

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. Missouri had one Senate seat being contested; between the incumbent Democrat Claire McCaskill and Republican Josh Hawley.

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. The eight U.S. House members from Missouri 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 Missouri, Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill was defeated by Republican Josh Hawley. Hawley, who is the Missouri Attorney General, is seen as a rising star in his party. Hawley has two years left on his attorney general term.



Josh Hawley

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the Missouri Constitution, the Governor will appoint a successor for the remainder of the term.

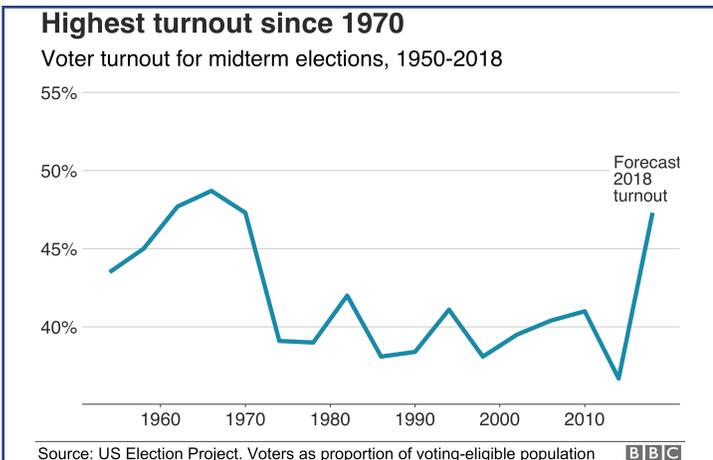
The Republicans flipped Senate seats in two other states — Indiana and North Dakota — that President Trump had won by a large margin in 2016, and won an open seat in Tennessee.

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.

(over)

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.

<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 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.

Missouri Ballot Initiatives

Here is a rundown on the state ballot initiatives issues that were approved during the 2018 midterm election:

Revise state redistricting: Missouri's ballot measure was approved by a margin of 62 percent "yes" to 38 percent "no" votes. This amends the Missouri Constitution to create the position of a "non-partisan state demographer" tasked with drawing legislative maps that are then presented to state House and Senate apportionment commissions. The proposal further requires the state demographer to conduct a statistical test to ensure voting maps are drawn to achieve partisan fairness and competitiveness. Also included were changing limits on campaign contributions and limiting gifts for legislators.

Medical marijuana: Missouri became one of the 33 states that have embraced medical use of the drug. Three competing measures on the ballot were related to the regulation of medical cannabis. Amendment two was approved with a 62 percent "yes" vote. Medical marijuana will be legal for ten medical conditions by altering the state constitution. It would impose a 4 percent tax on retail marijuana sales and use the funds for health and care services for military veterans.

Raise the minimum wage: The state's minimum wage will increase in annual increments to \$12 an hour in 2023, from \$7.85 an hour now. Missouri voters also approved this initiative with a 62 percent favorable vote.

Other Missouri State-Wide Races

Missouri Auditor Nicole Galloway defeated Republican challenger Sandra McDowell in the midterm election. Galloway will be the only Democrat holding a statewide office. She was formally appointed to the post by former Governor of Missouri Jay Nixon in 2015 following the death of Tom Schweich.

A total of 17 seats out of the Senate's 34 seats were up for election in 2018. Missouri state senators serve staggered, four-year terms and half of the Senate is up for election every two years. All 163 House seats were up for election in 2018. Missouri state representatives serve two-year terms, with all seats up for election every two years. The Republican party won convincingly in the midterms and will retain control of the Missouri General Assembly.

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. Missouri receives eight U.S. House seats based upon population.
- ___ 7. The Democrats control Missouri's General Assembly.
- ___ 8. Newly elected U.S. Senator Josh Hawley takes office immediately.
- ___ 9. The 34 state Senators and the 163 state House members conduct their business in Washington D.C.
- ___ 10. Missouri will now be one of 33 states to allow medical marijuana.

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