



U.S. ELECTIONS ANALYSIS 2020

INSIGHTS FOR COUNTIES FROM THE 2020 ELECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2020 | www.NACo.org



U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

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U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

INTRODUCTION: 2020 ELECTIONS RESULT IN NEW PRESIDENT, DIVIDED 117TH CONGRESS

Presidential election: President-elect Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, following a close, contested and highly contentious race against incumbent President Donald Trump. The historic race that flipped the White House for the next four years saw not only the first woman vice president, but also the first female vice president of color. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris prepare to assume their respective roles on January 20, 2021. Despite the many obstacles created by COVID-19 and the increasingly tense political environment that has loomed over 2020, this year's elections had among the largest voter turnout in American history, with a projected rate of just over 66.5 percent of eligible, voting-aged U.S. citizens casting their ballots – the highest participation percentage in over one hundred years. Many attribute this record number to increased access to early voting and mail-in ballots, with many states changing their laws to allow for more flexible voting options as a result of the coronavirus.

Congress: Further outcomes of the 2020 elections resulted in – for now – the continuation of a divided Legislative Branch that will resume when new members are sworn into the 117th Congress in January. In the U.S. Senate, Democrats were successful in picking up a net gain of one seat, increasing their count to 48. However, in Georgia, both U.S. Senate seats will head to a runoff in January after none of the multiple candidates on the ballot were able to garner 50 percent of the vote, as is required by state law. Until then, Senators David Perdue (R-Ga.) and Kelly Loeffler (R-Ga.) will continue to

serve – allowing Republicans to keep control of the upper chamber with a 52-48 edge. If Democrats, who picked up two seats in Arizona and Colorado, win both races in Georgia, the Senate will be split 50-50 with Democrats controlling the chamber with the vote of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Democrats retained their majority, though – despite projections of a larger victory – Republicans narrowed the margin between the two parties, picking up a net 9 seats as of November 17. While better positioned than before with a Democratic president, the impact of the party's majority in the lower chamber will continue to be tempered by their now even slimmer majority and continued Republican control of the Senate if the Georgia runoffs do not flip both Senate seats.

Governorships: At the state level, the political makeup of governorships saw little change, with only one state – Montana – flipping from blue to red. Of the eleven races, incumbents ran for reelection in all but two, with each incumbent who ran retaining office. Heading into 2020, Republicans held the edge in governorships at 26-24. As a result of the recent elections, the GOP was able to slightly increase their majority to 27-23.

State Legislatures: State legislatures followed mostly the same trend as the gubernatorial elections, with little change occurring in terms of parties in control. Following the 2020 election, the GOP now holds supermajorities in 23 states, compared to Democrats' 15. In twelve states, one party holds a position of executive or legislative authority within a state, while the

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INTRODUCTION: 2020 ELECTIONS RESULT IN NEW PRESIDENT, DIVIDED 117TH CONGRESS

other party holds the remaining two. Minnesota is the only state legislative chamber that is divided, where its state senate chamber is ruled by one party and state house by another. The Republican hold on state legislatures is sure to continue once 2020 Census data is released next year and redistricting begins, with the state majority party in control of the process. Unless successfully contested in the courts, these new districts will remain in place until the next census in 2030.

Looking Ahead: Following his reelection this month, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) signaled optimism around a fifth COVID-19 relief package that could be completed before the end of the year. It is unclear what Senate Republicans are willing to include, however, with state and local funding continuing to be among the many sticking points holding up negotiations between the two parties. Regardless of these issues, Congress will have to deal with the current Continuing Resolution (CR) when it expires on December 11 by enacting another CR, or reaching a deal on appropriations that would fund the government through FY 2021. For context, it took lawmakers nearly three months to reach a final deal on FY 2020 appropriations. In addition to appropriations, lawmakers in the last days of the 116th Congress could address funding for water resource projects and policies to prevent surprise medical billing, among a limited number of other legislative priorities.



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**ELECTION OVERVIEW
& HISTORICAL TRENDS**





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WHAT WAS AT STAKE:

DEMOCRATS SEEK TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE U.S. HOUSE, GOP ATTEMPTS TO MAINTAIN U.S. SENATE MAJORITY

THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION:

DEMOCRATS MAINTAIN REDUCED HOUSE CONTROL, GOP HOLDS SLIM SENATE MAJORITY PENDING GEORGIA RUNOFFS

FEDERAL

ALL 435 HOUSE SEATS

197 REPUBLICAN 232 DEMOCRATIC

1 LIBERTARIAN

**FOUR HOUSE SEATS WERE VACANT HEADING INTO THE ELECTIONS.*

35 U.S. SENATE SEATS

10 DEMOCRATIC 25 REPUBLICAN

**TWO INDEPENDENTS CAUCUS WITH DEMOCRATS.*

DEMOCRATS **RETAIN** CONTROL OF THE

U.S. HOUSE AT 219-207*,

DESPITE A NET GAIN OF 9 SEATS BY REPUBLICANS

**NINE RACES REMAIN UNCALLED AS OF 11/17/20.*

REPUBLICANS **MAINTAIN** CONTROL OF THE SENATE AT 50-48*

**ULTIMATE CONTROL OF THE SENATE WILL BE DECIDED BY GEORGIA'S TWO RUNOFFS IN JANUARY 2021. SENATOR HARRIS WILL BE SWORN IN AS VICE PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 20TH, LEAVING HER SEAT VACANT UNTIL FILLED BY THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA.*

STATE

86 STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS*

59 REPUBLICAN 39 DEMOCRATIC

**86 OF 98 PARTISAN STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS WERE UP FOR REELECTION IN 5,876 RACES.*

11 GOVERNORSHIPS

8 REPUBLICAN 3 DEMOCRATIC

STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS

61 REPUBLICAN 37 DEMOCRATIC (-2)

**NEBRASKA HAS A NON-PARTISAN, UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE.*

REPUBLICANS **MAINTAIN** CONTROL OVER MAJORITY OF GOVERNORSHIPS AT 27-23

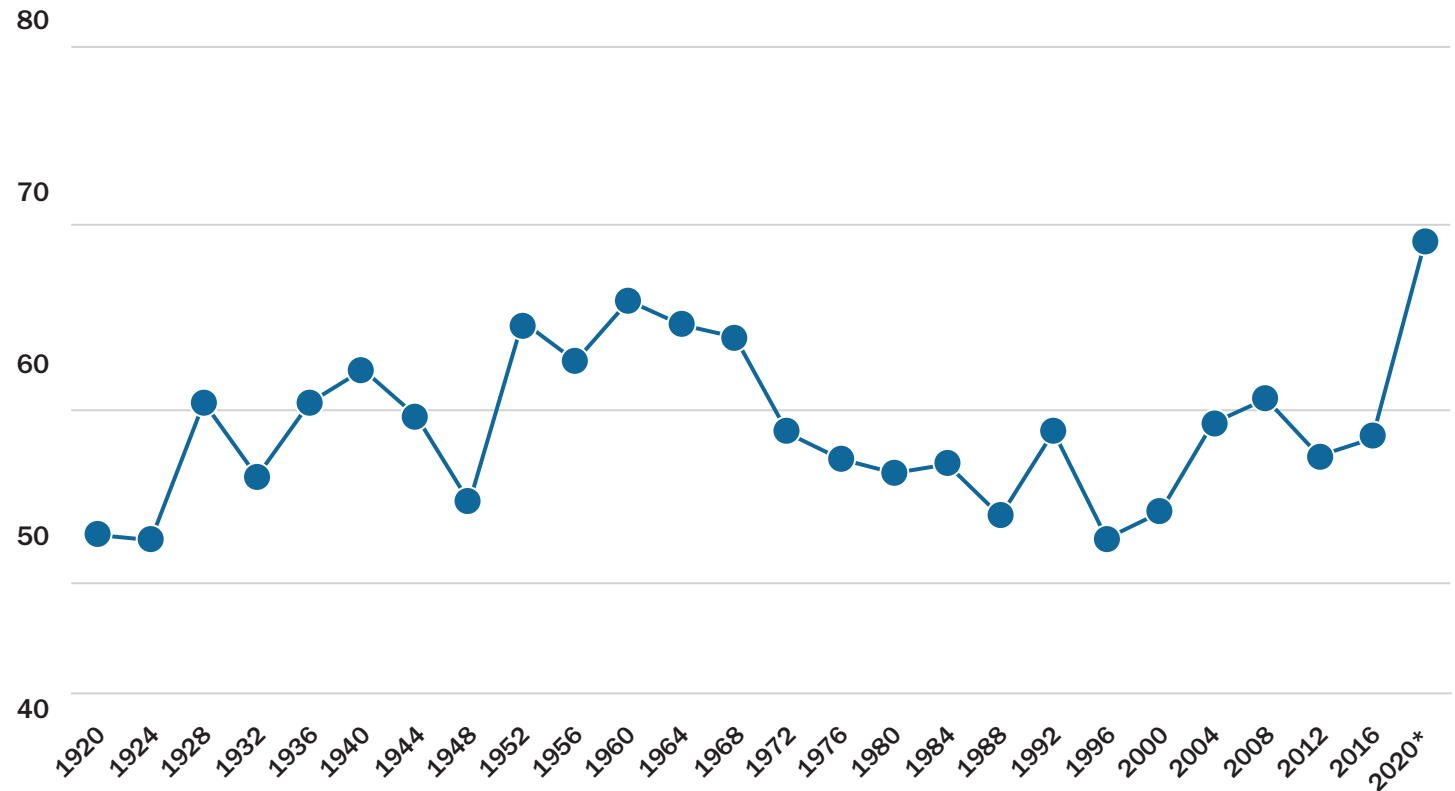


POST-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: HISTORIC TURNOUT RATES

TURNOUT = PERCENTAGE OF THE VOTING AGE POPULATION WHO ACTUALLY VOTED

U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SAW A HISTORIC TURNOUT AMONG ELIGIBLE, VOTING-AGED CITIZENS AT OVER 66 PERCENT, ROUGHLY 12 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND **THE HIGHEST TURNOUT IN OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS.**



*Projected



ELECTION HISTORY

HISTORIC CONTROL OF U.S. HOUSE AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Enthusiasm for President-elect Biden did not carry over to the House where, though Democrats were able to maintain their majority, Republicans had a net gain of nine seats as of November 17, 2020, with just under a dozen races still waiting to be called. This year's U.S. House general elections are projected to have one of the weakest coattail effects since JFK in 1960.

