



# 2026 Political Briefing

Elections, Maps, and What It Means for  
**Transit Workers**



# Why Politics Matter to Transit Workers



## Funding & Investment

Public funding directly determines the size of the pot during contract negotiations. It drives jobs, wages, safety upgrades, and service reliability.



## Safety & Operations

When politicians have our back, they pass critical laws and allocate necessary capital budgets to keep transit workers safe on the job.



## Bargaining Rights

Labor rights are not guaranteed. State and local elected leadership directly shapes our ability to organize, negotiate, and protect our union.

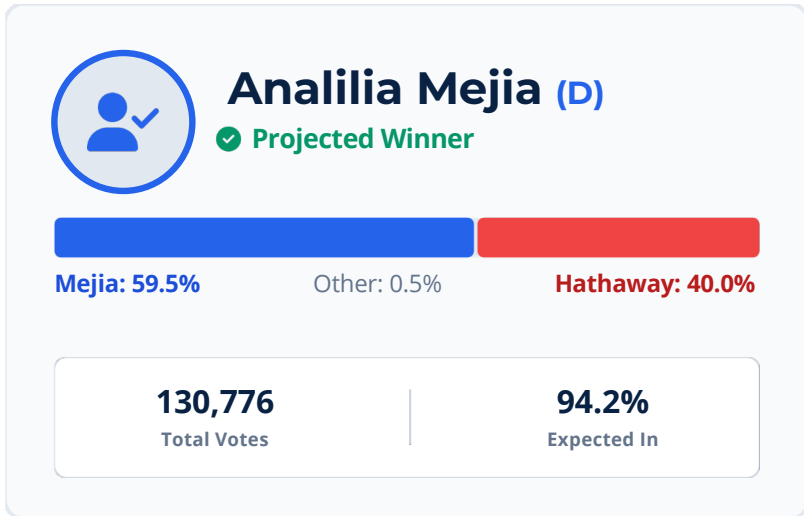


## ATU Action

### The Voice of Transit Workers

As the largest transit worker PAC in the U.S., **ATU-COPE** helps elect pro-labor, pro-transit candidates and holds them accountable once they are in office.

# Recent Victory: Analilia Mejia Wins NJ-11



## Democrat Analilia Mejia The ATU Choice for Congress

*"On April 16th we have the opportunity to elect a true fighter and friend of the ATU to Congress, Analilia Mejia. Democrat Analilia fought alongside us for a millionaire tax and corporate tax increase to help fund transit."*

*"In Congress she will work to increase funding for transit and work to improve safety protections for transit workers. It is not often that we get to cast our votes for a true friend, but that is why the ATU has endorsed Analilia Mejia for Congress. She is on our side."*

— John A Costa,  
 ATU International President



# VOTE

**Election Day is Thursday, April 16th**

Early voting April 6-14th. For voting information go to: <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/special-election.shtml> or by scanning QR code to the right.



**Amalgamated Transit Union**  
 AFL-CIO/CLC  
 10000 New Hampshire Avenue  
 Silver Spring, MD 20903-1706  
[www.atu.org](http://www.atu.org)

## Analilia Mejia, she's on our side!

### Analilia will:

- ★ Work to secure additional funding for transit which will increase opportunities for ATU members
- ★ Fight for an economy that works for all of us, not just the very rich
- ★ Champion Medicare for All, healthcare should be a right not a privilege
- ★ Support paid sick days for all workers and a \$25 an hour minimum wage. This will raise the standard of living for all workers



**Democrat Analilia Mejia  
 for Congress**



# California Proposition 50 - A Big Success

## Vote Yes to Stop Election Rigging Vote Yes on Proposition 50

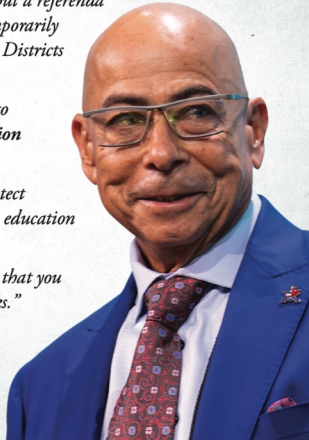
*"In response to election rigging that is happening in Texas and other states, the California legislature put a referenda on the ballot. The referenda would temporarily allow for redistricting of Congressional Districts to level the playing field.*

*The ATU is encouraging all members to Vote Yes on Proposition 50, the Election Rigging Response Act.*

*Having a fair election process helps protect workers' rights and funding for transit, education and healthcare.*

*When you receive your ballot, we hope that you will vote YES and mail it back. Thanks."*

John Costa  
ATU International President



# VOTE

All registered voters in California will receive their ballot in the mail, starting on October 6th. It is important to Vote YES and either mail it back or put it in a drop box.

If you do not receive your ballot go to:  
[WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov)



## Vote Yes on Proposition 50 Election Rigging Response Act

### What Proposition 50 does: //

- ✓ Proposition 50 will make a short term change but in the end return redistricting to the independent citizens commission.
- ✓ Proposition 50 levels the playing field to ensure that we are fairly represented in Congress.
- ✓ Proposition 50 will protect against cuts to transit, saving ATU jobs.
- ✓ Proposition 50 will help insure union and workers' rights.
- ✓ Proposition 50 will help protect the air that we breathe, the ground that we walk on, and the water that we drink.



