**Stuart Rothenberg**

* [4/21/06](http://rothenbergpoliticalreport.com/news/article/new-print-edition-house-outlook)
  + “We are increasing our estimate of likely Democratic gains from 5-8 seats to 7-10 seats (they need to net 15 seats for control), with a bias toward even greater Democratic gains.”
  + “While Democrats have failed to recruit the top tier candidates that they would like in places such as Arizona 1, Pennsylvania 15, Missouri 6 and Iowa 2, they have broadened the playing field elsewhere and recruited enough credible lower first-tier/upper second-tier hopefuls to win the House if the Democratic wave is big enough in November […]At the district level, voters are more critical of GOP incumbents than they usually are at this point in the election cycle. Democratic voters are already polarized against Republican House members, so Democratic challengers can focus their efforts at wooing Independents and disgruntled Republicans, rather than mobilizing their Democratic base.”
  + “The only bit of good news for Republicans has been the growing mention of ethically challenged Democratic congressmen in the media. That could dilute the impact of ethics as a purely partisan issue, but the issue is still likely to hurt Republicans disproportionately in the fall, especially since GOP congressmen and staffers will continue to get attention by being linked to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff.”
* [4/06/14](http://rothenbergpoliticalreport.com/news/article/do-the-democrats-need-to-nationalize-the-midterm-elections)
  + “While Democrats can try to feed the electorate’s desire for change, the mood already exists. They don’t need to create it. That means the midterms already have been nationalized, and that’s the main reason why so many Republican incumbents are showing low poll numbers […]Given that, the real question is whether Republicans will be able to “localize” the ’06 midterms between now and November — whether they can re-elect their incumbents despite that general political atmosphere, which strongly favors change and the Democrats.”

**Charlie Cook**

* [3/25/06](http://cookpolitical.com/story/1625)
  + “Despite national political trends indicating that the GOP is in serious trouble, a race-by-race ‘micro’ analysis suggests that Democrats cannot easily seize control of the House or the Senate this fall […] A hurricane does seem likely to hit the GOP this November. But the micro analysis shows that structural barriers in the House and Senate are protecting the Republican majorities like seawalls, and would likely withstand the surge from a Category 1, 2, or 3 storm. They probably couldn’t withstand a Category 4 or 5, though.”
* [3/27/06](http://cookpolitical.com/story/1609)
  + “Now the situation has worsened considerably for the GOP: 36 of its seats are in play, and 11 of them are toss-ups. Democrats need to win just 42 percent of the Republican seats in play to reach the magic number of 218. An additional 18 Republican seats are rated "likely Republican," meaning they are potentially competitive. The consensus among veteran Republican campaign consultants, particularly pollsters, is that if the election were held today, their party would lose the House […]More and more Republican incumbents previously thought to be in reasonably good shape are in danger.”

**Larry Sabato**

* [3/16/06](http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/ljs2006031601/)
  + “The long and short of this analysis is that the Democrats may gain a third or so of the 15 seats they need to control the House from the pool of open seats, but they’d have to knock off perhaps ten Republican incumbents to “grab the brass ring.” And that is not an easy task. Democrats have to hope for more retirements as the year rolls on, while Republicans must hope their leadership continues to be successful in keeping the incumbent troops on the ballot.”

**Articles:**

* **Leaders play expectations game** [The Hill, [4/25/06](http://thehill.com/homenews/news/10175-leaders-play-expectations-game)]
  + “But if Democrats pick up seats and fall short of controlling a chamber of Congress, the winner of the midterms will be debated. At this point in the 2006 cycle, most independent political analysts believe this scenario is the most likely because there are roughly 40 competitive seats in the House and a dozen in the Senate.”
* **Anger at Bush May Hurt GOP at Polls** [Washington Post, [4/17/16](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/16/AR2006041600648.html)]
  + “Intense and widespread opposition to President Bush is likely to be a sharp spur driving voters to the polls in this fall's midterm elections, according to strategists in both parties, a phenomenon that could give Democrats a turnout advantage over Republicans for the first time in recent years.”
* **Bush, GOP hit new lows in public opinion** [Associated Press, [4/10/06](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-04-07-bushpoll_x.htm?csp=34)]
  + “Democrats need to gain 15 seats in the House and six in the Senate for control, no easy task in the best of circumstances. The Democratic strategy is to nationalize the elections around a throw-the-bums-out theme keyed to a burgeoning ethics scandal focused on relationships between GOP lobbyists and lawmakers. Democrats also need hordes of GOP voters to stay home on Election Day out of frustration. Nobody can predict whether that will happen, but a growing number of Republicans disagree with their leaders in Washington about immigration, federal spending and other issues.”
* **Missteps Threaten House GOP Rule**  [Boston Globe, 4/09/06] (not available online)
  + “The Democrats' opportunities are limited by carefully drawn congressional district lines that favor sitting congressmen, but both Democrats and Republicans agree that the minority party has its best chance to flip control of the House, which has a 29-seat Republican majority, since the GOP surged to power in 1994.”
* **Gallup Review: The Midterm Election** [Gallup, [4/28/06](http://www.gallup.com/poll/22597/gallup-review-midterm-election.aspx)]
  + “As is well known, recent redrawing of U.S. House districts has resulted in an increasing proportion of "safe seats" for both parties. It's hard to dislodge incumbents, regardless of the national mood. But if the political environment does not improve for the Republicans between now and November, Republican members of Congress will find out if even their safe districts are safe enough to insulate them from a possibly strong Democratic tide […]That the generic ballot tilts so Democratic, and that *both* congressional and presidential approval ratings are low is particularly ominous for the Republican Party. The current situation is similar to the political environment in 1978 and 1994, when Democrats controlled both the legislative and executive branches, and when both branches were unpopular. Those elections resulted in net gains for the Republican Party of 11 and 53 seats, respectively.”