

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Score  
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**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Score: Supreme Court eyes gerrymandering — Blackburn, Haslam on collision course — Pence aide floats 'purge' of anti-Trumpers

By Maggie Sevens | 10/04/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With Zach Montellaro, Elena Schneider and Scott Bland*

*The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (<http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo>)*

**REDISTRICTING WATCH - "Supreme Court eyes partisan gerrymandering," by POLITICO's Josh Gerstein:** "The politically explosive high court fight over so-called partisan gerrymandering has the potential to radically reshape the political scene by thrusting courts across the country into the role of vetting district maps for excessive partisan bias. Critics of that idea say judges are ill-suited to that complex task, while proponents say the practice of legislators essentially picking their voters has gotten out of control. ... The arguments Tuesday were tailored almost entirely to an audience of one: Justice Anthony Kennedy. He's widely believed to be the only Republican-appointed justice who might side with the court's Democratic appointees to invalidate a redistricting plan Wisconsin adopted for its state assembly in 2011. Kennedy was cryptic about how he might rule in the case, but gave no sign that he has abandoned his view that extreme partisan gerrymandering might - at least in theory - violate the Constitution."

"Chief Justice John Roberts, who's known for a desire to safeguard his court's reputation, was unusually blunt about his concern that opening the door to partisan gerrymandering cases would drag the justices into a political morass. He said voters will look askance at the notion that districts failed to meet a complex formula that assesses wasted votes and a so-called efficiency gap." **Full story.**

**- Read the oral argument transcript [here](#). The Roberts quote on the "efficiency gap" that's riling proponents:** "The whole point is you're taking these issues away from democracy and you're throwing them into the courts pursuant to, and it may be simply my educational background, but I can only describe as sociological gobbledygook."

**- Republican attorney Jason Torchinsky, a senior adviser at the new National Republican Redistricting Trust, told Score:** "Obviously everybody interested in this area is interested to see what Justice Kennedy has to say. There were some zinger quotes from justices on both sides this morning, but without Kennedy tipping his hand it's tough to know" what the outcome will be.

**- UC Irvine's Rick Hasen on his [Election Law Blog](#):** "Justice Kennedy asked questions only to those defending Wisconsin's gerrymander, and the questions suggested he believed, as he

suggested in *Vieth*, that Wisconsin's redistricting plan violated the First Amendment associational rights of Democrats."

- **"Holder-led group challenges Georgia redistricting, claiming racial bias,"** by **The New York Times' Alexander Burns**: "A Democratic group led by the former Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. has accused the State of Georgia of flouting the Voting Rights Act, claiming that Georgia Republicans reshaped two state legislative districts to minimize the electoral influence of African-American voters. Mr. Holder's group, the National Redistricting Foundation, is expected to file suit in Federal District Court in Atlanta on Tuesday. The complaint charges that race was the 'predominant factor' in adjusting two districts - the 105th and 111th - in the Atlanta area where white lawmakers had faced spirited challenges from black Democrats." [Full story.](#)

**PRIMARY WATCH - "Blackburn, Haslam on primary collision course in Tennessee,"** By **POLITICO's Kevin Robillard**: "Tennessee Rep. Marsha Blackburn and Gov. Bill Haslam are on a potential collision course in the race to replace retiring Sen. Bob Corker... Republicans in Tennessee believe both are seriously considering the contest and see the two as the most likely entrants. Andy Ogles, a former director of Americans for Prosperity in Tennessee, had entered the primary even before Corker's retirement.

A person who spoke to Blackburn said she plans to enter the contest, and said she would need to raise \$10 million for a run, with that number increasing to \$15 million if Haslam enters the contest. Her supporters are hopeful she can clear the field and unite traditional hard-line conservatives like the Club for Growth and nationalist Trump supporters like former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon - all without alienating establishment donors and groups. ... Haslam isn't moving as quickly toward a run, but Republicans in the state are surprised at how seriously he is considering a bid. [Full story.](#)

**FIRST IN SCORE - Tiffany Shedd announces House bid in AZ-01:** Lawyer and farmer Tiffany Shedd announced today she's running for Congress in Arizona's 1st District. Shedd has a family history in the rural district dating back more than 100 years. She refers to herself as a "constitutional conservative" and a "Washington outsider" in her announcement video. Arizona's 1st District is currently represented by first-term Democratic Rep. [Tom O'Halleran](#). Other Republicans currently running for Congress in the district include Pinal County deputy sheriff Kevin Cavanaugh and GOP state Sen. Steve Smith. "I cannot sit idly by while rural Arizona is forgotten, her values are lost, and her people, my people, are struggling and discouraged. I will not let the western way of life be destroyed until it only exists in history books." Shedd says in her announcement video. Watch Shedd's [announcement video here.](#)

**PARTY INFIGHTING - "Pence's chief of staff floats 'purge' of anti-Trump Republicans to wealthy donors,"** by **POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia and Matt Nussbaum**: "Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff railed against congressional leaders in closed-door remarks to wealthy donors and called for a 'purge' if GOP lawmakers don't quickly rally behind President Donald Trump's agenda. In remarks at a Republican National Committee event at the St. Regis Hotel in Washington on Tuesday morning, Nick Ayers also warned that Republicans are 'on track to get shellacked' in next year's midterm elections if GOP lawmakers don't pass Trump's legislative priorities." [Full story.](#)

**Days until the 2017 election: 34.**

**Days until the 2018 election: 398.**

**Thanks for joining us! You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at [sbland@politico.com](mailto:sbland@politico.com), [eschneider@politico.com](mailto:eschneider@politico.com), [kroillard@politico.com](mailto:kroillard@politico.com), [dstrauss@politico.com](mailto:dstrauss@politico.com) and [mseverns@politico.com](mailto:mseverns@politico.com).**

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### **Q3 CAMPAIGN FINANCE -**

- **FL-18:** Former Obama administration foreign policy adviser Lauren Baer launched her campaign and announced raising over \$250,000 since starting an exploratory committee in August, via [Florida Playbook](#). (Meanwhile, Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg told the Palm Beach Post [he's not running](#).)

