The End of MAGA

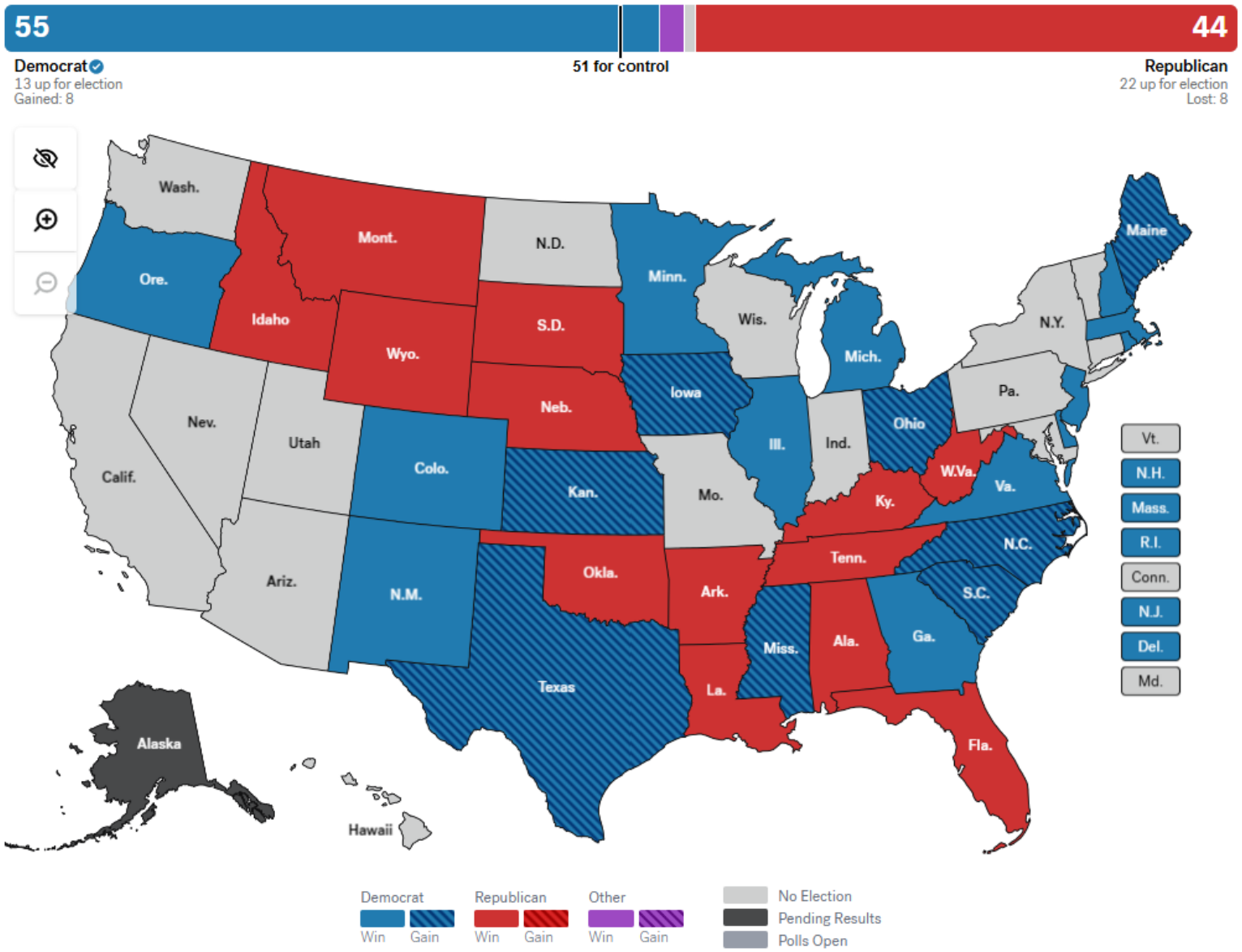
2026 Midterm Election Recap
Brian Colker
Making Waves for Democracy
11/15/2026

