

# Wave Watching: Election Night Viewers' Guide

BY NATHAN L. GONZALES

With more than 100 House seats and more than a dozen Senate seats in play, it's impossible to follow them all as polls close and returns trickle in tonight. Here is a guide for when and where to focus your attention in order to accurately measure the magnitude of Democratic losses.

## 10 p.m.

### Nevada

In the Senate race, if Tea Party candidate **Scott Ashjian** and "None of the Above" combine to receive close to 10 percent of the vote, Majority Leader **Harry Reid** (D) might win a fifth term. Otherwise, **Sharron Angle** (R) is coming to Washington, D.C. An Angle victory would help but not guarantee a Senate majority for Republicans. Freshman **Rep. Dina Titus** (D) withstood the GOP wave for months but still must be considered an underdog since she won two years ago with less than 50 percent of the vote.

## 6 p.m.

### Indiana

With an early poll closing time, all eyes will be on the Hoosier State tonight. There isn't much suspense in the Senate race, where former Sen. **Dan Coats** (R) is the heavy favorite over **Rep. Brad Ellsworth** (D). But only picking up Ellsworth's 8th district seat would be a disappointment for the GOP, while defeating **Rep. Baron Hill** (D) in the 9th district would lay the groundwork for winning the majority later in the evening. If Republicans defeat **Rep. Joe Donnelly** (D), who ran explicitly against Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and President Barack Obama, a night of massive gains for the GOP is likely in the making.