Year	Sitting President	President's Party	Net Gain/Loss of President's Party	
			House	Senate
1932	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Democratic	(+) 90	(+) 9
1936			(+) 12	(+) 7
1940			(+) 7	(-) 3
1944			(+) 24	(-) 2
1948	Harry S. Truman	Democratic	(+) 75	(+) 9
1952	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Republican	(+) 22	(+) 1
1956			(-) 2	(-) 1
1960	John F. Kennedy	Democratic	(-) 22	(+) 2
1964	Lyndon B. Johnson	Democratic	(+) 37	(+) 1
1968	Richard Nixon	Republican	(+) 5	(+) 6
1972			(+) 12	(-) 2
1976	Jimmy Carter	Democratic	(+) 1	0
1980	Ronald Reagan	Republican	(+) 34	(-) 2
1984			(+) 14	0
1988	George H. W. Bush	Republican	(-) 2	0
1992	Bill Clinton	Democratic	(-) 10	0
1996			(-) 9	(-) 2

Year	Sitting President	President's Party	Net Gain/Loss of President's Party	
			House	Senate
2000	George W. Bush	Republican	(-) 3	(-) 4
2004			(+) 3	(+) 4
2008	Barack Obama	Democratic	(+) 23	(+) 8
2012			(+) 8	(+) 1
2016	Donald Trump	Republican	(-) 6	(-) 2
2020	Joe Biden	Democratic	(-) 9*	(+) 1

*AS OF 11/17/20, NINE RACES REMAIN UNCALLED

(Source: [American Presidency Project](#), November 2020)

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**COUNTY
CONNECTIONS IN THE
117TH CONGRESS**

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
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COUNTY CONNECTIONS

COUNTY OFFICIALS IN THE WHITE HOUSE



FORMER COUNTY OFFICIALS

President-elect Joe Biden

New Castle, DE; Councilmember

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris

San Francisco, CA; District Attorney

On January 20, 2021, President-elect Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, alongside his running mate, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Both the incoming President and Vice President formerly served as county elected officials.



U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

COUNTY OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. SENATE

117TH CONGRESS

Name	State	County	County Connection
Dianne Feinstein (D)	CA	San Francisco	Supervisor
Chris Coons (D)	DE	New Castle	Council President/County Executive
Joni Ernst (R)	IA	Montgomery	Auditor
James E. Risch (R)	ID	Ada	County Prosecutor
Todd Young (R)	IN	Orange	Deputy County Prosecutor
Mitch McConnell (R)	KY	Jefferson	County Judge-Executive
Debbie Stabenow (D)	MI	Ingham	Commissioner Chair
Amy Klobuchar (D)	MN	Hennepin	County Attorney
Roy Blunt (R)	MO	Greene	Clerk
Roger Wicker (R)	MS	Lee	County Public Defender
Catherine Cortez Masto (D)	NV	Clark	Assistant County Manager
Lindsey Graham (R)	SC	Oconee	County Assistant Attorney
Tim Scott (R)	SC	Charleston	Council Chairman
Patrick J. Leahy (D)	VT	Chittenden	County Attorney
Tammy Baldwin (D)	WI	Dane	Supervisor



U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

COUNTY OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

117TH CONGRESS

Name	State	County	County Connection	Name	State	County	County Connection
Jerry Carl (R)	AL	Mobile	Council President	Randy Feenstra (R)	IA	Sioux	Treasurer
Mike Rogers (R)	AL	Calhoun	Commissioner	Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (D)	IL	Cook	Commissioner
Mo Brooks (R)	AL	Madison	District Attorney	Mike Quigley (D)	IL	Cook	Commissioner
David Schweikert (R)	AZ	Maricopa	Treasurer	Danny K. Davis (D)	IL	Cook	Commissioner
Mark DeSaulnier (D)	CA	Contra Costa	Supervisor	Mike Bost (R)	IL	Jackson	Commissioner
Jackie Speier (D)	CA	San Mateo	Supervisor	Lauren Underwood (D)	IL	DuPage	County Board Member
Eric Swalwell (D)	CA	Alameda	Deputy District Attorney	Mary Miller (R)	IL	Madison	Treasurer
Anna G. Eshoo (D)	CA	San Mateo	Supervisor	Adam Kinzinger (R)	IL	McLean	County Board Member
Zoe Lofgren (D)	CA	Santa Clara	Supervisor	Jim Banks (R)	IN	Whitley	Councilmember
Jimmy Panetta (D)	CA	Alameda	County Prosecutor	Jim Baird (R)	IN	Putnam	Commissioner
Salud Carbajal (D)	CA	Santa Barbara	Supervisor	André Carson (D)	IN	Indianapolis-Marion	City- County Council
Lou Correa (D)	CA	Orange	Supervisor	Thomas Massie (R)	KY	Lewis	Judge Executive
Ken Buck (R)	CO	Weld	District Attorney	Harold Rogers (R)	KY	Pulaski-Rockcastle	Commonwealth Attorney
John Rutherford (R)	FL	Jacksonville-Duval	Sheriff	William R. Keating (D)	MA	Norfolk	County District Attorney
Kathy Castor (D)	FL	Hillsborough	Commissioner	C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D)	MD	Baltimore	County Executive
Alcee L. Hastings (D)	FL	Broward	County Circuit Court Judge	Pete Stauber (R)	MN	St. Louis	Commissioner
Carlos Gimenez (R)	FL	Miami-Dade	Mayor	Michael Guest (R)	MS	Madison	County Prosecutor
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr. (D)	GA	DeKalb	Commissioner	Donald M. Payne Jr. (D)	NJ	Essex	Freeholder
Kaiali'i Kahele (D)	HI	Honolulu	Council Member	Thomas Suozzi (D)	NY	Nassau	County Executive



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COUNTY CONNECTIONS

COUNTY OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

117TH CONGRESS

Name	State	County	County Connection	Name	State	County	County Connection
Gregory W. Meeks (D)	NY	Queens	Assistant County District Attorney	Troy Nehls (R)	TX	Fort Bend	Sheriff
Ritchie Torres (D)	NY	New York City	Councilmember	John R. Carter (R)	TX	Williamson	District Court Judge
Paul Tonko (D)	NY	Montgomery	Supervisor Chairman	Robert J. Wittman (R)	VA	Westmoreland	Supervisor
Brian Higgins (D)	NY	Erie	Buffalo Common Council	Bob Good (R)	VA	Campbell	Supervisor
Chris Jacobs (R)	NY	Erie	County Clerk	Gerald E. Connolly (D)	VA	Fairfax	Supervisor
Steve Chabot (R)	OH	Hamilton	Commissioner	Rick Larsen (D)	WA	Snohomish	Council Member
Joyce Beatty (D)	OH	Montgomery	Director of Health and Human Services	Mark Pocan (D)	WI	Dane	Supervisor
Robert E. Latta (R)	OH	Wood	Commissioner	Ron Kind (D)	WI	La Crosse	Assistant State Prosecutor
David P. Joyce (R)	OH	Geauga	County Prosecutor	<i>New members are shown in bold.</i>			
Earl Blumenauer (D)	OR	Multnomah	Commissioner				
Peter A. DeFazio (D)	OR	Lane	Commissioner				
Kurt Schrader (D)	OR	Clackamas	Planning Commissioner				
Tom Rice (R)	SC	Horry	Council Chairman				
Tim Burchett (R)	TN	Knox	Mayor				
Steve Cohen (D)	TN	Shelby	Commissioner				
Louie Gohmert (R)	TX	Smith	County District Court Judge				
Ron Wright (R)	TX	Tarrant	Tax Assessor				
Al Green (D)	TX	Harris	Justice of the Peace				
Veronica Escobar (D)	TX	El Paso	Judge Executive				

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SENATE RACES

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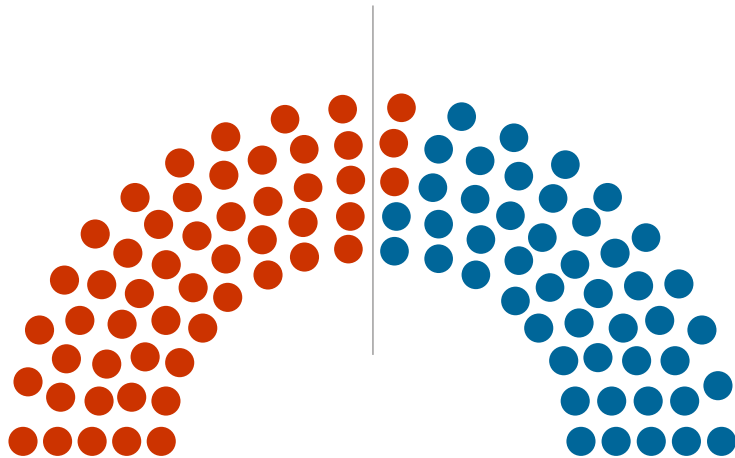


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U.S. SENATE RACES

116TH CONGRESS: 2019 - 2020 U.S. SENATE

- Republicans held a **53-47** majority.

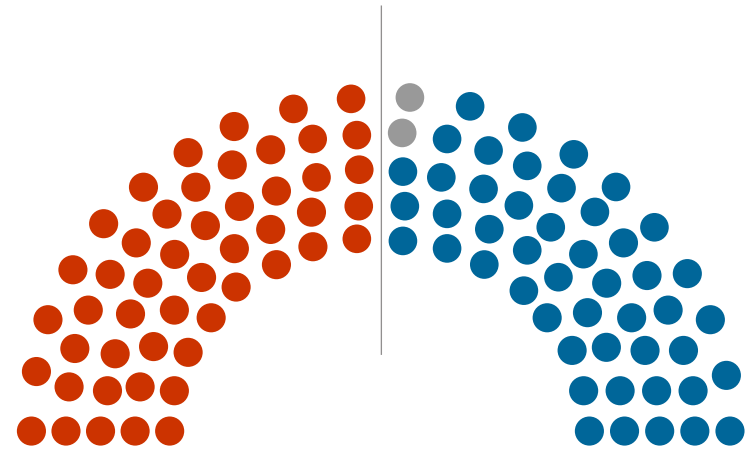


TWO INDEPENDENTS CAUCUS WITH DEMOCRATS

REPUBLICANS RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE SENATE

117TH CONGRESS: 2021 - 2022 U.S. SENATE

- Republicans hold a **50-48*** majority.



