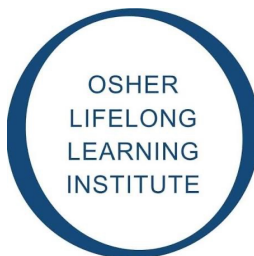


THE MOTHER OF ALL MIDTERMS: THE GAME-CHANGING AMERICAN ELECTIONS OF 2026

OLLI + POLS 484, Fall 2026

Sonoma State

06 October 2026



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1

What's the Plan for This Class? Midterm Election Dynamics

- Goal #1: Understanding the Context and COMMANDMENTS of Midterm Elections?;
- Goal #2: What We Know About the Conditions on the ground, Outcomes, & Parameters of this Midterm Election, aka...the "Drivers?"
- How 2026 is different?
- Goal #3: Preparing Yourself for NOV 2026;
 - The Four "Wild Cards" for November 2026;
 - What is to come as we head to the General? What to watch?;
 - What is happening with \$\$\$ and also "down the ballot?"



2

“The Mother of All Midterms” @ SSU – [OLLI This Fall](#)

- This course is more than just coverage of the “Mother of All Midterms;”
- Course runs for six sessions, Tuesday mornings, 10 – 11:50 am; beginning 06 OCTOBER until 13 NOVEMBER;
- We partner with POLS 484 – our undergraduates here today – for a unique class setting...



3

What is **REALLY** different about THIS OLLI CLASS?



4

The Mother of All Election Experiments: An Intergenerational Learning Opportunity

- We are “partnering” this OLLI class with an undergrad POLS class (POLS 484) TOGETHER;
- For our six sessions, the two dozen or so undergrad POLS majors and minors will join our class and discussions; then...
- Their Final Exam...is YOU!!
- The 484 Students will complete a “VIDEO-LOG” (VLOG) about how YOU came to learn and understand politics and how elections *matter*.
- You can opt-in for this “Political Biography;” **or You can opt-out.**



5

The Topics We Cover For the Course

- How Midterms are a “different electoral animal” than Presidential elections?;
- What matters down-ballot as parties battle for control of the House and the Senate?;
- How voters form affiliations of partisanship / party ID (PID) and ideology that affects our political discourse and polarization?;
- Campaign Finance (CF) and Campaign Spending (CS) and CF Reform (CFR);
- What to make of mis-, dis-, and mal-information in elections today?;
- What about all fourteen of these ballot measures in CA?;
- And, is there hope? What do Young People think about politics – and how YOU can get this all to make sense and *matter* for them!

6

Our Sessions & “Schedule”

• Week #1, 06 OCT 2026:

Overview of class, topics, & how Midterms “work;”
Key ideas & measures in Midterms – the case of
polling & assessment of what We “know;”

• Week #2, 13 OCT 2026:

The case of down ballot races and non-candidate
campaigns;
How ballot measure campaigns work – and the
curious case of CA as “The Great Exception”

• Week #3, 20 OCT 2026:

The Battlefield of Elections: The VRA, VBM, & CF,
CFR (Voting Rights Act; Vote-by-Mail; & Campaign
Finance / Campaign Finance Reform

• Week #4, 27 OCT 2026:

How information works in Elections? Mis-, Dis-, and
Mal-Information in Today’s Environment

• Week #5, 03 NOV 2026:

Election Day – What to expect?
What to watch for?
Where to get information & have your own analysis?

• Week #6, 10 NOV 2026

Post-Midterm Elections analysis;
What did We expect? What did We learn?
What comes next – the “Lame Duck” & DEC 11th

7



It Matters!

Engage. Participate. Vote.



INITIATIVE WARS: THE BACKSTORY & FINANCING OF BALLOT MEASURES, NOVEMBER 2026

October 13th | 12-1pm
Stevenson classroom 1300
OR – remote

What exactly is going on with all the ballot measures on the California ballot? What is the deal with all of the advertising?
Who is behind these measures, and who is financing what is on the ballot?
How do voters prepare themselves to make informed choices? Come learn the “behind the scenes” story about what is on the ballot this November.

SSU students move beyond the pro-con of ballot measures and examine the groups and interests behind the ten statewide measures and the two local ballot measures on the Sonoma County ballot. Fast-paced and informative, our students present information about what is really going on as voters face the deluge of advertising on the November ballot. This event is hyflex – attend in person or attend on Zoom.

Attend It Matters! Voting Engagement Events

The SSU Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and the SSU OLLI program sponsor a dynamic series of non-partisan, election-related events designed to foster civic participation and education across the SSU campus and the wider community. Watch for our next event on Thursday, October 29, in the Stevenson Lobby. The community is encouraged to attend and participate in these events. These sessions will offer valuable insights and foster meaningful dialogue on electoral issues.

8

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

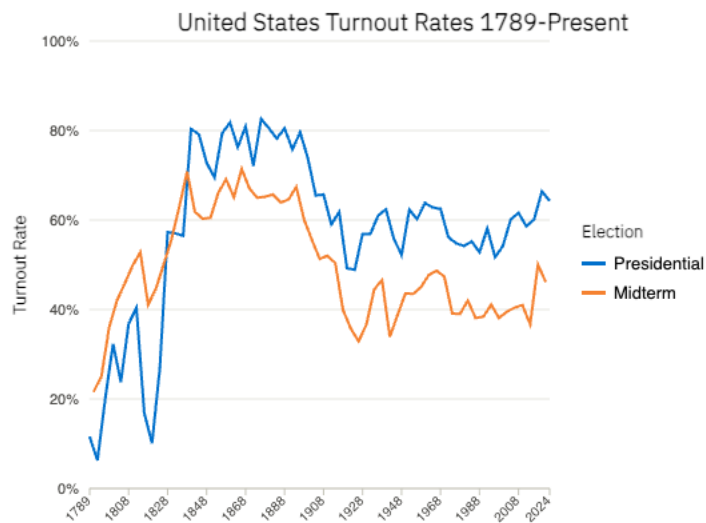
YES– You will get the slides / notes for each class!

Email contact:

david.mccuan@Sonoma.edu

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Presidential vs. Midterm Turnout (T.O.) Rates



Created by the UF Election Lab (election.lab.ufl.edu)

10

Let's Examine Turnout (T.O.) so far...



- <https://election.lab.ufl.edu/early-vote/2026-early-voting/>

Worth noting that in all reporting states (except Iowa), ballot requests at this point in 2022 were more Democratic than We see now.

Uptick in the share of requests from Democrats is in line with polling, special election results, and primary turnout, all of which have indicated Democrats may be more motivated to vote this November.

On the other hand, this could be further evidence of Republicans continuing to shift to preferring other forms of voting – like in-person, Election Day voting.

11

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION

OCTOBER 5: Early Voting sites open

OCTOBER 5: County elections officials will begin mailing ballots on or before this date

OCTOBER 6: Secure ballot drop boxes open

OCTOBER 19: Last day to register to vote for the general election. To check your voter registration status, visit MyVoterStatus.sos.ca.gov

OCTOBER 20 – NOVEMBER 3, 2026: Same Day Registration available. Voters can "conditionally" register and vote a provisional ballot during this time

NOVEMBER 3: Election Day — Polls shall be open throughout the state from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

See vote.ca.gov for more info.

- or -

vote411.org

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Ok....Are YOU Ready??

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The Big Picture – How to Think of Midterm Elections?

