



**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** John Billings, Executive Director  
**DATE:** February 10, 2021  
**RE:** Path to a Republican Majority

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## **OVERVIEW**

After a successful 2020 cycle – where House Republicans flipped 15 seats and elected a historically diverse class – Republicans are just five seats short of a majority and are strongly positioned to flip the House in 2022.

House Democrats, led by President Biden and Speaker Pelosi, have already forced their socialist agenda on the American people. Joe Biden started his presidency by enacting [job-killing executive orders](#) and throwing bipartisanship out the window. Meanwhile, Speaker Pelosi and the DCCC have decided their plan to defend their razor thin majority is to elevate a fringe internet conspiracy. Their strategy has been [ridiculed](#) by the press for being [misleading](#) and factually inaccurate. There's a reason several House Democrats are already [eyeing an exit](#): they know the majority is at risk.

Since WWII, the president's party has lost an average of 27 House seats in midterm elections. With full control of the federal government, House Democrats will be held responsible for their [socialist agenda](#) and efforts to increase the government's involvement in every aspect of voters' lives. To maintain their majority, House Democrats will need to defy history and defend policies toxic to hardworking Americans.

To hold Democrats accountable for their socialist agenda, the NRCC is strategically targeting at least 47 vulnerable Democrat members in 2022. These 47 offensive targets are broken down into three categories: Battleground, Underperforming Democrats and Redistricting Watch.

There are **29 Battleground Democrats** that include seven districts President Biden lost or where the 2020 presidential or congressional margin was within 5%. Next, there are **8 Underperforming Democrats**, who won by less than 10% and underperformed the presidential ballot margin. Finally, there are **10 Redistricting Watch Democrats**, who currently represent districts in states gaining or losing seats during the reapportionment or have a redistricting commission.

NRCC polling data from the 2020 cycle in these 47 seats shows Democrats hold just a one-point advantage on the generic ballot. Additionally, among those seats, undecided voters lean Republican by three points.

## **BATTLEGROUND DEMOCRATS**

The 29 "Battleground Democrats" that make up the majority of the NRCC's offensive targets present numerous opportunities for Republicans to flip Democrat-held seats. The list includes members where Joe Biden lost their district in 2020, several who underperformed the top of the ticket and four newly added members who were not targeted last cycle.

Prime ticket-split examples include Cheri Bustos and Ron Kind, who both faced their most serious challengers to date, only winning by 3.9 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively. For reference, Reps. Bustos and Kind both won by over 19 points in 2018. Additionally, Jared Golden narrowly won a district President Biden lost by 7.5%.



President Biden carried NJ-07 and TX-07 by healthy margins, but Reps. Malinowski and Fletcher significantly underperformed the top of the ticket due to strong candidate recruitment, strategic investments by Republicans and the incumbent members consistently voting out of step with their districts.

District	Incumbent	District	Incumbent
AZ-01	O'Halleran	NV-04	Horsford
CA-10	Harder	OH-13	Ryan
FL-13	Crist	OR-04	DeFazio
GA-07	Bourdeaux	PA-07	Wild
IA-03	Axne	PA-08	Cartwright
IL-14	Underwood	PA-17	Lamb
IL-17	Bustos	TX-07	Fletcher
ME-02	Golden	TX-15	Gonzalez
MI-08	Slotkin	TX-28	Cuellar
MI-11	Stevens	TX-34	Vela
MN-02	Craig	VA-02	Luria
NJ-03	Kim	VA-07	Spanberger
NJ-05	Gottheimer	WA-08	Schrier
NJ-07	Malinowski	WI-03	Kind
NV-03	Lee		

### **UNDERPERFORMING DEMOCRATS**

There were eight Democrats in 2020 who won by less than 10% and underperformed the presidential ballot. Of those eight, seven were targeted last cycle. The final member, Kurt Schrader, is a prime pick-up opportunity for Republicans. Rep. Schrader only garnered 52% of the vote and underperformed President Biden by three points.

In southern California, Reps. Porter and Levin have consistently taken far left votes and are out of touch with their constituents. In 2020, Porter and Levin underperformed President Biden by 4.4% and 6.5%, respectively. With Democrats only moving further to the left, both members are vulnerable in 2022.

District	Incumbent
CA-45	Porter
CA-49	Levin
GA-06	McBath
IL-06	Casten
KS-03	Davids
NH-01	Pappas
OR-05	Schrader
TX-32	Allred



### **REDISTRICTING WATCH**

The “Redistricting Watch” targets present 10 opportunities for Republicans to defeat Democrats in states that will lose or gain seats after redistricting. The list includes two new targets from last cycle as well as four Democrats in states that are losing seats in which the incumbent underperformed the top of the ticket.

Deborah Ross is part of this group as a new targeted seat for the cycle. Ross underperformed the top of the ticket in a state that is expected to gain house seats in a Republican-controlled redistricting process.

<b>District</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>
AZ-02	Kirkpatrick
CA-03	Garamendi
CT-05	Hayes
FL-07	Murphy
MN-03	Phillips
NC-02	Ross
NJ-11	Sherrill
NY-03	Suozzi
NY-18	Maloney
NY-19	Delgado

### **CONCLUSION**

Republicans have a clear path back to the majority. President Biden, Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats will continue to push a radical, partisan agenda that is too extreme for middle-class families.

The NRCC enters this cycle with more net [cash on hand](#) than the DCCC, and House Republicans are fully prepared to bring the fight to House Democrats. With a proven record of strong candidate recruitment, aggressive messaging and the necessary resources, Republicans will win back the House in 2022.