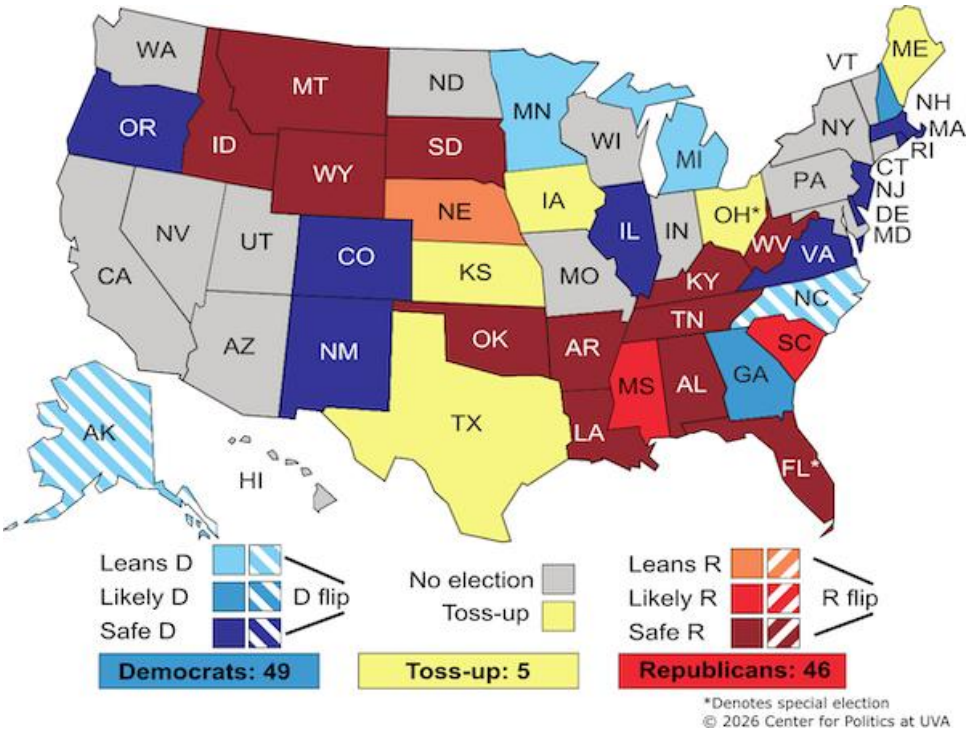
TRUCKERS INTEGRAL
TO OUR ECONOMY

October 20, 2026

Committee Gavels in Play Two Weeks from Election Day

New Leadership Confirmed at the Department of Labor



Midterm Elections, November 3

Election day is two weeks out. July's update put a Democratic Senate out of reach this cycle, and forecasters have since moved. Models now favor Democrats to take the House, and the Senate has shifted from a long shot to roughly even.

In its October 6 Senate ratings, Cook Political Report moved Georgia and North Carolina from Lean Democratic to Likely Democratic and moved Kansas to Toss-Up. Alaska, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Ohio and Texas remain Toss-Ups. Democrats need a net gain of four seats.

Sonderling Confirmed and What a Democratic Senate Would Mean

The Senate confirmed Keith Sonderling 47 to 41 on September 30, along party lines, with twelve senators not voting. It was the chamber's last business before members left to campaign. He was sworn in October 9.

His July 16 confirmation hearing is the clearest preview of the oversight he would face if Democrats take the Senate. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), who would chair the committee, went after the department's independent contractor rule, now awaiting final publication. She said the department wants corporations to classify workers as contractors "so they don't have to pay them minimum wage and overtime," put the cost to workers at 3.7 billion dollars a year, and called the rule "an outright grift."

She tied it to the pending joint employer rule. Expect classification to stay a standing subject of hearings rather than a closed matter. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) pressed a procedural line, telling Sonderling that reform belongs in front of the committee rather than worked around it.

Ranking Member Bobby Scott of House Education and Workforce

If Democrats take the House, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) is expected to chair the Education and Workforce Committee. He is the current ranking member and has held his seat since 1993.

On February 26, the day the Labor Department proposed rescinding the 2024 independent contractor rule and restoring the 2021 economic realities test, Scott said the change would make it harder for misclassified workers to receive overtime and would codify employer misclassification. He cited an estimate of more than 3 billion dollars a year in lost wages.

Scott also authors the PRO Act. In 2021 he said key provisions could pass through budget reconciliation, which takes a simple majority and avoids the filibuster. That route, rather than a standalone vote, is the one prior updates have flagged.

We will continue to monitor.

Truckers Integral to Our Economy is a 501(c)(4) dedicated to the preservation of the independent contractor model in the trucking industry. For more information, contact Scott Brenner at sbrenner@crshq.com or www.truckerchoice.org.