



2018 Election Impact on the Arts

Presented by:
Americans for the Arts
Americans for the Arts Action Fund
November 19, 2018

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About Americans for the Arts

[Americans for the Arts](#) is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With more than 50 years of service, we are dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

With more than 350,000 organizational and individuals members and stakeholders across the country, we:

- Lead and serve individuals and organizations to help build environments in which the arts and arts education thrive and contribute to more vibrant and creative communities.
- Generate meaningful public and private sector policies and more resources for the arts and arts education.
- Build individual awareness and appreciation of the value of the arts and arts education.

[Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#) is the political advocacy arm of Americans for the Arts.



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Nina Ozlu Tunceli

**Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs
Executive Director, Americans for the Arts Action Fund**



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Post-Election Webinar Agenda

- A look at “ArtsVote2018” and election trends
- Review of U.S. Senate & House outcomes and policy predictions
- Report on State leadership: governors and statehouses
- Local arts ballot initiatives
- Special guest speakers from Michigan, Oklahoma and California



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Today's Webinar Speakers

- **Opening Remarks and Perspectives**
 - Robert Lynch, Americans for the Arts
- **Election Impact on the Political Landscape & Freshman Class**
 - Nina Ozlu Tunceli, Arts Action Fund
 - Sarah Triplett, Creative Many Michigan
 - Rick Stein, Arts Orange County
- **Election Impact on the Arts in Congress**
 - Narric Rome, Americans for the Arts
 - Lauren Cohen, Americans for the Arts
- **Election Impact on the Arts at State & Local Level & Ballots**
 - Jay Dick, Americans for the Arts
 - Julia Kirt, Oklahomans for the Arts and Oklahoma's new state senator
 - Brad Erickson, San Francisco Prop E



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Robert Lynch

President & CEO, Americans for the Arts

President & CEO, Americans for the Arts Action Fund



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Topline Election Outcomes

- The Winners were: GOP Senate, Democratic House, American Voter Turnout, Women, and Diversity
- 113 million people (47% of registered voters) voted this midterm election, compared to only 88 million (36.7%) in the last midterm in 2014. The 2016 presidential election had 55.7% turnout.
- New records for female members of Congress with at least 113 winning seats and candidates of color.
- Does divided government mean bipartisanship or gridlock?



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Top Legislative Issues

1. Health care pre-existing conditions coverage
2. Sensible gun control
3. Infrastructure
4. Immigration
5. Trade
6. Criminal Justice Reform
7. Middle-class tax relief
8. National Debt
9. Subpoenas and government oversight investigations



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Q & A with Bob and Nina

- Type your questions directly into the chat box. An Americans for the Arts government affairs staff person will respond during or after the webinar.



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ArtsVote 2018



CONGRESSIONAL ARTS REPORT CARD 2018

YOUR GUIDE TO VOTING FOR THE ARTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Vote smART: Will the Midterms Be a "Wave" Election?

On November 6, 2018, elections will be held for all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as for six non-voting delegates. A third of the Senate (35 seats) will also be up for election. Specifically, Democrats must defend 26 of the 35 Senate seats this year, while only nine seats will be defended by Republicans. Of note, 10 of these Democratic Senators represent states that **President Trump** won in 2016. While this might be indicative of a tougher re-election bid for a Democrat, this could also become an advantage in those "purple" states where the President's popularity continues to vacillate.


Currently, Republicans control the slimmest of margins in the Senate with 51 GOP members to 49 Democrats. Prospects of majority control flipping in the Senate appear to be a toss-up, since Democrats would have to win all 26 of their Senate seats as well as pick up two Republican-held seats. The most endangered GOP Senate seats include Senator **Dan Claitor** of Nevada and the two open seats currently held by retiring Senators **Jeff Flake** of Arizona and **Bob Corker** of Tennessee. Democratic Senators facing very tough re-election bids this year include Senators **Bill Nelson** of Florida, **Joe Donnelly** of Indiana, **Claire McCaskill** of Missouri, **Haidi Hattkamp** of North Dakota, and **Joe Manchin** of West Virginia. In the House, Republicans control the majority with a wider margin of 240 GOP members to 195 Democrats. However, many experts believe that the House will likely bring in a wave of new Democrats for several reasons.

Historically, the President's party loses Congressional seats during the first midterm. Many incumbent Republicans have also chosen **not** to run for re-election this year, as they faced serious challenges from a new crop of passionate Democratic candidates, representing women, minorities, veterans, small businesses, and youth. Contributing to this wave, Speaker of the House and top GOP leader **Paul Ryan** (R-WI) is retiring, as well as several powerful GOP leaders including House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. **Rodney Frailing** (R-NJ). Additionally, a handful of GOP members have been embroiled in headline-making scandals, including Reps. **Chris Collins** (R-NY), **Duncan Hunter** (R-CA), and **Blake Farenthold** (R-TX).

What's at stake for the arts?

Thankfully, arts advocates successfully called on Congress to reject **President Trump's** attempts to terminate the nation's federal cultural agencies this year, proving that we built a bipartisan, pro-arts Congress over the last 15 years. Some headway was even made with two consecutive small increases to the budgets for some of these agencies, like the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). However, funding for the arts and arts education is still woefully inadequate. Americans for the Arts Action Fund members adopted a vision of at least one dollar per capita of arts funding in America. Funding support at this level would be approximately \$321 million, instead of the NEA's current level of \$155 million.


As you can see in the accompanying chart, if Congress had merely adjusted the NEA's budget for inflation, arts funding would now be at our envisioned level today. **Help elect more pro-arts candidates to Congress to ensure our vision becomes reality.**




NEA Funding Fails to Keep Pace with Inflation: 1992 - 2019

1000 Vermont Avenue NW - 6th Floor - Washington, DC 20005 - T 202.327.2830 - F 202.371.0424 - www.ArtsActionFund.org

Candidate: _____
 Party: _____
 State: _____
 District: _____





Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts? (check all that apply)

☐ Instrumental ☐ Vocal ☐ Visual ☐ Dance ☐ Theater ☐ Photography ☐ Literary ☐ Other

Additional Comments (optional): _____

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

☐ Music ☐ Theater ☐ Visual Arts ☐ Dance ☐ Literary Arts ☐ Other ☐ None

Additional Comments (optional): _____

Background: The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$155 million, the NEA spends just 47 cents per American—half the cost of a pack of gum.

Question: Would you support a plan to increase federal arts funding to the NEA to \$1 per American, so that arts organizations in your state or district can present even more accessible arts programs for all its residents?

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): _____

Background: With the implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states now have more responsibility for providing a well-rounded education – including the arts. Support for arts education can best be done when states are provided adequate funding and resources to administer, research and provide accountability for arts education programs.

Question: Would you support full funding (\$1.6 billion) of the Well-Rounded Education provisions of ESSA, including data collection of arts education programs by the states and advocating for the integration of the arts into STEM education?