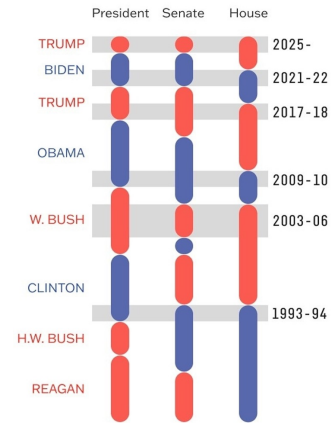
- “The BIG Picture:” How Midterms “Work” in the midst of dramatic changes amidst a “Culture War” and changing demographics?
- Gallup vs. Other “Generic Ballot Tests” / “Enthusiasm” Polls / & Presidential Approval Numbers;
- What to pay attention to here, pre-Election?
 - **28 Days out; <4 weeks; Ballots out THIS WEEK!**
 - **The “Labor Day” & “4th of July” Tests**
 - [CA General Election NOV 2026 Calendar here](#)



14

Trifectas are usually short-lived

Which party has controlled the presidency, Senate and House since 1981



At the beginning of 2001, Republicans had control of a 50-50 Senate thanks to the vice president's tiebreaking vote. But on May 24, Sen. Jim Jeffords left the GOP and started caucusing with Democrats, giving them the majority.

SOURCES: U.S. SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

Trifectas Don't Last

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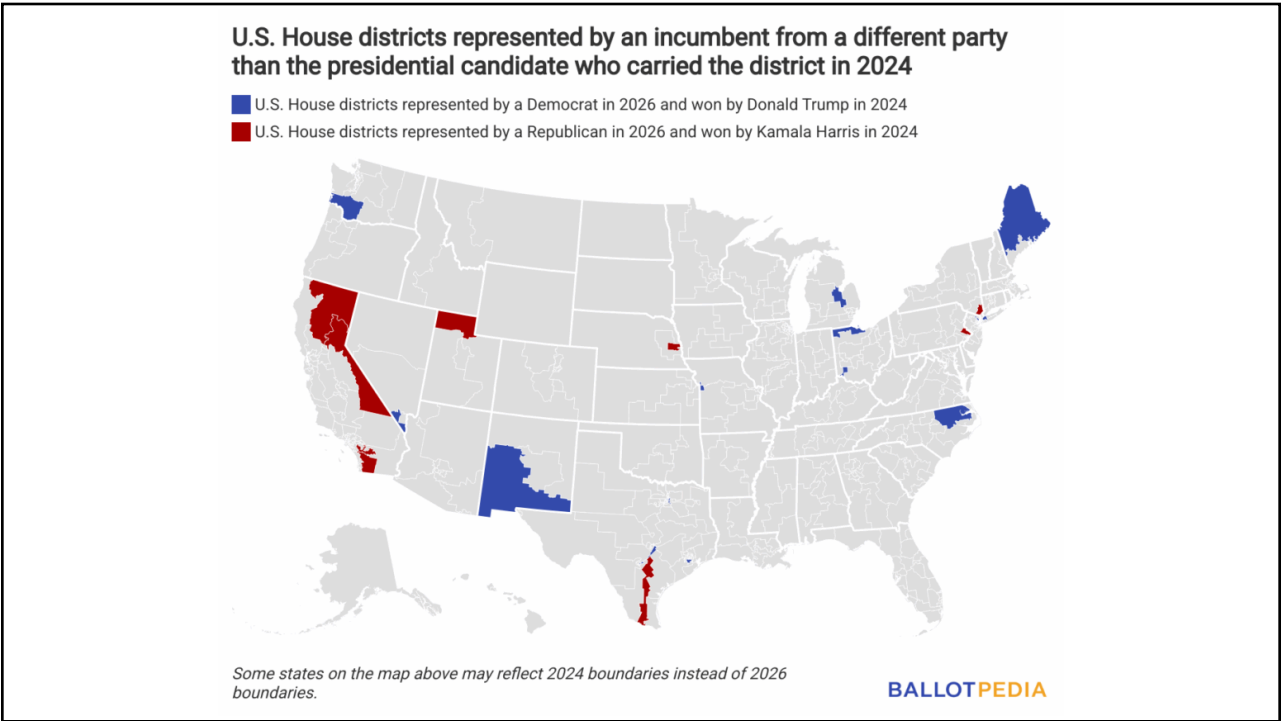
What's on the ballot in the 2026 midterm elections?

- All 435 U.S. House seats
- U.S. Senate seats in 35 states
- Governorships in 36 states

Elections 2026

AP

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17

2026 Republican-held U.S. House districts Kamala Harris won in 2024

District	Incumbent	2024 Presidential margin	2024 Congressional margin
California's 1st*	Doug LaMalfa	Harris +12.2	Republican +30.6
California's 3rd*	Kevin Kiley	Harris +10.2	Republican +11.0
California's 41st*	Ken Calvert	Harris +14.3	Republican +3.4
California's 48th*	Darrell Issa	Harris +3.2	Republican +18.6
Nebraska's 2nd	Don Bacon	Harris +5.0	Republican +1.8
New York's 17th	Mike Lawler	Harris +1.0	Republican +6.3
Pennsylvania's 1st	Brian Fitzpatrick	Harris +0.3	Republican +12.8
Texas' 15th*	Monica De La Cruz	Harris +4.6	Republican +14.2
Utah's 1st*	Blake Moore	Harris +23.7	Republican +31.0

** Indicates that the district lines changed between the 2024 and 2026 elections.*

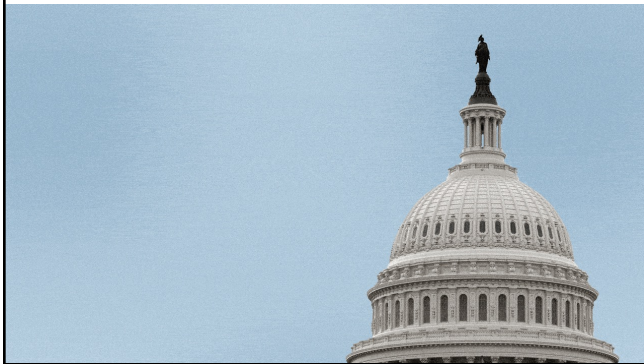
BALLOTPEDIA

18

The Generic Ballot's "Impact:"

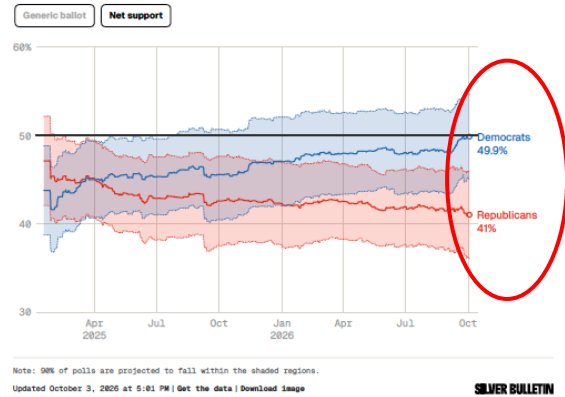
**A Blue Tsunami?
Or a Red Trickle?**

***Watch the "Generic Ballot"**



Are Democrats or Republicans winning the race for Congress?

