



From the National Director



Senator Tim Johnson's tragic illness brought Democrats face-to-face with the fragility of a one-seat majority in the U.S. Senate.

Everyone is relieved that Senator Johnson is making progress and hopefully will recover completely, but it is doubtful that he will want to run for reelection in 2008. This would add yet another very difficult Senate race to the list of close contests we must win if we expect to increase the Democratic Senate majority and freeze out the right-wing radicals led by the Dick Cheneys and Karl Roves of the world. As I write, they are doing nothing but dreaming of a government led by a conservative, fundamentalist, imperial president who is committed to the fulfillment of the dangerous agenda of the extreme right wing. This includes pre-emptive war, what is tantamount to a theocratic state at home, and a government program written by special interests and corporate lobbyists.

Don't think that these Bush scoundrels went away when the Democrats scored their dramatic victory on November 7, 2006. They took a few days to assess the damage and lick their wounds, then went right back into their mad-dog attack mode. At first Bush indicated that he understood the American people wanted change. He fired Rumsfeld and announced a full review of his war plans, and even suggested that progress in Iraq was not happening "well enough or fast enough."

Now, only a few weeks later, Bush has refused to take the advice of the Iraq Study Group, headed by old family friend Jim Baker. Bush has flatly refused to consider bringing any of our troops home and is trying to shift public focus away from Iraq and onto what he is calling "bipartisan cooperation."

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Fight to Protect Slim Democratic Congressional Majorities Has Begun

When the polls closed on November 7, 2006, there was much rejoicing at NCEC, but it wasn't long before we were looking at the incumbent Senate and House members whose terms expire in 2008, for signs of weaknesses and strengths.

If history is an accurate guide, the news media will soon be focused on the presidential primary elections and the long and growing list of presidential aspirants of both parties. Unlike in 2006, Senate and House races will have stiff competition to gain public attention.

Senate vacancies may occur because the incumbents are retiring or running for president. Senators Biden, Cochran, Domenici, Hagel, Kerry, and Warner have all indicated they may retire or run for President. Democratic forces, including NCEC, are already trying to recruit well-known men and women whose name recognition would give them an important advantage in an open-seat race. A candidate with notoriety is clearly going to gain more attention from the news media than an unknown. In all the states where there is a rumor of a Senate incumbent retiring, NCEC feels that we have a good chance for victory and strengthening the Democratic majority.

Outlook	Democrats	Republicans
Battleground 1 Democrat 4 Republicans	Mary Landrieu (LA)	Allard/OPEN (CO) Susan Collins (ME) Norm Coleman (MN) John Sununu (NH)
Leaning 4 Democrats 1 Republicans	Mark Pryor (AR) Tom Harkin (IA) Max Baucus (MT) Tim Johnson (SD)	James Inhofe (OK)
Safe 7 Democrats 16 Republicans	Biden (DE), Durbin (IL), Kerry (MA), Levin (MI), Lautenberg (NJ), Reed (RI), Rockefeller (WV)	Sessions (AL), Stevens (AK), Chambliss (GA), Craig (ID), Roberts (KS), McConnell (KY), Cochran (MS), Hagel (NE), Domenici (NM), Dole (NC), Smith (OR), Graham (SC), Alexander (TN), Cornyn (TX), Warner (VA), Enzi (WY)

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NCEC's Early Assessment of US Senate Races in 2008: Early Odds Favor Democrats

