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The information provided here is for educational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate or measure in an upcoming election.

In this blog, we look beyond the headlines to understand how political developments throughout the country affect our Israeli-American community and the issues we all hold dear. Our goal is to provide basic context and foster understanding that encourages greater civic engagement and informs decision-making by our community members.

An Unprecedented Repetition of History

If you read this blog two weeks ago, I certainly hope you heeded my call for a deep breath, resolve and faith as a new political reality is unfolding in Israel and in America. Given so many of the reactions our team has received following the Oct. 27th and Nov. 3rd elections, it is truly the best advice I can give. I must admit that it is often hard for me to follow it myself.

If you hadn't read that last entry, I only wish to reiterate these lines:

For losers, elections are a chance at reflection, recalibration, reinvention and reengagement. For winners, they're the beginning of a chapter that carries much weight, responsibility and scrutiny. Neither side should see them as a final verdict for their future.

As of the publishing of this blog, the full results of this election are not yet known. Still, the direction is clear, and I'd like to provide three key takeaways from the 2026 Midterms:

This is "unprecedented", but has totally happened before

As of publishing, major news outlets project the Democratic Party to win 259 seats in this election, to Republicans' 176. This would be a 44-seat swing in Democrats' favor from the 2024 election, when they won 215 seats. There are two numbers to look at here: the "net gain" – seats that have shifted from Republican to Democrat, and the incoming majority of 259. A net gain of 44 seats for Democrats is reminiscent of their net gain of 41 seats in 2018 – the midterm election of President Trump's first term in office. It is not as big, however, as the 63-seat net gain Republicans enjoyed in 2010 – the midterm election of President Obama's first

term. A majority of 259 seats is one that Democrats nearly had before that 2010 midterm, boasting a caucus of 257 following the 2008 Election. They also had 258 following the 1992 Election, and a higher number two years prior, with 267 Democrats elected in 1990.

In the Senate, Democrats are projected a net gain of 7-9 seats, catapulting them to a 54-56-seat majority. Republicans themselves swung 9 seats in their favor in 2014. As for a 56-seat majority, Democrats had an even larger one following the 2008 election – 60 seats.

Majorities flipping in both chambers of Congress at once is noteworthy, but not unheard of. It last happened in 2006, the midterm election for President Bush's second term.

So, what makes this result shocking? One thing is that some of these Democratic victories, and particularly in the Senate, took place in traditionally Republican states: Kansas – first Democratic Senator elected since 1932; Texas – 1988; South Carolina – 1998. These seats turned blue for the first time in decades, and will remain so at least for the next six years.

Implications for the 2028 Presidential Election, and beyond

I've written here in the past about how Democrats view the Senate race that took place in Michigan, between Republican Mike Rogers and Ultra-Progressive Democrat Abdul Al-Sayed. For Democrats, this race was the ultimate experiment that would answer the question – can an ultra-progressive candidate win, statewide, in a state that is not solidly Democratic? (Trump won the Presidential race in Michigan just two years ago) The answer the party got was a yes, although it is not yet clear how much of a resounding one.

What this means is that ultra-progressive candidates may now be emboldened to run in other "purple" states, and even nationwide in the Presidential Election. While progressives seeking the Democratic nomination is nothing new, with Sen. Bernie Sanders running unsuccessfully in 2016 and 2020, the Al-Sayed win is going to put new wind in Progressive Democrats' sails.

There's also a new arena in which the Presidential showdown between Democrats and Republicans will be taking place in two years, and it's Texas-sized. The Lone Star State is the nation's 2nd-largest, and quickly closing the gap with California. For years, Democrats have tried and failed to break Republicans' hold of Texas. They've now succeeded, and although this was a Democrat-favoring midterm environment, the Texan wall has now been breached.

Given Democrats' dominance on the west coast and much of the northeastern United States, winning a Presidential race in Texas will all but guarantee them the White House.

What this means for Israel

This is perhaps the hardest section of this entry for me to write – because of the emotional weight it carries for me, for my colleagues and for so many readers. Also, because I'm simply not sure. It would be hard not to underestimate or overestimate the implications of these midterms for the US-Israel relationship. Still, I'll try to "divide and conquer" on this issue:

- Rise of the far-left – A new group of lawmakers, on the Democratic side of the aisle, are anti-Israel at their core. They join several that were already in Congress prior to this election, perhaps even doubling the original group's size. While they are increasing in number, and are loud, their power within the Democratic caucus may actually be diminished due to the "cushy" majority the party now enjoys even without them.

- Rise of the moderates – since so many of Capitol Hill's new Democratic lawmakers will be Democrats who overtook Republican incumbents, they are aware that their districts remain competitive and may want to appeal to ideological centrists, including on the matter of Israel. If the Democratic caucus wants to maintain its large majority, it will have to refrain from promoting policies that may endanger these new members of being themselves ousted in the future.

- Can the new Congress hurt Israel? Honestly, not really, at least not right now. Congress is a legislative body, and the President of the United States is an integral part of the legislative process – with the ability to veto bills as he sees fit. Any negative bills towards Israel the next Congress might pass will have to be signed by President Trump to have any effect, and that's unlikely. Now, it's true that Congress has a say on important matters such as authorization and funding of military assistance and investments in Israel. However, we've already heard President Trump say that such investments will be discontinued at the end of this year. Ultimately, much of the US-Israel relationship, as are all aspects of US foreign policy, is determined by presidential action, and does not necessarily require explicit legislation.

It also remains my core belief that Israel has, even today, much agency in the way it is perceived in America. Potential changes in Israeli leadership and policies, given the election that took place there last week, can change its fortunes much faster than we might imagine.

If you'd like to hear more (and there's more) about where we are, and where we're headed, I invite you to tune in to IAC Magen's Webinar on the 2026 Midterm Elections and their consequences:

https://iac360.org/iac-events/midtermsna/

Tuesday, November 10th, 8pm Eastern