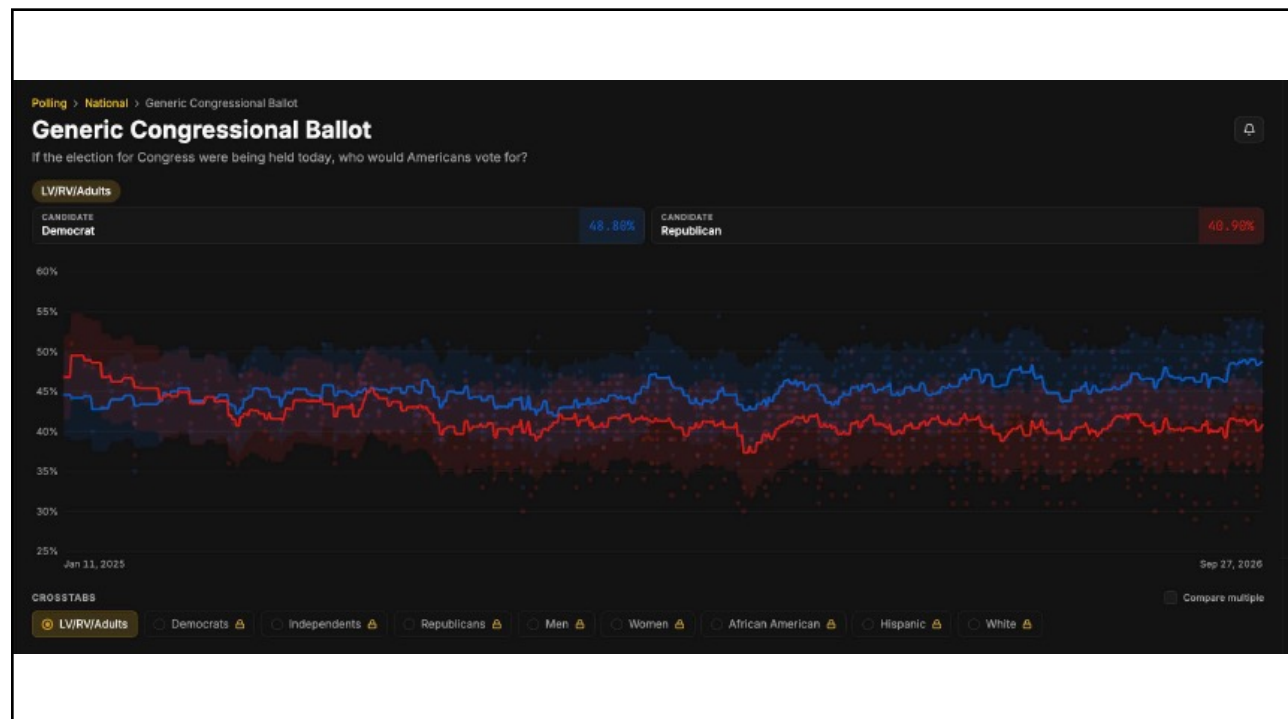
An updating polling average of the 2026 generic congressional ballot, accounting for each poll's quality, recency, sample size, and partisan lean



**The "Bluest" this has been THIS 2026 Cycle –
as of SAT 03 OCT 2026**

<https://www.natesilver.net/p/generic-ballot-average-2026-nate-silver-bulletin-congress-polls>

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20

The Challenge for Each Major U.S. Party: Voter Approval

- For **Democrats**:
 - What is the counter-program?;
 - Who is the messenger?;
 - What are the details of an “affordability” response?;
 - Approval is down, despite positive winds;
 - Where are the [“2024 Lessons Learned?”](#);
 - DNC autopsy available [here](#) as well.
- For **Republicans**:
 - President with a lowered base + less Independent voters’ support;
 - [Issues landscape is unfavorable](#);
 - “Over-exposure” hypothesis / trifecta;
 - MAGA Primary elections vs. actually defeating Democrats; DJT = 8 out of 10 MAGA wins;
 - Unevenness of approach & message.

21

The Challenge for the Party in Power – GOP The Economy, Gas Prices vs. Presidential Approval



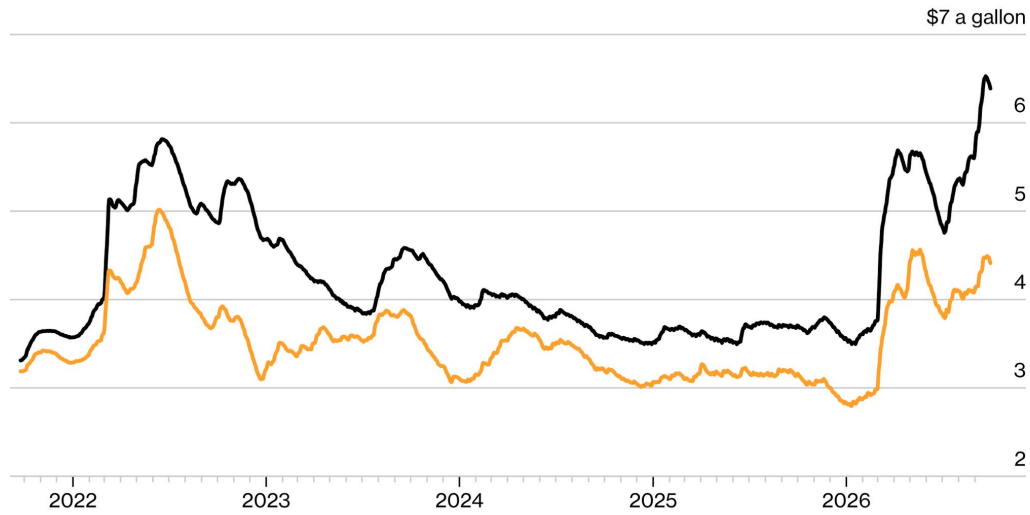
- For **Republicans**:
 - Clash of GOP on Capitol Hill vs. presidential temperament?
 - [WED 27 MAY 2026: “I don’t care about the midterms; look what happened last night, that was the prelude to the midterms.” Trump said.](#)

22

Voters Face Higher Gasoline and Diesel Costs as Midterms Near

Daily national average US fuel prices

Gasoline (regular unleaded) Diesel



Source: American Automobile Association

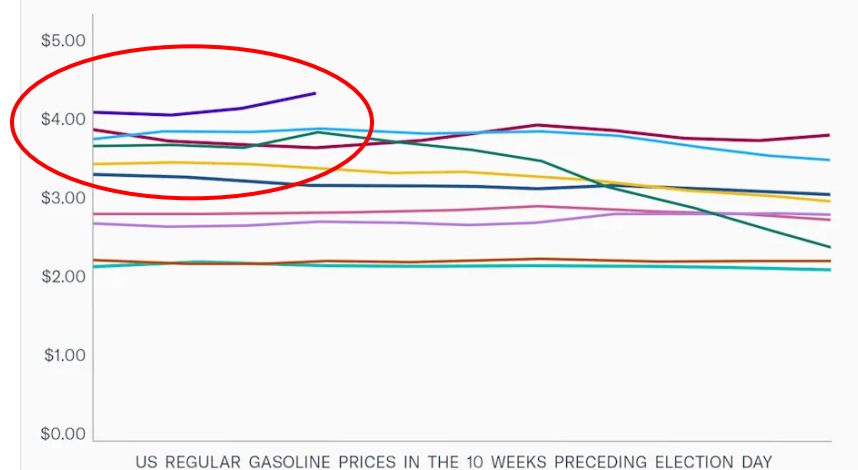
Bloomberg

23

Gas prices ahead of recent elections

Seven weeks out from election day, US gas prices are more than 40 cents higher than they've been at this point in any recent political cycle.

