

Republicans Make Gains in U.S. Midterm Polls but No 'Red Wave'

November 10, 2022 • vajiramandravi.com



What's in Today's Article:

- **US midterm elections - About, current situation, importance of midterm election**
- **News Summary**

Why in news?

- In the mid-term elections, held in the United States on 8 November, Republicans appeared confident to eke out (supplement) a slim majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- However, their hopes of a red wave in midterm elections were dashed as President Joe Biden's Democrats outperformed expectations.
 - Red wave - A situation in which Republicans would comprehensively win the House and probably also wrest control of the Senate.

US midterm elections

- The US Congress is made up of two parts – **the House of Representatives and the Senate**.
- Control of these two houses is decided by the midterm election, which was held recently on November 8, 2022.
- These votes are held every two years and when they fall in the middle of the president's four-year term of office, they are called the midterms.
- Each state has two senators, who sit for six-year terms. Representatives serve for two years, and represent smaller districts.
 - In the recently held election, all the seats in the House of Representatives were up for election, alongside **one-third of the Senate**.

Situation before the November 8 midterm election

- The Senate has 100 members, with two from each of the 50 states. Elections were held for 34 seats, and winners serve six-year terms.
- Before the recent election, Senate was at a 50-50 deadlock. However, it was controlled by Democrats because Vice President Kamala Harris had the tiebreaking vote.
- The House, with 435 voting members, was controlled by the Democrats (222: 213).
 - Elections were held for all the 435 seats, with winners serving two-year terms.
- Historically, the party that controls the presidency — currently the Democrats — has fared poorly in the midterms.
 - Frustration with the president often leads to success for the other party, and Biden has low approval ratings.

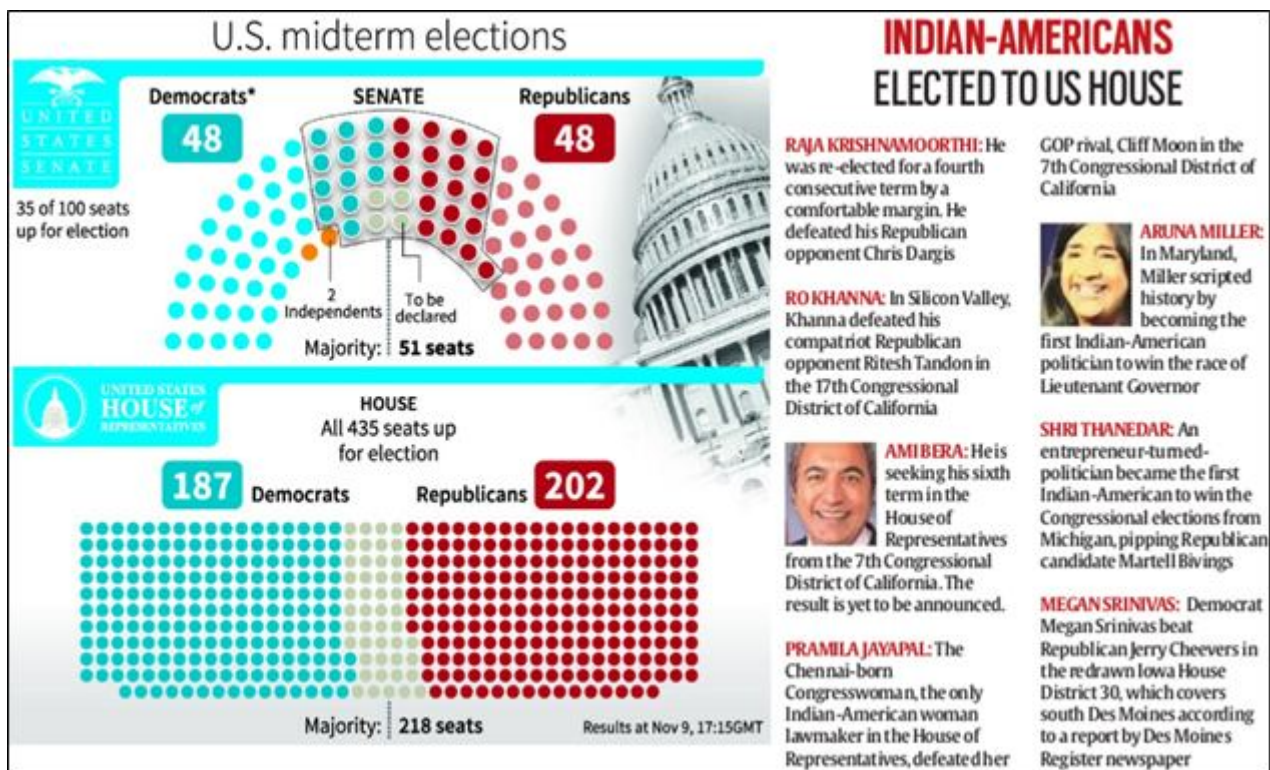
Why midterm elections matter?

- It is exceedingly difficult to pass legislation unless one party controls the presidency, the House and the Senate.
 - The US Congress makes nationwide laws.
 - The House decides which laws are voted on while the Senate can block or approve them, confirm appointments made by the president and, more rarely, conduct any investigations against him.
- If Republicans win either the House or the Senate, they can prevent any major Democratic legislation before 2024, the next presidential election.
- On the other hand, if Democrats hold onto the House and increase their lead in the Senate, it could give them more ability to pass new laws.
 - Since senators serve six-year terms, running up a lead now would give them some breathing room in 2024.

- Control of the Senate includes the power to approve federal court justices, up to and including the Supreme Court.
 - If Republicans claim control, they could use their power to block Biden's nominations.

News Summary

- Following the US midterm elections, the Republican party remained close to winning enough seats to gain a majority in the House.
- However, the control of the Senate remained up for grabs.
 - Either party could secure a Senate majority with wins in both Nevada and Arizona — where the races were too early to call.



Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/republicans-make-gains-in-us-midterm-polls-but-no-red-wave/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.