

# The 2024 Fallout and the 2026 Midterm

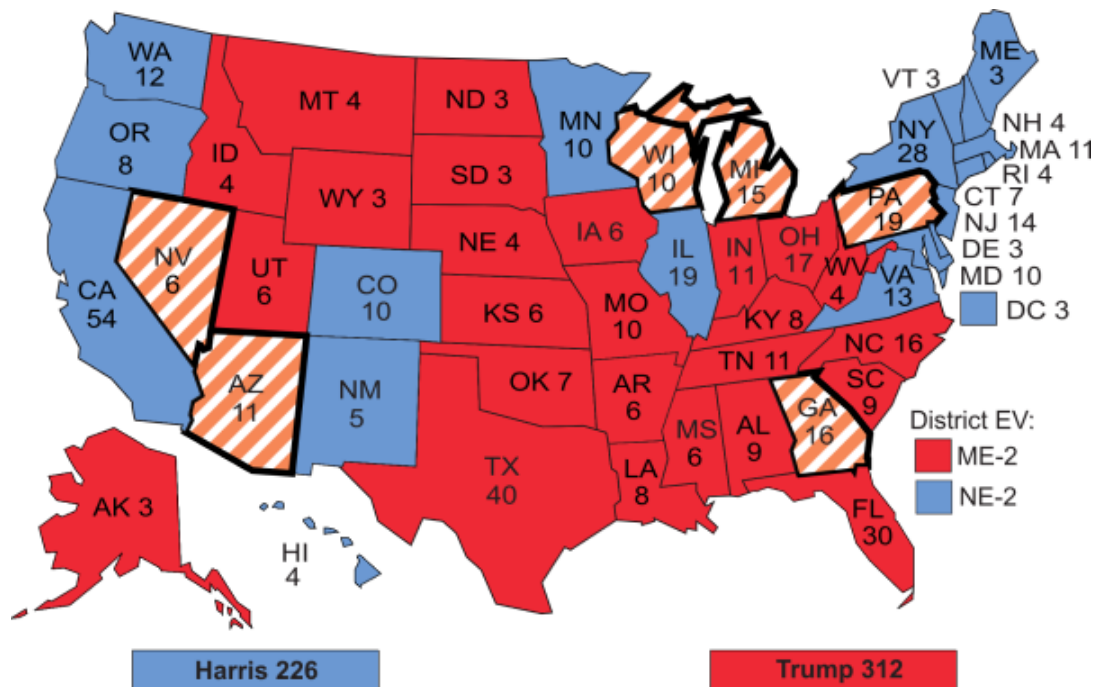
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# The Shape of Trump's Victory

- Trump improves in every state; 44/50 states vote the same in all of Trump's elections
- No Elec College bias
- Close or not close?



# The Shape of Trump's Victory

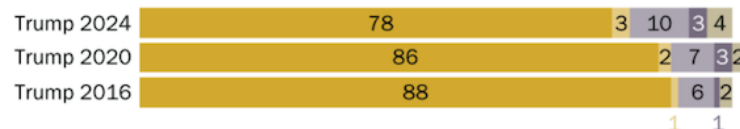
- Men shifted more to Trump than women
- Latinos have become way less Dem-leaning
- Higher turnout wouldn't have helped Harris

## Trump's 2024 voters were far more racially and ethnically diverse than in 2016, 2020

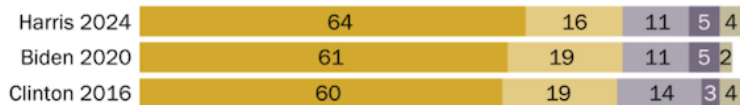
*Composition of validated voters who voted for Republican and Democratic candidates (%)*

■ White ■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ Asian\* ■ Other

### Republican coalition



### Democratic coalition



\* Estimates for Asian voters are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Based on adult citizens for whom reliable data on turnout and vote choice is available. Turnout was verified using official state election records. Vote choice for all years is from a survey conducted in the month after the election.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2024.

