Kelley Drye

The 2026 Midterm Elections: Election Results and Policy Implications

November 5, 2026

Results updated 11/18/2026

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Election Overview

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2026 Election Results: Topline

Senate

56 / 44

Dem **GOP**

Dems Take the Senate, Pick Up 9 Seats

Senators-elect Brown (D-OH) and Hern (R-OK), who won special elections, will be seated during the lame duck

House

258 / 171

Dem **GOP**

Democrats Flip the House, On Track for ~260 Seats

6 races yet to be called

Gubernatorial

30 / 20

Dem **GOP**

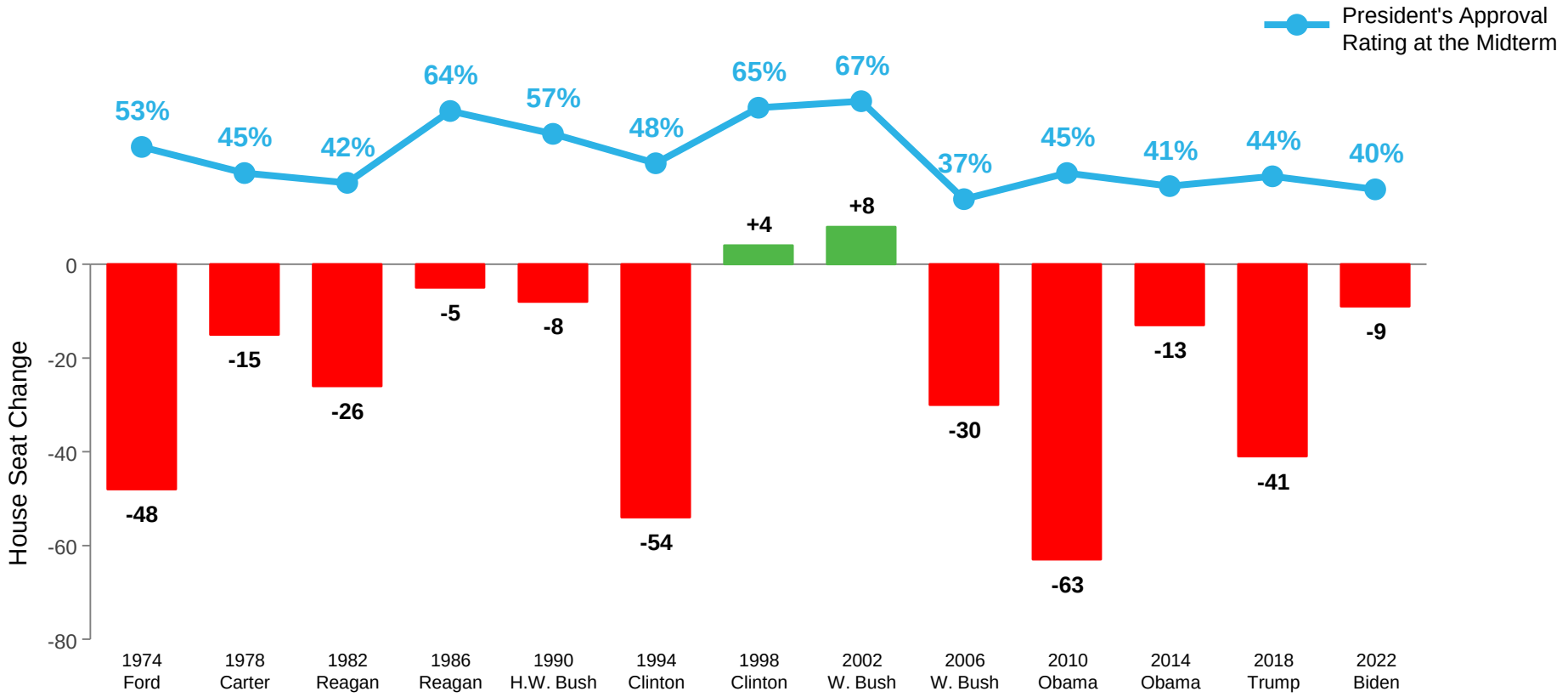
Dems Flip Governorships in AK, GA, IA, NV, OH, TX

The Big Picture

- Democrats won decisively across the country, including in deep red territory, ending one-party rule in Washington
  - Voters nationwide soundly rejected President Trump's policies, frustrated by cost-of-living increases and corruption
  - The massive blue wave capitalized on huge voter shifts, with Latinos, men, and younger voters all moving toward Democrats by more than 25 points
- The 120th Congress will usher in generational change for Congressional Democrats — and will see the Republican caucus in both chambers become even more conservative with the loss of many moderate dealmakers
- Democrats ran strong, state-specific candidates and stayed laser focused on affordability and accountability
- In the Senate, Democrats flipped seats (e.g., KS, MS, SC, TX) that Republicans had held for decades
  - Scott Colom is Mississippi's first Black senator since Reconstruction; Adam Hamilton is the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Kansas in 94 years; in Texas, James Talarico wasn't yet born the last time a Democrat won a Senate seat there
- House Democrats appear headed for ~260 seats, their largest House contingent since the early 1990s
  - Republicans' mid-cycle redistricting push backfired; and the Black electorate in particular was motivated by the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, propelling to victory some Democrats (e.g., Shomari Figures in Alabama) who the GOP felt they had beaten

Historical Perspective: Presidential Approval and House Midterm Losses

- History repeats itself: With an approval rating of 38% on Election Day, President Trump saw his party lose (on net) 44 House seats (and counting)



(Data Source: The American Presidency Project, UC Santa Barbara)

Historical Perspective: The Pendulum Shift

Election Year	President	House Control	Senate Control	Unified Control?
2004	W. Bush	GOP	GOP	✓
2006	*Midterm: Lost House & Senate*	DEM	DEM	
2008	Obama	DEM	DEM	✓
2010	*Midterm: Lost House*	GOP	DEM	
2012		GOP	DEM	
2014	*Midterm: Lost Senate*	GOP	GOP	
2016	Trump	GOP	GOP	✓
2018	*Midterm: Lost House*	DEM	GOP	
2020	Biden	DEM	DEM	✓
2022	*Midterm: Lost House*	GOP	DEM	
2024	Trump	GOP	GOP	✓
2026	*Midterm: Lost House & Senate*	DEM	DEM	

Before this year, the last time the Senate flipped two elections in a row (due to elections) was 1952 & 1954.

Analyzing the Electorate: On the Issues

A pre-election WaPo / ABC / Ipsos poll asked Americans which party they trusted more on a variety of key issues – Democrats led on all but crime

Issue	Trust Dems more?	Trust GOP more?
The Economy	37%	28%
Inflation	37%	23%
Cost of Living	38%	24%
Taxes	36%	29%
The Situation In Iran	37%	26%
Health Care	44%	21%
Artificial Intelligence	26%	19%
Education	41%	27%
Immigration	37%	35%
Crime	30%	35%
Reducing Corruption	32%	23%

Source: *WaPo / ABC News / Ipsos*, Oct. 9-13

Analyzing the Electorate: On the Issues

A Deeply Unpopular President

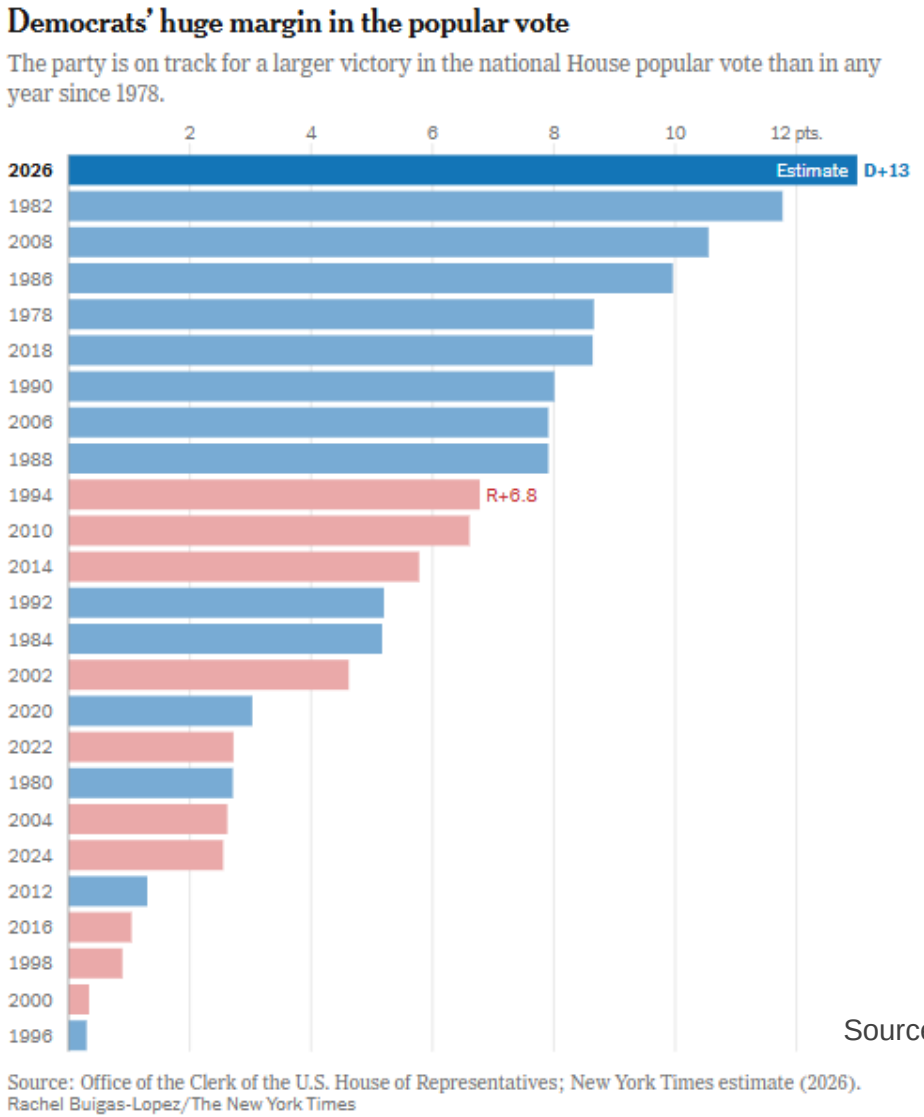
- According to CNN exit polling, 43% of voters said one reason for their vote was “to oppose Trump”
- 62% of voters, including 11% of Republicans, responded “no” to the question “Does Trump fight for people like you?” and a similar share (64%) said the President does not have the right priorities
- 71% of voters said Congress was not doing enough to provide checks on the presidency
- Most voters (90%) said government corruption was a crucial or major factor in their vote

It’s the Economy (and the war), Stupid

- Three-quarters of voters said the economy was “not good” or “poor,” and nearly 40% said it was the top issue facing the country
  - Democracy was second at 32%, immigration was at 14%, health care was at 8%, foreign policy was at 4%
- 89% of voters — including more than 1/3 of Republicans — said cost of living was “crucial” or a major factor in their vote
- 62% of respondents said high prices were more due to Trump’s policies than to factors outside his control
- 43% of voters said the Democratic Party could better handle the economy (37% said Republicans)
- 74% of voters said the Iran war was important to their vote — likely tied to increased gas / energy prices
- Similarly, more than half of voters said AI and data centers were an important factor

Analyzing the Electorate: The Wave

- Overall, Democrats had a 13-point advantage over Republicans, a 15-point shift from 2024



Source: *New York Times*, 11/4/2026

Analyzing the Electorate: Demographics

- Democrats made major gains nationally and across demographics
- The *New York Times* looked at shifts in support compared to 2024:

U.S. % of voters	All 100% of voters	White 70%	Black 11%	Hispanic 10%	Asian 4%	Other 4%
All 100% of voters	D+15 ←	D+13 ←	D+9 ←	D+28 ←	D+17 ←	D+17 ←
Gender						
Male 47%	D+17 ←	D+15 ←	D+16 ←	D+29 ←	D+17 ←	D+20 ←
Female 53%	D+13 ←	D+11 ←	D+5 ←	D+27 ←	D+17 ←	D+15 ←
Age						
18-29 12%	D+32 ←	D+30 ←	D+13 ←	D+42 ←	No estimate	No estimate
30-44 21%	D+24 ←	D+22 ←	D+16 ←	D+32 ←		
45-64 33%	D+13 ←	D+11 ←	D+5 ←	D+25 ←		D+10 ←
65+ 34%	D+6 ←	D+5 ←	D+6 ←	D+9 ←		
Education						
High school 28%	D+18 ←	D+15 ←	D+10 ←	D+35 ←		
Some college 29%	D+16 ←	D+13 ←	D+9 ←	D+30 ←		D+20 ←
College grad. 25%	D+11 ←	D+9 ←	D+9 ←	D+18 ←		
Postgraduate 17%	D+10 ←	D+9 ←	D+8 ←	D+14 ←		

Source: *New York Times*, 11/4/2026

Key Dates

November 8-17	House New Member Orientation
November 9-10	New Senator Orientation
November 9	Post-election Lame Duck Session Begins
November 10	Senate Republican Leadership Elections
November 10	House Republican Leadership Elections
November 18	House Democratic Leadership Elections
November 30	Swearing in for Senator-elect Kevin Hern (R-OK)
December 1	Senate Democratic Leadership Elections
December 9	House Democratic Elections for Contested Committee Chairs
Early / Mid-December	House Republican Elections for Committee Ranking Members
December 11	Current FY27 Continuing Resolution Expires / Target Adjournment
December 15	Potential Swearing in for Senator-elect Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
December 17	House Target Adjournment Date
December 18	Senate Target Adjournment Date
???	Swearing in for appointees to finish terms of outgoing Senators Blackburn (R-TN) and Klobuchar (D-MN) (both elected governor)
January 3	120th Congress Convenes / House Speaker Election / Members Sworn In

Detailed Congressional Results

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2026 Election Results: U.S. Senate

56 Democrats	0 Undecided	44 Republicans
Flipped 9 Seats	50 for Control	Flipped 0 Seats

- Democrats have flipped the Senate, picking up 9 seats; they will have their largest Senate majority since 2008
  - Democrats defeated incumbents in Alaska, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Ohio, and South Carolina and flipped open seats in Iowa, North Carolina and Texas — and in some of these states, it wasn't even close
  - Of these, President Trump won the following states by double digits in 2024: AK, IA, KS, MS, OH, SC, TX
- Senators Cassidy (R-LA) and Cornyn (R-TX) lost their primary elections earlier this year and 11 Senators (four Democrats and seven Republicans) did not seek re-election (the highest number since 1996)
- Changes expected in the weeks ahead:
  - Senator-elect Hern (R) will be sworn in to replace Oklahoma caretaker Senator Armstrong (R) on November 30
  - Senator-elect Brown (D), who defeated Senator Husted (R) in an Ohio special election, could be sworn in as soon as mid-December — Brown will return to the Senate after losing his seat in 2024
  - Sens. Blackburn (R-TN) and Klobuchar (D-MN) won gubernatorial races and will soon appoint their Senate replacements

2026 Election Results: Key Senate Races

State	Incumbent / Challenger	Winner
Alaska	Dan Sullivan (R) v. Mary Peltola (D)	Peltola **FLIP**
Georgia	Jon Ossoff (D) v. Mike Collins (R)	Ossoff **HOLD**
Kansas	Roger Marshall (R) v. Adam Hamilton (D)	Hamilton **FLIP**
Maine	Susan Collins (R) v. Troy Jackson (D)	Jackson **FLIP**
Mississippi	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R) v. Scott Colom (D)	Colom **FLIP**
Ohio	Jon Husted (R) v. Sherrod Brown (D)	Brown **FLIP**
South Carolina	Darline Graham (R) v. Annie Andrews (D)	Andrews **FLIP**

State	Outgoing Senator (Open)	Winner
Alabama	Tommy Tuberville (R)	Barry Moore (R) **HOLD**
Illinois	Dick Durbin (D)	Juliana Stratton (D) **HOLD**
Iowa	Joni Ernst (R)	Josh Turek (D) **FLIP**
Kentucky	Mitch McConnell (R)	Andy Barr (R) **HOLD**
Louisiana	Bill Cassidy (R) (lost primary)	Julia Letlow (R) **HOLD**
Michigan	Gary Peters (D)	Abdul El-Sayed (D) **HOLD**
Minnesota	Tina Smith (D)	Peggy Flanagan (D) **HOLD**

State	Outgoing Senator (Open)	Winner
Montana	Steve Daines (R)	Kurt Alme (R) **HOLD**
New Hampshire	Jeanne Shaheen (D)	Pappas (D) **HOLD**
North Carolina	Thom Tillis (R)	Roy Cooper (D) **FLIP**
Oklahoma	Alan Armstrong (R)	Kevin Hern (R) **HOLD**
Texas	John Cornyn (R) (lost primary)	James Talarico (D) **FLIP**
Wyoming	Cynthia Lummis (R)	Harriet Hageman (R) **HOLD**

2026 Election Results: New Senators



Alabama: Barry Moore (R-AL) (HOLD) defeated Everett Wess (D) to replace the outgoing Senator Tommy Tuberville (R). Moore represented Alabama's 2nd Congressional District between 2021-2025 and the 1st Congressional District since 2025. Prior to his political career, Moore founded an industrial waste hauling and general contracting company as well as served six years in the Alabama National Guard and Reserves.



