

Mike Berman's

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THE 2014 ELECTION

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The story of the 2014 election is very simple. At each elected level of the Federal and State governments...with the exception of the White House, which was not on the ballot...the Republicans won handily, increasing their margin of control. Turnout (on a percentage basis) was the worst it has been since the 1942 national election.

A Summary Cook Political Report

Votes Received as of 11/14/14

Republicans	39,582,779 (51.77%)
Democrats	34,720,906 (45.41%)
Others	2,149,804 (2.8%)

Republicans picked up: Net gains

- 8 U.S. Senate seats (1 Senate race still undecided)
- 13 U.S. House seats (Assumes results of 5 house races that are still undecided)
- 2 Governors
- 292 state legislators
- 5 state assemblies
- 6 state senates
- 3 additional states in which they control both legislative bodies
- 0 additional states in which they control governorship and both legislative bodies

U.S. Senate

Republicans picked up 8 Senate seats. One seat remains undecided, Louisiana.*

- Before the election – 53 Democrats, 45 Republicans, 2 Independents*
- After the election – 44 Democrats, 53 Republicans, 2 Independents*
(Based on pre-election 2 way polling, Cassidy leads Landrieu)
- 4 Democratic senators who stood for re-election lost
- 0 Republican senators who stood for re-election lost
- 5 the number of open seats

*There were 3 special elections in 2014, due to Hawaii Senator Inouye's death, Oklahoma Senator Coburn's retirement, and South Carolina Senator DeMint's resignation.

U.S. House

Republicans picked up 13 House seats

- Before the election – 201 Democrats, 234 Republicans
- After the election – 188 Democrats, 244 Republicans (3 races undecided)
- 3 races are still undecided: AZ 2nd (recount will start Dec. 1), CA 7th, and CA 16th
- [If Republicans reach the 247 member mark, this will be the largest number of Republicans in the House since 1931. At 246 members it is the largest number since 1947]

Of the Democratic House seats that flipped:

- 3 were in states won by Mitt Romney in 2012
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11 Democratic House members who stood for re-election lost

3 Republican House members who stood for re-election lost

Using “The Cook Political Report’s” Partisan Voting Index (PVI) as the comparison device, 8 of the seats lost by the Democrats had a Republican PVI; 2 were rated as even; and 5 were rated Democratic. Of the 3 Republican-held seats that flipped, 1 had a Democratic PVI.

Governors

Republicans picked up 2 (net) Governorships

An independent picked up 1 Governorship (AK)

- Before the election – 21 Democrats, 29 Republicans
- After the election – 17 Democrats, 31 Republicans, 1 Independent
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*1 race still undecided – Vermont (probably will remain Democratic, but since no candidate won over 50% of the vote, and the Republican candidate did not concede, the decision goes to the State General Assembly, which will decide the election in a secret ballot in January 2015)

State Legislatures

(Nebraska legislature is unicameral and non-partisan
and therefore is not included below)

Republicans picked up 292 State legislators

- Before the election – 3,418 Democrats, 3,820 Republicans, 145 other
 - After the election – 3,164 Democrats, 4,112 Republicans, 80 other
- [Note: 29 races undecided]

Republicans picked up control of 5 State Houses

- Before the election – 21 under Democratic control
– 28 under Republican control
- After the election – 16 under Democratic control
– 33 under Republican control

Republicans picked up control of 6 State Senates

- Before the election – 20 under Democratic control
– 29 under Republican control
- After the election – 14 under Democratic control
– 35 under Republican control

Republicans picked up control of 11 legislative bodies (out of a total 99)

- Before the election – 41 under Democratic control
– 57 under Republican control
- After the election – 30 under Democratic control
– 68 under Republican control

Republicans picked up control of both Houses of a State legislature in 3 additional States

- Before the election – Democrats controlled 19 state legislatures
– Republicans controlled 27 state legislatures
– Split 3 state legislatures
- After the election – Democrats control 11 state legislatures
– Republicans control 30 state legislatures
– Split 8 state legislatures

The number of States in which Republicans control both houses of a State Legislature and the Governorship did not increase. However, the number of States in which Democrats control both houses and the Governorship, dropped.

- Before the election
 - Democrats controlled the legislature and Governor in 15 States
 - Republicans controlled the legislature and Governor in 23 States
 - 11 states were split
- After the election
 - Democrats control the legislature and Governor in 7 States
 - Republicans control the legislature and Governor in 23 States
 - 18 States are split

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2014 Voter Turnout

Turnout of the eligible voting population regardless of voter registration status

The 2014 national voter turnout was 36.4%. This was the worst turnout in 72 Years. The 1942 Federal election turnout had a lower participation rate at 33.9%.

