

The PerryScope SPECIAL EDITION (week ending 09/02/18)

NOTE: The House returns from its [August recess on Sept. 4](#). Since so much has been happening, however, we wanted to post another update. Look for the next regular edition of the PerryScope for the week ending September 9.

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Perry/PA-10 in the News (since our last update)

CNN adds PA-10 to list of “Key Races”

With just nine weeks to go until the Nov. 6 midterm election, the race between George Scott and Rep. Perry continues to draw attention from the national media. CNN this week [mentioned the race in a listing of 11 “key races” that are moving in the direction of Democrats](#). The piece also noted that Scott’s military service and ministry credentials “could appeal in the district.”

Pollster Terry Madonna Weighs in on Perry Reelection Bid

Political analyst G. Terry Madonna said in [an interview with the York Daily Record](#) that “could not rule out an upset” in the 10th District. Madonna and fellow analyst Michael Young list the race as in the “Toss Up” category in an [August 28 blog post](#).

TwitterScope

Perry’s only contribution to Twitter this week was [a retweet of a Fox43 Capitol Beat video](#) in which he remarked that the Mueller investigation seems to be “investigating a person” instead of looking into crimes.

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Tracking Perry in the Age of Trump

The higher the number, the more the legislator votes in support of the Trump agenda.

[Rep. Scott Perry](#) — Ranking This Week: 85.4% (unchanged)

Nate Silver’s [FiveThirtyEight](#) website assesses the voting records of our MoCs to provide this index, by comparing any bills where President Trump has stated a position, and comparing the vote of the legislator to that opinion.

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What to expect in September

The House is coming back from a long break and while the Senate stayed in session in August, it still has a packed month in front of it. Here's what to look out for:

- **Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's hearings** - The Senate Judiciary Committee hearings for Brett Kavanaugh will begin on Tuesday, September 4th. There are any number of progressive concerns about Mr. Kavanaugh, from his perspective on executive immunity to the fact that most of the records of his time in the executive branch have not been released for the Judiciary Committee to review. But, despite these valid issues, there is absolutely no way for the Democrats alone to either forestall or reject this nomination. Even if every Democrat voted against Mr. Kavanaugh (and that is not likely), with the 50-49 margin of Republicans to Democrats after the death of Sen. McCain, Vice President Pence could place the tie breaking vote. For more details on the coming hearings, please see this concise but thorough [ABC News](#) article.
- **Fast-tracked judicial nominees for other federal court positions** - Earlier this year Senate Majority Leader McConnell cancelled the August break for the Senate. This was a political tactic designed to make campaigning difficult for the ten Democratic incumbent senators who are running for re-election in states that Trump won in 2016. Late last Tuesday night, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and McConnell made a deal that would allow Senators go home and campaign... but the price was high. According to [VOX](#), Schumer agreed to "...fast-track the confirmations of 15 Trump-nominated judicial picks. Seven federal district court judges were confirmed that day, and eight were put on the docket for confirmation next week."
- **Conference and votes on the minibus funding bill** - As reported in last week's MoCTrack, the Senate passed H.R. 6157, the "minibus" spending bill that covers about 60% of the government's overall discretionary spending in areas like Defense, Education, Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs. The versions passed in the House and the Senate contains significant differences, which require a [conference committee](#) between the two houses. They have until September 30th to iron out the differences, and pass the bill through both houses or else we face another government shutdown. This [article](#) in *Bloomberg Government* provides additional details, for those interested in learning more.
- **Tax reform 2.0** - Because the GOP Tax Plan that passed in December with its massive benefits to corporations and the wealthiest Americans is not enough for the GOP, a second wave of tax 'reform' is bubbling its way through the GOP. According to the Editorial Board of *USA Today*, this new phase of the GOP tax plan will "...make permanent the temporary tax cuts for the middle class that were part of last year's measure but are scheduled to expire in 2025; expand tax-deferred accounts, such as 529 college savings plans [and] allow companies to write off more of their startup costs... Taken in isolation, these are not horrible ideas. What's telling is that they could have been included in last year's tax measure but weren't." There is no bill on this plan, yet. For more on this issue, please see the *USA TODAY* piece titled "[Tax Reform 2.0 robs even more from your future.](#)"
- **#MeToo legislation** - Unlike the other items on this list, which we will definitely see in the coming weeks, this one is more of a long shot. Earlier in this legislative session the House passed two #MeToo related measures; one revamps a deeply flawed process for dealing with congressional harassment claims, the other would force legislators to pay any settlements out of their own pockets, instead of foisting the price of their misbehavior onto taxpayers. [Broadly](#) reports that "...this latter measure has proven most contentious in the Senate, according to reports, especially among Republican men, who were holding up Senate negotiations over the chamber's own version of the #MeToo legislation." There are efforts, however, to attach the provisions contained in the two bills that the House

passed into the “minibus” spending bill, which is a must-pass legislative package (assuming legislators want to avoid a shutdown right before the election).

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Legislation of Interest:

[H.R. 6680: To provide for the processes and procedures for the granting, denying, or revoking of access, or eligibility for access, to classified information](#)

This bill was introduced by Rep. Jim Langevin (D-R.I.) on August 24, 2018. It is pending in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and has two Democrats as co-sponsors (including Rep. Adam Schiff of California, ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee). Last week’s MoCTrack contained details about a Senate effort to protect former members of the United States intelligence community from having their access to classified materials stripped because of a disagreement with President Trump’s policies or behavior. That effort was stymied by procedural means, as it was an amendment to a pending bill, and the amendment never even made it to a vote for inclusion in the bill. That bill has since been voted upon and passed, leaving the amendment in limbo. This trio of House Democrats is using a different tactic, and simply introducing the measure as a separate piece of legislation. Rep. Langevin [explains](#):

President Trump has shown an alarming tendency to attack members of our intelligence and law enforcement communities when he believes it will be to his political benefit. His recent decision and subsequent threats to revoke the clearances of current and former national security officials is an unconscionable abuse of power, and it underscores the need to protect this process from further political influence. This legislation takes important steps to ensure security clearance decisions are based solely on national security considerations, not political bias or retribution.

If you feel that the security clearance of distinguished intelligence community members should NOT be reliant on the whims of the President, please consider [contacting Rep. Perry](#) to encourage him to support this bill.

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*Adapted from the weekly PA-08 MoCTrack report,
compiled by Elayne Baker, Gary Garb & Kierstyn Piotrowski Zolfo*