

From the National Director

In recent weeks the National Rifle Association has jumped up to number four among the top contributors of soft money to the Republican congressional committees. Already they have given many times their 1996 total.

Big tobacco, of course, remains in the #1 spot. By November, the NRA will spend a record amount to keep Republican control of the House and Senate and block the passage of meaningful gun control laws.

Wayne LaPierre, NRA Executive VP says, "Gun laws give jackbooted Government thugs more power to take away our constitutional rights, break in our doors, seize our guns, destroy our property and even kill us."

LaPierre has publicly praised George W. Bush for his support of the NRA. Bush signed legislation which bans "frivolous" lawsuits against gun manufacturers.

This year will be remembered as the high point in the special

Director continued on page 3

50 Battleground Races Will Determine Majority Control

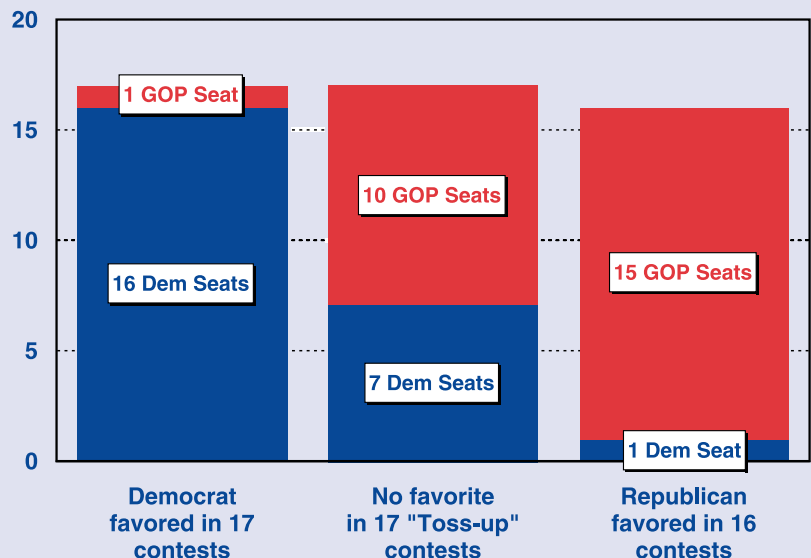
Political pundits argued Democrats would have little success in 1998 since the President's party often loses seats in mid-term elections. We proved the pundits wrong by picking up 5 seats and leaving Republicans with a miniscule majority. The last time the majority party had such a narrow margin of control was 1954. Today, only six seats stand between Democrats and control of the House. And Democrats have several distinct advantages.

