

# Mid-Term Election Results and Medicaid Expansion

5 Slide Series, Volume 66

November, 2018

**The Menges Group**

Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

# Key Findings

- The November 6, 2018 House election results continue the national voting trend toward Democratic candidates that also occurred from 2014-2016. Nationwide, Democrats received 47.0% of all U.S. House of Representatives votes cast during 2014, 49.5% in 2016, and 52.1% in 2018.
- Several non-expansion states now have an increased likelihood of implementing Medicaid expansion, including Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Nebraska, Utah, and Wisconsin.
- Two current expansion states may face increased challenges to fully retaining their expansion programs – Alaska and Montana.
- Florida retained a Republican governor (albeit by a thin margin). As a result, Florida's prospects for Medicaid expansion to be implemented in the near future are not strong.
- Medicaid expansion decisions are complex and multi-faceted -- they are not driven exclusively by political party affiliations. However, prospects for Medicaid expansion being implemented have been highly correlated with the degree to which decision-making authority rests with Democratic or Republican elected officials.

# Overall House of Representatives Voting Steadily Trended Towards Democrats From 2014-2018

- Democratic House candidates received 4.5 million less votes than Republican candidates in 2014, and 1.4 million fewer votes than Republicans in 2016.
- However, Democratic candidates received 4.0 million *more* votes than Republican candidates in the 2018 elections.

**Votes Cast in Elections for U.S. House of Representatives Candidates--National Aggregation**

Political Party	Millions of Votes			Raw Increase in Votes, 2014-2018	% Increase in Votes, 2014-2018
	2014	2016	2018*		
Democrat	35.4	61.4	51.4	16.0	45%
Republican	39.9	62.8	47.2	7.3	18%
Major Party Total	75.3	124.2	98.6	23.3	31%
Democrat %	47.0%	49.5%	52.1%		
Republican %	53.0%	50.5%	47.9%		

Overall voter turnout was 31% higher in the 2018 mid-term elections than during the 2014 mid-terms.

\*2018 votes represent totals as of 2:58 p.m., November 7, 2018.

# 2018 Voting Results Are Likely to Result in New Implementation of Medicaid Expansion in Several States

- States that have not yet implemented Medicaid expansion, but switched from Republican to Democratic Governor in the 2018 elections include:
  - Kansas
  - Maine (already on path to expansion through prior ballot initiative outcome)
  - Wisconsin
- Ballot initiatives approving Medicaid expansion passed in three states, paving the way for implementation:
  - Idaho
  - Nebraska
  - Utah

# Existing Medicaid Expansion Programs May Face New Challenges in Two States and Expansion is Less Likely to Occur in Florida

- A Montana ballot initiative seeking to fund continued Medicaid expansion did not pass, increasing the chance of repeal.
- Alaska, an expansion state, switched from an independent Governor to a Republican Governor.
- A competitive election in Florida nearly resulted in a Democratic governor taking office; however, the preservation of a Republican governors in Florida greatly lowers the likelihood that this state will adopt Medicaid expansion in the near future.

# 5 Slide Series Overview

Our 5 Slide Series is a monthly publication whereby we briefly discuss/address a selected topic outside the confines of our client engagements.

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Address: 4001 9<sup>th</sup> Street N., Suite 227, Arlington, VA 22203

Website: [www.themengesgroup.com](http://www.themengesgroup.com)