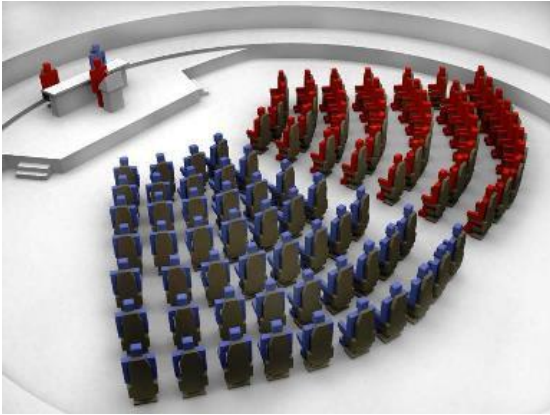


Republicans on track to control Capitol Hill

Story by Rich Johnson



The presidential race may be tough, but **the fight for control of Congress may be tougher for Democrats.** The latest forecast from The Hill/DDHQ says that **Republicans have a 70% of taking control of the Senate and a 56% chance of retaining control of the House.**

“Democrats have their backs against the wall. They don’t have much room to lose,” said Washington lobbyist and consultant Christopher Neiweem. *“I think they’re going to get it by two seats, even a third,”* he told NewsNation. *“This is strong math favoring Republicans. Senate Democrats are going to have a challenge here.”*

Neiweem said the **Senate seat that’s dead certain to switch is West Virginia**, where Democrat-turned-Independent Joe Manchin is retiring.

“West Virginia is a total takeaway for the governor there stepping in to replace Senator Manchin,” he said. Republican Gov. Jim Justice has a formidable lead in every poll, and The Hill/DDHQ predicts **he has a 99% chance of winning.**

The other seat most likely to **switch from Democrat to Republican is Montana.** Despite his longtime popularity, Democrat incumbent Jon Tester is trailing Republican Tim Sheehy, a retired Navy Seal turned aerospace CEO. The Hill/DDHQ predicts that **Sheehy has a 73% chance of winning.**

Neiweem says there are several factors still at play, including voter turnout – which will be greatly influenced by the presidential race. He also says **three races that had been considered toss-ups – Nevada, Ohio and Arizona** – are now tilting toward the Democrats. But he predicts that the Republican incumbents in Texas and Florida, **Ted Cruz and Rick Scott, will win their races.**