



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

- Ask your Representatives to support the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act
- The House district results that tell the presidential story
- When it comes to Congress - which meetings times are better?
- Nominations for AMPAC Award for Political Participation now open

Ask your Representatives to cosponsor the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act

After years of consecutive physician payment cuts, including a 2.8% cut scheduled to go into effect on January 1, it's clear that the Medicare physician payment model is hopelessly broken.

Action needed – [please contact your Representatives today to cosponsor the "Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act \(H.R. 10073\)"!](#)

Thankfully, Congress has started to take this threat to the future of physician practices and their patients seriously.

Recently, Reps. Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) introduced the "Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act" (H.R. 10073). This bipartisan legislation, if passed, would eliminate the looming 2.8% payment cut and provide a 1.8% payment update in 2025, an actual payment increase equal to one half the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), helping to stabilize physician practices and protecting patients access to care.

Time is running out – there are precious few legislative days left before the end of the year with Congress expected to conduct a "lame duck" session after the elections. This will be the last opportunity for Congress to pass H.R. 10073 as part of the final year-end package.

That's why it is so important that you [contact your Representatives and urge them to cosponsor "The Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act \(H.R. 10073\) today!](#)

While this legislation would only address physician payment for 2025, it is a crucial first step in providing much needed relief and achieving our ultimate goal of complete physician Medicare payment reform in the new Congress.

Everyone agrees the Medicare physician payment system is broken and it's time for Congress to do something about it!

The House district results that tell the presidential story

By Kyle Kondik, Managing Editor, Sabato's Crystal Ball

After President-elect Trump's victory and the Republican capture of the Senate last week, the House of Representatives majority remains uncalled by most news organizations, although the writing is on the wall.

Our own best guess is that the House GOP majority will be something like 220-222 seats at full strength—although the House will not be at full strength for long, for reasons we'll get into throughout this piece.

On the Sunday before the election, I [wrote](#) an op-ed in the New York Times exploring some key House districts that I thought would tell us something about both the race for the House and the race for the presidency. I'm going to use those same districts (and some others) to identify notable highlights from the results.

As a note, all of the election data from 2024 presented here is unofficial and is subject to change. Also, keep in mind that Joe Biden won the national popular vote by about 4.5 points in 2020, and Donald Trump appears to be in line for a popular vote margin of about 1.5 points when all the votes are counted, according to analysts [Nate Silver](#) and [John Couvillon](#). That means a "uniform swing" across states and districts from 2020 to 2024 would be about 6 points toward the Republicans in terms of margin. So a swing greater than 6 points is better than average for Trump, while a swing below that is weaker than average.

Virginia (VA-2, VA-7, VA-10)

An early signal on Election Night about the trajectory of the House might have come from two competitive districts in the Old Dominion, the open VA-7 in Northern Virginia and Rep. Jen Kiggans's (R, VA-2) district in Hampton Roads. Had one side swept these seats, that party would have had momentum toward winning the House. As it was, the districts split, as Kiggans held VA-2 51%-47% while Eugene Vindman (D) held VA-7 51%-49%.

According to informal [calculations](#) from my colleague J. Miles Coleman, VA-7 likely voted for Kamala Harris by about 2 points, down about half a dozen points from 2020 (roughly the size of the average swing noted above). So Harris's and Vindman's margins were likely about the same in VA-7. VA-2 voted for Trump by about a point after voting for Biden by 2, meaning that Kiggans ran a few points ahead of Trump (and the swing in this district was smaller than the national swing). This split ultimately suggested the murky House result we ultimately got,

in which Republicans apparently won another small majority.

But the bigger overall signal of the political environment from Virginia was in a race that did not seem like it would be as competitive: VA-10, which Suhas Subramanyam (D) won by only 4.5 points. The heart of VA-10 is affluent, highly-educated Loudoun County, and its result on Election Night was one of the first major signs of the very broad national shift toward Trump in 2024. Loudoun, whose Democratic margin ballooned to 25 points in the 2020 presidential race, contracted to just 16 points. Loudoun's vote count was almost entirely reported early in the night, and it was a horrible sign for Harris, given that it was precisely the kind of previously Democratic-trending place where she would have wanted to hold or even expand her support compared to Joe Biden's 2020 showing rather than see it contract.

Loudoun's 16-point margin for Harris was about the same as its margin for Hillary Clinton, just like how the state's current 5.5-point margin for Harris was down from a 10-point margin for Biden but very similar to Clinton's 2016 showing.

VA-10, despite becoming more Democratic in recent years, can be described as "ancestrally Republican" because the area it covers used to be more Republican than it is now, even taking 2024 into account. As such, it still likely contains a handful of non-Republican presidential voters who may be a little more open to Republicans down-ballot. For instance, Harris [won](#) Loudoun 56.1%-39.7%, but Subramanyam beat Mike Clancy (R) there by a smaller 55.2%-42.7% spread.

[Keep reading](#)

When it comes to Congress - which meetings times are better?

Our partners at The Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) wanted to know whether congressional staff prefer to meet with constituents when Congress is in session or in recess. We asked congressional staff the following question:

"When is the best time for a constituent to meet with you on a policy-related matter (When Congress is in session or not in session)?"

What they learned: Congressional staff prefer to meet with constituents when Congress is not in session. While less than one-third (29%) said that they prefer to meet with constituents when Congress is in session, more than two-thirds (71%) said they prefer to meet when Congress is not in session. Advocacy organizations have to book their fly-in events long before the House and Senate unveil their legislative calendars, making it impossible to guarantee that their fly-in events will take place while Congress is in session. Although constituents are understandably disappointed if they have traveled to DC, only to learn their Member is back home, the good news is that they gain an opportunity to build a stronger relationship with their Member's staff as well as a chance to meet their Member at another time in the district. Recess meetings between congressional staff and constituents are often longer (lasting at least 30 minutes), and much more substantive.

Nominations for AMPAC Award for Political Participation now open

Awarded every two years by the AMPAC Board of Directors the AMPAC Award for Political Participation recognizes an AMA or AMA Alliance member who has made significant personal contributions of time and talent in assisting friends of medicine in their quest for elective office at the federal and state level.

These may include: volunteer activities in a political campaign or a significant health care related election issue such as a ballot initiative or referendum.

Nominees must be a current member of the AMA or AMA Alliance and AMPAC with preference given to members with a demonstrated history of AMPAC involvement. The deadline to submit nominations is January 31. The full criteria for the 2025 AMPAC Award for Political Participation including how to submit a nomination can be [found here](#).

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 if held in-person) to a future AMPAC political education program (campaign school or candidate workshop) in Washington, DC.

Physician advocacy in action

During the recent elections physicians from around the country conducted meetings and attended events to discuss the important issues facing the profession. Here are just a few examples of physician advocacy in action!

I'm a new Text block ready for your content.



Members of the Vermont Medical Society with U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-VT)I'm a new Text block ready for your content.



California Medical Association at an event with U.S. Representative Ami Berra, MD (D-CA)



Bradley Burmeister, MD, hosted an event for U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) in Green Bay.

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AMA Events
Senate in Session
House in Session
Both Chambers in Session

State Work Periods
District Work Periods
Both Work Periods

Be sure to follow all the AMA's Physician Grassroots Network social media accounts for all the latest news on physician advocacy and what you can do to make sure your voice is heard on Capitol Hill.



[AMA Advocacy](#)



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