

2018 Midterm Election Update

On November 6, 2018, federal midterm and state-based elections will take place. In many cases the focus has been on offices for the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. However, there are important elections and ballot initiatives happening at the state and local levels as well. As Laura Kaiser, President/CEO of SSM Health, noted in her message to staff about the upcoming election, “participation in political life is a moral obligation and responsible citizenship is a virtue.”

Midterm elections, so named because they are held at the midpoint of the President’s term of office, have traditionally had a lower voter turnout than Presidential elections. Voter turnout over the past three presidential elections averaged 57.5%. Average turnout for the three preceding midterm elections was just short of 38%. Participation is important.

To that end, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief overview of the elections happening in each state where we operate. Please note that not all of the elections and candidates are listed.

Illinois

- **United States Senate:** No election this cycle.
- **United States House of Representatives:** All 18 House members are up for election. At this time, there are 11 Democrats and seven Republicans. Four current Republicans expect close races; however, based on current polling, Incumbent Rep. Peter Roskam’s (R) has the closest race against Mr. Sean Casten (D), who is a scientist.
- **Governor:** Incumbent Governor Bruce Rauner (R), who is finishing his first term, is being challenged by Mr. JB Pritzker (D), who is an entrepreneur and owner of Hyatt Hotel chain. Mr. Pritzker maintains a double-digit lead in the polls over the incumbent. If a change occurs, we will see changes in department leadership.
- **Illinois State Senate:** Democrats in the state maintain a majority in the Senate with a margin of 37-22. Democrats are poised to maintain control and potentially add to their majority.
- **Illinois State House of Representatives:** Currently, Democrats maintain control of the House of Representatives with a margin of 67-51. As in the Senate, Democrats are expected to maintain a majority in the House and potentially add to their majority.

Missouri

- **United States Senate:** Two primary candidates lead the pack. Incumbent Senator Claire McCaskill (D) is being challenged by Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley (R). Polling results have favored both candidates over the course of the election, and the race remains a toss-up. This is one of the most-watched races in the country, as it could have implications for the balance of power in the Senate.

- **House of Representatives:** All eight of Missouri’s congressional districts are up for election. All candidates are expected to retain their seat based on polling.
- **Missouri State Senate:** Republicans hold a supermajority in Jefferson City, 33-10. Republicans will likely maintain their control in the Senate.
- **Missouri House of Representatives:** As in the Senate, Republicans hold a supermajority in the House. Democrats expect to pick up seats in a few urban districts, but Republicans will maintain a majority. Of note, the Speaker of the House of Representatives recently assumed the position of state Medicaid Director, passing control to Speaker Elect Elijah Haahr.
- **Ballot initiatives:** There are many; [click here for a full list](#). Among the most prominent:
 - **Amendment 1 – “Clean Missouri”**
“Clean Missouri” changes the process for redrawing state legislative districts and gives control to the State’s Auditor who will choose a state demographer to redraw districts. Currently, bipartisan house and senate commissions redraw boundaries and those maps are adopted if 70% of the commissioners approve the maps. The proposal also includes reforms for campaign contributions limits, transparency and lobbyist gifts.
 - **Amendment 2 – Medical Marijuana #1**
A constitutional medical marijuana proposal. This proposal legalizes marijuana to be distributed to patients and institutes a 4% tax on the retail sale of marijuana to fund health and care services for military veterans by the Missouri Veterans Commission.
 - **Amendment 3 – Medical Marijuana #2**
A constitutional medical marijuana proposal. This proposal legalizes marijuana for medical purposes and imposes a 15% tax on retail sale of marijuana. The funds will be used for a state research institute.
 - **Amendment 4 – BINGO Regulations**
Amends the Missouri Constitution to remove language limiting BINGO game advertising and loosens restrictions on who can run BINGO games.
 - **Proposition B – Minimum Wage**
This proposal will increase the state minimum wage to \$8.60 per hour and will increase by 85 cents per year until 2023 when the state minimum wage will be \$12 per hour.
 - **Proposition C – Medical Marijuana #3**
Statutory medical marijuana proposal. This proposal legalizes marijuana to be distributed to patients for qualifying medical conditions, allows growth, possession and production in the state and institutes a 2% tax on the retail sale of marijuana to fund public services.
 - **Proposition D – Transportation Funding**
This proposal increases the state’s fuel tax by 2.5 cents per gallon for four years (10 cents total by 2023). It will generate at least \$288

million annually to the State Road Fund. It will require an audit of the fund be done every two years.