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): _____

Background: Nonprofit arts organizations are charities and on average, 25 percent of their annual budgets rely on donations made by individual taxpayers to serve the public good. The charitable tax deduction incentive is currently only available to individuals who itemize their tax returns. Unfortunately, the pool of itemizers has been significantly diminished as a result of the recent changes in the federal tax reform law.

Question: Would you support a Universal Charitable Deduction, so all taxpayers have the incentive to donate?

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): _____

Background: Currently, the creative economy is an impressive \$730 billion industry, representing 4.2% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. However, the artists, entrepreneurs, small businesses and nonprofit organizations that support them are often disconnected from our nation's economic development and assistance programs.

Question: Would you support federal legislation to strengthen opportunities for artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and small businesses in the creative sector to fully access economic development programs?

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): _____

For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/LegislativePriorities.

Completed By: _____

Date: _____

For questions or to send survey responses, contact the Arts Action Fund at arts@actartsusa.org

Women and Political Clout



Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX-7)



Haley Stevens (D-MI-11)



Katie Porter (D-CA-45)



Johana Hayes (D-CT-5)



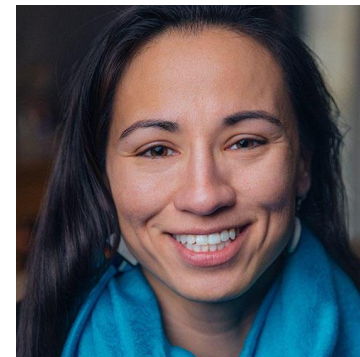
Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-8)



Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11)



Ilhan Omar (D-MN-5)



Sharice Davids (D-KS-3)



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Grassroots Activity in Key Battleground States and Regions



Sarah Gonzales Triplett

Director of Public Policy, Creative Many Michigan



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Grassroots Activity in Key Battleground States and Regions



Rick Stein, Arts Orange County, California



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Narric Rome

**Vice President of Government Affairs &
Arts Education, Americans for the Arts**



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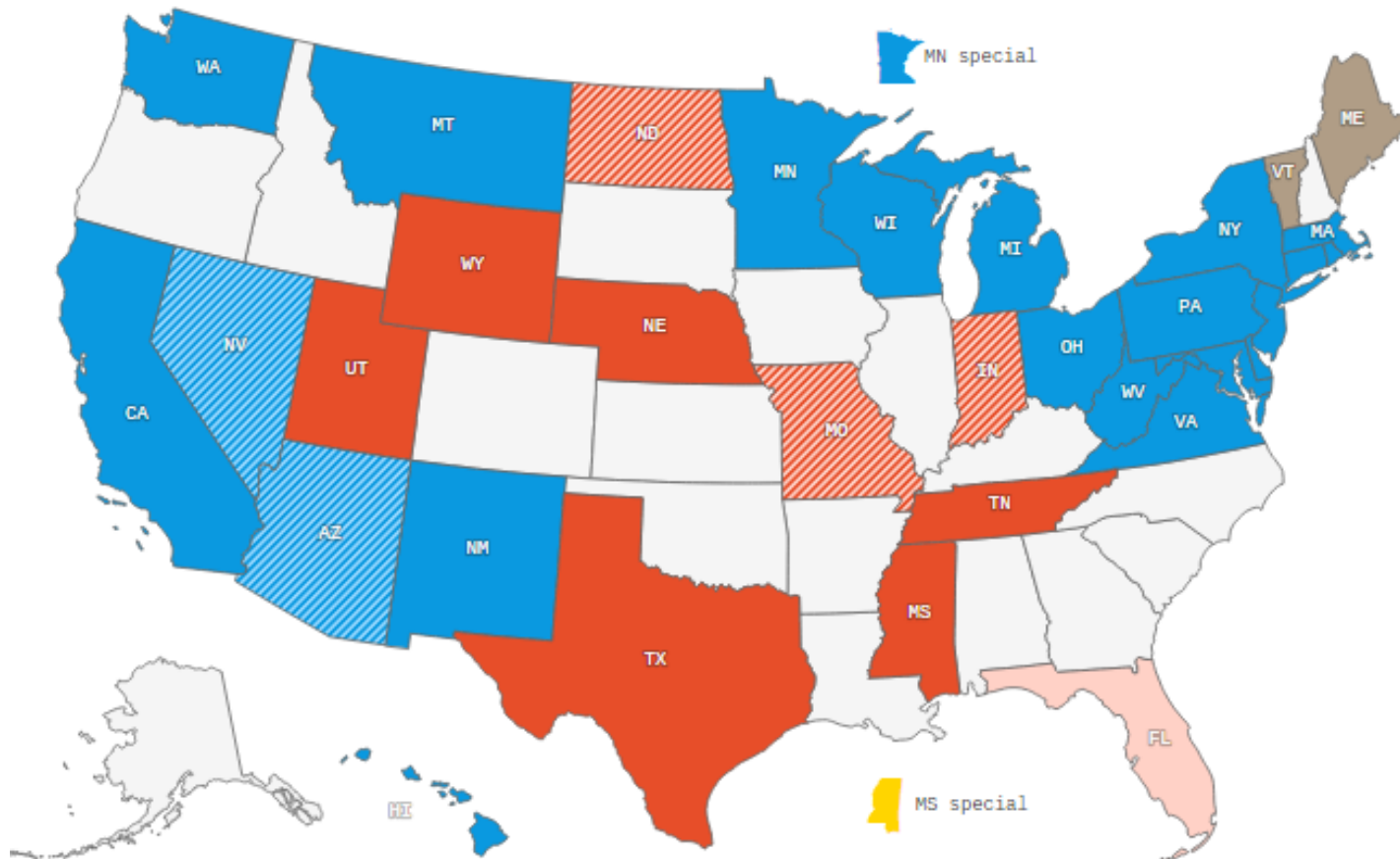
47 DEM.*

23 not up in '18
2 flipped

✓ GOP 51

42 not up in '18
3 flipped

50 seats



LEAD WIN FLIP
 GOP ■ ▨ Dem ■ ▨ Other ■ ▨
 No results ■ No race ■ Runoff/tie ■

VIEW Map Cartogram



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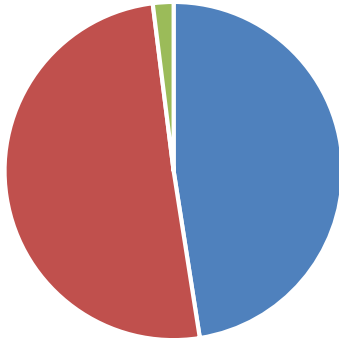
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Changes in the U.S. Senate

Current 115th Congress
48 Dem / 51 GOP

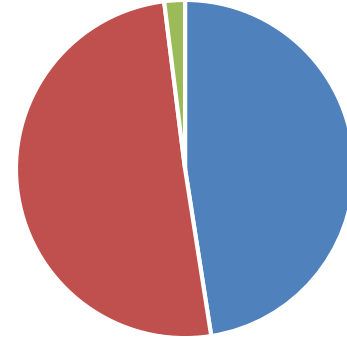
Senators by Party



■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Independent

Incoming 116th Congress
47 Dem / 52 GOP

Senators by Party



■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Independent



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Senate Outlook

- Final outcome was 2 flipped seats for Democrats and 4 flips for GOP, with one outstanding (MS)
- 2018: Democrats defended 25 seats, 10 of which were in red states. GOP defended 8 seats.
- 2020: Democrats defend 12 seats and GOP defends 22.
- Who isn't running for president?