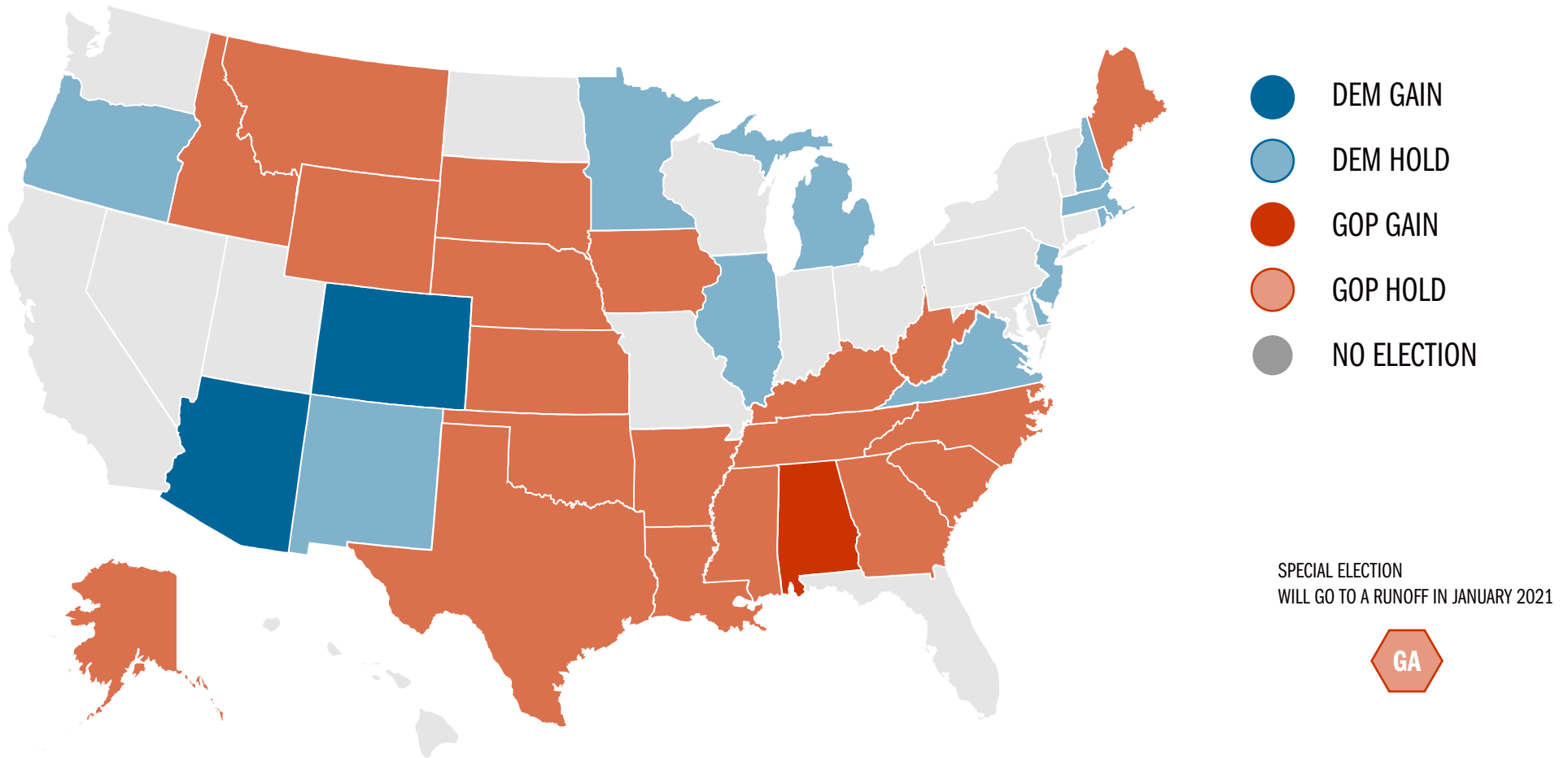
**ULTIMATE CONTROL OF THE SENATE WILL BE DECIDED BY GEORGIA'S TWO RUNOFFS IN JANUARY 2021. SENATOR HARRIS WILL BE SWORN IN AS VICE PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 20TH, LEAVING HER SEAT VACANT UNTIL FILLED BY THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA.*



U.S. SENATE RACES

REPUBLICANS RETAIN SENATE MAJORITY AT 50-48, ULTIMATE CONTROL TO BE DECIDED IN JANUARY 2021

Ultimate control of the Senate in the 117th Congress will be decided by Georgia’s January runoffs. If Democrats are successful in both, they will have the edge in the Senate due to the vote of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Additionally, Vice President-elect Harris’ departure from the U.S. Senate will create a vacancy in January; however, this will not result in a partisan change of the seat, as California Governor Gavin Newsom (D) will be in charge of appointing her successor.





U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS

U.S. SENATE RACES

KEY

- ▲ Democrat Gain
- ▲ Republican Gain
- Democrat Hold
- Republican Hold

	State	Incumbent	Challenger(s)	Result
▲	AL	Sen. Doug Jones (D)	Tommy Tuberville (R)	Tommy Tuberville (R)
●	AK	Sen. Dan Sullivan (R)	Al Gross (D)	Sen. Dan Sullivan (R)
▲	AZ	<i>Sen. Martha McSally (R)</i>	<i>Mark Kelly (D)</i>	Mark Kelly (D)
●	AR	Sen. Tom Cotton (R)	Ricky Harrington (I)	Sen. Tom Cotton (R)
▲	CO	Sen. Cory Gardner (R)	(Former) Gov. John Hickenlooper (D)	(Former) Gov. John Hickenlooper (D)
●	DE	Sen. Chris Coons (D)	Lauren Witzke (R)	Sen. Chris Coons (D)
●	GA*	Sen. David Perdue (R)	John Ossoff (D)	Sen. David Perdue (R)
●	GA*	<i>Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R)</i>	<i>Raphael Warnock (D)</i>	Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R)
●	ID	Sen. Jim Risch (R)	Paulette Jordan (D)	Sen. Jim Risch (R)
●	IL	Sen. Dick Durbin (D)	Mark Curran (R)	Sen. Dick Durbin (D)
●	IA	Sen. Joni Ernst (R)	Theresa Greenfield (D)	Sen. Joni Ernst (R)
●	KS	<i>Sen. Pat Roberts (R)</i>	Barbara Bollier (D)	Rep. Roger Marshall (R)
			Rep. Roger Marshall (R)	
●	KY	Sen. Mitch McConnell (R)	Amy McGrath (D)	Sen. Mitch McConnell (R)
●	LA	Sen. Bill Cassidy (R)	Adrian Perkins (D)	Sen. Bill Cassidy (R)
●	ME	Sen. Susan Collins (R)	Sara Gideon (D)	Sen. Susan Collins (R)

*Runoff in January 2021

Retiring

Special election



U.S. SENATE RACES

2020 SENATE ELECTION RESULTS

	State	Incumbent	Challenger(s)	Result
●	MA	Sen. Ed Markey (D)	Kevin O'Connor (R)	Sen. Ed Markey (D)
●	MI	Sen. Gary Peters (D)	John James (R)	Sen. Gary Peters (D)
●	MN	Sen. Tina Smith (D)	Jason Lewis (R)	Sen. Tina Smith (D)
●	MS	Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)	Mike Espy (D)	Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)
●	MT	Sen. Steve Daines (R)	Steve Bullock (D)	Sen. Steve Daines (R)
●	NE	Sen. Ben Sasse (R)	Chris Janicek (D)	Sen. Ben Sasse (R)
●	NH	Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D)	Corky Messner (R)	Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D)
●	NJ	Sen. Cory Booker (D)	Rik Mehta (R)	Sen. Cory Booker (D)
●	NM	Sen. Tom Udall (D)	Mark Ronchetti (R)	Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D)
			Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D)	
●	NC	Sen. Thom Tillis (R)	Cal Cunningham (D)	Sen. Thom Tillis (R)
●	OK	Sen. Jim Inhofe (R)	Abby Broyles (D)	Sen. Jim Inhofe (R)
●	OR	Sen. Jeff Merkley (D)	Jo Rae Perkins (R)	Sen. Jeff Merkley (D)
●	RI	Sen. Jack Reed (D)	Allen Waters (R)	Sen. Jack Reed (D)
●	SC	Sen. Lindsey Graham (R)	Jaime Harrison (D)	Sen. Lindsey Graham (R)
●	SD	Sen. Mike Rounds (R)	Daniel Ahlers (D)	Sen. Mike Rounds (R)
●	TN	Sen. Lamar Alexander (R)	Marquita Bradshaw (D)	Amb. Bill Hagerty (R)
			Amb. Bill Hagerty (R)	
●	TX	Sen. John Cornyn (R)	M.J. Hegar (D)	Sen. John Cornyn (R)
●	VA	Sen. Mark Warner (D)	Daniel Gade (R)	Sen. Mark Warner (D)
●	WV	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R)	Paula Jean Swearingin (D)	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R)
●	WY	Sen. Mike Enzi (R)	(Former) Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R)	(Former) Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R)
			Merav Ben David (D)	

*Runoff in January 2021

Retiring

Special election



U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

SNAPSHOTS: NEW MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE



**Senator-Elect
Tommy Tuberville
(R-Ala.)**

Senator-elect Tommy Tuberville served as head football coach at Auburn University, Ole Miss, Cincinnati and Texas Tech. He has never previously held or run for public office. He defeated incumbent Democratic Senator Doug Jones, who was elected in a December 2017 special election to fill the remainder of former Senator Jeff Sessions' term after he was confirmed as President Trump's first Attorney General. Tuberville is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University. He and his wife Suzette have two sons.



**Senator-Elect Mark
Kelly (D-Ariz.)**

Senator-Elect Mark Kelly is a former combat pilot, engineer and astronaut. He flew 39 combat missions during Operation Desert Storm and retired from the U.S. Navy in 2011 with the rank of Captain. Kelly participated in three Space Shuttle missions with two stints as flight commander. Kelly defeated incumbent Republican Senator Martha McSally, who was appointed to fill the seat upon the death of Senator John McCain. He graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy with a BS in marine engineering and nautical science and the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School with an MS in aeronautical engineering. His wife, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, was the victim of an unsuccessful assassination attempt in 2011. They live in Tucson. Kelly has two daughters from a previous marriage.



**Senator-Elect John
Hickenlooper
(D-Colo.)**

Senator-Elect John Hickenlooper previously served as Governor of Colorado (2011-2019) and Mayor of Denver (2003-2011). Before his time in politics, he worked as a geologist in the petroleum industry and then co-founded Wynkoop Brewing Company, one of the first brewpubs in the United States. He defeated incumbent Republican Senator Cory Gardner, who was elected in November 2014. Hickenlooper has a BA in English and an MS in geology from Wesleyan University. He resides in Denver with his wife, Robin, and has one son from his first marriage.

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SNAPSHOTS: NEW MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE



**Senator-Elect
Roger Marshall
(R-Kan.)**

Senator-Elect Roger Marshall is an OB-GYN and a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016, where he serves on the Agriculture Committee and the Science, Space and Technology Committee. Dr. Marshall opened his medical practice in Great Bend, Kansas, where he delivered more than 5,000 babies throughout his career. Dr. Marshall is a graduate of Kansas State University and the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He and his wife, Laina, are the parents of four children.



**Senator-Elect Ben Ray
Luján (D-N.M.)**

Senator-Elect Ben Ray Luján was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008 and previously served as a member of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (2005-2009), the state's chief utility regulatory body. In the U.S. House, Luján served as Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (2015-2019) and as Assistant Speaker of the House since 2019. He sits on the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Senator-Elect Luján holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from New Mexico Highlands University.



**Senator-Elect Bill
Hagerty (R-Tenn.)**

Senator-Elect Bill Hagerty was appointed by President Trump in 2017 to serve as the 30th U.S. Ambassador to Japan. He worked at multiple private equity firms and served as an economic advisor and White House fellow during President George H.W. Bush's administration. Hagerty was appointed by then-Governor Bill Haslam as Commissioner of Economic and Community Development in 2011. He earned his bachelor's degree and juris doctor from Vanderbilt University. Hagerty and his wife Chrissy have four children.

