ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies

2026 Elections: Results and the Path Forward

November 5, 2026



Election Overview

- Blue Wave – huge statement by voters on the state of the nation.
- 240 (and counting) Democrats in the House; at least 54 Democrats in the Senate.
- Major changes in statehouses throughout the country – Texas, Georgia, Ohio, elsewhere.
- Will the new majority want to govern from the middle or feel pressure from progressives?
- Key focus areas – affordability, oversight, impeachment?
- White House – dealmaking or vetoes?
- 2028 presidential cycle likely to dominate.

Was this a Blue Wave Election?

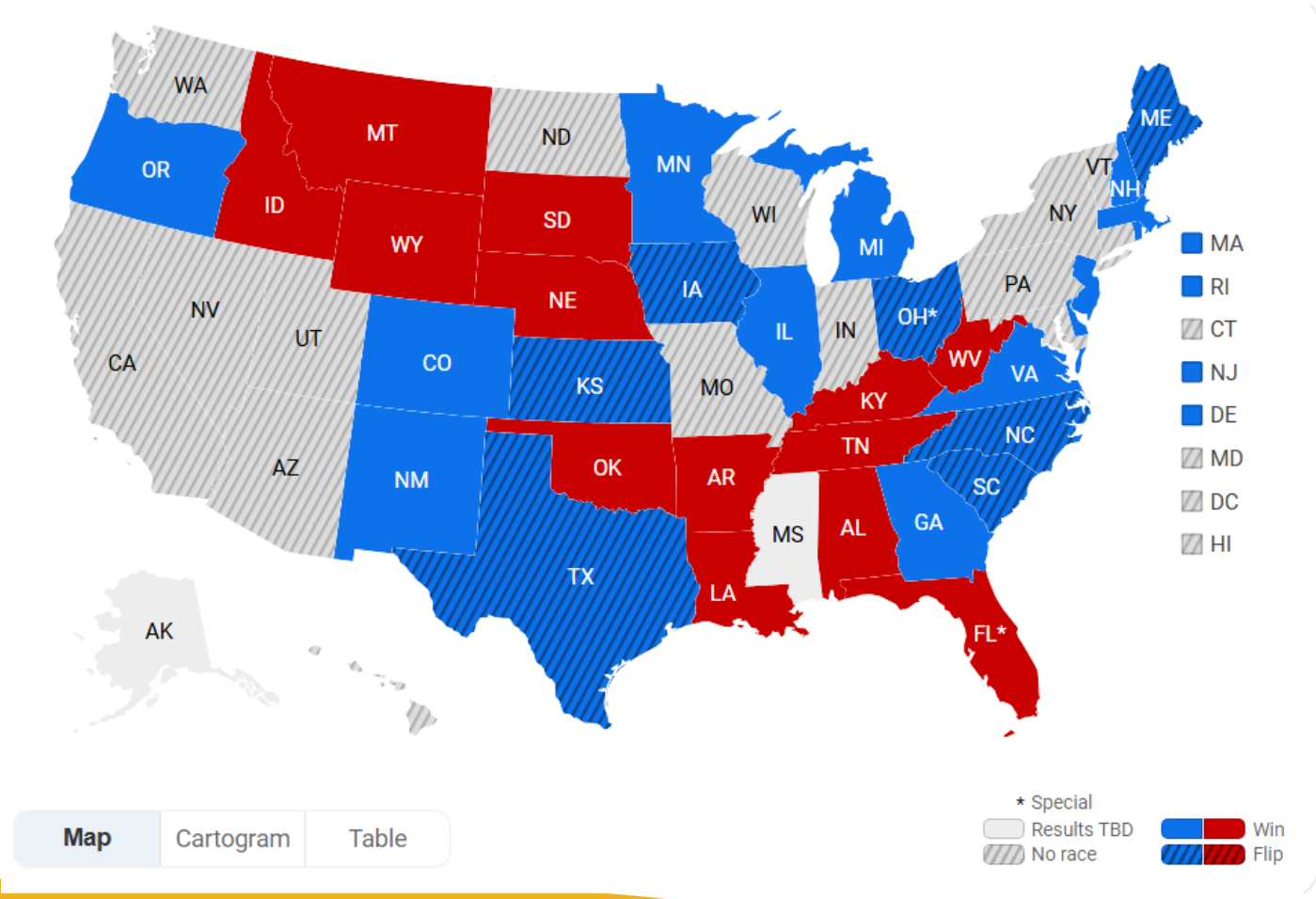


Key Election Takeaways

- Polling – the signs were there, but the magnitude was larger than expected – the polls underestimated Democratic support.
- The President wanted this election to *"be about him"* – and it was.
- Erosion of the *Trump Coalition*:
  - Men 18-29 demographic a decade older since Donald Trump's arrival down the escalator
  - Feeling economic pain; cultural issues and an unpopular war
- The mid-term redistricting backfired and, in the end, hurt more than helped.
- Latinos are now a TRUE swing group.

