

328: The Definitive 2018 Midterm Elections Breakdown

Polls

Pollster Showdown:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SvOP9EIUZ3w_Quc2iv9JupWFq5G9aftAFn7o_NvruDg/edit?usp=sharing

Senate:

<https://www.cookpolitical.com/analysis/senate/senate-overview/senate-geography-destiny-part-ii>

House: <https://www.cookpolitical.com/analysis/five-takeaways-democrats-house-triumph>

Governors:

<https://www.cookpolitical.com/analysis/governors/governors-overview/governors-geography-destiny-part-i>

Is the Libertarian Party Doomed to Fail? -

<https://71republic.com/2018/11/07/libertarian-party-doomed-fail>

CNN Exit Polling - <https://www.cnn.com/election/2018/exit-polls>

WAL Content:

2018 Midterm Elections Research -

<https://wearelibertarians.com/2018-midterm-elections-research/>

WAL Daily 23: A Review of 2018 Ballot Initiatives -

<https://wearelibertarians.com/wal-daily-23-a-review-of-2018-ballot-initiatives/>

BNS 46: Midterm Election Results and Ending the Duopoly with The Red Headed Libertarian -

<https://wearelibertarians.com/bns-46-midterm-election-results-and-ending-the-duopoly-with-the-red-headed-libertarian/>

WAL Daily 20: Boss Hog Battles Straight Ticket Voting -

<https://wearelibertarians.com/wal-daily-20-boss-hog-battles-straight-ticket-voting/>

Notable Libertarians

Larry Sharpe - NY Gov - 1.6%. His 90K gives ballot access, it's 80K above the last LP candidate out of New York, but less than the Green Party (1.7%).

Gary Johnson - NM Sen - 15.4%. Over half of the Republican candidate.

Lucy Brenton - IN Sen - 3.9%. For me, this was a time where the libertarians were right to tell themselves they had the better candidate. It seemed the establishment knew it. I mean, when the Democrats openly campaign for you, that's pretty darn good.

Ken Krawchuk and Dale Kerns - PA Gov and PA Sen - 1% each. Might not seem like much, but they did distance themselves from the Green Party (.6% each).

Mark Rutherford - IN Sec of State - 3.2%. Ballot access achieved.

Travis Irvine - OH Gov - 1.8%. Didn't quite beat the spread, but beat the green party by .7%.

Jeremiah Morrell - Henry County Council District 1 - 12%. Straight ticket voting has been discussed, but we shouldn't wonder about who Morrell took votes from. 1% more Republican, 11% more Democrat on District 2.

Laura Ebke - State Senate District 32 - 43.68%. She's going to come on the show soon to talk about her journey this far and her future.

Nicholas Sarwark - Phoenix Mayor - 11.16%. How are we not talking more about this race? He did about half as well as the Republican and created a runoff election. Prototypical spoiler and now Phoenix has to vote between two Democrats.

Ted Metz - GA Gov - .9%. The hope was that he'd stand out in a battle between two extreme ends of the political spectrum and perhaps create a runoff, but Kemp broke 50%.

Craig Bowden - UT Senate - 2.4%. Might have been higher minus the Constitution Party getting 2.7% and running no campaign.

Mario Battaglia - IA AG - 23%. Even with no Republican running, this was a very respectable outcome.

Mark West - AR Gov - 2.9%

John Pickerell - CO State Sen - 26%. Not too shabby even with no Republican running.

Kash Jackson - IL Gov - 2.4%. Ordinarily, this would be a victory, but it was the Conservative Party getting 4.3% that got 3rd.

Claire Ball - IL Comptroller - 3.1%.

Danny Lundy - 17.52% - Ran against 3 Republicans.

John Yuetter - OK Auditor - 24.8%. Ran against only a Republican.

Jeff Caldwell - KS Gov - 1.8%. Behind the Independent who got 6.5%.

James Carstensen - Shreveport City Council - 6.5%.

J Lee Miller - OK House - 2.7%.

Roger Barris - CO House - 2.2%.

Ryan Graham - 2.7%.

Rick Brown - Madison County Treasurer - 5%.

Jamie Jo Owens - Liberty Township Trustee - 100%. Only name!

Terry Coffman - Liberty Township Trustee - 100%. Only name!

Some perspective for the results

The best we've ever done so far.

President - Alaska - Ed Clark - 1980 - 11.66%

Senate - Alaska - Joe Miller - 2016 - 29.16%

House - Kansas - 2012 - Joel Balam - 31.55%

Governor - Alaska - 2018 - Billy Toien - 15.80%

Statewide Offices - Montana - Clerk of the Supreme Court - 2012 - Mike Fellows - 43.13%

Only one Libertarian has ever achieved statewide office - Commissioner of Public Lands Aubrey Dunn Jr - Switched from Republican to Libertarian - This is the highest ranking we've ever achieved.

Six other elected positions have switched their positions from Republican or Democrat to Libertarian.

The other guys

Let's look at a few numbers from the national elections:

In the House, the Democrats ended with 231 and the Republicans ended with 204. Before, the House was 235 for the Republicans and 193 for the Democrats (7 seats were unfilled). The

Republicans lost 31 seats and the Democrats gained 38 seats. The Blue Wave was a bit more significant than people gave it credit for.

This was also reflected for the Governor, where the Democrats picked up 7 offices and the Republicans lost 7. The Republicans still lead by 2 overall (26-24).

The Senate was the one place where Democrats failed to cash in, actually losing 2 spots to Republicans.

Interesting things to discuss

In 2 different states, the candidates waited until the end to spend their money. In both states, the candidates paid dearly. The Democrats in Florida and the Republicans in Arizona both gave up seats.

The Kavanaugh Swing - How the 7% in this election could have helped the Democrats.

The future of polling

People still vote based on economy? New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico, where Republicans gave up seats, are in the bottom 7 in household income. States like Florida, Missouri, and Alaska, which saw their unemployment rates fall drastically, saw GOP pickups. However, there was much less reliance on unemployment than in previous years, perhaps because no state was lower than 2.2% or higher than 6.5%.

Sources:

LP.org:

<https://www.lp.org/2018-live-results/>

Real Clear Politics:

<https://www.realclearpolitics.com/>

Abdul's Poll:

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/docs/Indiana_Statewide_Survey.pdf