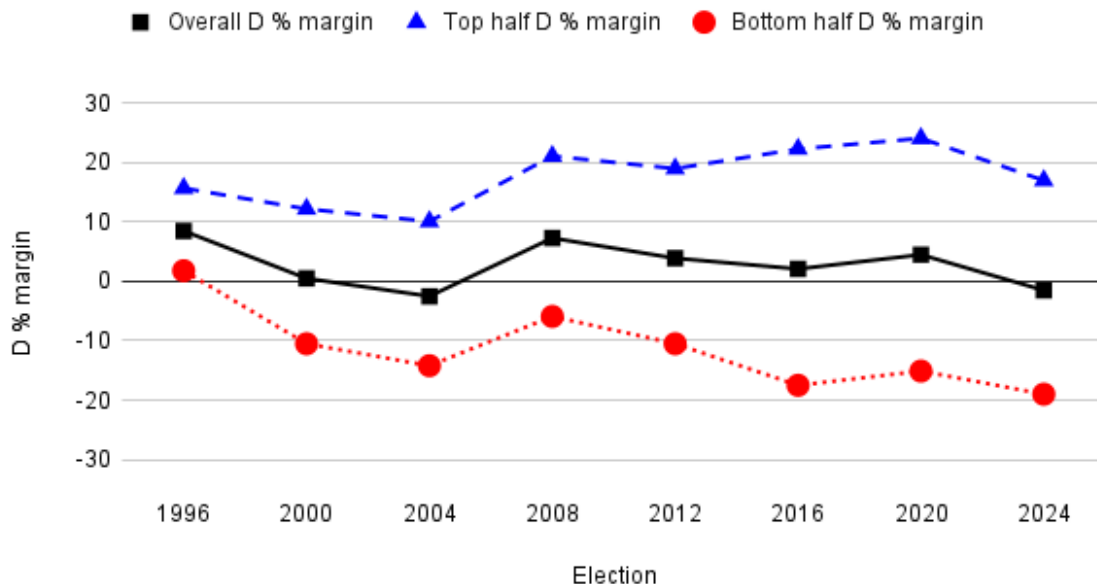
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# The Big Counties vs. the Rest of the Country

- About 150 of the nation's 3,100+ counties cast half the national presidential vote

- Gap closed a little in 2024, but it was still 36 points and much bigger than 20 years ago

Gap Between Top and Bottom Halves, 1996-2024

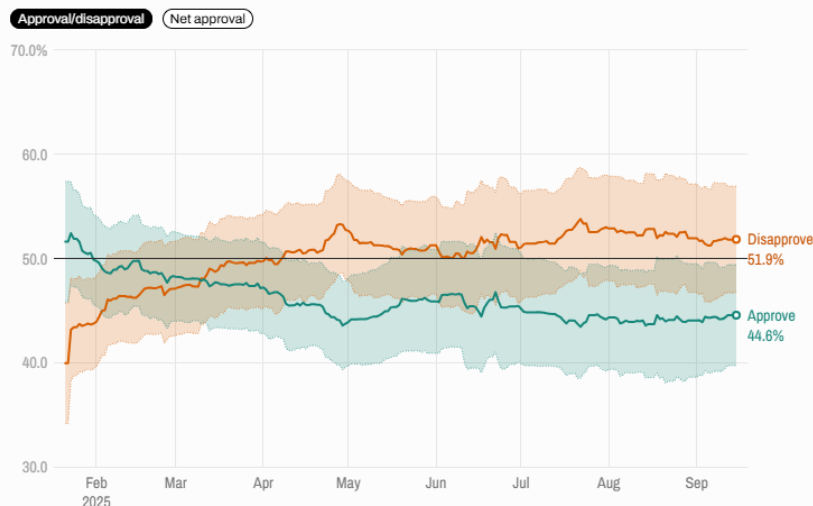


# Views of Trump So Far

- Trump approval clearly underwater, but better than 2017
- “Thermostatic” public opinion
- 2028 set to be open on both sides

## Do Americans **approve** or **disapprove** of Donald Trump?

An updating polling average of Donald Trump's approval rating and disapproval rating in his second term, accounting for each poll's quality, recency, sample size, and partisan lean



Note: 90% of polls are projected to fall within the shaded regions.  
Updated September 15, 2025 at 2:03 PM • [Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

**SILVER  
BULLETIN**

Source: Silver Bulletin average of national polls

# The Midterm Dynamic: White House Party Typically Struggles

- Midterms:  
Lower turnout  
and desire for  
balance
- Presidential  
party seat loss  
is a common  
feature of  
midterms

