

A close-up, vertical view of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is slightly wrinkled and occupies the left half of the image.

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2026 Election Night Guide

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Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

2026 ELECTION NIGHT GUIDE

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A collection of election facts, statistics and analysis. Not an advocacy piece.

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2026 Election Night Guide

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Presidential Election Fact Sheet

Needed to Elect: 270 Electoral Votes
11 largest states: (268) California (54)
 Texas (40)
 New York (28)
 Florida (30)
 Pennsylvania (19)

Illinois (19)
 Ohio (17)
 Georgia (16)
 North Carolina (16)
 Michigan (15)
 New Jersey (14)

3 Most Democratic States in 2024:

District of Columbia (3)

Vermont (3)
 Maryland (10)

3 Most Republican States in 2024:

Wyoming (3)

West Virginia (4)
 North Dakota (3)

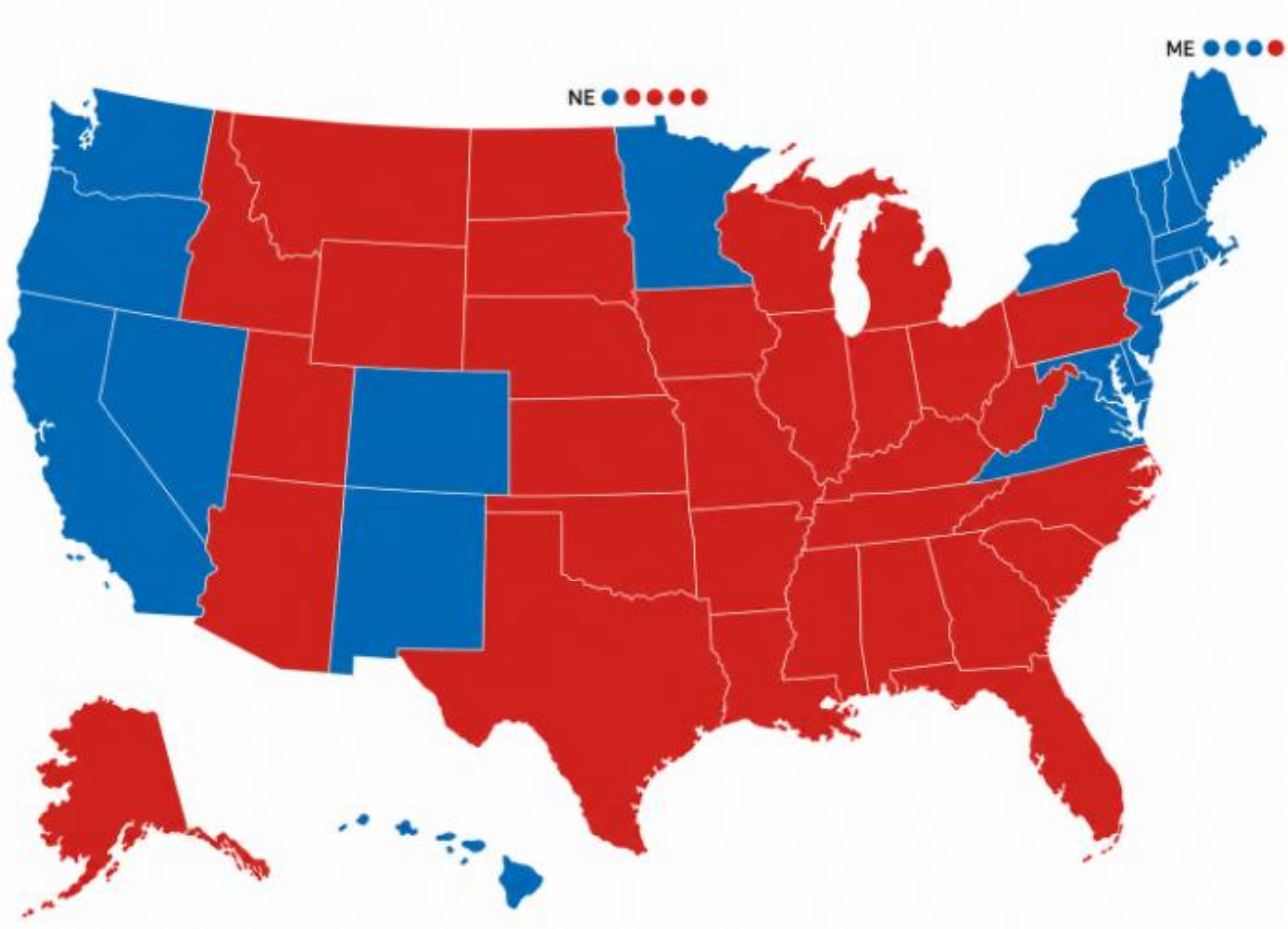
Presidential Election Year Results

<u>2024</u>	Harris (D)	226	<u>1992</u>	Clinton (D)	370
	Trump (R)	312		Bush (R)	168
				Perot (I)	0
<u>2020</u>	Biden (D)	306	<u>1988</u>	Dukakis (D)	112
	Trump (R)	232		Bush (R)	426
<u>2016</u>	Clinton (D)**	232	<u>1984</u>	Mondale (D)	13
	Trump (R)	306		Reagan (R)	525
<u>2012</u>	Obama (D)	332	<u>1980</u>	Carter (D)	49
	Romney (R)	206		Reagan (R)	489
<u>2008</u>	Obama (D)	365		Anderson (I)	0
	McCain (R)	173	<u>1976</u>	Carter (D)	297
<u>2004*</u>	Kerry (D)	252		Ford (R)	241
	Bush (R)	286	<u>1972*</u>	McGovern (D)	17
<u>2000*</u>	Gore (D)	267		Nixon (R)	521
	Bush (R)	271	<u>1968*</u>	Humphrey (D)	191
<u>1996</u>	Clinton (D)	379		Nixon (R)	302
	Dole (R)	159		Wallace (AI)	45
	Perot (I)	0			

*In each of these elections, one elector defected so that the actual totals were: 1968: 194-301-46; 1972: 17-520-1; 2000: 266-271-1; and in 2004: 251-286-1.

** In 2016, seven electors defected so that the result was 227 – 304 – 7.

2024 Presidential Election



Presidential Races – Northeast

Northeast

State	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	00	04	08	12	16	20	24
Connecticut (7)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
D.C. (3)	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Delaware (3)	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Maine (4)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D (3) R (1)	D (3) R (1)	D (3) R (1)
Maryland (10)	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Mass. (11)	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
N. Hampshire (4)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	D
New Jersey (14)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
New York (28)	R	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Penn. (19)	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	R
Rhode Island (4)	R	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Vermont (3)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D

Northeast: 110 Electoral Votes

Presidential Races – Midwest

Midwest

State	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	00	04	08	12	16	20	24
Illinois (19)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Indiana (11)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R
Iowa (6)	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	R	R	R
Kansas (6)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Michigan (15)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	R
