

State of the States
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STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS

North Carolina

President: Tossup

North Carolina is missing from the discussion on potential tipping point states, but that’s likely because it didn’t have any prominent statewide races in 2018. But polling data, 2018 state legislative results and demographic trends show it’s a great Democratic target in 2020. A narrow win would look as follows:

This map reflects minimal changes from 2016—Biden would only win by 0.5% under this scenario. It appears New Hanover County would be the state’s bellwether; as goes Wilmington so goes the state.



Results

- Biden 70-80
 - Biden 60-70
 - Biden 50-60
 - Biden <50
 - Trump <50
 - Trump 50-60
 - Trump 60-70
 - Trump 70-80
- 1 Alexander
 - 2 Washington
 - 3 Edgecombe
 - 4 Northhampton
 - 5 Hertford
 - 6 Camden
 - 7 Currituck
 - 8 Chowan
 - 9 Perquimans
 - 10 Pasquotank

STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS**North Carolina****99****Governor: Likely Democratic**

The Republican Governors Association has so much faith in GOP nominee Dan Forest that, 4 months before the election, their North Carolina website still featured 2016 nominee Pat McGrory.

Senate: Tossup

Cal Cunningham wasn't Democrats' first choice as a recruit but he's done well in polls against incumbent Sen. Thom Tillis, who barely won this seat in a Republican landslide year and hasn't done much to endear himself to voters since then.

US House: One Notable Race

A new, fair, congressional map will lead to two easy pickups in Raleigh and the Piedmont Triad for Democrats. And while Republicans are still favored in the 8th Congressional District, Democrats have a top notch recruit and there's significant overlap with contested State House districts.

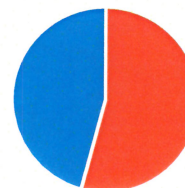
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State Legislative: Flip the House

In 2018 North Carolinians came out in record numbers to break Republican supermajorities. And 2 years later a state court has imposed new, fairer districts in many areas across the state. In the House, there are 5 Republican-held seats that have been carried by statewide Democrats this decade and six more where they came close, many in areas that are trending Democratic.



House
55 Democrats
65 Republicans

Competitive Seat Assessment

House	Lean R	Tilt R	Tossup	Tilt D	Lean D
District	82, 1, 12, 20, 46, 51, 55, 83	45, 74, 59, 66	9, 63, 98, 119, 43, 47	93	8, 25, 35, 36, 37, 57, 103, 104, 105

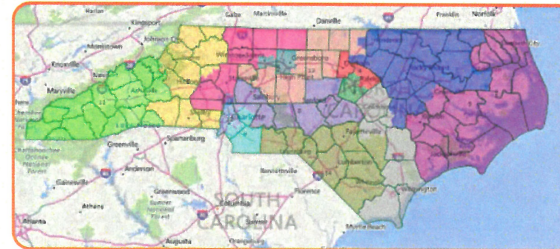
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US House Redistricting Context

- North Carolina's governor does not have a veto over redistricting plans (a relic of when Democrats controlled the legislature but there was a Republican governor....oops)
- North Carolina's Senate has been unreliable in stopping Republican gerrymanders, so the North Carolina House presents Democrats with their best chance to stop a Republican map. However, the State Supreme Court is Democratic (and unlikely to flip to Republican outside an unlikely set of circumstances) so that should be a check on Republicans' worst instincts.
- Nevertheless, it helps to avoid letting Republicans get first crack at drawing a map as the court can't second-guess every decision that could help them.



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- North Carolina will gain a seat after reapportionment and this map projects what would happen if the new 14th is created to add a plurality-minority seat to the southeastern part of the state while minimizing changes across the rest of the map.
- This map would create 7 safe Republican seats and 7 (mostly) safe Democratic seats.
- The new 14th only backed Hillary Clinton by 5% but historically votes far more Democratic and would be less than 50% white.
- The only Republican seat here worth a run would be the 9th, and that's only if the Charlotte suburbs get vastly more Democratic in the near future.
- If Democrats manage to flip the House and Senate, they could easily make the 8th or 13th winnable by making it wrap around Raleigh instead of reaching out west to take in the homes of a pair of Republican incumbents.

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Policy Context

Art Pope really did a number on the Tar Heel state. A paltry 4% of workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements, it has one of the highest rates of adults not seeing a doctor due to cost and after decades of having some of the most affordable postsecondary education in the country a whopping 56% of college graduates carry student debt. But North Carolina had good government for decades before conservatives took it over a decade ago and there's no reason they can't reverse those metrics.

37
SCORE

#32
RANK

- 11 ■ Good Jobs
- 27 ■ Affordable Quality Healthcare
- 36 ■ Investing in Children
- 50 ■ Empowering People over Special Interests
- 40 ■ Equal Opportunity for Everyone
- 43 ■ Sustainable Infrastructure, Resilience, and Innovation
- 51 ■ Clean Air, Water, and Energy