FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR | FRIDAY, 06 NOVEMBER 2026 – THE RETURNS | FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

THE RETURNS | UPDATED THROUGH THE COUNT | AS OF 12:00 P.M. ET

At first light the dog got up. The fox heard the chain fall.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Trump loses the House and the Senate.

Seven Senate seats on our card changed hands, and eleven House seats. Thirty-two races are in; all thirty-two ran blue of his 2024 line. The new Congress takes the gavels in 60 days. He keeps the nuclear codes for 808.

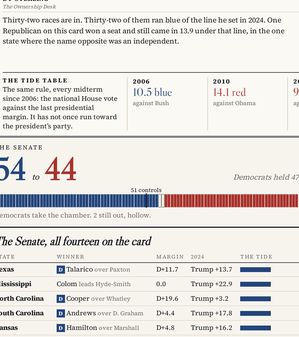
THE WAVE METER

BLUE WAVE

The median race ran **15.9 points** blue of Trump's 2024 margin.

32 of 32 races in ran blue of his 2024 number

1 Republican won and still ran behind him



A dot is a race: large Senate, small House. The wave is the same races, drawn as a crest. Democrat won · Republican won · Seat flipped · Still counting

THE RULE

Every race is held against what Trump did there in 2024. A Republican who wins by less than he won is blue water. A Republican who beats his number is red. A Democrat who runs behind Harris is red too.

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Thirty-two races are in. Thirty-two of them ran blue of the line he set in 2024. One Republican on this card won a seat and still came in 13.9 under that line, in the one state where the name opposite was an independent.

The word is impairment. A thing may not be carried at more than it will now fetch; the holder marks it down and says the figure out loud. Texas was carried at Trump +13.7. On Tuesday it went at D+11.7. That is 25.4 points, written off in one night, in public. A margin is not a possession. It is a price somebody else sets. The write-down is taken. The seat goes with it.

THE TIDE TABLE

The same rule, every midterm since 2006: the national House vote against the last presidential margin. It has not once run toward the president's party.

2006	2010	2014	2018	2022	2026
10.5 blue against Bush	14.1 red against Obama	9.6 red against Obama	6.5 blue against Trump	7.2 red against Biden	counting against Trump

THE SENATE

54 to 44

Democrats held 47

51 controls

Democrats take the chamber. 2 still out, hollow.

THE HOUSE

231 to 144

Democrats held 215

218 controls

Democrats take the chamber. 60 still out, hollow.

The Senate, all fourteen on the card

STATE	WINNER	MARGIN	2024	THE TIDE		
Texas	D Talarico over Paxton	D+11.7	Trump +13.7	25.4 blue	FLIP
Mississippi	Colom leads Hyde-Smith	0.0	Trump +22.9	22.9 blue	COUNTING
North Carolina	D Cooper over Whatley	D+19.6	Trump +3.2	22.8 blue	FLIP
South Carolina	D Andrews over D. Graham	D+4.4	Trump +17.8	22.2 blue	FLIP
Kansas	D Hamilton over Marshall	D+4.8	Trump +16.2	21.0 blue	FLIP
Georgia	D Ossoff over M. Collins	D+18.0	Trump +2.2	20.2 blue	HOLD
Iowa	D Turek over Hinson	D+4.1	Trump +13.2	17.3 blue	FLIP
Ohio	D Brown over Husted	D+4.8	Trump +11.2	16.0 blue	FLIP
Nebraska	R Ricketts over Osborn	R+6.6	Trump +20.5	13.9 blue	HOLD
Alaska	R Sullivan leads Peltola	R+0.8	Trump +13.1	12.3 blue	COUNTING
New Hampshire	D Pappas over Sununu	D+14.3	Harris +2.8	11.5 blue	HOLD
Michigan	D El-Sayed over Rogers	D+6.8	Trump +1.4	8.2 blue	HOLD
Minnesota	D Flanagan over Tafoya	D+10.1	Harris +4.2	5.9 blue	HOLD
Maine	D Jackson over S. Collins	D+7.7	Harris +7.0	0.7 blue	FLIP

Called races only carry a Hold or a Flip. Each name links to the call.

Mississippi is tied at 0.0 and still counting

BY LOU
One More Question

There is a zero on this page and it is going to bother me all night. Mississippi, the Senate row: 0.0. Not close. Not within something. Zero, and the board still says counting.