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SNAPSHOTS: NEW MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE



**Senator-Elect
Cynthia Lummis
(R-Wyo.)**

Senator-Elect Cynthia Lummis previously served as Wyoming's lone U.S. House member (2009-2017), State Treasurer (1999-2007) and in both houses of the Wyoming State Legislature. While in the U.S. House, she was appointed by her colleagues to chair the Congressional Western Caucus and in her final term was chosen as Vice Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources. She will be the first woman to represent Wyoming in the U.S. Senate. Lummis has bachelor's degrees in animal science and biology and a juris doctor, all from the University of Wyoming. She has one daughter.



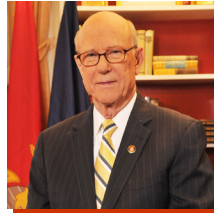


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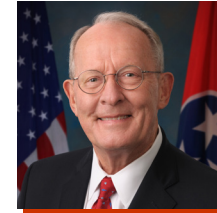
MEMBERS LEAVING THE U.S. SENATE



Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.)
Years of Service: 24



Pat Roberts (R-Kan.)
Years of Service: 24



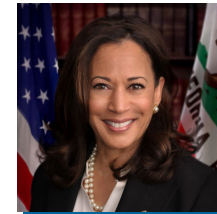
Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.)
Years of Service: 18



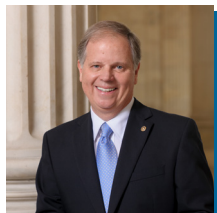
Tom Udall (D-N.M.)
Years of Service: 12



Cory Gardner (R-Colo.)
Years of Service: 6



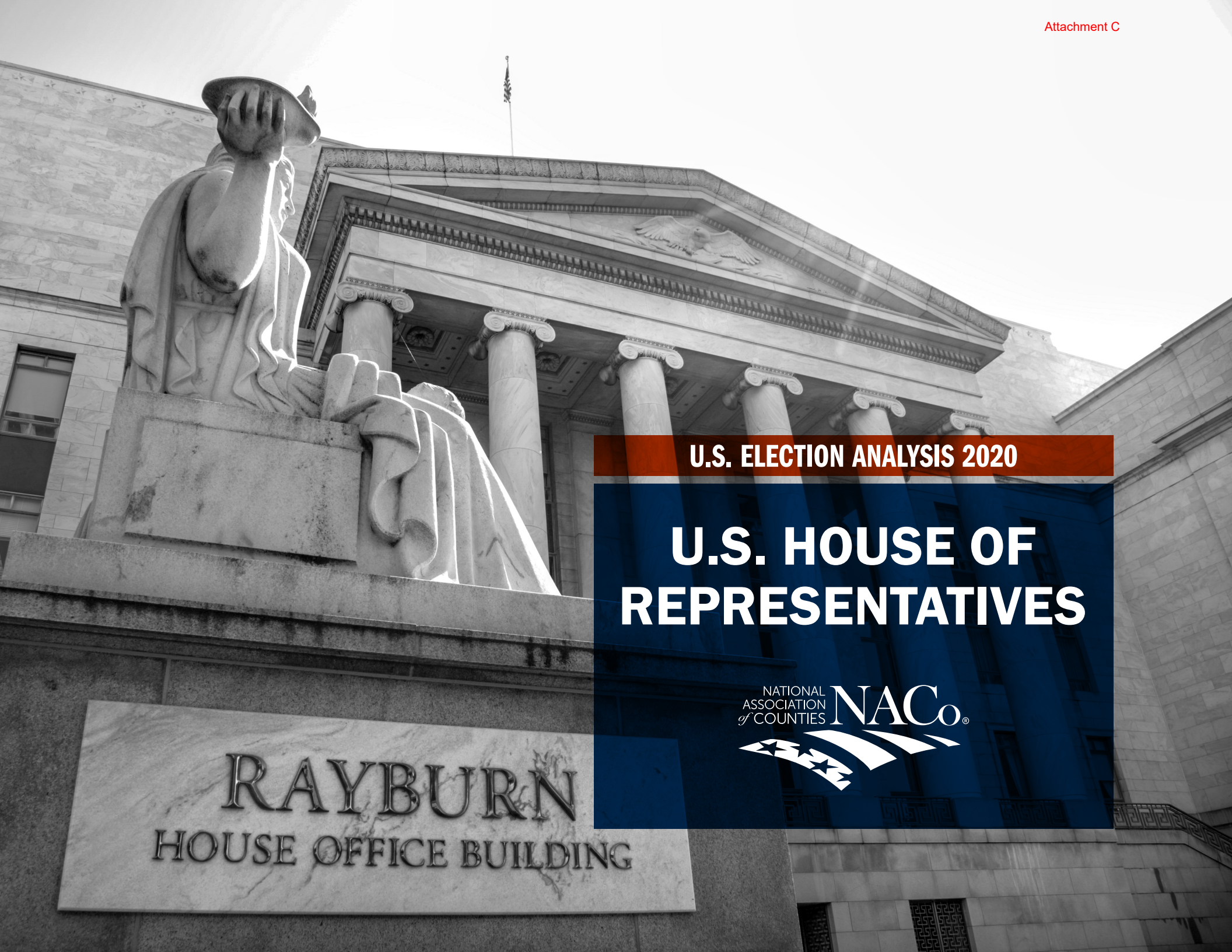
Kamala Harris (D-Calif.)
Years of Service: 4



Doug Jones (D-Ala.)
Years of Service: 3



Martha McSally (R-Ariz.)
Years of Service: 2



U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RAYBURN
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



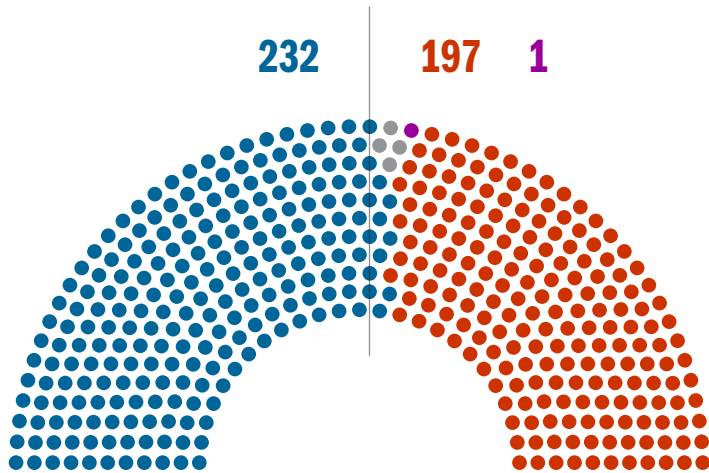
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATS RETAIN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE, THOUGH REPUBLICANS NARROW MARGINS

116TH CONGRESS: 2019 - 2020 U.S. HOUSE

218 seats for majority

232 197 1

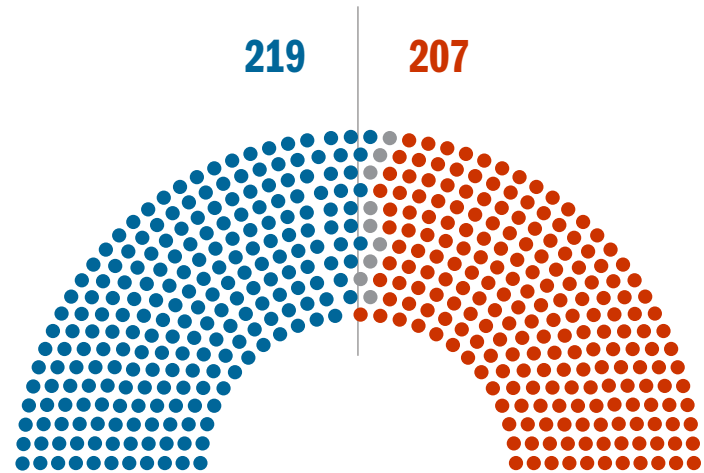


*Four vacancies

117TH CONGRESS: 2021 - 2022 U.S. HOUSE

218 seats for majority

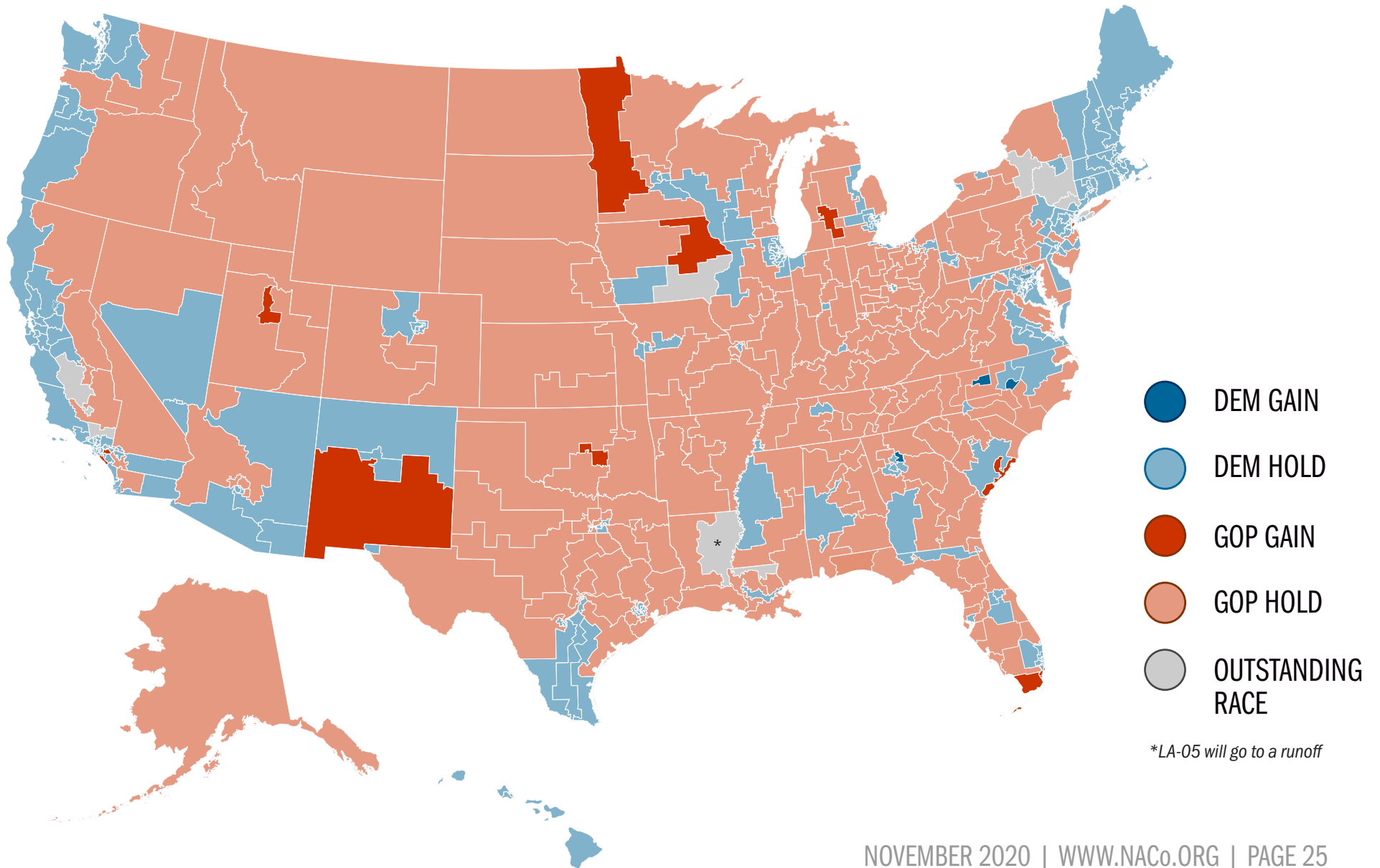
219 207



*Nine races remain uncalled as of 11/17/20.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

