

TORREY ADVISORY GROUP

ELECTION ANALYSIS

2026 EDITION

OUR DIFFERENCE

Founded in 2005, Michael Torrey started the firm with one client, and a vision to serve food and agriculture organizations with honesty and dedication. Over the past decade, the Torrey Advisory team has expanded in size and network to serve those who want their voices heard in Washington, D.C and beyond. Michael Torrey and his handpicked team stay ahead of the issues that challenge agriculture, food, and financial services organizations. Our knowledge, insights, and connections help our clients build bipartisan relationships that lead to success, both now and in the future. We are proud of the reputation we've earned and the relationships we've built, both inside and outside the Beltway. For us, building authentic relationships through integrity and respect is the foundation for what we do each day. And at the end of the day, it's that combination that leads to real results.

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SNAPSHOT

11/6/2026, 10:00 AM ET
All results from the Associated Press

Senate – Democrats win the majority despite two outstanding races

- Democrats hold 54 seats, flipping seven red to blue.
- Two tight races remain undecided in Mississippi and Alaska.
- Wins in ruby red states will likely push Democrats to the middle, teeing up new interest in serving on the Agriculture Committee.

House – Democrats take the majority by a healthy margin

- Democrats have won control of the House; the chamber stands at 253 Democrats to 157 Republicans.
- With Democrats taking control of the House, agriculture policy will move forward under new committee leadership and a significantly changed House Agriculture Committee.

Ag Committee Outcomes

- In the Senate, with seven members not returning, at least 30% of the committee members in the 120th Congress will be new.
- In the House, with at least 12 of 53 members not returning, at least 23% of members in the 120th Congress will be new to the committee.

Other Key Committee Outcomes

- Senate Appropriations and HELP Committees will all see significant turnover, particularly are the Republican side of the ledger. Numerous leadership changes are expected.
- While House Appropriations and E&C Committee turnover is less dramatic than in the Senate, leadership changes are still possible at the Subcommittee levels.
- Ways & Means and Finance Committees will be more stable than some other Committee. A shakeup of Ways & Means Subcommittees is expected as many races remain uncalled.

State Legislatures

- Democrats flipped five Governor seats and flipped Republican trifectas in Texas, Ohio,
- Georgia, and Iowa.
- Three incumbent Agriculture Commissioners won re-election in Florida, Iowa, and North
- Dakota, while maintaining the Agriculture Commissioner seats in Alabama and South Carolina. Democratic Agriculture Commissioners won in Georgia and Texas.
- With all 50 states back in session in 2027, increases in the number of trifectas will make legislation and budget matters move quickly, whereas switches from a trifecta to a divided chamber will slow down the incumbent priorities and set up bigger fights over budget issues.

Agriculture Committee Changes

Nine Senate Agriculture Committee seats were in play this year, with another opening following Sen. Amy Klobuchar's (D-MN) successful gubernatorial bid. Five Senators announced their retirement from Congress. Cook Political Report rated two races as toss-ups and two as competitive (likely or lean D/R). Of note, Democrats have flipped two seats – Roger Marshall (R-KS) and the open seat held by Joni Ernst (R-IA), with Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith's race still too close to call. With at least seven members not returning, at least 30% of the committee members in the 120th Congress will be new.