## MIDTERMS, 1946-2022

	HOUSE	SENATE
Number of elections	20	20
Prez party lost seats	18	13
Prez party gained seats	2	6
No change	0	1
<b>AVG. PREZ PARTY LOSS</b>	<b>-25.8</b>	<b>-3.6</b>

Source: Vital Statistics on Congress

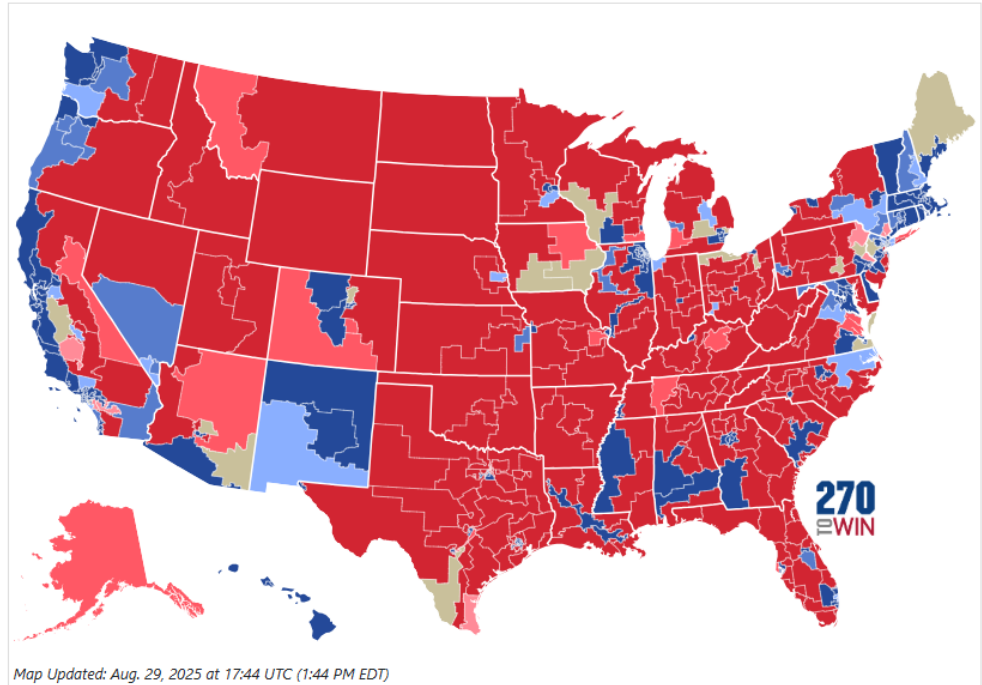


# The Midterm Dynamic: Extraordinary vs. Ordinary Circumstances

- 3 times that presidential party has gained seats: 1934, 1998, and 2002 – popular presidents, unusual circumstances
- Last 5 midterms: 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022 – unpopular presidents, somewhat ordinary circumstances
- 2026: Could redistricting be the extraordinary circumstance?