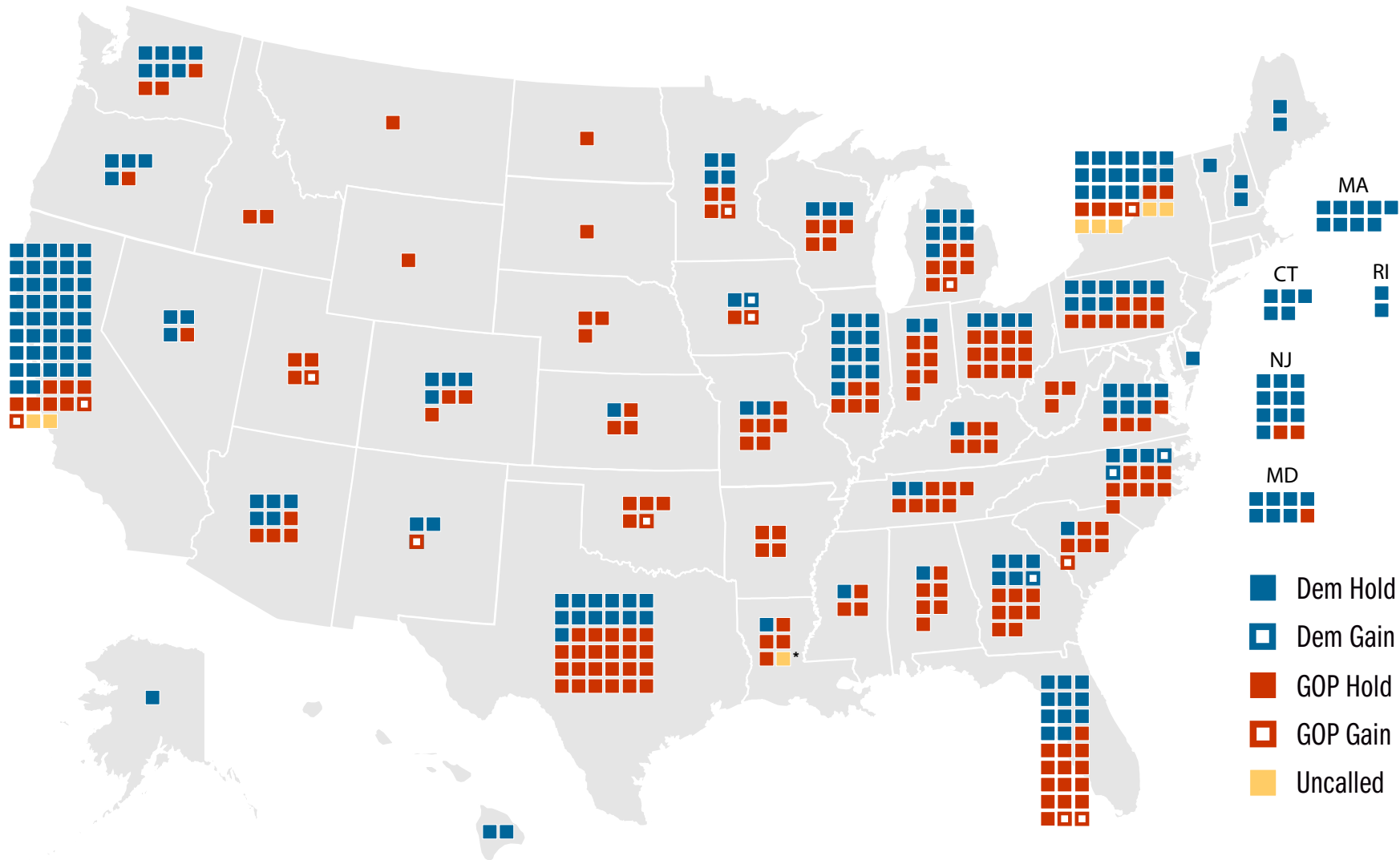
U.S. HOUSE GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS BY DISTRICT





U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. HOUSE GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS BY TOTAL SEATS



*LA-05 will go to a runoff



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEMBERS LEAVING THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPUBLICANS

Name/District	Years of Service	Name/District	Years of Service
Rep. Mac Thornberry [TX-13]	26 years	Rep. Martha Roby [AL-02]	10 years
Rep. Greg Walden [OR-02]	22 years	Rep. Rob Woodall [GA-07]	10 years
Rep. Dan Lipinski* [IL-03]	21 years	Rep. Tom Graves [GA-14]	10 years
Rep. Justin Amash (I) [MI-03]	21 years	Rep. Paul Cook [CA-08]	8 years
Rep. Scott Tipton* [CO-03]	20 years	Rep. Ted Yoho [FL-03]	8 years
Rep. Susan Brooks [IN-05]	18 years	Rep. John Shimkus [IL-15]	8 years
Rep. Roger Marshall [KS-01]	18 years	Rep. George Holding [NC-02]	8 years
Rep. Rob Bishop [UT-01]	18 years	Rep. Doug Collins [GA-09]	8 years
Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner [WI-05]	18 years	Rep. Bradley Byrne [AL-01]	7 years
Rep. Steve King* [IA-04]	18 years	Rep. Will Hurd [TX-23]	6 years
Rep. Steve Watkins* [KS-02]	18 years	Rep. Mark Walker [NC-06]	6 years
Rep. Mike Conaway [TX-11]	16 years	Rep. Paul Mitchell [MI-10]	4 years
Rep. Kenny Marchant [TX-24]	16 years	Rep. Francis Rooney [FL-19]	4 years
Rep. Ralph Abraham [LA-05]	15 years	Rep. Greg Gianforte [MT-At-large]	3.5 years
Rep. Phil Roe [TN-01]	12 years	Rep. Ross Spano* [FL-15]	2 years
Rep. Pete Olson [TX-22]	12 years	Rep. Denver Riggleman* [VA-05]	2 years
Rep. Bill Flores [TX-17]	10 years		

*Lost primary

Retired or ran for other position

DEMOCRATS

Name/District	Years of Service	Name/District	Years of Service
Rep. Collin Peterson [MN-07]	21 years	Rep. Kendra Horn [OK-05]	2 years
Rep. Susan Davis [CA-53]	20 years	Rep. Joe Cunningham [SC-01]	2 years
Rep. Lacy Clay* [MO-01]	20 years		
Rep. Pete Visclosky [IN-01]	18 years		
Rep. Dave Loebsack [IA-02]	14 years		
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan [NM-03]	12 years		
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard [HI-02]	8 years		
Rep. Eliot Engel* [NY-16]	8 years		
Rep. Joe Kennedy [MA-04]	8 years		
Rep. Paul Serrano [NY-15]	8 years		
Rep. Nita Lowey [NY-17]	8 years		
Rep. Denny Heck [WA-10]	8 years		
Rep. Harley Rouda [CA-48]	2 years		
Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell [FL-26]	2 years		
Rep. Donna Shalala [FL-27]	2 years		
Rep. Abby Finkenauer [IA-01]	2 years		
Rep. Xochitl Torres Small [NM-02]	2 years		

U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

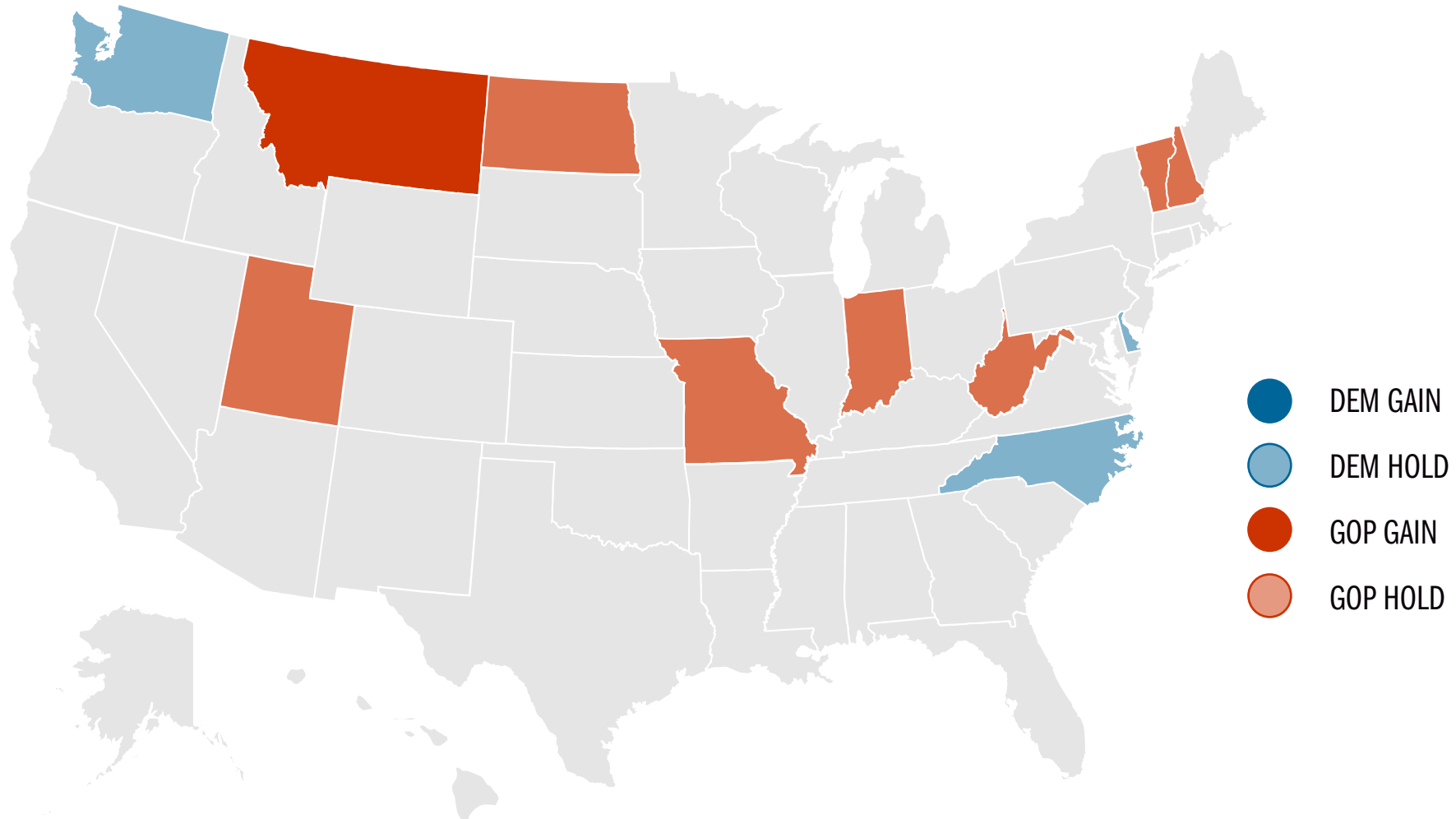
GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS



GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

INCUMBENTS RETAIN THEIR SEATS IN 2020, REPUBLICANS FLIP ONE FOR A 27-23 EDGE

Heading into 2020, Republicans controlled the majority of governors' offices at 26-24. On November 3, eleven governorships were up for reelection. Nine incumbents ran successfully for reelection in all but two races. Republicans were successful in flipping Montana, where the current Democratic governor was not on the ballot, resulting in a 27-23 edge entering 2021.