Agriculture Committee Competitive Races			
^ - leaving Congress		*Cook Political*	
** - Freshman Member*	*119th Congress*	*Rating*	*as of 10 AM ET November 6*
Republican House Member	**State**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
David Rouzer	NC-07	Likely R	Winning
Scott DesJarlais	TN-04	Solid R	Losing
Don Bacon ^	NE-02	Likely D	Open - Denise Powell (D) won
Brad Finstad	MN-01	Lean R	Losing
Monica De La Cruz	TX-15	Toss Up	Lost - Mike Pulido (D) won
Zach Nunn	IA-03	Lean D	Lost - Sarah Trone Garriott (D) won
Derrick Van Orden	WI-03	Lean D	Lost - Rebecca Cooke (D) won
Rob Bresnahan *	PA-08	Lean D	Lost - Paige Cognetti (D) won
David Valadao	CA-22	Toss Up	Lost - Randy Villegas (D) won
Democrat House Member	**State/Dist**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
Angie Craig ^	MN-02	Likely D	Open - Matt Little (D) won
Don Davis	NC-01	Toss Up	Won
Gabe Vasquez	NM-02	Lean D	Won
Adam Gray *	CA-13	Likely D	Won
Kristen McDonald Rivet *	MI-08	Likely D	Won
Shomari Figures *	AL-02	Lean R	Won
Eugene Vindman *	VA-07	Likely D	Won
Josh Riley *	NY-19	Likely D	Won
Republican Senate Member	**State**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
Roger Marshall	KS	Toss Up	Lost - Adam Hamilton (D) won
Joni Ernst ^	IA	Toss Up	Open - Josh Turek (D) won
Cindy Hyde-Smith	MS	Likely R	Losing
Democrat Senate Member	**State**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
Tina Smith ^	MN	Lean D	Open - Peggy Flanagan (D) won

Current Chairman John Boozman (R-AR) is expected to remain the committee's top Republican. With Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) winning her gubernatorial race, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) could become the top Democrat. However, Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) election victory could allow him to reclaim his committee seniority, putting him next in line to lead Democrats. Upcoming Democratic caucus discussions will clarify whether Brown pursues that role.

All 53 House Agriculture Committee members were up for reelection this year. According to Cook Political Report, three were in toss-up races, and 13 were in competitive (likely or lean D/R) races. Eight members either lost their primaries or announced their retirement from the House. Of those running, currently, 41 members have won their race, and six members have lost their race, with several left uncalled. With at least 12 of 53 members not returning, a minimum of 23% of members in the 120th Congress will be new to the committee.

For leadership, we anticipate intraparty dynamics on both sides as members battle for top positions. Current Chairman GT Thompson (R-PA) has requested a waiver to remain in his leadership position. However, Austin Scott (R-GA) has publicly expressed interest in being the top Republican. Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS) has been floated as another contender, and Thompson has indicated he will support him should the waiver request be denied. For Democrats, both Shontel Brown (D-OH) and Jim Costa (D-CA) have announced that they will run for the post of Chair. Technically, Costa has seniority, but he has been overlooked in the past despite this seniority.

Other Key Committee Outcomes

Similar to the Agriculture Committees, the Appropriations Committee will see significant turnover in the 120th Congress. On the Senate Appropriations Committee, four Senators retired (three of those served on Ag Appropriations), and another three lost their races and will not return. In total, five of the 15 Ag Appropriations Subcommittee Members will not be returning, with Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith's (R-MS) fate undetermined. Sen. Susan Collins' (R-ME) loss also sets up a change in the Republican leadership, with Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) likely to lead the Committee for Republicans.

On the House Appropriations Committee, eight Members departed Congress, two have lost their bids to return, and three uncalled races remain. Three of the departing members served on the Ag Appropriations Subcommittee, and Rep. David Valadao (R-CA) lost his seat. Many of these departures and losses represent cardinals who held Subcommittee Chair or Ranking Member slots. These moves will set up a game of dominoes at the Subcommittee level as the remaining members position themselves for their preferred seats.

Appropriations Committee Competitive Races			
^ - leaving Congress		*Cook Political*	
** - Freshman Member*	*119th Congress*	*Rating*	*as of 10 AM ET November 6*
Republican House Member	**State**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
David Valadao	CA-22	**Toss Up**	Lost - Randy Villegas (D) won
Andy Harris	MD-01	**Solid R**	Won
Juan Ciscomani	AZ-06	**Lean D**	Lost - JoAnna Mendoza (D) won
Democrat House Member	**State/Dist**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
Marcy Kaptur	OH-09	**Lean D**	Won
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez	WA-03	**Lean D**	Won
Frank Mrvan	IN-01	**Likely D**	Won
Susie Lee	NV-03	**Likely D**	Won
Henry Cuellar	TX-28	**Likely D**	Won
Republican Senate Member	**State**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
Susan Collins	ME	**Toss Up**	Lost - Troy Jackson (D) won
Jon Husted	OH	**Toss Up**	Lost - Sherrod Brown (D) won
Darline Graham	SC	**Lean R**	Lost - Annie Andrews (D) won
Cindy Hyde-Smith	MS	**Likely R**	Losing
Democrat Senate Member	**State**	**Rating**	**Election Outcome**
Jon Ossoff	GA	**Likely D**	Won