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Senate Cultural Caucus

- Was 34 Members, now 32 due to two retirements
- Current Caucus Co-Chairmen—Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tom Udall (D-NM)



- Top targets to recruit to the Senate Cultural Caucus are former House Congressional Arts Caucus Members:
 - Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)
 - Jacky Rosen (D-NV).



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Senate Outlook

Cultural agency nominations pending Senate confirmation.

Mary Anne Carter nominated for National Endowment for the Arts chairman

National Council on the Arts

Charles Banta, NY
Michelle Itczak, IN
Barbara Long, MO
Carleton Varney, MA

National Council on the Humanities

Jean M. Yarbrough, ME
Keegan F. Callanan, VT
David Armand DeKeyser, AL
Phyllis Kaminsky, AZ
Kathe Hicks Albrecht, CA
Kim R. Holmes, VA



Mary Anne Carter



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Policy Outlook: Infrastructure

- What does “Infrastructure” mean to members of Congress?
- Leveraging private investment vs. public funding of major projects
- Shovel-ready projects, cybersecurity/broadband, regulations
- Arts in Infrastructure
 - Support for public art in new projects
 - Support for federal funds eligibility in transit projects
- How to pay for? Federal gas tax increase?



Policy Outlook: Education

- New chairman Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- Increased oversight of U.S. Dept of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos
- Oversight of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Higher Education Act reauthorization
- Early Childhood Education
- School Construction Funding



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Education: State Outcomes

- Congress: CT-5 Jahana Hayes elected, National Teacher of the Year, spoke of arts integration strategies at ceremony
- States
 - SC – Molly Spearman, former music educator reelected to state superintendent
 - GA – Richard Woods, pro-arts superintendent reelected
 - OK – Joy Hoffmeister, pro-arts superintendent reelected
 - KS – state board of education chairman Jim Porter reelected, music educator
 - KS – community theater performer and advocate Ben Jones elected to state board of education
 - NE – Patricia Timm and Deborah Neary, both arts advocates won election to state board of education
 - DC – Emily Gasoi and Ruth Wattenberg, both arts advocates won election to state board of education



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Policy Outlook: CREATE Act

- **Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)** introduced the CREATE Act at **Arts Advocacy Day**
- Designed to be a bipartisan bill, it aims to better serve the **people, places and programs** that make our nation's creative economy prosper in all its cultural, social, and commercial forms.
- Preparing for **continued reintroduction** of the CREATE Act in the coming 116th Congress
- Focus is on Small Business Committee leaders
- Right now – [ask your Senator to co-sponsor this legislation!](#)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 661

To assist entrepreneurs, support development of the creative economy, and encourage international cultural exchange, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2017

Mr. UDALL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To assist entrepreneurs, support development of the creative economy, and encourage international cultural exchange, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts
6 to Transform the Economy Act of 2017” or the “CRE-
7 ATE Act of 2017”.



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Policy Outlook: Tax Reform

- “Tax Reform 2.0” GOP effort
- No more threat to “Johnson Amendment” on politicizing churches and nonprofits
- Concern by nonprofit sector of major threat to giving due to reduction of itemizers in tax bill.
- Pursuit of Universal Charitable Giving (UCG) to allow all tax-payers to itemize.

Policy Outlook: Everything Else

- DACA – Dreamers Fix
- Broad Immigration Reform
- Debt Limit
- Two Year Budget Bill
- IMLS Reauthorization
- Healthcare – ACA
- Trade – Tariffs
- Spending – Border Wall
- Special Counsel Protection
- And more!



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Lauren Cohen

Government Affairs and Grassroots Coordinator



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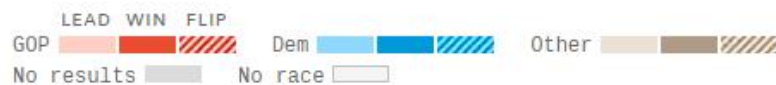
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40 flipped

3 flipped

218 seats



VIEW Map Cartogram



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Quick Numbers

Incoming 116th Congress

(2019-2020)

232 Democrats – **198 Republicans** (5 races TBD)

End of the Current 115th Congress

(2017-2018)

237 Republicans – **196 Democrats** (2 Vacant)



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Incoming Freshmen

- 71 incoming freshmen
 - 31 Republicans
 - 40 Democrats
- Most Diverse Freshman class in history.
- Several “firsts”



Leadership

- House **Democratic** Leadership elections occur after the new Congress is installed on January 3, 2019.
- House **Republican** Leadership is confirmed:
 - Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
 - Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA)
 - Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney (R-WY)

Committee Changes

Appropriations

- Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)

Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)

Education and the Workforce (Education and Labor)

- Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)

Small Business

- Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

Ways and Means

- Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)

Energy and Commerce

- Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)



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Congressional Arts & STEAM Caucuses

Congressional Arts Caucus:

- 13 Republican Losses and 4 Democrat Losses
- Co-Chair Leonard Lance (R-NJ) **will not** be returning.
- Co-Chair Chellie Pingree (D-ME) **will** be returning.

STEAM Caucus:

- 4 Republican Losses and 5 Democrat Losses
- **Both** co-chairs Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) will be returning.