U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

2020 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

11 SEATS WERE UP FOR REELECTION

KEY



Democrat Gain



Democrat Hold



Republican Gain



Republican Hold

	State	Governor-Elect	Challenger(s)	Incumbent
●	DE	Gov. John Carney, Jr. (D)	Julianne Murray (R)	John Carney, Jr. (D)
●	IN	Gov. Eric Holcomb (R)	Woody Meyers (D)	Eric Holcomb (R)
●	MO	Gov. Mike Parson (R)	Nicole Galloway (D)	Mike Parson (R)
▲	MT	Rep. Greg Gianforte (R)	Mike Cooney (D) Greg Gianforte (R)	Steve Bullock (D)
●	NH	Gov. Chris Sununu (R)	Dan Feltes (D)	Chris Sununu (R)
●	NC	Gov. Roy Cooper (D)	Dan Forest (R)	Roy Cooper (D)
●	ND	Doug Burgum (R)	Shelley Lenz (D)	Doug Burgum (R)
●	UT	Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox (R)	Spencer Cox (R) Christopher Peterson (D)	Gary Herbert (R)
●	VT	Gov. Phil Scott (R)	David Zuckerman (D)	Phil Scott (R)
●	WA	Gov. Jay Inslee (D)	Loren Culp (R)	Jay Inslee (D)
●	WV	Gov. Jim Justice (R)	Ben Salango (D)	Jim Justice (R)



U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

STATE LEGISLATURES

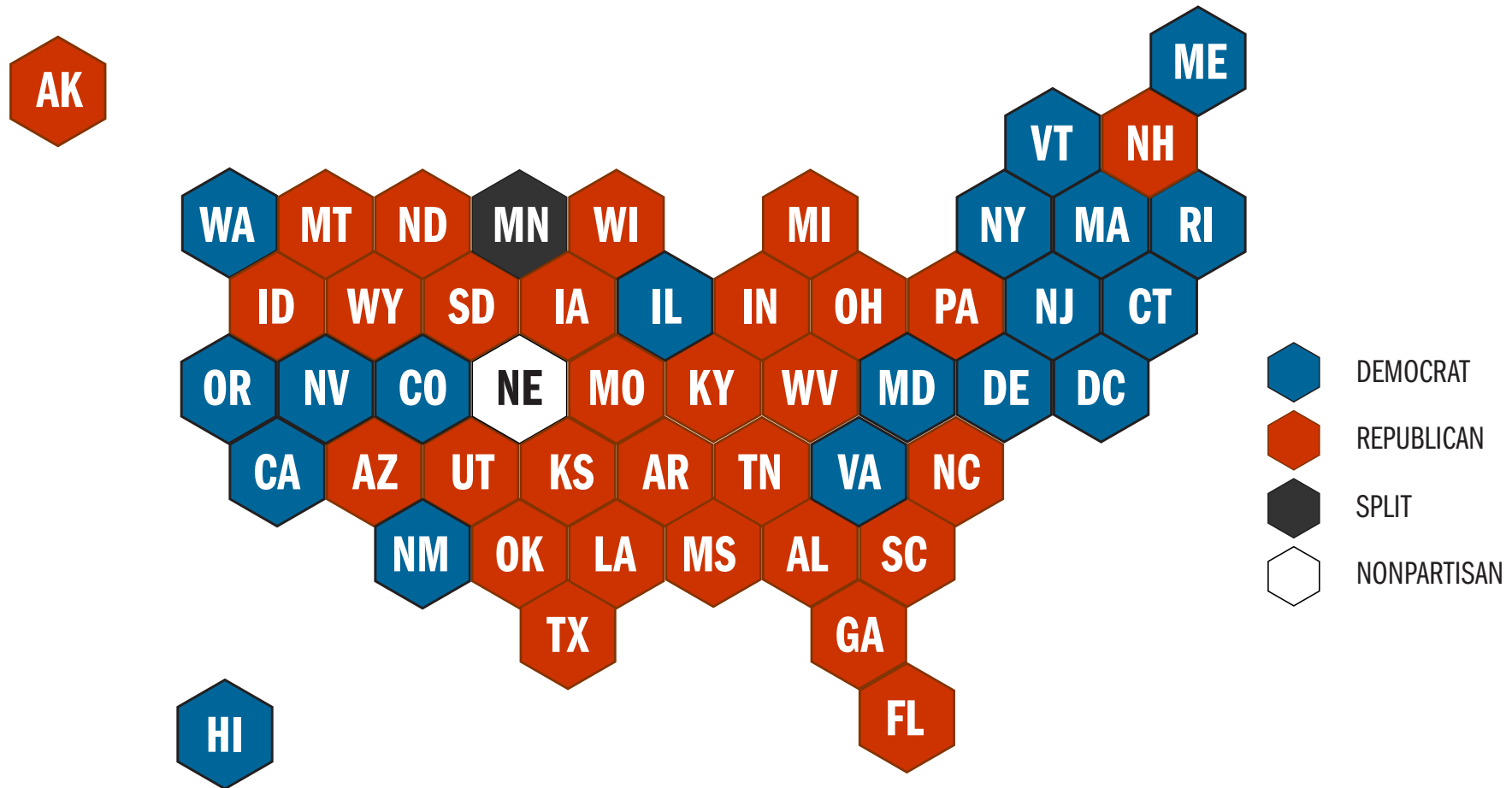




STATE LEGISLATURES

REPUBLICANS RETAIN MAJORITY OF STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS AT 61-37

Heading into the 2020 elections, Republicans held majorities in 59 state legislative chambers versus the 39 chambers under Democratic control. On November 3, 86 chambers in 44 states were up for election, with the majority retaining their same pre-election political makeup. In fact, the 2020 election saw only a third of the change in parties typically experienced in state legislatures during general election cycles. Following November’s general elections, Republicans added to their majority and will head into 2021 with significant control of state legislative chambers at 61-37.

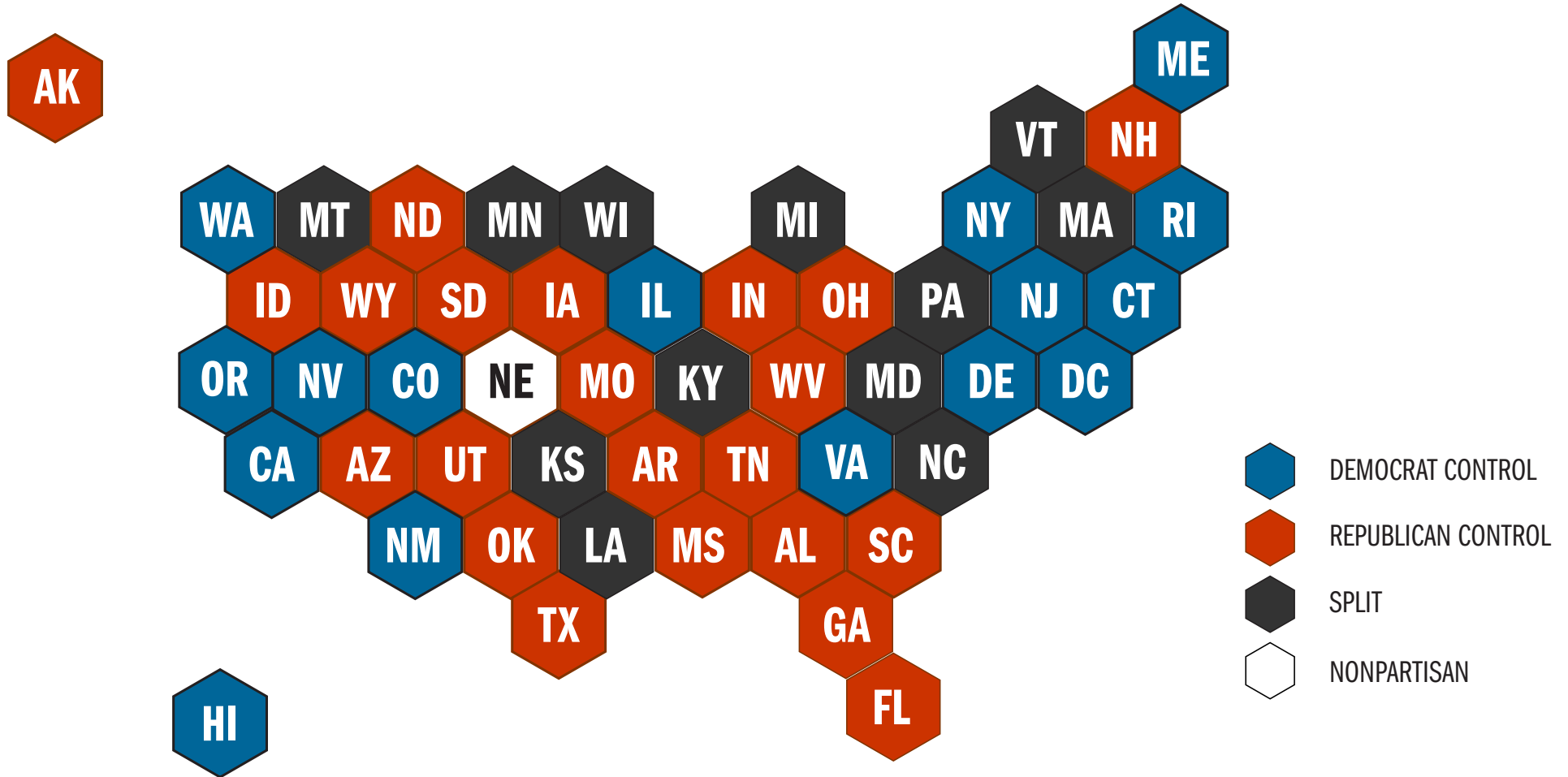




STATE LEGISLATURES

REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN THE MAJORITY OF “TRIFECTA” CONTROL AT 22-15

Heading into 2020, Democrats had “trifecta” control of 15 states versus Republicans’ 21, while 14 state governments remained split. “Trifecta” control refers to a state where one party controls both legislative chambers, as well as the governors’ office. As a result of the November elections, Democratic control remained unchanged at 15, while Republicans established trifecta control in two additional states, New Hampshire and Montana, bringing their total to 23. Twelve states are controlled by a divided state government.