Alaska: Mary Peltola (D-AK) (FLIP) defeated Senator Dan Sullivan (R), who has held the seat since 2015. Peltola represented Alaska's At-Large Congressional district from 2022-2025, becoming the first Alaska Native to serve in Congress and the first woman to represent Alaska in the House of Representatives.



Illinois: Juliana Stratton (D-IL) (HOLD) defeated Don Tracy (R) to replace outgoing Senator Dick Durbin (D). Stratton has served as Illinois Lieutenant Governor since 2019. From 2017-2019, Stratton represented the 5th District in the Illinois House of Representatives, after defeating a 13-year incumbent.

2026 Election Results: New Senators



Iowa: Josh Turek (D-IA) (FLIP) defeated Rep. Ashley Hinson (R) to replace outgoing Senator Joni Ernst (R). Turek has represented District 20 in the Iowa House of Representatives since 2023. Prior to his political career, Turek represented the United States at four Paralympic Games with the wheelchair basketball team, winning a bronze medal in 2012 and back-to-back gold medals in 2016 and 2021.



Kansas: Adam Hamilton (D-KS) (FLIP) defeated Senator Roger Marshall (R), who has held the seat since 2021. Hamilton is an author and pastor who founded the largest United Methodist Church in the United States.



Kentucky: Andy Barr (R-KY) (HOLD) defeated Charles Booker (D) to replace outgoing Senator Mitch McConnell (R). Barr has represented Kentucky's 6th Congressional District since 2013, serving on the Foreign Affairs and Financial Services Committees as well as the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

2026 Election Results: New Senators



Louisiana: Julia Letlow (R-LA) (HOLD) defeated Jamie Davis (D) to replace outgoing Senator Bill Cassidy (R). Letlow has represented Louisiana's 5th Congressional District since winning a special election to fill the seat left vacant by her husband's passing from COVID-19 complications. She serves on the House Committees on Appropriations and Education and Workforce.



Maine: Troy Jackson (D-ME) (FLIP) defeated Senator Susan Collins (R), who has held the seat since 1997. Jackson served two stints in the Maine State Senate from 2008-2014 and again from 2016-2024. From 2018-2024, Jackson served as Maine Senate President. Prior to his tenure in the Maine State Senate, Jackson was a member of the Maine House of Representatives from 2002-2008.



Michigan: Abdul El-Sayed (D-MI) (HOLD) defeated Mike Rogers (R) to replace outgoing Senator Gary Peters (D). El-Sayed is a Rhodes Scholar, physician, and public health official who served as the Director of the Department of Health, Human, and Veterans Services for Wayne County from 2022-2025.

2026 Election Results: New Senators



Minnesota: Peggy Flanagan (D-MN) (HOLD) defeated Michele Tafoya (R) to replace outgoing Senator Tina Smith (D). Flanagan has served as Minnesota's Lieutenant Governor since 2019, becoming the first woman of color elected to statewide office in Minnesota and the highest-ranking Native American woman to hold executive office in the United States.



Mississippi: Scott Colom (D-MS) (FLIP) defeated Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R), who was appointed to the seat in 2018 to replace Senator Thad Cochran (R). Colom has been serving as the District Attorney for Mississippi's 16th Judicial District since his election in 2015.



Montana: Kurt Alme (R-MT) (HOLD) defeated Alani Bankhead (D) to replace outgoing Senator Steve Daines (R). Alme is a lawyer and former federal prosecutor. He was appointed as U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana from 2017–2020 during the first Trump Administration. He returned to serve in an interim capacity and was subsequently confirmed U.S. Attorney from 2025–2026.

2026 Election Results: New Senators



New Hampshire: Chris Pappas (D-NH) (HOLD) defeated John Sununu (R) to replace outgoing Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D). Pappas has represented New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District since 2019, serving on the House's Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans' Affairs Committees, and is the first openly gay male to be elected to the U.S. Senate.



North Carolina: Roy Cooper (D-NC) (FLIP) defeated Michael Whatley (R) to replace outgoing Senator Thom Tillis (R). Since 1987, Cooper has served in various roles in the North Carolina state government, including as Governor from 2017-2025, Attorney General from 2001-2017, and Member of the North Carolina General Assembly from 1987-2001. Prior to his political career, Cooper was a personal injury and insurance defense attorney.



Ohio: Sherrod Brown (D-OH) (FLIP) defeated Senator Jon Husted (R), who was appointed to the seat in 2025 by Governor Mike DeWine to replace Vice President J.D. Vance. Brown had previously served in the United States Senate from 2007-2025. Prior to his tenure in the Senate, Brown represented Ohio's 13th district in the House of Representatives and served as Ohio's Secretary of State from 1983-1991.

2026 Election Results: New Senators



Oklahoma: Kevin Hern (R-OK) (HOLD) defeated N'Kiyla Jasmine Thomas (D) to replace outgoing Senator Alan Armstrong (R). Hern has represented Oklahoma's 1st Congressional District since winning a special election in 2018 to fill the vacancy left by former Rep. Jim Bridenstine. In Congress, Hern chaired the Republican Study Committee from 2023-2025 and the House Republican Policy Committee from 2025-2026.



South Carolina: Annie Andrews (D-SC) (FLIP) defeated Senator Darline Graham Nordone (R), who has held the seat since July 2026, following the death of her brother, Senator Lindsey Graham. Andrews is a pediatrician and a clinical professor of pediatrics at George Washington University. In addition to her medical career, Andrews is a gun violence prevention advocate, having served as a Senior Advisor for *Everytown for Gun Safety*.



Texas: James Talarico (D-TX) (FLIP) defeated Ken Paxton (R) to replace outgoing Senator John Cornyn (R). Talarico is a former educator and Presbyterian seminarian who has served in the Texas House of Representatives since his election in 2018.

2026 Election Results: New Senators



Wyoming: Harriet Hageman (R-WY) (HOLD) defeated James Byrd (D) to replace outgoing Senator Cynthia Lummis (R). Hageman has represented Wyoming's At-Large Congressional District since 2023. Prior to her tenure in Congress, Hageman worked as a litigator, a clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and cofounder of the Wyoming Conservation Alliance.

2026 Election Results: U.S. House

258 Democrats	6 Undecided	171 Republicans
Flipped 47 Seats	218 for Control	Flipped 3 Seats

- House Democrats needed a net gain of 3 seats to flip the House — they are at +44 (net), with some estimates that they will exceed 260 by the time the counting is over
- At least 35 Congressional Republicans lost re-election on November 3, with no Democratic incumbent losses to a Republican
- Democrats won in dozens of battleground districts, including in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Kentucky and Colorado, among others
  - Approximately 40 incoming House Democrats will hold seats in districts that President Donald Trump won in 2024
- Republicans thought their mid-cycle redistricting push would save the House with more than a dozen new GOP seats; instead, Democrats fought back with redistricting of their own
  - And Democratic candidates in most GOP redistricted states far outperformed Republicans
  - Republicans' only redistricting pickups appear to be TX-32 and TN-09

2026 Election Results: House Primary Losses

- Several high-profile, left-wing challengers defeated Democratic incumbents in primaries earlier this year — other incumbent losses were due more to “generational change”
- In Texas, Republican-led redistricting resulted in two Democratic primary losses

Seat	Primary Result	General Election Winner
CO-1	**Diana DeGette (D)** defeated by Melat Kiros (D)	Kiros
CT-1	**John Larson (D)** defeated by Luke Bronin (D)	Bronin
FL-7	**Cory Mills (R)** defeated by Ryan Elijah (R)	Elijah
KY-4	**Thomas Massie (R)** defeated by Ed Gallrein (R)	Gallrein
MI-13	**Shri Thanedar (D)** defeated by Donavan McKinney (D)	McKinney
NY-10	**Dan Goldman (D)** defeated by Brad Lander (D)	Lander
NY-13	**Adriano Espaillat (D)** defeated by Darializa Avila Chevalier (D)	Chevalier
TN-5	**Andy Ogles (R)** defeated by Charlie Hatcher (R)	Hatcher
TX-2	**Dan Crenshaw (R)** defeated by Steve Toth (R)	Toth
TX-18	**Al Green (D)** defeated by Christian Menefee (D)	Menefee
TX-33	**Julie Johnson (D)** defeated by Colin Allred (D)	Allred

2026 Election Results: House Incumbent Losses

Seat	Race (Incumbents Listed First)
AZ-06	Juan Ciscomani (R) defeated by **JoAnna Mendoza (D)**
CA-01	James Gallagher (R) defeated by **Mike McGuire (D)**
CA-04	Mike Thompson (D) defeated by **Eric Jones (D)**
CA-06	Kevin Kiley (I) defeated by **Richard Pan (D)**
CA-22	David Valadao (R) defeated by **Randy Villegas (D)**
CA-34	Jimmy Gomez (D) defeated by **Angela Gonzales-Torres (D)**
CA-40	**Young Kim (R)** defeated by **Ken Calvert (R)**
CO-04	Lauren Boebert (R) defeated by **Eileen Laubacher (D)**
CO-05	Jeff Crank (R) defeated by **Jessica Killin (D)**
CO-08	Gabe Evans (R) defeated by **Manny Rutinel (D)**
IA-01	M. Miller-Meeks (R) defeated by **Christina Bohannan (D)**
IA-03	Zach Nunn (R) defeated by **Sarah Trone Garriott (D)**
IN-05	Victoria Spartz (R) defeated by **J.D. Ford (D)**
MI-04	Bill Huizenga (R) defeated by **Sean McCann (D)**
MI-07	Tom Barrett (R) defeated by **William Lawrence (D)**
MO-02	Ann Wagner (R) defeated by **Fred Wellman (D)**
NC-03	Greg Murphy (R) defeated by **Raymond Smith (D)**
NC-06	Addison McDowell (R) defeated by **Cyril Jefferson (D)**
NC-09	Richard Hudson (R) defeated by **Richard N. Ojeda II (D)**

Seat	Race (Incumbents Listed First)
NC-13	Brad Knott (R) defeated by **Paul Barringer (D)**
NC-14	Tim Moore (R) defeated by **Lakesha Womack (D)**
NJ-02	Jeff Van Drew (R) defeated by **Zack Mullock (D)**
NJ-07	Thomas Kean Jr. (R) defeated by **Rebecca Bennett (D)**
NY-17	Mike Lawler (R) defeated by **Cait Conley (D)**
OH-07	Max Miller (R) defeated by **Brian Poindexter (D)**
OH-10	Mike Turner (R) defeated by **Kristina Knickerbocker (D)**
OH-15	Mike Carey (R) defeated by **Don Leonard (D)**
PA-01	Brian Fitzpatrick (R) defeated by **Bob Harvie (D)**
PA-07	Ryan Mackenzie (R) defeated by **Bob Brooks (D)**
PA-08	Rob Bresnahan Jr. (R) defeated by **Paige Cognetti (D)**
PA-10	Scott Perry (R) defeated by **Janelle Stelson (D)**
TN-04	Scott DesJarlais (R) defeated by **Victoria Broderick (D)**
TX-15	Monica De La Cruz (R) defeated by **Bobby Pulido (D)**
VA-01	Rob Wittman (R) defeated by **Shannon Taylor (D)**
VA-02	Jen Kiggans (R) defeated by **Elaine Luria (D)**
WI-01	Bryan Steil (R) defeated by **Mitchell Berman (D)**
WI-03	Derrick Van Orden (R) defeated by **Rebecca Cooke (D)**

2026 Election Results: Too Close to Call (House Incumbents)

Leads as of 11/18 @ 5pm ET

Seat	Race (Incumbents in Bold)
AK-AL	**Nick Begich III (R)** vs. Eric Hafner (D); **BEGICH +6.0**
MN-01	**Brad Finstad (R)** vs. Jake Johnson (D); **JOHNSON +0.1**
NC-05	**Virginia Foxx (R)** vs. Chuck Hubbard (D); **HUBBARD +0.1**
NC-10	**Pat Harrigan (R)** vs. Ashley Bell (D); **HARRIGAN +0.8**

2026 Election Results: House Open Seats

Seat	Departing Member	New Member
AL-01	Barry Moore (R)	Jerry Carl (R)
AZ-01	David Schweikert (R)	Amish Shah (D) **FLIP**
AZ-05	Andy Biggs (R)	Mark Lamb (R)
CA-11	Nancy Pelosi (D)	Scott Wiener (D)
CA-26	Julia Brownley (D)	Jacqui Irwin (D)
CA-38	Linda Sánchez (D)	Hilda Solis (D)
CA-48	Darrell Issa (R)	Marni von Wilpert (D) **FLIP**
FL-02	Neal Dunn (R)	Austin Rogers (R)
FL-11	Daniel Webster (R)	Joe Strada (R)
FL-16	Vern Buchanan (R)	Sydney Gruters (R)
FL-19	Byron Donalds (R)	Jim Schwartzel (R)
FL-20	S. Cherfilus-McCormick (D)	Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D)
FL-22	Lois Frankel (D)	Pia Dandiya (D)
FL-23	Jared Moskowitz (D) *Redistricting; see FL-25*	Lois Frankel (D)
FL-24	Frederica Wilson (D)	Oliver Gilbert (D)
FL-25	Wasserman Schultz (D) *Redistricting; see FL-20*	Jared Moskowitz (D)
GA-01	Buddy Carter (R)	Jim Kingston (R)
GA-10	Mike Collins (R)	Houston Gaines (R)