State	Incumbent	2002 Pct	Approval	Outlook
Alabama	Jeff Sessions (R)	59%	56-33% (23%)	Democrats control a majority of both Houses in the Alabama Legislature, but incumbent Jeff Sessions will likely be reelected. The race could become competitive if the right Democratic candidate is chosen. Rep. Arthur Davis has shown interest in running for the seat. This could be an interesting race.
Alaska	Ted Stevens (R)	78%	62-34% (28%)	Ted Stevens will be 85 years old in 2008, but he has indicated that he will seek reelection. It is possible that an ambitious younger Republican would cite age as a reason to challenge Stevens in the primary. Stevens is still popular; his approval rating is consistently above 60%. One possible Democratic contender is Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich.
Arkansas	Mark Pryor (D)	54%	56-37% (19%)	The state of Arkansas is generally considered to be Democratic and moderate, compared to the rest of the South. Pryor's approval rating continues to hover around 50%, which suggests that this will be a battleground race. A potential Republican candidate is former US Attorney Chuck Banks.
Colorado	Wayne Allard (R)	51%	44-43% (1%)	Allard narrowly won in 1996 and 2002 and was considered to be the most vulnerable Republicans before announcing his retirement. Democrats are winning key races and Colorado is trending blue. Rep. Mark Udall has announced his intent to run. Several possible but no announced GOP. This is a battleground race and one of the best chances for a Democratic pick-up.
Delaware	Joe Biden (D)	58%	63-33% (30%)	Incumbent Democratic Senator Joe Biden may retire to run for president. Biden's son, Delaware Attorney General-elect Beau Biden, might run for the seat should his father retire. Republican Representative Michael Castle, though 69 years old in 2008, may seek the seat. This seat should remain Democratic.
Georgia	Saxby Chambliss (R)	53%	52-36% (16%)	Georgia Democrats will challenge Republican Saxby Chambliss, but this will be a tough win for Democrats. Possible Democratic candidates include DeKalb County C.E.O. Vernon Jones and US Rep. Jim Marshall, who was narrowly reelected in 2006.
Idaho	Larry Craig (R)	65%	59-35% (24%)	There is little chance that incumbent Larry Craig will be defeated in this heavily Republican state should he decide to seek reelection. Without a major shift, this race will not get much attention.
Illinois	Richard Durbin (D)	60%	52-38% (14%)	Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin maintains a high approval rating. He seeks to be reelected in a state that has become steadily more Democratic since 1992. One possible Illinois Republican candidate is US Representative Mark Kirk. Though Durbin has been the center of some controversy in the past, he should win reelection.
Iowa	Tom Harkin (D)	54%	55-36% (19%)	Harkin's 55% favorable rating suggests that this race could be competitive. In 2006, the Democrats fared well in Iowa, gaining two US House seats and taking control of both State Houses, as well as retaining the governorship. Possible GOP candidates include Congressmen Steve King and Tom Latham. Iowa, as always, will be considered a battleground state.
Kansas	Pat Roberts (R)	83%	52-36% (16%)	Incumbent Republican Pat Roberts has indicated that he will seek reelection. Popular Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Congressman Dennis Moore would be strong candidates for the Senate seat if either were to run. Democrats have experienced some success in Kansas recently, which means that the right candidate might be able to unseat Roberts.
Kentucky	Mitch McConnell (R)	65%	54-39% (15%)	Mitch McConnell will be a target for Democrats, who captured a House seat in 2006, largely as a result of Republican Governor Ernie Fletcher's lack of popularity. Several strong candidates exist for the Democrats, and the wealth of competitive House races in 2006 suggests that Democrats have a real chance.
Louisiana	Mary Landrieu (D)	52%	54-42% (12%)	Senator Mary Landrieu is considered the most vulnerable Democrat in 2008. She won her first term in 1996 on a controversial recount and won a 52% to 48% reelection in 2002 against a Republican, who entered the race late and was underfinanced. Post-Katrina New Orleans, with fewer Democrats, along with her 54% approval rating, make this a race to watch.
Maine	Susan Collins (R)	58%	73-23% (50%)	Incumbent Republican Susan Collins will run for a third term, despite a promise in 1996 that she would only serve two terms. Regardless, she remains extremely popular with a 73% approval rating. Democratic Congressman Tom Allen is taking steps to challenge her. This could develop into a competitive race.
Massachusetts	John Kerry (D)	80%	43-53% (-10%)	Senator John Kerry may retire to run for president again, in which case this seat will become open for the first time since 1984. His approval rating has dropped significantly, so he might be vulnerable to a strong primary challenge. Either way, this seat will remain Democratic.
Michigan	Carl Levin (D)	60%	54-36% (18%)	Incumbent Democratic Senator Carl Levin has announced that he will seek reelection. His approval rating remains above 50%. The GOP was hoping that he'd retire in order to make this a competitive seat. Possible Republican candidates include former Secretary of State and current Representative Candice Miller, and current Representative Mike Rogers.
