

# IAAPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

## **Federal Midterm Elections Update**

### The Battle for Congress Continues

With results still being tabulated, the one thing we know for sure is that the expected “red wave” fizzled into a “ripple” on election day. It was a good night for incumbents in Congress, very few of whom lost their seats. Despite smaller than expected gains for Republicans, they will take over control of the House of Representatives albeit with a slim majority. Control of the Senate, however, may not be decided until December 6th.

A change in control in the House of Representatives will enable the GOP to initiate and bring legislation to the Floor, schedule hearings, and engage in oversight of the Administration. However, the narrow margins will make moving legislation more difficult for the presumptive new Speaker, Kevin McCarthy. He will have to walk a narrow line ensuring that virtually all members of the Republican caucus support any legislation he moves forward or work with Democrats to pass bi-partisan legislation, risking alienating more extreme members of his caucus. The narrower margins will also make Republican to Democrat ratios on House Committees less favorable to Republicans. House leadership races are scheduled for next week and Committee Chairmanships will be decided before the end of the year.

With a 50-50 Senate going into the election, a major win for Democrats in their effort to retain control of the Senate was John Fetterman’s pick-up of the Pennsylvania Senate seat being vacated by Republican Senator Toomey. At this juncture, Republicans need to win two of the three remaining outstanding races (AZ, NV, GA) and keep the Wisconsin seat, currently held by Senator Ron Johnson, to take control of the Senate. Regardless of who controls the Senate, the narrow margin will continue to make it difficult to move legislation through this body. However, if Republicans end up controlling both bodies, it will enable them to pass legislation which may force the President’s hand on partisan issues.

Republican control of the House may help combat some of the more aggressive policy priorities IAAPA has opposed in Congress over the last two years. Additionally, many of the industry’s issues are bi-partisan and the close majorities in both chambers will continue to require support from both sides of the aisle, something IAAPA has always done. IAAPA’s public affairs work supported by its PAC has successfully worked with key members who are in positions to impact legislation in critical policy areas. IAAPA PAC supported nearly thirty Members of Congress this cycle, all but one of whom will be returning to Washington. In other

words, with over 100 new Members of Congress coming to Washington in January, we are well positioned to continue to successfully advocate on your behalf.

## **Multi-State Midterm Elections Update**

This year, state legislatures introduced more than 70,000 bills. With the 2022 General Election impacting 46 state legislatures and 36 gubernatorial seats, and the narrow margins in the U.S. House and Senate, that number is expected to grow considerably in the years ahead. IAAPA will continue to work with its state and regional attractions partners, and other impacted travel and tourism industry association partners, to monitor proposed legislation and engage accordingly. The following is a brief summary of gubernatorial and state level election highlights.

### Gubernatorial Elections Results

This was not a "wipe the slate clean" election. 25 incumbent governors were reelected out of the total 36 governor races. Republican incumbents in Georgia, Florida, Texas, and Oklahoma easily secured new terms with healthy margins, as did Democratic incumbents in California, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, and Wisconsin. Pennsylvania Gov-elect Josh Shapiro is the first governor of the state to maintain same party control since 1974. However, several races are still too close to be called, including Kansas, Nevada, and Oregon.

### State Lawmaker Election Results

Large waves were the exception throughout most of the country. However, Michigan had a large Democratic-led bump that consolidated a trifecta (majority party holding the governorship and both state legislature chambers) for the first time in decades. Florida had the opposite reaction with total Republican control of the state for the first time since Reconstruction. Florida Republicans now have the governorship, state legislature, state cabinet, both U.S. Senate seats, and a majority of the state's U.S. House districts. In both Texas and Iowa, state Republicans saw strong gains to expand their control of their respective state legislatures as well as statewide offices.

## **Alabama and Montana Ride Safety Legislation**

The public affairs team is laying the foundation required to introduce ride safety legislation in Alabama and Montana - both Republican trifectas - in 2023. However, races are yet to be called in Montana and it is unknown if state Democrats will keep the legislature from having veto-proof Republican majorities. Alabama is tracking to remain relatively the same in terms of overall numbers. But both chambers are seeing healthy turnover due to the number of retiring members, or those who sought higher office. As things stand now, overall we are encouraged by the favorable political environment to attempt to move legislation in both states. We will keep you up-to-date moving forward.