Seat	Departing Member	New Member
GA-11	Barry Loudermilk (R)	John Cowan (R)
GA-13	Everton Blair (D)	Jasmine Clark (D)
IA-02	Ashley Hinson (R)	Lindsay James (D) **FLIP**
IA-04	Randy Feenstra (R)	Chris McGowan (R)
IL-02	Robin Kelly (D)	Donna Miller (D)
IL-04	Jesús García (D)	Patty Garcia (D)
IL-07	Danny K. Davis (D)	La Shawn Ford (D)
IL-08	Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)	Melissa Bean (D)
IL-09	Jan Schakowsky (D)	Daniel Biss (D)
KY-06	Andy Barr (R)	Zach Dembo (D) **FLIP**
LA-05	Julia Letlow (R)	***December 12 runoff***
LA-06	Cleo Fields (D)	***December 12 runoff***
MA-06	Seth Moulton (D)	Dan Koh (D)
MD-05	Steny Hoyer (D)	Adrian Boafo (D)
ME-02	Jared Golden (D)	Paul LePage (R) **FLIP**
MI-10	John James (R)	Christina Hines (D) **FLIP**
MI-11	Haley Stevens (D)	Jeremy Moss (D)
MN-02	Angie Craig (D)	Matt Little (D)
MO-06	Sam Graves (R)	Chris Stigall (R)

2026 Election Results: House Open Seats

Seat	Departing Member	New Member
MT-01	Ryan Zinke (R)	Sam Forstag (D) **FLIP**
NC-11	Chuck Edwards (R)	Jamie Ager (D) **FLIP**
NE-02	Don Bacon (R)	Denise Powell (D) **FLIP**
NH-01	Chris Pappas (D)	Stefany Shaheen (D)
NJ-12	B. Watson Coleman (D)	Adam Hamawy (D)
NV-02	Mark Amodei (R)	Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D) **FLIP**
NY-07	Nydia Velázquez (D)	Claire Valdez (D)
NY-12	Jerry Nadler (D)	Micah Lasher (D)
NY-21	Elise Stefanik (R)	Anthony Constantino (R)
OK-01	Kevin Hern (R)	Mark Tedford (R)
PA-03	Dwight Evans (D)	Chris Rabb (D)
SC-01	Nancy Mace (R)	Nancy Lacore (D) **FLIP**
SC-05	Ralph Norman (R)	Wes Climer (R)
SD-AL	Dusty Johnson (R)	Marty Jackley (R)
TN-06	John Rose (R)	Johnny Garrett (R)
TN-09	Steve Cohen (D)	Brent Taylor (R) **FLIP**
TX-08	Morgan Luttrell (R)	Jessica Hart Steinmann (R)
TX-09	Al Green (D) *Redistricting*	Leticia Gutierrez (D)
TX-10	Michael McCaul (R)	Chris Gober (R)

Seat	Departing Member	New Member
TX-19	Jodey Arrington (R)	Tom Sell (R)
TX-21	Chip Roy (R)	Mark Teixeira (R)
TX-22	Troy Nehls (R)	Trever Nehls (R)
TX-23	Tony Gonzales (R)	Katy Padilla Stout (D) **FLIP**
TX-30	Jasmine Crockett (D)	Frederick Haynes III (D)
TX-32	Julie Johnson (D) *Redistricting*	Jace Yarbrough (R) **FLIP**
TX-33	Marc Veasey (D)	Colin Allred (D)
TX-35	Greg Casar (D) *Redistricting; see TX-37*	Johnny Garcia (D)
TX-37	Lloyd Doggett (D)	Greg Casar (D)
TX-38	Wesley Hunt (R)	Jon Bonck (R)
UT-01	Blake Moore (R) *Redistricting; see UT-02*	Ben McAdams (D)
UT-02	Celeste Maloy (R) *Redistricting; see UT-03*	Blake Moore (R)
UT-03	Mike Kennedy (R) *Redistricting; see UT-04*	Celeste Maloy (R)
UT-04	Burgess Owens (R)	Mike Kennedy (R)
WA-04	Dan Newhouse (R)	Amanda McKinney (R)
WI-07	Tom Tiffany (R)	Michael Alfonso (R)
WY-AL	Harriet Hageman (R)	Chuck Gray (R)

Detailed State Results

Kelley Drye

2026 Election Results: Gubernatorial Races

- Republicans lost nearly every competitive gubernatorial election
- Democrats successfully flipped six Republican-held seats; Republicans were unable to flip any Democratic-held seats, despite a close election in Kansas
- The overall gubernatorial split will be 30 Democratic governors and 20 Republican governors

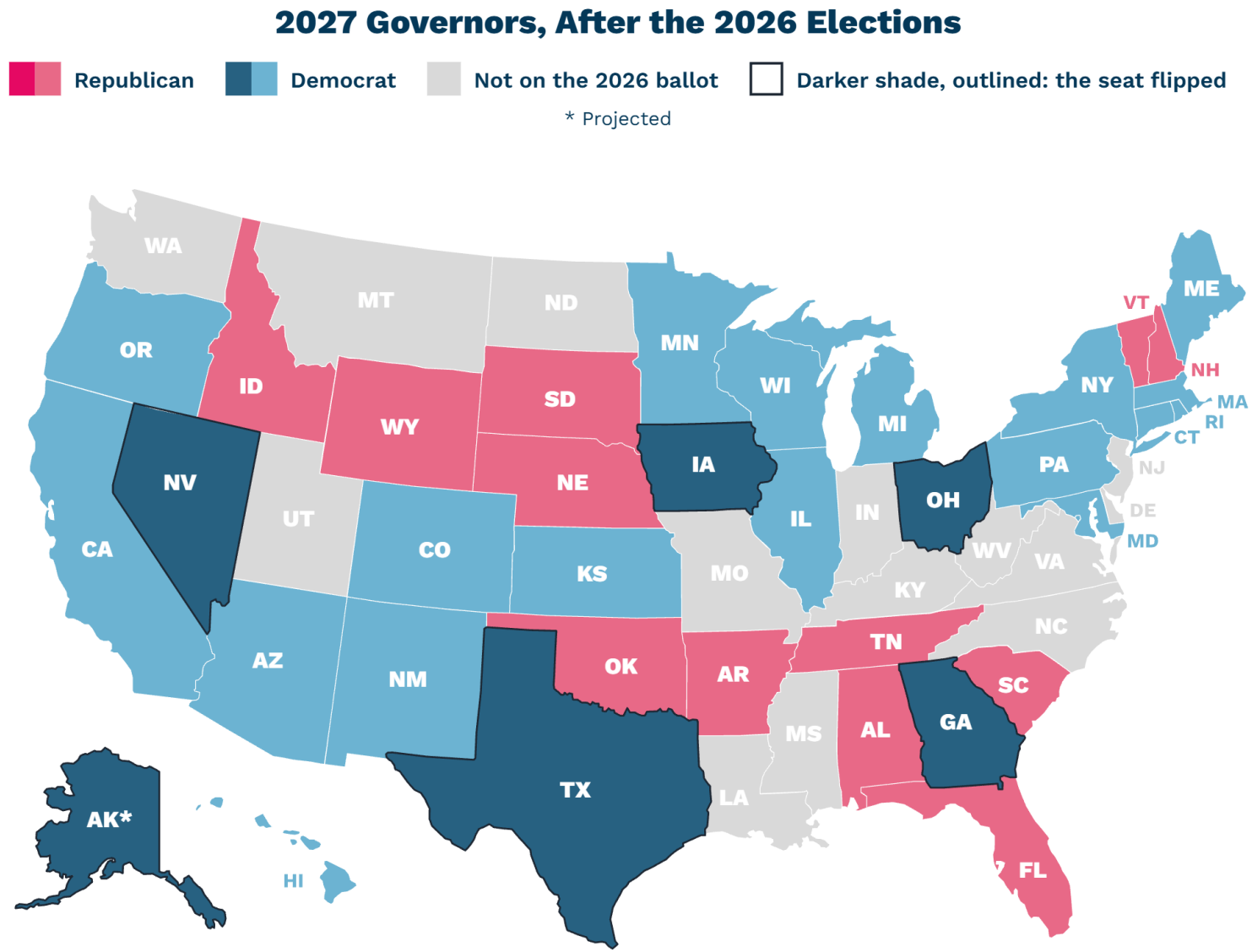
Democratic-held Seats (24)

Arizona – Hobbs (D)
California – Becerra (D)
Colorado – Weiser (D)
Connecticut – Lamont (D)
Hawaii – Green (D)
Illinois – Pritzker (D)
Kansas – Holscher (D)
Maine – Pingree (D)
Maryland – Moore (D)
Massachusetts – Healey (D)
Michigan – Benson (D)
Minnesota – Klobuchar (D)
New Mexico – Haaland (D)
New York – Hochul (D)
Oregon – Kotek (D)
Pennsylvania – Shapiro (D)
Rhode Island – Buonanno Foulkes (D)
Wisconsin – Crowley (D)

Republican-held Seats (12)

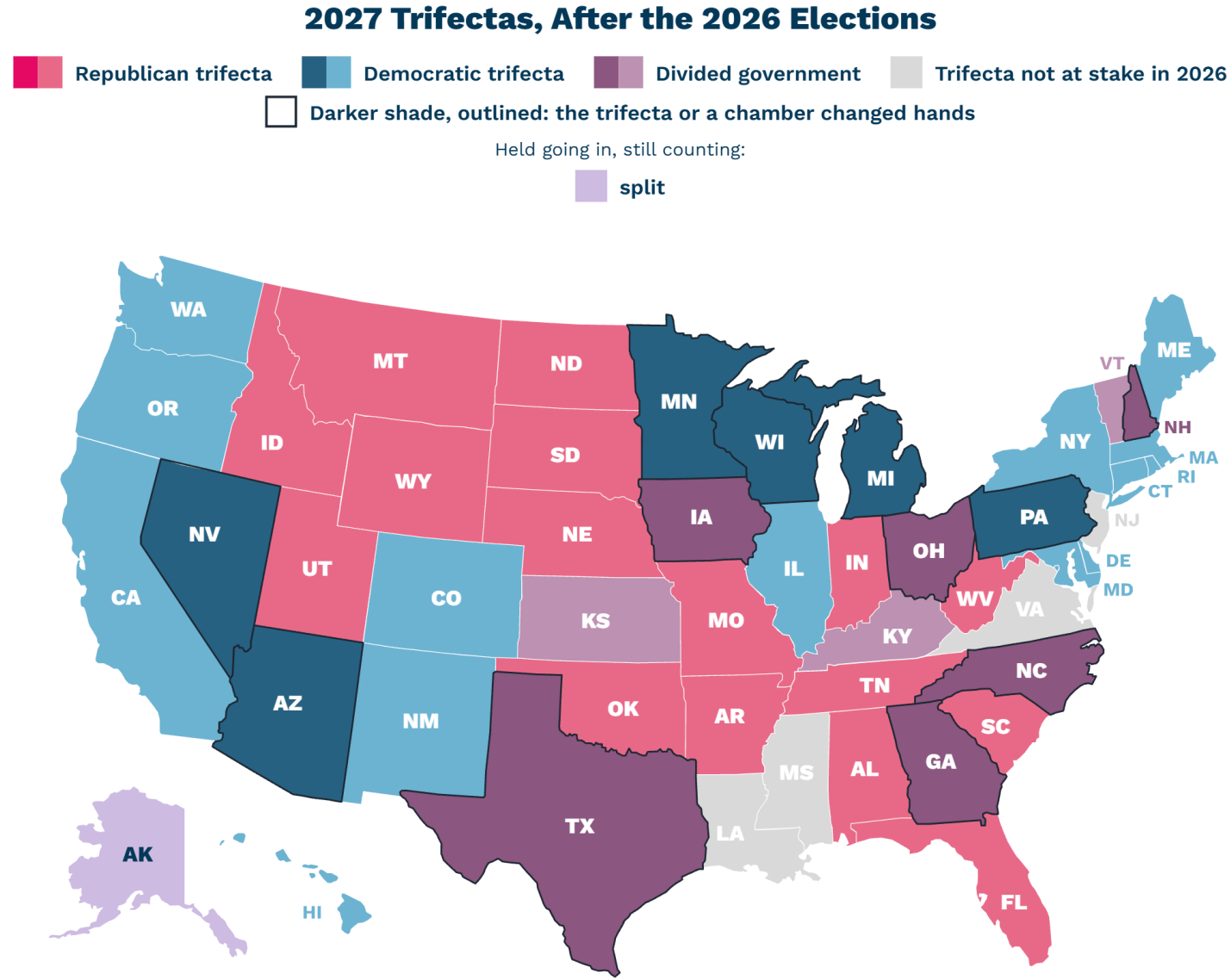
Alabama – Tuberville (R)
Alaska – Kreiss-Tompkins (D) **FLIP**
Arkansas – Huckabee Sanders (R)
Florida – Donalds (R)
Georgia – Lance Bottoms (D) **FLIP**
Idaho – Little (R)
Nebraska – Pillen (R)
Iowa – Sand (D) **FLIP**
New Hampshire – Ayotte (R)
Nevada – Ford (D) **FLIP**
Ohio – Acton (D) **FLIP**
Oklahoma – Mazzei (R)
South Carolina – Wilson (R)
South Dakota – Rhoden (R)
Tennessee – Blackburn (R)
Texas – Hinojosa (D) **FLIP**
Vermont – Scott (R)
Wyoming – Barlow (R)

