

MARIA'S LIST

Maria Jobin-Leeds
DEMOCRACY & EDUCATION

2017 Summary

As part of the [2020 Census Design Plan](#), four key innovation areas have been formulated to better capture more precise census information. The logistical design is there, we need to be vigilant and protect. The challenge of how to protect immigrants, first-generation Americans, African Americans, and women who face increased violence while they participate in the census is real. Resources: [National Council of La Raza](#) and [Southern Poverty Law Center](#).

States with Changing Representation

Alabama -1
Arizona +1
California +1
Colorado +1
Florida +1
Illinois -1
Michigan -1
Minnesota -1
New York -1
North Carolina +1
Ohio -1
Oregon +1
Pennsylvania -1
Rhode Island -1
Texas +3
Virginia +1
West Virginia -1

[North Carolina Democratic Caucus'](#)
[Gretchen Whitmer \(Michigan\)](#)

[Andrew Gillum \(Florida\)](#)

House

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Senate

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The Democratic Caucus in both the House and Senate in North Carolina

Maria's List was heavily engaged in North Carolina last cycle and while our candidate Linda Coleman did not win, progress was certainly made when Dem — Roy Cooper was elected Governor. Now that the courts have rejected unconstitutional legislative maps, Democrats are poised to make much needed gains. They've been hamstrung, but March 15th release of court order redistricting could help. The courts ordered special elections in 2017; legislators will run in 19 house districts and 9 senate districts with redrawn lines. Possible gains in 2017 should lead to increased odds of flipping both bodies in 2018. If all goes well this overreaching R-Legislature will get stuffed back in their box.

Don't forget how they stripped the Dem Governor of his budget powers just after election day. And yes, these are the bathroom bill legislators. NC House Democratic Caucus leadership boasts five women and the Senate team is a majority people of color.

The current partisan breakdown favors Republicans substantially, they have a 30-seat plurality in the House and 20-seat lead in the Senate. Importantly, if Democrats can win 4 House seats in 2017, they would end Republicans hold on a veto-proof majority.

In the House Democrats are led by Representative Larry Hall, an African American legislator from Raleigh and his five-person leadership team that includes four women. The State Senate Democrats also boast a diverse team that reflect the citizens they represent, Senator Dan Blue, Jr., leads the caucus that is comprised of eleven men and women of color.

Financial support for the candidates running in these yet-to-be outlined districts will be imperative. The long game is to win back the chamber but 2017 offers a unique opportunity that needs our support.

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Gretchen Whitmer **Michigan**

Gretchen **Whitmer** has enthusiastically announced her intention to run for Michigan Governor in 2018. She has been very outspoken about the water situation in Flint, about the neglect and the need for accountability. Additionally, while serving in the legislature she voted against loosening state campaign finance regulation, against stricter sentences for juvenile offenders, and against so called "right to work efforts". **Gretchen** courageously shared her own experience with rape when she led the resistance against enacted laws requiring women to seek enhanced insurance protection should they anticipate needing and abortion. **Whitmer** also played a role in what many call "Detroit's Grand Bargain" where a private, public, non-profit partnership collaboration helped Detroit exit bankruptcy swiftly, providing evidence of a leader willing to work with others to find collaborative solutions. Sadly, between contaminated water, and right to work, just solutions have been sorely lacking for some time in Michigan.

In the Governors role she would have a direct impact on re-districting and give Democrats a much-needed seat at the table. Don't forget, unproven claims of voter irregularities recently make having a voice in the debate incredibly important.

A primary challenge is likely for this former Democratic leader in the State Senate and State House Member. Recently, **Whitmer** stepped in to serve as the Ingham County Prosecutor. And more recently, **Whitmer** headlined the Lansing Women's March on January 21st. Media reports indicate that nearly 8,000 protesters participated in the

event. A positive sign given the difficulty Democrats have had recently at the ballot box in what should be a reliable blue state.

Gretchen's decision to announce early should not go unnoticed and she will need resources to get through what is anticipated to be a contested primary and competitive general.

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Andrew Gillum
Florida

Andrew Gillum, a vibrant Florida voice from the City Council, to Mayor of Tallahassee to being considered for Vice Presidential nomination has yet to declare his run for Governor for 2018. **Andrew** has been working assiduously on creative solutions to public-private partnerships that are enriching education in the city, to making it easier for small businesses to operate in the city, to lingering issues such as restorative justice programs which show decreases in recidivism rates. An online petition is being circulated that highlights his refreshingly outspoken views about LGBTQ rights, immigrant protections, and common sense gun control.

The Florida Governor's race will have significant consequences. At the conclusion of the incumbent's term it will have been 20 years since a Democrat was elected Governor of Florida. Republicans controlled redistricting in 2011 and had maps recently re-adjusted through judicial action. This race has the potential to swing multiple Congressional seats and state legislative seats. As recent history suggests, Democrats need a strong candidate that will be a champion that connects with all voters and **Andrew Gillum** is the ideal individual to fill this role.

Gillum has yet to announce his intentions in this race so we are clearly just monitoring this race and flagging this exceptional leader. Other candidates are also considering the race so a primary and tough general is assured.