Looking to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee in the Senate, three Senators were known departures heading into election night (all Republicans), and another three Republicans lost their races and will not be returning in the 120th Congress.

All told, the Republican side of the Committee has been decimated with only seven of 12 Senators returning next Congress, and a new Republican lead is in the wings (likely Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)). A modest five Members of the Energy & Commerce (E&C) Committee are known departures, and another four Republicans lost their re-election bids, while the race for Darren Soto (D-FL) remains too close to call and is likely headed to a recount.

Reps. Richard Neal (D-MA) and Jason Smith (R-MO) are expected to remain the top leaders of the House Ways & Means Committee, which oversees trade and tax policy. House Democrats are considering subcommittee leadership changes for 2027, while Republican leaders, including trade subcommittee chair Adrian Smith (R-NE), are expected to stay in place. Little change is expected on the Senate Finance Committee, with Ron Wyden (D-OR) set to become chair and Mike Crapo (R-ID) ranking member.

Key Next Steps

With just 18 joint legislative days scheduled between now and the end of the year, Congress faces a massive legislative agenda when they return to DC on November 9.

On the legislative side, several Democratic members have indicated a desire to "clear the deck" during the lame duck, especially on government funding. The current continuing resolution (CR) holds through December 11, giving appropriators just a few weeks to finalize FY2027 spending bills. Another short-term CR could give additional time if needed, and a longer CR into the new year combined with a package of spending bills is another option if all twelve bills can't be negotiated before the winter recess.

While negotiations on the farm bill have been taking place for weeks, a final deal has not yet been reached. Additional resources will likely be needed to address many of the outstanding issues including the delay in SNAP state cost-share, E15 and other provisions in the Senate farm bill manager's amendment.

Permitting reform, NDAA reauthorization, surface transportation authorization and even a possible reconciliation 3.0 are also on the lame duck agenda. Attendance, especially from Members who lost their races, will be one of the biggest factors in shaping the dynamics on the final votes before the end of the year.

TORREY ADVISORY GROUP

Torrey Advisory Group (TAG) is a dynamic, bipartisan food and agriculture consulting firm with deep expertise in policy, politics, and issue management across the entire sector. Our team of seasoned subject-matter experts brings extensive relationships, cross aisle engagement, and a proven ability to craft nimble, customized solutions that drive meaningful results.

As a one-stop-shop, TAG unites diverse issue area specialists under one roof to help clients navigate an everchanging political climate, build impactful coalitions, and advance winning strategies with integrity. We combine decades of experience, a collaborative spirit, and a passion for food and agriculture to ensure our clients are informed, supported, and positioned for success.

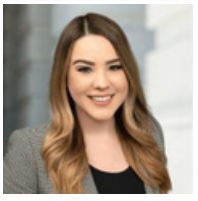
TAG doesn't just advise—we win for our clients.

WHAT WEDO

▸ Advocacy & Intel Sharing	▸ Executive Positioning
▸ Coalition Building	▸ Association Management
▸ Issue Strategy & Response	▸ Strategic Planning
▸ Strategic Communications	▸ Stakeholder & Influencer Mapping

> *"Torrey Advisory Group has been far more than a lobbying firm to California's winegrape growers — they are a genuine thought partner. From day-to-day advocacy to long-term strategy, TAG brings creative, forward-thinking solutions to complex problems. In an industry navigating real challenges, having an advisor who thinks three steps ahead makes all the difference."*
>
> **— Natalie Collins, President, California Association of Winegrape Growers**

MEET TEAM TORREY

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