2026 Election Results: Gubernatorial Races



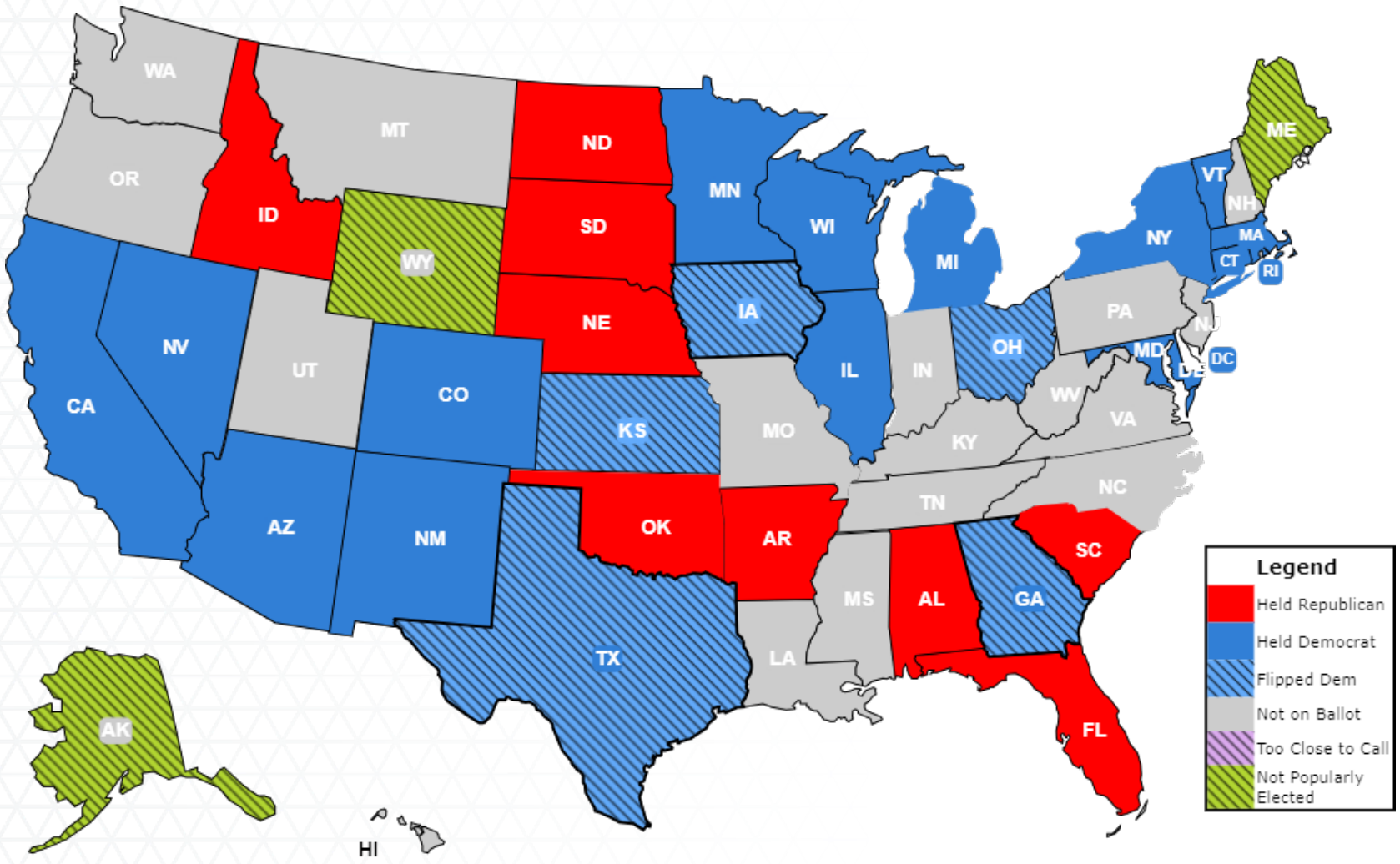
Source: MultiState · multistate.us · Results as of November 13, 2026 at 5:16 PM ET

2026 Election Results: State Legislature Results



Source: MultiState · multistate.us · Results as of November 13, 2026 at 5:16 PM ET

2026 Election Results: Attorneys General Results



Alaska, Wyoming and Maine AG's not elected by popular vote.

2026 Election Results: Attorneys General Results

AGs Elected				
Alabama		Katherine Robertson	R	Longtime AG chief counsel; former Senate Judiciary counsel and Alabama Policy Institute VP.
Colorado		Jena Griswold	D	Two-term Secretary of State; previously practiced international anticorruption law and directed Colorado's Washington, D.C., office.
Georgia Flip · R → D		Tanya Miller	D	State representative and Democratic Caucus Chair; former federal prosecutor and supervising Fulton County homicide prosecutor.
Iowa Flip · R → D		Nate Willems	D	Former state representative and labor attorney who recovered $15 million in unpaid wages for 11,000 healthcare workers.
Kansas Flip · R → D		Chris Mann	D	Former police officer, county and securities prosecutor, MADD national chair, and victims' attorney.
Michigan		Eli Savit	D	Washtenaw County Prosecutor; former Detroit senior counsel and U.S. Supreme Court clerk for Justices O'Connor and Ginsburg.
Nevada		Nicole Cannizzaro	D	State Senate Majority Leader and former chief deputy district attorney who prosecuted gang, fraud, sexual assault, and homicide cases.
Ohio Flip · R → D		John Kulewicz	D	Former Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease appellate litigator and Upper Arlington councilmember; argued successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court.
Oklahoma		Jon Echols	R	Former Oklahoma House Majority Floor Leader, attorney, and small-business owner with civil litigation, regulatory, and consumer-protection experience.

2026 Election Results: Attorneys General Results

Rhode Island		Kim Ahern	D	Former Special Assistant AG, gubernatorial deputy chief of staff, and inaugural Cannabis Control Commission Chair.
South Carolina		David Stumbo	R	Eighth Circuit Solicitor and career prosecutor with more than two decades of courtroom experience.
South Dakota		Lance Russell	R	Fall River and Oglala Lakota County State's Attorney; former state legislator and Senate Judiciary Committee Chair.
Texas Flip · R → D		Nathan Johnson	D	State senator, commercial litigator, and mediator who has passed 134 bills involving energy, healthcare, water, and criminal justice.
AGs Not Popularly Elected				
Alaska	TBD – gubernatorial appointment and legislative confirmation		U	The gubernatorial race remains undecided, but a new AG is likely regardless of the outcome.
Maine	TBD – joint secret-ballot election by the legislature		D	Incumbent Aaron Frey is term limited; the Democratic-controlled Legislature will likely select another Democrat.
Wyoming	TBD-–gubernatorial appointment and senate confirmation		R	A new Republican governor was elected and may appoint a new AG; the incumbent has no fixed term.
If current leads hold, 2027 will bring 28 Democratic AGs, 21 Republican AGs, and one TBD (AK)				
Territories				
Guam		Phillip James Tydingco	N	Currently with Guam Legal Services Corporation's Disability Law Center; former AG chief prosecutor, Guam Police Department legal counsel, and private practice attorney.
CNMI	TBD – Runoff election		N	Runoff expected between Joaquin DLG Torres and Michael Evangelista, pending certification.
Virgin Islands	TBD – appointed by governor		U	New governor elected, which could result in a change in AG.

Outgoing 119th Congress

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119th Congress: Accomplishments

Republican Majority Achievements

- With unified control, President Trump and Congressional Republicans often focused on legislation that could pass with simple majority support (*i.e.*, not subject to Senate filibuster)
  - Landmark **One Big Beautiful Bill Act** (Pub. L. 119-21; July 2025) (budget reconciliation)
    - Individual tax cuts (no tax on tips, overtime), corporate tax cuts, phase out of clean energy credits; Medicaid and SNAP spending cuts and programmatic changes; increased defense and border spending; debt ceiling increase
  - **Rescissions Act** (Pub. L. 119-28; July 2025) (Impoundment Control Act)
    - Cancelation of approximately $9 billion in previously-approved federal funding (primarily for foreign aid and public broadcasting) per Presidential proposal
  - **Secure America Act** (Pub. L. 119-98; June 2026) (budget reconciliation)
    - Funding for CBP, ICE, and DHS for activities related to border security and immigration
  - **Overturned 23 rules** (including several California waivers) using the Congressional Review Act (CRA)
    - Environmental / energy / public lands and financial rules were top targets
  - And the Republican Senate confirmed **57 judicial appointments**

119th Congress: Accomplishments

Annual Must Pass Bills

- **FY26 National Defense Authorization Act** (Pub. L. 119-60; December 2025); 65th annual NDAA
- With respect to government funding, FY26 started off with a 43-day government shutdown and also included a 4-day partial shutdown and a lengthier 76-day DHS shutdown
  - **First FY26 Approps Law** (Pub. L. 119-37; November 2025); ended the shutdown and provided appropriations for Agriculture, Mil-Con/VA, and Legislative Branch bills
  - **Second FY26 Approps Law** (Pub. L. 119-74; January 2026); provided appropriations for CJS, Energy & Water, and Interior/Environment bills
  - **Third FY26 Approps Law** (Pub. L. 119-75; February 2026); ended the partial shutdown and provided appropriations for all remaining spending bills but DHS; included an array of healthcare extenders
  - **FY26 DHS Approps Law** (Pub. L. 119-86; April 2026); provided appropriations for DHS *except for* ICE and Border Patrol (which were later funded via reconciliation)
- **FY27 Continuing Resolution through December 11, 2026** (Pub. L. 119-103; September 2026)
  - Surface transportation programs, the National Flood Insurance Program, and various VA programs were also authorized through December 11
  - The bill prohibited OMB from finalizing its controversial grant management NPRM rule for the duration of the CR

119th Congress: Accomplishments

Some Bipartisan Policy Wins

- **Laken Riley Act** (Pub. L. 119-1; January 2025)
- **TAKE IT DOWN Act** (Pub. L. 119-12; May 2025)
- **GENIUS Act** (Pub. L. 119-27; July 2025)
- **HALT Fentanyl Act** (Pub. L. 119-26; July 2025)
- **SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act** (Pub. L. 119-44; December 2025)
- **21st Century ROAD to Housing Act** (Pub. L. 119-101; July 2026)
- **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act** (Pub. L. 119-111; September 2026)

And a Successful Discharge Petition…

- **Epstein Files Transparency Act** (Pub. L. 119-38; November 2025)
  - Passed House following successful discharge petition; passed Senate by UC

119th Congress: Lame Duck Agenda

- **Lame duck session will be dominated by politics**
  - Republicans keep control through early January, making this their last window under unified government
  - House and Senate are scheduled to adjourn December 17 and 18, respectively — but those dates could change depending on how much (or little) is possible
  - Already slim GOP margins may get smaller as outgoing Members have less incentive to return for votes
- Senate Republicans will focus on confirming President Trump's executive and judicial nominees before losing the majority
- Congressional Republicans may make a run at a third reconciliation package to address partisan priorities before they lose unified control — but it will be an uphill battle and the appetite is far from certain
  - Possible components include a defense spending boost and a debt ceiling increase
  - That said, reconciliation is hard, time is limited, and attendance problems are likely
- As always, we expect *some* post-election legislative progress, largely driven by "must pass" bills
  - FY27 Appropriations (current CR runs through December 11)
    - Democrats are likely to favor punting government funding talks into next year when they will be in charge

119th Congress: Lame Duck Agenda

- FY27 National Defense Authorization Act
  - Congress has passed an NDAA annually for 65 straight years
  - Passage of the NDAA may be complicated by concerns over President Trump's recent concessions to Russian President Putin and the status of the Iran War
  - Look for bipartisan pressure on President Trump to reverse his recent waivers of Russia sanctions
- Congress is likely to look to the NDAA and the government funding bill to wrap up other priorities
  - While a final Farm Bill and a long-term Surface Transportation Bill are unlikely during the lame duck, Congress is likely to pass temporary extensions for both; a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reauth is likely
  - Key committee leaders are also eyeing passage of bipartisan permitting reform and air safety legislation – but it is not yet certain whether the chambers and parties are aligned
  - Congress must also address a host of expiring health provisions
  - Members also historically eye these end of year bills as vehicles for their "legacy" priorities and this year is no different (e.g., kids online safety legislation)
- Outgoing Rep. Massie (R-KY) is expected to force a vote to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth
    - While the House could vote to impeach, a Senate conviction would require a two-thirds vote and is less likely

Incoming 120th Congress

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120th Congress: Senate Leadership

Expected Democratic Leadership	
Majority Leader	Chuck Schumer (NY); *Chris Van Hollen (MD) will challenge*
Majority Whip	Brian Schatz (HI)
Steering & Policy Committee Chair	Warren (MA) interested
Strategic Comms Committee Chair	Cory Booker (NJ)
Conference Vice Chairs	Warren (MA) and Warner (VA)
Outreach Chair	Bernie Sanders (VT)
Conference Secretary	Tammy Baldwin (WI)
DSCC Chair	Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) may continue

Republican Leadership	
Republican Leader	John Thune (SD)
Republican Whip	John Barrasso (WY)
Conference Chair	Tom Cotton (AR)
Policy Chair	Shelley Moore Capito (WV)
Policy Vice Chair	James Lankford (OK)
NRSC Chair	Bernie Moreno (OH)

- Senate Democrats will hold leadership elections on December 1
  - Backed by progressives, Senator Van Hollen (D-MD) has announced he will challenge current Democratic Leader Schumer for the leadership role
  - Senator Schumer has said he has the votes to prevail
- Senator Schatz already serves as a Chief Deputy Democratic Whip and has spent years building relationships and working the Senate floor, with colleagues describing him as effectively already performing many functions of the job

120th Congress: House Leadership

Democratic Leadership	
Speaker of the House	Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
Majority Leader	Katherine Clark (D-MA)
Majority Whip	Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
Assistant Speaker	Joe Neguse (D-CO)
Caucus Chair	Ted Lieu (D-CA)
Democratic Policy and Comms Committee Chair	Debbie Dingell (D-MI)
Caucus Vice Chair	Lauren Underwood (D-IL)
DCCC Chair	Brad Schneider (D-IL) | Greg Stanton (D-AZ) | Steven Horsford (D-NV)

Republican Leadership	
Republican Leader	Jim Jordan (R-OH)
Republican Whip	Tom Emmer (R-MN)
Conference Chair	Lisa McClain (R-MI)
Conference Vice Chair	Blake Moore (R-UT)
Policy Committee Chair	Jay Obernolte (R-CA)
Conference Secretary	Mark Alford (R-MO)
NRCC Chair	Brian Jack (R-GA)

- Jeffries all but certain to become Speaker of the House on January 3; most of the Democratic leadership will remain
- GOP leadership will undergo changes: outgoing Speaker Johnson (R-LA) withdrew from consideration for leadership for the 120th
- Jim Jordan (OH) beat out Steve Scalise (LA) for Republican Leader
    - Jordan, founder of the Freedom Caucus, is seen as a forceful advocate for conservatives

120th Congress: Senate Committee Leadership

*Leadership changes highlighted

Committee	Expected Chair	Expected Ranking
Agriculture	Bennet (CO)	Boozman (AR)
Appropriations	Murray (WA)	Murkowski (AK) | Moran (KS) interested
Armed Services	Reed (RI)	Wicker (MS)
Banking	Warren (MA)	Scott (SC)
Budget	Kaine (VA)	Johnson (WI) | Grassley (IA) has seniority
Commerce, Science & Transportation	Cantwell (WA)	Cruz (TX)
Energy & Natural Resources	Heinrich (NM)	McCormick (PA)
Environment & Public Works	Merkley (OR)	Capito (WV)
Finance	Wyden (OR)	Crapo (ID)

Committee	Expected Chair	Expected Ranking
Foreign Relations	Coons (DE)	Risch (ID)
HELP	Sanders (VT)	Paul (KY)
Homeland Security	Hassan (NH)	Lankford (OK)
Judiciary	Whitehouse (RI)	Lee (UT)
Rules	Coons (DE) *may stay*	Fischer (NE) | Hagerty (TN)
Small Business	Markey (MA)	Young (IN) | Hawley (MO) | Budd (NC)
Veterans' Affairs	Blumenthal (CT)	Moran (KS) | Cramer (ND)
Indian Affairs	Schatz (HI) *likely to give up for leadership*	Murkowski (AK) *likely to give up*
Ethics	Coons (DE) *may stay*	TBD
Intel	Warner (VA)	Cotton (AR)

Committee leadership changes expected on both sides of the aisle due to election losses, retirements and term limits

- Six Senate committee leaders are not returning, including Cassidy (LA) (HELP), Ernst (IA) (Small Business), McConnell (KY) (Rules), and Democratic ranking members Durbin (IL) (Judiciary), Shaheen (NH) (Foreign Relations) and Peters (MI) (Homeland Security)
- Senate HELP & Finance will see significant turnover, with six GOP departures each

120th Congress: House Committee Leadership

*Leadership changes highlighted

Committee	Expected Chair	Expected Ranking
Agriculture	Brown (OH) | Costa (CA) | Davis (NC)	Thompson (PA) waiver | Scott (GA) | Mann (KS)
Appropriations	DeLauro (CT)	Cole (OK)
Armed Services	Smith (WA)	Wittman (VA) | Jackson (TX) | Kelly (MS)
Budget	Boyle (PA)	Moore (UT) | Smucker (PA)
Ed & Workforce	Scott (VA) | Hayes (CT) *is challenging*	Walberg (MI)
Energy & Commerce	Pallone (NJ)	Guthrie (KY)
Financial Services	Waters (CA); *Casten (IL) is challening*	Hill (AR)
Foreign Affairs	Meeks (NY)	Mast (FL)
Homeland Security	Thompson (MS)	Garbarino (NY)
Judiciary	Raskin (MD)	Lee (FL) | Fitzgerald (WI) | Gooden (TX) | McClintock (CA)

Committee	Expected Chair	Expected Ranking
Natural Resources	Huffman (CA)	Gosar (AZ) | Stauber (MN)
Oversight	Garcia (CA)	Gill (TX) | Fallon (TX) Sessions (TX)
Rules	McGovern (MA)	Foxx (NC) waiver
Science, Space & Technology	Lofgren (CA)	Babin (TX)
Small Business	Simon (CA)	Williams (TX)
Transportation & Infrastructure	Larsen (WA)	Rouzer (NC)
Veterans' Affairs	Takano (CA)	Bergman (MI)
Ways & Means	Neal (MA)	J. Smith (MO)
Intelligence	Himes (CT)	Crawford (AR)
China Select	Khanna (CA)	Moolenaar (MI)

- GOP leadership changes due to retirements and term limits; fewer Dem changes with no term limit rules, although there are a few challenges
- Will Democrats keep the China Select Committee or propose the creation of an AI-related Select Committee?