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 2022 2024 2026



US REGULAR GASOLINE PRICES IN THE 10 WEEKS PRECEDING ELECTION DAY

SOURCE: THE US ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

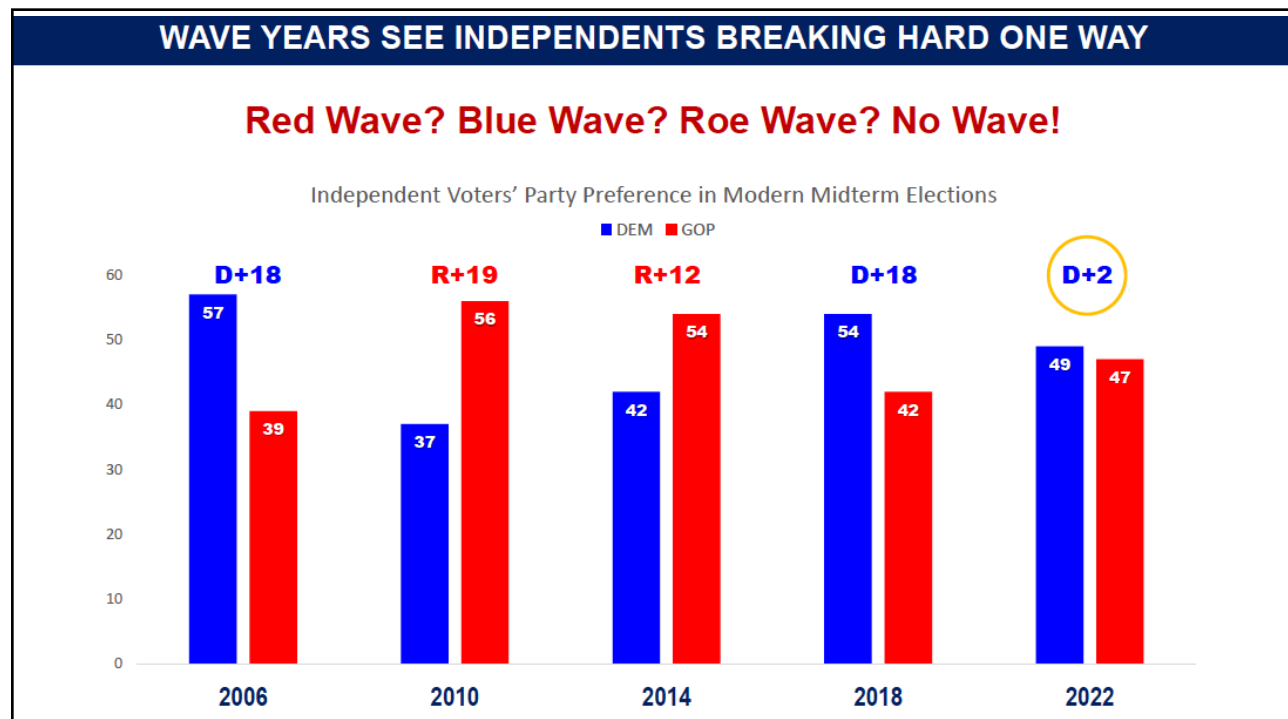
yahoo!finance

24

How Do We Explain U.S. Midterm Election Outcomes?

- Referendum on the president vs. “Backlash” on the president?
- Reversion to Party ID (PID) and/or ideology
- Response to economy & job approval
- Response to other issues (war/peace, etc.) / “October Surprise”
- Action of strategic politicians (such as “strategic retirements”)
- Money and / or turnout races
- Reliable pattern of the 19th AND 20th centuries save 4 elections
- *What is “average” midterm presidential seat loss?*
- What “variables” determine the depth of seat loss?

25



26

Steeper Losses Occur in a President's SECOND Midterm

"Average" Second-Term Midterm, In-Party "Loss?"

$\bar{x} = 33$ seats (Mean loss, 1934 to 2022)

Presidents nearly always lose House seats in midterms

Only twice since 1946 have presidents seen their own parties gain seats in the U.S. House of Representatives during midterm elections. Those came in 1998 and 2002, when the sitting presidents had job-approval ratings higher than 62%. Blue denotes Democratic presidents and Red denotes Republicans.

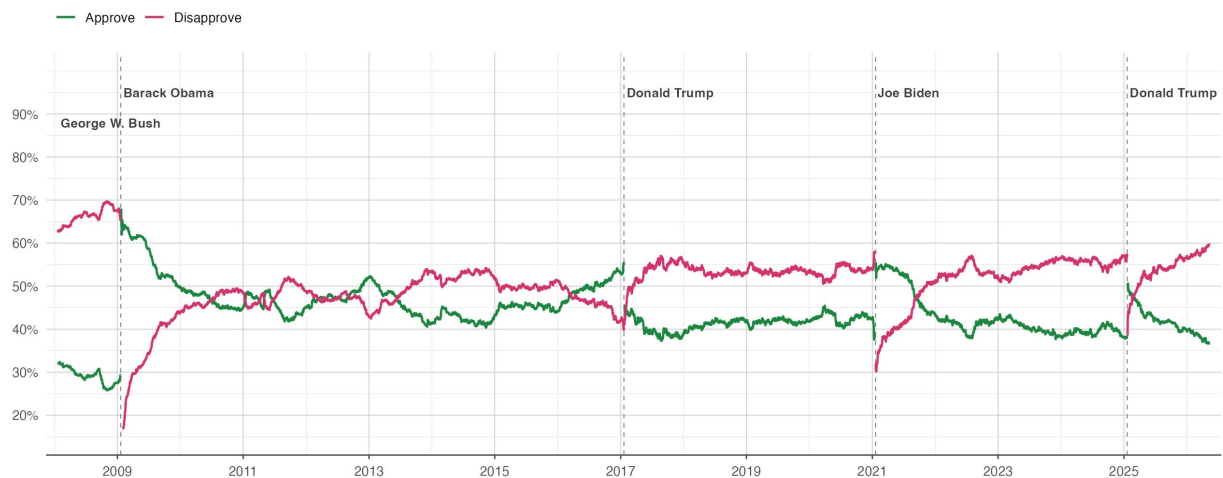
Year	President	Approval rating	Midterm US House results
1946	Truman	33%	-45 seats
1950	Truman	39%	-29 seats
1954	Eisenhower	61%	-18 seats
1958	Eisenhower	57%	-48 seats
1962	JFK	61%	-4 seats
1966	LBJ	44%	-47 seats
1970	Nixon	58%	-12 seats
1974	Ford	54%	-48 seats
1978	Carter	49%	-15 seats
1982	Reagan	42%	-26 seats
1986	Reagan	63%	-5 seats
1990	GHW Bush	58%	-8 seats
1994	Clinton	46%	-52 seats
1998	Clinton	66%	5 seats
2002	GW Bush	63%	8 seats
2006	GW Bush	38%	-30 seats
2010	Obama	45%	-63 seats
2014	Obama	40%	-13 seats
2018	Trump	38%	-40 seats
2022	Biden	40%	-9 seats

Table: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Presidential approval data from Gallup; Midterm US House results from The American Presidency Project at UCSB • Created with Datawrapper

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Presidential approval and disapproval, by term

Bayesian poll averages from the poll-averages pipeline. George W. Bush shown for his final year only. Dashed lines mark each new presidency.



Source: FiftyPlusOne.news; Author

Strength In Numbers

gelliottmorris.com



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Poll, NBC News / Telemundo, This Past Weekend



NBC News/Telemundo poll: Trump approval



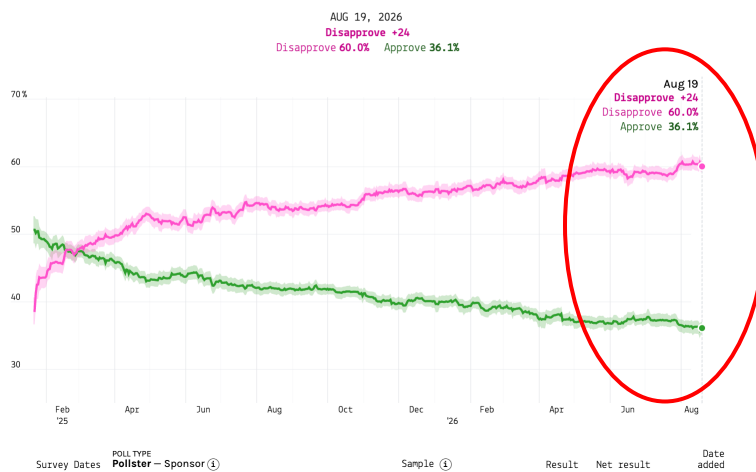
The NBC News/Telemundo poll was conducted Sept. 21-28 and surveyed 800 registered Latino voters. The margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points.