- 35 Seats were up on Tues. - 8 were considered “Toss-Ups” Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina & Texas – 7 of these 8 held by the GOP.
- Dems flipped all but Alaska, which remains uncalled. They also took So. Carolina and possibly Mississippi!
- Today, the Senate stands at 54 D, 44 R – and could end w/ 56 D seats.
- ME – losing Susan Collins; the TX race proved that D’s ***<u>can</u>*** win there!
- Iowa – Tariffs and Diesel
- Cannot take a “safe state” like Kansas for granted.
- D’s ***CAN WIN*** again in the deep south!

U.S. Senate Map



U.S. House

- Today, House stands at 240 D – 147 R with 59 races remaining. (AP)
- Possible final total close to 250 D's – NBC News predicts 258-177 – a whopping 81-seat Majority!
- Huge erosion in NC, going from 10R to 4D to a possible 4R-10D – which includes the loss of NRCC Chief Hudson.
- 4 losses in PA – including Problem Solvers chief Brian Fitzpatrick.
- Loss of many GOP leaders in committees.
- This huge loss for the R's will have consequences – Leadership battles.
- R's are currently organizing ballot recount challenges in many races.

119th Congress: *Unfinished Business*

- Secretary Hegseth impeachment – early vote expected.
- Spending package vs. CR – likely the latter.
- Defense Authorization – very likely.
- Permitting reform, WRDA – possible?
- Data Centers/Ratepayer Protection Act – possible?
- Confirmation of remaining Trump judicial nominees.
- BUILD America 250 Act – extension likely, moves to 2027.
- Other extensions – flood insurance, Ex-Im Bank, others.

The New Majority -- 2027 Agenda

- **Democratic Congress** – strong majorities but not filibuster-proof (requiring 60 votes in the Senate).
- **Key Agenda Items**:
  - Affordability – pushback on tariffs, housing tax credits, healthcare (ACA, Medicaid), Iran war, energy costs
  - Ethics and accountability – stock trading ban for elected officials; hearings and investigations of Trump administration and allies
  - Regulation of tech industry - data centers and AI frameworks
  - Surface Transportation – start from BUILD Act or start over?

ACEC Agenda 2027

Engaging the New Majority:

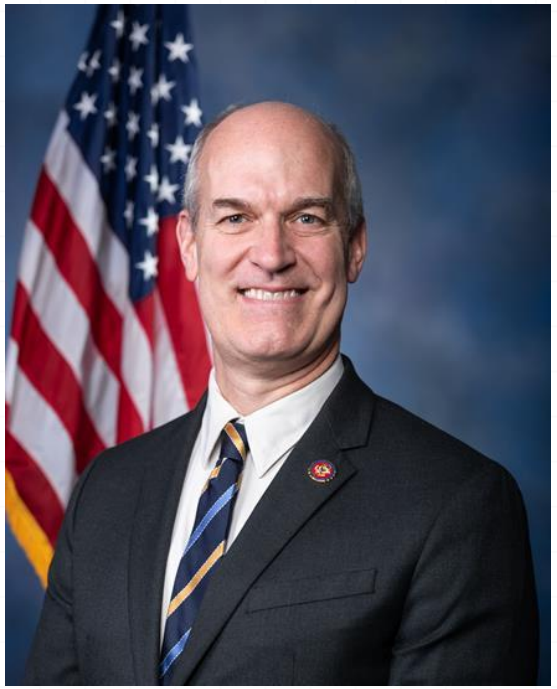
- **Education** – focused on industry and key priorities.
  - ✓ ACEC/PAC and political program
  - ✓ ACEC Capitol Hill Residence events
- **E-Week** – in February, creates ideal education opportunity.
- **April 2027 ACEC Annual Convention** – strong turnout critical!