# Court Wins: Wisconsin & Pennsylvania



## Wisconsin Supreme Court

↗ Democratic Majority Expanded

**Chris Taylor** (Democrat) wins, securing a 10-year term and expanding democrats to a **5-2 majority**.

Messaging centered heavily on abortion access and voting rights, supported by a strong fundraising advantage.

**Impact:** Map rulings, collective bargaining, and labor-related precedents are more secure through at least 2030.



## Pennsylvania Supreme Court

🛡 Democratic Majority Preserved

Voters successfully retained 3 Democratic justices, preserving a **5-2 majority**.

High salience election that drew outside money and attention over future rulings on election integrity and abortion.

**Impact:** Maintains a stable court for critical rulings on election law, congressional maps, and vital worker protections.



**Implications for ATU:** Stable, pro-worker judicial environments can reliably safeguard bargaining rights and uphold fair maps that directly shape congressional control and local transit funding.

# Current Campaign Spotlight: Katie Porter



# Redistricting Ahead of 2026: Where Maps Are Changing



## Enacted New Maps

✓ Passed Congressional Maps

California

Missouri

North Carolina

Ohio

Texas

Utah

Florida

Tennessee



## Considering Mid-Decade Action

• Voluntary Redistricting Steps

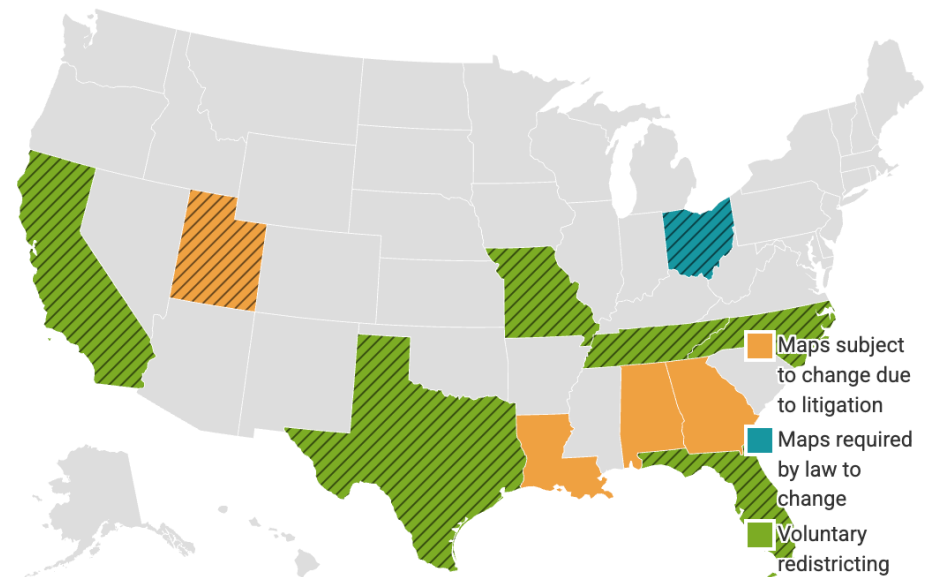
Georgia\*

New York\*

Louisiana\*

*\*Subject to litigation*

/// New map enacted



Source: Ballotpedia

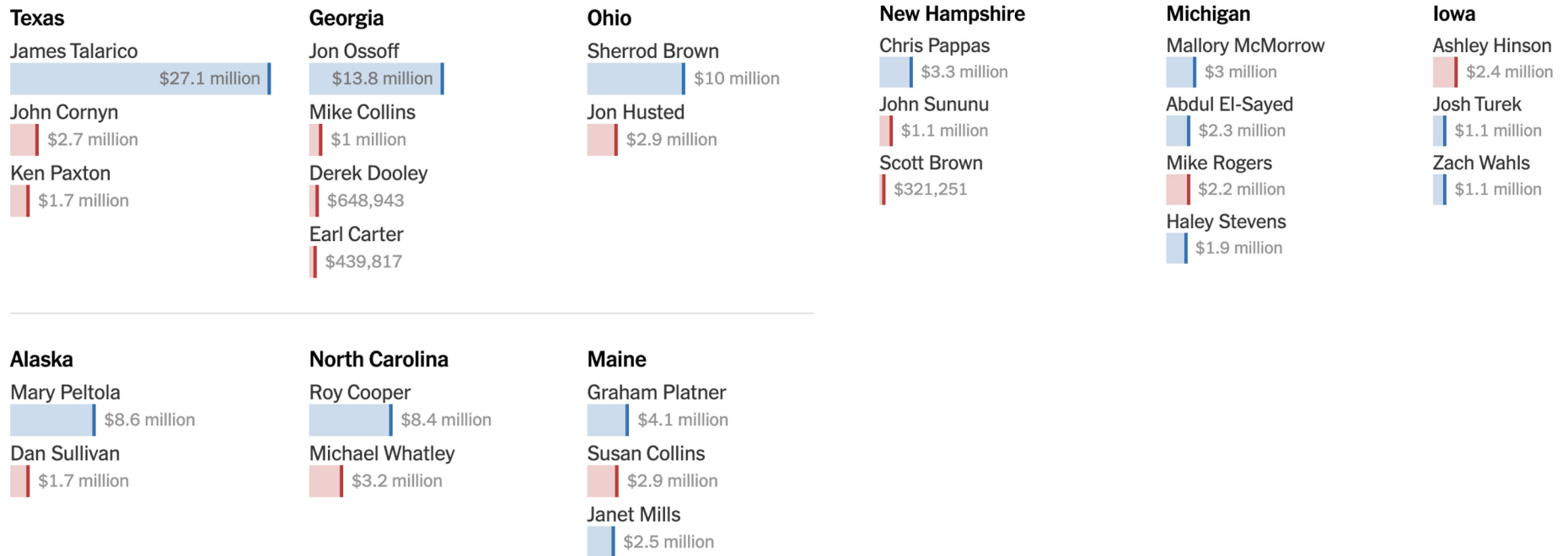
BALLOTPEDIA

Source: [https://ballotpedia.org/Redistricting\\_ahead\\_of\\_the\\_2026\\_elections](https://ballotpedia.org/Redistricting_ahead_of_the_2026_elections)

# The Money Chase



## Fund-raising in key Senate races in 2026



# The Trump Effect



Since Trump was elected, 30 legislative seats have change hands



All were from Republican to Democrat



The political winds are definitely changing.



**LET'S NOT FUCK IT UP!**

# U.S. House 2026: Ratings Snapshot

Based on Cook Political Report Data (Nov 2024 Baseline & 2026 Updates)



## Democratic Seats

Solid Democrat	184
Likely Democrat	11
Lean Democrat	12

## True Toss Ups

Democrat-held Toss Up	4
Republican-held Toss Up	14

## Republican Seats

Solid Republican	184
Likely Republican	17
Lean Republican	5

## Key Battlegrounds to Monitor

### Toss Up (GOP-Held)

AZ-01 AZ-06 CO-8 VI-2 MI-7 NJ-7 CA-22  
IA-01 IA-03 NY-17 PA-7 PA-8 PA-10 WI-3

### Toss Up (Dem-Held)

OH-9 TX-34 WA-3  