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FiftyPlusOne

Donald Trump Approval

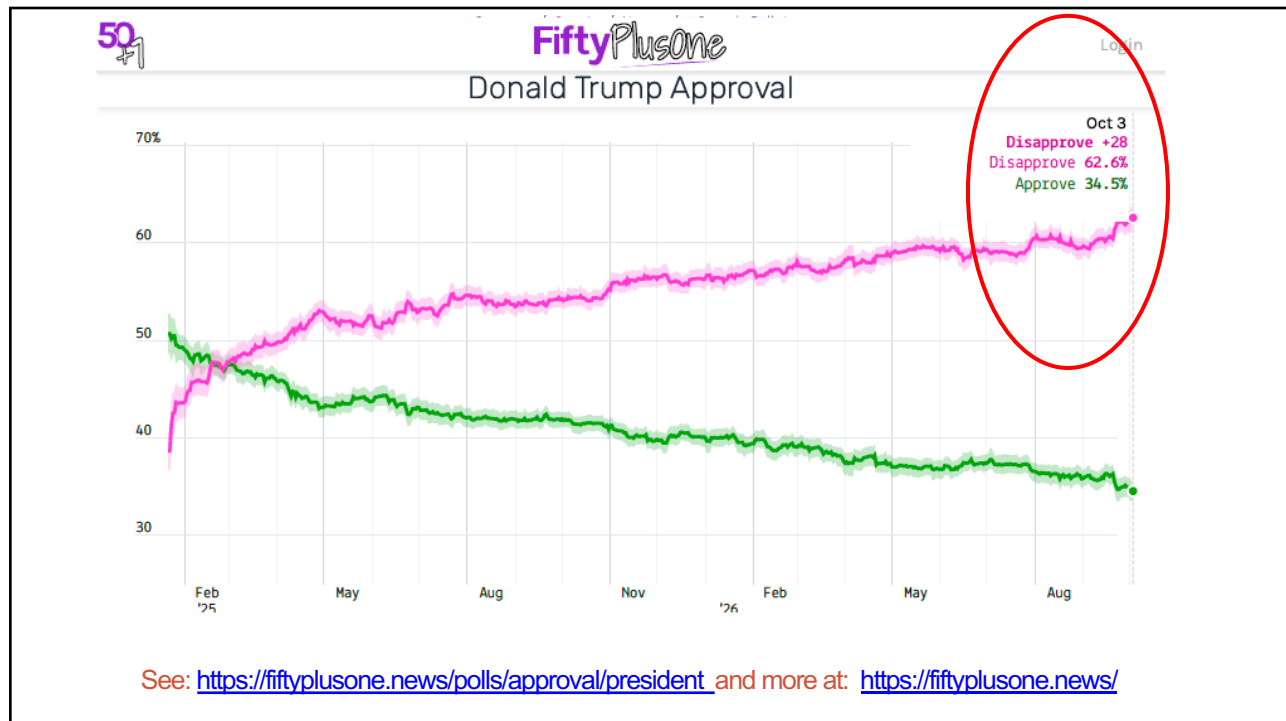
Presidential approval ratings weighted by poll quality and recency. The shaded areas represent the 95% confidence intervals for each estimate.



AUGUST 19, 2026

See: <https://fiftyplusone.news/polls/approval/president> and more at: <https://fiftyplusone.news/>

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The Importance of Presidential Approval in Midterm Elections

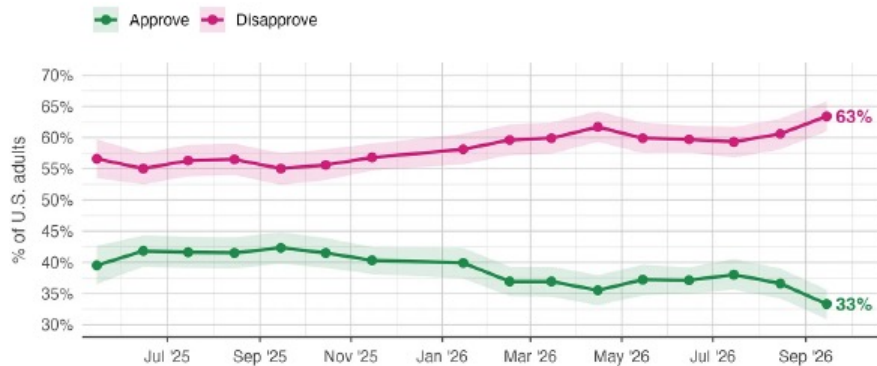
- Forty days before Election Day, and as tens of thousands of early voters have already cast their ballots, a recent [poll](#) finds President Donald Trump and the Republican Party at their lowest point in the last 18 months.
- In this [poll](#), **33% of Americans approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president and 63% disapprove**, a net rating of -30 (using unrounded approval figures) and the worst reading in the 16 waves of polling since May 2025. The previous floor was -26 in April.
- While past surveys documented that the President has lost significant ground with [non-college-educated white voters](#), [independents](#), [non-voters](#), [Hispanics](#), and [young people](#), this survey reveals **Trump slipping significantly even with his own party.**
- The President's net approval rating among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents fell from +54 in August to **+43** this month, with 71% approval to 27% disapproval. **That's an 11-point drop and the lowest recorded trend for Trump 2.0.**

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Presidential Approval, cont'd

Trump's approval ticks back down in September

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?" Percent of U.S. adults.



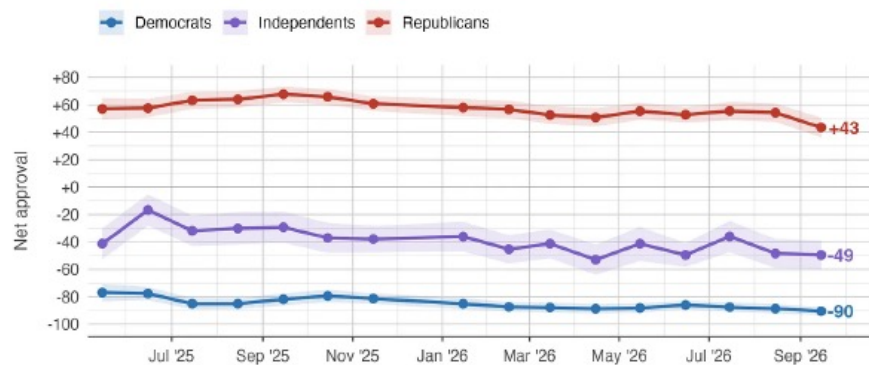
Data: Strength In Numbers/Verasight monthly polls of U.S. adults, May 2025–September 2026.
No poll fielded December 2025. Shaded bands show 95% confidence intervals.
Nets are calculated from unrounded percentages and may differ by a point from the difference of the rounded figures shown.

33

Presidential Approval, cont'd

Trump's September drop came from his own party

Net approval (% approve – % disapprove) of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president, by party identification. Leaners are counted with their party.



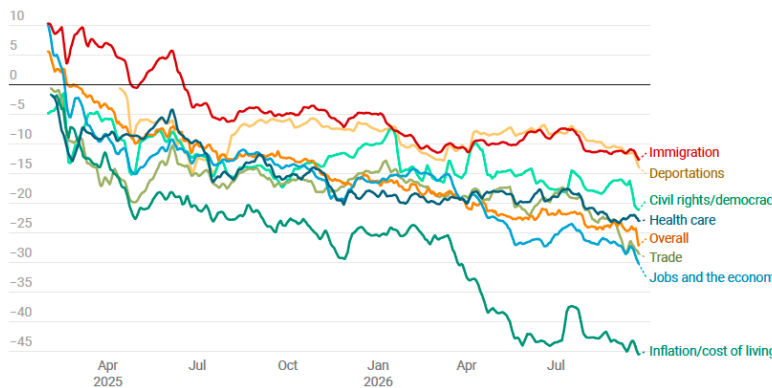
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No poll fielded December 2025. Shaded bands show 95% confidence intervals.
Nets are calculated from unrounded percentages and may differ by a point from the difference of the rounded figures shown.