U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

STATE LEGISLATURES

BALLOT INITIATIVES FOR COUNTIES

A variety of topics appeared on state ballots during the 2020 elections, ranging from recreational marijuana to voting to the expansion of Medicaid. In the table below, **green** indicates passage and **red** indicates failure of the respective ballot initiative. Those in **black** remain undecided as of 11/17/20.

STATE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
AL	Voting	The citizenship amendment would change the constitution to reflect that “only” a citizen of the U.S. who is 18 years or older is eligible to vote, rather than “every” of-age citizen.
AK	Elections	The elections initiative would create an open, nonpartisan primary where all candidates would appear on one ballot and establish a ranked-choice voting for general elections.
AZ	Recreational marijuana	The recreational marijuana initiative would legalize the recreational possession and use of marijuana, impose a 16 percent tax on its sales and allow local governments to ban marijuana facilities and testing centers.
	Taxes	The income tax increase for teachers and schools initiative would enact a 3.5 percent supplemental income tax on individuals and families making above \$250,000 and \$500,000, respectively, and direct the additional revenue to teacher and classroom support activities and programs.
AR	Taxes	The sales tax amendment would continue the state’s .5 percent sales tax on personal property to fund surface transportation projects.
	Term limits	The term limits initiative would establish a 12-year term limit for state legislators and judges with the opportunity to return following a four-year break.



STATE LEGISLATURES

BALLOT INITIATIVES FOR COUNTIES (CONT.)

STATE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
CA	Bail reform	The bail reform referendum would replace cash bail with risk assessments for pre-trial detainees.
	Housing	The local rent control initiative would allow local governments to enact rent control on housing occupied at least 15 years ago and require any local governments implementing this measure to allow landlords to increase rates by 15 percent during the first three years following a tenant vacancy.
	Taxes	The real property assessment initiative would provide increased revenues to counties and other local entities by requiring all commercial and industrial real properties be assessed at their full market value and ensure that the supplemental revenue resulting from these assessments be directed to local schools and/or community colleges in the same manner as other property taxes.
	Voting	The voting amendment would allow an individual aged 17 years to vote in a primary as long as they will turn 18 by the time of the general election. The parolee voting rights amendment would return the right to vote to paroled felons.
CO	Healthcare	The family and medical leave initiative would establish a paid program to provide 12 weeks of paid leave funded through a payroll tax, 50 percent to be covered by employers and 50 percent by employees.
	Public lands	The proposition would require the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to create a plan to reintroduce and manage gray wolves on designated public lands by the end of 2023
	Taxes	Several tax initiatives, all of which were successful, were on the ballot in Colorado, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The income tax initiative would decrease the state's income tax from 4.63 percent to 4.55 percent retroactively beginning January 20, 2020. The Gallagher Amendment Repeal which would repeal the 1982 amendment that limited residential and nonresidential property tax rates to 45 percent and 55 percent, respectively, of the total share of state property taxes. The tobacco tax proposition would increase the tax per pack of cigarettes to a total of 84 cents, with incremental increases for a total of \$2.64 in state taxes per pack by 2027.
	Voting	The citizenship amendment would change the constitution to reflect that "only" a citizen of the U.S. who is 18 years or older is eligible to vote, rather than "every" of-age citizen.



STATE LEGISLATURES

BALLOT INITIATIVES FOR COUNTIES (CONT.)

STATE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
FL	Voting	The citizenship amendment would change the constitution to reflect that “only” a citizen of the U.S. who is 18 years or older is eligible to vote, rather than “every” of-age citizen.
	Workforce	The workforce initiative would increase the state minimum wage to \$10 effective September 30, 2021, with incremental increases in the five years thereafter for a total \$15 state minimum wage by 2026.
GA	Legal	The amendment would allow residents to seek legal relief from state or local laws found to be in violation of the U.S. constitution, the state constitution or state law, though the state legislature would be tasked with authorizing any awarded judgements.
LA	Taxes	The tax amendment would authorize local governments to enter into cooperative agreements with new or existing manufacturing establishments and subsequently allow the establishments to make payments to the taxing authority in lieu of property taxes.
ME	Bonds	Approved in July 2020, Maine authorized \$120 million in bonds for infrastructure, including \$15 million for the installation of high-speed internet infrastructure and \$105 million to carry out transportation infrastructure projects .
MD	Budget	The legislative amendment would authorize the Maryland General Assembly to increase, decrease or add items to the state budget as long as such measures do not exceed the total proposed budget submitted by the governor.
MA	Elections	The elections initiative would enact a ranked-choice voting system for state and federal elections, beginning 2022.
MS	Medical marijuana	The medical marijuana initiative would the use of marijuana by individuals with certain qualifying medical conditions and subject the sale of marijuana to the state’s 7 percent sales tax. The initiative would restrict the use of marijuana to terminally ill patients and require the state legislature to set tax rates and legal possession amounts.
MO	Medicaid	Passed in August 2020, the amendment to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) was successful.



STATE LEGISLATURES

BALLOT INITIATIVES FOR COUNTIES (CONT.)

STATE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
MT	Preemption	The measure would remove the authority of local governments to regulate the carrying of a legally concealed weapon.
	Recreational marijuana	The recreational marijuana amendment would establish 21 years as the minimum legal age for possessing, using and purchasing marijuana. The initiative would subsequently legalize the use and possession of marijuana by individuals 21 years and older, impose a 20 percent tax on marijuana sales and provide new options for expungement or resentencing for individuals with marijuana-related convictions.
NJ	Recreational marijuana	The recreational marijuana initiative would legalize the recreational use, possession and sale of marijuana by individuals 21 years or older, authorize state regulation of the industry and apply the state's 6.625 percent sales tax to recreational marijuana sales. It would also authorize local governments to enact an additional 2 percent sales tax on recreational marijuana.
NM	Elections	The elections amendment would allow the state legislature to pass laws adjusting the elections of state and county officeholders, as well as the terms for those individuals based on the date changes.
OK	Medicaid	Passed in June 2020, voters in Oklahoma expanded Medicaid to cover certain low-income adults with incomes below 133 percent of the poverty level.
OR	Elections	The elections amendment would authorize both states and local governments to enact laws limiting campaign contributions; require disclosures of contributions and expenditures; and require that political advertisements identify their financial source.
	Taxes	This referral would increase the state cigarette tax from \$1.33 per pack to \$3.33 per pack and imposes a tax on e-cigarettes at 65 percent of the wholesale price.
SD	Marijuana	Two marijuana provisions were on the ballot in South Dakota this year, both of which were successful, including a measure to provide for a medical marijuana program in the state and an amendment to legalize the use of recreational marijuana.



STATE LEGISLATURES

BALLOT INITIATIVES FOR COUNTIES (CONT.)

STATE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
UT	Public works	A public works referendum would allow a municipality to designate the boundaries of its water service and define both its terms of service and rate of charges, among other increased flexibilities.
	Hunting and Fishing	The referendum would create a state constitutional right in Utah to hunt and fish.
WY	Public works	The amendment would remove a provision from the state constitution specifying a limit on the amount of debt a municipality can create to carry out sewer projects and allow the state legislature to prescribe by law a debt limit for such projects.

U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

**LOOKING AHEAD:
COUNTY PRIORITIES IN
LAME DUCK AND THE
117TH CONGRESS**





U.S. ELECTION ANALYSIS 2020

LOOKING AHEAD: TIMELINE

2020

Lame duck session
November 2020 - January 20, 2021

House reconvenes
November 16

Senate back in session
November 30

Continuing Resolution expires
December 11

Senate reconvenes
November 9

Congress recesses for Thanksgiving
November 23 - 27

House back in session
December 1

116th Congress ends
December 18

2021

U.S. Senate runoffs in Georgia
January 5

State of the Union
Late January

FY 2022 appropriations deadlines vary throughout Congress
March - April

FY 2021 ends
September 30

117th Congress swearing in
January 4

46th President of the United States takes office
January 20

Congressional deadline for White House FY 2022 budget request
February 1

Debt ceiling suspension expires
August 1



LOOKING AHEAD

AFTER THE ELECTION: 116TH CONGRESS IN THE LAME DUCK

Following the November 3 elections, the current Congress will reconvene for roughly a month's worth of business days before handing the gavel over to the 117th Congress. Between now and January 20, the Congress will head into a lame duck session during which Members will need to address the Continuing Resolution (CR) for FY 2021 spending that expires on December 11. Additionally, leadership in both chambers have acknowledged the need for another COVID relief package, but what that would look like, as well as the path to an agreement, remains uncertain. Beyond these two issues, however, lawmakers will likely punt any meaningful progress on other matters to the next Congress.

COVID-19 RELIEF

After unsuccessful attempts to reach a deal on COVID-19 stimulus aid before the election, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) signaled that she hopes to pass additional aid during the lame duck session in Congress. Similarly, Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-Ky.) announced that passage of a new coronavirus relief bill was a top priority for the lame duck session. This is a change in direction for the Majority Leader who previously mentioned a coronavirus stimulus bill would have to wait until the beginning of 2021.

As counties continue to play a significant role in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, NACo research estimates that the pandemic could have a \$202 billion budgetary impact on counties of all sizes through fiscal year 2021, including \$172 billion in lost revenue and an additional \$30 billion in COVID-19 response costs. Heading into the lame duck session, lawmakers will now pick up where negotiations they left off prior to Election Day to try to determine a path forward on the next response package.

Additional action around coronavirus relief may extend the deadline for Coronavirus Relief Fund recipients by one year to December 30, 2021. The *Leveraging Options for Counties and Localities (LOCAL) Act* (H.R. 2854) would prevent the U.S. Treasury from automatically rescinding unspent CRF funds from counties at the end of the year.

Counties continue to call on Congress and the Administration to deliver a bipartisan relief package that will provide direct and flexible assistance to counties of all sizes.

FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

Another high priority for lawmakers this lame duck session is reaching a deal to extend government funding past the expiration of the current CR on December 11, 2020. Lawmakers must decide whether to negotiate with the current administration to enact long-term spending legislation through FY 2021 or enact another stopgap spending measure that would allow the time for the presidential transition to occur, at which time Congress could negotiate appropriations with the Biden Administration.



