

December 12, 2024

LWVUS Advocacy Presents:

# 2024 Election Outcomes and the 119th Congress

# Presenters



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# Agenda

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Housekeeping

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Recap on 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

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119<sup>th</sup> Congress Preview

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The Trump Administration

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2025: LWVUS Work

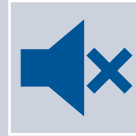
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Questions

# Housekeeping



All trainings will be recorded to keep accurate notes to share with attendees and others after the call.



If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.



Make sure you identify yourself (name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions



**Staff will be monitoring the chat box.** If you have any questions or thoughts throughout the call, please feel free to drop them in the chat box.

# Community Norms



Bring your full self and limit distractions



What is learned here, leaves here



No one knows everything, together we know a lot



Don't yuck my yum



Oops, ouch, and educate



Assume best intentions

A group of business professionals in an office setting. A woman in the center is looking at a tablet held by someone in the foreground. Other people are visible in the background, some holding coffee cups. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern office environment.

# POLL!

# Recap of 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

# Congress

- Number of bills signed into law: 137
- Policy Areas:
  - Government Operations and Politics [44]
  - Armed Forces and National Security[23]
  - Economics and Public Finance[10]
  - Health[9]
  - Environmental Protection[3]



# Appropriations

- 9 days until funding runs out (December 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Likely Continuing Resolutions to keep the government open over Holidays
- Disaster relief for hurricanes Milton and Helene key factor in discussions

# Major LWVUS Focuses 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

- “Freedom Package”
  - *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*
  - *DC Statehood*
  - *Native American Voting Rights Act*
  - *Freedom to Vote Act*
- Election funding
- Equal Rights Amendment
- *American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act*

# Endorsed Voting Bills in 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

- *Democracy Restoration Act*
- *Expanding the VOTE Act*
- *Protecting Our Democracy Act*
- *Youth Voting Rights Act*
- *DISCLOSE Act*
- *Early Voting Act*
- *Freedom from Intimidations in Elections Act*

*\*Not an exhaustive list*

# Opposed Bills in 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

- *Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act*
  - terminate tax-exempt status of “terrorist supporting” organizations as determined unilaterally by Treasury Secretary without due process
- *Equal Representation Act*
  - require census to ask about citizenship status, then exclude noncitizens
- *Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act*
  - require citizenship documentation to cast a ballot
- *American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act*
  - impose strict voter ID requirements, override DC’s election policies, and allow more money in campaigns

# 119<sup>th</sup> Congress Preview

# 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

## Senate

- 53 Republicans
  - 47 Democrats
- (Rs gain 4 seats from 118<sup>th</sup>)

## House

- 220 Republicans
  - 215 Democrats
- (Ds gain 2 seats from 118<sup>th</sup>)

# Committees

## Senate

- Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Appropriations
- Armed Services
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
- Budget
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Environment and Public Works
- Finance
- Foreign Relations
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
- Judiciary
- Rules and Administration
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Veterans' Affairs

## House

- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Armed Services
- Budget
- Education and the Workforce
- Energy and Commerce
- Ethics
- Financial Services
- Foreign Affairs
- Homeland Security
- House Administration
- Judiciary
- Natural Resources
- Oversight and Accountability
- Rules
- Science, Space, and Technology
- Small Business
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Veterans' Affairs
- Ways and Means

# Senate Composition Changes

- Four additional R seats = committee leadership and structure change
- Leadership elections recently completed
- Most committee assignments complete



# Senate Leadership

- President Pro Tempore: (likely) Sen. Chuck Grassley (IA)
- Majority Leader: Sen. John Thune (SD)
- Party Whip: Sen. John Barrasso (WY)
- Minority Leader: Sen. Chuck Schumer (NY)
- Party Whip: Sen. Dick Durbin (IL)

# House Composition Changes

- Two additional D seats, even more narrow margin of leadership
- Leadership elections recently completed
- Most committee assignments complete

# House Leadership

- Speaker of the House: (most likely) Mike Johnson (LA)
- Majority Leader: Steve Scalise (LA)
- Party Whip: Tom Emmer (MN)
- Minority Leader: Hakeem Jeffries (NY)
- Party Whip: Katherine Clark (MA)



## Speaker Johnson

1998: Attorney in Louisiana anti-abortion movement

2002 – 2010: Employed at Alliance Defending Freedom, Christian legal-advocacy group

- ADF lawyers supported in *Dobbs* case opposing reproductive choices

2015 – 2017: Member of the Louisiana House of Representatives

2015: Founded Freedom Guard, nonprofit legal ministry

2017 – 2023: Member of US House (LA-4)

2020: Contested results of presidential election

# Likely Majority Priorities

- Immigration
- Budget cuts
- Threaten non-profit status



# Second Trump Administration

# Trump Administration

- Staff hires
- Cabinet Appointees
- Presidential priorities
  - First 100 days

# 2025: Look Ahead



# Issue Prioritization: First 100 Days

- LWVUS to prioritize issues in a three-tiered system
  - **Gold**: taking the lead on an issue
  - **Silver**: collaborating with partner organizations
  - **Bronze**: tracking for awareness and amplifying other orgs' actions when possible

1. Democracy Education & Election Administration Support
2. Restore and Defend Voting Rights Protections
3. Abolish Electoral College
4. Protecting Democracy Organizations & Institutions
5. Reproductive Freedoms

1. Immigration
2. ERA
3. Defend against Attacks on DEI & the LGBTQIA+ community

1. Government shutdowns
2. Closing the Department of Education
3. Broader immigration policy proposals beyond core League focus
4. Climate change
5. Gun safety
6. Healthcare

# 2025, Looking Ahead

- Project 2025 and America First Policy Institute proposals
  - LWVUS assessment of ways these proposals could affect our work
- Defending rights
- Opportunities for bipartisanship
  - Money in politics
  - Election funding
  - Protections for election workers
- Continuing Administrative advocacy, working with agencies

# Next Steps



Key Voting Rights legislation is not going to pass in their ideal forms in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

We need to see a bipartisan group of lawmakers from both the House and the Senate come together to protect voting rights

# New Impact on Issues, out now!

- <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>
- New position added and history sections updated!

# Feedback

We'd love to hear from you about your experience today!

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6824369/LWVUS-Post-Event-Feedback-Form>

# Questions?