34

Presidential Approval, cont'd

Trump hits new approval low overall and on prices

Average job approval rating for Donald Trump overall and on issue-specific poll questions. Issue averages are a 14-day moving average and modeled estimates.*



Averages computed by G. Elliott Morris. Issue approval data from FiftyPlusOne.news.

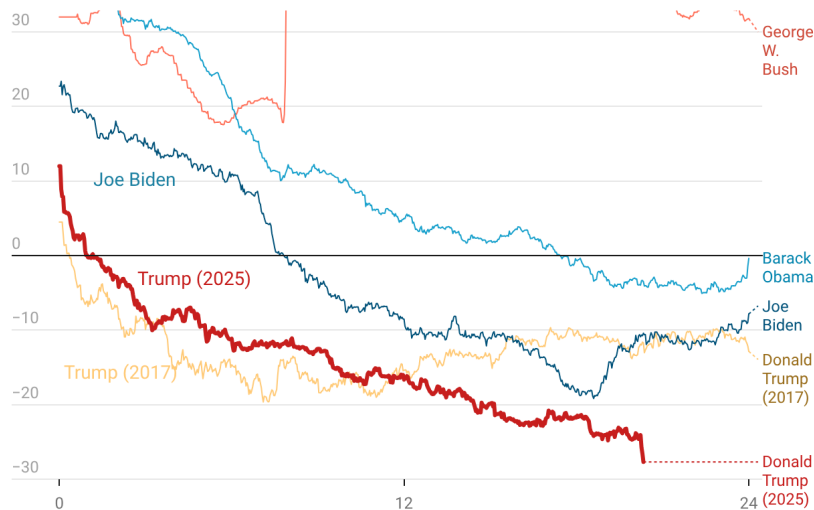
*Modeled estimates are a blend of the implied issue-specific average given Trump's overall rating on each day, and a polynomial trend line estimating opinion over time.

Source: [Strength In Numbers/gelliottmorris.com](https://strengthinnumbers.com) • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

35

Trump's second-term job approval lags his predecessors'

Average net job approval rating (% approve - % disapprove) by president and month of term, 1953-2026. The average is adjusted for poll quality, mode of interview, sample size, and recency.



Averages computed by FiftyPlusOne.news. Chart by author.

Source: [Strength In Numbers/gelliottmorris.com](https://strengthinnumbers.com) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

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The “Generic Ballot” Labor Day 2026 $\cong$ Three Months Out

- The question for the 2026 midterms is not “Will there be a **blue wave**?” but, instead, “Just how **BIG will the blue wave** be in 2026?”

Caveat + new polling data these *next two weeks* give us a peek at the answer:

- **Democrats** hold lead in recent surveys, ranging from 3 to 15 points.
- *Any further Caveat(s)? The Labor Day Test? Changes with Re-districting maps?*

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What Our Model Predicted TWO WEEKS AGO...

Republican generic ballot margin	Predicted number of GOP seats	Predicted change in GOP seats
0	213	-7
-2	208	-12
-4	202	-18
-6	197	-23
-8	192	-28
-10	187	-33

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What Our Model Predicted in 2022...

Generic Ballot (D% - R%)	Predicted change in Democratic:	
	House Seats	Senate Seats
10	2	3
5	-7	2
0	-15	1
-5	-24	0
-10	-32	-1

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The Role of "Strategic Retirements"

(aka, "The Casualty List," Official List found [here](#))



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The Role of "Strategic Retirements"

- Latest retirements of almost 70 members of Congress have decided **not** to run for re-election this year — 60 House members (**23 D**; **37 R**) and 11 senators (**4 D**; **7 R**) .
- This is the most retirements from both chambers **combined** this century, according to historical data from [the Brookings Institution's Vital Statistics on Congress](#).
- Also check [here, too, at Ballotpedia](#) for the House; [here for the U.S. Senate](#).

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Battle for the 2026 House Majority? Determined by how both sides perform in CDs narrowly won by DJT

- **Gold Medal** Bellwether?:

NC CD 1 (compare with NC CD 11)

- **Silver Medal** Bellwether?:

Do Dems hold TX CD 34
&
"Get" TX CD 35?



- **Bronze Medal** Bellwether?:

CO CD 8

NC-1, TX-34 / 35, CO-8 as early indicators on Election 2026;
Demographic and turnout "laboratories"
Wary of "Special Election" performance

- **TOP 20 Congressional District (CD)** targets for 2026 are:

- **CO (CD8)**

- IA (CD1)

- VA (CD2; CD7; CD10)

- ME (CD2)

- **NC (CD1)**

- NE (CD2)

- NY (CD3; CD4; CD17; CD19; CD22)

- OH (CD9)

- PA (CD7; CD8)

- WA (CD3)

- Latino Vote, TX & CA CDs - TX CD28 & **CD34 vs CD35**; old CA 13;

*Player to be named later? AZ CD6 or CD1

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What to Make of Split-Ticket Voting?

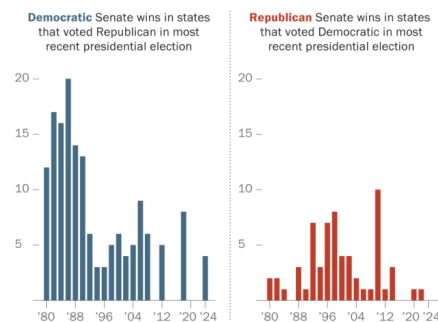
- In 2024, states that chose Trump for President *and* sent a Democrat to the Senate were:
- **Arizona:** Rep. [Ruben Gallego](#) won the seat that independent Sen. Kyrsten Sinema vacated.
- **Michigan:** Rep. [Elissa Slotkin](#) succeeded retiring Sen. Debbie Stabenow.
- **Nevada:** Incumbent Sen. [Jacky Rosen](#) fended off political newcomer Sam Brown.
- **Wisconsin:** Incumbent Sen. [Tammy Baldwin](#) edged out financier Eric Hovde.

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States increasingly elect senators whose political party aligns with their presidential pick

Number of U.S. Senate seats won by candidates of different party than their state's most recent presidential choice



Note: Special Senate elections outside of presidential election years are grouped with the closest midterm election. Independent senators are counted with the party they caucus or have committee assignments with.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of election results obtained from the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives (1980), the Federal Election Commission (1981-2018) and The New York Times (2020-24).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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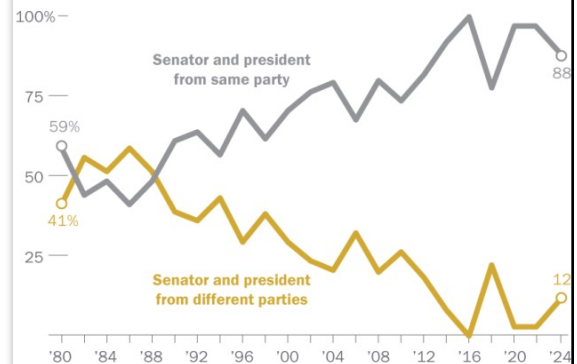
44

Split-Tickets: Senate vs. Governorships

- Since 2012, 91% of Senate contests (222 of 245) were won by candidates from the party that won that state's most recent presidential race. This includes both regular and special elections. (Independents are counted with the party they caucus with or get their committee assignments from.)

Most Senate races go the same way as states' presidential vote

Share of U.S. Senate elections won by candidates of same/different party as their state's most recent presidential choice



Note: Special Senate elections outside of presidential election years are grouped with the closest midterm election. Independent senators are counted with the party they caucus or have committee assignments with.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of election results obtained from the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives (1980), the Federal Election Commission (1981-2018) and The New York Times (2020-24).

