

Final Analysis of the 2006 Gubernatorial Elections

McKenna Long & Aldridge's Government Affairs strategists have twice published an analysis of this year's 36 gubernatorial elections. This is our final analysis, and it reflects a good deal of movement in these races, which is typical during the last several weeks of a campaign. As election day approaches, more polling occurs, voters pay increasing attention to campaigns, and undecided voters begin making up their minds.

While Democrats and Republicans have both increased their number of Safe seats, overall Democrats appear to have gained ground in recent weeks.

The chart below summarizes our collective opinion of where each race stands with less than one week until the election. Note that the italicized states currently have Republican governors; the status of the races in bold has changed since the last report.

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Safe Democrat (11)	Leans Democrat (5)	Toss-Up (5)	Leans Republican (6)	Safe Republican (9)
Arizona	<i>Arkansas</i>	Iowa	<i>Alaska</i>	<i>Alabama</i>
Kansas	<i>Colorado</i>	<i>Maryland</i>	<i>Florida</i>	California
Massachusetts	Illinois	<i>Minnesota</i>	Idaho	<i>Connecticut</i>
New Hampshire	Maine	Oregon	<i>Rhode Island</i>	Georgia
New Mexico	Michigan	Wisconsin	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Hawaii</i>
<i>New York</i>			<i>Nevada</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>Ohio</i>				<i>S. Carolina</i>
Oklahoma				<i>S. Dakota</i>
Pennsylvania				<i>Vermont</i>
Tennessee				

Wyoming

Toss-Up States

Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Oregon and Wisconsin remain Toss-Ups.

Leans Democrat

Maine and Michigan have been moved from Toss-Up to Leans Democrat. Incumbent Democratic governors in each state have seen their small leads grow in the past several weeks.

Safe Democrat

Massachusetts is now considered Safe Democrat as Deval Patrick (D) has a large lead over Lt. Governor Kerry Healey (R).

Leans Republican

Idaho moves from Safe Republican to Leans Republican. Congressman Butch Otter (R) has seen his once large lead shrink substantially and quickly, though he is still favored to prevail given Idaho's conservative electorate.

Safe Republican

California and Georgia are now considered Safe Republican. The incumbent governors have solidified their leads going into the election over their Democratic challengers.

For more information on these contests or if you would like to discuss how the outcomes may affect public policy issues of concern to you, please contact [Eric Tanenblatt](#), [Keith Mason](#), [Marcia Hale](#), [Jeff Miller](#), [Lawton Jordan](#) or any of the strategists in our [National Government Affairs](#) practice.

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