



**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** NRCC

**DATE:** May 8th, 2026

**RE:** GOP Edge Emerges in New Offensive Battleground Polling

New NRCC polling in five offensive battleground districts shows Republicans in a strong position to flip these five seats and expand the map. Thanks to strong Republican candidates backed by a cohesive recruitment effort spearheaded by the NRCC, [record-breaking fundraising](#), President Trump's decisive leadership, and a [weak national Democrat brand](#), Republicans are in a strong position to defy history by holding and growing the House majority.

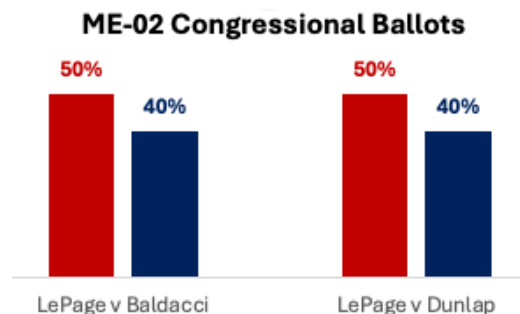
The NRCC surveyed likely general election voters April 26-28 in ME-02, NC-01, NM-02, TX-34, and WA-03, all districts won by President Trump in 2024. Polls included 800-1,000 respondents and were conducted via mobile text and landline interviews.

### **Republican Momentum**

Already, Republican challengers are in strong positions across these offensive districts, a clear warning sign for Democrats. In ME-02, Paul LePage already holds a double-digit lead over both leading Democrats currently duking it out in a primary. John Braun (WA-03) is leading Rep. Marie Glusekamp-Perez outside the margin of error as the Congresswoman's image is in dire straits. Eric Flores (TX-34) leads Rep. Vicente Gonzalez within the margin of error, and Laurie Buckhout (NC-01) is tied with Rep. Don Davis. Greg Cunningham (NM-02) is within the margin of error with Rep. Gabe Vasquez. Across all five seats, the Democrat brand is deeply underwater, averaging -22.4%, a liability that will continue to drag them down.

### **Maine's 2nd Congressional District**

- Governor Paul LePage leads Democrat opponents 50-40%, winning independents, high-propensity voters, and about a fifth of Democrats in a district President Trump won by 10% in 2024, and LePage won in three statewide runs.
- Republicans lead the generic ballot 48-41%, and the Democrat brand sits at -31%, with 62% of independents and 50% of seniors viewing Democrats unfavorably.

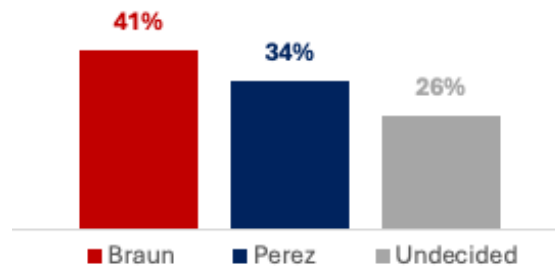




### Washington's 3rd Congressional District

- Republican State Senate Minority Leader John Braun leads on the initial ballot by 7%, while two-term Democrat incumbent Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez defends a seat where the Democrat brand is at -28% in popularity.
- With just six months until Election Day, Gluesenkamp Perez is viewed unfavorably by 50% of voters, including 49% of independents, 46% of young voters, and even 33% of Democrats, positioning Braun to grow support.

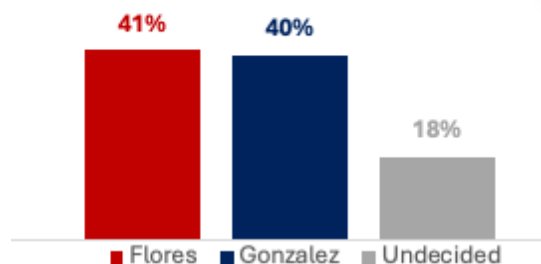
**WA-03 Congressional Ballot**



### Texas' 34th Congressional District

- Fresh off a hotly contested GOP primary, veteran and prosecutor Republican Eric Flores already leads five-term Democrat incumbent Vicente Gonzalez on an initial ballot, 41-40%, highlighting Flores' early strength after raising more money compared to Gonzalez in the first quarter of 2026.
- In a massive warning sign for Gonzalez, the incumbent is already -13% with independents and -4% with seniors, while the Democrat brand sits at -17% in a district that has swung hard toward Republicans and was won by President Trump by 11 points in 2024.

**TX-34 Congressional Ballot**

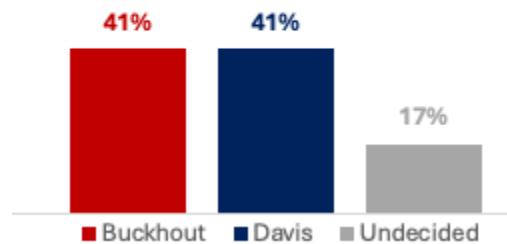




### **North Carolina's 1st Congressional District**

- With independents, seniors, and high-propensity voters breaking her way, Army veteran Laurie Buckhout is starting in a strong position and is already tied 41-41% against two-term incumbent Democrat Don Davis.
- Davis faces an uphill battle in a district that President Trump won by 11%, made even worse by Davis' party's -18 approval, including -31 with Independents.

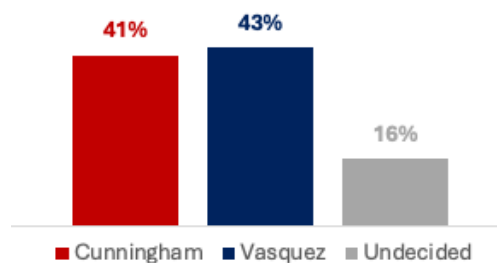
**NC-01 Congressional Ballot**



### **New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District**

- Former Albuquerque police officer and veteran, first-time candidate Republican Greg Cunningham, starts in a strong position within the margin of error at 41-43% against two-term incumbent Democrat Gabe Vasquez, starting with strong support among Hispanics and high-propensity voters.
- Governor Lujan Grisham's unfavorability is -14%, and the overall Democrat brand is -18%, causing significant structural vulnerability for Vasquez, who is -8 in popularity, including -16 with Independents and -6% with Hispanics.

**NM-02 Congressional Ballot**



### **Bottom Line**

Democrats are increasingly out of step, tethered to a crumbling national brand that prioritizes far-left policies over their districts' priorities. Republicans are capitalizing on that disconnect with [battle-tested candidates](#), [early investments](#), [high fundraising numbers](#), and [disciplined messaging](#) that draws a clear contrast. With the numbers indicating a positive shift toward Republicans, these battleground districts represent prime pickup opportunities that will ultimately decide the House majority.