The 2019 Political Environment
2018 Midterms: Key Takeaways

1. They Were All About Trump
2. The GOP Has A Suburbs Problem
3. Blue Wins in Red Places
4. The GOP Got Even “Trumpier”
The Trump Factor

When It Comes To Opinions About President Trump, There’s Not Much In-Between…

- **Strong Approve:** 31%
- **Strongly Disapprove:** 46%

Only 1 Out Of Every 3 Voters Said Trump Was **NOT** A Factor...

- **26%** Voting In House Elections Said Their Vote Was A Vote To **SUPPORT** Trump
- **38%** Said Their Vote Was A Vote **AGAINST** Trump
Huge GOP Losses in Suburbs

Suburban Swing Districts = “The Majority Makers”

GOP Losses In:
• Orange County, CA
• Houston, TX
• Dallas, TX
2018 Surprise: Blue Wins In Red Places

Oklahoma

Kendra Horn Is 1st Democrat Since 1970s To Represent Oklahoma's 5th District

South Carolina

In Trump-red SC suburbs voters chose a Democrat for Congress, amid high turnout

Ran With Trump:
- Rep. Devin Nunes (CA) – W
- Rep. Chris Collins (NY) – W
- Rep. Steve King (IA) W
- Rep Mark Harris (NC) – W*

Kept Their Distance:
- Rep. Barbara Comstock (VA) – L
- Rep. Mia Love (UT) – L
- Rep. Carlos Curbelo (FL) – L
- Rep. Erik Paulsen (MN) - L

New York Times Op-Ed
2019 Landscape: What To Watch

1. The White House: Tension, Turnover and Twitter
2. The Democrats’ Dilemma
3. The GOP Revival Plan
Chaos Is The New Normal

• The Special Counsel Report Will Consume This White House From Here Through 2020
• Staff Turnover—Already Historically High—Will Intensify
• President Trump Will Rely On His Best Defender: Himself
Democrats: Govern or Resist?

• Tremendous Pressure From Liberal Base Of The Democratic Party
• Democratic Leaders Will Argue You Can Govern AND Administer Oversight
• Deals To Be Cut?
  – Rx Drugs, Infrastructure, Health Care, NAFTA 2.0
The Republican Revival

What Did The GOP Learn in 2018?

- **Senate**: Judicial Confirmation Machine
- **House**: Communicators More Than Legislators
- The New Opposition Party
  - Impeachment
  - Spending
  - Taxes
  - Health Care
Election 2020

- The 2020 Presidential Campaign Started on Nov. 6, 2018
- 2,020 Candidates In The 2020 Democratic Field
- Trump’s Re-Election Prospects: Mixed Signals
The 2020 Race Is Underway
The 2020 Race Is Underway

• Visits To Iowa, NH Already On The Calendar
• Staff Primary Is Underway
• Televised Debates Likely By April or May 2019
• The Profile Of The Democratic Party And Its Leadership Will Increasingly Shift Toward Presidential Campaign…
• …Along With The Debates Over Policy, Legislation and Priorities
Trump’s Re-Election Prospects

• Current Re-Election Odds: 7/5
• Incumbents Have a Good Track Record
  – 5 Of Last 7 Have Won Re-Election, With Little Relation To Mid-Term Performance
• 2018 Was A Referendum – 2020 Will Be A Choice
• Will Trump Face A Primary? Possibly
• There Are Warning Signs
2020 Warning Signs for Trump

• Low Approval Rating
• Economic Downturn On The Horizon?
• 2016’s Winning Coalition in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin Starting to Fray