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Member Outreach

- **Americans for the Arts Outreach and Congratulations**
- **Notify State Captains on Official Committee Changes**
- **E-Alert in January to Welcome New Members**
- **Attend Arts Advocacy Day: The National Arts Action Summit**
March 4-5, 2019



Q &A with Nina, Narric, and Lauren

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Jay Dick

Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs



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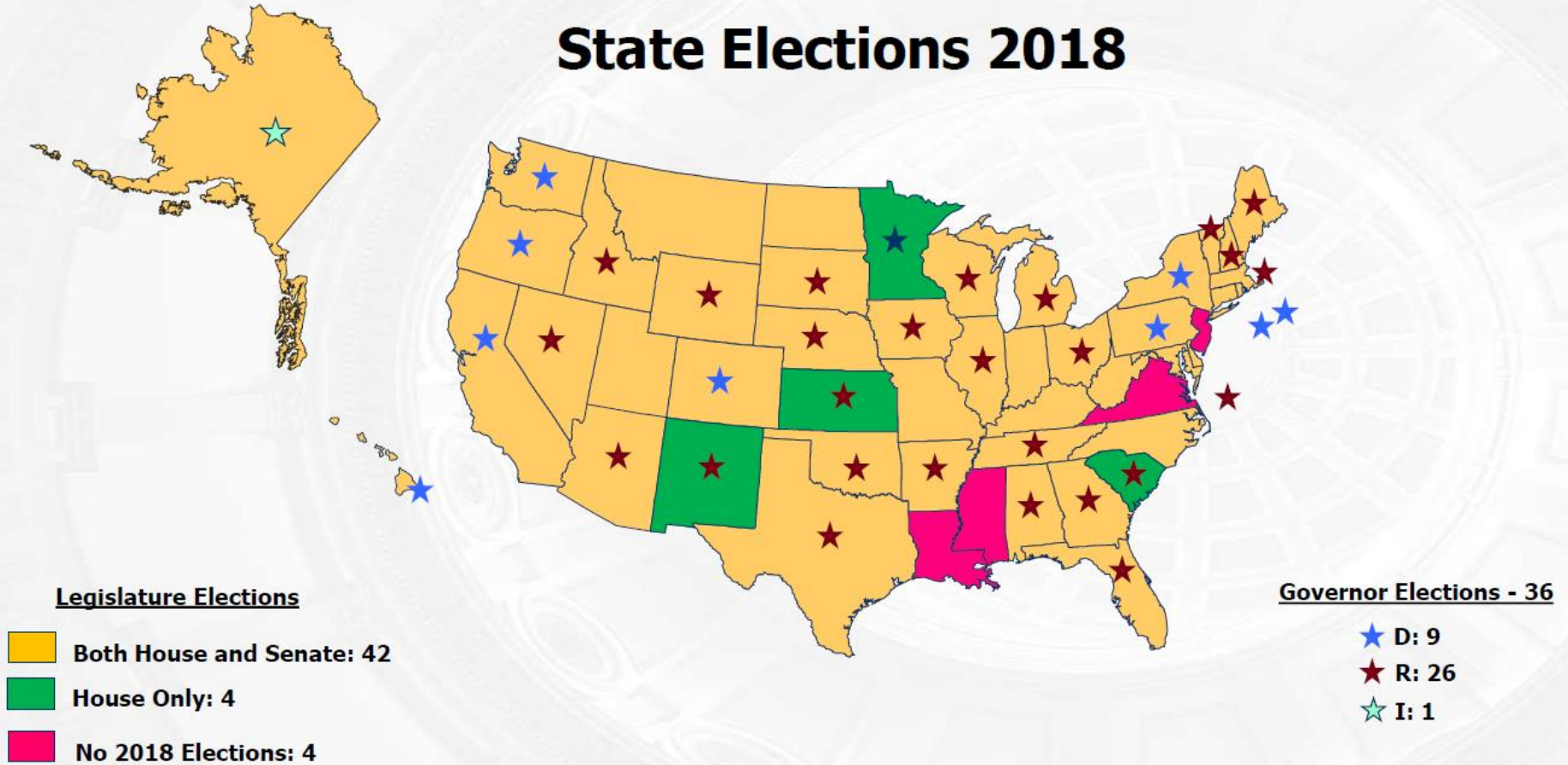


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State Elections 2018



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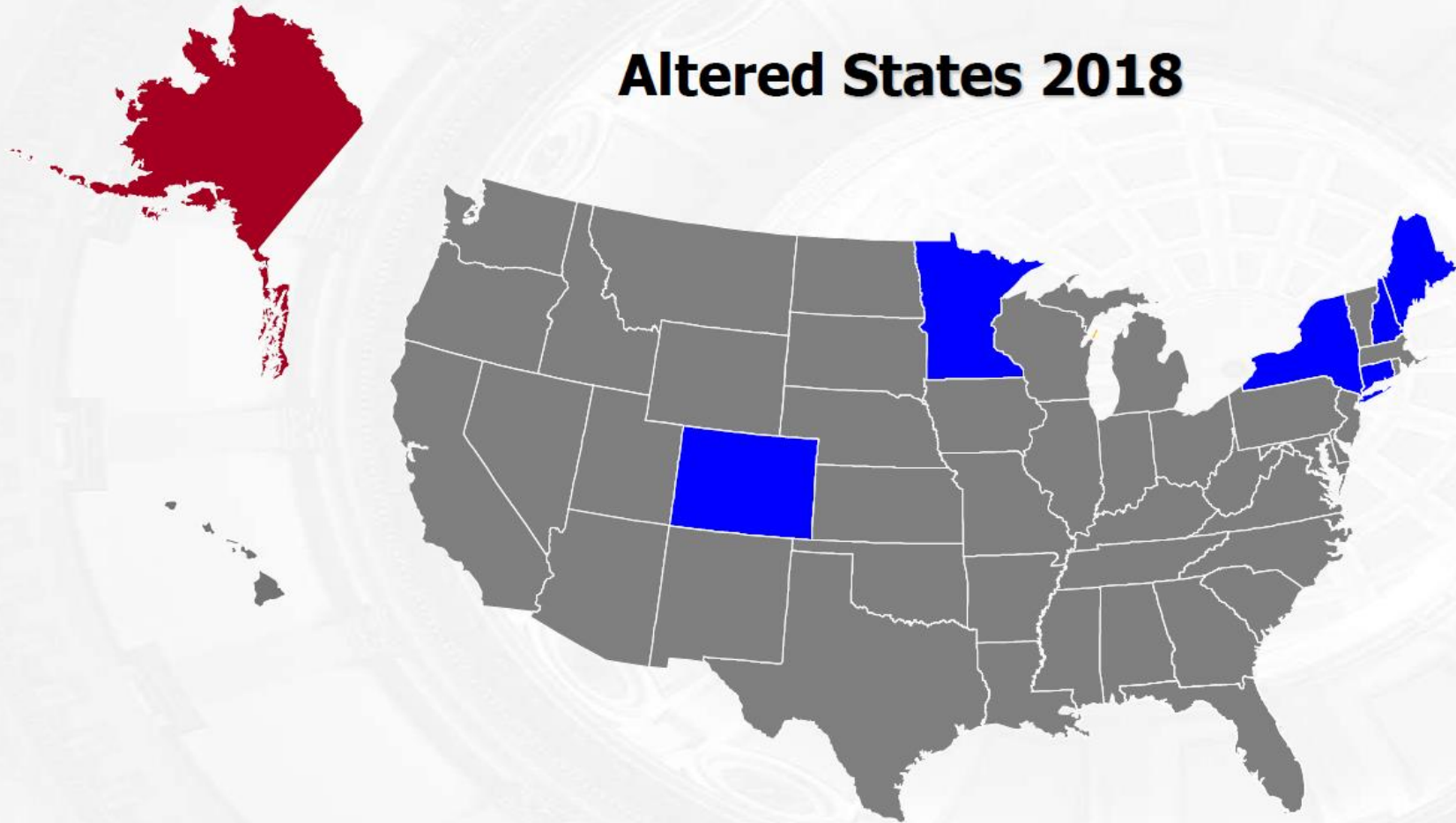