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Split-Tickets: Senate vs. Governorships

- Split ticket voting seems to have risen from the grave in 2024. Thanks in part to President Trump carrying the purple swing states, there are now 12 senators who fit that mold—mostly Democrats in Trump states.
- If current polling trends hold, we could see several more join their ranks. In Trump-voting states, Democrats Roy Cooper (North Carolina), James Talarico (Texas), Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Abdul El-Sayed (Michigan), Josh Turek (Iowa), and Mary Peltola (Alaska) [currently lead in polling averages](#).
- Yet, there's no presidential race this year. So to find actual, day-of split ticketing, we've got to look at states with races for Senate and Governor.

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State	Polling average: GOVERNOR	Polling average: SENATOR	Potential spread
Georgia	tied	D+8.3	8.3
Kansas	R+5.8	tied	5.8
Nebraska	R+7.8	tied*	7.8
New Hampshire	R+12	D+7.3	19.3
Texas	R+1.8	D+3.6	5.4

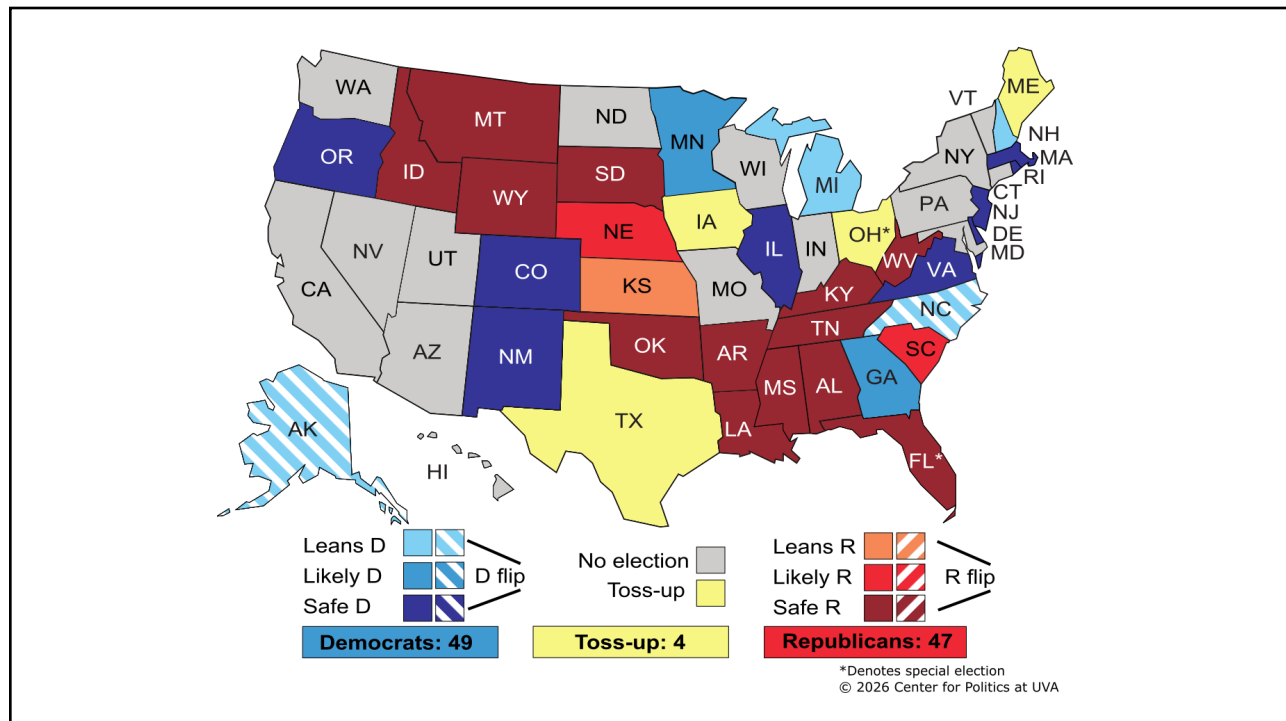
*Dan Osborn, who's challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Pete Ricketts, is an independent.

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THIS A.M. - Rating Changes, Midterms

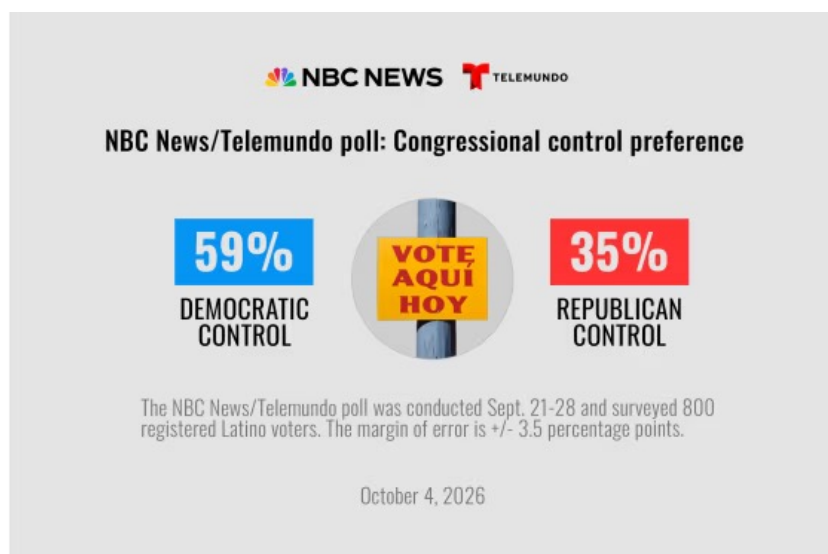
- Overall ratings summary:
- **HOUSE:** 213 at least Leans D, 202 at least Leans R, **20 Toss-ups**;
- **SENATE:** 49 at least Leans D, 47 at least Leans R, **4 Toss-ups**;
- **GOVERNORS:** 25 at least Leans D, 22 at least Leans R, **3 Toss-ups**;
- What has changed in the past 48 hours?
 - — Of the Democrats' red state Senate targets, Alaska may be the most promising, and we are moving the race from Toss-up to Leans Democratic.
 - — For the first time all cycle, Republicans now need to win more of our Toss-ups to hold the Senate than Democrats need to win in order to flip it.
 - — Other rating changes come in the Alaska and Oregon gubernatorial races, which both land in Leans Democratic from opposite directions, while South Carolina's Senate election moves from Safe Republican to Likely Republican.

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That Poll, NBC News / Telemundo, This Past Weekend

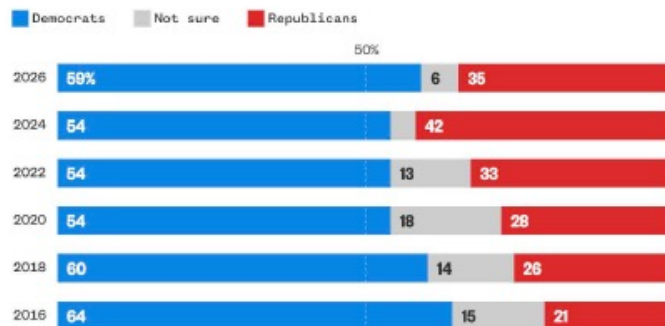


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That Poll, NBC News / Telemundo, This Past Weekend

Democrats have rebounded among Latino voters, but Republicans have held pre-2024 gains, too

"What is your preference for the outcome of this November's congressional elections?"