FL-25

*Note: Additional races moving into competitive status include AK-AL (Likely R). Engage ATU Locals in these overlapping footprint zones.*

# U.S. Senate 2026: Ratings Snapshot

 Based on Cook Political Report Data (2026 Cycle)



## Democratic Seats

Not Up For Re-election	34
Solid Democrat	9
Likely Democrat	1
Lean Democrat	2

## Toss Up Seats

Total Toss Ups **3**

With the chamber tightly divided, these 3 highly competitive races will ultimately decide which party controls the Senate majority in 2027.

## Republican Seats

Not Up For Re-election	31
Solid Republican	15
Likely Republican	2
Lean Republican	2

## Control Outlook & ATU Priorities

### The Path to a Pro-Transit Majority

Republicans start with a structural advantage, holding 50 safe or leaning seats compared to Democrats' 47. To secure a pro-labor, pro-transit Senate majority, Democratic candidates must win all 3 of the remaining Toss Up races.

### Clem's Top Picks for Democrats

NC – Roy Cooper  
ME – Graham Platner  
OH – Sherrod Brown  
AK – Mary Peltola  
TX – Jim Talarico

# Governor Races 2026: Ratings Snapshot

Based on Cook Political Report Data (2026 Updates)



## Democratic Seats

Solid Democrat	12
Likely Democrat	2
Lean Democrat	1



## True Toss Ups

Total Toss Up Races **6**

These highly competitive battlegrounds will likely determine the balance of gubernatorial power in key states.



## Republican Seats

Solid Republican	12
Likely Republican	2
Lean Republican	1



## Why Governors Matter for ATU

Direct Impact on Transit Operations and Bargaining

State Budgets & Funding

Workplace Safety Initiatives

Labor Rights & Appointments

# Referenda



## ☰ 2026 Transit Ballot Measures

STATE	CITY/COUNTY	LOCAL	QUICKFACTS
California	Bay Area	192, 265, 1555, 1574	Sales Tax
Michigan	Wayne County	26, 1564	Property Tax
Texas	Dallas	1338	Sales Tax
Oregon	Portland	757	Tax Levy
Oregon	State	757	
West Virginia	Huntington	1742	Tax Levy
West Virginia	Kanawha County	1742	Tax Levy

# Referenda



## ☰ Potential Ballot Measures

STATE	CITY/COUNTY	LOCAL	QUICKFACTS
California	Fresno	1027	Sales Tax
California	Sacramento	256	
Colorado	Summit County	1751	
Colorado	State		Constitutional Amendment
Missouri	Four counties near Kansas City	1287	Sales Tax
Sout Carolina	Charleston	610	Sales Tax
Washington	Pierce County/Takoma	758	

# Who Might Run for President in 2028?



# All Hand on Deck



# Stronger Together



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

