



Lesson 115

The Republicans and the Midterm

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The Sunday Law will be an issue over gender equality. We know that it will be pushed by conservatives and in the United States they are the Republican party. Ellen G. White tells us that the Sunday Law will come from the legislative and judicial powers in the United States government, which means that both of these branches of the government need to be controlled by Republicans. Conservatives already control the majority of the Supreme Court - which is the head of the judicial branch - and their majority will not be taken away any time soon since justices serve for life. But even though we know that the Sunday Law will be more than one event, the judicial branch only interprets laws, you need the other branches that make laws. Conservatives need to control more than just the judicial branch to pass a Sunday Law. To possess that power to pass a Sunday Law there are two options that Republicans have: first they can control the legislative and executive branches with a majority and the presidency, respectively, or secondly they can have what is called a supermajority in the legislative branch. With either of these two options Republicans will be able to pass whatever laws they want, and they will have full control of the legislative and judicial branches.

How to Pass Laws

A simple majority and the President

In order to become law, a bill has to be approved by both houses and the President. We just saw that in order for today's right-wing to pass laws that will make up the Sunday Law, they need a certain amount of control. The conventional way to get a law passed is with a simple majority in congress. The United States Congress is the legislative branch of government- it makes laws. House of Representatives is the first half of the branch, and the Senate is the other half. For a proposed law, called a bill, to become law it first is introduced in either the House or Senate. Next, the House or Senate (depending on where it was introduced) sends the bill to be worked on by a committee. Once the committee approves the bill, it's sent back to be debated. The House or Senate then debate and modify their bill, until at least a majority of people are happy with it. Once debating is over, there is a vote to pass or block the bill. If the bill is being voted on in the Senate, it needs 51 votes to pass. This is because there are 100 total members in the Senate, and all it needs is what we call a simple majority to pass. If the bill is being voted on in the House it also needs a simple majority to pass. But since the House has 435 total representatives, the bill needs 218 supporting votes. After either the House or Senate votes on the bill (depending where it originated), the bill is sent to the other half of the legislative branch to be voted on. If the bill is unsuccessful in this second vote, it won't become law; but if the bill passes then there is one final step. Finally, the bill is sent to the President to be signed into law. Normally, the President will sign it, however, if they disagree with the bill, they can veto it. A veto prevents a bill from becoming law. This is why if Republicans want laws passed to bring about the Sunday Law, they need control of three things. First, control of the House with a simple majority. Second, control of the Senate with a simple majority. Third and lastly, they need a Republican president to sign their laws. Without these three there is only one other option for a law to be made, and we will look at that option next.

A supermajority

A supermajority is when there are two-thirds of the power being held by one group of people. In the House of Representatives, it would be either the Democratic or Republican party holding 290 of the 435 seats. In the Senate, it would be either the Republican or Democratic party holding 67 of the 100 seats. As it was seen in the previous paragraph, to pass a bill, Congress only needs support of a simple majority, or 51%, and the support of the president. But say the president vetoes a bill that the majority of Congress wants passed. This is where the supermajority comes in. Congress can use the power of the supermajority to overrule the veto. This is why a supermajority is very powerful, and very rare. With just a simple majority, the party in favor of the bill would have to convince the president to sign it into law, which would be difficult if the party in favor of the bill and president aren't in the same political party. But if the party in favor of the bill has a supermajority in both houses, then whether or not the president supports the bill doesn't matter as much because they can pass the bill anyways with two-thirds of the vote.