ACEC Agenda 2027

Policy Priorities:

- Surface Transportation:
  - ✓ Increased Funding
  - ✓ Better contracting terms – lump-sum
- Workforce: H-1B visas, STEM investments
- Data Centers
- Federal markets: SBA size standards, QBS & Progressive D/B
- Energy and Water
- AI Legislation

House T&I Likely Leadership in 120th Congress

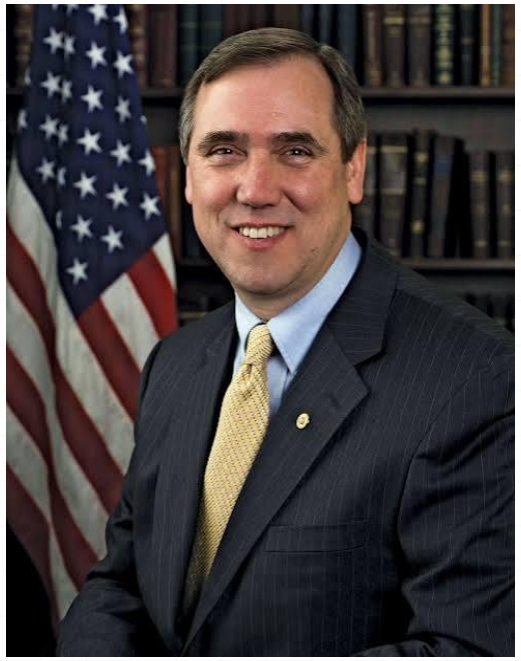


Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)



Rep. David Rouzer (R - NC)

Senate EPW Likely Leadership in 120th Congress



Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)



Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R - WV)

Likely tax committee leaders 120th Congress



Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)

Chair

House Ways and Means Committee



Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)

Ranking Member

House Ways and Means Committee



Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Chair

Senate Finance Committee



Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)

Ranking Member

Senate Finance Committee

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Likely Leadership in 120th Congress



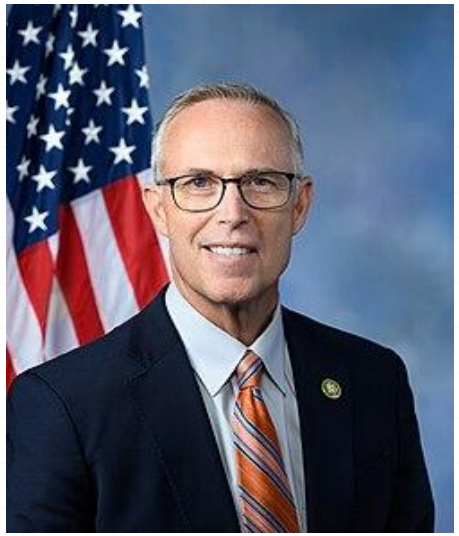
Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)



Sen. Dave McCormick (R - PA)

(Sen. Lee has expressed interest to serve on Judiciary)

House Natural Resources Likely Leadership in 120th Congress



Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)
Chairman

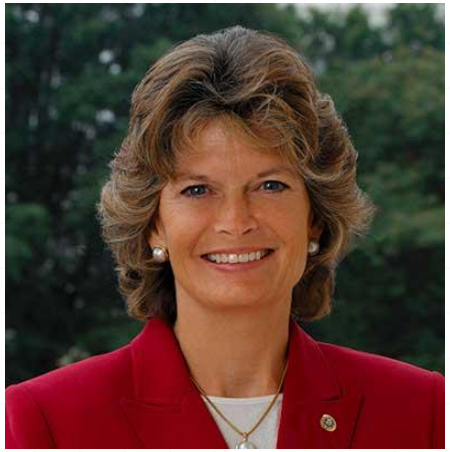


Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)
Ranking Member
(seeking a waiver; challenge from Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN)

Senate & House Appropriations Committee Likely Leadership in 120th Congress



Patty Murray (D-WA)
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee



Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee



Rosa Delauro (D-CT)
Chair
House Appropriations Committee



Tom Cole (R-OK)
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee

House and Senate Armed Services Committee Likely Leadership



Adam Smith (D-WA)

Chairman

House Armed Services Committee

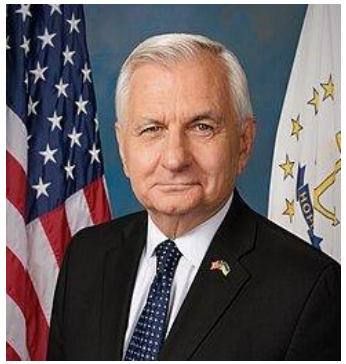


Mike Rogers (R-AL)

Ranking Member

House Armed Services Committee

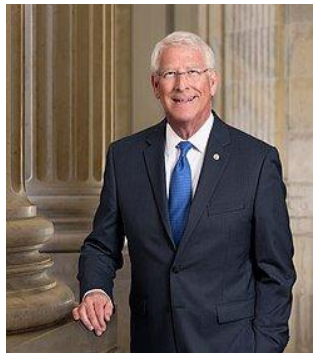
(seeking a waiver)



Jack Reed (D-RI)

Chairman

Senate Armed Services Committee



Roger Wicker (R-MS)

Ranking Member

Senate Armed Services Committee

House Energy & Commerce Likely Leadership in 120th Congress



Rep.Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
Chairman



Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
Ranking Member

Questions?