The 2014 turnout rate was substantially lower than 2010 (42%), 2006 (41%), and 2002 (39.5%).

Year	Voter Turnout (of Total Eligible Voters)
2014	36.4%
2012	58%
2010	40.9%
2008	61.6%
2006	40.4%
2004	60.1%
2002	39.5%

- In 43 States less than half of the eligible population voted
- No State broke the 60% voter turnout mark

- In the three largest States - CA, TX and NY- less than a third of the eligible population voted: New York - 28.8%; California – 31.8% and Texas – 28.5%. [None of these States had closely contested Statewide races]
- The three States with mail-in only voting all did better than the national average: Colorado had the fourth-highest turnout (53%), Oregon had the fifth-highest (52%), and Washington was above the national average (41.6%).

States with the highest and lowest voter turnout:

<u>Highest</u>	<u>Lowest</u>
Maine: 59.3%	Indiana: 28.0%
Wisconsin: 56.9%	Texas: 28.5%
Alaska: 55.3%	Utah: 28.8%
Colorado: 53.0%	New York: 28.8%
Oregon: 52.0%	Tennessee: 29.1%

Younger voters (ages 18-29) made up 13% of the 2014 electorate, compared with 19% in 2012.

In 2012, 60% of voters 18-29 years of age backed the Democratic candidate for the House and 38% backed the Republican candidate -- a gap of 22 points.

In the 2014 midterm, the percentage of 18-29 year olds for Democrats was 54% and for Republicans, 43% -- an 11 point difference.

Older voters (65 and older) made up 22% of the 2014 electorate, compared to 16% in 2012.

In 2012, 44% of voters 65 and older backed the Democratic candidate and 56% of voters backed the Republican candidate. In the 2014 midterms, the percentage for Democrats was 41% and for Republicans 57%.

Turnout is generally lower for youth in both Parties during midterms, but the drop off is much greater for Democrats.

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Ideological bent of the 2014 electorate

In its post-election survey of the ideological bent of the 2014 electorate, The Winston Group found the following “philosophical bent” of the electorate:

(1 is Liberal and 9 is Conservative)

-1	Liberal
-3.37	Obama
-3.67	Democrats in Congress
-5	The middle
-5.55	Independents
-5.79	Your own political ideology
-6.6	Republicans in Congress
-9	Conservative

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2014 Election Highlighted the Divide between the Major Parties

The national exit poll of those voting in 2014 demonstrates the nature of the large divide between the two major political Parties.

68% of Republicans and 30% of Democrats are “very worried about the direction of the nation’s economy” in the next year.

78% of Democrats think the government should do more to resolve problems, while 77% of Republicans think the government is doing too many things and/or it is better left to business and individuals.

67% of Republicans said their family’s financial situation is worse compared to two years ago, while 57% of Democrats say the family’s financial situation is better.

68% of Democrats expect that life for the next generation will be better than life today, while 69% of Republicans think it will be worse.

70% of Republicans think you can never trust the government in Washington to do what is right, while 72% of Democrats trust Washington to “just about always” do what is right.

85% of Republicans support the Tea Party movement, while 79% of Democrats oppose the movement.

52% of those who voted on November 4th, believe that abortion should be legal in most, if not all, cases. 43% believe that abortion should be illegal in most, if not all, cases. 74% of Democrats believe that abortion should be legal in all cases, while 71% of Republicans believe abortion should be illegal in all cases.

38% believe that race relations in this country have gotten worse in the last few years; 20% that they have gotten better. Those believing that race relations have gotten worse include 62% of Republicans and 36% of Democrats. Among those who think race relations have gotten better, 54% are Democrats and 44% are Republicans.

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Men voted Republican by 57%-41%, while women voted Democratic by 51% to 47%. There also appears to be a significant difference depending on whether an individual is married or unmarried.

Married men voted Republican 61% to 37%
Married women voted Republican 54% to 44%

Unmarried men voted Democratic 49% to 48%
Unmarried women voted Democratic 60% to 38%

This difference between married and unmarried people also manifested itself in the 2012 Presidential election.

