Paulsen
NJ-11	Frelinghuysen*
PA-7	VACANT-Dent
VA-10	Comstock

(1 Dem, 29 GOP)

MN-1	Walz*
CA-10	Denham
CA-25	Knight
CA-39	Royce*
CA-45	Walters
CA-48	Rohrabacher
FL-15	Ross*
FL-26	Curbelo
IA-3	Young
IL-14	Hultgren
KS-2	Jenkins*
KY-6	Barr
ME-2	Poliquin
MI-8	Bishop
NC-9	Pittenger*
NC-13	Budd
NJ-3	MacArthur
NJ-7	Lance
NM-2	Pearce*
NY-19	Faso
NY-22	Tenney
OH-1	Chabot
OH-12	Balderson
PA-1	Fitzpatrick
TX-7	Culberson
TX-32	Sessions
UT-4	Love
VA-2	Taylor
VA-7	Brat
WA-8	Reichert*

(1 Dem, 26 GOP)

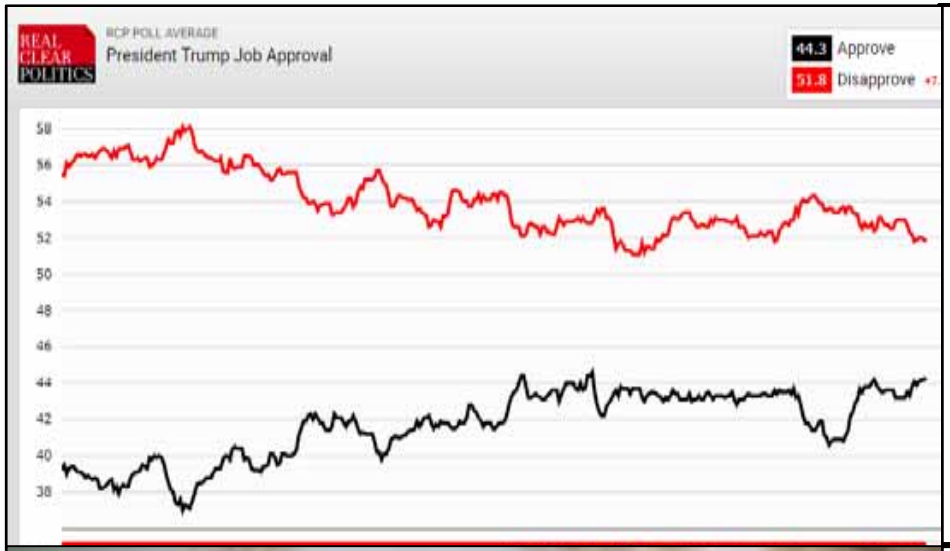
MN-8	Nolan*
AK-AL	Young
AR-2	Hill
CA-50	Hunter
FL-6	DeSantis*
FL-16	Buchanan
GA-6	Handel
GA-7	Woodall
IL-12	Bost
IL-13	Davis
MO-2	Wagner
MT-AL	Gianforte
NC-2	Holding
NE-2	Bacon
NY-11	Donovan
NY-24	Katko
NY-27	Collins
PA-10	Perry
PA-16	Kelly
SC-1	Sanford*
TX-22	Olson
TX-23	Hurd
VA-5	Garrett*
WA-3	Beutler
WA-5	McMorrisRodgers
WI-1	Ryan*
WV-3	Jenkins*