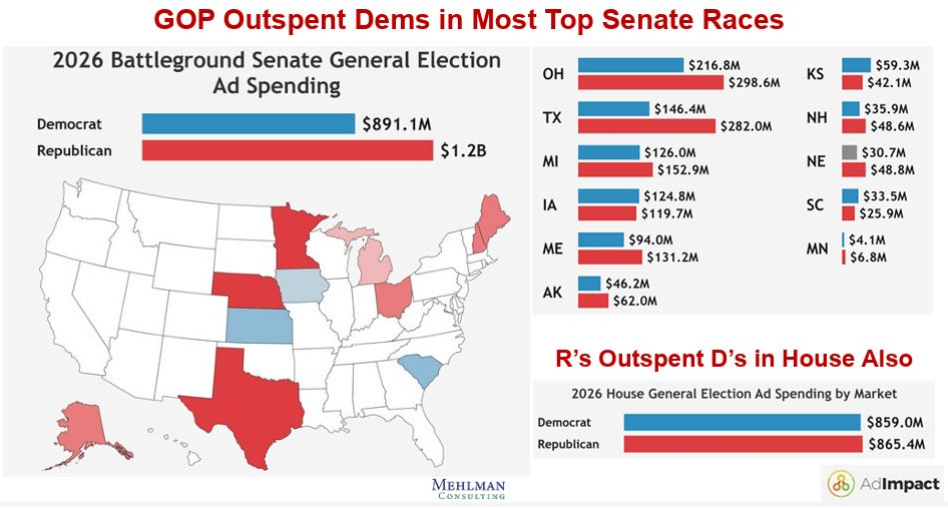
SECTION 1

What happened

Senate wins

- 8 Confirmed flips
- 1 Likely flip
- All despite trailing $$$





Burning Down the [Republican] House

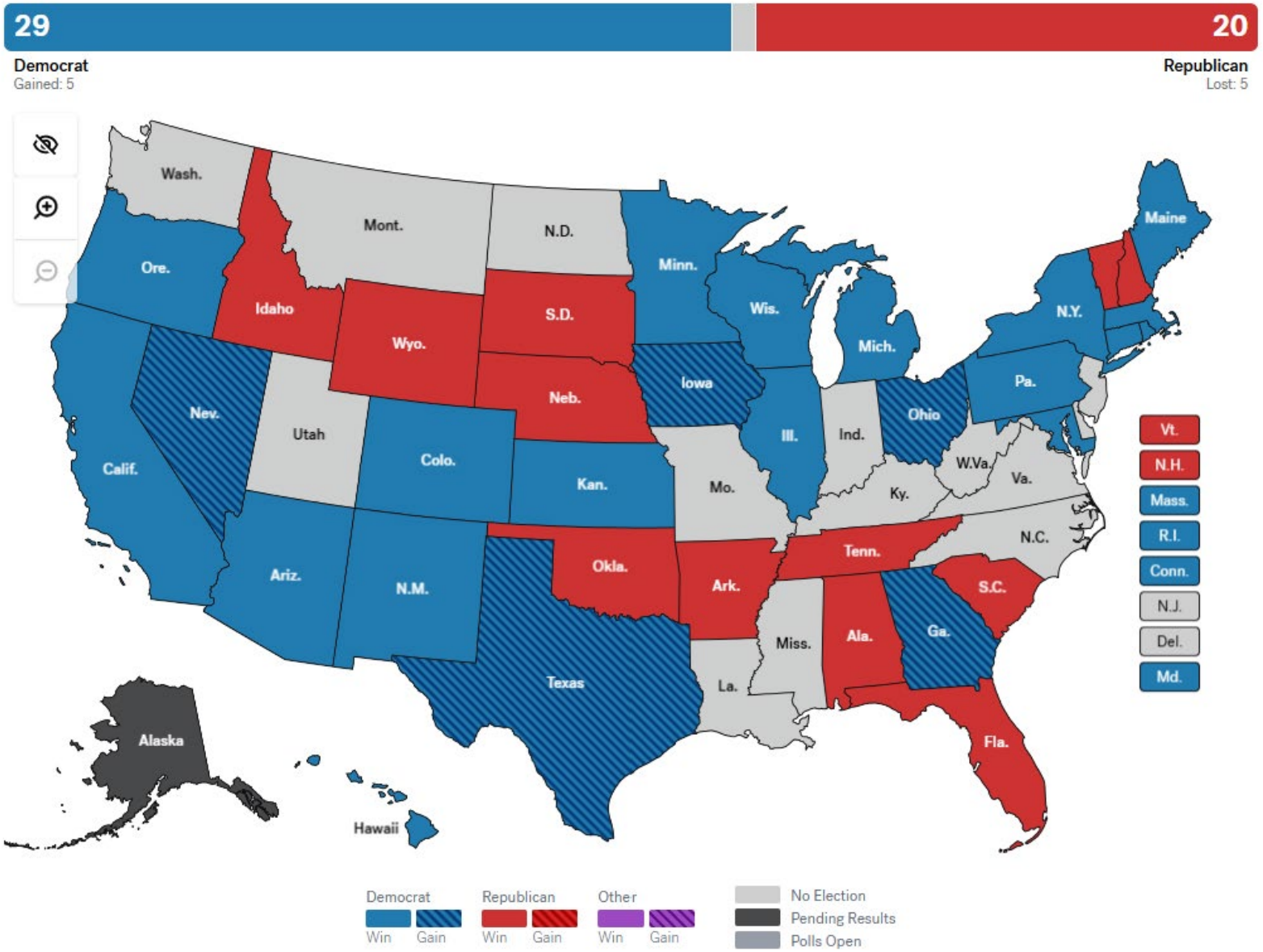
LIKELY D (18) 17 Dem • 1 Rep	LEAN D (18) 5 Dem • 13 Rep	TOSS UP (18) 4 Dem • 14 Rep	LEAN R (18) 3 Dem • 15 Rep	LIKELY R (17) 2 Dem • 15 Rep	No Chance in Hell
CA-13 *Gray*	AZ-01 OPEN (Sc...	CA-22 Valadao	AK-AL *Begich III*	AR-02 Hill	NC-06 Jefferson
CA-45 *Tran*	AZ-06 Ciscomani	CO-05 *Crank*	AL-02 *Figures* ☑	CO-03 *Hurd*	TN-04 Broderick
IN-01 Mrvan	CA-48 OPEN (Issa)	FL-14 Castor	AZ-02 Crane	FL-04 Bean	
MI-08 *McDonald...*	CO-08 *Evans*	FL-22 OPEN (Fra...	CO-04 Boebert ☑	FL-16 OPEN (Buc...	
MN-02 OPEN (Cr...	FL-25 Moskowitz	IA-02 OPEN (Hin...	FL-07 OPEN (Mills)	KS-02 *Schmidt*	
NE-02 OPEN (Ba...	IA-01 Miller-Mee...	KY-06 OPEN (Barr)	FL-09 Soto ☑	MO-02 Wagner ☑	
NH-01 OPEN (Pa...	IA-03 Nunn	MI-04 Huizenga	FL-13 Luna	NC-03 Murphy	
NJ-09 *Pou*	NC-11 OPEN (Ed...	MI-07 *Barrett*	FL-27 Salazar	NC-05 Foxx ☑	
NV-01 Titus	NJ-07 Kean Jr.	MI-10 OPEN (Ja...	IN-05 Spartz ☑	NC-07 Rouzer	
NV-03 Lee	NM-02 Vasquez	MT-01 OPEN (Zi...	ME-02 OPEN (Go...	NC-09 Hudson ☑	
NV-04 Horsford	OH-09 Kaptur	NC-01 Davis	MN-01 Finstad ☑	NC-13 *Knott* ☑	
NY-03 *Suozzi*	PA-07 *Mackenzie*	NY-17 Lawler	NV-02 OPEN (A... ☑	NC-14 *Moore* ☑	
NY-04 *Gillen*	PA-08 *Bresnahan*	OH-07 Miller	NY-21 OPEN (Ste...	NE-01 Flood	
NY-19 *Riley*	PA-10 Perry	PA-01 Fitzpatrick	OH-10 Turner ☑	NJ-02 Van Drew ☑	
OH-01 Landsman	TX-34 Gonzalez	SC-01 OPEN (Ma...	OH-15 Carey ☑	TN-09 OPEN (Co...	
OH-13 Sykes	VA-02 Kiggans	TX-35 OPEN (Cas...	TX-23 VACANT ☑	TX-09 OPEN (Gr...	
TX-28 Cuellar	WA-03 Perez	TX-15 De La Cruz	VA-05 *McGuire*	WA-05 *Baumgar...*	
VA-07 *Vindman*	WI-03 Van Orden	VA-01 Wittman	WI-01 Steil ☑		
Dems win all 18	Dems win all 18	Dems win all 18	Dems win 10 of 18	Dems win 6 of 17	Dems win 2