Married men voted Republican by 60% to 38%.
Married women voted Republican by 53% to 46%

Unmarried men voted Democratic by 56% to 40%
Unmarried women voted Democratic by 67% to 31%

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Composition of the electorate based on exit polls

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2008</u>
Men	49	47	48	47
Married	33	29	--	--
Unmarried	16	18	--	--
Women	51	53	52	53
Married	30	31	--	--
Unmarried	21	23	--	--
18-29	13	19	12	18
30-44	22	27	24	29
45-64	43	38	43	37
65+	22	16	21	16
White	75	72	77	74
Black	12	13	11	13
Hispanic/Latino	8	10	8	9
Asian	3	3	2	x
Other	2	2	2	3
Liberal	23	25	20	22
Moderate	40	41	38	44
Conservative	37	35	42	34
Democrat	35	38	35	39
Republican	36	32	35	32
Independent/other	28	29	29	29
Tea Party				
Support	33	21	41	
Neutral	28	42	24	
Oppose	36	30	30	
Under \$50,000	36	41	36	38
\$50-99,999	34	31	37	36
\$100,000+	30	28	27	26

President's job

Approve	44	53	44	28
Disapprove	55	46	55	72

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A special analysis of the 2014 election

One of the best analyses of the 2014 election was produced by Bill McInturff of Public Opinion Strategies. It is based on pre-election and post-election surveys by Public Opinion Strategies, the NBC/WSJ national survey, and national exit polls.

Going into the 2014 election, 63% of registered voters believed that the country was on the wrong track, the highest number for a mid-term election going back to 1990. In 2014, this included 89% of Republicans, 64% of Independents and 41% of Democrats.

Obama's disapproval rating going into the election, at 55%, was consistent with other Presidents' in years in which their Party got smacked in a mid-term election. The disapproval scores were Clinton 1994 – 49%, Bush 2006 – 57%, Obama 2010-55%.

65% of likely voters were contacted by one campaign or another.

Republicans had a 6% point advantage in the generic Congressional ballot. Independents favored Republicans by 16% points. Independents are consistently tipping the scales to one Party or the other.

By 32% to 17% voters said their vote was in opposition to President Obama. 86% of those who approved the job being done by Obama voted Democratic. 87% of those who disapprove of the job being done by Obama voted Republican.

Men went Republican by +20%

Women went Democratic by +6%

Whites went Republican by +23%

Non-whites went Democratic by +44%

60% of voters made up their minds in September or earlier

24% made up their minds in October

15% decided in the last few days before the election

The later voters decided, the more likely they were to vote Democratic for Congress. However, the generic Congressional ballot was tied among those who voted early and swung Republican on Election day.

34% of voters cast their ballots early. In 2006, the number of early voters was 23% and in 2010, it was 27%. There is no difference among Republicans, Democrats and Independents in the number of early voters.

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The Polls were a bit out of whack in 2014

When you compare the Real Clear Politics* average results for the last days before the election with the final results, there were a number of races in which the final polls were not close to the final election results.

Real Clear Politics Polling Average Compared to Final Figures, by state

Selected Senate Races

<u>State</u>		<u>Last RCP Average</u>	<u>Final Number</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Alaska		Sullivan +2.4	Sullivan +3.7	1.3 points
Arkansas		Cotton +7.0	Cotton +17.0	10.0 points
Colorado		Gardner +2.5	Gardner +2.9	0.4 points
Georgia		Perdue +3.0	Perdue +7.9	4.9 points
Iowa		Ernst +2.3	Ernst +8.5	6.2 points
Kansas		Orman +0.8	Roberts +10.8	11.6 points
Kentucky		McConnell +7.2	McConnell +15.5	8.3 points
Louisiana	Dec. 6 Runoff	Cassidy +4.8	**	**
	Nov. 4 Open Primary	Landrieu +5.7	Landrieu +1.2	4.5 points
Michigan		Peters +12.8	Peters +13.2	0.4 points
Minnesota		Franken +10.0	Franken +10.3	0.3 points
Montana		Daines +18.0	Daines +17.9	0.1 points
New Hampshire		Shaheen +0.8	Shaheen +3.2	2.4 points

New Jersey	Booker +15.4	Booker +14.2	1.2 points
North Carolina	Hagan +0.7	Tillis +1.7	2.4 points
Oregon	Merkley +17.3	Merkley +18.5	1.2 points
South Dakota	Rounds +12.2	Rounds +20.9	8.7 points
Virginia	Warner +9.7	Warner +0.8	8.9 points
West Virginia	Capito +16.6	Capito +27.6	11 points