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Altered States 2018



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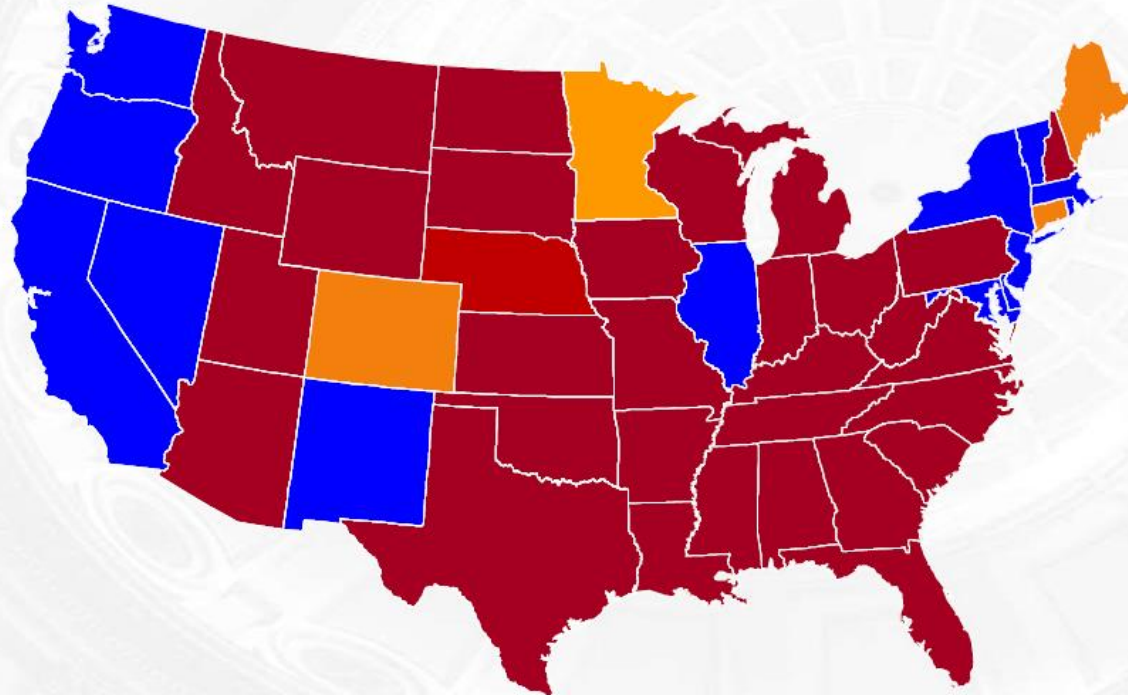


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State Legislatures 2018



Republican: 32
Democrat: 14
Split: 4

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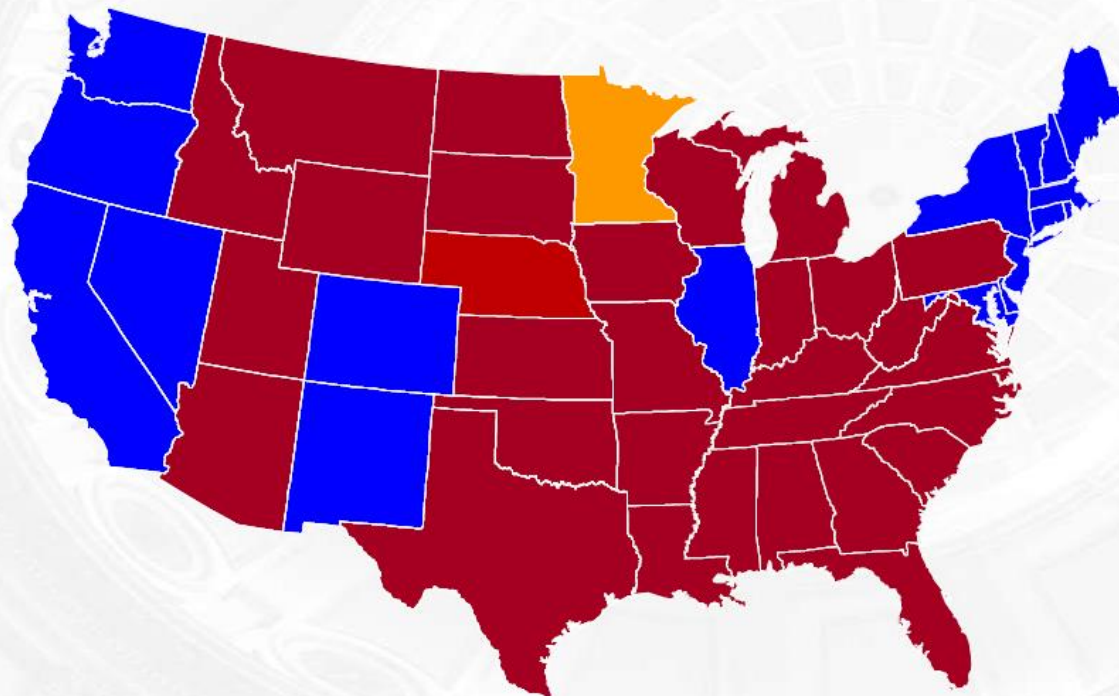


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State Legislatures 2019



Republican: 31 (-1)
Democrat: 18 (+4)
Split: 1 (-3)

