

Lobbyit

2022 Midterm Election Results Review

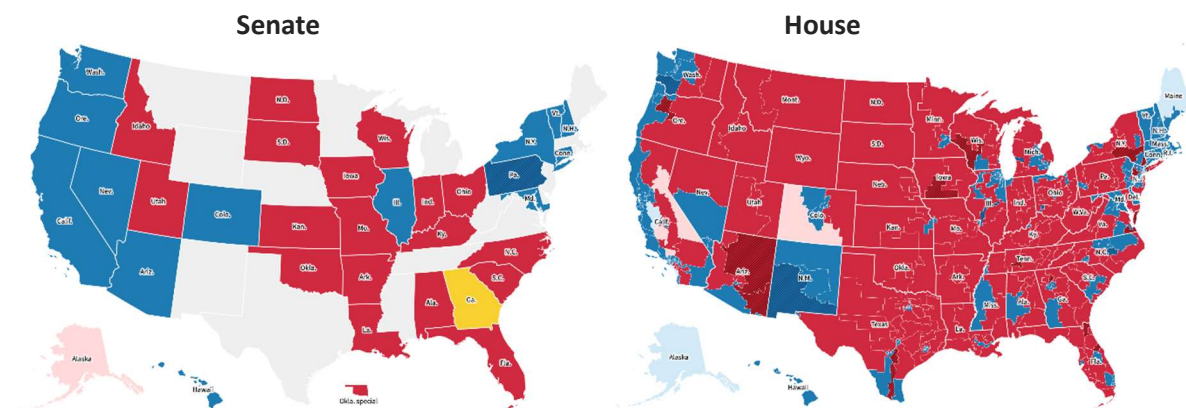
Overview

Following a competitive campaign season, the midterm elections are largely decided, and Republicans will retake the House of Representatives with a razor-thin majority, while Democrats will retain control of the Senate.

Key topics on the campaign trail included economic issues such as record-high inflation, prices at the pump, and increasing interest rates squeezing American workers' wallets. Some campaigns chose to focus on crime, portraying Democrats as soft on crime and ineffective enforcers of law and order. The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, overturning *Roe v. Wade*, also galvanized Democrats in critical swing states like Pennsylvania.

Election analysts, exit polls, and media pundits agree that Election Day was an overall lackluster performance by Republicans in the midterm elections. Despite President Biden's approval rating of 41 percent, and grim macroeconomic forecasts, Democrats largely avoided electoral disaster. For historical context, former President Barack Obama and Democrats lost six seats in the Senate and 63 seats in the House of Representatives during the 2010 midterm elections.

Although Democrats held back an electoral blowout, they will have to deal with the reality of a divided government in 2023. House Republicans will operate on thin margins with little room for defection and zero desire to give President Biden major legislative victories. While the Georgia Senate election will go to a December 6th run-off, Senate Democrats will have at least 50 seats in the Senate alongside the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Harris.



Leadership that Won't Be Returning (Senate)

- Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee (Retiring)
- Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Chair of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee (Retiring)



- Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (Retiring)
- Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee (Retiring)
- Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (Retiring)
- Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), Ranking Member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Retiring)
- Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee (Retiring)

Leadership that Won't Be Returning (House)

Meanwhile, at the time of writing, at least 75 incumbent Representatives will not be returning, either because they chose to retire, lost renomination, or were defeated in the general election. Prominent names among them include:

- Ted Deutch (D-FL), Chair of the Committee on Ethics (Retiring)
- John Katko (R-NY), Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee (Retiring)
- Petr DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Retiring)
- John Yarmuth (D-KY), Chair of the Committee on Budget (Retiring)
- Kevin Brady (R-TX), Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee (Retiring)
- Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Chair of the Science, Space and technology Committee (Retiring)
- Steve Chabot (R-OH), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation (lost re-election)
- Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (Lost Re-election)
- Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Chair of the House Oversight Committee (Lost Primary)
- Liz Cheney (R-WY), Vice Chair of the January 6th Committee (Lost Primary)
- Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Chair of the House Democratic Steering Committee (Retiring)
- Rodney Davis (R-IL), Ranking Member of the House Administration Committee (Lost Primary)

There are 2 races that went longer than expected: the Arizona gubernatorial race between Katie Hobbs (D) and Kari Lake (R) and the Senate race in Georgia between Herschel Walker (R) and Rev. Raphael Warnock (D). The Arizona gubernatorial race was decided on Tuesday, November 15th and went to Katie Hobbs. The Georgia senatorial race will go to a runoff on December 6th.

Party Pickups

In the race to flip the House of Representatives, Republicans significantly won more seats with a total of 18 seats previously been held by Democrats. Redistricting placed some incumbents at a disadvantage in the general election. Among these, the most significant reversals were:

- Rich McCormick (R-GA)
- Aaron Beam (R-FL)
- Cory Mills (R-FL)
- Mike Lawler (R-NY)
- John James (R-MI)



- Tom Kean Jr. (R-NJ)

On the other hand, Democrats picked up seven seats previously held by Republicans. Among these, the most significant pick-ups were:

- Emilia Sykes (D-OH)
- Hillary Scholten (D-MI)
- Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)

Pennsylvania flipped for Democratic Lt. Gov. John Fetterman in his race against Republican Dr. Mehmet Oz. The office was previously held by Senator Pat Toomey (R) who opted to retire after his term.

Gubernatorial Results

Democrats netted a gain of two governorships overall, winning races in Massachusetts and Maryland. Massachusetts was between Maura Healy (D) and Geoff Diehl (R), with Healy taking the state over Diehl with a little over 700,000 more votes. Maryland was between Wes Moore (D) and Dan Cox (R), with Wes Moore taking the state over Cox by just shy of 500,000 votes. Outgoing Maryland Governor Larry Hogan is beginning to garner attention as a possible 2024 candidate with recent TV appearances and an earlier visit to Des Moines, Iowa for the state fair in the summer.

Meanwhile, Republicans picked up the governor's mansion in Nevada, as Republican Joe Lombardo defeated incumbent Democrat Steve Sisolak by just under 14,000 votes.

What's to Come

The 118th Congress will see a divided government like we saw during the administrations for both President Trump and President Obama. However, a split Congress doesn't mean the end of a working government. House Republicans will use their appropriations powers to stall President Biden's spending priorities. However, routine government business such as funding and budgeting will have to move forward.

The White House may try to find ways to utilize its Executive Branch powers to embolden federal agencies to act if it perceives a lack of action on behalf of Congress. In addition, President Biden's use of Executive Orders could mirror what we saw during former President Obama's time in office. A significant difference would be that an increased use of executive authority would find itself subject to judicial review and the balance of the courts does not favor the Biden Administration. Excessive losses dealt by the courts could undermine President Biden and his case for governing.

One of the largest factors that is yet to be decided is whether the president runs for re-election in 2024. The November 15th announcement from former President Trump will surely impact President Biden's decision to announce in the coming months.

As always, the Lobbyit team is actively monitoring activity in Congress and federal agencies to relay what it may mean for you and your organization.