2026 MIDTERM ELECTION RECAP

NAPEO Member Webinar
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1

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2

2026 MIDTERMS | A DEMOCRATIC WAVE

HOUSE | Democrats win control; projected to hold roughly 256-260 seats after 40+ flips.

SENATE | Democrats secure at least 54 seats; Alaska and Mississippi remain unresolved.

GOVERNORS | Five Republican-held governorships flip Democratic, including TX, GA, IA, OH and NV.

BOTTOM LINE | A larger-than-expected wave reached traditionally Republican states.

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A MANDATE FOR CHANGE

Change in control of the House, Senate and/or White House

1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
1962	1972	1982	1992	2002	2012	2022
1964	1974	1984	1994	2004	2014	2024
1966	1976	1986	1996	2006	2016	2026
1968	1978	1988	1998	2008	2018	2028

Highlighted years indicate a change in party control

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A HISTORIC BLUE WAVE | BY THE NUMBERS

HOUSE	SENATE	GOVERNORS
D +44*	**D +7–9***	**D +6***
2025–26: 220 R / 215 D	2025–26: 53 R / 47 D	2025–26: 26 R / 24 D
2027–28: 259 D* / 176 R	**2027–28: 54 D / 44 R**	**2027–28: 30 D / 20 R**
	2 undecided	

HISTORIC PROPORTIONS

Most Democratic governors since 1993 • Largest House majority since 1991
Most Democratic state trifectas since 1984 • Largest House popular-vote margin since 1976
Potentially the largest incoming House freshman class since 1933

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5

EXPLAINING THE SURGE | THE HOW

Three key elements of the 2026 Democratic wave

TURNING NON-MAGA REPUBLICANS	WINNING INDEPENDENTS	MOBILIZING THE DEMOCRATIC BASE
15%	**D +17**	**98%**
of non-MAGA Republicans voted Democratic	Independent voters in 2026 (vs. D +2 in 2022)	of Democrats voted Democratic amid a historic turnout advantage

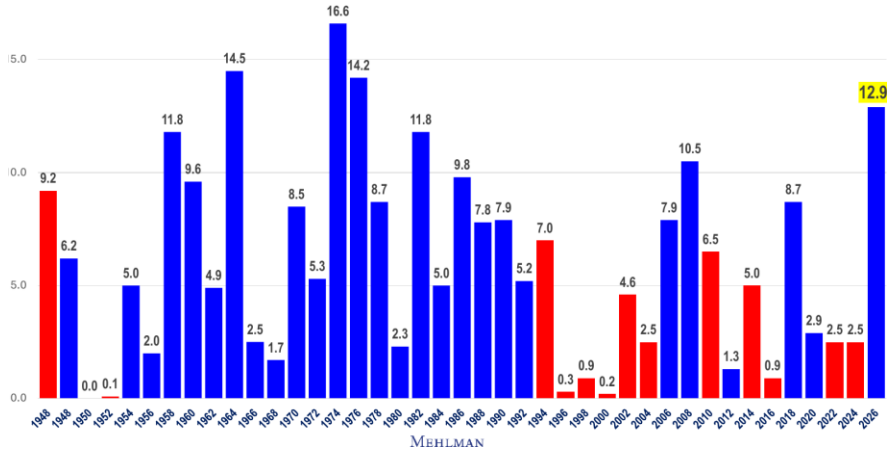
Source: Henry Olsen, The Washington Post (Nov. 4, 2026); CNN exit poll

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6

LARGEST HOUSE POPULAR VOTE MARGIN SINCE 1976

House of Representatives | Party popular-vote margin (percentage points)



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7

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP | 2027 OUTLOOK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Democratic leadership (expected)

Jeffries: Speaker | Clark: Majority Leader | Aguilar: Majority Whip

Republican leadership (contested)

Johnson stepping aside; Scalise vs. Jordan for Minority Leader

Other GOP races

Emmer vs. Pfluger for Whip; McClain faces challengers for Conference Chair

U.S. SENATE

Democratic leadership (anticipated)

Schumer: Majority Leader; leadership slate still to be elected

Republican leadership (anticipated)

Thune seeking Minority Leader; Barrasso seeking to remain in leadership

Tax-writing committees

Wyden likely to chair Finance; Neal likely to chair Ways & Means

KEY DATES NOV 10 GOP leadership elections • NOV 18–19 House Democratic elections • JAN 3 Speaker vote

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8

SENATE FINANCE | NEW MAJORITY, NEW LEADERSHIP

GAVEL | Ron Wyden (D-OR) positioned to return as chair; Republican leadership shifts to minority.

DEPARTURES | Cornyn and Cassidy lost primaries; Marshall lost reelection; Tillis, Daines and Tina Smith departing.

ADDITIONAL CHANGE | Marsha Blackburn elected Tennessee governor; replacement expected.

9

WAYS & MEANS | SIGNIFICANT TURNOVER

GAVEL | Richard Neal (D-MA) positioned to chair; Jason Smith (R-MO) likely ranking member.

REPUBLICAN EXITS | Buchanan*, Arrington, Schweikert, Hern*, Feenstra, Fitzpatrick, Miller* and Carey*.

DEMOCRATIC EXITS | Larson, Gomez, Davis*, Doggett and Evans.

UNRESOLVED | Mike Thompson (D-CA) trails in an uncalled race; Greg Murphy (R-NC) within recount range.**

**Sponsor of H.R. 3223 *Cosponsor of H.R. 3223

10

WHAT IT MEANS FOR NAPEO | H.R. 3223

BIPARTISAN LEADS | Beth Van Duyne reelected; Mike Thompson's reelection remains uncertain.

LOST ALLIES | Several Republican cosponsors leave, including Hern, Miller and Buchanan; Danny Davis also departs.

OPPORTUNITY | Democratic cosponsors move into the majority; engage Neal and incoming committee staff.

2027 PRIORITY | Preserve bipartisan support, recruit new Republican allies and prepare a sponsor contingency.

11

ELECTION QUICK FACTS

RECORD NUMBER OF WOMEN | At least 132 women will serve in the 2027 House, a new record.

GOVERNOR MILESTONE | At least 17 women governors in 2027, another record; Democrats flipped five governorships.

RED-STATE UPSETS | Democrats won Senate seats in Texas, Kansas and South Carolina after decades without wins.

TEXAS SWEEP | Democrats swept all eight major statewide contests in Texas, including the governorship and U.S. Senate seat.

LOOKING AHEAD | States with Democratic governors account for at least 380 electoral votes — more than 70% of the Electoral College heading into 2028.

12

2026 MIDTERMS | THE TAKEAWAY

The 2026 election changed more than the balance of power in Congress. It reshaped the political landscape and brought new leadership to committees central to the PEO industry

These changes create valuable opportunities for NAPEO to build new relationships, educate policymakers about the PEO industry and advance our legislative priorities in 2027

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