Minnesota	Norm Coleman (R)	50%	49-42% (7%)	Senator Norm Coleman has a low approval rating of 49% in a state that appears to be moving back to the left. Amy Klobuchar's victory in 2006, along with big victories at the state level, show that Democrats have a great chance to win this seat. However, the Republican National Convention is taking place in St. Paul, which might give Coleman a needed boost.
Mississippi	Thad Cochran (R)	85%	65-29% (36%)	Incumbent Republican Thad Cochran may retire, but he will not decide until later this year. There is speculation that Congressman Gene Taylor or former Mississippi AG Mike Moore may vie for his seat. Among Republicans, Congressman Roger Wicker, as well as Congressman Chip Pickering, son of a locally respected former federal judge, may run if Cochran retires.
Montana	Max Baucus (D)	63%	72-23% (49%)	Montanans just elected a second Democratic Senator, Jon Tester, by a narrow margin to the US Senate in 2006. The state also has a popular Democratic governor, and Democrats controlled both chambers of the state legislature in the 2005 session. Senator Baucus is unlikely to face a significant challenge.
Nebraska	Chuck Hagel (R)	83%	59-35% (24%)	Incumbent Republican Chuck Hagel may retire to run for president. Hagel would likely be reelected for a third term should he decide to run.
New Hampshire	John Sununu (R)	51%	47-44% (3%)	Democrats won both US House seats, the governorship, and the State House and Senate in 2006. Democrats will challenge this seat. Possible opponents include former Gov. Jeanne Shaheen (Sununu's 2002 opponent), Portsmouth Mayor Steve Marchand, or State Senator David Gottesman.
New Jersey	Frank Lautenberg (D)	54%	39-45% (-6%)	Frank Lautenberg has indicated that he will seek reelection in 2008. However, the primary may prove difficult, as other Democrats such as Congressmen Rush Holt, Rob Andrews, and Frank Pallone, have also shown interest in running for the Senate. Recently defeated Senate candidate Tom Kean, Jr. might run for the Republicans.
New Mexico	Pete Domenici (R)	65%	65-26% (39%)	Pete Domenici will seek reelection and remains popular with a 65% approval rating. Former Democratic Attorney General Patricia Madrid and Democratic Congressman Tom Udall may run. Madrid narrowly lost election to 1st District GOP Representative Heather Wilson in both 2004 and 2006. New Mexico is a presidential race "swing state," so this race will get attention and could become close.
North Carolina	Elizabeth Dole (R)	54%	52-40% (12%)	Elizabeth Dole recently said that she intends to run for reelection. If she does, she will be hard to beat unless popular Democratic Governor Mike Easley decides to run. This seat likely will remain Republican.
Oklahoma	Jim Inhofe (R)	57%	46-41% (5%)	Incumbent Republican Jim Inhofe has been quiet about his plans for 2008, but he has suggested that he will be running for reelection. His approval ratings are below 50%, which immediately make this a pick-up opportunity for Democrats. Finding the right candidate is essential in this conservative state.
Oregon	Gordon Smith (R)	56%	56-33% (23%)	Republican Gordon Smith has lately seen his approval ratings fall and may be in danger in a state that continues to trend Democratic. He recently came out against the war in Iraq, perhaps a posture for the election. The right candidate could certainly win this race for Democrats.
Rhode Island	Jack Reed (D)	78%	66-27% (39%)	Democratic incumbent Jack Reed continues to be popular with a 66% approval rating, but this race could be close if former Senator Lincoln Chafee runs as an independent following his narrow loss to Sheldon Whitehouse in 2006.
South Carolina	Lindsey Graham (R)	54%	56-34% (22%)	Democrats are unlikely to unseat Graham. However, his membership in the "Gang of 14," and his ties to John McCain might make him a target for the far right, but an unlikely one for Democrats.
South Dakota	Tim Johnson (D)	50%	70-26% (44%)	If Tim Johnson retires for health reasons, possible candidates to replace him include Democratic Rep. Stephanie Herseth and GOP Gov. Mike Rounds. Should Johnson vacate the seat before the election, Rounds would almost certainly appoint a Republican and return the Senate to GOP control. South Dakota's Republican leanings make this a battleground race.
Tennessee	Lamar Alexander (R)	54%	53-36% (17%)	If Harold Ford, Jr. decides to run again for the Democrats, this could be an interesting race. Alexander has a 53% approval rating, and is open to be challenged. This race still leans Republican, but could be very much in play.
Texas	John Cornyn (R)	55%	47-39% (8%)	Incumbent Republican John Cornyn has approval ratings below 50%, but a Democrat hasn't won a statewide race since 1994. Barbara Ann Radnofsky, the 2006 Senate candidate for the Democrats, may run again, but this is a long shot.
Virginia	John Warner (R)	83%	57-34% (23%)	John Warner has announced that he will run for reelection in 2008. Former Democratic Governor Mark Warner, who left office with a 70% approval rating, would be the most desirable candidate for the Democrats. John Warner will be difficult to beat, but Democrats just unseated George Allen, a popular incumbent in 2006, so this race could be very close.
West Virginia	Jay Rockefeller (D)	63%	61-32% (29%)	Incumbent Democratic Senator Jay Rockefeller will seek reelection. President Bush surprisingly won West Virginia in 2000, and again in 2004. Rockefeller is a popular incumbent with a 61% approval rating and will likely win reelection.
Wyoming	Mike Enzi (R)	73%	65-26% (39%)	Democrats nearly captured the statewide House seat in 2006, but Enzi is much more popular than Rep. Barbara Cubin. Incumbent Republican Mike Enzi is likely to be reelected without significant opposition in this strongly Republican state.