**Data unavailable until December 6th runoff

Selected State
Governor Races

<u>State</u>	<u>Last RCP Average</u>	<u>Final Number</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Colorado	Hickenlooper +0.5	Hickenlooper +2.9	2.4 points
Connecticut	Malloy +1.3	Malloy +2.5	1.2 points
Florida	Crist +0.4	Scott +1.1	1.5 points
Georgia	Deal +4.6	Deal +8.0	3.4 points
Illinois	Quinn +0.8	Rauner +4.8	5.6 points
Kansas	Davis +2.0	Brownback +3.9	5.9 points
Maine	LePage +1.4	LePage +4.9	3.5 points
Maryland	Brown +7.2*	Hogan +4.7	11.9 points*
Massachusetts	Baker +3.7	Baker +1.9	1.8 points
Michigan	Snyder +2.0	Snyder +4.2	2.2 points
New Hampshire	Hassan +3.5	Hassan +5.2	1.7 points
Pennsylvania	Wolf +11.0	Wolf +9.8	1.2 points
Vermont	Shumlin +15.2*	Shumlin +1.1	14.1 points*
Wisconsin	Walker +2.2	Walker +5.7	3.5 points

*The RCP averages for the Maryland and Vermont races were not provided by RealClearPolitics, so an average from several polls taken closest to the election has been calculated and used to calculate the difference.

***Note:** The RCP often includes surveys to which WW would ordinarily not give much credence but they are in most cases mixed with surveys to which WW does give credence.

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Box Score
1992-2014
Congressional Elections

	<u>Senate*</u>		<u>House</u>	
2014**	R +8 (at least)	D-46/R-54**	R+13	D-188/R-247
2012	D +2	D-55/R-45	D +8	D-201/R-234
2010	R +6	D-53/R-47	R +63	D-193/R-242
2008	D +8	D-59/R-41	D +21	D-257/R-178
2006	D +5	D-51/R-49	D +31	D-233/R-202
2004	R +4	D-44/R-55	R +3	D-202/R-232
2002	R +2	D-49/R-51	R +8	D-204/R-229
2000	D +4	D-50/R-50	D +1	D-212/R-221
1998	No change	D-45/R-55	D +5	D-211/R-223
1996	R +2	D-45/R-55	D +2	D-206/R-227
1994	R +8	D-48/R-52	R +54	D-204/R-230
1992	No change	D-57/R-43	R +9	D-258/R-176

*Independents are included with Democrats in the Senate tallies.

**2014 Results are not complete at this time: These counts assume outcomes in all undecided races.

Percent Change in Seats Lost/Gained per Election for Democrats
in the Senate

	<u>Seats held at previous election</u>	<u>Number of Seats Lost/Gained</u>	<u>% Change</u>
2014	53	-8/-9*	-15%/-17%*
2012	51	+2	+3.92%
2010	57	-6	-10.53%
2008	49	+8	+16.33%
2006	44	+5	+11.36%
2004	48	-4	-8.33%

*Depending on the results of the December Louisiana Senate race runoff

Percent Change in Seats Lost/Gained per Election for Democrats in the
House of Representatives

	<u>Seats held at previous election</u>	<u>Number of Seats Lost/Gained</u>	<u>% Change</u>
2014	201	-13*	-6.47%*
2012	193	+8	+4.15%
2010	257	-64	-24.9%
2008	233	+24	+10.3%
2006	202	+31	+15.35%
2004	204	-2	-.98%

*There are still 3 races that are uncalled and/or going to a runoff

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Odds and Ends

36% of the American public now give the Democratic Party a favorable rating, a drop of 6% points since the election. This is the lowest rating recorded by Gallup going back to 1994.

The Republican Party has a post-election approval rating of 42%, up from a late 2013 approval rating of 28%.

53% now want the Republicans in Congress to set the nation's course for the next year, as opposed to 36% who want that role for President Obama. [Gallup]

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In early November, Americans believed the most important issues the country is facing were: Economy in general – 28%; Dissatisfaction with government – 19%; Immigration/illegal aliens – 13%; and Unemployment/Jobs – 12%. Healthcare is selected by 7%. [Gallup]

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The presiding officer in the United States Senate is always a member of the Majority party in the Senate, except when the Vice President of the United States decides to preside.

With Republicans in the majority when the Senate convenes in 2015, they will preside. Of the 53 Republicans whose election is now assured, 63% have not been in the Senate long enough to have presided when the Republicans were last in the majority. While those watching from the outside might see the time presiding as relatively boring, it provides an opportunity for those presiding to interact with the Parliamentarian and other Senate officers (they are not Senators), and to learn the rules and ways of the Senate.

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The Next Elections have Clearly Begun

I received my last request for money for the 2014 election at 5:06 p.m. on election day, November 4th. I received numerous requests for contributions for 2016 races before the 2014 election. I received my first postelection request for a contribution for 2016 on November 7th. And, at 4:00 p.m. on November 5th, I received my first request for a contribution for 2018.

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