INSTITUTIONS: Another big primary week and a presidential summit drew increased interest on Twitter. Below is the Twitter volume for the political institutions, which is highlighted by a five-week increase in President Trump’s Twitter volume. Chatter continued to increase as well around the U.S. Senate as specific races, including Claire McCaskill’s, whom President Trump took to task for taking a private jet around the state while ostensibly campaigning via an RV.
This week there was more interest in the Republican party than the Democrat party on Twitter, reflecting the long-term trend on the platform since last summer. According to our partners at Crimson Hexagon, the sentiment ran 4 to 1 negative against Republicans and the top tweets were attacks against President Trump and the party’s refusal to enact protections on Net Neutrality, which expired this week.
**SENATE INCUMBENT COMPETITIVE RACES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Volume 2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McCaskill (MO)</td>
<td>17.2k ▲ 1,504%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchin (WV)</td>
<td>12.7k ▲ 118%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson (FL)</td>
<td>10.7k ▲ 32%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith (MN)</td>
<td>10.3k ▲ 18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown (OH)</td>
<td>8.9k ▲ 59%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SENATE RACES:** Trump attacked Sen. McCaskill, spiking a wave of Twitter volume her way. The president’s son also attacked Sen. Manchin, driving a significant wave of Twitter activity. The one race not covered above was the tight Republican primary between Corey Stewart and Nick Frietas. Stewart won by less than a percentage point, setting up a relatively easy race for Democratic incumbent Tim Kaine, who has not been considered endangered throughout the cycle and, therefore, not in our tracking set.
HOUSE INCUMBENT COMPETITIVE RACES

**Comstock**
VA-10
15.3k ▲344%

**Rohrabacher**
CA-48
8.1k ▼68%

**Curbelo**
FL-26
3.9k ▲110%

**Paulsen**
MN-03
2.7k ▼9%

**Denham**
CA-10
2.5k ▲58%

**House races:** While Rep. Dana Rohrabacher continues to dominate Twitter volume, the primaries in Virginia drew the most interest in our toss-up incumbent tracking. Rep. Comstock *easily won* her primary with about 61 percent of the vote, but the real news was the *strong win* by state delegate Jennifer Wexton on the Democrat side against *well-funded* Alison Friedman, who was the party favorite for the race in Virginia’s 10th district. Rep. Carlos Curbelo remained in the news this week due to the wrangling over a *potential compromise* on immigration reform, which has yet to come to the floor.
ABOUT: Released weekly on Friday mornings online, The ECHO is a social media research publication of George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management’s (GSPM) Public Echoes of Political Rhetoric in America (PEORIA) Project. The ECHO is funded in part by GSPM alumnus William H. Madway and through a reduced-cost license to Crimson Hexagon.

METHODOLOGY: The ECHO features U.S. data collated by sets of keywords on the Crimson Hexagon platform. The first value represents the number of related tweets including the name or topic and the second demonstrates its increase or decrease over the week. Our analysis is informed by further research using Crimson Hexagon’s additional features, which allows us to quickly view trending topics and search terms.

Top Institutions include five components. We track both parties, chambers of Congress, and the presidency with several related terms beyond their official accounts on Twitter. For example, the presidency includes @POTUS and @realDonaldTrump as well as “Donald Trump”, “President Trump” and “DonaldTrump” as search terms. Rolling averages are published since late summer 2017 after the launch of The ECHO.

Key Races are determined on a rolling basis based on our editorial team’s evaluations of campaigns rated as “Toss Up” by the Cook Political Report, Sabato’s Crystal Ball, and Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales. We feature the top five races in the Senate and the House as a function of seven-day related-tweet volume on Twitter. They are listed in order of the total number of times each were mentioned on Twitter over the past seven days (Thursday to Wednesday).

CONTACT: Sign up to receive The ECHO in your Inbox every Friday here. For questions about The ECHO, please contact its author Dr. Michael D. Cohen at GSPM by email at michaeldcohen@gwu.edu. For more information about the GSPM Global Center for Political Management and The PEORIA Project, please contact Dr. Michael Cornfield by email at corn@gwu.edu. For questions about GSPM, please contact Dr. Lara Brown by email at larambrown@gwu.edu. All can be reached by phone at 202-994-6000.