NCEC's Early Snapshot of the Crucial 2008 Fight for Control of the U.S. Senate

Of the dozen or so battleground Senate races, five are particularly close at this early date. One is held by a Democrat, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, and the others by Republicans.

The political climate may not be so positively skewed in our favor in 2008. Our efforts will have to be even greater and more effective in order to maintain congressional control. We can't allow ourselves to become complacent or to rest on our oars. Republicans were able to win 15 of 24 races that were decided by 3 points or less in the 2006 elections. It shows just how deep a hole they have dug for themselves. They won 67% of these races and yet lost 30 seats in the House and 6 in the Senate. Democrats, with NCEC's get-out-the-vote technology, did a fantastic job turning out more voters, particularly Latinos, youth, and women. We increased turnout in all areas in 2006, but to succeed in 2008, we are going to have to do even better. For example, young voters backed Democrats by a 22 percent margin in 2006, and even though their turnout was higher than in previous midterm elections, we must build their votes significantly in 2008.

Colorado, Wayne Allard (Rep)/OPEN



Even before Wayne Allard announced his retirement Democrats were in a good position to win this race. Democrats have captured the Governor's mansion, a senate seat in 2004 and now two house seats. Rep. Mark Udall appears to have the Democratic nomination sewn up. The GOP has several potential candidates: former Governor Bill Owens, former

congressmen Scott McInnis and Bob Beauprez, and Rep. Tom Tancredo.



Louisiana, Mary Landrieu (Dem)

Senator Mary Landrieu is the most vulnerable Democratic incumbent. She won her first term in 1996, the result of a controversial recount, and was reelected in 2002 by only 4 percentage points against an underfunded GOP opponent. Louisiana's loss of nearly 250,000 people as a result of Hurricane Katrina also poses a

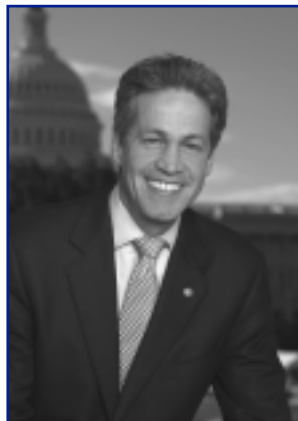
complication. Democrats face a disproportionate loss of supporters.

Maine, Susan Collins (Rep)



Senator Susan Collins surely faces a tough reelection in Maine as Democrats have seen continued success in the Northeast over the past few election cycles. A potential Democratic candidate is current House Representative Tom Allen, who has held a House district since 1996 that includes some of Maine's most conservative areas.

