

Articles + Publications | November 9, 2022

## 2022 Midterm Election Results: Update 11/09/22

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### What do we know on Wednesday, November 9?

**Republicans are expected to win control of the House.** Republicans won at least 203 seats (a pickup of 11 seats) compared to 187 seats for Democrats (a pickup of four seats). Although Republicans flipped several Democrat-held seats in the House so far, it has not been the “red wave” the GOP anticipated. Republicans will likely gain a net of eight to 15 seats when all the votes are counted — short of the historical averages for midterm elections and below pre-election predictions. **In the Senate, Republicans control 49 seats, and Democrats control 48 seats.** Democrats have picked up one GOP-held seat in Pennsylvania, but control of the Chamber will likely come down to the Georgia and Nevada races.

### What is still pending?

- **Control of the Senate is still up for grabs.** Races in Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada remain uncalled.
  - Democrats can only afford to lose one of their currently held seats in Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada to retain their control in the Senate.
  - The Georgia Senate race will head to a runoff election on December 6, with neither candidate reaching the 50% threshold required.
  - Incumbent Senator Mark Kelly (D) is ahead in the vote count in Arizona, **leaving control of the Senate in the hands of the Georgia and Nevada races.**
- **There are dozens of competitive House congressional districts that are too close to call.** We will not know the final party breakdown of the House for days — or weeks — and control of the House is in the balance.

### What key races did Republicans win?

- **Senate**
  - **North Carolina:** Ted Budd won the race to keep the seat in GOP control.
  - **Ohio:** Republican J.D. Vance held off Democrat Rep. Tim Ryan, holding on to a Senate seat for Republicans left open by retiring Republican Senator Rob Portman.

- **Wisconsin:** Incumbent Senator Ron Johnson held on to his competitive seat against Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes.

- **House**

- **New York:** While many seats are uncalled, Republicans appear poised for big pickups in New York, including NY-3, NY-4, NY-17, and NY-19.
- **Florida:** Republicans picked up three seats in the sunshine state in FL-4, FL-7, and FL-13.
- **Other:** Republicans also flipped seats in AZ-2, GA-6, NJ-7, TN-5, TX-15, VA-2, and WI-3.
- *There are still dozens of uncalled competitive House races that could be added to this list.*

- **Governor**

- **Florida:** Incumbent GOP Governor Ron DeSantis won a commanding victory over challenger Rep. Charlie Crist by over 1.5 million votes.
- **Georgia:** Incumbent GOP Governor Brian Kemp won his closely watched rematch with challenger Stacey Abrams. Kemp's latest count is ahead by nearly 300,000 votes.

## **What key races did Democrats win?**

- **Senate**

- **Colorado:** Incumbent Senator Michael Bennet won in a race Republicans hoped would be an election-night surprise.
- **New Hampshire:** Incumbent Senator Maggie Hassan won in another race Republicans thought would be more competitive heading into election night.
- **Pennsylvania:** Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman flipped the Republican held seat for a net gain for Democrats.

- **House**

- **Michigan:** Democrats won and held onto key seats in MI-3 (also a flipped seat) and MI-7.
- **Ohio:** Democratic challenger Greg Landsman defeated six-term Republican incumbent Steve Chabot in OH-1, while 21-term incumbent Democrat Marcy Kaptur held onto her seat in OH-9 in a tough new district.
- **Texas:** Democrats held on to seats in TX-28 and TX-34 — seats that Republicans hoped to flip to build a

stronger majority.

- **Other:** Democrats also flipped seats in IL-13 and NC-13 and held onto vulnerable seats in VA-7, MN-2, IN-1, and NH-1.
- *There are still dozens of uncalled competitive House races that could be added to this list.*

- **Governor**

- **Maryland:** Democrat Wes Moore flipped the governor's house previously held by Republican Governor Larry Hogan and elected its first Black governor.
- **Massachusetts:** Democrat Maura Healey flipped the seat held by Republican Charlie Baker, making history as the nation's first openly lesbian governor.

### **What key factors drove the results?**

**1. Early Voting:** There were [45.9 million early votes cast](#), surpassing the 39.1 early votes from the 2018 midterms. Although Democrats controlled 42.5% of the early vote — compared to 33.8% for Republicans and 23.6% for other parties — early voting appears to have had mixed results for Democrats.

- a. In the Nevada Senate race, for example, Democrats seemed to underperform in early voting, especially in Clark County — the Democrat's stronghold in the state.
- b. In Georgia, early voting ended with a total of 2.5 million ballots cast, breaking the state's early voting record. Black voters also accounted for 29% of early voters, up from 27% in 2020, giving Democrats a possible advantage.

**2. Election Spending:** Nearly \$10 billion was spent this election cycle on political advertisements — the most expensive election ever.

- a. Some of the most expensive areas include South Texas; Clark County, NV; the metro Atlanta area; Orange County, CA; Maricopa County, AZ; Northeastern Pennsylvania, and Wake County, NC.

**3. Split-Ticket Voting:** In states holding both a governor and Senate race, split-ticket voting seems to have played a significant factor.

- a. In Georgia, for example, GOP Senate candidate Herschel Walker trailed Republican Governor Brian Kemp by over 150,000 votes.
- b. Similarly in Pennsylvania, Democratic winner John Fetterman trailed Democrat Governor-elect Josh Shapiro by over 250,000 votes.

**4. Candidate Quality:** Candidate quality, an issue raised by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) earlier this year, appears to have been a concern for voters. Dozens of Trump-backed candidates with little political experience were defeated or struggled in otherwise winnable races.

### **What happens before the next Congress?**

- The Senate returns to D.C. today, and the House returns on Monday for a packed lame-duck agenda.
  - Top issues in the lame duck included passing fiscal year 2023 appropriations and the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act.
  - Other potential issues for the lame duck or early next year include energy permitting, tax extenders, trade policy, retirement security, and FDA program reforms.
- House Republicans plan to hold leadership elections on November 15. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) will likely become the next speaker of the house, clearing the way for Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) to be the next majority leader.
  - The most competitive leadership race will be for majority whip. There is a three-way contest between Reps. Tom Emmer (R-MN, the chair of the NRCC), Drew Ferguson (R-GA, the current chief deputy whip), and Jim Banks (R-ID, the chair of the Republican Study Committee).
- Senate Republicans plan to hold their leadership elections on November 16. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is highly likely to stay on as the highest-ranking Republican.
- There is no indication when Democrats will hold their elections.
  - Additionally, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has not indicated if she intends to stay in Democratic leadership. Though, there is some reporting about rising star Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) being considered for a leadership role.
- Newly elected members of Congress will go through orientation over the following weeks and will formally start their jobs when the next Congress convenes on January 3, 2023.
- Republican leaders will need to finalize new committee ratios before Republicans and Democrats can give assignments to members.
  - It's the job of the Republican Steering Committee and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committees to assign new and incumbent members to committee seats.

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