Minnesota (10)	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Missouri (10)	R	D	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Nebraska (5)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R (4) D (1)	R (4) D (1)
North Dakota (3)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Ohio (17)	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	R
Oklahoma (7)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
South Dakota (3)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Wisconsin (10)	R	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	R

Midwest: 122 Electoral Votes

Presidential Races – South

South

State	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	00	04	08	12	16	20	24
Alabama (9)	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Arkansas (6)	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Florida (30)	R	D	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	R
Georgia (16)	R	D	D	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	R
Kentucky (8)	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Louisiana (8)	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Mississippi (6)	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
N. Carolina (16)	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R
S. Carolina (9)	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Tennessee (11)	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Texas (40)	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Virginia (13)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D
W. Virginia (4)	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

South: 176 Electoral Votes

Presidential Races – West

West

State	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	00	04	08	12	16	20	24
Alaska (3)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Arizona (11)	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	D	R
California (54)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Colorado (10)	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D
Hawaii (4)	R	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Idaho (4)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Montana (4)	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Nevada (6)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	R
New Mexico (5)	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D
Oregon (7)	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Utah (6)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Washington (12)	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Wyoming (3)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

West: 130 Electoral Votes

2026 Fact Sheet

Current Party Strengths

	D	R	Ind	Vacancies
U.S. Senate	45	53	2*	0
U.S. House	214	218	1	2
Governors	24	26	0	0

(*Vote with the Democrats)

Recent “Wave” Elections for the U.S. House and U.S. Senate

Party in White			
Year	House	House Result	Senate Result
1974	Republicans	- 49	- 4
1980	Democrats	- 34	- 12*
1994	Democrats	- 52*	- 8*
2006	Republicans	- 31*	- 6*
2010	Democrats	- 63*	- 6
2014	Democrats	- 13	- 9*
2018	Republicans	- 40*	+ 2

*control shift

2026 Election Analysis

As of October 30, there is a consensus in the political world that the Democrats will win the 2026 midterm elections. The President's dismal approval ratings, inflation, high oil prices and social unease in significant portions of the electorate all point to a typical midterm reaction against the party in power, in this case the Republicans.

