



November 3, 2023

TO: Interested Parties

FR: Christie Roberts, DSCC Executive Director

Re: One year out, Senate Democrats strongly positioned to defend our majority

One year from the election, three factors are contributing to Senate Democrats' strong position to defend our majority: the strength of our candidates and campaigns, flawed Republicans fighting in vicious primaries, and the continued resonance of issues like women's right to make our own health care decisions.

Senate Democrats' formidable candidates and campaigns.

Our battle tested candidates have powerful individual brands and strong records of accomplishments for their states. They attract a broad, unique coalition of voters behind them, comprising individuals of every political persuasion.

In many 2024 battlegrounds, Democratic Senators have out-performed other Democratic candidates by as much as double digits, a testament to their unique appeal with the electorate and their focus on issues that matter to their states – like lowering the cost of [health care](#) and [prescription drugs](#), improving [infrastructure](#), [cracking down on fentanyl](#), and supporting programs for rural communities, like [rural firefighting](#) and [care for rural veterans](#).

They're also building formidable campaign operations. *The New York Times* reported that "[Senate Democrats outpace Republicans in fund-raising in key states](#)," demonstrating there's "[no shortage of grassroots energy for the party's top Senate candidates](#)."

Democrats are also expanding the map, going on offense in Texas and Florida, where both Cruz and Scott "[were outraised by their Democratic challengers](#)."

This resource advantage will allow our campaigns to reach voters through powerful paid media programs, expansive grassroots organizing, and other innovative tactics.

The DSCC is also making early, historic investments to lay the groundwork to win: [opening offices](#) in 5 states and funding [on the ground staff](#) focused on Republican accountability in 10 states, including Texas and Florida. We are also continuing our aggressive voter protection initiatives – recently [winning](#) a lawsuit to protect Pennsylvanians' right to vote by mail.

Inside Elections: "In 2022, Democrats expanded the majority against long odds. With strong incumbents, flawed Republican candidates and the Dobbs decision motivating pro-choice voters... **with a year to go, some of the ingredients are in place for Democrats to replicate their success.**"

"Once again, Democratic incumbents will be prepared and well-funded. Republicans haven't been able to avoid primaries in key states and could be going to battle with flawed or untested nominees."

Flawed Republican recruits, fighting in damaging primaries.

The *Cook Political Report* detailed a trend across the map: “[Looming Senate GOP Primary Wars](#).” *National Journal* reported that “[messy Republican primaries are beginning to take shape in at least six states](#).” And *The Hill* wrote “[contested GOP Senate primaries could create headaches in 2024](#).” In each of these contests, GOP infighting will reveal their candidates’ vulnerabilities, drain their resources and leave their ultimate nominee out of step with the voters that decide the general election in their states.

The intra-party fighting has turned nasty – with Mooney labeling Justice the “[king of scandals](#),” Rosendale torching Sheehy as a “[tool of the ‘party bosses’ in Washington](#),” Moreno attacking LaRose as a “[career politician](#),” Republicans calling Rogers a member of the “[deep state](#),” and Gunter deriding Brown as “[Swampy Scam Brown](#).”

In other states, *Axios* wrote Senate Republicans are “[facing the risk of problematic candidates emerging in must-win races](#),” like Kari Lake in Arizona. These candidates have lost before, are [on tape](#) espousing their dangerous views, and bring [damaging vulnerabilities](#) to their campaigns.

In Texas and Florida, Republicans are defending two uniquely unlikeable and vulnerable incumbents. In both states, the DSCC has launched [advertising](#) and made [investments](#) in on-the-ground staff to hold Cruz and Scott accountable.

In Florida, Scott has never won any race by more than 1.2 points, has never run in a presidential year, and is facing his first campaign since introducing his plan to end Medicare and Social Security. Polling [shows](#) Scott’s policy agenda is toxic with voters, and Mucarsel-Powell can beat Scott under even the most conservative turnout scenario.

In Texas, Democrats came within 2 points of defeating Cruz in 2018. Allred set a 2024 Senate [campaign record](#) by raising [\\$2 million](#) in the first 36 hours of his campaign, and his campaign announcement prompted *The Cook Political Report* to [downgrade](#) Cruz’s re-election prospects.

Key campaign issues will once again favor Democrats.

[Women’s right to make our own health care decisions, protecting democracy](#) and the GOP agenda [gutting Medicare and Social Security](#) will all play a central role in the 2024 election, and the continued resonance of these issues will boost Senate Democrats’ campaigns. *HuffPost* reported that “[GOP Senate recruits back the same extreme abortion positions that cost the party in 2022](#)” – while even [Republican polling](#) confirmed abortion remains one of the top issues for independent and new voters, and that “reproductive freedom is the #1 issue among those that did not vote in 2020.”

The bottom line: Strong Democrats, damaged Republicans, and a favorable campaign issue set will all contribute to Senate Democrats’ victories in 2024. One year out from Election Day, these factors are boosting our campaigns across the map and setting the stage for Democrats to successfully defend our Senate majority.

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