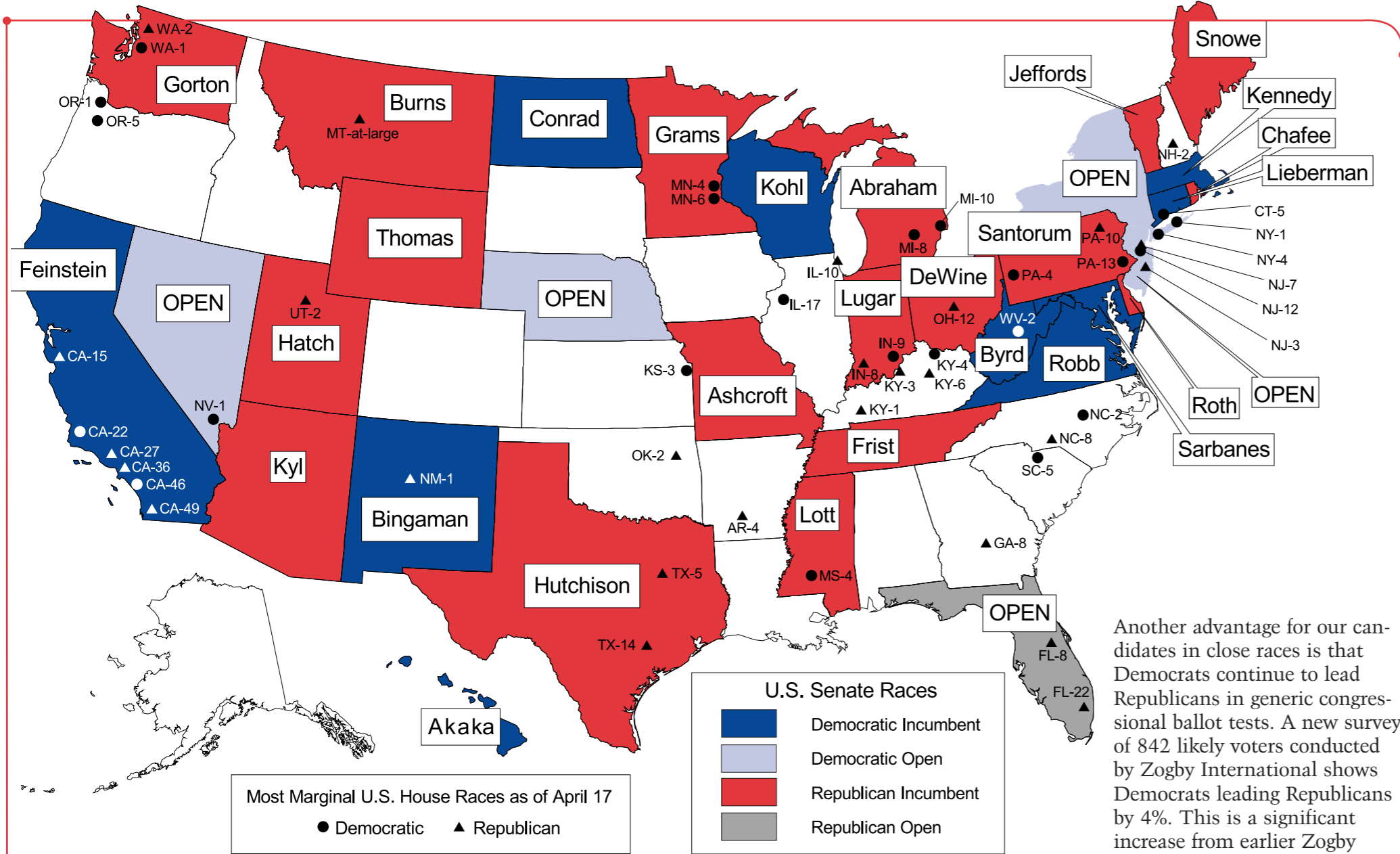
In the 1998 mid-term election a shockingly low 36.4% of eligible Americans voted. Turnout in this year's Presidential election is expected to be nearly 50% and higher turnout benefits Democrats.

Another advantage for Democrats is the number of open House seats created by retirements. 23 Republicans and 7 Democrats will be leaving the House. While the NCEC considers many of the Republican vacancies to be in safe GOP districts, a number are in districts where the Republicans are vulnerable. Of the 8 open seats in which neither party holds the advantage 7 are currently in

Battleground Races continued on page 2

GOP Is More Exposed in Close US House Races





United States Senate Races		
Senate Race	Democratic Candidate	Republican Candidate
Arizona	Sept 12th Primary	JON KYL
California	DIANNE FEINSTEIN	Tom Campbell
Connecticut	JOSEPH LIEBERMAN	Philip Giordano
Delaware	Tom Carper	WILLIAM ROTH
Florida	Sept 5th Primary	Sept 5th Primary
Hawaii	DANIEL AKAKA	Sept 23rd Primary
Indiana	David Johnson	DICK LUGAR
Maine	Mark Lawrence	OLYMPIA SNOWE
Maryland	PAUL SARBANES	Paul Rappaport
Massachusetts	EDWARD KENNEDY	Jack Robinson
Michigan	Dianne Byrum	SPENCER ABRAHAM
Minnesota	Sept 12th Primary	ROD GRAMS
Mississippi	Troy Brown	TRENT LOTT
Missouri	Mel Carnahan	JOHN ASHCROFT
Montana	Brian Schweitzer	CONRAD BURNS
Nebraska	Ben Nelson	Don Stenburg
Nevada	Ed Bernstein	John Ensign
New Jersey	June 6th Primary	June 6th Primary
New Mexico	JEFF BINGAMAN	June 6th Primary
New York	Hillary Clinton	Rudy Giuliani
North Dakota	KENT CONRAD	June 13th Primary
Ohio	Ted Celeste	MIKE DEWINE
Pennsylvania	Ron Klink	RICK SANTORUM
Rhode Island	Robert Weygand	LINCOLN CHAFAE
Tennessee	John J Hooker	BILL FRIST
Texas	Gene Kelly	KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON
Utah	Scott Howell	ORRIN HATCH
Vermont	Sept 12th Primary	JIM JEFFORDS
Virginia	CHARLES ROBB	George Allen
Washington	Sept 19th Primary	SLADE GORTON
West Virginia	ROBERT BYRD	Gary Adkins
Wisconsin	HERB KOHL	Robert Dobbs
Wyoming	August 22nd Primary	CRAIG THOMAS