Key House Committees

Ratios likely to shift given the size of the majority, expanding the Dem advantage on the most powerful “A” committees

Committee	Departing Members	Who Wants On	Ratio
WAYS AND MEANS  	**GOP:** Arrington (TX), Buchanan (FL),Carey (OH), Feenstra (IA), Fitzpatrick (PA), Hern (OK), Miller (OH), Schweikert (AZ) **DEM:** Davis (IL), Doggett (TX), Evans (PA), Gomez (CA), Larson (CT), Plaskett (VI), Thompson (CA)	**GOP:** Fitzgerald (WI), Fong (CA), Jack (GA), Wied (WI), Grothman (WI) **DEM:** Amo (RI), Deluzio (PA), Kennedy (NY), McDonald Rivet (MI), McGarvey (KY), Olszewski (MD), Salinas (OR), Scholten (MI), Strickland (WA), Sykes (OH), McBath (GA), Casar (TX), Leger Fernandez (NM), Bell (MO), Jackson (IL)	Current: 26 R / 19 D *New Majority* *28 D / 17 R* *(estimate only)*
ENERGY & COMMERCE  	**GOP:** Carter (GA), Crenshaw (TX), Dunn (FL), Evans (CO), Hudson (NC), James (MI), Kean (NJ), Miller-Meeks (IA) **DEM:** DeGette (CO), Schakowsky (IL), Kelly (IL), Veasey (TX)	**GOP:** Onder (MO), Kennedy (UT) **DEM:** Solis (CA), Dexter (OR), Magaziner (RI), McBride (DE), Morrison (MN), Pettersen (CO), Rivas (CA), Ross (NC), Sorensen (IL), Stansbury (NM), Vasquez (NM), Tokuda (HI), Gray (CA), Delaney (MD), Randall (WA), Olszewski (MD)	Current: 30 R / 24 D *New Majority* *33 D / 21 R* *(estimate only)*
APPROPRIATIONS  	**GOP:** Amodei (NV), Ciscomani (AZ) *trailing*, Edwards (NC), Hinson (IA), Letlow (LA), Newhouse (WA), Valadao (CA), Zinke (MT) **DEM:** Espaillat (NY), Hoyer (MD), Watson Coleman (NJ)	**GOP:** Hurd (CO) *trailing*, Messmer (IN), Taylor (OH) **DEM:** Correa (CA), Stanton (AZ), Subramanyam (VA), McIver (NJ)	Current: 35 R / 28 D *New Majority* *39 D / 24 R* *(estimate only)*

House Caucuses

Key Democratic Caucuses

New Democrat Coalition (New Dems)

- Current Chair: Schneider (IL); Next Chair: Vice Chairs Budzinski (IL), Harder (CA) and Stanton (AZ) all possible
- Center-left, pragmatic, and heavily represented in competitive districts
- Strong focus on affordability, health care access, economic issues, and implementation
- Largest Democratic bloc: 112 members, 11 leaving Congress
- 36 New Dem endorsed 1st time candidates leading or won their races; 28 in GOP held seats

Congressional Progressive Caucus

- Current Chair: Casar (TX)
- Pushes leadership toward more ambitious health care, labor, climate, and social policy proposals
- 100 members; 14 members leaving
- 27 Progressive Caucus endorsed 1st time candidates leading or won their races; 6 in GOP held seats

Congressional Black Caucus

- Current Chair: Clarke (NY)
- Likely Incoming Chair: Carter (LA)
- Membership includes incoming Speaker Jeffries, Assistant Speaker Neguse, and several Committee Chairs
- Self-dubbed “Conscious of the Congress”; major voice on voting and civil rights, economic opportunity, health equity, education/HBCUs, workforce, criminal justice, and technology
- 62 current members; 11 leaving; 13 new members in the 120th

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

- Current chair: Espaillat (NY) l*ost primary*
- Next Chair: Soto (FL)
- Major voice on immigration, civil and voting rights, economic opportunity, health care, education, housing, and Latino representation
- 44 current members; 3 leaving; 10 new members in the 120th

House Caucuses

Key GOP Caucuses

Freedom Caucus

- Current chair: Harris (MD)
- Next Chair: Burlison (MO); Higgins (LA); Self (TX)
- Co-founder is incoming Republican Leader Jim Jordan (OH)
- Relatively small membership but expected to have large influence and will align with President Trump
- 31 current members; 11 leaving; 3 new members in the 120th

Main Street

- Current chair: Flood (NE)
- Next Chair: TBD
- Largest center-right governing bloc
- Counterweight to the Freedom Caucus
- 91 current members; 19 leaving; 6 new members in the 120th

GOP Doc Caucus

- Current chairs: Murphy (NC), Joyce (PA)
- Next Chairs: Joyce, Kennedy (UT)
- Most influential Republican voices on health care policy
- Members often act as validators of Republican Medicare, Medicaid, FDA, public health, and workforce legislation
- 14 current members; 3 leaving; 1 new member in the 120th

House Caucuses

Key Caucuses to Watch

Democratic Socialists ("The Bloc")

- Small numbers, potentially growing influence
- Seven DSA-backed new candidates will serve in Congress next year: Kiros (CO), McKinney (MI), Chevalier (NY), Valdez (NY), Rabb (PA), Torres (CA), and El-Sayed (MI) in the U.S. Senate
- They will join DSA-backed incumbents Ocasio-Cortez (NY) and Tlaib (MI)
- Do they join the Progressive Caucus or start their own?

Bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus

- Current chairs: Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Suozzi (D-NY)
- Next Chair: Suozzi to continue; GOP lead TBD due to Fitzpatrick loss
- Have been and may be of increasing relevance during appropriations / debt limit and health care negotiations
- Can provide votes when ideological factions defect
- Influence directly tied to size of majority
- 43 current members; 11 (9 GOP; 2 Dem) leaving; no new members in the 120th (so far)

Policy Outlook

Kelley Drye

Trump Administration Agenda

- The loss of the GOP governing trifecta will force the Trump Administration onto defense
  - President Trump has said he's ready to work with Democrats "on a lot of things"
  - At the same time, he retains veto power, and Democrats are unlikely to have the votes to override
- Expect the President to lean harder on executive authority, including EOs, regulatory action and emergency powers
  - Trump has signed 292 EOs in his second term, as of early November
  - The Supreme Court has often — but not always — supported his expansion of executive power
- The Administration is likely to double down on its tariff agenda, the Iran war and immigration enforcement
- Expect continued focus on the "waste, fraud and abuse" agenda — VP Vance chairs the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud
- Democrats will aggressively oversee the Administration, which is likely to resist or ignore many requests
- Cabinet turnover is possible after the election, although the Senate is likely to slow or block many nominations, including Cabinet replacements and judges
- The President's agenda, as always, is likely to be further affected by economic and geopolitical challenges

Democratic Congressional Agenda

- Democrats will control both chambers, with some breathing room compared to the slim margins that have been the norm in recent years
  - Senate Democrats will still be short of the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster
  - Incoming Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) will have to balance a diverse caucus, with many new “red state” Democratic Senators
  - Similarly, in the House, incoming Speaker Jeffries (D-NY) will have to balance progressive ambition and frontline member concerns
- Expect frequent coordination on messaging and policy between Schumer and Jeffries as they seek to reverse or at least slow down the Trump agenda
- Democrats will remain laser focused on affordability and accountability
  - In the House, five working groups convened by Jeffries have developed policy recommendations focused on lowering costs in housing, health care, child care, groceries and food, and gas and utilities
  - Expect Democrats to push to reverse OBBBA Medicaid and SNAP cuts and to restore the expired enhanced ACA premium subsidies
  - Democrats will also seek to roll back some of the Trump Administration’s tariffs
  - Given its role in the midterms, expect data center electricity costs to be a priority

Democratic Congressional Agenda

- Look for Democrats to use their leverage to get priorities attached to must pass bills
- Expect an active oversight agenda on policy, as well as on President Trump's personal and "legacy" priorities
  - Committees will use hearings, document demands and subpoenas to drive the majority's accountability agenda
  - Democrats will also focus on corporate America, tying investigations to the affordability crisis and corruption, consistent with their "haves/have-nots" theme (especially if leaders have close ties to the President)
- Democrats may also look to legislate in areas where they might attract some bipartisan support, e.g., ending the war with Iran, advancing kids' online safety, and banning congressional stock trading
- In the Senate, very few Executive Branch and Judicial nominees are likely to be confirmed, and consideration of a Supreme Court nomination (in the event of a vacancy) is very likely a nonstarter
- Democrats may attempt to overturn rules using the Congressional Review Act, but any CRAs are certain to be vetoed
- In the House, which can move faster than the Senate, Jeffries has developed a Fighting for an Affordable America framework; his three-stage plan:
  - First 100 Hours: move urgent, high-consensus relief measures and establish the majority's affordability message
  - First 100 Days: broaden the cost agenda, pair legislation with initial investigative action, and develop committee-driven packages
  - First Year: pursue more ambitious health, tax, energy, technology and institutional reforms

Expiring Authorizations / Deadlines to Watch

Expiring Authorizations

- FY27 CR, National Flood Insurance Program, Surface Transportation Programs, Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (12/11/2026)
- NDAA, Intelligence Authorization, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), Medicare and Medicaid Health Extenders, Export-Import Bank, and “Farm Bill” mandatory programs (12/31/2026)
- Debt Limit (projected to hit in mid- to late 2027)
- FY28 Government Funding, FDA User Fees (Prescription Drugs, Medical Devices, Generic Drugs, Biosimilars), Puerto Rico Enhanced Medicaid Funding, Tennessee Medicaid DSH Allotment, and Michigan Medicaid Behavioral Health Demo Project (9/30/2027)
- Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, Medicare Telehealth Flexibilities, Kentucky Medicaid Behavioral Health Demo Project (12/31/2027)
- African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and Haiti HOPE/HELP Trade Preference Programs (12/31/2028)
- Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (9/30/2029)

Expired Authorizations

- Many Farm Bill authorities (9/30/2026)
- FISA Section 702 (6/12/2026)
- ACA Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (12/31/2025)
- Older Americans Act (9/30/2024) (a Senate-passed reauthorization through 2030 is pending in the House)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) (6/30/2022)
- Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) and Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) (12/31/2020)

Budget and Appropriations

Committee Leadership

- Senator Murray (D-WA) will take the gavel of the Appropriations Committee; Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) could become Ranking/Vice Chair if she doesn't take the HELP gavel
- If Murkowski takes HELP, Sen. Moran (R-KS) could take the top GOP spot
- Reps. DeLauro (D-CT) and Cole (R-OK) remain atop the House panel; Democrats face at least three down dais vacancies from retirements

Policy Outlook

- Democrats will use the "power of the purse" to scrutinize Trump Administration agencies, spending and executive actions
- The current stopgap funds the government through December 11
- Congress must decide whether to complete the FY2027 appropriations process during the lame duck or carry funding decisions into the 120th Congress
  - The Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are planning to meet early next week; Democrats will push for near equitable spending allocations for both defense and non-defense programs
  - Delaying final appropriations could give Democrats greater leverage over spending levels and policy riders

Budget and Appropriations

- Funding negotiations are expected to include disputes over federal grants, rescissions, transparency, and executive authority to withhold enacted funds
  - Notably, the current CR temporarily blocks implementation of a controversial proposed OMB federal grants rule
  - From FY1998 through FY2026, Congress used 140 continuing resolutions, averaging nearly five per year, and failed to enact any regular appropriations bills before October 1st in 14 of 17 budget cycles since 2010 (Source: CRS)
  - Government shutdowns are a possibility

Debt Ceiling

- The Bipartisan Policy Center estimates the U.S. could exhaust its borrowing capacity in the second half of 2027, potentially giving incoming Democratic majorities significant leverage in negotiations with the Trump Administration
  - A debt limit measure could become linked to appropriations, emergency spending, spending restraints, or other budget commitments
- Treasury has historically invoked “extraordinary measures” to extend borrowing capacity, lasting from a few weeks to several months
  - Extraordinary measures lasted 176 days in 2017, 153 days in 2019, 136 days in 2021, and 135 days in 2023 before Congress ultimately acted
  - The debt limit could return sooner because OBBBA reduces federal revenues, causing Treasury to use the borrowing capacity more quickly
  - Incoming Budget Committee Chairman Boyle (D-PA) wants to scrap the debt limit entirely

International Trade

Committee Leadership

- Current Senate Finance Chair Crapo (R-ID) will pass the gavel to current Ranking Member Wyden (D-OR)
- Current House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Neal (D-MA) will take the gavel, with current Chair Smith (R-MO) becoming Ranking Member; if Rep. Sanchez (D-CA) seeks a different subcommittee gavel, Reps. Sewell (D-AL) or DelBene (D-WA) would lead the Trade Subcommittee, which Rep. Smith (R-NE) is expected to continue to lead for the GOP

Trump Administration Agenda

- Despite Democratic control of Congress, we expect President Trump to maintain his “America First” trade agenda during his final two years in office, although Democrats may now have the votes to force moderation
- Tariffs will remain central to his agenda — using them as a tool to address unfair trade, reduce trade deficits, build leverage in negotiations, and raise revenue — but the Administration may seek bilateral negotiating “wins,” allowing them to reduce some tariffs and claim victory
- Aversion to formal tariff exclusion processes is expected to continue; however, there is potential for expanding a tariff exemption framework to carve-out or apply lower duties to non-sensitive or strategic products
    - Potential Tariff Adjustments for Aligned Partners (PTAAP) list, Board of Trade process (China specific)