LOOKING AHEAD

AFTER THE ELECTION: 116TH CONGRESS IN THE LAME DUCK

How Congress addresses challenges of funding the government will have a direct impact on many county priorities that rely on federal discretionary spending, including: COVID-19 pandemic relief, unemployment insurance, Payments in Lieu of Taxes program and the Community Development Block Grant program. Ultimately, Congress must decide whether to negotiate or face the risk of a government shutdown when the CR expires.

Prior to the election, Congress was unable to enact into law any of the twelve appropriations bills needed to fund the federal government. While the U.S. House of Representatives was successful in passing ten spending bills (appropriations for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as the Legislative Branch, have yet to be passed) through the lower chamber in July 2020, the U.S. Senate did not release the text of their companion bills until November.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA) AUTHORIZATION

While both the House and Senate produced bipartisan water resources bills well before WRDA 2018's expiration on September 30, a final agreement on the package did not come to fruition, with many speculating it could come during a lame duck session. Although an incoming administration may encourage Congress to hold off on passing substantive policy legislation, WRDA is a potential item for the 116th Congress' remaining legislative days. Negotiations between the chambers have been ongoing since the summer. While both bills reauthorize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resource projects for two years, the Senate bill includes funding for drinking water and wastewater programs while the House's fully unlocks the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. Because the House and Senate bills differ, an informal conference committee has been working to reconcile policy differences between the two. Should the informal conference committee reach an agreement between the chambers and the Trump Administration, Congress may be able to act quickly and pass WRDA during lame duck.

HEALTHCARE

Extensions

Congressional leaders have indicated a plan to reauthorize several key health care extenders of importance to counties, which are set to expire on December 11. These extenders include funding for community health centers, a delay of disproportionate share hospital payment reductions and funding for health workforce programs.



LOOKING AHEAD

AFTER THE ELECTION: 116TH CONGRESS IN THE LAME DUCK

Maternal Fatality

With the COVID-19 pandemic drawing attention to existing racial and ethnic disparities in health care, lawmakers' focus has turned to addressing maternal and infant mortality. Currently, there are dozens of proposed bipartisan bills in both the House and Senate that focus on maternal health and health disparities. Prior to the election, two bipartisan bills had advanced out of the House: the *Helping MOMS Act* (H.R. 4996) would extend postpartum coverage under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program from 60 days to one year and the *Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2020* (H.R. 4996) would expand initiatives to address maternal health in rural areas and promote innovation in the field. Both bills would benefit local health care access and outcomes by expanding Medicaid services as well as address underlying causes of maternal mortality with new funding. The Senate plans to consider both bills during the lame duck session, with the potential to be included in a legislative package with other similar maternal health bills.

Surprise Medical Billing

Prior to the election, both Congress and the Administration signaled interest in reconciling differences on surprise medical billing. To address this issue, current legislation focuses on ensuring cost transparency for out-of-network services and limiting patient cost-sharing rates. Despite disagreements in the approach for addressing this issue, it has been a largely bipartisan effort and may see movement during the lame duck session. Surprise billing legislation is of key importance to counties, as it has the potential to impact reimbursement rates for local EMS providers and rural hospitals.



LOOKING AHEAD

COUNTY PRIORITIES IN THE 117TH CONGRESS (2021 - 2022)

PROVIDE DIRECT, FLEXIBLE FUNDING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS OF ALL SIZES

Background: Prior to adjourning for the August recess, congressional leaders and the administration failed to reach an agreement on a fifth COVID-19 relief package. Four relief packages had previously been enacted since the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the latest relief package signed into law on April 23. Talks for a fifth relief package fell short when negotiators were unable to reach a compromise between House Democrats' *HEROES Act* and the Senate Republicans' *HEALS Act*. Throughout negotiations, counties urged federal leaders to work together and provide county governments with direct, flexible funding, regardless of size, to further mitigate the virus, protect the public's health and restore the economy. For more information, visit NACo's [COVID-19 Pandemic Federal Policy News & Resources webpage](#).

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to support legislation that provides direct, flexible funding to counties of all sizes.

AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAID EXCLUSION POLICY

Background: Current federal law prohibits the use of federal funds and services, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), for health care provided to inmates of a public institution – a category that includes our local jails. The policy, known as the Medicaid inmate exclusion policy (MIEP), was originally enacted in 1965 under the *Social Security Act* (P.L. 97-89) and intended to prevent state governments from shifting inmate care costs to federal programs. However, this practice has had an unintended consequence of cutting off federal health benefits to local jail inmates who are awaiting trial and presumed innocent. Click [here](#) for more information.

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to amend the Medicaid inmate exclusion policy.

PROMOTE COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Congress is working towards a long-term surface transportation reauthorization, as the current law – the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) – expired on September 30, 2020. The CR extended the FAST Act through FY 2021, which means the 117th Congress will have to either extend the law again or enact a new, long-term reauthorization within the year. This historically bipartisan bill includes significant policy and funding provisions to improve and enhance the nation's transportation systems, including highway and bridge construction and maintenance, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, rail, hazardous materials safety and research, technology and statistics program. To learn more about county transportation infrastructure priorities, click [here](#).

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to support county priorities in a surface transportation reauthorization bill.



LOOKING AHEAD

COUNTY PRIORITIES IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Reauthorization

Background: Congress is working towards a two-year WRDA reauthorization bill, as the current law – the *America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-270) – expired on September 30, 2020. WRDA bills authorize water resources studies and projects and set policies for navigation, flood control, hydropower, recreation, water supply and emergency management for the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. This legislation is usually passed on a biennial basis and addresses county interests related to ports, inland waterways, levees, dams, wetlands, watersheds and coastal restoration. Counties often partner with the Army Corps to strengthen local infrastructure. To learn more about county water infrastructure priorities, click [here](#).

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to support county priorities in the Water Resources Development Act.

Broadband Deployment and Accessibility

Background: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever, Americans are relying on dependable, high-speed internet to perform their job or attend school in a virtual setting. Counties are strongly committed to advancing broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local decision-making. However, there are federal and state efforts to prevent local governments from serving as effective stewards of public property, safety, and welfare.

In 2019, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) imposed regulations restricting local authority in the deployment of 5G wireless networks, putting public health and safety at risk. Specifically, the FCC order constrains local governments to a narrow application approval timeline – effectively preventing local governments from conducting necessary procedures such as providing open public comment periods as well as historical preservation and environmental reviews.

Concurrently, county governments in 22 states are restricted from making critical investments in local broadband networks due to state-imposed bans and restrictions. These barriers are preventing local governments from effectively and efficiently addressing the challenges of this public health pandemic and looming economic crisis. NACo supports the *Accelerating Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act* of 2019 (H.R. 530 / S. 2012) and the *Community Broadband Act* (H.R. 2785 / S. 3649) which would remove these barriers and empower communities to provide connectivity solutions during this critical time. For more information, click [here](#).

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to support legislation to advance broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local authority.



LOOKING AHEAD

COUNTY PRIORITIES IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

SUPPORT FULL MANDATORY FUNDING FOR PAYMENTS IN-LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) AND THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS) PROGRAM

Background: NACo supports restoring full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates public lands counties for untaxable federal land. NACo also supports extending the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program as a transitional funding mechanism until the federal government implements a sustainable, long-term forest management program with adequate revenue sharing for forest counties and schools. For more information on PILT click [here](#), and for more information on SRS click [here](#).

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to support full mandatory funding for PILT and SRS.

RESTORE THE BALANCE OF FEDERALISM AND OPTIMIZE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

Background: NACo supports efforts that recognize and respect the unique roles and responsibilities of counties as essential partners – not just stakeholders – in our nation’s intergovernmental system of federal, state, local and tribal government officials. Consistent and meaningful engagement and consultation between intergovernmental partners is vital in the development and implementation of effective policies, programs and regulations. NACo urges Congress to pass the Restore the Partnership Act (H.R. 3883 / S. 2967) and the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act (H.R. 300 / S. 3689) to increase transparency to reduce regulatory burden, foster intergovernmental dialogue and unite all levels of government in supporting our unparalleled system of federalism. For more information, click [here](#).

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to support the Restore the Partnership Act (H.R. 3883).

STRENGTHEN ELECTION INTEGRITY AND SAFETY

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally altered the landscape of the 2020 election cycle. America’s counties traditionally administer and fund elections at the local level, overseeing more than 109,000 polling places and coordinating more than 694,000 poll workers every two years. Beyond these traditional requirements, counties are now grappling with even more costly election-related challenges, from providing additional voting options to keeping polling locations clean to complying with social distancing mandates.

LOOKING AHEAD

COUNTY PRIORITIES IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

NACo supports federal policies that provide flexibility for local decision making and increased federal investments in the nation's elections system. Furthermore, NACo supports a consistent, predictable and dedicated federal funding stream to assist counties with meeting the significant federal requirements already imposed on local governments administering elections, as well as additional federal resources to meet current challenges local elections officials face due to COVID-19. We also support efforts by Congress and the administration to combat cybersecurity threats in a way that is inclusive of county election and technology officials. For more information, click [here](#).

Take Action: Urge your member of Congress to support legislation that provides consistent, predictable and dedicated federal resources to help counties administer fair and secure elections.

View NACo's comprehensive online advocacy toolkit [here](#).



STAFF DIRECTORY

MATTHEW D. CHASE | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO
mchase@naco.org • 202.942.4201

MARK RITACCO | DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
mritacco@naco.org • 202.942.4240

BLAIRE BRYANT | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Health
bbryant@naco.org • 202.942.4246

DARIA DANIEL | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Community, Economic & Workforce Development
Large Urban County Caucus
ddaniel@naco.org • 202.942.4212

ERYN HURLEY | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Finance, Pensions & Intergovernmental Affairs
ehurley@naco.org • 202.942.4204

JESSICA JENNINGS | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Transportation and Infrastructure
jjennings@naco.org • 202.942.4264

BRETT MATTSON | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
Justice and Public Safety
bmattson@naco.org • 202.942.4234

RACHEL MERKER | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Human Services and Education
rmerker@naco.org • 202.661.8843

ADAM PUGH | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Environment, Energy and Land Use
apugh@naco.org • 202.942.4269

ARTHUR SCOTT | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR/POLITICAL OUTREACH MANAGER
Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Telecommunications and Technology
Rural Action Caucus
ascott@naco.org • 202.942.4230

JONATHAN SHUFFIELD | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Public Lands
Western Interstate Region
jshuffield@naco.org • 202.942.4207

ZACHARY GEORGE | LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
zgeorge@naco.org • 202.661.8819

NICOLETTE GERALD | LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
ngerald@naco.org • 202.942.4260


SARAH GIMONT | LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
sgimont@naco.org • 202.942.4254

AALIYAH NEDD | LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
anedd@naco.org • 202.661.8833

ABOUT NACO

The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government, and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

Each year, NACo's Board of Directors adopts the Association's federal policy priorities, which help shape NACo's advocacy efforts on behalf of America's counties.

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660 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NW
SUITE 400 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
202.393.6226 • WWW.NACo.ORG



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