



# 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...

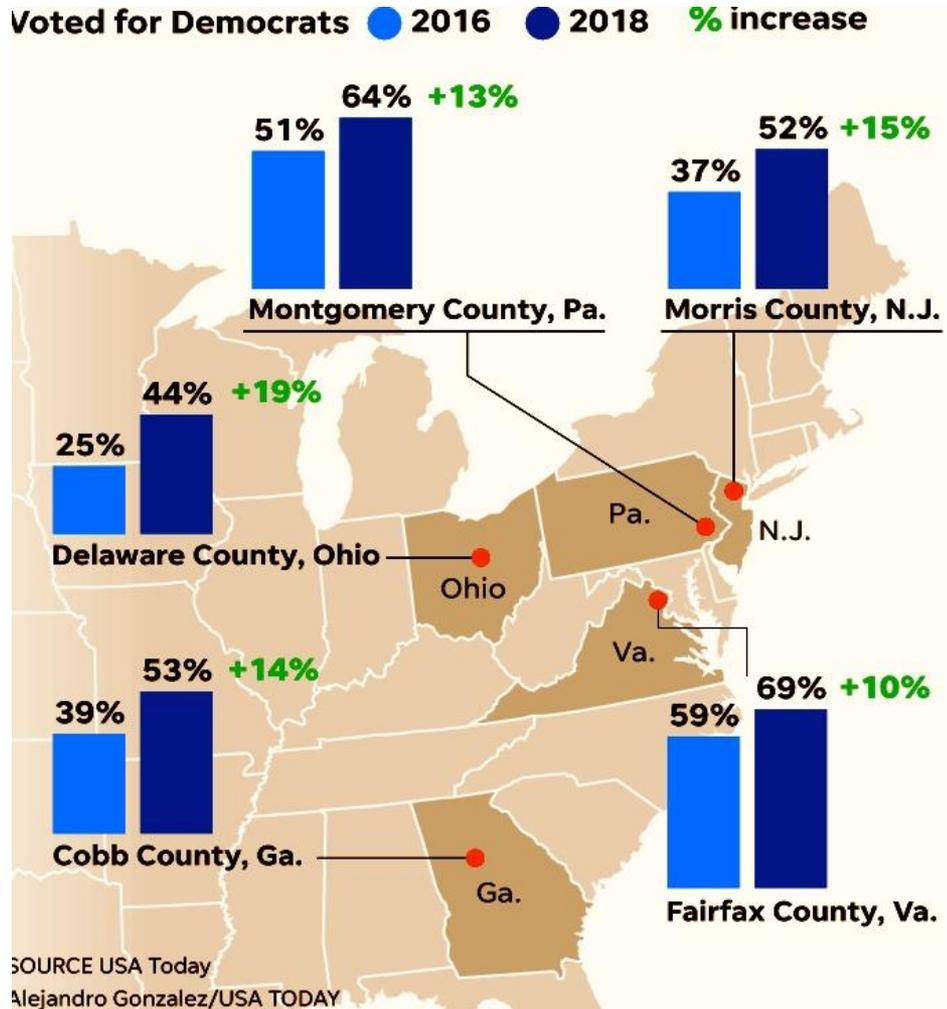
- Strong Approve: **31%**
- **Strongly Disapprove: 46%**

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**

*New York Times* Op-Ed

# There's No Going Back. The G.O.P. Is Trump's Party.

## **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**

# 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