Notes: The latest NBC News/Telemundo poll surveyed 800 registered Latino voters Sept. 21-28 via a mix of telephone interviews and an online survey sent via text message. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Source: NBC News/Telemundo poll

Graphic: NBC News

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Changes & Effects on the Ground – THE **WILD CARDS** - Affecting the 2026 MIDTERM ELECTIONS: How These Four Horsemen Can Affect an Electoral Apocalypse

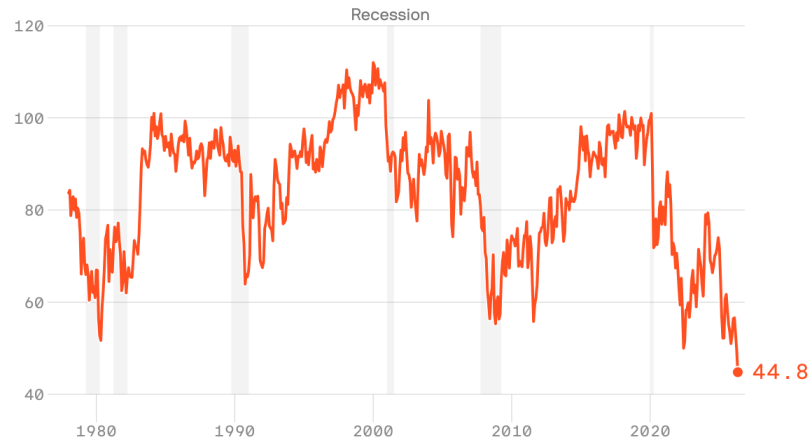


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Wild Card #1 – U. of MI Consumer Surveys

Consumer sentiment index

Monthly; January 1978 to May 2026

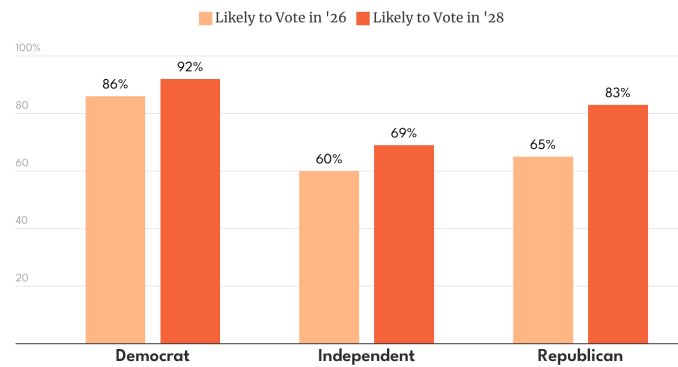


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Wild Card #2 – Turnout Factors

Republican and Independent Young Men Are More Likely to Skip 2026 and Vote in 2028

Percentage of young men (18–29) by party ID who say they are almost certain/probably will vote in the 2026 and 2028 elections.



Source: Third Way/HTT Strategies nationwide survey of 1,462 RVs young men ages 18–29, oversamples of 200 young Black men and 300 young Latino men, conducted December 8–22, 2025. MoE +/- 3.6%.

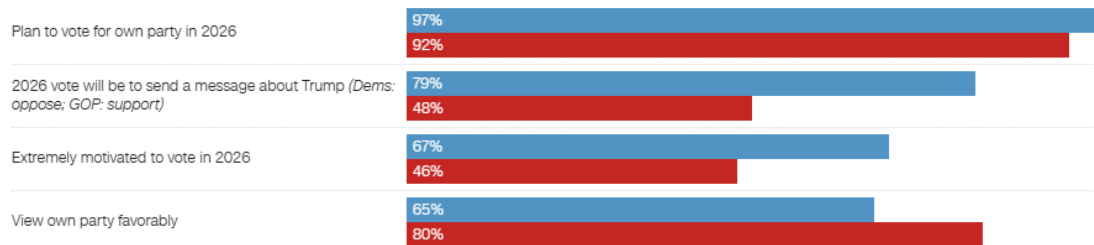


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Wild Card #3 – Both Parties Have Challenges

Dem-aligned voters are less positive than GOP voters about their own party, but more motivated for 2026

■ Dem/Dem-leaning registered voters
■ GOP/GOP-leaning registered voters

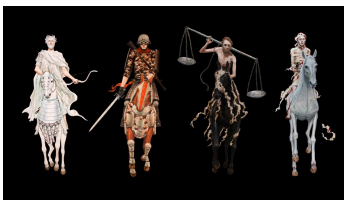


Note: The CNN poll was conducted by SSRS from October 27-30 among a random national sample of 1,245 US adults drawn from a probability-based panel. Surveys were either conducted online or by telephone with a live interviewer. Results shown in this chart have a margin of sampling error of up to ± 5.3 percentage points.

Source: CNN/SSRS polling
Graphic: Ariel Edwards-Levy, CNN

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Wild Card #4 – The Nightmare Scenario



For more information? See [this link to 50 U.S.C. 1621](#) and [link](#). Also see:

<https://www.brennancenter.org/voting-mail-and-using-drop-boxes-are-safe-and-trustworthy-ways-vote-thanks-numerous-security>

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LET'S TACKLE YOUR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, & CONCERNS

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION ON POLITICS...

**RESOURCES ON AMERICAN POLITICS - LOOKING TO 2026 AND
BEYOND...**

LINKS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

**Anything further, please
Contact me at:**

david.mccuan@sonoma.edu

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Where to Find Info.: The Politics of the New Roaring '20s

Websites for General Elections Info.:

- www.thegreenpapers.com
- www.votesmart.org
- <http://election.princeton.edu>
- www.opensecrets.org (on \$\$\$)
- <http://funderscommittee.org/> (Dem. \$\$)
- www.politico.com
- www.centerforpolitics.org (UVA)
- www.electoralmaps.org
- www.uselectionatlas.org
- www.smartvoter.org
- www.factcheck.org
- www.vote.caltech.edu
- The Election Resource Hub @ MIT:
- <https://electionlab.mit.edu/>

Websites for Polling...Data...and DD:

- <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/latest-us-opinion-polls>
- <http://www.ppic.org/survey/>
- <https://igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>
- <https://igs.berkeley.edu/library/california-ballot-measure-guides>
- <http://www.iandrinstitute.org/>
- <http://www.iandrinstitute.org/data.cfm>

How to Read Polls, in general, some guidelines:

- <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/here-are-five-questions-ask-when-analyzing-political-polls-n1053401>

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What are “Midterm Elections?” Tools to Arm Yourself for the 2026 Midterms:

On All Things Midterms of 2026:

- <https://statesunited.org/resources/2026-midterm-elections-resource-hub/>
- <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/when-are-2026-midterm-elections-and-what-their-purpose>
- [Factcheck.org](https://factcheck.org)
- <https://www.us.vote/how-to-vote>
- <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/>

On All Things Redistricting:

- Moritz Law School, The Ohio State:
- <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/election-law/information-analysis/>
- Loyola School of Law:
- <http://redistricting.lls.edu/>
- The Brennan Center, NYU School of Law:
- <http://www.brennancenter.org/>

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More Websites for Politics & Elections Info.

- elections.gmu.edu
- www.pollster.com
- www.gallup.com
- www.pollsandvotes.com
- www.cqpolitics.com
- www.rollcall.com ; www.thehill.com
- www.fivethirtyeight.com
- www.pewresearch.org
- <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/cspg/smartpolitics/>

Just on money / \$\$\$ below:

- www.opensecrets.org
- www.maplight.org
- www.followthemoney.org
- www.campaignfinance.org

Top CA Elections Resources:

- CVF Online Guide:
- www.calvoter.org
- <https://calvoter.org/covg>
- Voter's Edge:
- <http://votersedge.org/>
- <https://votersedge.org/ca/>
- Official CA Voter's Guide:
- <http://www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>
- California Choices Guide:
- <http://www.californiachoices.org>
- CA Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit:
- <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/>

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Where to Monitor Social Media (SM) Trends on Campaigns, Elections, & Politics?

[Observatory on Social Media,
Indiana U.](http://www.osome.iu.edu/)

OSoMe ("awe•some") highlights the results of a broad research project aimed to study information diffusion in social media. Site has tools to explore how people spread ideas through online social networks.

<https://osome.iu.edu/>

[Center for an Informed Public \(CIP\),
U. of Washington](http://www.cip.uw.edu/)

The Center for an Informed Public is an interdisciplinary research initiative at the University of Washington that helps individuals, communities, and institutions navigate our complex information environments.

<https://www.cip.uw.edu/research/>

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