Supermajorities in history

Having a supermajority in both houses has only happened a few times in United States history: specifically, seven times between the Democratic and Republican parties. The Republican party had a supermajority in both the Senate and the House during the 39th, 40th, 41st, and 43rd Congresses (1865-1871 and 1873-1875). This was during the time following the Civil War in the United States. At the beginning of the 39th Congress, Abraham Lincoln (a Republican) was the president, but after he was assassinated Andrew Johnson (a Democrat) took over. So half of the 39th Congress, and all of the 40th Congress, had a Democrat president even though Republicans controlled Congress itself with a supermajority. The next time there was a supermajority in both Houses of Congress the Democrats had the majority. This took place in the 74th and 75th Congresses (from 1935-1939). This was the Congress under Democratic president Franklin D. Roosevelt (part of his first and second terms). Roosevelt was the president that led the United States through much of the Great Depression and through nearly all of World War II. The last time one party had a supermajority in both Houses of Congress was from 1965-1967 - the 89th Congress. This was under Democratic President Lyndon Johnson right after he had signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Democrat supermajority took place during the Civil Rights movement. If we look at the lines, we notice something about supermajorities. In YPG lesson 102 (Leaving the Right Behind) we explained how the political parties didn't used to be on the political spectrum that they are today. If we take this into account: the modern Democrat party is the party that has won every supermajority. In the 1800s, the Republican party stood for what the Democrats stand for today, so the supermajorities that the Republican party won during the time of the Civil War, are actually wins for the left-wing. During the time of Roosevelt and Johnson the parties were switching sides; you can see in what they stood for that they represented the modern Democrats - not the Democrats of the 19th century. So all seven supermajorities in both Houses of Congress were won by liberals (the Democrats of today) - this fact makes it harder for the Republican party, because this is one of the only ways they will be able to pass the Sunday Law and they were not able to do it in past history.

The Election Cycle

Every two years

The United States Congress elects new representatives every two years. As we know, Congress is made of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Every two years, seats in the House and Senate are opened to be filled with new or incumbent congress members in midterm elections. Since they serve 2-year long terms, all 435 members of the House of Representatives are up for reelection or to be replaced. However, Senators serve 6-year terms: so every two years only one-third of the Senators are up to be reelected or replaced in the midterms. In 40 of the 50 US states, for a candidate to be elected to either the House or Senate, they have to win the most votes of all the candidates. This means that they don't even have to win a majority, they just need the most votes. For example, one candidate could win 33% of the votes, another could win 21%, another could win 15%, and another could win 31%. Even though nobody won a majority, the winner is the candidate with 33% of the votes since that was the most votes of all the candidates. However, only 40 of the 50 states determine winners this way. Ten states (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Vermont) require a candidate to win at least 50% of all the votes in order to take office. If neither candidate wins 50% in the midterms, a special runoff election is held to give the candidates a second attempt. The winner of the runoff election takes the office in the House of Representative or Senate.

Expectations

In the midterm elections, the President's party, whether it is Democratic or Republican, loses control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. "In the United States, midterm congressional elections take place every two years, dividing each president's four-year term, and are often thought of as a referendum on the current administration's performance. If that is the case, then voters over the past 80 years have generally not been impressed with their elected presidents, as results of past midterm elections show the party in power almost always loses seats in either the House of Representatives or Senate (and usually both)," "How does the president's party fare in the midterms?" Reuters. During Donald J. Trump's single term in office, the Republicans lost 40 seats in the House. In Barack H. Obama's first term in office, the Democratic party lost 63 seats in the House. In William J. Clinton's first term in office, the Democrats lost 52 seats in the House. In Ronald Reagan's first term in office the Republican party lost 26 seats in the House. It is a trend for presidents to lose dozens of seats in Congress during the midterms.

The Republican Prospect

Midterms 2022

The 2022 midterm elections did not go as planned for either party: the Democrats won more than was expected and the Republicans lost more. The issues of election fraud and abortion (but especially abortion) allowed the Democrats to do better than expected. Democrats and their allies spent almost half a billion dollars on advertisements where abortion was spoken about (eight times more than Republicans and much more than any other subject in their ad campaigns) - they used the fear and anger from the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* to succeed as much as they did in the midterms. In the Senate there were 35 seats up for election, 9 of which were competitive. Democrats won 14 of the Senate seats (including 5 out of the 9 competitive ones). Republicans won 20 of the open seats. There is one competitive Senate seat left - in Georgia; neither of the candidates got over 50% of the vote so there will be a runoff on December 6th. The Democrats currently have 50 seats in the Senate, and the Republicans have 49, so no matter who wins the Georgia seat (the incumbent Democrat or the Republican) Democrats will still control the Senate. In the House of Representatives all 435 seats were up for election, 64 of those seats were considered competitive. The Democrats lost 9 seats and the Republicans gained 9 seats. A party needs 218 seats in the House to have a majority: Republicans have 220 and Democrats have 213. There are still two House races that haven't been decided (in California and Colorado) but they both are leaning Republican. This means that Republicans control the House of Representatives, although it is a very small margin and they are very disappointed in themselves. This midterm means that for the next two years there will be a Democratic president, a narrowly Democratic Senate, and a narrowly Republican House of Representatives.

