

2020 Election Report



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

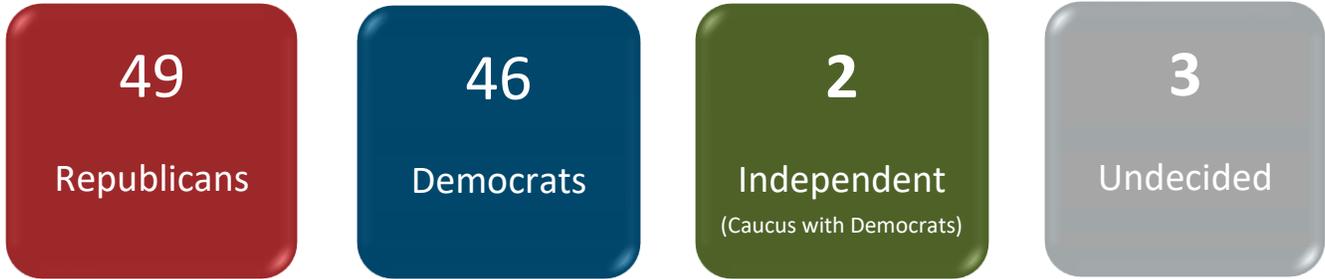
The 2020 elections raised citizen engagement in the electoral process to unprecedented levels. While votes are still being counted in many states, we can reiterate what we knew going into the Nov. 3 contests: bipartisanship will be required in 2021—just as it was in 2020—to achieve any major legislative accomplishments in Washington, D.C. Here is the current state of play:

- Former Vice President Joe Biden was declared the winner of the 2020 presidential election. Mail-in and absentee ballots are still being tallied in many states, and there may be legal proceedings over the next few weeks as final results are certified.
- Democrats will retain control of the U.S. House of Representatives. Though their majority appears to have dwindled by approximately 10 seats, they will still have a comfortable margin of roughly 15 votes. Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Highways & Transit Subcommittee Ranking Republican Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) won re-election in races billed as very competitive.
- Control of the Senate is still too close to call, but most are anticipating Republicans will retain a narrow majority. The final breakdown will not be known until January, because two run-off elections will take place in Georgia. According to the Associated Press, Senators Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and Doug Jones (D-Ala.) have all lost their re-election, and four Senate races remain too close to call.
- Down ballot in the states, the landscape will largely mirror that prior to the election. Republicans picked up the Montana governor's race, but the remaining 10 races stayed in existing party control. The balance in state houses and state senates is also nearly identical to the pre-election split.
- This election report will focus on outcomes in congressional and state elections, but for a detailed look at transportation-related state ballot initiatives, ARTBA prepared an [analysis](#) of hundreds of measures across the country that seek to increase or maintain transportation investment. As of Nov. 5, 303 of 335 measures in support of transportation investment were approved—the highest level in 20 years.

Elections matter, but ARTBA's mission doesn't change. The extension of the current federal surface transportation authorization law, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, expires on Sept. 30, 2021. In the new year, we will continue to push Congress to deliver on a long-term, robust surface transportation reauthorization bill and a permanent fix for the Highway Trust Fund. Despite our obvious national divide on several topics, transportation infrastructure remains one of the few areas where Congress continues to find bipartisan, common ground. That means the transportation construction industry will have an opportunity to achieve critical legislative successes in the year ahead, regardless of which party ultimately controls the White House and Senate in 2021.



U.S. Senate



The outcomes of four elections for U.S. Senate seats remain uncertain, which leaves control of the chamber ‘too close to call.’ Despite this uncertainty, one thing is clear: bipartisanship will continue to be required to move major bills through that chamber. Neither party will have a filibuster-proof majority, nor could override a presidential veto without the other party.

While the current Congress made some progress on surface transportation reauthorization legislation, the new Congress will have to start over next year. However, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee provided a strong, bipartisan foundation by passing the highway portion of a reauthorization bill with a 21-0 vote in 2019. With key leaders of that committee expected to remain in place, we will urge them to return to this framework and restart the process as soon as possible next year.

The table below outlines the results of Senate races as of Nov. 5, but here are a few key takeaways:

- Heading into the election, Republicans had 12 seats that were considered competitive compared to the Democrats’ two competitive seats. Democrats needed a net gain of four seats or three and the White House to control the Senate.
- Republicans picked up one seat in Alabama, and Democrats have picked up two in Colorado and Arizona.
- The two seats in Georgia are unsettled and may both proceed to a run-off on Jan. 5, as state election law requires a run-off if no candidate receives 50 percent of the vote. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler are the Republican incumbents in the state.
- The Alaska Senate race featuring incumbent Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) remains unresolved.