Minnesota, Norm Coleman (Rep)



Comedian Al Franken continues to get attention concerning a possible run; he would be difficult to beat in the primary, due to his immense name recognition. Whomever Democrats choose, this is going to be a tight race. Coleman has been an outspoken supporter of the Bush administration and barely won in 2002.

New Hampshire, John Sununu (Rep)



After capturing both House seats in New Hampshire in this past election, Democrats have this race on the top of the list of potential pickups. Former Governor and 2002 Senate nominee Jeanne Shaheen is mentioned as a possible candidate. She lost by only 51-47 in 2002, a strong Republican year.

George Bush is hanging by a thread. His presidency is lies in ruins. Except for a conservative judiciary that will be his continuing legacy, pushed past the too-little too-late efforts of the Democrats, Bush has no accomplishment to look forward to in the next two years.

The swagger is gone. No longer can the White House’s soft-pedaling of “compassionate conservatism” soothe

the public’s concerns. Bush’s tax cuts for the rich have left us in a quicksand of debt, and his voodoo economics leave out of the national budget the cost of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Yet the White House Svengalis are charging ahead with plans to replace Bush with another conservative demagogue and to elect a congress that will provide the rubber stamp for a continuation of the radical

right’s crusade.

NCEC is ready. We know their game, having faced them down for 59 years. NCEC will support Democratic candidates with the most advanced state-of-the-art campaign technology, financial support, and professional consultation. We will provide the winning margin in close races. We must have the support of our members. We are counting on you.

“Fight” continued from page 1

States that will be looked at very carefully are those where Democrats made significant gains in 2006 and where the elections were decided by narrow margins. Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Oregon will all be high on NCEC’s priority list.

If Senator Tim Johnson is unable to serve out his term and a vacancy occurs in South Dakota, the spotlight will turn to Republican Governor Mike Rounds. His appointment of a Republican to complete the remainder of Tim Johnson’s term would put the Republicans, with Vice President Cheney’s tie-breaking vote, back on top in the U.S. Senate. What a roller-coaster ride we are on.

The good news is that the Democrats have only 12 Senate seats to defend while the Republicans have 21. And George Bush still hangs like an albatross around the neck of the GOP.

“The NCEC often serves as the very nucleus of a campaign’s overall strategy. NCEC’s precinct-by-precinct electoral and demographic targeting strategies and media market analyses ensure that a campaign’s limited resources are allocated with maximum cost-effectiveness and impact.”

*Vice President
Al Gore*

History Suggests that 2008 Won’t Bring Huge Seat Changes

The most important thing to be aware of following this past election was the scale of the power shift that took place. Across both chambers, 36 seats changed hands from Republican to Democratic control, an extraordinary number given the limited number of real competitive races due to redistricting practices. History shows that following a watershed election like the one we just saw, the next election rarely brings large-scale change in either direction. When looking at the elections of 1976, 1996, and 2004—

which were the elections that followed large one-sided cycles in 1974, 1994, and 2002—this is increasingly apparent.

In 1976 the anti-Republican wave created by the Watergate scandal helped propel Jimmy Carter to the presidency but didn’t produce further gains for Democrats in Congress. In 1976 Democrats gained just one seat in both the House and the Senate. Republicans did little better in 1996 following their sweeping victory that knocked Democrats out of power in 1994. Bill Clinton was reelected as

president, and Democrats picked up 8 seats in the House. Republicans were able to extend their majority in the Senate, picking up 2 more seats. The 2004 election offers the greatest example that a wave can stretch over two election cycles. Republicans extended their majorities in both houses of Congress. The GOP gained 6-seats in the House and 4-seats in the Senate, which solidified their hold on Congress. Democrats will be hoping to follow this model of success and supplement our small majorities.