International Trade

- Section 301 has replaced IEEPA as the main tariff tool
  - Supreme Court struck down the IEEPA tariffs in February, and the temporary 10% Section 122 tariffs that followed expired July 24
  - Section 301 forced labor tariffs (10% to 12.5%) on 60 trading partners took effect the same day
    - A Court of International Trade challenge was argued this fall — and could be elevated to the Supreme Court
    - Democrats have long worked to address forced labor, but view these 301 tariffs as a pretext to rebuild the IEEPA tariff regime
  - Overcapacity tariffs on 16 trading partners are pending, and could face similar legal and legislative challenges
    - Combined with the forced labor tariffs, expect them to return average tariff rates to IEEPA-era levels
  - More than 75% of IEEPA duties have been refunded, but certain refunds remain in limbo pending litigation
- Section 232 national security tariffs continue to expand
  - Steel and aluminum tariffs remain in place, with loopholes closed, rates raised, and coverage extended to hundreds of derivative products over the past two years
  - More than a dozen investigations this term have produced tariffs on autos, trucks, copper, lumber, pharmaceuticals, etc.
  - Others have led to negotiations instead of tariffs – including investigations covering critical minerals, wind turbines, and robotics and industrial machinery
  - The Administration may shift to more judicious use of the national security tariffs in the face of Congressional scrutiny

International Trade

- USMCA negotiations will continue
  - The U.S. declined a “rubber stamp” renewal of the USMCA at the July 1 Joint Review, triggering annual reviews until all three parties agree to extend or the agreement expires in 2036
  - U.S. priorities: stronger rules of origin and a unified tariff front against “free-riding” by third countries
  - Mexico and Canada priorities: Section 232 relief on steel, aluminum (including derivatives), and autos
  - Talks with Canada collapsed in August, leading to 50% Section 338 tariffs and Canadian retaliatory measures
  - Some progress expected in the months ahead — with Democrats certain to push for a quick resolution and tariff concessions
- U.S.-China relations remain relatively stable, with last year’s Busan Agreement extended by two months in late September
  - Presidents Trump and Xi may meet twice more this year, possibly setting up another extension in January
  - Additional developments related to the bilateral Board of Trade (tariff reductions on non-sensitive goods) are also expected
  - And USTR's statutorily-required four-year review of the legacy 301 China tariffs is ongoing
  - Flash points remain: critical minerals, the AI race, and geopolitical tensions
- Other priorities:
  - Implementing the June 2026 customs enforcement Executive Order
  - Continuing bilateral Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (and any related tariff adjustments)
  - Negotiating a plurilateral critical minerals agreement to strengthen and diversify supply chains

International Trade

Congressional Outlook

- Reasserting Congress's trade and tariff authority is a top Democratic priority, framed as part of their affordability agenda
  - Main targets are global tariffs imposed with limited process (IEEPA, Section 122, and now the Section 301 forced labor tariffs)
  - Tariffs on allies — especially Canada — are also widely opposed
- Several Democratic leaders have introduced bills that are likely to resurface next year, with differing scopes of coverage
  - Senate Democratic Leader Schumer's End Trump's Tariff Tax Act would terminate the 301 forced labor tariffs, repeal the Section 122 and 338 authorities, and require refunds
  - Incoming Senate Finance Chair Wyden's Congressional Trade Powers Reform Act would require congressional approval for actions under Sections 232, 201, 203, and 301 and eliminate tariff authority under Sections 122 and 338
  - Bicameral BAD DEALS Act would repeal Section 338 and nullify existing actions under the statute
- The tariff debate, however, is nuanced, with not all Democrats united against all tariffs
  - Many support the Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs and the legacy China 301 tariffs, viewing them as critical to the industrial base
  - Many Democrats are also reluctant to take back from the President tools perceived to fight against unfair trade
- A targeted bill, such as repealing the Section 338 tariffs on Canada, could draw some Republican support — although it is uncertain whether Democrats could rely on the GOP for veto overrides
  - Democrats could attach tariff provisions to must pass bills, but obtaining consensus within the caucus could prove challenging
  - Democrats may pursue legislation to establish tariff exclusions processes

International Trade

- Expect active oversight of tariffs (including refunds), the USMCA review, and Agreements on Reciprocal Trade reached without congressional approval
- Expect Congressional Democrats to push for reauthorization of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), which has been expired since mid-2022
- There is also an opportunity for some bipartisan progress on trade
  - Reversing the President's waiver of the Graham Act's Russia / Russia-related tariffs
  - Democrats including Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) and Rep. DelBene (D-WA) will continue to push for carbon border adjustment legislation; Senator Cassidy's (R-LA) departure leaves the Senate without a GOP champion for a carbon border adjustment, though Senators Cramer (R-ND) and Curtis (R-UT) remain engaged on related issues (e.g., their PROVE IT Act)
  - Reforms to AGOA and the Haiti preference programs, now extended through 2028
  - Strengthening trade enforcement laws and Customs reform / reauthorization
  - China competition will remain a focus, although it is uncertain whether House Democrats will maintain the House China Select Committee

Taxes

Committee Leadership

- Current Senate Finance Chair Crapo (R-ID) will pass the gavel to current Ranking Member Wyden (D-OR)
- Current House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richie Neal (D-MA) will take the gavel, with current Chair Jason Smith (R-MO) becoming Ranking Member; if current Tax Subcommittee Ranking Member Thompson (D-CA) wins re-election, he may seek a different subcommittee gavel

Congressional Outlook

- Divided government is unlikely to yield major tax legislation, although Congressional Democrats are likely to lay down markers for 2028
- Extending the enhanced ACA premium tax credits, which expired at the end of 2025, remains Congressional Democrats' top tax priority
  - The House passed a three-year extension in January with 17 Republican votes, but it has stalled in the Senate, as have bipartisan talks on a two-year compromise
  - Democrats are expected to press for an extension early in 2027, potentially tying it to must pass legislation
- Democrats may also look to the tax code to address affordability, including through the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and education and housing incentives, though with slim prospects for bipartisan support
  - Progressives may push for a wealth tax or other taxes on the wealthiest Americans, but unanimity within the caucus is unlikely

Taxes

- Incoming Senate Finance Chair Wyden (D-OR) released draft legislation to impose an excise tax on large data center operators and deny them tax breaks such as bonus depreciation, the R&D credit and Opportunity Zone benefits
  - The revenue would fund assistance for workers displaced by AI
  - While concern about data centers is bipartisan, Republicans have so far favored ratepayer protections over new taxes
- Democrats remain staunchly opposed to the OBBBA, which paired Medicaid and SNAP cuts with major tax changes
  - The law made permanent certain provisions of the 2017 tax law – for businesses, this included 100% bonus depreciation, immediate expensing of domestic R&D costs and a more generous business interest deduction limit
  - It created temporary deductions for tips, overtime, seniors, and interest on loans for U.S.-assembled cars, all of which will expire at the end of 2028
  - It also raised the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction cap through 2029
  - Repeal is unlikely given these provisions' popularity and a certain veto, but the 2028 expirations will give Democrats leverage before the next Congress adjourns
  - Democrats are also likely to push to restore the clean energy tax credits the OBBBA repealed or phased out

Taxes

- There are also possibilities for bipartisanship, potentially during the post-election lame duck
  - The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) — available to employers that hire individuals from targeted groups (e.g., veterans) who face barriers to employment — lapsed for new hires at the end of 2025; there is bipartisan support for renewal
  - Bipartisan Finance and Ways and Means Members support extending the 35% Advanced Manufacturing Investment Credit (CHIPS Act) for semiconductor projects that begin construction after 2026
  - A new federal film tax credit has attracted bipartisan Congressional support and has also been championed by President Trump
  - The Taxpayer Assistance and Service Act, which passed the Senate unanimously in September, would modernize IRS operations, expand taxpayer rights and set standards for paid tax return preparers
  - This fall, the House Ways and Means Committee advanced the Digital Asset Tax Certainty Act — which would modernize the tax code for cryptocurrencies and other digital assets — with strong bipartisan support
- The Trump Administration is likely to continue to target discriminatory foreign digital services taxes, likely via Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974

Oversight

- Congressional Democrats will also prioritize IRS oversight, including IRS data sharing with ICE, workforce cuts, OBBBA implementation, President Trump's IRS audit immunity deal, and elements of Treasury's deregulatory agenda

Privacy and Tech

Committee Leadership

- Current Senate Commerce Ranking Member Cantwell (D-WA) will retake the gavel, with Senator Cruz (R-TX) remaining as the top Republican
- In the House, current Ranking Member Pallone (D-NJ) will take over as Energy and Commerce Committee Chair, with Rep. Guthrie (R-KY) shifting to the ranking member slot

Congressional Outlook

- AI has become the dominant tech policy issue in Washington — and a multifaceted one, spanning data center construction and energy costs, national security, cybersecurity and online safety, privacy, civil liberties, and the future of work
  - The issue featured prominently in the election, with bipartisan voter backlash over electricity costs, water usage, noise, environmental degradation and other concerns
  - Expect nearly every committee to claim some jurisdiction of AI in the new Congress
  - This lack of jurisdictional clarity complicates the issue, as does the sheer pace of technological change
- AI safety, and especially threats to critical infrastructure, is an area of increasing concern, and likely to be a top focus for Congressional Democrats in the next Congress
- National security and competition with China is also a critical focus area, with bipartisan support for adding chip security and export control measures to the FY27 NDAA

Privacy and Tech

- While President Trump and some Republicans have pushed for “light touch” regulation, other Congressional Republicans have worked across the aisle to address safety concerns that have emerged over the past few months
  - In October, Cantwell (D-WA) and Senator Rounds (R-SD) urged the White House to build a coordinated national response to AI-enabled cyber threats, centered on federal safety and security standards, independent testing and auditing, and defensive AI tools
  - Senate Majority Leader Thune (R-SD), Senator Klobuchar (D-MN) and Commerce Committee Chair Cruz (R-TX) negotiated a bill that would impose a “duty of care” on AI developers to manage catastrophic risks, but talks stalled before the election
  - Last year, Senators Hawley (R-MO) and Blumenthal introduced the AI Risk Evaluation Act, which would require advanced AI systems to go through a Department of Energy risk evaluation before deployment
  - There is also bipartisan support for requiring developers to build an AI “kill switch”
    - Senator Kennedy (R-LA) tried to pass his AI Emergency Button Act by unanimous consent this fall, but Senator Paul (R-KY) objected; in the House, Reps. Lieu (D-CA) and Moran (R-TX) lead the AI Kill Switch Act
- Several Democratic frameworks could serve as a starting point for legislation in the 120th Congress
  - In October, Cantwell outlined an AI governance framework built upon six principles necessary to address “catastrophic risks and other AI harms”
  - Earlier this year, Senator Warner (D-VA) — the top Democrat on the Senate Intel Committee — introduced a broader package addressing AI safety and testing as well as data centers, worker displacement and national security

Privacy and Tech

- A House Democratic AI Commission convened by incoming Speaker Jeffries in late 2025 is finalizing recommendations that will inform House Democrats' path forward
  - The Commission is co-chaired by Reps. Lieu (D-CA), Gottheimer (D-NJ), and Foushee (D-NC)
  - Gottheimer also co-chairs the Bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and Evolving Technologies, focused on developing guardrails that promote accuracy, transparency, and integrity in AI systems while ensuring American innovation and leadership
- Some progressives have gone further — Senator Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Casar (D-TX) have legislation to permanently ban artificial superintelligence and pause advanced AI development until a new federal regulator establishes safety rules
- Federal preemption of state AI laws remains a key sticking point
  - Most Congressional Democrats strongly oppose broad preemption, and Cantwell has said she would oppose preemption tied to a weak federal standard
  - The Administration wants a "minimally burdensome" federal standard, and a December 2025 executive order directed DOJ to challenge state AI laws in court — this resulted in Colorado agreeing to temporarily suspend enforcement of its AI Act
  - While the Administration and Congressional GOP leadership continue to push for preemption of state AI laws, many rank-and-file Republicans (as well as state level Republicans) are vocally opposed
    - In 2025, the Senate voted 99-1 against a 10-year moratorium on the enforcement of state AI laws

Privacy and Tech

- While lawmakers in both parties see major promise for AI (e.g., health care research and scientific advancement), concerns are growing about how insurers and Medicare will use AI to deny coverage and how they will protect sensitive patient data
- Comprehensive federal privacy legislation remains stalled, largely overshadowed in recent months by the AI debate
  - House Republicans' SECURE Data Act — led by Energy and Commerce Republicans and modeled after Kentucky's state law — would broadly preempt state laws and does not include a private right of action
  - The bill is likely to be a non-starter for Congressional Democrats, who may return to the approach of the bipartisan American Privacy Rights Act framework from the 118th Congress
  - About 20 states now have comprehensive privacy laws in effect, which adds pressure for a national standard but also makes preemption harder
- One area of continued bipartisan consensus is kids' online safety
  - This summer, the House passed the bipartisan KIDS Act, which combines versions of KOSA and COPPA 2.0 along with other bills, including AI chatbot safeguards — but some Democrats view it as too weak
  - The Senate passed a standalone COPPA 2.0 bill this spring, and the Commerce Committee has approved a stronger version of KOSA than included in the House's KIDS Act
  - Individual bills could move during the lame duck — for instance, the STOP CSAM Act in the NDAA — but Democrats may wait until next year to craft a more comprehensive package

Privacy and Tech

- Democrats are also likely to focus on more discrete privacy policy areas, such as surveillance pricing, a priority for incoming House Energy and Commerce Chair Pallone, and the use of license plate reader cameras

Oversight

- Big Tech, including leaders' relationships with the Trump Administration
- The Administration's crackdowns on high-skilled visas
- President Trump's politicization of the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission

Infrastructure

Committee Leadership

- Rep. Larsen (D-WA) is expected to chair the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee; Rep. Rouzer (R-NC) is expected to be ranking on T&I
  - Retirements have also opened up top subcommittee posts; Rep. Titus (D-NV) is eyeing Rail, and Rep. Carbajal (D-CA) is eyeing Highways and Transit
- Senator Merkley (D-OR) is expected to chair Environment and Public Works (EPW), with Sen. Capito (R-WV) ranking
  - Sen. Warren (D-MA) is expected to chair Senate Banking, Sen. Cantwell (D-WA) is expected to chair Commerce

Policy Outlook

- Surface transportation programs run through December 11, with another short-term punt likely; reauthorization will be a top 2027 priority, with Larsen aiming to have it finished by June
  - In May, T&I advanced the bipartisan BUILD America 250 Act (H.R. 8870), a five-year, $580 billion bill
  - Ways and Means has not held a markup, a requirement before it can reach the House floor
  - Further, the Senate has not yet released a bill
- The Highway Trust Fund is projected by CBO to run dry in 2028, requiring new revenue or general fund transfers
  - Insolvency risks undermining the entire user-fee financed program
  - Democrats are split on an annual EV fee to shore up the fund; Larsen supports it, while key Senate Democrats oppose it

Infrastructure

- Congress is likely to finish the biennial Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in the lame duck
  - The House-passed version and Senate version still must be reconciled
  - The Senate bill bars the Corps from pausing funded projects after OMB paused more than $11 billion in 2025
- The FAA is authorized through FY2028
  - After high-profile aviation disasters in 2025 and 2026, expect more scrutiny, including audits of its new SMART AI tool
- Both chambers continue to work on an aviation safety bill in response to a 2025 collision involving a military helicopter and commercial aircraft in D.C., in which 67 were killed
  - The bipartisan Senate ROTOR Act, led by outgoing Chair Cruz and supported by Ranking Member Cantwell, focuses on specific aircraft tracking and collision prevention technologies
  - The House ALERT Act is sponsored by both outgoing Chair Graves and Ranking Member Larsen
  - Given ongoing differences, passage is unlikely in the lame duck and negotiations may continue in the 120th