The pump at the station on my corner rounds. I spent two winters trying to stop it on an even number, and the one time it happened I went inside and showed the kid at the register, and got told the pump does not stop there, it only prints there. Which is a different sentence than the one I thought I had been reading for two winters.

And forgive me, I am sure there is a simple answer. A hundred seats, ninety-eight of them called, two still out. Mississippi at 0.0, in a state Trump carried by 22.9. Alaska 0.8 apart, in a state he carried by 13.1. The Senate has already been called at 54. I am not saying the call is wrong — the people who make those calls do it for a living, and I do it once every two years.

Oh, one more thing and then I will let you get back to the board. 0.0. That is the printed number. Underneath it are two stacks of paper in a county office and one of them is taller. So, last question: is 0.0 a result, or is it where the screen stopped?

This reporter returns to the political desk

BY GUS
Filling in, the Political Desk

CORRECTED BY TRUDY
The Sports Desk

Every call in this box is wrong. The correction under it is the record.

Texas CORRECTED *Texas goes, and this reporter is prepared to stake a career of unblemished accuracy upon it, to Eugene Victor Debs, campaigning from a federal cell in Atlanta, by a margin of forty-one points.*

TRUDY: Talarico, by 11.7. Debs did run in 1920 from the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, with campaign pins that read Convict No. 9653, and Debs died in 1926. The 1926 part is what is going to give us trouble tonight. The record.

Minnesota CORRECTED *Minnesota belongs, as it has belonged since this reporter stood at the back of that hall in a borrowed overcoat, to the Farmer-Labor ticket, and the margin is thirty points if it is one.*

TRUDY: Flanagan, by 10.1. The Farmer-Labor Party merged into the Minnesota Democrats on April 15, 1944, with Hubert Humphrey chairing the committee that arranged it. Flanagan ran on the ticket that merger produced, so the call is only eighty-two years late. The record.

Wisconsin 3rd CORRECTED *Wisconsin's 3rd goes to Fighting Bob La Follette and this reporter will hear no argument on the point, by a margin not seen since the Progressive wave crested over this very desk.*

TRUDY: Cooke, by 6.6. La Follette did run in 1924, carried exactly one state, Wisconsin, and died the following June. Put the stopwatch down, sugar, and lie flat in a dark room until it passes. The record.

Nebraska CORRECTED *Nebraska, and this reporter calls it without hesitation for William Jennings Bryan, the Boy Orator of the Platte, in a landslide they will be studying for a century.*

TRUDY: Ricketts, by 6.6. Bryan ran three times and lost three times — 1896, 1900 and 1908, dead in 1925. A century of studying is exactly what he got. The record.

Ohio 9th CORRECTED *Ohio's 9th, and this reporter has seen enough: it is Victoria Woodhull's, the first woman ever to stand for the presidency, by a figure I decline to read aloud out of respect for the loser. This reporter has also not left this chair since the polls closed and the chair is aware of it.*

TRUDY: Kaptur, by 5.4, on lines redrawn to Trump +10.5. Woodhull did stand, in 1872, and she died in 1927. Somebody bring a towel to the gentleman in chair four, and bring the second one with you. The record.

Iowa 1st CORRECTED *Iowa's 1st is James Baird Weaver's and the Greenback ticket's, called by this reporter at nine o'clock sharp from memory alone, memory having failed him on no occasion to date, and the chair can file its own report in the morning.*

TRUDY: Bohannan, by 9.2. Weaver of Iowa ran on the Greenback ticket in 1880 and the People's Party ticket in 1892, and died in 1912. That is the fifth candidate you have seated tonight who is in a cemetery, and we are not off the House board. Did we take everything the bottle says this morning? The record.

The House, the twenty-three on the card

BY SAL
Staff Writer

You know what Texas 34, Ohio 7, Florida 14 and Florida 25 all have in common? Every one of them is a seat somebody redrew before a single vote was cast, and the friendliest of those five new lines still ran Trump +9.1. Five for five on Tuesday, the other way. The phrase for it is "mid-decade redistricting," which is what you call moving the goalposts when you also own the stadium, the grounds crew and the man with the chalk — and Florida's own supreme court let that map stand in June, six to one. The lines were drawn to add four seats. The two on this board are still Democratic.