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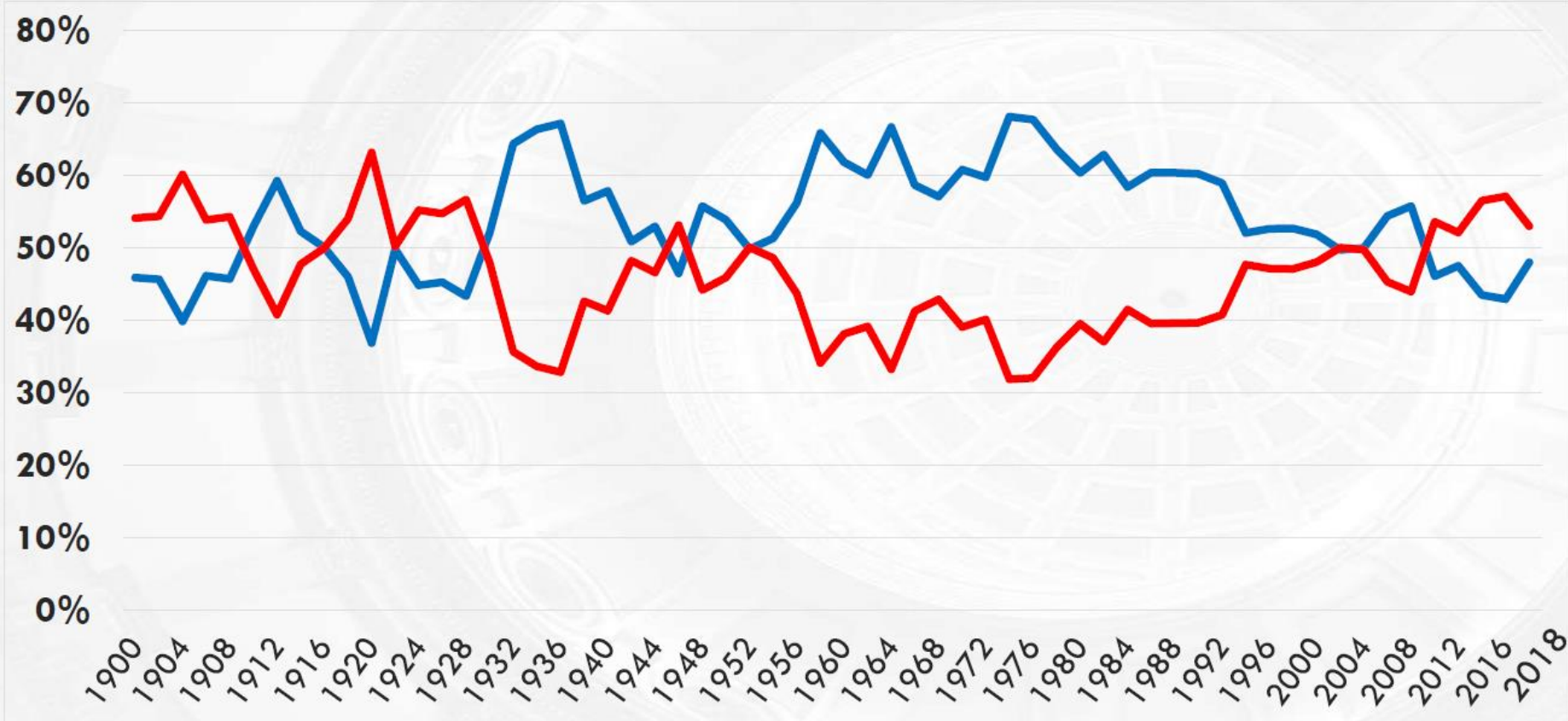


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Legislative Seats Held by Party 1900-2018



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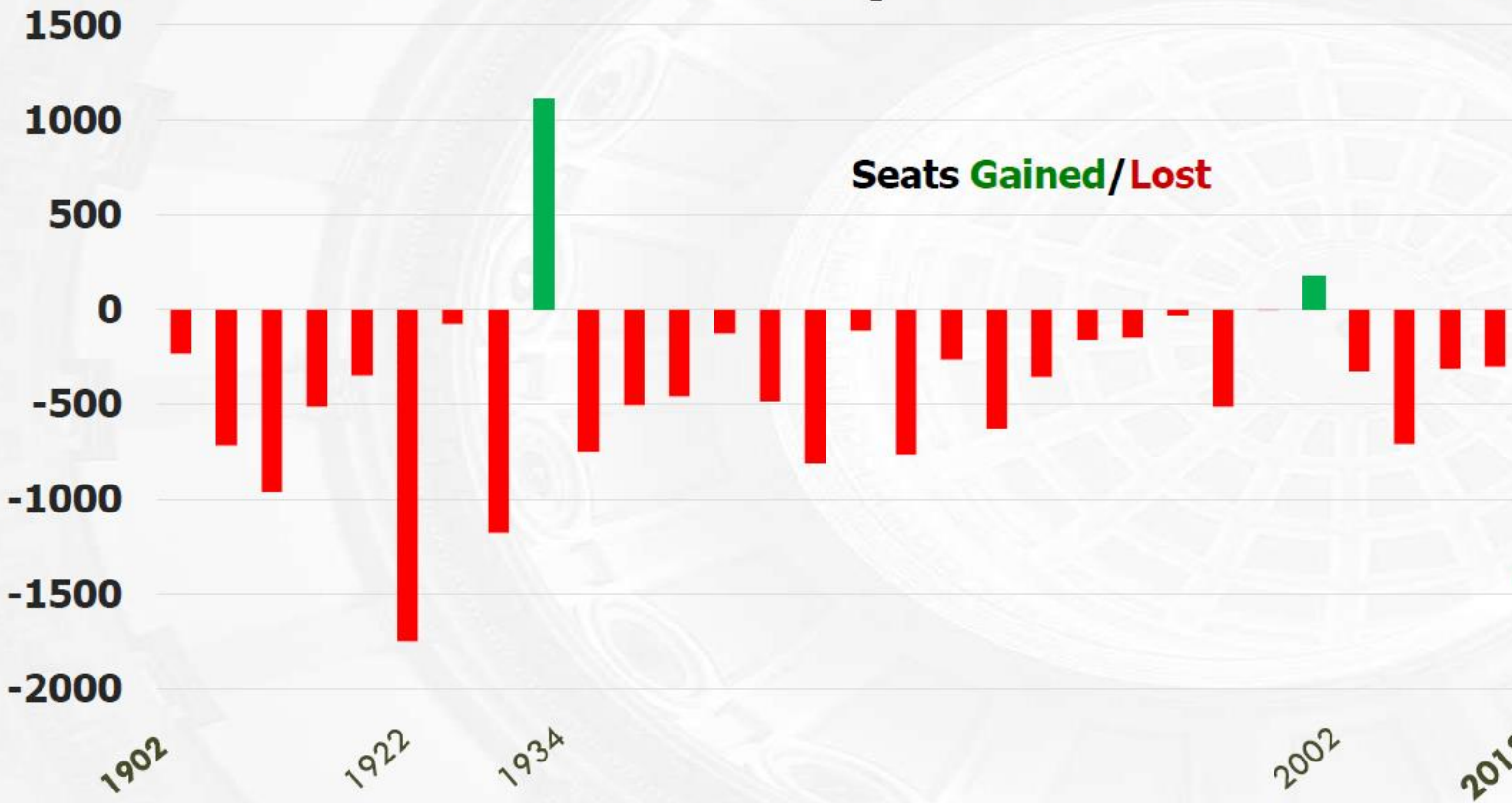


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President's Party in Mid-Term Elections