# The House: Narrow 220–215 GOP Edge, Democrats Enjoy Crossover Advantage

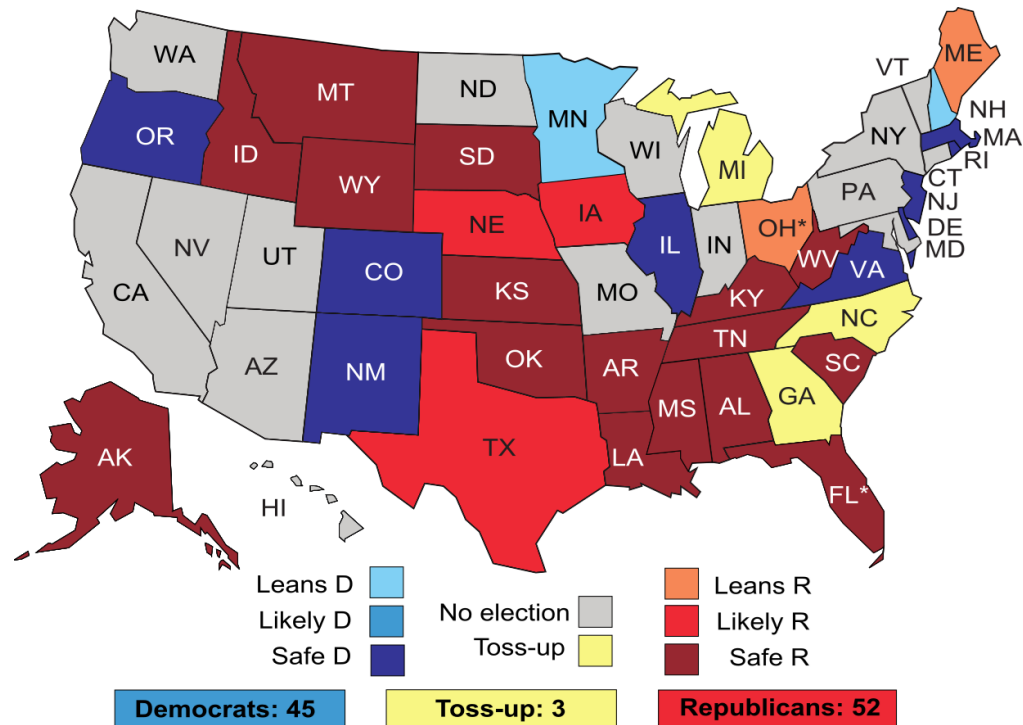
- Few crossover seats, but 13 Ds in Trump seats/3 Rs in Harris seats
- History suggests Ds *should* win House, but nothing guaranteed





# The Senate: Republicans Favored

- Rs defending 22/35 seats, but few are truly competitive
- GA/MI D defense, ME/NC R defense
- Ds need at least 2 of FL-IA-OH-TX-AK to win Senate—tough ask

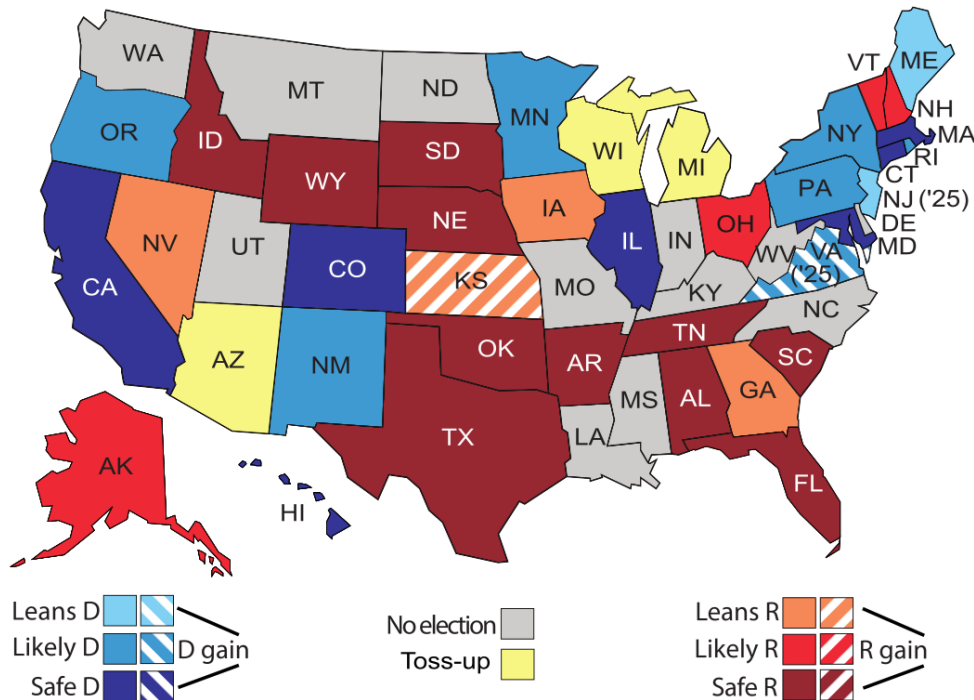


# The Governors: Many Open Seats; Significant Turnover?

– Just VA-NJ in 2025; both parties defending 19 seats next two years

– At least 19 of 38 races will be open seats, could lead to turnover

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# Questions?

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Books: *The Long Red Thread*, *The Bellwether*