SEAT	WINNER	MARGIN	2024	THE TIDE		
CA-22†	D Villegas	D+31.2	Trump +1.8	33.0 blue	COUNTING
TX-34†	D V. Gonzalez	D+15.8	Trump +10.1	25.9 blue	HOLD
NC-11	D Ager	D+15.8	Trump +9.5	25.3 blue	FLIP
OH-7†	D Poindexter	D+9.8	Trump +11.0	20.8 blue	FLIP
IA-1	D Bohannan	D+9.2	Trump +8.4	17.6 blue	FLIP
PA-8	D Cognetti	D+8.8	Trump +8.4	17.2 blue	FLIP
NJ-7	D Bennett	D+15.7	Trump +1.1	16.8 blue	FLIP
CO-8	D Rutinel	D+14.7	Trump +1.8	16.5 blue	FLIP
OH-9†	D Kaptur	D+5.4	Trump +10.5	15.9 blue	HOLD
FL-14†	D Castor	D+5.3	Trump +10.5	15.8 blue	HOLD
PA-10	D Stelson	D+10.0	Trump +5.2	15.2 blue	FLIP
PA-7	D Brooks	D+12.0	Trump +3.2	15.2 blue	FLIP
NC-1†	D Davis	D+2.8	Trump +11.5	14.3 blue	HOLD
AZ-1	D Shah	D+11.1	Trump +3.1	14.2 blue	COUNTING
WA-3	D Gluesenkamp Perez	D+10.8	Trump +3.3	14.1 blue	HOLD
WI-3	D Cooke	D+6.6	Trump +7.3	13.9 blue	FLIP
FL-25†	D Moskowitz	D+4.7	Trump +9.1	13.8 blue	HOLD
MI-10	D Hines	D+6.1	Trump +6.5	12.6 blue	COUNTING
IA-3	D Trone Garriott	D+7.4	Trump +4.4	11.8 blue	FLIP
AZ-6	D Mendoza	D+8.0	Trump +0.7	8.7 blue	COUNTING
VA-2	D Luria	D+8.5	Trump +0.2	8.7 blue	FLIP
MI-7	D Lawrence	D+3.2	Trump +1.2	4.4 blue	COUNTING
NY-17	D Conley	D+4.5	Harris +0.5	4.0 blue	COUNTING

† Redrawn since 2024. The baseline is Trump's margin on the new lines, so the map cannot grade itself. The full form: the Politics page.

★ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Democrats won control of the House and the Senate.

WHO GETS PAID. Democrats. They have 54 Senate seats and 231 House seats called so far; seven Senate seats and eleven House seats on our card were taken from Republicans.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing yet. The outgoing Congress keeps its seats for 60 more days, because the new one is not sworn in until noon on January 3.

WHAT'S NEXT. Winning is not overriding. Two thirds of a full Senate is 67 votes and two thirds of a full House is 290; at 54 and 231 called, the vets still wins, so the next date that changes anything is January 3.

What is left to him, reconciled

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Okay then. I ran the new seats against the only number a veto cares about. A bill he sends back becomes law anyway if two thirds of each chamber passes it again. Two thirds of a full Senate is 67 votes; Democrats have 54 seats called. Two thirds of a full House is 290; they have 231 called so far. That is a gap of 13 in the one column and 59 in the other as of this count, and the seats still out will not close the first one.

What it leaves him is the pen, and a pen does not need a vote. It needs a date. In 60 days the gavels change hands. The pen does not, hon.

Maine changed hands and barely moved

BY MITCH
Investigations

Everybody find your place. We are on the Maine row, and the number in the tide column is 0.7.

Here is the thing about 0.7. Harris carried Maine by 7.0 in 2024. Jackson carried it by 7.7 on Tuesday. That is the flattest race on this entire board in the year of the flood: a Senate seat changes party, a sitting senator is out, and the state itself moved seven tenths of a point. The Feinstein rule runs both directions at this paper, so it falls to us to say it first — Maine is the worst race on our own side of the sheet.

Now follow the bouncing ball into the paperwork, which is where it gets strange. I went up to the nominating convention in a borrowed necktie under the name Eldon T. Pilcher, which is to say I read the tally. Ballotpedia, 30 July: that convention went 566 to 5, and it made Jackson the first replacement nominee for a U.S. Senate seat in Maine since 1918 — the 28th in the country since then, the 15th on the Democratic side. All together now, down to the last line of that entry: of those 28, seven had ever been elected. On Tuesday the count made it eight.

Seven tenths of a point, and the first name Maine has swapped onto a Senate ballot since 1918.