Trump's candidates

Trump endorsed candidates didn't perform well in the midterm elections. Prior to the elections, Trump began endorsing hundreds of candidates. Most Trump endorsed candidates won, but when we look closely we see it wasn't actually a win for Trump. While most of his endorsed candidates won, the vast majority of those candidates were in non-competitive races, many of them incumbents. They would have won just as easily without Trump's endorsements. In order to see how Trump's endorsements truly affected the elections, we have to look at the competitive races where the winner was unclear previous to voting. It's these elections where any endorsements will significantly affect the candidates' ability to get votes. There were 82 of these competitive elections. Before we look at how Trump's candidates performed, first we need to learn what offices these 82 elections were for. Midterm elections are specifically for Congress, but many states hold their own elections for governor and other state offices as well on that day. Of the 82 competitive races, 64 were for the House, 9 for Senate, and 9 for governor of 9 different states. Of the 64 competitive seats for the House, 23 of Republican candidates won, 41 lost to Democrats. Six of those 23 Republican seats were won by Trump endorsed candidates. Of the 9 competitive seats for the Senate, 3 Trump candidates won, 5 lost, and 1 seat is scheduled for a runoff election. Of the 9 seats for governor, zero Trump candidates won and 8 lost. The one Republican that did win wasn't supported by Trump. This Republican loss could possibly have been avoided if Trump had not endorsed certain candidates. Republicans expected to bring a "red wave" over the country, but this failed. Instead of endorsing reliable Republicans, Trump chose to endorse far-right election deniers and

new politicians. According to NBC news, 28% of voters said they were voting to oppose Trump. Nearly a third of voters turned out just to vote against the influence of a person no longer in office. So overall, Republicans had success in the elections, but because of Trump that success was not the “red wave” they hoped for. This doesn’t mean the United States is trending in the right direction and Republicans will eventually lose all their power. Republicans will only gain more power until they have hold of the country, but this shows us that Trump may not always be the head of the GOP.