- 46 net flips
- 261 D seats vs. 174 R

Cook Political Report

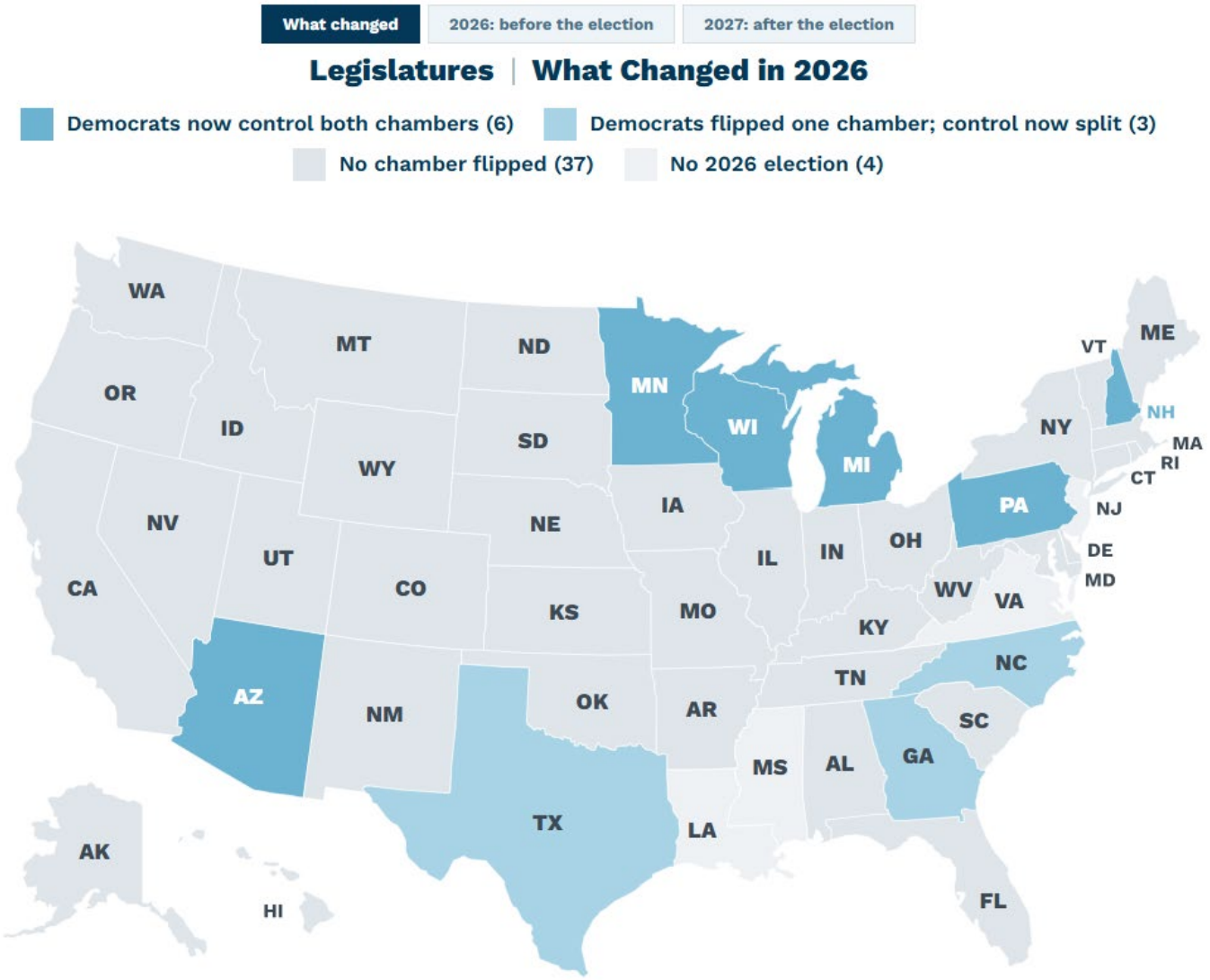
Governor wins

5 Flips Confirmed
1 Likely Flip
1st Black Governor-WI, NV (FL)
1st Black Woman Elected Governor in US
1st Indigenous Woman elected Gov in US
1st Latino Governor CA, TX
1st Woman Governor (MN, OH (TN))



State legislative wins

- 9 Flips Confirmed
- 24 Democratic Trifectas (up 6)
- ~500 Legislative seats flipped R to D!!!

