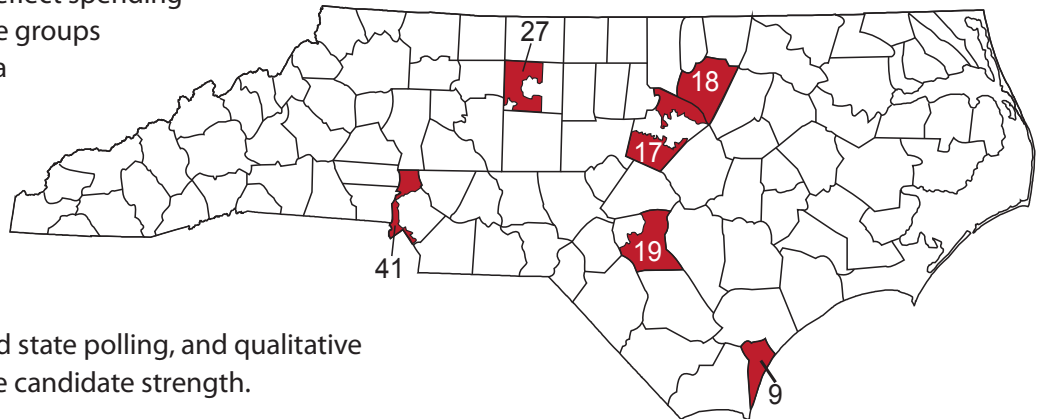


NC SENATE

2018 is shaping up to be one of the most pivotal legislative elections in North Carolina history. With Labor Day behind us, most campaigns have begun in earnest and it seems that we finally know what ballots will look like with all pending litigation settled until after this election.

This report has been updated to reflect spending by candidates, parties, and outside groups as well as more recent polling data in districts. As we are closer to the election these are the 22 House and six Senate districts we believe are most likely to change parties this cycle.



This report combines an analysis of district voting data, national and state polling, and qualitative factors like local issues and relative candidate strength.

These are analyses not endorsements: we've looked for races that could be competitive in the general but this shouldn't be taken as an indication of support of any one candidate over another.

With that out of the way, here is a closer look at the six Senate races to watch, all would be Democratic pickups and would be needed to break the Republican supermajority in the Senate.

SENATE DISTRICT 9

Incumbent Republican Michael Lee is deeply unpopular at least partially because of the Senate Leadership's failure to move toward meaningful solutions for the GenX crisis. This district encompasses nearly all of New Hanover County, which at the mouth of the Cape Fear River is the area most impacted by the crisis. Lee will face **Democrat Harper Peterson**, a former Wilmington Mayor.



Q2 receipts: \$52,316
Cash on hand: \$46,351



Q2 receipts: \$36,300
Cash on hand: \$210,798

SENATE DISTRICT 17

Incumbent Republican Tamara Barringer is a favored lieutenant of Senate Leader Berger and has been allowed to frequently "take a walk" on many of the Senate's most controversial bills to sustain her "moderate" image in this swing district. However, Barringer voted with leadership when it counted on veto overrides. She faces a serious challenge from **Democrat Sam Searcy**, a distillery owner. SD17 is a suburban Wake district with the highest college-educated population of all districts on the competitive list which national trends suggest will favor Democrats.



Q2 receipts: \$18,947
Cash on hand: \$373,560



Q2 receipts: \$22,700
Cash on hand: \$48,799

SENATE DISTRICT 18

Incumbent Republican John Alexander won the moderate Wake seat he currently holds by running ads saying he would vote as his Democratic wife told him. However, he stood with the Republican Supermajority when it counted, even when his vote wasn't needed. He faces a challenge from **Democrat Mack Paul**, an attorney and former Chair of the Wake County Democratic Party. This district has changed substantially in the redraw and now includes Franklin County, so more than half of the residents in the new HD18 don't live in the district that Alexander currently represents.



Q2 receipts: \$121,205
Cash on hand: \$305,102



Q2 receipts: \$26,688
Cash on hand: \$36,189

SENATE DISTRICT 19

Incumbent Republican Wesley Meredith is a Fayetteville-area lawn care company owner who was elected in 2010 in one of the most divisive legislative elections in state history. Meredith, a top lieutenant of Senate Leader Berger, now finds himself in a redrawn district where 30 percent of the voters haven't seen his name on their ballot before. Gov. Cooper won Meredith's new district in 2016. Meredith has a strong challenge from **Democrat Kirk deViere**, an Army veteran and small business owner.



Q2 receipts: \$67,514
Cash on hand: \$19,006



Q2 receipts: \$231,000
Cash on hand: \$500,055

SENATE DISTRICT 27

Incumbent Republican Trudy Wade is one of the most deeply unpopular incumbents in the state partially because of her antagonistic relationship with local officials and the local paper. Wade faces a rematch with **Democrat Michael Garrett**, who owns his own small business, a marketing firm.



Q2 receipts: \$51,061
Cash on hand: \$89,747



Q2 receipts: \$59,505
Cash on hand: \$163,334

SENATE DISTRICT 41

Incumbent Republican Jeff Tarte faces reelection in a district that includes less than half of the voters that he currently represents due to the redraw. Moreover, Tarte faces a strong challenge in a district carried by Gov. Cooper from **Democrat Natasha Marcus**, a lawyer and non-profit leader."



Q2 receipts: \$64,647
Cash on hand: 156,137



Q2 receipts: \$82,002
Cash on hand: \$137,763