

## NO LABELS

# GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS IN PRESIDENTS' FIRST YEARS

Two states — New Jersey and Virginia — elect governors one year into each presidential term. These elections can provide the first early indicator of voter satisfaction during a new president's term. Virginia in particular — a swing state where governors are not permitted to succeed themselves, meaning every election is an open seat — is often viewed as a bellwether of presidential popularity.

In the first years of the last four presidencies, the new president's party lost control of both the New Jersey and Virginia governorships in November.

	NEW JERSEY	VIRGINIA
2017 (TRUMP)	Democratic gain (open seat)	Democratic gain
2009 (OBAMA)	Republican gain (incumbent defeated)	Republican gain
2001 (G.W. BUSH)	Democratic gain (open seat)	Democratic gain
1993 (CLINTON)	Republican gain (incumbent defeated)	Republican gain
1989 (G.H.W. BUSH)	Democratic gain (open seat)	Democratic gain
1981 (REAGAN)	Republican gain (open seat)	Democratic gain
1977 (CARTER)	Democratic hold (incumbent reelected)	Republican hold