**Avg. Loss
= 415**

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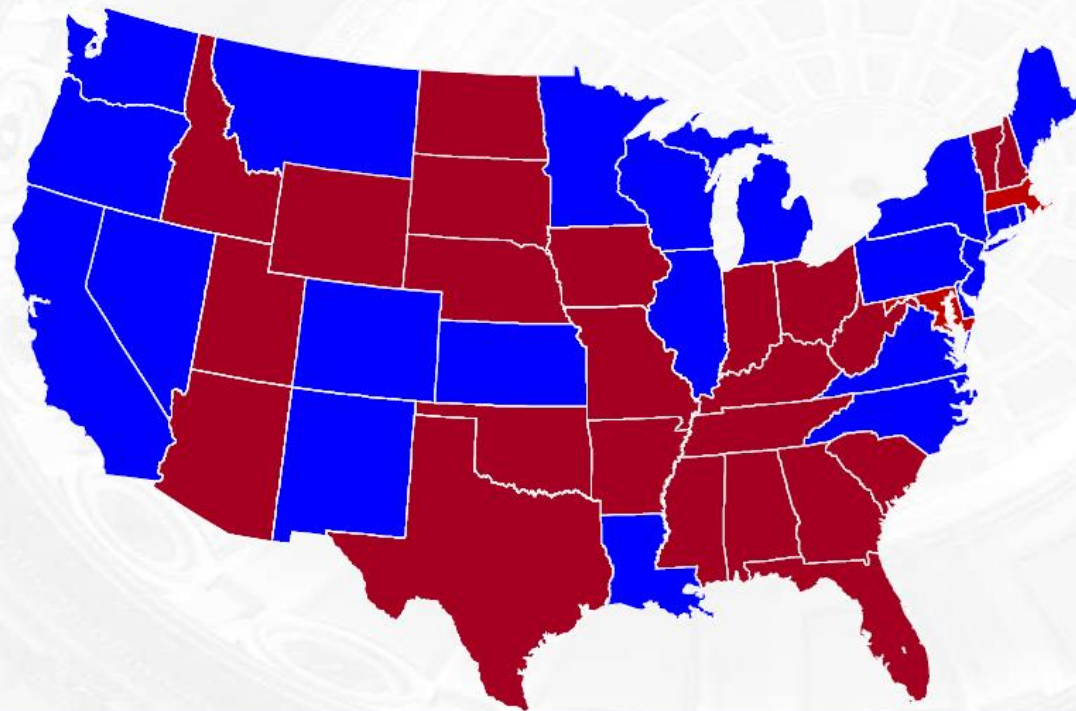


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Governor Party 2019



Republican: 27

Democrat: 23

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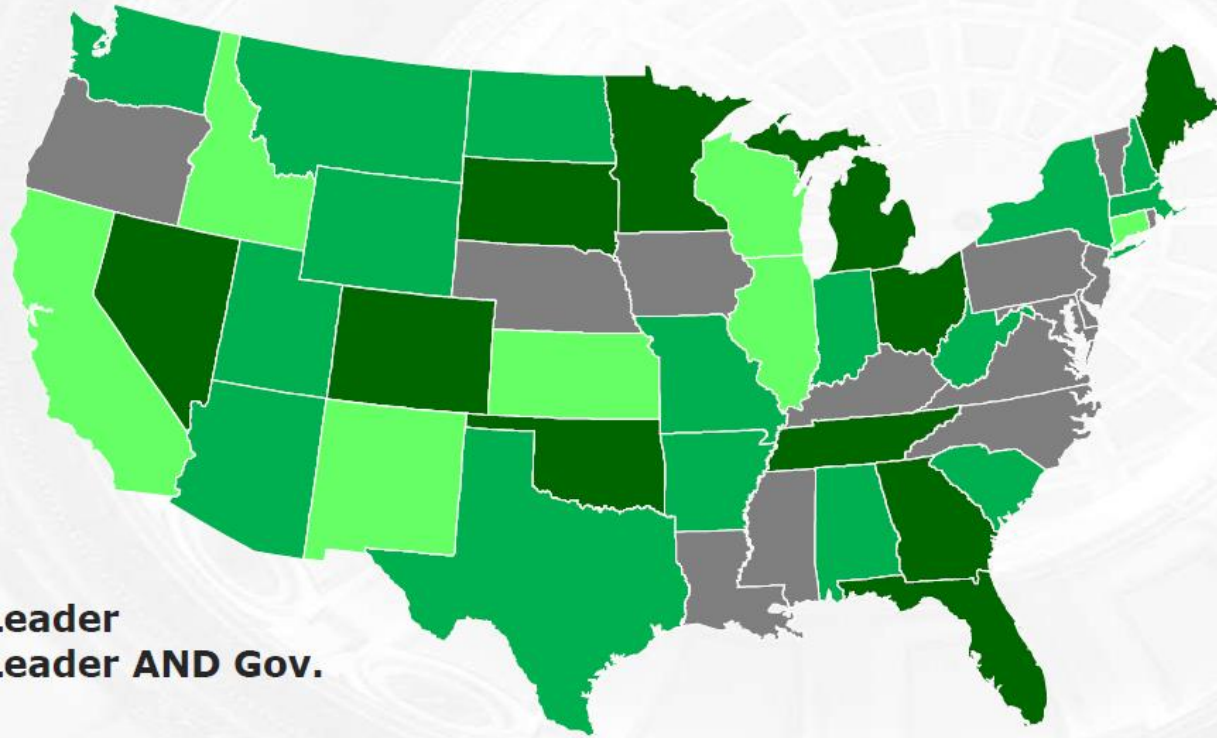


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New Legislative or Governor Leadership