100 TOP US HOUSE RACES TO WATCH IN 2008

DISTRICT	MEMBER	2006 %	DISTRICT	MEMBER	2006 %	DISTRICT	MEMBER	2006 %
AL-03	Mike Rogers	60%	KS-02	Nancy Boyda	51%	OH-01	Steve Chabot	53%
AZ-01	Rick Renzi	51%	KS-03	Dennis Moore	64%	OH-03	Michael Turner	59%
AZ-05	Harry Mitchell	51%	KY-03	John Yarmuth	51%	OH-06	Charles Wilson	62%
AZ-08	Gabrielle Giffords	54%	LA-03	Charlie Melancon	55%	OH-12	Patrick Tiberi	58%
AR-02	Vic Snyder	61%	MI-04	Dave Camp	60%	OH-14	Steven LaTourette	58%
CA-11	Jerry McNerney	53%	MI-06	Fred Upton	61%	OH-15	Deborah Pryce	50%
CA-26	David Dreier	57%	MI-07	Timothy Walberg	51%	OH-16	Ralph Regula	59%
CA-45	Mary Bono	59%	MI-08	Mike Rogers	55%	OH-18	Zack Space	62%
CO-03	John Salazar	61%	MI-09	Joe Knollenberg	52%	OR-04	Peter DeFazio	62%
CO-07	Ed Perlmutter	55%	MI-11	Thaddeus McCotter	54%	OR-05	Darlene Hooley	54%
CT-04	Christopher Shays	51%	MN-01	Timothy Walz	53%	PA-03	Phil English	54%
CT-05	Christopher Murphy	56%	MN-02	John Kline	56%	PA-04	Jason Altmire	52%
DE-01	Michael Castle	57%	MN-08	James Oberstar	64%	PA-06	Jim Gerlach	51%
FL-07	John Mica	63%	NV-03	Jon Porter	48%	PA-07	Joe Sestak	56%
FL-08	Ric Keller	53%	NH-01	Carol Shea-Porter	52%	PA-08	Patrick Murphy	50%
FL-09	Michael Bilirakis	56%	NH-02	Paul Hodes	53%	PA-10	Christopher Carney	53%
FL-13	Vern Buchanan	50%	NJ-02	Frank LoBiondo	62%	PA-15	Charles Dent	53%
FL-15	Dave Weldon	56%	NJ-03	Jim Saxton	58%	PA-18	Tim Murphy	58%
FL-16	Tim Mahoney	49%	NJ-05	Scott Garrett	55%	SC-05	John Spratt	57%
FL-18	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	62%	NJ-07	Mike Ferguson	49%	TX-15	Rubén Hinojosa	61%
FL-22	Ron Klein	51%	NM-01	Heather Wilson	50%	TX-17	Chet Edwards	58%
FL-24	Tom Feeney	58%	NY-01	Timothy Bishop	61%	TX-22	Nick Lampson	52%
FL-25	Mario Diaz-Balart	58%	NY-03	Peter King	56%	TX-23	Ciro Rodriguez	54%
GA-08	Jim Marshall	51%	NY-13	Vito Fossella	57%	TX-27	Solomon Ortiz	57%
GA-12	John Barrow	50%	NY-19	John Hall	51%	UT-02	Jim Matheson	59%
IL-06	Peter Roskam	51%	NY-20	Kirsten Gillibrand	53%	VA-11	Tom Davis	55%
IL-08	Melissa Bean	51%	NY-23	John McHugh	63%	WA-02	Rick Larsen	64%
IL-10	Mark Steven Kirk	53%	NY-24	Michael Arcuri	54%	WA-03	Brian Baird	63%
IL-11	Jerry Weller	55%	NY-25	James Walsh	51%	WA-08	David Reichert	51%
IN-02	Joe Donnelly	54%	NY-26	Thomas Reynolds	52%	WV-01	Alan Mollohan	64%
IN-08	Brad Ellsworth	61%	NC-08	Robin Hayes	50%	WI-01	Paul Ryan	63%
IN-09	Baron Hill	50%	NC-11	Heath Shuler	54%	WI-07	David Obey	62%
IA-03	Leonard Boswell	52%	NC-13	Brad Miller	64%	WI-08	Steve Kagen	51%
IA-04	Tom Latham	57%	Democrats in blue, Republicans in red					

More information on the 2006 and 2008 elections is available on-line at www.ncec.org. NCEC's "Election Insider" provides members with election analysis, district profiles and information on strategy that can't be found anywhere else. Recent Election Insider topics include:

- Democratic Victories at all Levels of Government will Bring Change
- Democratic Performance in Close Races Key to New Congressional Majority
- Perfect Storm Leaves Democrats Close to Claiming Control of Both Houses
- Texas 23, a Case Study for the 2006 Election