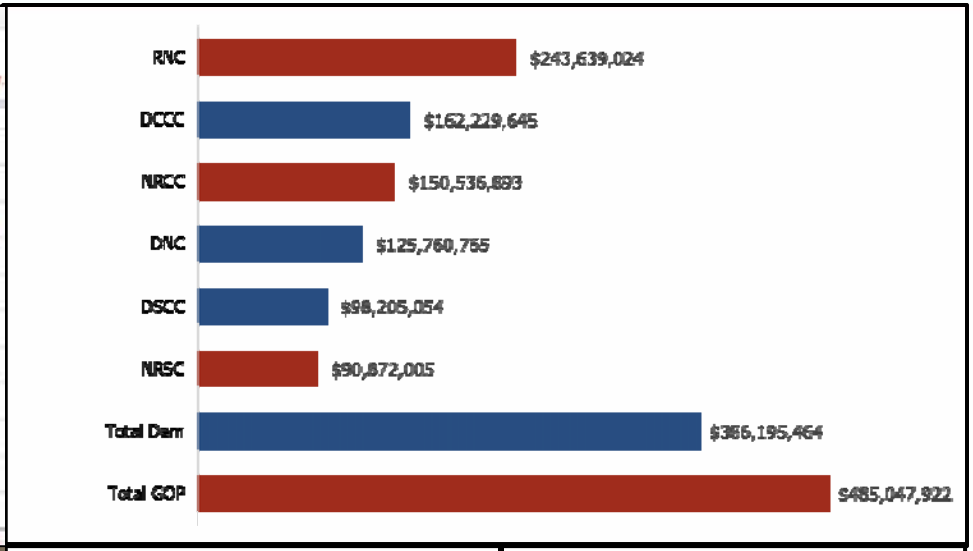
(1 Dem, 26 GOP)

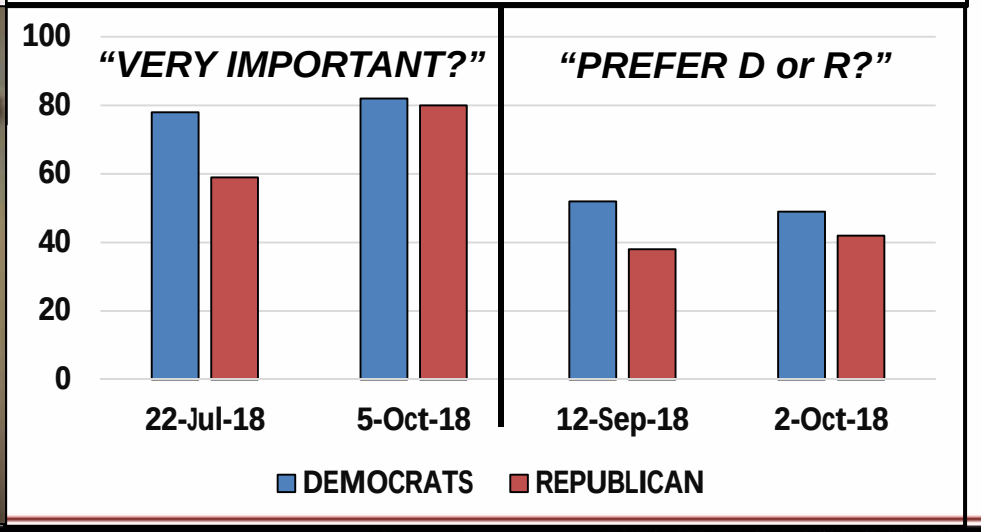
PA-14	OPEN (Lamb)
AZ-6	Schweikert
AZ-8	Lesko
CA-4	McClintock
CA-21	Valadao
CO-3	Tipton
FL-18	Mast
FL-25	Diaz-Balart
IA-04	King
IN-2	Walorski
MI-1	Bergman
MI-3	Amash
MI-6	Upton
MI-7	Walberg
NC-8	Hudson
NY-1	Zeldin
NY-2	King
NY-21	Stefanik
NY-23	Reed
OH-10	Turner
OH-14	Joyce
OK-05	Russell
TX-2	Poe*
TX-21	Smith*
TX-24	Marchant
TX-31	Carter
WI-6	Grothman

NORFOLK SOUTHERN
One line, infinite possibilities.