U.S. SENATE RESULTS AS OF 11/5				
State	Incumbent	Party	Result	Party
Alaska	Dan Sullivan	R		R
Alabama	Doug Jones	D	Tommy Tuberville	R
Arizona	Martha McSally	R	Mark Kelly	D
Arkansas	Tom Cotton	R	Re-elected	R
Colorado	Cory Gardner	R	John Hickenlooper	D

Delaware	Christopher Coons	D	Re-elected	D
Georgia	Kelly Loeffler	R	Will proceed to Jan. 5 run-off	
Georgia	David Perdue	R	Will proceed to Jan. 5 run-off	
Idaho	Jim Risch	R	Re-elected	R
Illinois	Dick Durbin	D	Re-elected	D
Iowa	Joni Ernst	R	Re-elected	R
Kansas	Pat Roberts*	R	Roger Marshall	R
Kentucky	Mitch McConnell	R	Re-elected	R
Louisiana	Bill Cassidy	R	Re-elected	R
Maine	Susan Collins	R	Re-elected	R
Massachusetts	Ed Markey	D	Re-elected	D
Michigan	Gary Peters	D	Re-elected	D
Minnesota	Tina Smith	D	Re-elected	D
Mississippi	Cindy Hyde-Smith	R	Re-elected	R
Montana	Steve Daines	R	Re-elected	R
Nebraska	Ben Sasse	R	Re-elected	R
New Hampshire	Jeanne Shaheen	D	Re-elected	D
New Jersey	Cory Booker	D	Re-elected	D
North Carolina	Thom Tillis	R	Re-elected	R
New Mexico	Tom Udall*	D	Ben Ray Lujan	D
Oklahoma	Jim Inhofe	R	Re-elected	R
Oregon	Jeff Merkley	D	Re-elected	D
Rhode Island	Jack Reed	D	Re-elected	D
South Carolina	Lindsey Graham	R	Re-elected	R
South Dakota	Mike Rounds	R	Re-elected	R
Tennessee	Lamar Alexander*	R	Bill Hagerty	R
Texas	John Cornyn	R	Re-elected	R
Virginia	Mark Warner	D	Re-elected	D

West Virginia	Shelley Moore Capito	R	Re-elected	R
Wyoming	Mike Enzi*	R	Cynthia Lummis	R
	*Incumbent did not run for re-election in 2020.			

Profiles of new Senators

Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.)—The son of a road builder, Hagerty is a businessman who also served as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. He fills the seat held by retiring Sen. Lamar Alexander. Most recently, Hagerty was the U.S. Ambassador to Japan. He supports public-private partnerships for infrastructure.

John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)—The former governor of Colorado defeated incumbent Cory Gardner to earn a seat in the U.S. Senate. He is on record supporting a \$1 trillion federal investment in infrastructure programs.

Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.)—Kelly is a former astronaut and naval officer. His victory speech on Nov. 3 suggested prioritizing broad infrastructure investments.

Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.)—Lujan served in the U.S. House of Representatives, including as Assistant Speaker, before running for the seat vacated by fellow Democrat Tom Udall. He has been a vocal supporter of passing a \$2 trillion infrastructure package.

Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.)—Lummis served as Wyoming’s at-large member of Congress from 2008 until her retirement in 2016. She will fill the seat of retiring Sen. Mike Enzi. She previously served as Wyoming’s state treasurer and was a founding member of the fiscally conservative House Freedom Caucus.

Roger Marshall (R-Kan.)—Marshall is a physician, who will join the Senate after serving in the U.S. House. He fills the seat vacated by Sen. Pat Roberts. He is a proponent of investing in rural infrastructure to facilitate goods movement.

Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.)—Tuberville easily toppled first-term Senator Doug Jones. His background as a college football coach and support from President Trump helped him defeat former Senator and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in the Republican primary.

U.S. House of Representatives



Democrats will maintain control of the House in the next Congress, though with a diminished majority. Despite expectations to expand their ranks, Democrats lost at least nine incumbent seats and picked up only three Republican-held seats as of this writing.

Many of the Democratic incumbents who were not re-elected were moderates or first-term members of Congress, serving in districts President Trump carried in 2016. Despite her party’s losses, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) is not likely to be challenged by a fellow Democrat in the upcoming election for Speaker. Kevin McCarthy (Calif.), the Republican leader in the House, is also expected to be re-elected.

The table below represents new members of Congress or seats to be filled by new members of Congress due to incumbents leaving office as of Nov. 10.