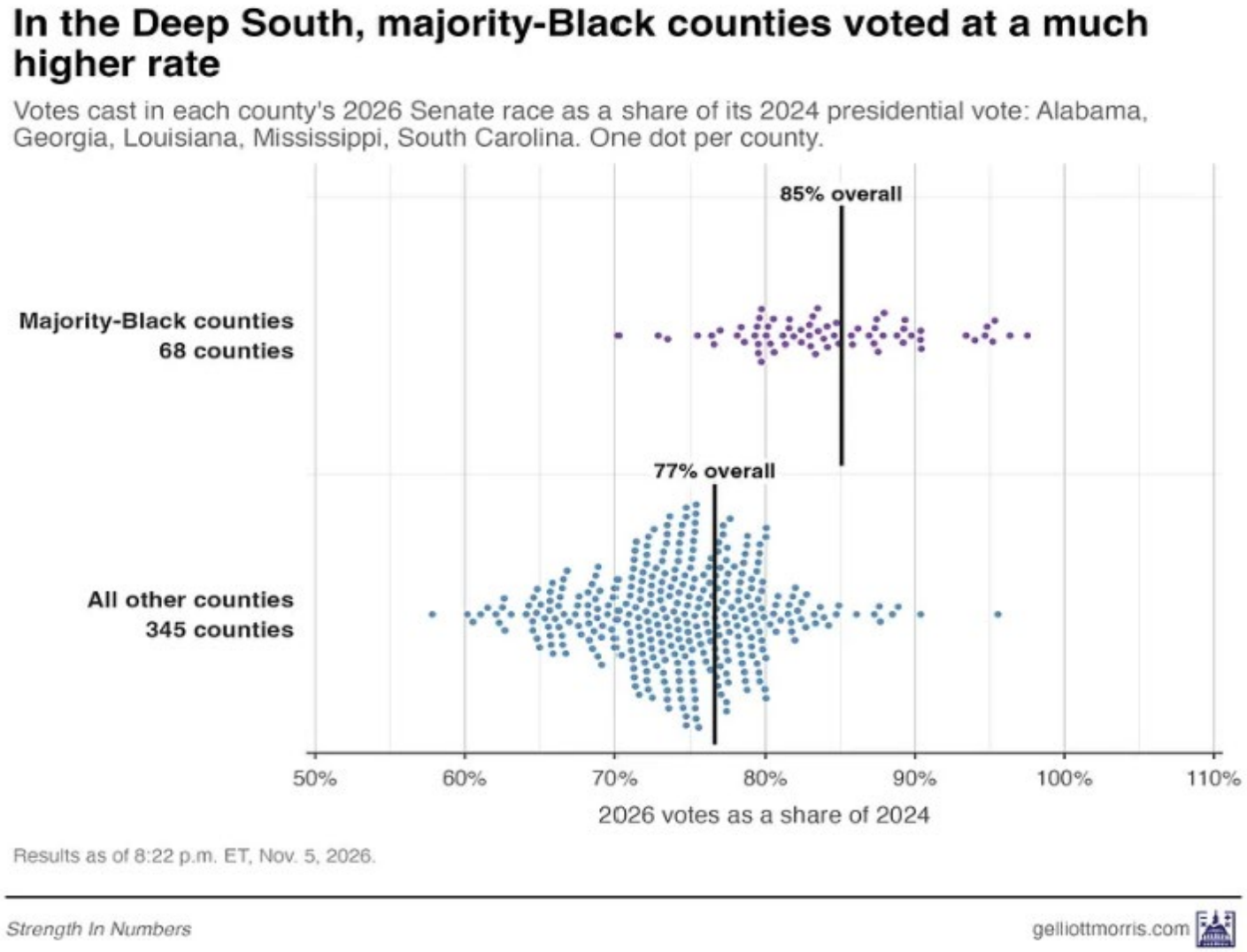


SECTION 2

Why it happened

Black Turnout: Majority-Black Counties Make History

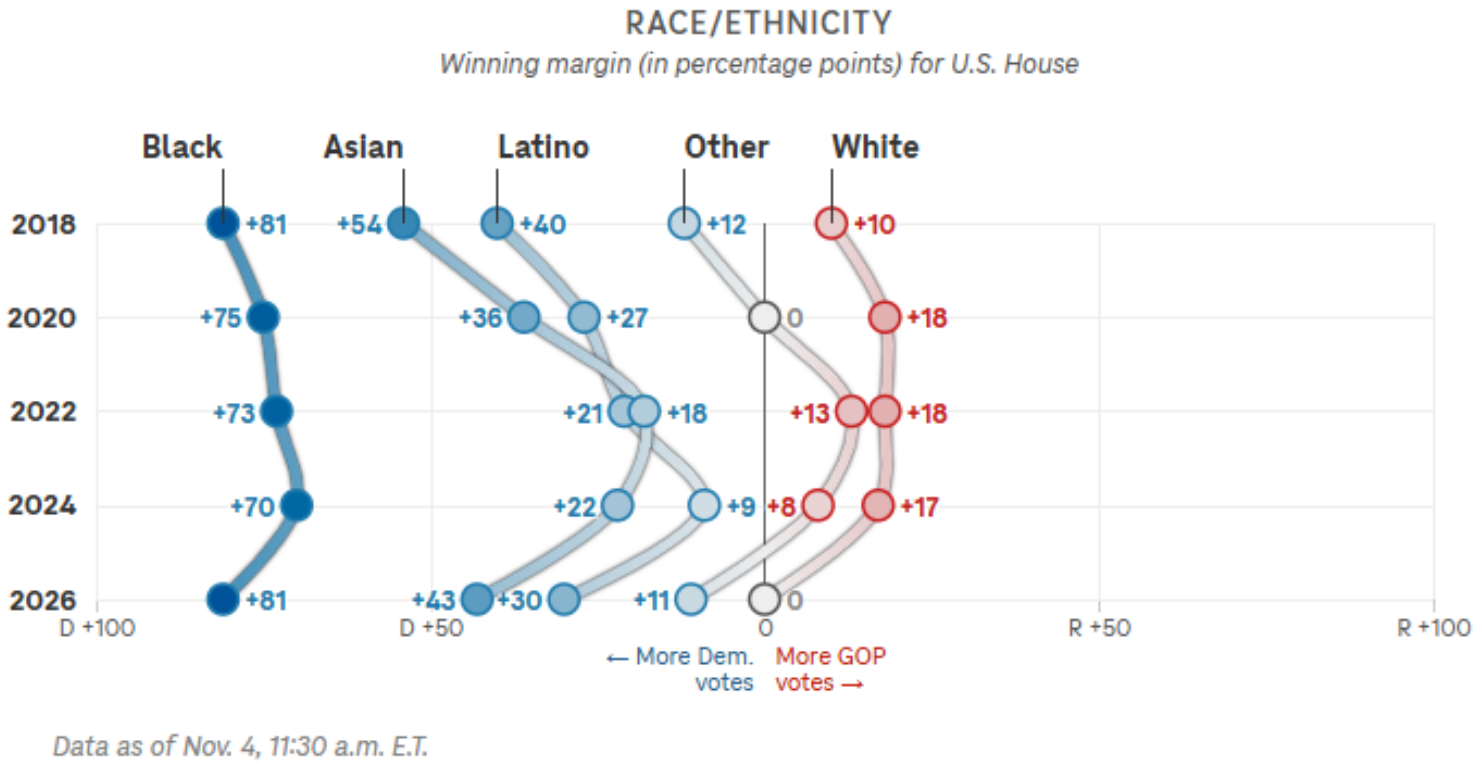
- Black turnout skyrocketed in the South
- Major polling misses
- Political media totally ignored it
- Youth vote in MS was net +53 D



Shift in the Hispanic Vote

- Latino vote flipped by 40+ points in TX
- Dispels any myths that Latino rightward shift was permanent / driven by cultural conservatism

