

OPPOSITION RESEARCH AND CANDIDATE TRACKING

American Bridge will make running as a Republican candidate in the next four years painful. We will not only damage Trump, but also the candidates who enable and support him. American Bridge will use its full research, video tracking, and rapid response capabilities to drive messages about Republican candidates that will change the narrative in their races and help secure victories for Democratic candidates.

2,228,190 miles driven and
24,507 events covered by video trackers

SENATE

We plan to be involved in every competitive and potentially competitive Senate race in the coming cycle. Democrats are expected to have 23 seats up for election, along with two independent Senators who caucus with Democrats. Republicans are expected to have eight seats up for election. Taking into account seats that will likely be safe for one party or the other, we project that American Bridge will work in 16-20 races.

Democratic incumbents are on the ballot in nine states that Trump won including five that Republicans also won in 2012: Indiana, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, West Virginia. Others include Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The Virginia Senate race may also be competitive with Tim Kaine up for reelection. In these races, it will be critical to define the Republican candidates early so they are unable to capitalize on a political landscape that is favorable to their party.

Bridge has already begun research on known Republican Senate targets like Josh Mandel in Ohio and Dean Heller in Nevada. We have moved 10 trackers into key Senate states and will increase our tracking reach across the country beginning in April 2017.

We are also maintaining a presence and beginning research and tracking in states that may provide greater opportunity for Democrats this cycle than they have in the past, like Arizona where Republican Jeff Flake is on the ballot in 2018.

Our Impact

DERAILED RUDY GIULIANI'S CABINET NOMINATION.

American Bridge exposed Rudy Giuliani's business record and transnational conflicts of interest in news outlets like the *New York Times* (front page), the *Washington Post* and CNN. The *New York Times* subsequently reported that "the headlines about Mr. Giuliani's business interests bothered Mr. Trump." Giuliani later withdrew his name from consideration.

18,000+ stories
placed based on Bridge research since 2011

GOVERNORS

Electing governors in 2018 is the first concrete step Democrats can take toward having a bigger say in the next redistricting process, and opportunities for pickups are widespread. As *Politico* recently reported:

“Twenty-seven of the 38 governorships up in 2017 and 2018 are Republican-held, including many seats that will be open after eight years of GOP control. That means widespread opportunities for Democratic gains, as well as a critical chance for new ideas and new blood to emerge as the party seeks to identify its next generation of leaders.”

In 2017, Bridge will produce research and tracking for the Virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial races. We are already ahead of the game in Virginia since we produced a research book on Republican Virginia gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie when he ran for US Senate in 2014. We have also begun research on Prince William County Supervisor Corey Stewart and State Senator Frank Wagner. We have moved a tracker into New Jersey for the gubernatorial race and have begun research on Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, and Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick.

In 2018, Republican governors like Scott Walker, Charlie Baker, and Bruce Rauner are among our targets. We will also engage in the Florida gubernatorial race, a critical state for Democrats in this cycle and future elections, as well as the Nevada and New Mexico races, which represent promising opportunities for Democrats this cycle.

Due to the overlay of targeted Senate and gubernatorial states, Bridge will track in many gubernatorial races even in those where we may not be as heavily invested in the race.

STATE LEGISLATURES

Progressives have long discussed the importance of state legislative races because of their impact on state legislative agendas as well as redistricting for 2020. However, with redistricting just four years away, these discussions have led to little in the way of concrete plans or action. Now these state legislative battles are even more critical. Due to poor performances in 2014 and 2016, we must rebuild our bench for state and federal races for 2018 and 2020.

Over the next cycle, American Bridge will leverage its infrastructure and expertise into the arena of state legislative races. We will create pilot programs in key states where we can engage in our core competencies—research, tracking, and rapid response—and impact the outcomes of races. Bridge will choose to operate in states where a) Democrats are in the minority by a narrow margin in the state legislative chambers, b) redistricting is critical, and c) our progressive partners are most engaged.

DROVE UP THE KOCH BROTHERS' NEGATIVES.

American Bridge led the way for Democrats to fight the Koch brothers' influence and money. Working with Senator Harry Reid and partners airing TV ads, we created a war room that leveled sustained attacks on the Koch brothers, making their negative ratings spike and turning their advocacy into a liability for candidates they supported.