U.S. House Results as of 11/10	
Not Returning	Newly Elected
Ralph Abraham (R-La.)	Race proceeds to Dec. 5 run-off
Justin Amash (L-Mich.)	Peter Meijer (R-Mich.)
Rob Bishop (R-Utah)	Blake Moore (R-Utah)
Susan Brooks (R-Ind.)	Christina Hale (R-Ind.)
Bradley Byrne (R-Ala.)	Jerry Carl (R-Ala.)
Lacy Clay Jr. (D-Mo.)	Cori Bush (D-Mo.)
Doug Collins (R-Ga.)	Andrew Clyde (R-Ga.)
Mike Conaway (R-Texas)	August Pfulger (R-Texas)
Paul Cook (R-Calif.)	Jay Obernolte (R-Calif.)
Joe Cunningham (D-S.C.)	Nancy Mace (R-S.C.)
Susan Davis (D-Calif.)	Sara Jacobs (D-Calif.)
Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)	Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.)
Abby Finkenauer (D-Iowa)	Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa)
Bill Flores (R-Texas)	Pete Sessions (R-Texas)
Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii)	Kai Kahele (D-Hawaii)
Greg Gianforte (R-Mont.)	Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.)
Tom Graves (R-Ga.)	Marjorie Taylor Greene (R)
Denny Heck (D-Wash.)	Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash.)
George Holding (R-N.C.)	Deborah Ross (D-N.C.)
Kendra Horn (R-Kan.)	Stephanie Bice (R-Kan.)

Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.)	Darrell Issa (R-Calif.)
Will Hurd (R-Texas)	Tony Gonzales (R-Texas)
Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.)	Jake Auchincloss (D-Mass.)
Pete King (R-N.Y.)	Undecided
Steve King (R-Iowa)	Randy Feenstra (R-Iowa)
John Lewis (D-Ga.)	Nikema Williams (D-Ga.)
Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.)	Marie Newman (D-Ill.)
Dave Loebsack (D-Iowa)	Undecided
Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)	Mondaire Jones (D-N.Y.)
Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.)	Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.)
Kenny Marchant (R-Texas)	Beth Van Duyne (R-Texas)
Roger Marshall (R-Kan.)	Tracey Mann (R-Kan.)
Mark Meadows (R-N.C.)	Madison Cawthorn (R-N.C.)
Paul Mitchell (R-Mich.)	Lisa McClain (R-Mich.)
Debbie Murcasel-Powell (D-Fla.)	Carlos Gimenez (R-Fla.)
Pete Olson (R-Texas)	Troy Nehls (R-Texas)
Collin Peterson (D-Minn.)	Michelle Fischbach (R-Minn.)
John Ratcliffe (R-Texas)	Pat Fallon (R-Texas)
Denver Riggleman (R-Va.)	Bob Good (R-Va.)
Martha Roby (R-Ala.)	Barry Moore (R-Ala.)
Phil Roe (R-Tenn.)	Diana Harshbarger (R-Tenn.)
Francis Rooney (R-Fla.)	Byron Donalds (R-Fla.)
Harley Rouda (D-Calif.)	Michelle Stelle (R-Calif.)
Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.)	Scott Fitzgerald (R-Wis.)
Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.)	Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.)
Donna Shalala (D-Fla.)	Maria Elvira Salazar (R-Fla.)
John Shimkus (R-Ill.)	Mary Miller (R-Ill.)
Xochitl Torres-Small (D-N.M.)	Yvette Harrell (R-N.M.)
Ross Spano (R-Fla.)	Scott Franklin (R-Fla.)
Mac Thornberry (R-Texas)	Ronny Jackson (R-Texas)
Scott Tipton (R-Colo.)	Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.)
Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.)	Fred Mrvan (D-Ind.)
Greg Walden (R-Ore.)	Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.)
Mark Walker (R-N.C.)	Kathy Manning (D-N.C.)
Steve Watkins (R-Kan.)	Jake LaTurner (R-Kan.)
Rob Woodall (R-Ga.)	Carolyn Bourdeaux (D-Ga.)
Ted Yoho (R-Fla.)	Kate Cammack (R-Fla.)

Senate & House Committee Leadership Changes

Republican leadership on Senate committees will look different next year due to resignations, retirements and party rules limiting terms in leadership positions. New committee chairs will be decided in the coming weeks. Typically, a chair is determined by a member’s seniority and in some cases, personal preferences. Among the key Senate committee changing chairs:

- Agriculture (*Pat Roberts-retiring*)
- Budget (*Mike Enzi-retiring*)
- Energy & Natural Resources (*Lisa Murkowski-term limited*)
- Finance (*Chuck Grassley-term limited*)
- Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (*Lamar Alexander-retiring*)

Democrats do not have committee term limits.

New Republican leadership will serve atop the Finance Committee, which oversees all tax issues, including all Highway Trust Fund (HTF) revenue streams. Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) is next in line.

If Crapo takes the Finance Committee chair, a leadership vacancy would open on the Banking Committee, which has oversight of federal public transportation programs and is charged with writing that section of a surface transportation reauthorization bill. Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) is the likely successor.

