

The 2018 midterm elections refer to the election that happens in the middle of a president’s current term. For Donald Trump, this midterm election occurred in his first term as president (2016-2020). Election Day in the United States is the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. So this 2018 election date was Tuesday, November 6th. It is the day when popular ballots are held to select public officials. In addition to many state races, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate were contested. California had one Senate seat up for election.

The Congressional Races

Democrats won control of the House, a victory for the party locked out of power since the 2016 elections. This win means a deadlocked Congress — with Republicans in control of the Senate and Democrats in the House.

Democrats gained 30 seats, taking 34 districts that Republicans won in 2016, driven by a mix of successful female candidates, exceptional voter turnout and support from wealthy, suburban voters.

Republicans moved toward expanding their control of the Senate. The Republicans flipped seats in three states — Indiana, Missouri, and North Dakota — that President Trump had won by a large margin in 2016, and earned an open seat in Tennessee.

Now that Democrats have won the House, Republicans will no longer be able to pass legislation with GOP (Republican) votes alone — instead, to get any bills through Congress, the president will have to work with Democrats. However since Democrats did not take the Senate, they did not gain the power to block President Trump’s Supreme Court, Cabinet, and other nominees for the next two years.

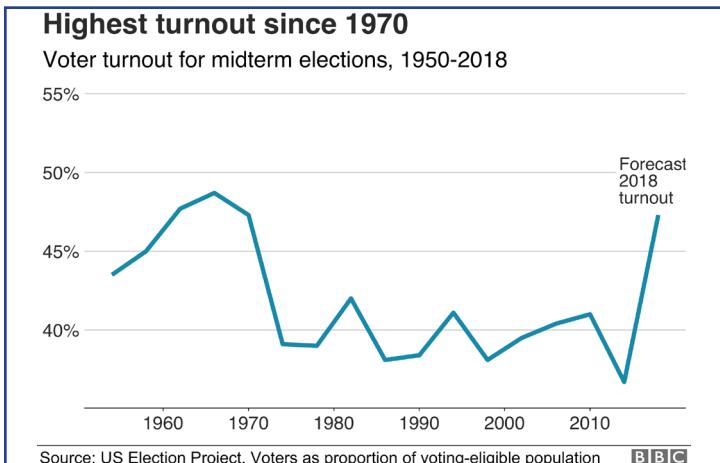
In California, there were 53 House seats up for election. After it was over, California had 46 Democratic seats and 7 Republican seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Republicans lost half of their representation (14 pre-election, 7 post-election).

Dianne Feinstein ran against fellow Democrat Kevin de León in the 2018 midterm election. Feinstein and de León won the top-two primary on June 5, 2018. Senator Feinstein won re-election to a fifth term, but will return to a Senate that remains in Republican control. In 2013, Feinstein and Barbara Boxer (D) became the first women to serve as U.S. senators from California. Feinstein was also the first female member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Feinstein’s areas of focus have included firearms legislation and environmental policy.

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High Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for the midterm election was impressive, with more than 47 percent of the voting-eligible population casting a ballot, according to early estimates from the United States Election Project. A projected 113 million voters cast a ballot, with high participation among both parties. The increase was attributed to a variety of factors, including more high-profile and competitive Senate and governor races in key states. The House races were also much more hotly contested this year in comparison to 2014 when Republicans were considered prohibitive favorites to maintain control.



While it is still less than half of possible voters actually voting, it is a large figure. Compare that with just 36.7 percent in 2014, and 41 percent in 2010.

<p>DEMOCRATS WIN THE HOUSE ✓</p> <p>Total of 435 Seats in the U.S. House -- 11 seats still awaiting election results</p> <p>226 THE HOUSE 198</p> <p>218 TO MAJORITY</p>	<p>REPUBLICANS WIN THE SENATE ✓</p> <p>Total of 100 Seats in the U.S. Senate -- 3 seats still awaiting election results</p> <p>46 THE SENATE 51</p> <p>51 TO MAJORITY</p>
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The Women Set a Record

A record number of women will serve in the House of Representatives as a result of the midterm election contests, with several making history due to their race, religious beliefs or sexual orientation. Some 95 women have won, or are projected to win, their House races, which is up from the current 84 women in the House. In addition, at least 13 women won Senate seats. That's on top of the ten female senators who were not up for re-election this year.

Among the notable names on the new House roster: Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Sharice Davids of Kansas are the first Native American women elected to Congress, and Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar will be the first Muslim women in the House. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Abby Finkenauer of Iowa, both 29, will become the youngest women to serve in the House.

The New Governor of California

Gavin Newsom, the former mayor San Francisco, became California's 40th governor, succeeding fellow Democrat Jerry Brown (who was term-limited). Mr. Newsom's beat Republican businessman John Cox. This represents the first time in modern California history that a Democrat will succeed a Democrat in the governor's mansion, and highlights the state's political shift of recent years amid demographic changes, with nearly 40 percent of the state's population now Latino. California had not voted a Republican to statewide office since 2006 when Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected governor.



Governor
Gavin Newsom

The former San Francisco mayor gained national attention by legalizing gay marriage in the city before it had widespread social acceptance. As governor, Newsom will also lead the world's fifth-largest economy and the country's largest issuer of municipal debt. After Brown helped the state build up an almost \$14 billion rainy-day fund, bond investors want Newsom to balance campaign promises against the threat of a return to massive deficits -- especially as some economists predict a recession within his four-year term.

Governor Newsom took office January 7, 2019, becoming the state's 40th governor. Eleni Kounalakis defeated fellow Democrat Ed Hernandez and will serve as the new lieutenant governor.

In addition to California, there were 35 other gubernatorial seats up for re-election. Democrats faced mixed results in the governor's races, picking up governorships in Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan,

and New Mexico, but failing to claim the coveted battleground of Florida. At last count, Republicans controlled 26 governorships compared to 23 by Democrats (one race is still unofficial).

Other California State-Wide Races

Other key California state-wide races include the election of the secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, and controller. The Democrats easily won each of these offices.

Democrats maintained their supermajority in the California State Assembly in the 2018 elections, winning 60 seats to Republicans' 20. A party needed 54 seats in the Assembly to hold a two-thirds supermajority. Democrats maintained their trifecta in California by holding the state Assembly, the state Senate, and the governor's office.

Let's Start Thinking about 2020

Now that the midterm elections are over, the political world will turn its attention to the 2020 Presidential Election. Political advisers for both parties will map out a strategy to win the 2020 presidential election. Ohio and Florida become must-win states. Democrats gained some momentum with the midterms and will be looking to make a bigger splash in 2020. President Trump and the Republicans will push their agenda and appeal to the conservative movement.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ___ 1. All 100 U.S. Senate seats were up for reelection in the 2018 midterm.
- ___ 2. All 435 U.S. House seats were up for reelection in the 2018 mid-term.
- ___ 3. General election days in the United States are held the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- ___ 4. The 2018 midterm election had less ballots cast than in the two previous midterms.
- ___ 5. The year 2022 is the next presidential election year.
- ___ 6. California receives 53 U.S. House seats based upon population.
- ___ 7. The California Assembly was controlled by the Republicans before the mid-term.
- ___ 8. Governor Gavin Newsom took office November 8, 2018.
- ___ 9. The 40 state Senators and the 80 state Assembly members conduct their business in Washington D.C.

Answers: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-F