Good Signs for House Republicans
Bad Signs for House Democrats

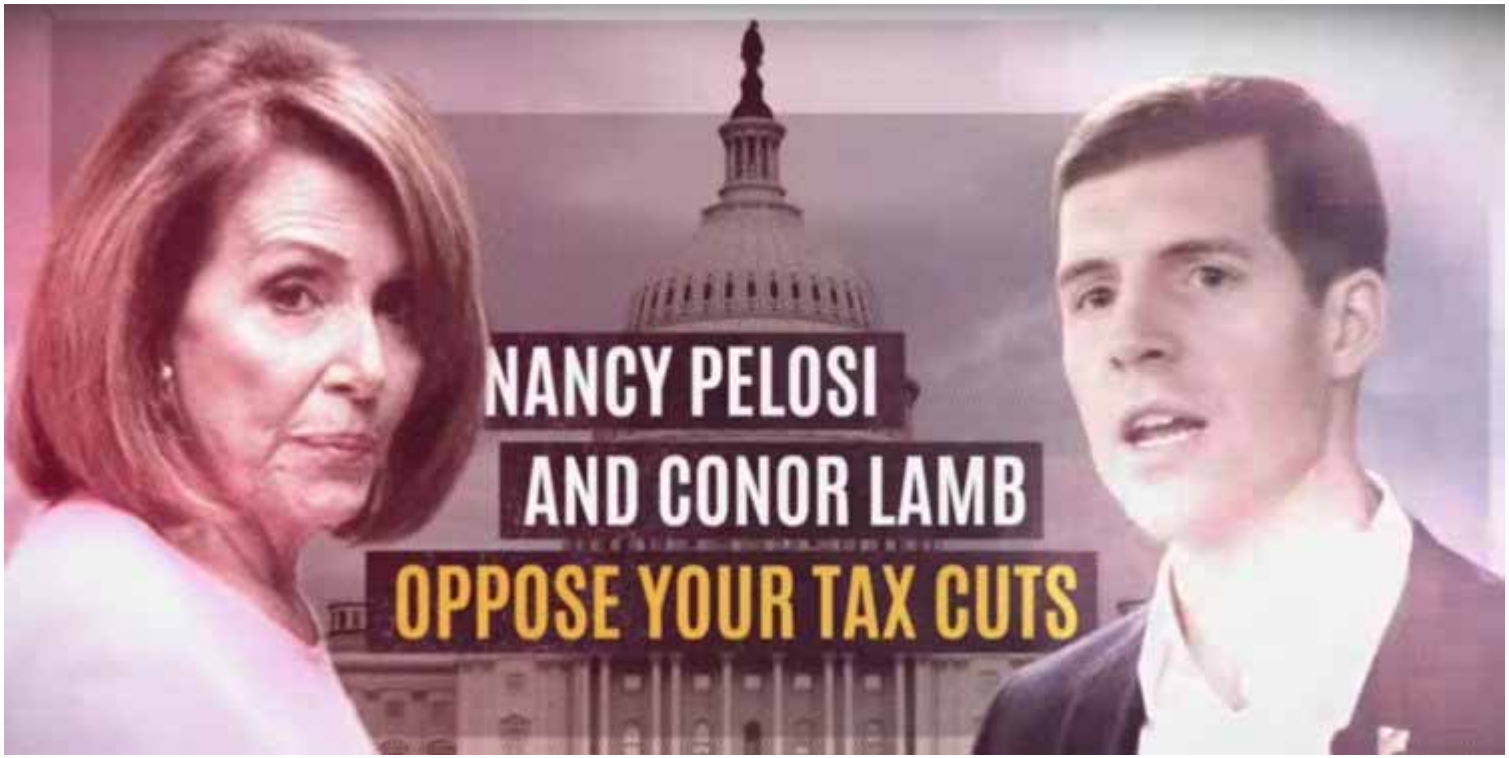






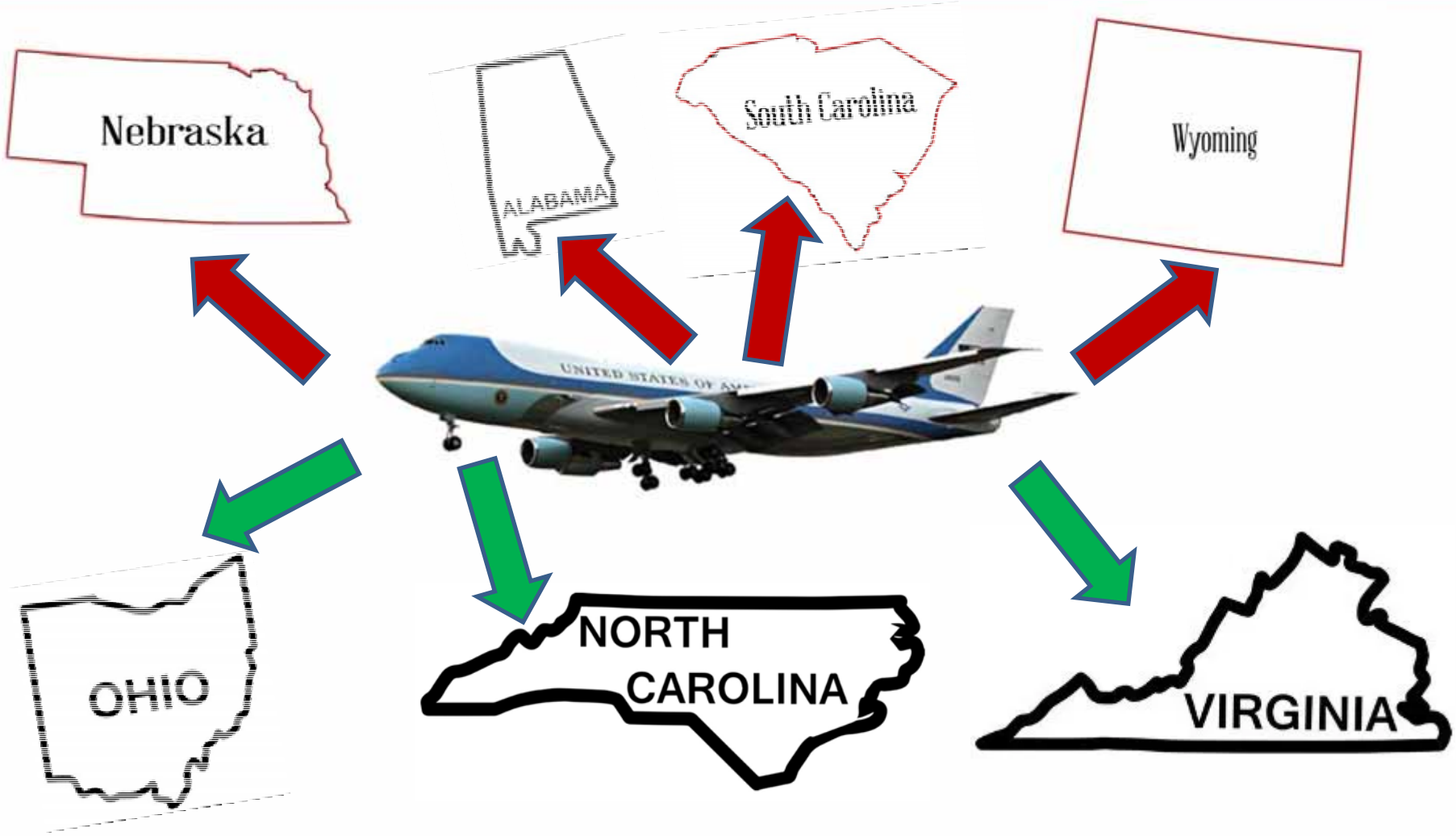
Good Signs for House Republicans
Bad Signs for House Democrats

What Am I Watching on (*or before*) Election Day?