Oklahoma

- **United States Senate:** There are no elections during this cycle.
- **United States House of Representatives:** All five seats are up for election this cycle. Republicans control four of the five seats, with the fifth currently vacant. All Republicans are expected to hold their seats and win the open seat, being led by Mr. Kevin Hern (R) against Mr. Tim Gilpin (D).
- **Governor:** There is a race to replace current Governor Mary Fallin (R), who is term limited. Mr. Kevin Stitt (R), owner of Gateway Mortgage, is facing Mr. Drew Edmondson, former Attorney General. Based on recent polling data, the race remains too close to call and is within the margin of error.
- **Insurance Commissioner:** State Representative Glenn Mulready (R) is leading the race for this seat.
- **Labor Commissioner:** State Representative Leslie Osborn (R) is leading the race for this seat. This seat is responsible for professional and occupational licensing.
- **Oklahoma State Senate:** Republicans currently hold a 40-8 supermajority in the Senate. Democrats have a chance of picking up a few seats in the Senate.
- **Oklahoma State House of Representatives:** Republicans hold a 73-28 margin. Democrats have the ability to gain a few seats this election.
- **General note:** Due to term limits, approximately 40% of the Oklahoma Legislature will be new and 75% of them will have less than four years of service.
- **Ballot initiatives:** There are many; [click here for a full list](#). Among the most prominent:
 - **SQ-793:** This initiative would allow big box retailers to have optometrists in their stores.
 - **SQ-794:** Known as Marcy's Law Victim's Rights, which creates more protections for victims of crime.
 - **SQ-801:** Allows school districts to use bond funds for general operations and not just current expenditures.

Wisconsin

- **United States Senate:** Incumbent U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D) is facing off against State Senator Leah Vukmir (R). Most recent polling has suggested that Senator Baldwin will win this seat with a 10 point lead.
- **House of Representatives:** All eight of Wisconsin's congressional candidates are up for election. The highest-profile race is between Mr. Bryan Steil (R) and Mr. Randy Bryce (D) to replace departing Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. Currently Mr. Steil holds a slight lead in the polls. Another race of note is between Incumbent Rep. Glenn Grothman (R) and Mr. Dan Kohl (D), who is the nephew of for U.S. Senator Herb Kohl.
- **Governor:** The race for Governor is one of the highest-profile races in the country. Incumbent Governor Scott Walker (R) is facing State Superintendent of

Public Instruction Tony Evers (D). The polls have favored both candidates, but it remains a toss-up. The race for Governor carries with it the power to appoint the heads of all departments (e.g. Department of Health and Family Services, Medicaid Director, Officer of Commissioner of Insurance).

- **Wisconsin State Senate:** The Senate has 33 members. Currently the Wisconsin State Senate has a Republican majority of 18-15. There are a few seats in play for Democrats to attempt to take control of the Senate.
- **Wisconsin State Assembly:** The Assembly has 99 members (three members in one Senate district). Republicans hold a 64-35 majority. All of the members of the Assembly are up for election this cycle. It is likely that Republicans will lose some seats but maintain control of the Assembly.

If you have further questions regarding the election or public policy, please do not hesitate to contact the staff in Public Affairs: Michael Richards, System Vice President; Jessica Pabst (IL and MO); Gus Gustafson (WI); James Durant (OK); Kim Bakker (Civic Affairs); and Tanner Smith (Civic Affairs).