 **New Governor**
 **New Legislative Leader**
 **New Legislative Leader AND Gov.**

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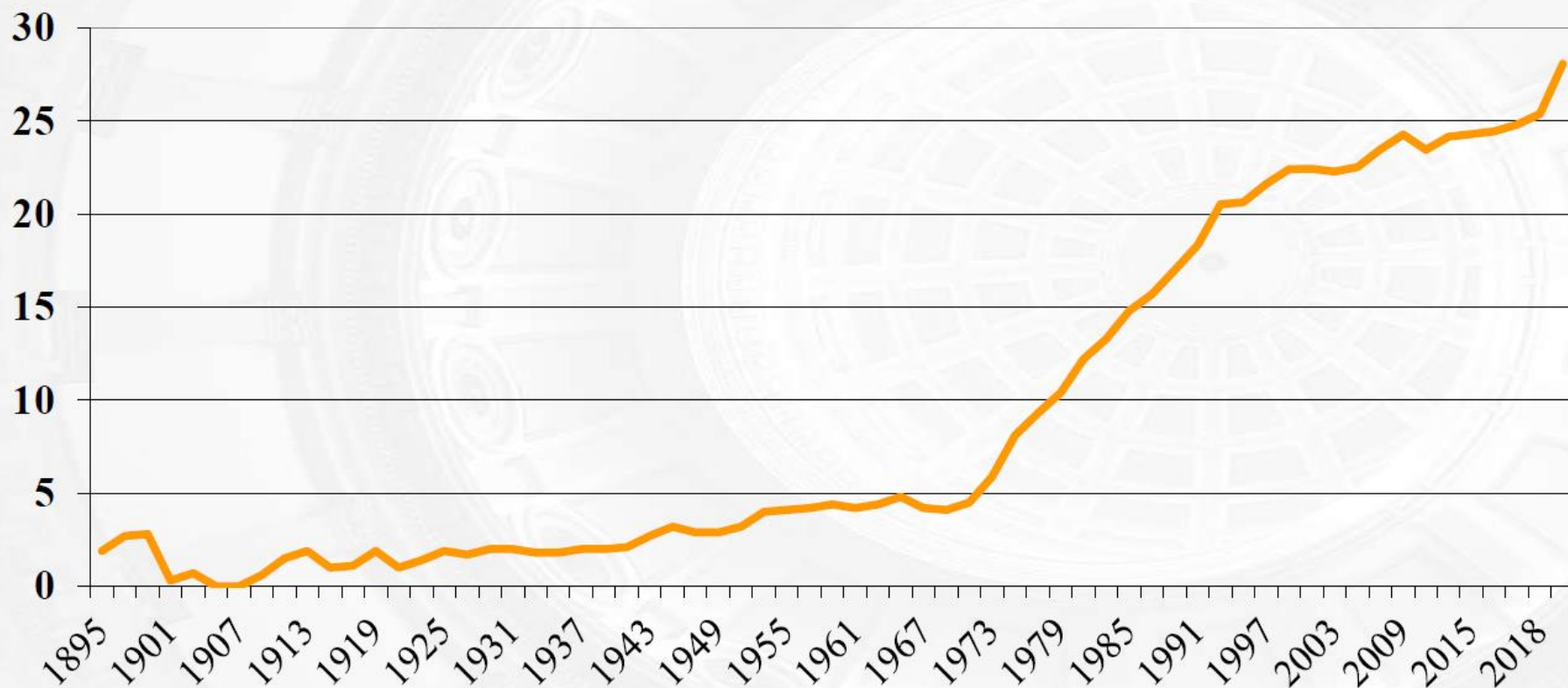


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Percent Women Legislators 1895 - 2018



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NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES



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ACTION Fund

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Arts Advocates Run for Office



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Julia Kirt, Oklahoma State Senator-Elect Executive Director of Oklahomans for the Arts



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Overview – Ballot Measures

Numbers in 2018

- 71 legislative referrals
- 64 citizens initiatives
- 5 popular referendums
- 9 others

168 measures in 2018

(155 on November's ballots)

Credit: [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

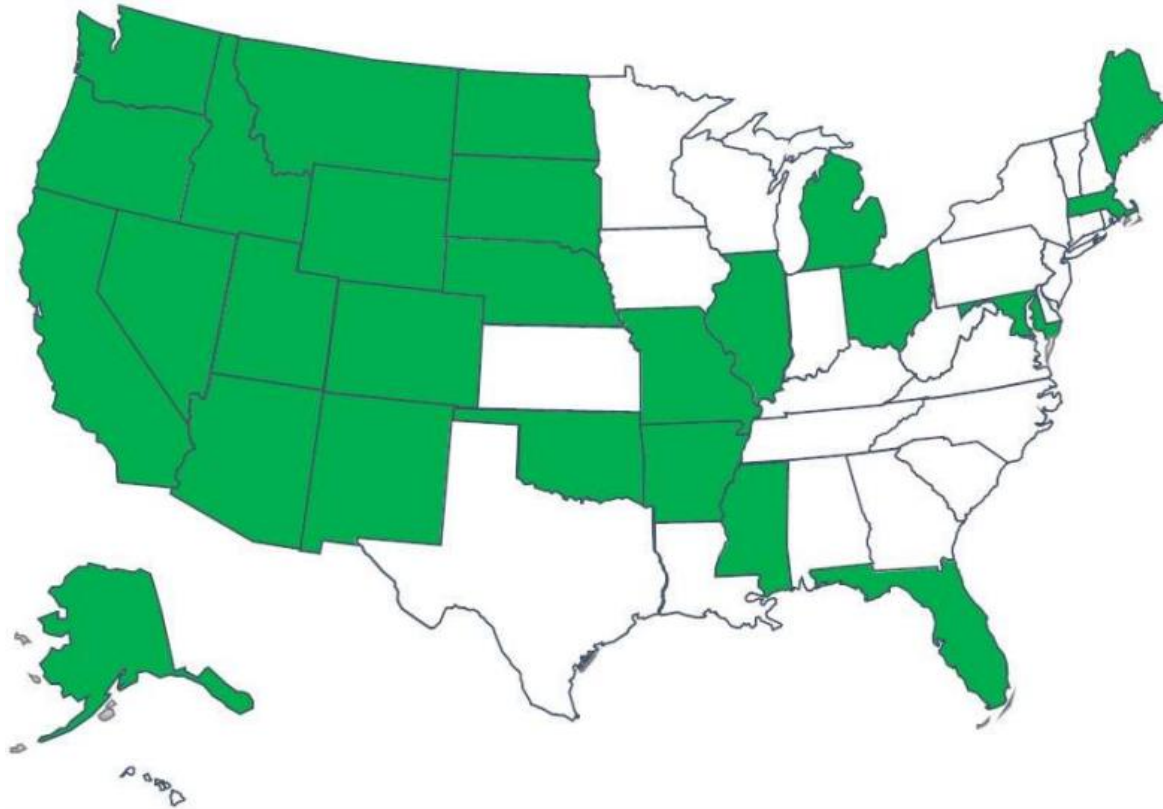


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Overview – Ballot Measures

Citizens' Initiative States



Credit: [National Conference of State Legislatures](http://www.ncsl.org)

National Trends – Ballot Measures

- Marijuana: medical and retail
- Redistricting Reform
- Elections
- Ethics and Public Office
- Medicaid
- Abortion
- Raising/Limiting Revenue
- Minimum Wage
- Energy/Environment
- Crime Victims Rights
- Criminal Justice

Credit: [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

Arts & Culture – Ballot Measures



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Arts & Culture – Ballot Measures



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Arts & Culture – Ballot Measures



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Arts & Culture – Ballot Measures

Support Austin's parks, trails
and cultural centers!

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 6TH

austinparks.org/advocate



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Brad Erickson, Executive Director
Theatre Bay Area



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Q & A with Nina, Jay, Julia, and Brad

- Type your questions directly into the chat box. An Americans for the Arts government affairs staff person will respond during or after the webinar.



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Looking Forward

- **Be an advocate** for the arts—join the Arts Action Fund for free!
www.ArtsActionFund.org/join
- **You're Invited! Arts Advocacy Day 2019**—March 4-5 in Washington, DC
- **Talk to your newly elected Members** about joining the Congress Arts Caucus, Congressional STEAM Caucus, and Senate Cultural Caucus



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