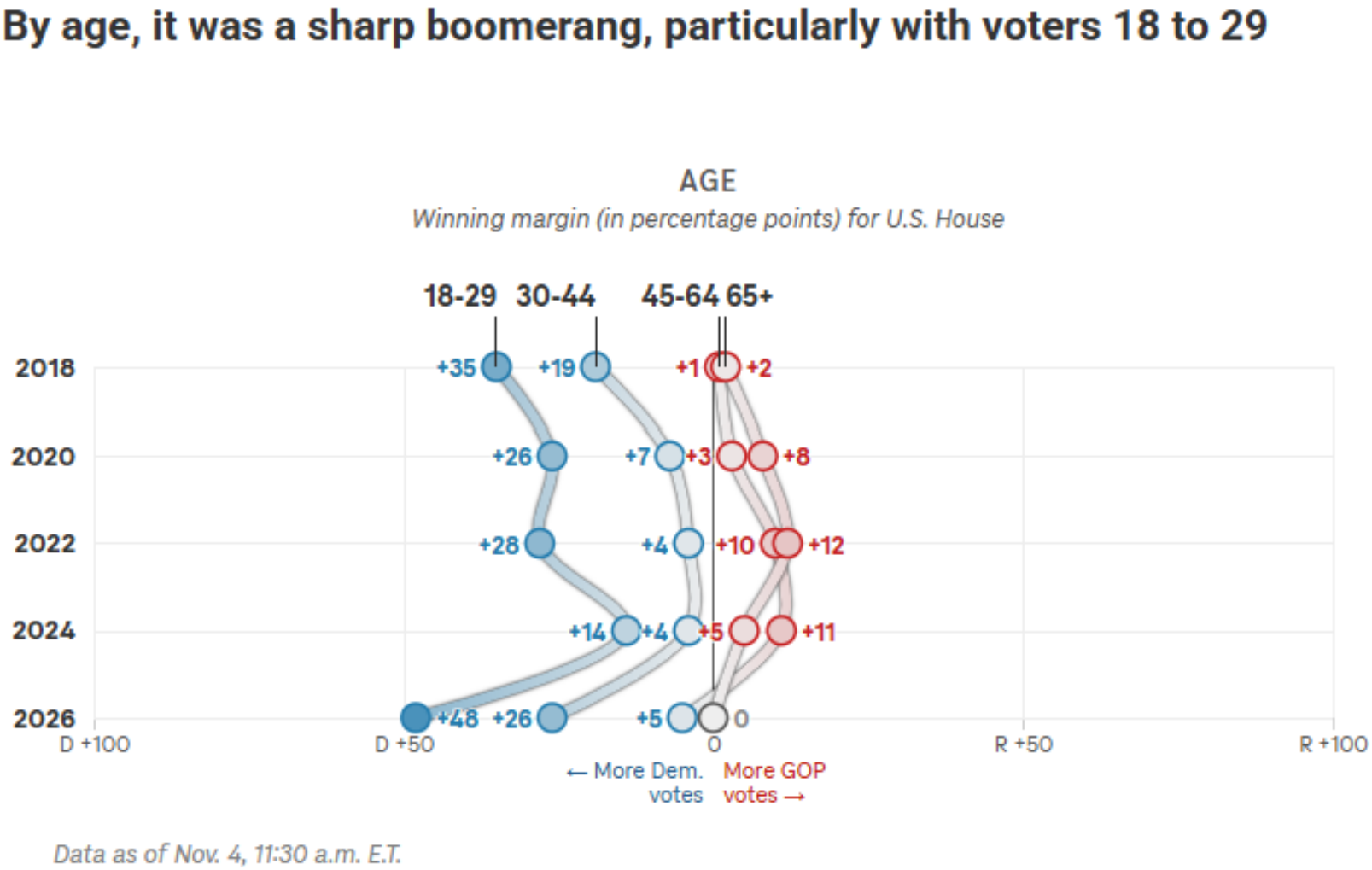
One of the sharpest turns in this election was by Latinos. And Democrats had their best performance with white voters in years



Data as of Nov. 4, 11:30 a.m. E.T.

Shift in the Youth Vote

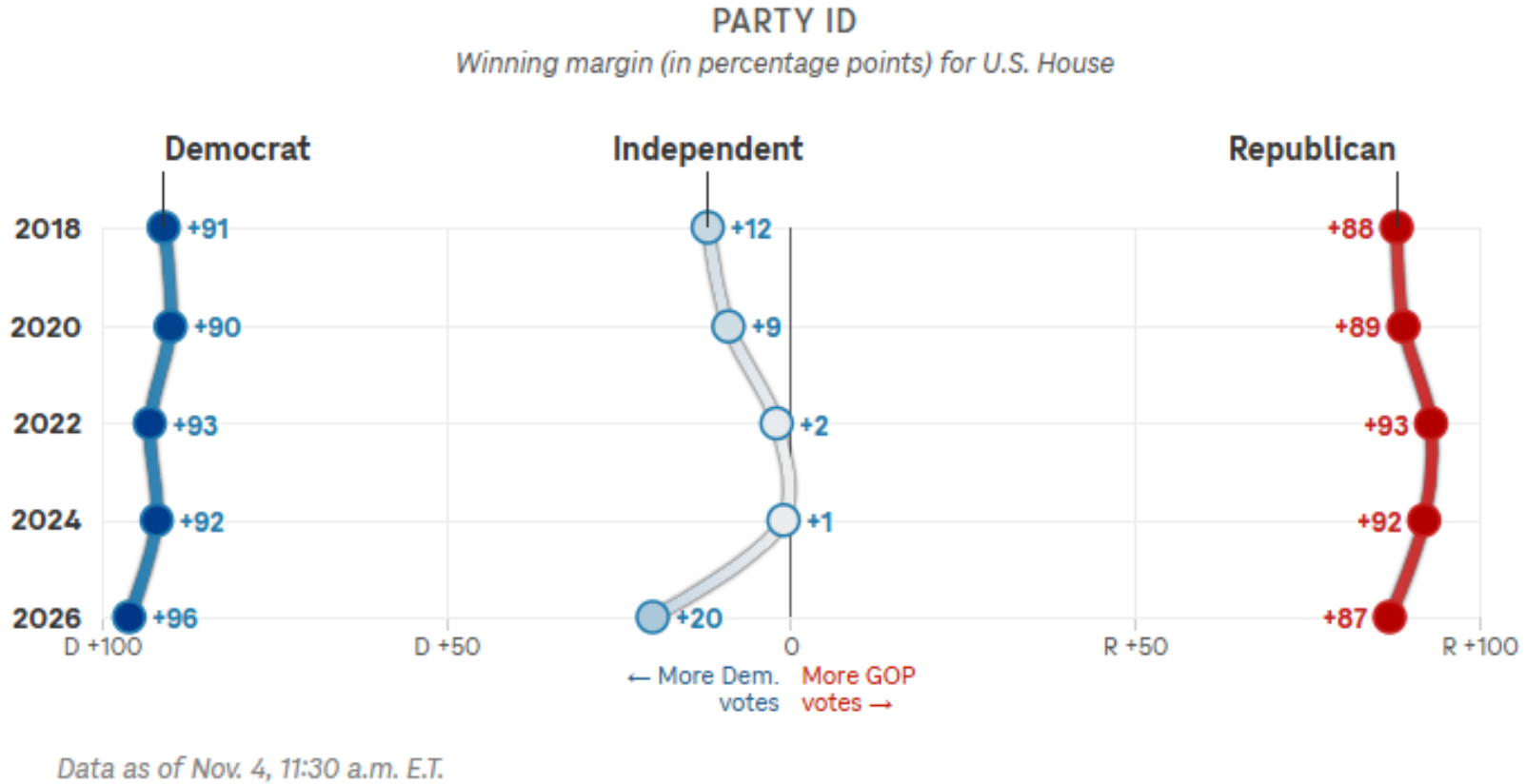
- Shift by 18-29 (esp. men) the largest demographic shift in ‘26 (possibly ever)
- But 30-44 also shifted significantly