In the House, changes will occur among rank-and-file committee roles. Most leaders on key committees will be returning. However, the House Appropriations Committee will select a new chair with Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Debbie Wasserman Schulz (D-Fla.), openly campaigning to replace retiring Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.).

Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-Mo.) are expected to return to their respective roles on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and will begin work on a long-term surface transportation investment bill. Ways & Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.) and Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-Texas) are likely to remain as the top members on the committee responsible for tax issues, including any potential revenue fix for the HTF.

State Elections

Governors Races

Executive leadership at the state level remains mostly unchanged, with just one governor’s mansion—Montana—shifting from Democrat to Republican. The other 10 governors races appear to be preserving the same balance of Republicans and Democrats. The 2022 mid-term election will be more consequential, with 36 states electing governors.

GOVERNORS RACE RESULTS		
Delaware	John Carney (D)	John Carney (D)
Indiana	Eric Holcomb (R)	Eric Holcomb (R)

Missouri	Mike Parson (R)	Mike Parson (R)
Montana	OPEN	Greg Gianforte (R)
New Hampshire	Chris Sununu (R)	Chris Sununu (R)
North Carolina	Roy Cooper (D)	Roy Cooper (D)
North Dakota	Doug Burgum (R)	Doug Burgum (R)
Utah	OPEN	Spencer Cox (R)
Washington	Jay Inslee (D)	Jay Inslee (D)
West Virginia	Jim Justice (R)	Jim Justice (R)
Vermont	Phil Scott (D)	Phil Scott (D)

State Legislatures

While hundreds of races at the state level are still being counted, it is unlikely the makeup of state houses and state senates will change significantly. Democrats could flip the Arizona House or Senate, which would be offset by a Republican flip of the New Hampshire House and Senate. Republicans increased by two the number of states where they hold the governorship, state house and state senate, called a “trifecta,” with Montana and New Hampshire flipping.

Those state legislators elected in 2020 will play a critical role in shaping electoral politics over the next decade, as they will be responsible for congressional redistricting resulting from this year’s census.

State & Local Transportation Ballot Initiatives

Voters in 19 states Nov. 3 approved 94 percent of state and local ballot initiatives that will provide an additional \$14 billion in one-time and recurring revenue for transportation improvements.

The approval rate (303 out of 322 finalized) was the highest level in the 20 years the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) has been tracking such initiatives.

Results are still pending for 13 measures, according to the analysis conducted by ARTBA’s Transportation Investment Advocacy Center™ (ARTBA-TIAC).

One of the most notable results includes Arkansas, where a half-cent sales tax increase renewal succeeded by 55 percent to 45 percent. The measure, originally approved by voters in 2012, is projected to raise approximately \$205 million annually for state highways and \$44 million annually for localities.

Another voter endorsement occurred in Austin, Texas, where a \$7.1 billion transportation bond was approved 67 percent to 33 percent. Revenue will fund the initial and ongoing costs of Project Connect, a transit plan anchored by two high-capacity light rail lines serving the city’s densest neighborhoods.

In the Portland, Oregon metro area, voters rejected a 0.75 percent payroll tax on employers that would have funded a \$7 billion transportation plan comprised of safety and transit projects.

Historically, most transportation measures are placed on the ballot in even-numbered years when congressional or presidential elections drive higher turnout. However, the impacts of COVID-19 caused several notable measures to be removed this year. These included measures in California’s Bay area, Sacramento, and Riverside counties that were expected to raise over \$100 billion in revenue over the next 40 years. Proponents are expected to try again in the next election cycle.

The approved 2020 measures will support \$12.6 billion in new transportation investment revenue and \$1.26 billion in continued funding through tax extensions, renewals or protections.

What Comes Next for Transportation

The Senate returns to work the week of Nov. 9 and the House the following week. Leaders of both political parties agree another COVID-19 relief package is needed this year and aid to state governments for transportation and other needs is in the mix.

Members will also begin preparing for the new Congress, with leadership elections and jockeying for top committee posts. The business of the current congressional session is expected to conclude before Dec. 21.

Resolving annual appropriations bills will be a top priority for the lame duck session with current federal transportation and other programs funding set to expire Dec. 11. ARTBA and its industry allies will continue to press for increased transportation investment. The previous three years' spending bills included an average of \$3-4 billion in additional federal-aid funding for highway projects, over and above the levels authorized for each year in the 2015 FAST Act law.

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 9: Senate "lame duck" convenes
Nov. 16: House "lame duck" convenes
Dec. 11: Government funding expires
Dec. 14: Electoral College votes

Jan. 3, 2021: New Congress sworn-in
Jan. 5, 2021: Georgia Senate run-off election
Jan. 20, 2021: Inauguration Day