Another advantage for our candidates in close races is that Democrats continue to lead Republicans in generic congressional ballot tests. A new survey of 842 likely voters conducted by Zogby International shows Democrats leading Republicans by 4%. This is a significant increase from earlier Zogby polls, which had Democrats leading by just 1%. This poll reflects similar results reported by CNN/Time and The New York Times. As the election nears, an increasing number of voters are supporting the Democratic candidates. This increase in support will be a determining factor in closely contested races.

Since the GOP captured the House in 1994 they have lost seats in each following election. Their majority is now smaller than ever. Now Democrats are in the perfect position to take back the House in 2000.

Battleground Races, from page 1

Republican hands. In these 8 races alone a decisive Democratic victory would bring the House to the verge of Democratic control.

Tom Campbell's decision to run for Senate has left Democrats with an excellent opportunity to take California's 15th district out of GOP hands. The same is true in Florida's 8th where Bill McCollum has left his seat open and Democrats have a solid chance of taking it back. John Porter's retirement makes

Illinois' 10th district another battleground race. Democrat State Representative, Lauren Beth Gash, is certainly ready.

Open seats aren't the only area where Republicans are vulnerable. In 1998 Republicans held on to the majority by their fingernails. 23 Republicans won by 10% or less. Seven won by 4% or less. These seats continue to be among the most vulnerable in 2000.

In California's 27th District State Senator Adam Schiff is challenging incumbent

Republican Jim Rogan. Rogan is best known as one of the 11 House Impeachment prosecutors and the most vulnerable. After losing to Jon Fox by 84 votes in 1996, Democratic Representative Joseph Hoeffel bested Fox in 1998. In 2000 Hoeffel faces GOP State Senator Stewart Greenleaf. A number of Republican Representatives, such as Jay Dickey (R-AR) and Steve Kuykendall (R-CA) are also vulnerable. These races, and many more, are included in NCEC's list of Battleground House Races on page 4.

National Director, continued

interest attempt to buy a national election with soft money. They can read the handwriting on the wall. Six votes in the House will oust their handmaidens, Dick Arme, Tom DeLay and Company. Five votes in the Senate and Trent Lott, Jesse Helms, Orrin Hatch and their cabal are history.

In the next weeks NCEC will be profiling the battleground Senate races. We are more optimistic than many about the prospects for Democratic candidates next November.

We invite you to use the NCEC website (www.NCEC.org) or call us at 800-547-5911 for the latest information on House and Senate races.