Shift in the Independent vote

- Shift in independents likely overlaps with shifts in Youth/Latino vote
- Independents tend to be less engaged and more likely to dislike both parties
- Represent a strong anti-incumbent bias

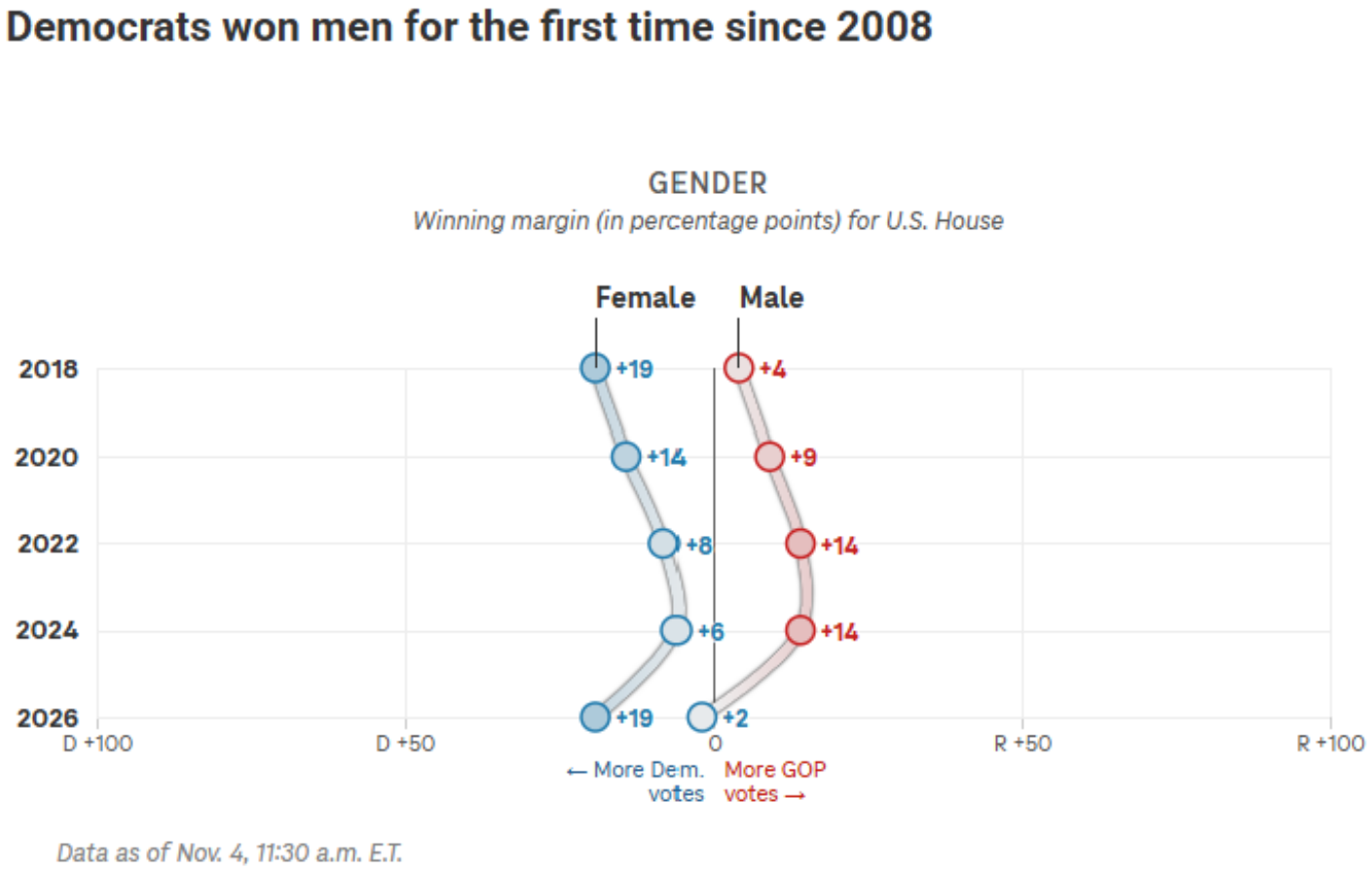
Republicans saw their worst performance with independents since at least 1998



Data as of Nov. 4, 11:30 a.m. E.T.

