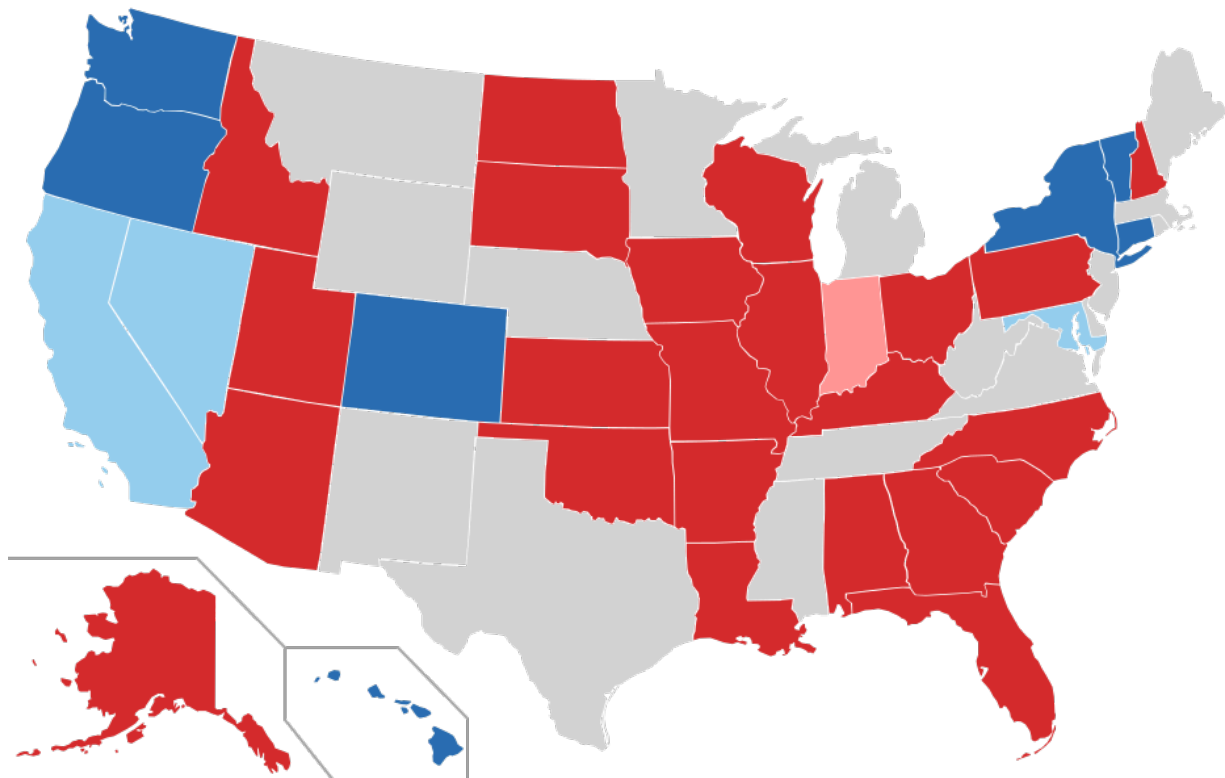


GOP Gaining Ground In 2016 Senate Elections: While the 2016 presidential race dominates the press coverage, it is also important to keep an eye on next year's state and local races. The Republican Party swept the 2014 elections at the state and local levels and recent polls show the GOP is gaining ground in key Senate races ahead of 2016.

Democrats in Pennsylvania are struggling to find an alternative to former Congressman Joe Sestak, who lost to Senator Pat Toomey in 2010, and a recent Quinnipiac poll shows Senator Toomey well ahead, 48-35. Senator Marco Rubio's seat is now open in Florida and the same Quinnipiac poll shows Republican Jeff Atwater ahead of Democratic Congressmen Patrick Murphy (FL-18) and Alan Grayson (FL-9), 38-34 and 42-32 respectively. While Atwater won't run, it shows the potential of a good Republican candidate. Colorado Democratic Senator Michael Bennet is trailing Republican Congressman Mike Coffman (CO-6) ahead of Senator Bennet by three points, 43-40 in another Quinnipiac poll.

Democrats face challenges in 2016 Senate races because of a limited pool of quality candidates and general disorganization. Well-prepared Republican incumbents will only make those problems worse and raise the GOP's chances to keep their new majority.

2016 Senate Election



Source: NRSC