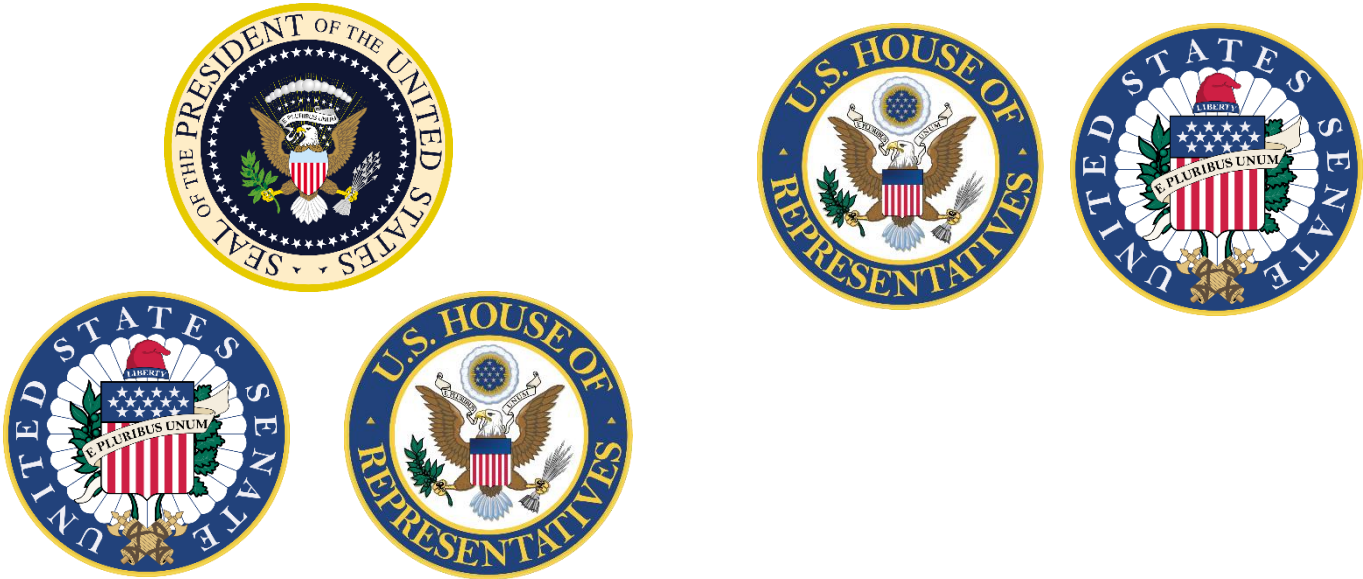
The next attempt in 2024

The Republican party failed in their predictions that there was going to be a “red wave”, meaning they would take a majority of the seats in both Houses. “Republicans on Tuesday morning alluded to the midterms becoming a referendum on Democrats and Biden’s presidency. They pointed to issues they said are high on voters’ minds — such as soaring inflation — as a sign of a red wave sweeping the country and giving Republicans back the majority. Arizona GOP Senate candidate Blake Masters said he expects a ‘big’ and ‘glorious’ wave of Republican wins on Tuesday,” “2024 shadow looms over Republicans’ midterm optimism” Politico. (Masters lost his race.) Not only did they not take control of the Senate, but they barely took control of the House of Representatives. To say that their performance was underwhelming is an understatement. Luckily for them, but not the rest of us, the midterms happen every two years. That means that they will have another chance at their “red wave” in 2024. On top of the Republicans doing poorly in the midterms, many of the candidates endorsed by Trump didn’t win their elections, which could have repercussions on how the Republican party will view his section of the party come the elections in 2024. If the Republican party has a “red wave” in 2024 they will have the control that they need to bring about the Sunday Law.

In summary:

To pass a law you can either control

The Presidency, the Senate, and the House or Have a super majority in the House and the Senate



Supermajorities of the past

Congress #	Years	Party	President
39 th	1865-1867	Republican	Lincoln & Johnson
40 th	1867-1869	Republican	Andrew Johnson
41 st	1869-1871	Republican	Ulysses S. Grant
43 rd	1873-1875	Republican	Ulysses S. Grant
74 th	1935-1937	Democrat	Franklin D. Roosevelt
75 th	1937-1939	Democrat	Franklin D. Roosevelt
89 th	1965-1967	Democrat	Lyndon Johnson

In YPG lesson 102 we looked at the history of these parties, and from that we know the Republican and Democratic supermajorities, in these respective times, were on the correct political side.

The elections in the United States follow a pattern

- Every 4 years the presidential election takes place and the president serves a 4-year term.
- Every 2 years $\frac{1}{3}$ of the senators are up for election. They serve 6 year terms.
- Every 2 years each representative in the House of Representatives is up for election, because they all serve 2 year terms.

This way there are elections every 2 years in the US, and there are enough seats up for election that the ruling party can change. In fact, historically, in the midterms, the party of the sitting president loses badly.

The outcome of the 2022 Midterm:



The outcome of the 2022 Midterm:



Abortion is the main reason behind the Democrats unsuspected showing.



The candidates Trump endorsed did worse than expected.

The Republicans didn't get a supermajority in both Houses of Congress, even though they expected a "red wave".

This means they will have to wait until 2024 when there will be a presidential election, where they can try to either take the Legislative and Executive branches, or they can try to just take the Legislative branch with a supermajority. Either way they need one of these to control the Legislative part of the government, which EGW says is part of the Sunday Law.

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youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us at:
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Find all the YPG lesson videos at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st Sundays of the month:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>