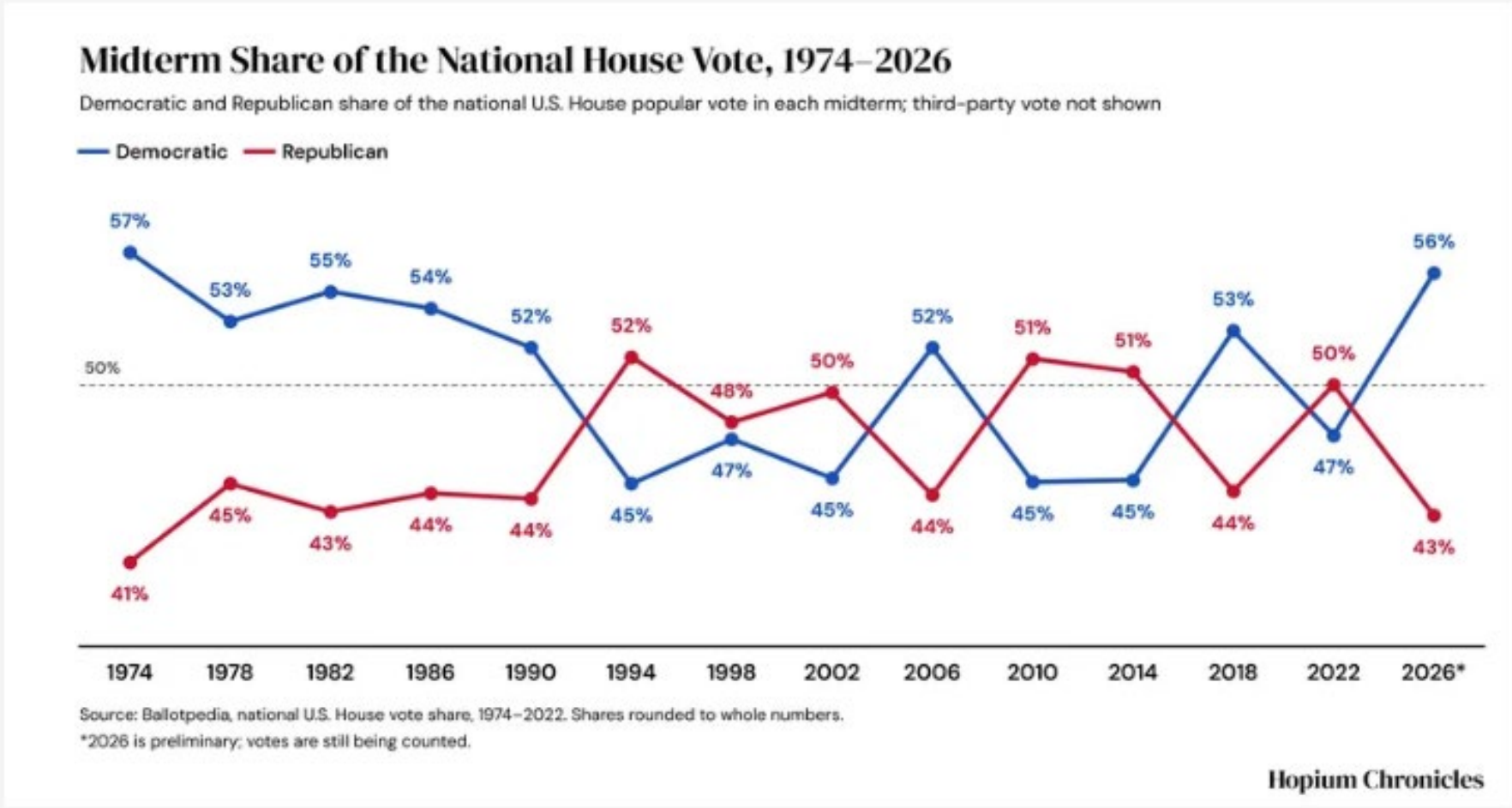
Even… Men

- Men good bellwether for strength of republican brand
- Base of MAGA / republicans



Overall Democratic turnout

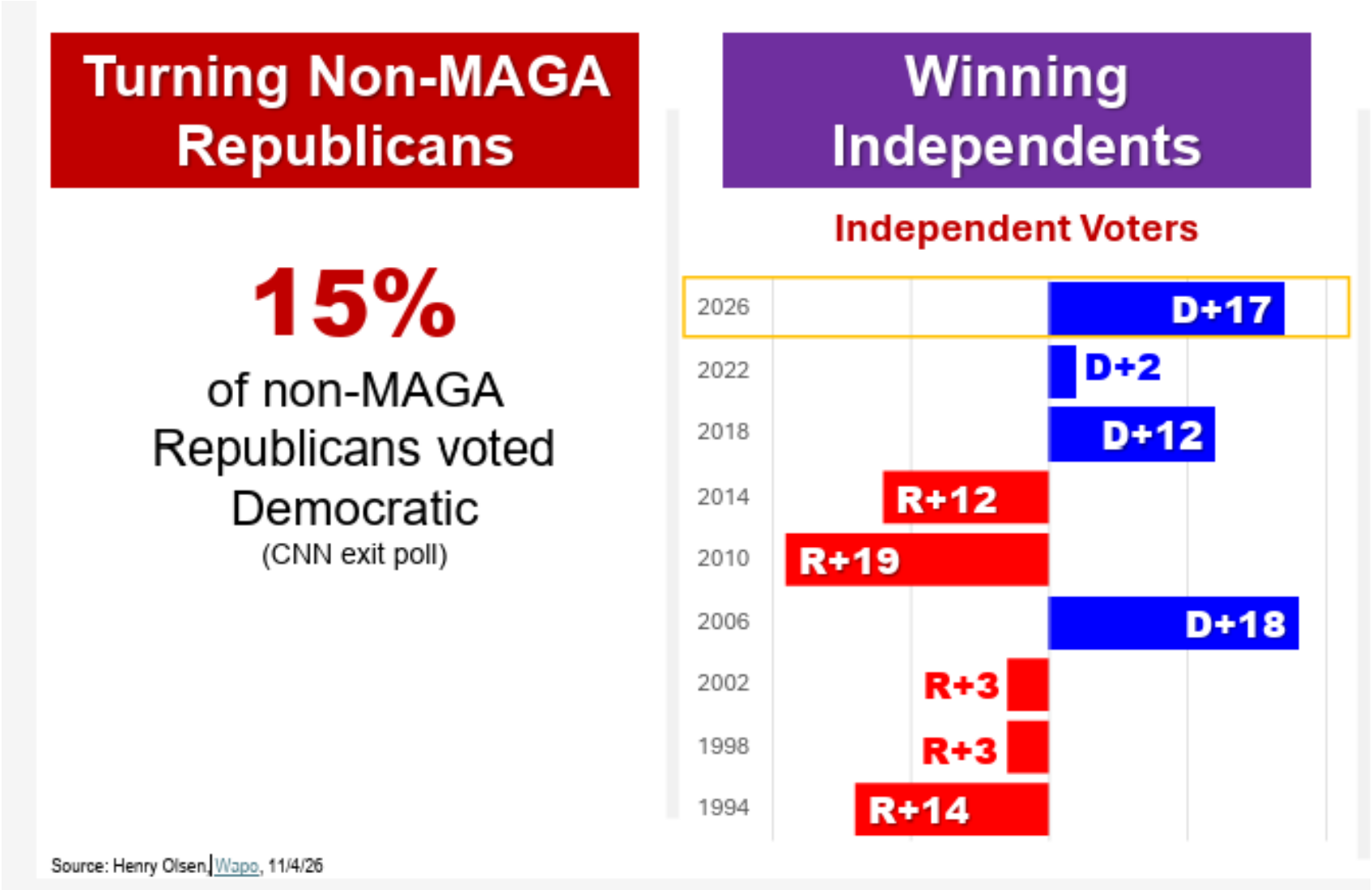
- National vote share for Democrats greatest since 1974



Available graphic shows vote share. A turnout measure is still needed.