- **KY-06:** Democrat Amy McGrath raised \$768,000 with \$550,000 on hand, [POLITICO Playbook](#) first reported.

- **NY-19:** Jeff Beals [raised](#) \$111,000, including a \$56,000 candidate loan, and has over \$82,000 on hand in the crowded Democratic primary to take on GOP Rep. John Faso.

- **TN-07:** Democrat Justin Kanew, who's seeking Blackburn's seat, raised more than \$100,000 last quarter, per a statement from his campaign.

**BAD HEADLINES - GOP Rep. Tim Murphy faces scathing internal staff memo, reportedly urged abortion in affair:** Pennsylvania Rep. [Tim Murphy](#) is facing a bombshell report from [The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), which reported that text messages show that Murphy, who is anti-abortion rights, urged a woman he was having an affair with to have an abortion. The Post-Gazette also released an internal staff memo, reportedly written by his chief-of-staff, that details verbal abuse towards staffers.

- **Democrats in the state believe that this report "puts this race in play,"** said Mike Mikus, a Democratic strategist. He acknowledged that it's a red district - Trump won it by nearly 20 points - but, "I think you'll see more Democrats taking a look at this and considering jumping in now. With the right Democrat, with the right message who fits the district, they could do well," Mikus added. A handful of Democratic candidates are in the race, including Pam Iovino, a veteran. National Democrats, however, voiced much more skepticism. "[Murphy] is certainly weaker today than he was yesterday, but it'd be a stretch to say this is a Democratic pickup opportunity," a national Democratic strategist said. Given Murphy's baggage, J.J. Balaban said that "at first blush," it's "hard not to see this and think that the Republicans have a greater chance of holding an open seat rather than Murphy's" reelection.

**CASH RACE - Mike Braun raises \$1M for Indiana Senate bid:** Mike Braun, a state legislator and businessman running against Reps. [Todd Rokita](#) and [Luke Messer](#) in Indiana's GOP Senate primary, will announce today he raised \$1 million in the third quarter. "This campaign will receive support from a combination of grassroots donors and my own resources to ensure we can battle the money flowing from the DC swamp to my opponents," Braun said in a statement. "When I go to the US Senate, I will not owe anything to anyone other than the Hoosiers I want to represent."

**ON THE AIR - Campbell airs ad touting charity work:** Tom Campbell, the wealthy farmer and GOP state legislator challenging North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, is up with his fifth ad of the campaign, this one touting his charity work, including running a prison ministry and volunteering at a homeless shelter. Watch the ad [here](#).

- **WHOOOPS:** Say Anything blog [points out](#) some female nudity is accidentally visible in a shot of the prison in the ad.

**DAILY ROLL TIDE - Alabama automated poll has Moore at 48, Jones at 40, POLITICO's Daniel Strauss reports:** "Republican nominee Roy Moore leads Democrat Doug Jones by 8 points in the latest poll of the Alabama Senate special election. The JMC Analytics and Polling survey released today found Moore with 48 percent and Jones at 40 percent, with 11 percent undecided. The poll's findings are the latest in a string of polls showing a closer-than-usual race between Moore, a former state Supreme Court justice, and Jones, a former U.S. attorney." [Full story.](#)

**GOLDEN STATE UPDATE - NextGen, California Labor Federation aim to flip 7 California seats:** NextGen America, a group founded by Tom Steyer, and the California Labor Federation announced a "multimillion-dollar program" to create "sustained filed organizing efforts" to flip seven House seats in California, per a statement from the group, [Uniting California](#). The targeted districts include Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-10), Rep. David Valadao (CA-21), Rep. Steve Knight (CA-25), Rep. Ed Royce (CA-39), Rep. Mimi Walters (CA-45), Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48) and Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49).

**FROM THE COURTROOM - "Former judge admits concealing payments he got from Brady campaign," via The Philadelphia Inquirer's Jeremy Roebuck:** "A onetime challenger to U.S. Rep. Bob Brady has agreed to cooperate - and potentially testify - in an ongoing federal investigation into \$90,000 he says the congressman's campaign gave him to drop out of a 2012 primary race. But Jimmie Moore, a former Philadelphia municipal court judge, remained tight-lipped Monday on whether his testimony could implicate Brady, one of Philadelphia's most powerful Democrats, in a crime." [Full story.](#)

**HAPPENING TODAY - Pelosi does CNN 'town hall':** House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi is scheduled for a town hall event with CNN at 9 p.m. tonight. Pelosi will take questions from voters, per [CNN](#).

- **AAN circulates anti-Pelosi billboard:** American Action Network, never one to pass up a chance to focus on Pelosi, will circulate a mobile billboard around Washington today that urges

Pelosi to cut taxes.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "If I'd have watched ["Game of Thrones"] two years ago, I would've been president," Marco Rubio joked at a Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute event. "It's got a lot of good strategies."

*To view online:*

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/10/04/supreme-court-eyes-gerrymandering-222640>

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