The political table is set for a potential "blue wave" in which the Democrats win back both houses of Congress in a convincing landslide. This possibility is tempered somewhat by the fact that the Democratic Party is having its own "tea party" moment with the so-called Democratic Socialists challenging the Democratic Party mainstream on key hot button policy issues. These divisions will test the extent to which moderate voters support progressive candidates.

The country continues to be highly polarized with each of two major parties harboring two sub parties from the radical left and right. President Trump's apparent desire to make this election about himself may prove to be a tactical mistake.

As a practical matter, the House elections are going to test whether each party's aggressive gerrymandering efforts will work or backfire. In any case, the Democrats are expected to win the U.S. House, and most pundits expect significant Democratic gains.

The U.S. Senate races are more difficult to read. Many are simply too close to call, and last-minute events and late movement by undecided voters can shift any predicted outcome. The Democrats are in a good position to gain the four or more seats they need to win the Senate, but at this point that is not a certain result.

Little change is expected in the governors races with the count being roughly split between the parties.

U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and Governor Races

U.S. Senate

The current lineup in the U.S. Senate is 47 Democrats (including two independents who vote with the Democrats) and 53 Republicans.

Not up for election are 34 Democrats and 31 Republicans.

There are 35 seats up for election, 13 held by Democrats and 22 held by Republicans. Most commentators regard nine Democratic seats and 12 Republican seats as “safe.” If that is true, then the analysis of which party will control the Senate in the next Congress begins with 43 Democratic seats and 43 Republican seats.

The Republican candidate is leading in Florida, Kansas, Nebraska and South Carolina. The Democrats are ahead in Georgia, Minnesota and North Carolina. If true, this calculation brings the count to 46 Democrats and 47 Republicans.

The remaining seven are close: Alaska, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio and Texas. Two seats are currently held by Democrats and five by Republicans.

Best guess: A late trend toward one party or the other could swing the Senate either way. A toss-up even though the GOP is facing a potential net loss of as many as six seats. If more than three, the Democrats win control.

Watch Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Texas for possible upsets.

U.S. House of Representatives

The current lineup is 214 Democrats and 218 Republicans and one independent with 2 vacancies. Most commentators seem to think that the Democrats will prevail in the heavily gerrymandered House.

Governor

This cycle offers 36 races for governor. The current lineup nationally is 26 Republicans and 24 Democrats.

Six Democrats and eight Republicans are not up for election this year. Thus, both the Democrats and Republicans are defending 18 seats.

Eight Republican seats and 13 Democratic seats are considered “safe” by most pundits. If so, then the 50-state count, including seats not up this year, begins at 19 Democrats and 16 Republicans.

Democrats appear to be ahead in 2 races and the Republicans in 6. If this is true, the count goes to 21 Democratic seats and 22 Republican seats.

That leaves seven close races: Alaska, Georgia, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Wisconsin and Michigan. Three are Democratic seats and four Republican.

Best guess, the parties end up with an even split or a Democratic gain of 1.

2026 U.S. Senate Races – Northeast & Midwest

Northeast

State	Incumbent			
	Party	(D)	(R)	(I)
Delaware	(D)	Coons*	Katz	
Maine	(R)	Jackson	Collins*	
Massachusetts	(D)	Markey*	Deaton	
New Jersey	(D)	Booker*	Murphy	
New Hampshire	(D)	Pappas	Sununu	
Rhode Island	(D)	Reed*	McKay	
Total seats: 6 (D-5; R-1)				

Midwest

State	Incumbent			
	Party	(D)	(R)	(I)
Illinois	(D)	Stratton	Tracy	
Iowa	(R)	Turek	Hinson	
Kansas	(R)	Hamilton	Marshall*	
Michigan	(D)	El-Sayed	Rogers	
Minnesota	(D)	Flanagan	Tafoya	
Nebraska	(R)	(Withdrawn)	Ricketts*	Osborn
Ohio	(R)	Brown	Husted*	
Oklahoma	(R)	Thomas	Hern	
South Dakota	(R)	No Candidate	Rounds*	Bengs
Total seats: 9 (D-3; R-6)				

