

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. Wisconsin 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 won an open seat in Tennessee.

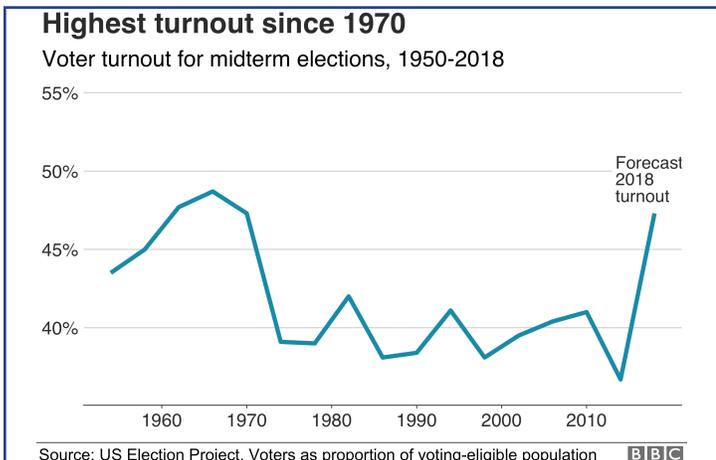
Now that Democrats have won the House, Republicans will no longer be able to pass legislation with GOP (Republican) votes alone – instead, to get any bills through Congress, the president will have to work with Democrats. However since Democrats did not take the Senate, they did not gain the power to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

In Wisconsin, there were eight House seats up for election. The incumbents retained seven of these seats, with the other seat vacant due to the retirement of Paul Ryan. Republican Bryan Steil won the election of Ryan’s 1st District. After it was over Wisconsin retained five Republican representatives and three Democratic Representatives.

In another closely watched campaign of the midterm elections, Senator Tammy Baldwin (D) is seeking a second term against state Senator Leah Vukmir (R), a nurse who is aligned with Governor Scott Walker (R). Donald Trump won Wisconsin by less than one percentage point in 2016, but polls show that voters in the Midwest may be souring on Republicans. In the end, Baldwin easily defeated Vukmir by a margin of 10 percentage points (55% to 45%).

**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 whopping figure. Compare that with just 36.7 percent in 2014, and 41 percent in 2010.

(over)

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

Scott Walker (R), the only governor in U.S. history to survive a recall election, was seeking a third term in a race that was expected to be the tightest ever in Wisconsin. The Democrats and current state schools chief Tony Evers defeated Walker. Evers gained 49.6 percent of the vote as opposed to Walker's 48.4 percent.



*Governor-elect Tony Evers*

Evers' victory marks a resurgence for Wisconsin Democrats, who have held little power in the state Capitol since 2011. They would regain a seat at the table on the state budget, state participation in federal health care initiatives, redistricting and other key issues. This year's Wisconsin race has been viewed as a crucial test of partisan control in the Midwest, where governors' offices and state legislatures, including Wisconsin's, have been dominated by Republicans.

Mr. Evers, a teacher and principal before he became the state's superintendent of public instruction, defined his pitch as a desperately needed antidote for Wisconsin after eight years under the Walker administration. He said that so many years of conservative policies had starved the state's school system of needed funds, left roads to decay and destroyed environmental protections, and that Mr. Walker was threatening the health care coverage of Wisconsin residents.

Governor-elect Evers will take office January 7, 2019, becoming the state's 46th governor. Mandela Barnes will serve as the new lieutenant governor.

In addition to Wisconsin, there were 35 other gubernatorial seats up for reelection. 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 Wisconsin State-Wide Races

Other key Wisconsin state-wide races include the election of the attorney general. Democrat Josh Kaul nearly defeated Republican incumbent Brad Schimel.

Republicans maintained their majority in the Legislature as a result of these midterm elections for the Wisconsin State Senate, controlling 19 seats to Democrats' 14. Seventeen of 33 Senate seats were up for election. In the state Assembly, all 99 of Wisconsin's legislative districts were up for election. Republicans won 63 of these House seats as compared to 36 won by Democrats.

## 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. Wisconsin receives eight U.S. House seats based upon population.
- \_\_\_ 7. The Wisconsin state legislature was controlled by the Democrats before the mid-term.
- \_\_\_ 8. Governor-elect Tony Evers will take office immediately and begin his agenda.
- \_\_\_ 9. The 33 state Senators and the 99 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