Why the seats undersell the water

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Votes are counted by the million. Seats are handed out by the district, and the district is drawn by whoever holds the pen.

Texas, Florida, Ohio and North Carolina redrew their lines under Republican majorities. Florida's own supreme court let the new map stand on 10 June, six to one; Republicans held twenty of that state's twenty-eight seats, and the new lines were drawn to add four. California answered with a map of its own, approved by its voters on 4 November 2025 and drawn against Texas's.

The old word for it is the entail: land settled so it cannot be sold away from the heirs. A seat drawn that way is meant to descend rather than to be won.

Texas's 34th was redrawn to Trump +10.1. It went D+15.8. Ohio's 9th was redrawn to Trump +10.5. It went D+5.4. The lines held. The seats did not.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE LEDGER FILES AFTER THE VOTE

Chapter 3: The Letter X

Put a pot of water on the stove and watch it boil, and you have done, in reverse, the trick that built the Federal Helium Reserve. Everything in a pot of soup has a temperature at which it gives up and changes state. The engineers of 1917 wanted a gas that refuses — that stays a gas while everything around it turns to liquid — and they found that the only way to get it out of the ground was to freeze the rest of the ground's gas around it and pour that away. You don't filter helium. You leave it behind. Now — hold that thought, because the thing they built to do it was a secret, and the secret had a name. The name was a letter. The Historic American Engineering Record, the Park Service's...

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

♥ FROM THE CORNER ♥

IN SUM

Newsom announced Thursday that all 548 death sentences in California become life without parole because capital punishment is morally wrong, and the same wire page says the state supreme court has the final say in hundreds of those cases, with a district attorney already on the record that the move faces a legal hurdle. That is not clemency for 548 people. It is one press conference and several hundred requests addressed to four of seven justices, with the governor's name on the announcement and their signatures on the outcome. Because the announcement takes effect the moment it is read out and the hundreds take effect only if four justices concur, the thing that changed this week is the governor's record; because his record is what changed, it gets spent in the next campaign; and the only piece of that you will ever hold in your hand is the ballot envelope with your name printed on the front.

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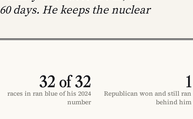
On Newsom commutes 548 death sentences by invoking the clause that hands hundreds back to four judges *— the column, by Lou*

THE WORD

$84 — 06 NOVEMBER 2026

On mandate

DEMOCRAT | REPUBLICAN



13 POINTS | ***MANDATE***

'I bow! Thursday. We took a right off the ERs by one pin, and our captain, a nice fella, ordered a trophy. A big one, with 'unprecedented' on the plate. I think about that trophy. A point and a half. 49.8 percent. The word was mandate. Then this week, thirteen points the other way, projected, the most in a midterm since 1974, and I hear he wasn't on the ballot. Sorry, one thing before you go. If a point and a half is a mandate, what do you call thirteen?' — Lou

... Continued on Page W14

The rest of the paper is still printing: today's stories, Page A2 · the wire.

"Thirty-two races in and thirty-two of them ran away from the one guy who was not on any of the ballots — that is not a wave, that is a receipt with his name on it."

— *Sal*

HELP WANTED Crypto cops, recently disbanded. Reapply after the family bank closes. *Bring your own handcuffs; we sold ours.* **—Classifieds**

LOST The East Wing. Last seen April, near a bulldozer. *If found, do not return. He's redecorating.* **—Classifieds**

LOST Measles, eliminated in the year 2000, since recovered. *Reward for its re-loss. Ask a kindergarten.* **—Classifieds**

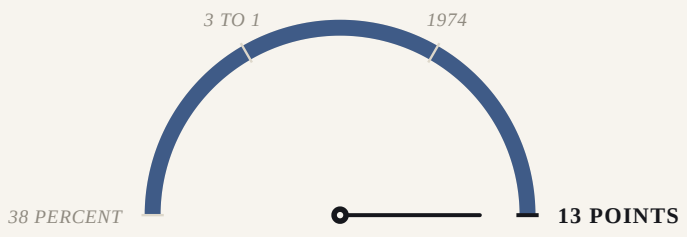
"Republicans held Nebraska and still lead Alaska, and 54 Senate seats is thirteen short of the 67 it takes to override a veto, so the agenda stands exactly where it stood on Monday."