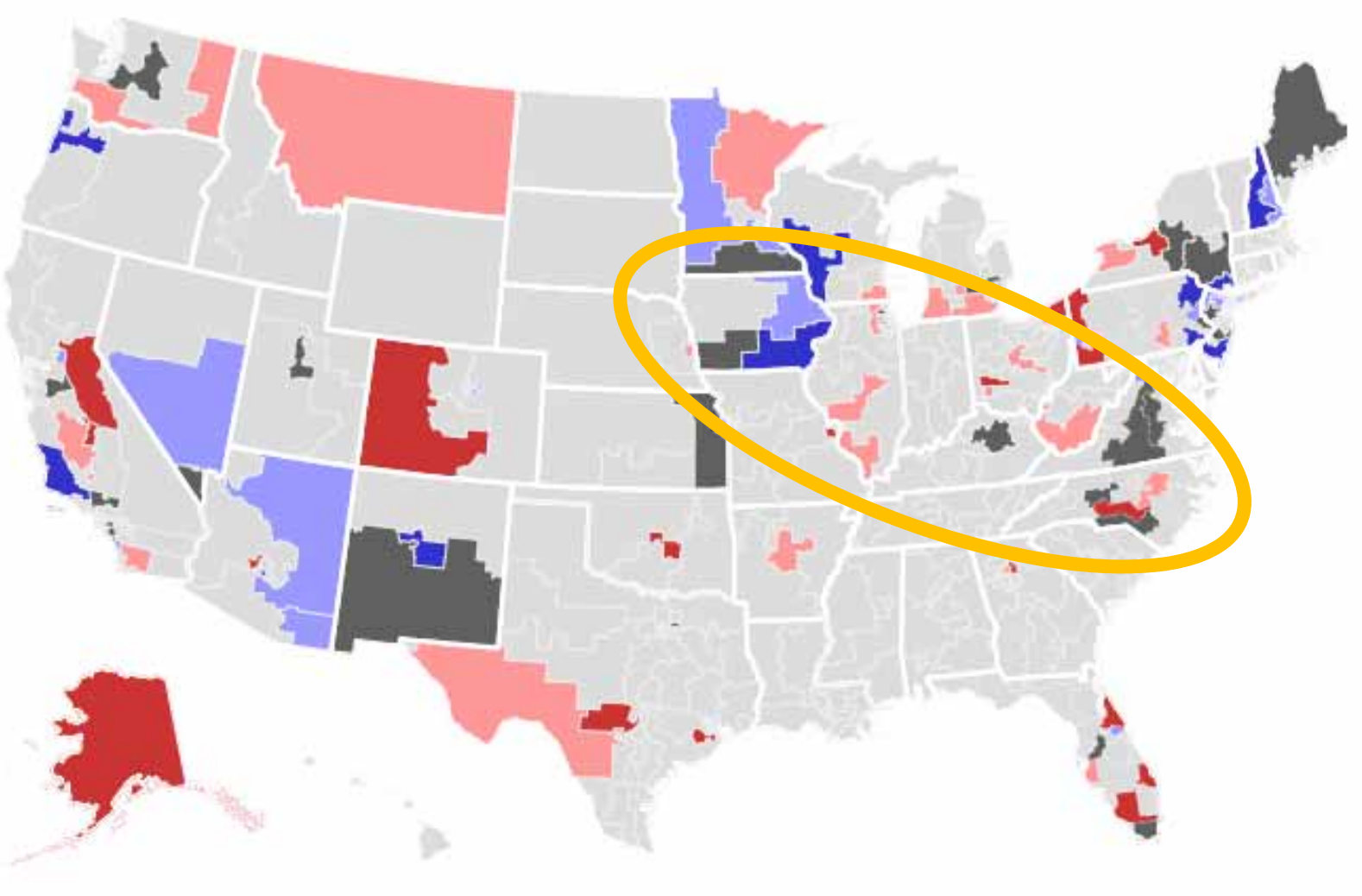


NRCC Advertisements

What Am I Watching on (*or before*) Election Day?



What Am I Watching on Election Day?



What Am I Watching on Election Day?

The Lame Duck is Near, and the Duck Has Chores.

Budget and appropriations	• Congress needs to pass appropriations for Agriculture, Financial Services, Interior/Environment, and Transportation/HUD by 12/7 • Trump has pledged to demand funding for a border wall, threatening a partisan brawl over the budget
Farm Bill	• The Farm Bill has not been resolved between the House and Senate; SNAP program, agricultural programs included in Bill
Tax policy	• Republicans want to pass technical corrections to legislation that would fix errors, oversights, omissions, extenders in 2017 tax law
Criminal justice reform	• Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has signaled that he will address criminal justice reform and combine the House's First Step Act with the reform provisions in the Senate
JOBS Act 3.0	• Omnibus package of bills aimed at decreasing regulations governing capital market access for small business
Nominations	• President Trump's cabinet and judiciary nominees

Questions? Comments? Pssst: it's almost 2020!