50 Battleground House Races

House Race	Democratic Candidate	Republican Candidate	Where the Race Stands
AR-4	Ross	DICKEY	One of the most Democratic districts held by a Republican.
CA-15	Honda	Cunneen	Open seat race. District leans Democratic.
CA-22	CAPPS	Stoker	Capps looks to solidify her hold on this marginal district.
CA-27	Schiff	ROGAN	Impeachment manager must now answer to his constituents.
CA-36	Harman	KUYKENDALL	Former Representative Harman looking to regain her seat.
CA-46	SANCHEZ	Tuchman	Bob Dornan's former district is trending Democratic.
CA-49	Davis	BILBRAY	Davis must challenge Bilbray's moderate image.
CT-5	MALONEY	Nielson	Maloney faces a rematch of a bloody 1998 race.
FL-8	Chapin	9/5 Primary	Popular Orange County Commissioner leads open seat contest.
FL-22	Bloom	SHAW	Shaw faces strongest, well financed opponent.
GA-8	Marshall	CHAMBLISS	Chambliss remains untested. Faces a top-tier Democrat.
IL-10	Gash	Kirk	Porter's retirement makes this seat a toss-up.
IL-17	EVANS	Baker	Evans needs to beat his foe from 1996 and 1998 one more time.
IN-8	5/2 Primary	HOSTETTLER	The "Bloody Eighth" district could go either way.
IN-9	HILL	5/2 Primary	Freshman needs a big win to ward off future challenges.
KS-3	MOORE	8/1 Primary	A tough race for the freshman, as the district leans GOP.
KY-1	Roy	WHITFIELD	Roy needs to prove Whitfield is out of step with district.
KY-3	5/23 Primary	NORTHUP	Challenger aided by 60% Democratic district.
KY-4	LUCAS	5/23 Primary	Highly popular freshman favored for reelection.
KY-6	Baesler	FLETCHER	Baesler makes a bid to reclaim his old seat.
MI-8	Byrum	Rogers	Two experienced state legislators compete for key open seat.
MI-10	BONIOR	Palmer	Democrat assistant leader favored in conservative district.
MN-4	9/12 Primary	9/12 Primary	Clinton/Gore carried the 4th with 58% in 1996.
MN-6	LUTHER	Kline	Rematch of surprisingly close 1998 contest.
MS-4	SHOWS	Lampton	Strongly favored by white and black voters, Shows favored for reelection.
MT-1	Keenan	Rehberg	Popular Dem. Superintdt. of Public Instruction in close open seat race.
NV-1	BERKLEY	9/5 Primary	Very close race in 1998.
NH-2	Brannen	BASS	The 2nd District is responsible for NH's Democratic trend.
NJ-3	Levin	SAXTON	Cherry Hill Mayor battles to unseat conservative Republican incumbent.
NJ-7	6/6 Primary	6/6 Primary	Open seat race. Franks running for US Senate.
NJ-12	HOLT	6/6 Primary	Holt's surprise victory in '98 makes him a top target.
NM-1	6/6 Primary	WILSON	Heavily Hispanic district could unseat freshman GOP incumbent.
NY-1	FORBES	9/12 Primary	Party-switcher looks to win over Democratic voters.
NY-4	MCCARTHY	Becker	Clinton/Gore carried the 4th with 57% in 1996.
NC-2	ETHERIDGE	5/2 Primary	Democratic rising star faces battle in conservative district.
NC-8	Taylor	HAYES	Rematch of a very close race in 1998. 25% African American district.
OH-12	O'Shaughnessy	Tiberi	Large minority population makes this race close.
OK-2	8/22 Primary	Ewing	A rare pickup opportunity for Democrats in GOP-dominated Oklahoma.
OR-1	WU	5/16 Primary	Freshman Dem favored in suburban Portland district.
OR-5	HOOLEY	5/16 Primary	Two term Democrat favored again in rural Oregon constituency.
PA-4	VanHorne	Hart	Klink's decision to challenge Santorum creates a competitive race.
PA-10	Casey	SHERWOOD	Only 515 votes separated Casey and Sherwood in '98.
PA-13	HOEFFEL	Greenleaf	Hoeffel battles challenger in high income suburban Philadelphia.
SC-5	SPRATT	Gullick	Democratic budget leader challenged by the Christian right.
TX-5	Coggins	SESSIONS	Well-financed Latina Democrat looking for upset in Dallas district.
TX-14	Sneary	PAUL	Rematch of close 1998 race against extreme right-wing Republican.
UT-2	Matheson	COOK	Cook will face strong opposition from his own party as well.
WA-1	INSLEE	McDonald	1998 winner faces well-financed Republican challenger.
WA-2	Larsen	9/19 Primary	An open seat battle in suburban swing district.
WV-2	5/9 Primary	Capito	Daughter of former Republican Governor tough foe.

* Democratic Incumbents are in **BLUE CAPS**

*Republican Incumbents are in **RED CAPS**