*Incumbent

2026 U.S. Senate Races (cont'd) – South

South

State	Incumbent		(R)	(I)
	Party	(D)		
Alabama	(R)	Wess	Moore	
Arkansas	(R)	Shoffner	Cotton*	
Florida	(R)	Nixon	Moody*	
Georgia	(D)	Ossoff*	Collins	
Kentucky	(R)	Booker	Barr	
Louisiana	(R)	Davis	Letlow	
Mississippi	(R)	Colom	Hyde-Smith*	
North Carolina	(R)	Cooper	Whatley	
South Carolina	(R)	Andrews	Graham*	
Tennessee	(R)	Bradshaw	Hagerty*	
Texas	(R)	Talarico	Paxton	
Virginia	(D)	Warner*	Mizusawa	
West Virginia	(R)	Anderson	Moore-Capito*	
Total seats: 13 (D-2; R-11)				

*Incumbent

2026 U.S. Senate Races (cont'd) – West

West

State	Incumbent			
	Party	(D)	(R)	(I)
Alaska**	(R)	Peltola	Sullivan*	Heikes D.J. Sullivan
Colorado	(D)	Hickenlooper*	Baisley	
Idaho	(R)	(Withdrawn)	Risch*	Archilles Fleming
Montana	(R)	Bankhead	Alme	Bodnar
New Mexico	(D)	Luján*	Marker	
Oregon	(D)	Merkley*	Smith	
Wyoming	(R)	Byrd	Hageman	
Total seats: 7 (D-3; R-4)				

*Incumbent

**Under Alaska's ranked choice voting system, four candidates are competing in the next round on election day.

2026 Gubernatorial Races

Northeast

<u>State</u>	<u>Incumbent Party</u>	<u>(D)</u>	<u>(R)</u>
Connecticut	(D)	Lamont*	Fazio
Maine	(D)	Pingree	Charles
Maryland	(D)	Moore*	Cox
Massachusetts	(D)	Healey*	Minogue
New Hampshire	(R)	Warmington	Ayotte*
New York	(D)	Hochul*	Blakeman
Pennsylvania	(D)	Shapiro*	Garrity
Rhode Island	(D)	Foulkes	Guckian
Vermont	(R)	Janoo	Scott*

Total seats: 9 (D-7; R-2)

*Incumbent

2026 Gubernatorial Races

Midwest

<u>State</u>	<u>Incumbent Party</u>	<u>(D)</u>	<u>(R)</u>
Illinois	(D)	Pritzker*	Bailey
Iowa	(R)	Sand	Lahn
Kansas	(D)	Holscher	Masterson
Michigan	(D)	Benson	James
Minnesota	(D)	Klobuchar	Demuth
Nebraska	(R)	Walz	Pillen*
Ohio	(R)	Acton	Ramaswamy
Oklahoma	(R)	Munson	Mazzei
South Dakota	(R)	Ahlers	Rhoden*
Wisconsin	(D)	Crowley	Tiffany

Total seats: 10 (D-5; R-5)

*Incumbent

2026 Gubernatorial Races

South

<u>State</u>	<u>Incumbent Party</u>	<u>(D)</u>	<u>(R)</u>
Alabama	(R)	Jones	Tuberville
Arkansas	(R)	Love	Sanders*
Florida	(R)	Jolly	Donalds
Georgia	(R)	Bottoms	Jackson
South Carolina	(R)	Johnson	Wilson
Tennessee	(R)	Green	Blackburn
Texas	(R)	Hinojosa	Abbott*

(Total seats: 7 (D-0; R-7)

*Incumbent

2026 Gubernatorial Races

West

<u>State</u>	<u>Incumbent Party</u>	<u>(D)</u>	<u>(R)</u>	<u>(I)</u>
Alaska**	(R)	Kreiss-Tomkins	Bronson Taylor Wilson	
Arizona	(D)	Hobbs*	Briggs	
California	(D)	Becerra	Hilton	
Colorado	(D)	Weiser	Marx	
Hawaii	(D)	Green*	Cordery	
Idaho	(R)	Pickens	Little*	
Nevada	(R)	Ford	Hall	
New Mexico	(D)	Haaland	Hull	
Oregon	(D)	Kotek*	Drazan	Smith
Wyoming	(R)	Casner	Barlow	

Total seats: 10 (D-6; R-4)

*Incumbent

**Under Alaska's ranked choice voting system, four candidates are competing in the next round on election day.