

We're only two years away from the next Senate elections. Granted, we're not completely done with the 2020 Senate elections given the Georgia runoffs. But just 24 months from now, control of the Senate will again be at stake. On average, the President's party loses two Senate seats in the off-year elections. That's not a universal rule, however.

What happens in 2022 will shape the second half of Biden's term. We've learned how important the Senate is as the gatekeeper of presidential appointments, with the Barrett appointment as Exhibit #1. It's also famously a place where proposed legislation goes to die. There are powerful implications for Senate control in the energy/environment arena as elsewhere.

There will be almost a dozen states in play. I'm including states where the margin in the last election was under 10%, and two states where Senators coming off of special elections will be trying to retain their seats. Here's the list:

Arizona. After this year's election, the Arizona Senate seat will once again be on the ballot, in order to get it back to the regular rotation cycle. Mark Kelly will have to defend the seat he just won.

Colorado. Sen. Bennett (D) will defend his seat.

Florida. Marco Rubio (R) will be fighting to keep his seat, while also launching his presidential campaign.

Georgia. Another seat that will be on the ballot again in order to get it back on the regular rotation. (Yes, despite there being two Senate seats on the ballot at this very moment.)

Indiana. Todd Young (R) won by *almost* ten points last time, so he's probably the safest among the group of Senators on my list.

Missouri. Roy Blunt (R) won by only 2.4% last time around.

New Hampshire. Maggie Hassan won this seat by the slimmest of margins, so Republicans will definitely hope to regain it.

North Carolina. Incumbent Sen. Richard Burr (R) is retiring, so this open seat is up for grabs.

Nevada. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D) won by only 2% last time, so this is another seat Republicans will hope to gain.

Pennsylvania. Pat Toomey (R) won in a squeaker last time, He appears to have decided that the odds aren't good next time. Democrats should have a real shot at flipping this open seat.

Wisconsin. Ron Johnson (R) is likely retiring, leaving this open seat up for grabs.

This list gives the Democrats more opportunities to pick up seats than the Republicans. It remains to be seen whether they can capitalize on these opportunities more effectively than they were able to earlier this month.

[Note: minor corrections made after input from a reader.]