Called Before the Count: A Pre-Registered Forecast of the 2026 US Midterm Elections

Fırat Mıhcı · Mihci AI Studios LLC · 2 November 2026 · Election day 3 November 2026 · The forecast was time-stamped and hashed before any votes were counted

Short answer: Democrats win the House. The Senate is close to a coin flip, with Democrats slightly ahead.

	Democratic control probability	Democratic seats (median)	80% interval	Majority
House of Representatives (435)	**96%**	**236**	223–252	218
Senate (100)	**54%**	**51**	47–55	51

Senate Democratic seats include King and Sanders. A 50–50 Senate stays Republican through the vice-president's tie-breaking vote. Republican Senate control: 45%; the remaining 1% are outcomes where an independent holds the balance.

1. The races that decide the Senate

State	Challenger / Democrat	Republican	Poll average, last 3 weeks	Non-Republican win probability
North Carolina	Roy Cooper (D)	Michael Whatley (R)	D +10.4	**92%**
New Hampshire	Chris Pappas (D)	John E. Sununu (R)	D +8.0	**90%**
Minnesota	Peggy Flanagan (D)	Michele Tafoya (R)	D +5.6	**83%**
Michigan	Abdul El-Sayed (D)	Mike Rogers (R)	D +4.7	**75%**
Maine	Troy Jackson (D)	Susan Collins (R)	D +4.0	**68%**
Texas	James Talarico (D)	Ken Paxton (R)	D +3.1	**54%**
Ohio (special)	Sherrod Brown (D)	Jon Husted (R)	D +2.5	**53%**
Iowa	Josh Turek (D)	Ashley Hinson (R)	R +0.1	**37%**
Kansas	Adam Hamilton (D)	Roger Marshall (R)	D +2.9	**36%**
Alaska	Mary Peltola (D)	Dan S. Sullivan (R)	D +2.0	**35%**
Louisiana	Jamie Davis (D)	Julia Letlow (R)	tied	**28%**

State	Challenger / Democrat	Republican	Poll average, last 3 weeks	Non-Republican win probability
South Carolina	Annie Andrews (D)	Darline Graham (R)	R +0.9	**28%**
Nebraska	Dan Osborn (Ind.)	Pete Ricketts (R)	R +0.9	**16%**
Florida (special)	Angie Nixon (D)	Ashley Moody (R)	R +5.9	**13%**

Democrats lead or are level in polls in several Republican-leaning states (Texas, Ohio, Kansas, Alaska, Iowa). Alongside the polls, the model weighs each state's past partisan lean. That is why our Senate probability is lower than betting markets and most public forecasts.

2. Comparison with other forecasts (2 November)

Source	House, Democrats	Senate, Democrats
This forecast	**96%**	**54%**
Polymarket	95%	73%
Kalshi	–	72%
Decision Desk HQ	84%	65%

External figures as reported on 2 November 2026; they update continuously.

3. Method

- **House:** the Democratic-minus-Republican margin in each district from the district's partisan lean (2024 presidential result on the new lines), whether an incumbent is running, and the national generic-ballot average (D+8.5).
- **Senate:** in each race the poll average of the last three weeks, the state's partisan lean, and incumbency. Safe races without polls are estimated from lean and incumbency alone.
- **Simulation:** the election was simulated 20,000 times. Each run applies a shared polling error to all races at once, then race-level error on top.
- All relationships were learned only from past elections; nothing was tuned to 2026 results or to other forecasters' numbers. The method was written down before the results were seen; every later data correction is logged with its date.

4. Track record on past elections

For each past election the model was rebuilt using only data available before that election.

House	Forecast, Democrats	80% interval	Actual	Democratic majority probability	Winner
2018	222	210–236	235	67%	Democrats
2020	240	226–253	222	98%	Democrats

House	Forecast, Democrats	80% interval	Actual	Democratic majority probability	Winner
2022	208	196–220	213	17%	Republicans
2024	210	200–220	215	19%	Republicans

Senate (seats up that year)	Forecast, Democrats	Actual	Races called correctly
2018	21.5	22	88%
2020	15.8	15	91%
2022	14.8	16	100%

In all four House elections the side that won the majority was favoured. The largest miss was 2020: polls overstated Democrats, the forecast was 18 seats too high, and the result fell outside the 80% interval.

5. What would change the result

Scenario	House, Democratic probability	Senate, Democratic probability
Polls are right	96%	54%
Polls slightly understate Republicans (national D+6; 1.5 points in Senate races)	82%	41%
A 2020-style miss (D+4; 3 points in Senate races)	57%	28%
Polls understate Democrats (D+11; 1.5 points in Senate races)	99.6%	67%

> **Limitations.** The House forecast does not use candidate quality or district polls; expert ratings may carry more information in individual districts. Senate polls come from one open aggregator's race pages; competitive races were checked against other averages and the result did not change (Democratic probability 53–54%). Alaska and Louisiana have only one or two polls in the last three weeks.

6. Record

The forecast was written at 2026-11-02 16:49 UTC, before the election, to a ledger in which every line carries the hash of the previous one. Because the hash is published today, any later change to the record would be visible. SHA-256 of the record:

`a015e94c1b3af85382342d37807acb88f8b539b338bf31adfbae66dddb2fb2cb`

After the election the same report will be scored on seat error and race by race.

Data: FiveThirtyEight open election and polling data, Wikipedia election tables, 270toWin district table, PollCheck race polls, RealClearPolitics, Silver Bulletin and PollingSource generic-ballot averages. Competing interests: none; this forecast was not made for any party or campaign.