Infrastructure

- The Railway Safety Act, drafted after the East Palestine, OH derailment, still faces industry opposition, mainly over its two-person crew requirement
  - The bill is aligned with Vice President Vance's priorities, as he was an original sponsor in the Senate
  - Larsen has identified the bill as a priority in the 120th, regardless of whether it is attached to Surface Transportation Reauthorization
- The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act (H.R. 6644) became law in July without the President's signature
  - The law streamlines environmental reviews, drops the permanent chassis requirement for manufactured homes and raises FHA loan limits

Oversight

- Democrats will use their new gavels and the House's broader subpoena power to press DOT on how it awards and spends funds
- Infrastructure grants will draw investigations into DOT's politicization and cancellation of awards, which fell heavily on states that did not vote for President Trump
  - Democrats will also push for guardrails on how grants are awarded
- Air traffic control will see close oversight of how the FAA spends the $12.5 billion already provided, as the administration seeks $30 billion more
  - A recent GAO report found weak cost and schedule planning for the effort

Energy and Environment

Committee Leadership

- Rep. Pallone (D-NJ) is expected to chair the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee; Rep. Guthrie (R-KY) is expected to be ranking
- On the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Huffman (D-CA) is the incoming chair, with Rep. Westerman (R-AR) ranking
- Sen. Merkley (D-OR) is expected to chair Environment and Public Works (EPW), with Sen. Capito (R-WV) ranking
- On the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR), Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) is expected to chair, with Sen. McCormick (R-PA) expected as ranking

Policy Outlook

- Gas prices near $4.29, up from $2.98 before the Iran War, were a defining midterm issue
  - Expect hearings on war-driven price hikes, messaging bills, and a particular focus on diesel costs
- Utility bills are expected to anchor Speaker Jeffries' (D-NY) energy message on affordability
  - Expect efforts to restore the wind and solar credits cut in 2025, though the President's veto limits what becomes law

Energy and Environment

- The Senate is expected to take up its permitting bill, Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA), when it returns November 9
  - The bill would set review deadlines, shorten windows to sue to 150 days, protect permits from political cancellation, let FERC approve interstate lines after states have had a year, and apply the same rules to all energy sources
  - Negotiators on EPW are working to craft a manager's amendment that could still allow the bill to pass in the lame duck, with some potential tweaks including sections restricting presidential cancelation of specific projects, potentially extending look-back provisions, and addressing standing for developers to sue on patterns of behavior
  - Labor unions and the Blue Dogs want it done in the lame duck, and New Democrats have signaled possible support; Environmental justice groups oppose the bill; Tribal opposition centers around the Tribal Historic Preservation Office
  - Democrats are split on how to approach the deal after massive midterm wins, with incoming Natural Resources Chair Huffman (D-CA) arguing that the current compromise should be scrapped altogether
  - Passage during the lame duck is uncertain; if it doesn't get over the line, expect talks to carry into 2027, with a potential focus on revamping the deal to benefit Democrats' priorities

Energy and Environment

- Grid and transmission are a major portion of the permitting debate, and Democrats are planning a push for faster transmission buildout and interregional planning to lower costs
  - Private utilities are pushing for removal of a provision that would allow states to report utilities to FERC if local transmission projects aren't in the public interest
- The House passed year-round E15 in May; if not finished this year, E15 talks will face an uncertain future in the Democratically-controlled 120th Congress
- Who pays for new data center costs, driven by AI energy demand, is expected to be a top Democratic priority
  - Progressives, including Sen. Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), are pushing a data center moratorium and an AI tax; moderates including Reps. Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Liccardo (D-CA) oppose a moratorium
- Expect Democrats to try to restore Biden-era renewable energy policies and further protections for public lands, though they do not have veto-proof majorities
- Democrats will push back on administration plans to eliminate existing environmental rules and regulations

Energy and Environment

Trump Administration Priorities

- Several rules on the EPA regulatory agenda are likely to be finalized over the next two years
  - EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers recently took comment on a supplemental proposal redefining "waters of the United States" (WOTUS), and a final Clean Water Act Section 401 certification rule is expected in the coming months
  - EPA is also moving toward final rescission of the greenhouse gas reporting rule
    - The comment period on its proposal to rescind the greenhouse gas endangerment finding for power plants is closing
    - New methane proposals for upstream oil and gas (OOOOb/OOOOc) are open for comment through December 16
  - EPA is also expected to rescind or revise the Good Neighbor Plan for the 2015 ozone standard
    - Attainment and nonattainment designations for the 2024 PM2.5 standard are expected to proceed unless the Supreme Court takes up the pending challenge
  - PFAS drinking water limits under the Safe Drinking Water Act, a range of PSD and New Source Review permitting changes, and sector-specific rules round out the agenda

Energy and Environment

Oversight

- Democrats will use their new gavels and subpoena power to investigate the administration's energy and environment officials
  - Committees are likely to frame the work around accountability for energy costs and canceled investments
- Department of Energy Secretary Wright is a top target
  - Democrats will focus on the termination of about two dozen Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations projects and the office's elimination
  - DOE canceled 155 IIJA and IRA awards after its review; Rep. Lofgren (D-CA) has accused DOE of withholding records
- Canceled offshore wind leases at Interior are a likely focus of investigation
  - Interior has paid companies from the federal Judgment Fund to give up offshore wind leases; Senate Democrats put the total at nearly $2.6 billion
    - Eight state attorneys general are suing over the deals
  - House Natural Resources Committee is expected to launch a series of probes into gas and mining deals, management of national parks, and development on public lands under Secretary Burgum

Energy and Environment

- The administration’s critical mineral investments are a likely subject of House investigation
  - House Democrats will press for continued oversight to ensure there is no self-dealing or corruption in critical mineral investments, domestic or abroad
- House Democrats plan to investigate gas price hikes tied to the Iran War
  - Sen. Warren (D-MA) and other Democrats have pressed major oil companies on profits
- Frozen and canceled IRA and IIJA funds at EPA will face close scrutiny
  - Two federal courts ruled EPA's termination of the $7 billion Solar for All program unlawful, and the fight over the $20 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is headed toward the Supreme Court

Health Care

Committee Leadership

- Key Democratic health gavels will shift to senior Democratic Members, including Pallone (NJ) at Energy & Commerce, Neal (MA) at Ways & Means, Wyden (OR) at Senate Finance and Sanders (VT) at Senate HELP, while Castor (FL) is likely to take the helm of the E&C Health Subcommittee
- While the leadership of the Senate Finance Committee remains the same (Wyden and Crapo), there will be plenty of changes to the membership, with 7 vacancies (6 GOP, 1 Dem) due to retirement or election loss
  - Members interested: Republicans: Cramer (ND), Curtis (UT), Kennedy (LA), McCormick (PA), Moreno (OH), Budd (NC) and Ricketts (NE); Democrats – Brown (OH), Blunt Rochester (DE), Gallego (AZ), Schiff (CA), and Kim (NJ)
- There will be significant change also on the Senate HELP Committee
  - Senator Sanders (I-VT) will become chair; on the GOP side, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has seniority, but he could pass — Murkowski (R-AK) and Hawley (R-MO) are next in line
  - Beyond outgoing Chair Cassidy (R-LA), at least 5 other GOP Senators won't return next year
  - So far, only GOP Senator-elect Hern (OK) has expressed interest in joining the committee
  - On the Democratic side, incoming Senators Andrews (SC) and El-Sayed (MI) may be interested — both are physicians with strong public health interest

Health Care

- Affordability will remain the central theme, with both parties focused on premiums, prescription drugs, hospital prices and access to care
  - Restoring ACA subsidies and repealing Medicaid cuts from the OBBBA are the Democrats' top priorities
  - Expanded benefits, lower out-of-pocket costs, workforce investments and movement toward universal coverage will also be considered; these will still face challenges in the Senate due to 60-vote threshold
  - House Democrats have organized their agenda around the following pillars: reversing Republican policies, strengthening traditional Medicare, confronting monopolies, expanding preventive and women's health, addressing workforce shortages, reclaiming food and public-health policy, and expanding access to innovation
- Senate Finance Democrats are developing a broader 2027 agenda around prescription drug affordability, insurance cost and quality, home and community-based care, nursing homes and the long-term care workforce
  - Long-term care could become a larger Democratic priority, including restoring nursing home staffing policies and improving the affordability and availability of home care
  - Democrats remain divided on systemic health reform, with progressives backing Medicare for All and others favoring public option or Medicare choice approaches, but strong Democratic majorities gives party leaders greater flexibility to prioritize broadly supported health care reforms
- Bipartisan legislation remains the likeliest path under divided government, particularly on FDA user fees, physician payment, telehealth, hospital transparency, drug shortages, pharmacist services and patent reform

House Democrats Agenda – Health Care

First 100 Hours

- ❑ **Reverse 2025 health care cuts:** repeal Medicaid reductions and coverage restrictions and permanently restore enhanced ACA premium tax credits.
- ❑ **Restore reproductive-health protections:** establish federal abortion and contraception rights and remove federal coverage restrictions.
- ❑ **Tackle medical debt:** keep medical debt off credit reports and pursue broader relief for existing debt.
- ❑ **Protect vaccines and medical research:** shield vaccine recommendations from political interference, preserve no-cost vaccine coverage and protect NIH grants.
- ❑ **Strengthen Traditional Medicare:** establish a $5,000 annual out-of-pocket cap and add dental, vision and hearing benefits.
- ❑ **Lower prescription-drug costs:** expand drug-negotiation savings to private insurance and pursue $35 caps for insulin, inhalers and EpiPens.
- ❑ **Protect the health care safety net:** block the 340B rebate-model pilot and protect safety-net hospitals and community health centers.
- ❑ **Expand access and the workforce:** add 14,000 Medicare-supported residency positions, strengthen nurse staffing and wage protections, and invest in rural and underserved care.
- ❑ **Advance maternal and family health:** move the "Momnibus," protect contraception and expand maternity care in rural areas and care deserts.

First 100 Days

- ❑ **Reform Medicare Advantage:** curb upcoding and improper payments, strengthen networks, limit prior authorization and increase reporting of denials.
- ❑ **Modernize physician payment:** align Medicare updates with practice costs, reform MACRA/MIPS and stabilize independent practices.
- ❑ **Target consolidation:** consider separating PBMs from pharmacies and restricting insurer, PBM and private-equity ownership of providers.
- ❑ **Reform PBMs:** standardize pharmacy reimbursement, curb practices that raise costs and protect community pharmacies.
- ❑ **Address hospital prices:** pursue site-neutral Medicare payments and limits on high commercial prices, with rural and safety-net protections.
- ❑ **Expand no-cost care:** provide three primary-care and three behavioral-health visits without cost sharing.
- ❑ **Close the Medicaid coverage gap:** expand low-cost Marketplace coverage in non-expansion states and incentivize Medicaid expansion.
- ❑ **Protect 340B:** prohibit discriminatory insurer/PBM practices while preventing duplicate Medicaid discounts.
- ❑ **Strengthen rural care:** target support to hospitals at risk of closure, with negative margins or high Medicaid burdens.
- ❑ **Expand early intervention:** reduce costs for chronic care, laboratory testing, cancer screening, school mental health and pediatric genomic sequencing.

First Year

- ❑ **Advance universal coverage:** evaluate Medicare for All, public options, Medicare buy-in and a lower eligibility age.
- ❑ **Make telehealth permanent:** remove Medicare geographic/site restrictions and unnecessary in-person behavioral-health requirements.
- ❑ **Reform Medicare Advantage:** reduce overpayments, strengthen oversight and redirect savings to Traditional Medicare.
- ❑ **Expand coverage:** provide continuous Medicaid/CHIP eligibility, consider coverage through age 26 and add home-based Medicare care.
- ❑ **Create a public Part D option:** offer an alternative to private drug plans and PBMs.
- ❑ **Cap family health costs:** consider limiting premiums and out-of-pocket spending to 8% of household income.
- ❑ **Reform long-term care:** make home/community services a Medicaid benefit and explore catastrophic coverage.
- ❑ **Target drug patents:** curb pay-for-delay, patent thickets and product hopping.
- ❑ **Expand women's health:** protect IVF/IUI access and expand maternal, menopause and rural obstetric care.
- ❑ **Build the workforce:** expand nursing, mental-health and direct-care pipelines, loan repayment and rural reimbursement.

Health Care

Legislative Outlook

- FDA user fee reauthorization must be completed by October 1, 2027
  - The package that covers prescription drugs, medical devices, generics and biosimilars could become a vehicle for broader health legislation
- Medicare physician payment reform has bipartisan momentum around stabilizing reimbursement and addressing budget neutrality and MACRA
  - The Provider Reimbursement Stability Act led by Reps. Suozzi (D-NY) and Murphy (R-NC) would limit Medicare payment volatility by raising the budget neutrality threshold and capping annual conversion factor swings at 2.5%, although its roughly $5 billion cost could complicate enactment
- Surprise billing reform could target rising arbitration costs by keeping ineligible claims out of the No Surprises Act dispute resolution process
  - On November 2, House Energy & Commerce leaders Guthrie and Pallone asked CBO to examine the No Surprises Act's effect on health-insurance premiums; Pallone has also introduced the Lower Premiums, Faster Payments Act, which would eliminate the existing arbitration process

Health Care

Legislative Outlook

- Hospital price transparency reforms could strengthen disclosure and enforcement, including cash and negotiated prices, HHS monitoring and penalties for noncompliance
- Additional PBM restrictions remain possible, including renewed efforts to prohibit Medicaid spread pricing (Crapo-Wyden) following Congress's 2026 action
- 340B reform could return to the bipartisan agenda, with potential changes to patient eligibility, hospital and affiliate requirements, and program oversight
  - The bipartisan group of lawmakers pushing various reforms to the program remains mostly intact after the election
- Lawmakers could renew efforts to extend the $35 monthly insulin cap beyond Medicare to patients with commercial insurance; however, several champions — Sens. Shaheen (NH) and Collins (ME) and Rep. DeGette (CO) — will not serve in the 120th Congress
- On the horizon: the FY2027 mandatory sequester will expand to Medicare on April 1, 2027, imposing a 2% Medicare payment reduction and approximately $38.2 billion in total federal mandatory-spending cuts
  - Congress could delay the application as it has done previously

Health Care

Oversight

- House Democrats are planning aggressive oversight, particularly if divided government limits major health legislation
- Trump Administration's drug pricing agreements likely to face scrutiny over MFN deal terms, exemptions and whether they reduce patient or government costs
- HHS and MAHA oversight likely to focus on vaccines, public health recommendations and agency decision-making, including actions by Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and other political appointees
- Vaccine investigations could expand under Democratic subpoena authority, building on inquiries into hepatitis B and childhood vaccination recommendations
- Medical research oversight could target canceled or withheld grants, political influence over scientific priorities and NIH/AHRQ funding
- FDA independence could become both an oversight and legislative issue, with disputes over scientific review and political influence affecting must-pass user-fee negotiations
- CMS could face oversight of the 2025 OBBBA's effects, particularly reductions in coverage and financial pressure on providers
- At least 15-20 new Democrats representing rural states and districts were elected, so a focus on health care access in these areas especially with the rise of medical deserts, could be considered; implementation of the Administration's Rural Health Transformation Program may be a target

