

On Election Day, GOP celebrated and then mourned ‘red wave’

By [Gregory Morton](#) and [Jeremy B. Merrill](#)

CORRECTION

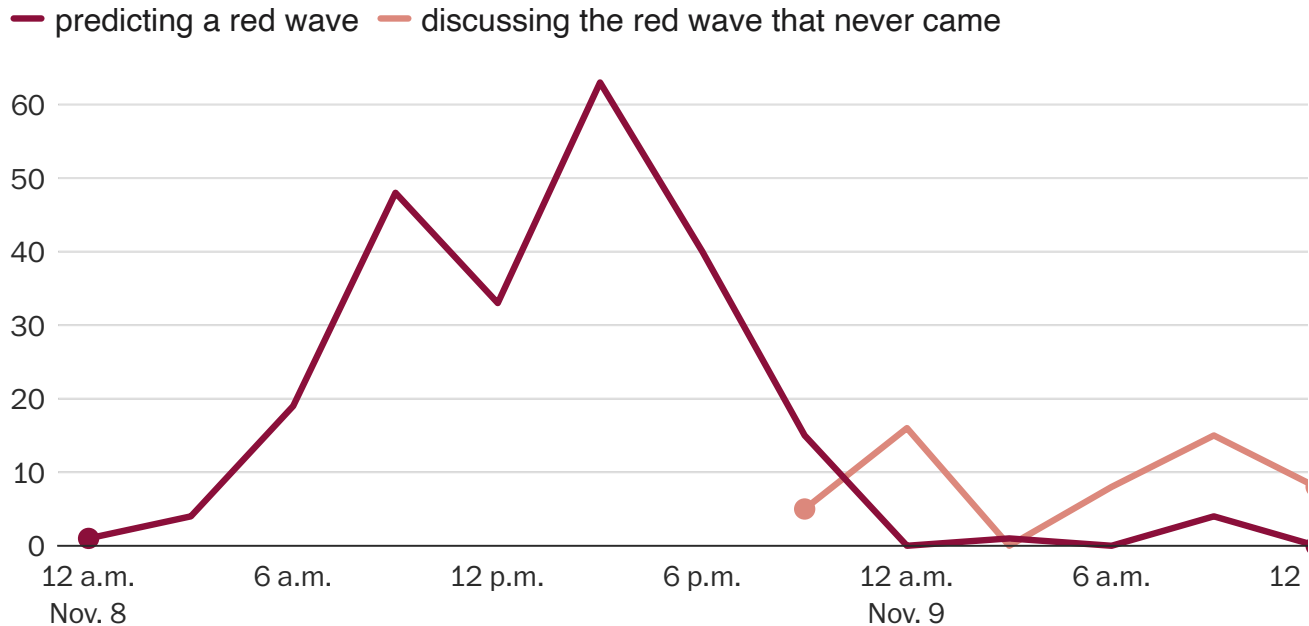
A previous version of this report incorrectly said there was a change in sentiment as the narrative surrounding the 2020 election changed in real time. It should have said the 2022 election. This post has been corrected.

As Election Day began, Republican candidates, pundits and social media influencers were giddy with anticipation of a “red wave” of Republican voters who would sweep GOP candidates around the country into office and usher in Republican majorities in the House and Senate. By election night, their tone had changed as it became clear that the wave had not arrived.

A Washington Post analysis of social media posts, blog posts and podcasts revealed a change in sentiment among GOP influencers and candidates as the narrative surrounding the 2022 election changed in real time.

GOP hopes for a "Red Wave" crested early

Conservative influencers online giddily predicted a "red wave", but then discussed who to blame as it failed to materialize.



Social media posts mentioning a "red wave" or "red tsunami"

GREG MORTON AND JEREMY B. MERRILL / THE WASHINGTON POST

Republicans began the day in excited anticipation. Candidates, pundits and influencers spoke optimistically about races in traditionally Democratic strongholds like New York and cited promising poll numbers.

⚠ This coverage is no longer live

Elise Stefanik @EliseStefanik · [Follow](#)

Corrupt Kathy Hochul & Far Left Democrats in Albany have absolutely failed New Yorkers.

Tonight's [#RedWave](#) will start in New York when [@leezeldin](#) is elected as our next Governor.

More from [@seanhannity](#):

[hannity.com](#)

'DEMOCRATS HAVE FAILED IN ALL RESPECTS': Stefanik Shreds Dem...
Chair of the House Republican Conference Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
appeared at a

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Some even looked to the skies, citing a moon turned red from a lunar eclipse, as an omen.



As polls began to close and results from races around the country trickled in, Republican candidates and GOP-leaning media outlets invited viewers to join them for “red wave” watch parties or livestreams. Even as the first votes were counted in races on the east coast, the mood remained celebratory.

NEWSMAX @NEWSMAX · [Follow](#)

Three house races in suburban Virginia could show early indications of a red wave across the nation. Newsmax's Congressional Correspondent Kilmeny Duchardt [[@KILM3NY](#)] reports.

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But as results began to indicate that Republicans wouldn't carry many House and Senate races initially considered safe bets, the tone of GOP social media posts began to change. Some blamed former president Donald Trump for the poor performance of candidates he endorsed. Others made baseless claims of voter fraud, blamed low turnout and complained of "suspicious ballots" as more votes were counted.

Mayra Flores@MayraFlores2022 · [Follow](#)

The RED WAVE did not happen. Republicans and Independents stayed home. DO NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RESULTS IF YOU DID NOT DO YOUR PART!

12:27 AM · Nov 9, 2022



91K



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4:16 a.m. EST



Weaker-than-expected GOP results calm Europe's nerves — for now

By [Emily Rauhala](#), [Rick Noack](#) and [Karla Adam](#)

BRUSSELS — Much of Europe breathed a sigh of relief as a weaker-than-expected showing by Republicans and the absence of major election violence eased concern about turmoil in the transatlantic relationship and the health of American democracy — at least for now.

The results of the first major races since the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection are likely to lend some short-term stability to efforts to isolate Russia and support Ukrainian forces, the central concern for European officials and diplomats heading into the midterms. The outcome will also add a sense of continuity to day-to-day diplomacy.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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1:43 a.m. EST



Rep. Lauren Boebert's reelection bid teeters by