## 8 p.m.

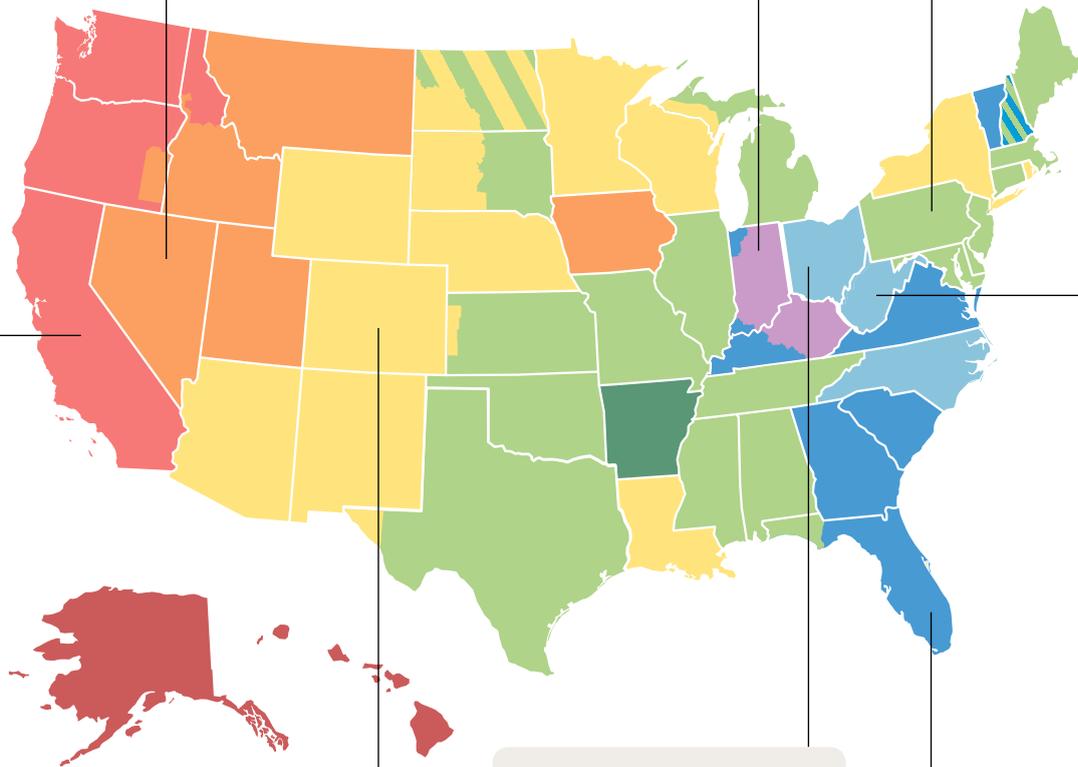
### Pennsylvania

Democrats think **Rep. Joe Sestak** (D) is ready to pull off another come-from-behind victory in the Senate race, but given the environment, former Rep. **Pat Toomey** (R) has a narrow edge. Republicans are targeting up to seven Democratic-held House seats in the state and likely need to win three or four for a majority. Anything more will just be running up the score. Democratic **Reps. Kathy Dahlkemper, Paul Kanjorski** and **Patrick Murphy** are the most vulnerable. But **Reps. Christopher Carney** and **Mark Critz**, and Sestak's open seat are at considerable risk as well. If **Rep. Jason Altmire** loses, Democrats are in for a very long night.

## 11 p.m.

### California

If **Carly Fiorina** (R) defeats **Sen. Barbara Boxer** (D), the former Hewlett-Packard executive will likely be a member of the Republican majority. If Republicans break through Democrats' West Coast firewall in the Golden State, then they have also likely won Senate races in Washington and West Virginia, states that are less Democratic and feature closer contests. On the House side, a loss by **Rep. Jerry McNerney** (D) isn't terribly surprising, but if **Rep. Jim Costa** (D) loses in the 20th district, it will likely just add to the developing storyline of a GOP tsunami that has already hit the rest of the country.



## 7:30 p.m.

### West Virginia

After being locked in a tight race with businessman **John Raese** (R), popular Gov. **Joe Manchin** (D) has opened a narrow lead in the race to replace the late Sen. Robert Byrd (D). Republicans likely need to win the seat in order to get a majority, so a loss here would force the fight for the Senate to the West Coast. The 1st district race between Democratic state Sen. **Mike Oliverio** and Republican **David McKinley** is one of the closest races in the country, so the result here could either add to the GOP wave or demonstrate that Democrats might be able to hold some ground.

## 7:30 p.m.

### Ohio

There isn't much suspense in the Senate race here, where former Rep. **Rob Portman** (R) is the heavy favorite over Lt. Gov. **Lee Fisher** (D). The Buckeye State is practically ground zero in the Republicans' fight to retake the House. They are in a strong position to defeat Democratic **Reps. Steve Driehaus** and **Mary Jo Kilroy**, and they are in good shape to knock off Democratic **Reps. John Boccieri** and **Zack Space**. If Republicans win all four, a majority is virtually guaranteed and defeating Democratic **Reps. Charlie Wilson** and **Betty Sutton** would just run up the numbers in what would be historic losses for Democrats.

## 9 p.m.

### Colorado

Weld County District Attorney **Ken Buck** (R) must defeat appointed **Sen. Michael Bennet** (D) if Republicans have any hope of winning a Senate majority. It looks like the race is virtually even coming into Election Day. In the House, Republicans can't settle for defeating **Rep. Betsy Markey** (D) in the 4th district. They may also need to defeat **Rep. John Salazar** (D) in the 3rd district. Former Aurora City Councilman **Ryan Frazier** (R) trails 7th district **Rep. Ed Perlmutter** (D) coming into today, so if Frazier wins, Republicans could be eyeing a 70-seat gain.

## 7 p.m.

### Florida

Republicans are well-positioned to defeat Democratic **Reps. Allen Boyd, Alan Grayson** and **Suzanne Kosmas**, but those three victories don't guarantee a majority. If **Allen West** (R) knocks off **Rep. Ron Klein** (D) in the 22nd district, it will be a good night for the GOP. Two Republican-held open seats in the 12th and 25th districts are at some risk, and the party can't afford to lose too many of their own. Former state Speaker **Marco Rubio** (R) is likely to win the open Senate seat.

## Poll Closing Times

(all times Eastern)

- 6 p.m.
- 7 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m.
- 8 p.m.
- 8:30 p.m.
- 9 p.m.
- 10 p.m.
- 11 p.m.
- 12 a.m.

Stripes indicate multiple closing times.

Source: National Association of the Secretaries of State