



Welcome to this month's edition of the AMA's Very Influential Physician (VIP) Insider. Read on for details about these topics:

- Election 2018: An Increasingly Divided Nation Yields Divided Results
- AMPAC midterm election recap
- Three new physicians elected to Congress
- Know a new member of Congress?
- Webinar: Building Relationships with New Members of Congress
- Nominations for AMPAC Award for Political Participation now open

An Increasingly Divided Nation Yields Divided Results

By Charlie Cook [@CHARLIECOOKDC](#)

Coming on the heels of the most surprising presidential election outcome in our lifetimes, this 2018 midterm election went largely as expected: a split decision.

What had appeared likely to be elections in two different Americas—one in red, conservative, Republican states for the U.S. Senate, the other for everything else—was exactly that. The House, governorships, and state legislatures, wherever there was considerable purple and blue overshadowing the red, behaved more like a regular midterm-election referendum on the incumbent president, with one notable exception. The red America was disproportionately small-town and rural; the blue featured a lot of suburbs. As our friends at NBC's First Read pointed out, in the state-level exit polls, in the states where President Trump's approval ratings were 50 percent or higher the GOP did a lot better than those where he was under that; the greater the difference from 50, the better or worse it was for his party.

In the Senate, ever since Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court fight, the odds were high that Republicans would gain seats and they did, knocking off three Democratic incumbents—Joe Donnelly in Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp in North Dakota, and Claire McCaskill in Missouri—while losing Dean Heller in Nevada. While Democratic Sen. Jon Tester held on in Montana, the Senate races in Arizona and Florida have not been officially called at this writing, though Florida GOP Gov. Rick Scott seems to have an irreversible lead over Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson. The Arizona open-seat contest between two House members, Democrat Kyrsten Sinema and Republican Martha McSally, remained very close. A Mississippi seat is headed to a Nov. 27 runoff between appointed Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith and Mike Espy, a former Democratic congressman and Agriculture secretary; their contest was very close, but tea-party Republican state Sen. Chris McDaniel drew

11.9 percent, and Hyde-Smith certainly has the edge in the runoff. Not an upset in the bunch. (Perhaps the biggest surprise was Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California winning with only 54.7 percent.)

In the highly unlikely event that Democrats sweep the remaining three seats, there would be no net change—pretty much the best-case scenario for Democrats post-Kavanaugh. If Republicans prevail in all of them, they would end up in a three-seat net gain, a very good performance for the GOP. It is entirely true that this would be an extraordinary accomplishment for a party in a midterm election saddled with a president with low job-approval numbers, but having the most favorable Senate map that either party has had in modern history certainly helped enormously and prevented an outcome more like what happened in the contests for other offices.

For Democrats, the best news was obviously recapturing a House majority after an eight-year hiatus. With quite a few contests still outstanding, it looks like Democrats are on track to score a net gain of approximately 35 or 36 seats; it could obviously move up or down as remaining vote is counted, particularly in the West Coast races. The only huge upset of the evening was in Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District, where two-term Republican Rep. Steve Russell was upset by Democratic attorney Kendra Horn in a district where Mitt Romney beat President Obama by 18 points in 2012 and Trump beat Hillary Clinton by 13 points. This district combined a lot of suburbs, a university- and state Capitol-affected population, and it was 41 percent minority or mixed-race.

[Full article](#)

AMPAC election recap

AMPAC contributed \$1.4 million in the 2018 cycle that included direct contributions to 291 physician-friendly candidates for the U.S. House and Senate from both political parties (51% to Republicans and 49% to Democrats).

A total of 248 AMPAC supported candidates won election/reelection. This included medicine's top allies currently in Congress as well as a number of incoming freshmen that the AMA is eager to begin building relationships with and educating them on the issues that matter most to physicians and their patients. Among the most competitive races, an impressive 68% of AMPAC-supported candidates won their races.