Judiciary

Committees

- Rep. Raskin (D-MD) is expected to chair House Judiciary
  - Rep. Jordan (R-OH) will not seek a waiver to stay on as the top Republican, with several Members running to succeed him
- Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) is expected to take the Judiciary gavel, giving Democrats subpoena power in both chambers; Senator Lee (R-UT) will replace Senator Grassley (R-IA), who is term-limited as Ranking Member

Oversight Agenda

- Expect Democrats to reissue subpoenas when the 120th Congress convenes and to call senior DOJ and FBI officials, including FBI Director Patel, to testify
  - Senate Judiciary members Sens. Schiff (D-CA), Whitehouse (D-RI) and Blumenthal (D-CT) have helped lead planning for House and Senate investigations to run in coordination
- Democrats will press DOJ on its handling of the Epstein files and on compliance with the Oversight Committee's standing subpoena
  - Incoming House Oversight Chair Garcia (D-CA), who has said "the DOJ cannot be trusted," argues DOJ has not complied with the subpoena or with the Epstein Files Transparency Act

Judiciary

- Democrats plan broad investigations into what they describe as widespread corruption and self-dealing tied to the Administration
  - Raskin has signaled a focus on corporate America and how complicit companies have been, along with universities and law firms that cooperated with the Trump Administration
  - Raskin has also raised the White House ballroom project as an oversight target
  - Expect efforts to recover funds where misconduct is found, using hearings, subpoenas, criminal referrals and appropriations riders, since Congress cannot prosecute
- Parts of the caucus will want to impeach President Trump and/or senior administration officials, though party leaders have sought to keep impeachment from becoming a central midterm issue
- Democrats expect the White House to stonewall and invoke executive privilege, which is likely to push subpoena fights into the courts

Judiciary

- Expect investigations in both chambers into DHS and ICE enforcement and detention practices
  - Expect a focus on the Minneapolis enforcement surge, including the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by federal agents, and on the deployment of federal agents in DC
- Democrats plan to scrutinize how DHS is spending the large increases for immigration enforcement in the two reconciliation laws
  - DHS contract spending topped $50 billion through the third quarter of fiscal 2026, 62% above total fiscal 2025 levels
- Raskin has said Democrats will seek new restrictions on gifts to Supreme Court justices and a binding ethics code for all nine justices — this has also been a longtime priority of incoming Senate Judiciary Chair Whitehouse
  - The push follows reporting on gifts and travel accepted by justices
  - Democrats want a holistic, enforceable ethics code that applies to the whole Court
  - Some Republicans argue Congress should not legislate new restrictions because the justices, as a separate branch, should police themselves

Judiciary

Policy Outlook

- Confirmations are expected to slow sharply in the Democratic Senate
  - Established nominees may still advance, but Trump loyalists picked for key agencies and the courts are likely to be blocked
  - A Supreme Court vacancy is a possibility, with four justices in their seventies
  - Senate Democrats are expected to block a Trump nominee to the Court, which makes any lame duck vacancy a flashpoint before the gavel changes hands
- FISA Section 702 lapsed on June 12th, and reauthorization is still one of the largest pieces of unfinished Judiciary business
  - The reauthorization fight was tied up in the President's push to attach the SAVE America Act and in the stalled nomination for Director of National Intelligence
  - Democrats will press for added privacy and oversight protections in any reauthorization they take up in the 120th Congress
- Democrats are expected to use legislation and appropriations riders to push for limits on immigration enforcement tactics and detention
  - Bills that clear both chambers still face a presidential veto, and Democrats almost certainly cannot override one
- Expect votes on Judiciary bills meant to put Republicans on the record defending unpopular policies and agency actions, even where enactment is unlikely

Agriculture

Committee Leadership

- Democrats – Reps. Shontel Brown (OH) and Jim Costa (CA) are vying for the top spot
  - Brown would seek a rewrite of the Farm Bill, focusing on lowering food-system costs, protecting SNAP, expanding access to USDA programs, and reconnecting rural, urban, producer, consumer, and conservation interests.
  - Costa would focus on strengthening the farm safety net and agricultural markets, restoring SNAP, expanding trade opportunities, and holding USDA accountable.
  - Current top Republican, GT Thompson (PA) is term-limited and is seeking a waiver; Reps. Austin Scott (GA) and Tracy Mann (KS) are seeking to succeed him
- Sen. Bennet (D-CO) will become the Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee; his priorities:
  - Strengthen the producer safety net, improve farm profitability, expand export opportunities, and address rising input costs and trade uncertainty
  - Prioritize water availability, drought and wildfire resilience, soil health, forestry, and robust funding for EQIP and CSP.
  - Protect SNAP, strengthen specialty-crop assistance, and support rural communities

Agriculture

Policy & Oversight

- The election results raise the question of whether Democrats will work with Republicans in the lame duck to get a five-year farm bill passed, or wait until they have significantly more leverage next year
  - Republicans appear open to a delay of the new SNAP cost share requirements (Democrats want 2-year; GOP offered 1-year) to get a Farm bill passed this year, but given the Democratic wave, which included the election of numerous Democrats from rural districts and states, Democrats will want stronger guarantees and changes to SNAP
  - Democrats will likely also seek stronger agreements on conservation, climate resilience, specialty crops, and rural development
  - With the retirements of House and Senate top Dems Craig (MN) and Klobuchar (MN), year-round E15 may also be open to negotiation
- Expect oversight and efforts to address the effect of the Administration's tariffs on the entire agriculture sector, farm economy generally (commodity prices, diesel prices), USDA reorganization plans, and the Administration's responses to animal disease outbreaks
- Congress may need to provide disaster assistance as a result of producer losses from weather, animal disease (*e.g.*, screwworm) or other emergencies that regularly create pressure for supplemental/ad hoc assistance

Foreign Policy

Committees

- Rep. Meeks (D-NY) is expected to chair the Foreign Affairs Committee, with Rep. Mast (R-FL) as ranking member
- Rep. Smith (D-WA) is expected to chair Armed Services, with Rep. Rogers (R-AL) seeking a waiver to serve as ranking member
- In the Senate, Sen. Coons (D-DE) will chair Foreign Relations, with Sen. Risch (R-ID) as ranking member, and Sen. Reed (D-RI) will chair Armed Services, with Sen. Wicker (R-MS) as ranking member

Policy Priorities

- Expect hearings on the Iran war's cost and strategy, along with more war powers and funding fights
  - Democrats are likely to highlight the war's unpopularity at home and its continued toll on U.S. service members
  - Expect scrutiny of ballooning costs and the drawdown of U.S. weapons stockpiles, along with questions about military readiness
  - President Trump is expected to veto any war powers resolution that reaches his desk; overriding a veto requires two-thirds of each chamber, a tough bar to clear, so the votes mainly put members on the record
  - Continued attacks on U.S. allies in the region and the strain on oil and gas pipeline infrastructure are likely to remain central to the debate

Foreign Policy

- Aid to Israel has become a heated issue in Congress
  - Almost half of House Democrats voted in July to cut $3.3 billion in aid to Israel; the measure failed 104-314
  - Most Senate Democrats voted in April to block arms sales (failed 40-59 and 36-63); more arms sale votes are likely amid a growing debate over aid
  - Many Senate Democrats want to sanction facilitators of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, and the incoming SFRC chair is interested in taking up that legislation
  - Polling also suggests that Democratic support in Congress for Israel is waning, exacerbated by progressives who made U.S.-Israel relations a key campaign issue
- Democrats are likely to push for the Ukraine Support Act and an IG review of Starlink
- Expect Democrats to highlight growing strains with NATO and the EU, and the administration's expansionist rhetoric on Greenland, the Arctic and elsewhere
- China remains one of the few areas of bipartisan agreement in Congress, and both parties are likely to keep up pressure on Beijing
  - Democrats are also likely to push for tighter export controls and limits on U.S. investment in Chinese technology, and to question whether the administration's China policy is consistent

Foreign Policy

- U.S. forces captured Maduro in Venezuela on January 3, 2026; the U.S. then recognized interim President Rodríguez, restored relations and eased some sanctions
  - Vice President Vance broke a tie to block a Senate war powers resolution
  - Expect Democrats to scrutinize the deals the Administration is cutting with the new government
  - Expect scrutiny of U.S. oil and petroleum interests in Venezuela, including investments in its oil infrastructure and plans for its reserves
- Cuba sanctions have been expanded, oil from Venezuela curbed, and the President again floated military action in October
  - HFAC Democrats introduced a Cuba war powers resolution
  - Democrats are likely to challenge the administration’s pursuit of military action and regime change
  - Expect scrutiny of the embargo, the expanded sanctions and the humanitarian crisis on the island

Foreign Policy

Oversight Agenda

- Expect Democrats in both chambers to make foreign aid rescissions, including the dismantling of USAID and the 2025 foreign aid cuts, a top oversight priority
  - USAID stopped carrying out foreign aid as of July 1, 2025, and GAO found it terminated about 6,780 of 7,510 awards
  - Expect hearings and efforts to restore funding
  - HASC Democrats may revive an Oversight and Investigations subcommittee
- Expect scrutiny of presidential authority, including State's foreign military financing reprogramming, war powers and impoundment

Employment and Workforce

Committee Leadership

- Current House Education & Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) is likely to take the gavel from current Chair Walberg (R-MI), but he faces challenges from Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT) and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
- Senator Sanders (I-VT) will become chair; on the GOP side, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has seniority, but he could pass — Murkowski (R-AK) and Hawley (R-MO) are next in line

Policy Outlook

- Expect efforts to modernize and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which underpins the nation's public workforce system, but hasn't been updated since its passage in 2014
  - In total, 18 bills have been introduced during the 119th Congress, by both Republicans and Democrats, to update, reauthorize, or otherwise amend WIOA
  - Bills such as Rep. Walberg's (R-MI) A Stronger Workforce for America Act, and the Lifelong Learning Act (Reps. Davis (D-NC) and Finstad (R-MN)) direct resources to assist displaced workers with adjusting to changes in the labor market
- A Democratic majority is likely to advance legislation that empowers workers and unions and protects collective bargaining rights
  - Following President Trump's executive order stripping collective bargaining rights from federal employees, a bipartisan coalition pushed the Protect America's Workforce Act through the House to restore union protections

Employment and Workforce

- Congressional Democrats are championing the Restoring Justice for Workers Act, led by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Nadler (D-NY), to eliminate forced pre-dispute arbitration agreements and collective-action waivers, restoring workers' rights to sue employers in open court

- House Education and Workforce Committee Ranking Member Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) announced plans to advance the Direct Creation, Advancement, and Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act to heavily fund recruitment and training infrastructures for the direct care industry, which is projected to demand over 886,000 new jobs by 2035
- Efforts are underway to prepare workers and businesses for the adverse impact AI may pose to the labor force
  - Bills such as Sen. Wyden's Stability and Opportunity for Workers Act would assist workers displaced by economic downturns and labor market transformations, such as disruptions caused by AI, by strengthening the federal-state unemployment insurance system and expanding coverage to more categories of workers
- Expect a renewed push for increasing the federal minimum wage as new left-wing lawmakers expand the numbers of progressives in Congress
  - Sen. Murphy's (D-CT) Living Wage For All Act, introduced in June, outlines a two-track phase-in plan to raise the minimum wage to $25 for most employers gradually between 2032 and 2039
  - It has support from both progressives and moderates

Employment and Workforce

Oversight

- House Democrats are likely to launch investigations into the Department of Government Efficiency's firing of thousands of federal employees during the first months of the Trump Administration
  - A Federal judge found that the Office of Personnel Management unlawfully granted the Department of Government Efficiency access to sensitive federal personnel data
  - Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) has pledged to investigate DOGE's taxpayer savings claims and its dismantling of large parts of the federal bureaucracy
- Congress will also have to contend with President Trump's proposed pay freeze for most federal workers
  - Over 100 lawmakers, led by Rep. James Walkinshaw (D-VA) and Sen. Van Hollen (D-MD), urged House and Senate leaders to override President Trump's plan by passing the FAIR Act
  - The Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act (S.126 / H.R.7480) modifies pay rates for federal employees in 2026
  - Specifically, the bill increases rates under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.3% and increases locality pay by 1%

Looking Ahead

Kelley Drye

Key Questions

- How much progress can we expect during the lame duck with Democrats' massive success in the midterms? Will departing Members show up for votes?
- On what issues might President Trump cooperate with Congressional Democrats?
- How will Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Jeffries build consensus among their various ideological factions?
- With some calling the midterms a "near-extinction level event," how do Republicans regroup? How do the House Leadership elections shake out?
- Will there be a cabinet shakeup?
- Do Congressional Republicans continue to move in lockstep with the Trump Administration?
- Given Democrats' success in red states, how do both parties respond leading up to 2028?
- Which Members of Congress might run for President, and how do those dynamics impact legislating?
- Do the election results have implications for future mid-cycle redistricting?
- Was the enormous amount of political spending overwhelmed by the national political mood? What does this portend going forward?

Senators Up for Re-Election 2028

Democrats

Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
Sherrod Brown (D-OH) (full term)
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
John Fetterman (D-PA)
Maggie Hassan (D-NH)
Mark Kelly (D-AZ)
Patty Murray (D-WA)
Alex Padilla (D-CA)
Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Charles Schumer (D-NY)
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Raphael Warnock (D-GA)
Peter Welch (D-VT)
Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Republicans

John Boozman (R-AR)
Katie Britt (R-AL)
Ted Budd (R-NC)
Mike Crapo (R-ID)
Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
Kevin Hern (R-OK) (full term)
John Hoeven (R-ND)
Ron Johnson (R-WI)
John Kennedy (R-LA)
James Lankford (R-OK)
Mike Lee (R-UT)
Ashley Moody (R-FL)
Jerry Moran (R-KS)
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Rand Paul (R-KY)
Eric Schmitt (R-MO)
Tim Scott (R-SC)
John Thune (R-SD)
Todd Young (R-IN)

In **Minnesota**, Governor-elect Klobuchar (D) will appoint a successor with a special election in 2027.

In **Tennessee**, Governor-elect Blackburn (R) will appoint a successor with a special election in 2028.

Government Relations and Public Policy Team



Dustin Painter
Partner, Co-Chair
Phone: (202) 342-8875
dpainter@kelleydrye.com



Dana Wood
Director, Co-Chair
Phone: (202) 342-8608
dwood@kelleydrye.com

Thomas Cohen, Partner

Maggie Crosswy, Advisor

Wayne D'Angelo, Partner

David Frulla, Partner

Nick Giordano, Senior Advisor

Carmen Guzman, Senior Advisor

John Herrmann III, Partner

Jeff Hunter, Partner

Joshua Kagan, Special Counsel

Chris Lethert, Practice Coordinator

Jennifer McCadney, Partner

Scott McGee, Advisor

Paul Rosenthal, Partner

Laurie Rubiner, Senior Counsel

Paul Singer, Partner

Nathan Vallejo, Legal Assistant

Laura Riposo VanDruff, Partner

Jayme White, Senior International Trade Advisor