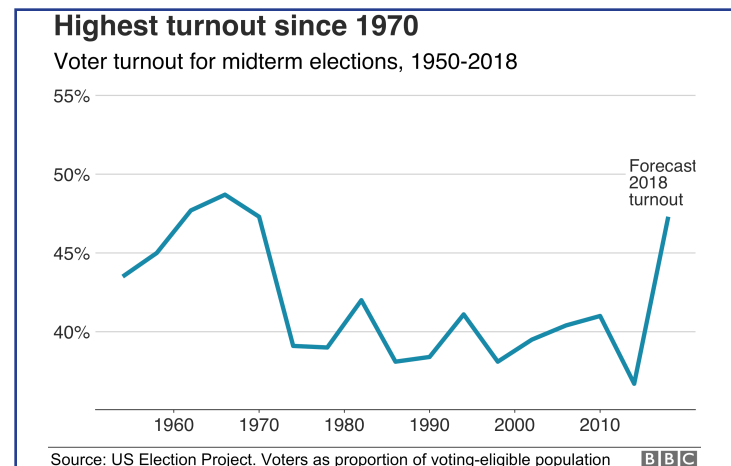


The 2018 midterm elections refer to the election that happens in the middle of a president’s current term. For Donald Trump, this midterm election occurred in his first term as president (2016-2020). Election Day in the United States is the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. So this 2018 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. Indiana had one Senate seat being contested; between the incumbent Democrat Joe Donnelly and Republican Mike Braun.

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.

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. Going into this election, Indiana had 2 Democratic representatives and 7 Republican representatives. In the end, the nine U.S. House members from Indiana remained the same, with all incumbents retaining their seats.

At last count, Democrats gained 30 seats in other states, taking 34 districts that Republicans won in 2016. This was 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. In Indiana, Democratic Senator Joe Donnelly was defeated by Republican Mike Braun. Braun, an auto-parts businessman and a former state lawmaker is seen as a reliable Republican who would back President Trump.



Mike Braun

Braun received 51 percent of the vote, Donnelly 45 percent, and Libertarian candidate Lucy Brenton received 4 percent. Braun will assume office on January 3, 2019.

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.

(over)

DEMOCRATS WIN THE HOUSE ✓

REPUBLICANS WIN THE SENATE ✓

Total of 435 Seats in the U.S. House -- 11 seats still awaiting election results

Total of 100 Seats in the U.S. Senate -- 3 seats still awaiting election results



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.

Indiana Ballot Referendums/Initiatives

According to Article 16 of the Indiana Constitution, a bill must be approved by a simple majority of voters in both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly during two successive legislative sessions in order to send it to the statewide election ballot. The proposed amendment can become part of the constitution if a majority of voters approve the measure.

For the 2018 midterm, Indiana had only one of these “legislatively-referred constitutional” amendments on the ballot:

“Shall Article 10, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to require the General Assembly to adopt balanced budgets for state government that do not exceed estimated revenues unless a supermajority of two-thirds of the members of the House of Representatives and two-thirds of the members of the Senate vote to suspend the requirement?”

Seventy-one percent of the voters said yes, 29 percent opposed.

Other Indiana State-Wide Races

In the 2018 midterm election, three state executive offices were up for election: secretary of state, state treasurer, and state auditor. All three Republican incumbents were reelected to another four-year term; Connie Lawson - secretary of state, Kelly Mitchell - state treasurer, and Tera Klutz - state auditor.

The Indiana Senate is the upper house of the Indiana General Assembly and is composed of 50 members representing an equal number of constituent districts statewide. The Indiana Senate along with the Indiana House of Representatives is responsible for passing legislation that amends state law and for passing a two-year budget every odd-numbered year. Indiana Senators serve four-year terms without term limits. Similar to US

Senators, state senate seats are staggered, meaning only 25 of the 50 seats are on the ballot every two years. After the election, Republicans maintained control with 40 seats as compared to the 10 seats for the Democrats.

The Indiana House of Representatives is part of the Indiana General Assembly and is composed of 100 members representing an equal number of constituent districts statewide. The Indiana House of Representatives along with the Indiana Senate is responsible for passing legislation that amends state law and for passing a two-year budget every odd-numbered year. Members are elected to two-year terms without term limits. Unlike the Indiana Senate, all 100 seats in the Indiana House are on the ballot every two years. Republicans maintained their majority in the Indiana House of Representatives by winning 67 seats to the Democrats' 31 (as of November 19, there were two uncalled races).

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 fewer ballots cast than in the two previous midterms.
- ___ 5. The year 2022 is the next presidential election year.
- ___ 6. Indiana receives nine U.S. House seats based upon population.
- ___ 7. The Democrats control Indiana's State House.
- ___ 8. Newly elected U.S. Senator Mike Braun takes office immediately.
- ___ 9. The 50 state Senators and the 100 state House members conduct their business in Washington D.C.
- ___ 10. The Indiana secretary of state is elected at the same time as the governor.

Answers: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-F, 10-F