The total number of physicians in Congress has increased from 13 to 16. New physician members include AMPAC-supported John Joyce, MD (R-PA-13), Mark Green, MD (R-TN-7), and Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA-8).

Three new physicians elected to Congress

The 116th Congress will add three physicians to the rolls bringing the total number to 16. There will be 3 in the Senate and 13 in the House. Three have been elected as Democrats and 13 as Republicans. Read more below about the three newly-

elected physician members of Congress.

Congressman-elect John Joyce, MD (R-PA-13)

Dermatologist John Joyce, MD won this solid Republican district in the northeast Philadelphia area with 70 percent of the vote. He earned his medical degree from Temple University and worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital before becoming a naval physician at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. After his naval service, he returned to his home state of Pennsylvania and practiced medicine for 25 years before running for office for the first time in 2018.

Congressman-elect Mark Green, MD (R-TN-07)

State Senator Mark Green, MD won the solidly Republican open seat that is being vacated by Senator-elect Marsha Blackburn with 67 percent of the vote. Dr. Green is a West Point graduate who earned his medical degree from Wright State University while serving in the Army. He did his residency in emergency medicine and went on to serve as a decorated flight surgeon in the Army where he participated in the military operation that captured Saddam Hussein. After his military service, he started a company in his home state of Tennessee that provides staffing to facilities in ten states called Align MD. He was elected to the Tennessee state Senate in 2012 and was nominated by President Trump to serve as U.S. Secretary of the Army but withdrew from consideration.

Congresswoman-elect Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA-08)

Pediatrician Kim Schrier, MD is also a first-time candidate. She won a close race to fill the open seat being vacated by retiring Republican Rep. Dave Reichert. The 8th district stretches from the eastern Seattle suburbs east to also include more rural areas in the central part of the state. This was one of the most expensive races in the country in 2018. Health care issues were major issues throughout the primary and general elections. Dr. Schrier earned a bachelor's degree in Astrophysics from University of California-Berkeley and her medical degree from University of California – Davis School of Medicine. She did her residency at Stanford before practicing for 16 years in Washington.

Know a new member of Congress?

Please [let us know](#) if you have an existing relationship with a newly-elected member of Congress! If your Representative or Senator happened to retire or be defeated but you are still interested in remaining a VIP, please be sure to fill out our survey to keep receiving these updates!

In the Wake of the Wave – Strategies to Build Relationships with New Members of Congress

If the pundits and prognosticators are reading the tea leaves right, up to 100 current Members of Congress will be heading for the exits after Election Day. Cue a frenzy inside the Beltway fueled by advocates who need to cultivate new champions on Capitol Hill for their causes.

Please join our partners at the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) for

a [webinar about how to prepare for the new Congress](#). We will explore the following topics:

- How to prepare your supporters to engage with new Members of Congress
- Proven-effective strategies your supporters should use to establish and strengthen new relationships with their Members of Congress
- Best (and worst) practices for communicating with Members of Congress

WHAT: Research-Proven Strategies to Build Relationships with New Members of Congress

WHEN: December 3 (3:00-4:00 p.m. EST)

WHO: The Congressional Management Foundation

[Register now](#)

If you have any questions regarding this presentation, please contact Jaime Werner at JWerner@CongressFoundation.org.

Nominations for AMPAC Award for Political Participation now open

The AMPAC Award for Political Participation recognizes an AMA or AMA Alliance member for outstanding accomplishment through volunteer activities in a political campaign or a significant health care related election issue such as a ballot initiative or referendum. If the member is a political candidate, the individual may not be nominated for work on their own campaign's behalf. The award honors one national winner every other year.

The winning nominee will receive special recognition during the AMPAC Board Chair's speech before the House of Delegates or during the AMPAC luncheon at the AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago. The winning nominee will also receive free admittance (including airfare and hotel expenses) to a future AMPAC political education program (campaign school or candidate workshop) in Washington, DC.



Deadline for nomination submissions is January 31, 2019.

[Learn more about the nominating process.](#)



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