— *Chip*

On mandate

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



13 POINTS

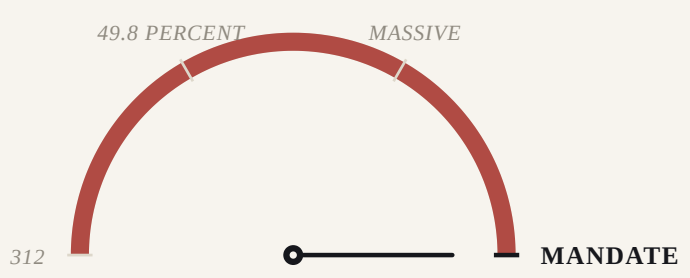
The customers came back on November 3. Democrats won control of the House and the Senate [1]. As of November 4 their House popular-vote margin was projected at 13 points, with the count unfinished. No party had won a midterm House vote by that much since 1974. Republican wave years 1994 and 2010 ran 6.8 [2].

The voters said why, to the Fox News Voter Poll. Trump's approval stood at 38 percent. By nearly 3 to 1, more said they cast a House vote to oppose him than to support him. About two-thirds said his tariffs hurt the national economy. About 6 in 10 called the Iran war the wrong decision [3]. He had spent weeks telling them to pretend he was on the ballot [4]. Afterward: "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE" [5]. Democrats will fall short of the two-thirds needed to override a veto [6]. His term, and the nuclear codes, run to noon on January 20, 2029 [7].

SOURCES

1. Democrats won control of Congress — Al Jazeera, 4 November 2026 ↑
2. "13 points: the projected Democratic popular vote margin"; 1974 the last time either party won by that much in a midterm; 6.8 points in 1994 and 2010 — Yahoo News, 4 November 2026 ↑
3. Fox News Voter Poll: 38 percent approve; "nearly a 3-to-1 margin"; about two-thirds said tariffs hurt the national economy; about 6 in 10 said the Iran war was the wrong decision — Fox News, 4 November 2026 ↑
4. Trump "spent weeks telling voters to pretend he's on the ballot" — NBC Washington, 4 November 2026 ↑
5. "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE" — Yahoo News live coverage, 4 November 2026 ↑
6. Democrats "fall short of a two-thirds majority that would be needed to override presidential vetoes" — NBC News live blog, 4 November 2026 ↑
7. Twentieth Amendment: presidential terms end at noon on January 20 — National Archives ↑

REPUBLICAN



MANDATE

Give the word its due: both parties use it. Joe Biden claimed a "mandate for action" on 51.3 percent. Al Gore declared a "mandate for change" for a ticket that won 43 percent [1]. On November 6, 2024, Donald Trump took the word further: "America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate" [2]. A month later he improved it: "we won by so much. The mandate was massive" [2]. His incoming press secretary wrote that "the fake news is trying to minimize President Trump's massive and historic victory to try to delegitimize his mandate" [1].

Now the receipt. He won 312 electoral votes, about 49.8 percent of the popular vote and a margin of about 1.5 points [1]. He finished under half, on the second-narrowest popular-vote margin in 60 years [2]. The margin was a point and a half. The adjective was unprecedented.

SOURCES

1. Trump about 49.83 percent, a 1.55-point margin, 312 to 226 in the Electoral College; "mandate for action," "mandate for change"; the press secretary-designate's statement — Anchorage Daily News, 29 November 2024 ↑
2. "America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate"; "we won by so much. The mandate was massive"; under 50 percent, the second-narrowest margin in the last 60 years — NPR, 16 December 2024 ↑

“I bowl Thursdays. We took a night off the Elks by one pin, and our captain, a nice fella, ordered a trophy. A big one, with "unprecedented" on the plate. I think about that trophy. A point and a half. 49.8 percent. The word was mandate. Then this week, thirteen points the other way, projected, the most in a midterm since 1974, and I hear he wasn't on the ballot. Sorry, one thing before you go. If a point and a half is a mandate, what do you call thirteen?” — Lou

“Mandate. Beautiful word. Sounds like something a judge hands you. You know what it means in plain English? It means he got 49.8 percent and would like you to stop asking. A point and a half, and the man called it unprecedented. So the same customers came back this week with a thirteen-point return slip, and now he wasn't on the ballot. Nobody takes delivery of the mandate and refuses the invoice unless he knew what was in the box. He still has the veto pen. He still has the codes.”

— Sal

“A mandate is less a number than a feeling, and the president's feeling was historic; this week's result is a separate feeling, held by other people, and I'd caution against reading one as a comment on the other.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