Independent and Republican swing voters

- ~5% of republican voters voted for Democrats (~2.5 million voters)

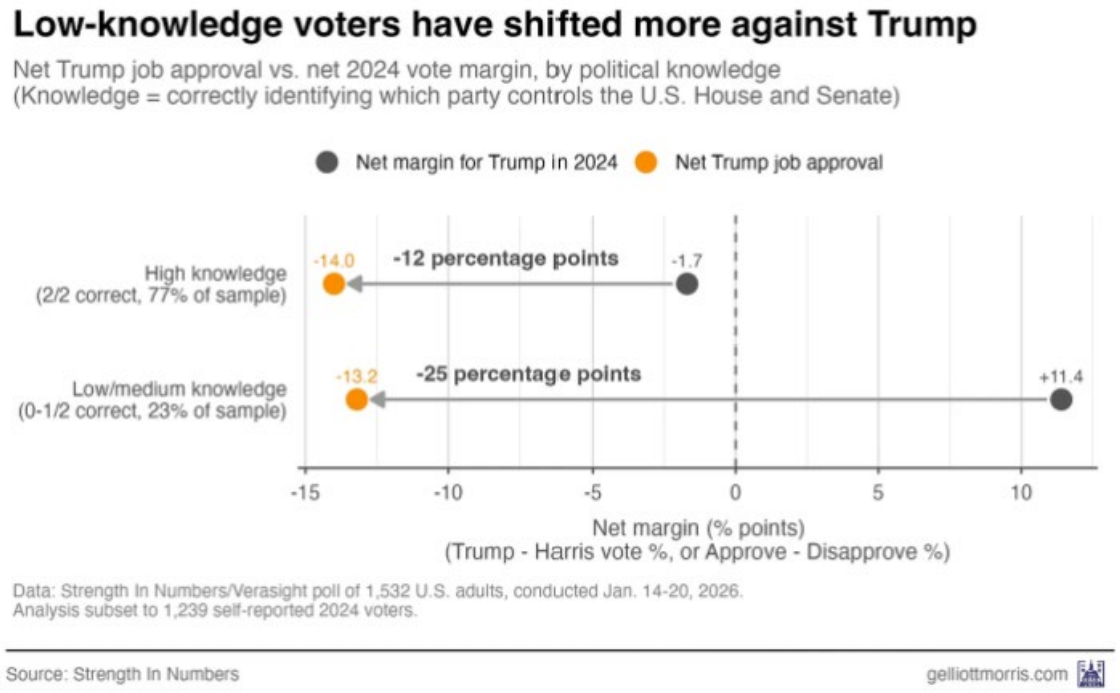


X Factor – 2024 Non-Voters, 3rd Party Voters, Low-Info Voters

- ~6% of 2026 voters didn't vote in 2024 or voted 3rd party
- Dems won them 2-1
- Enough to move the needle in key races…
- Around 4% boost to Dems

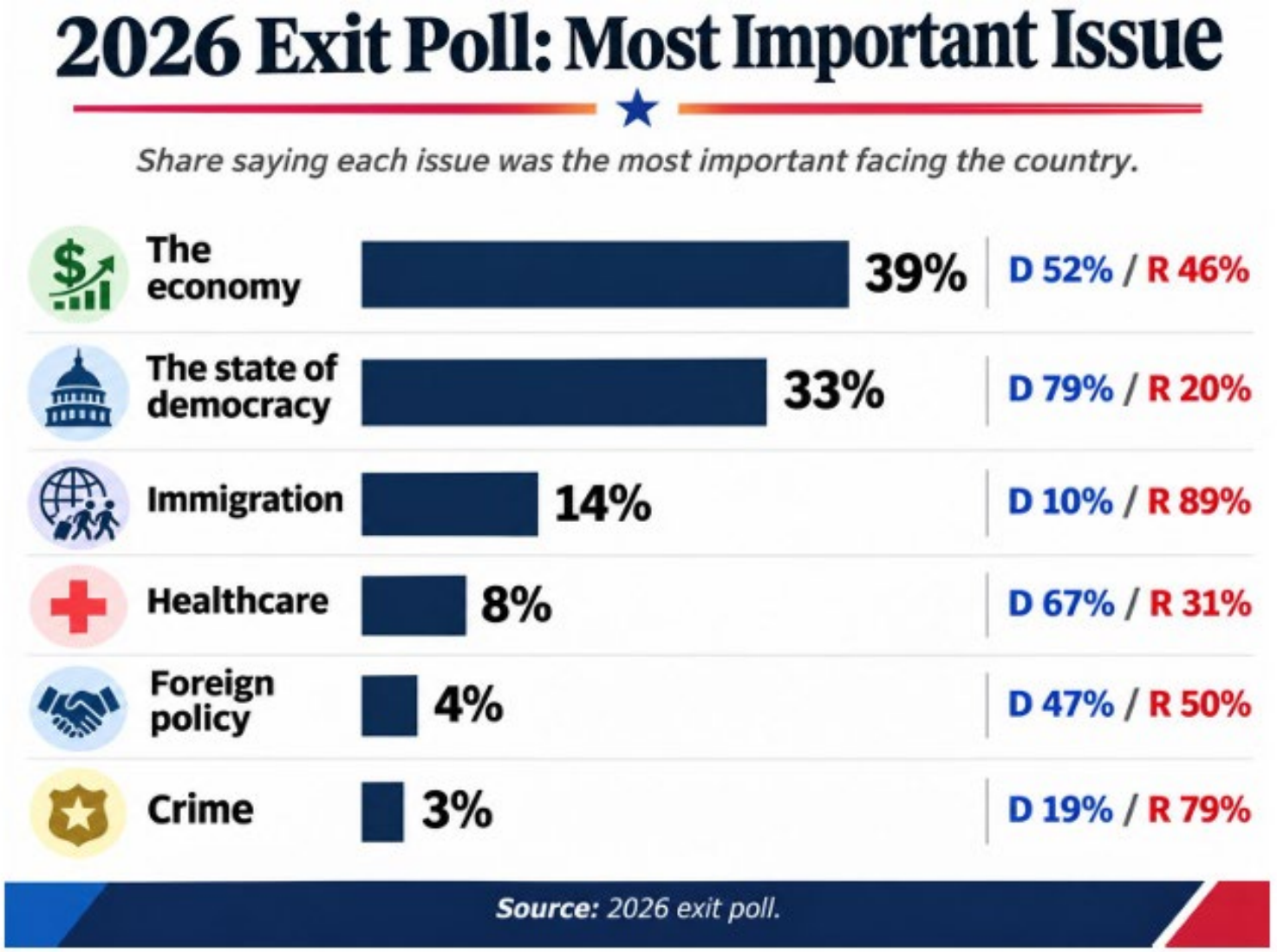
In The 2024 Election For President, Did You Vote For:

79,668 Respondents	Dem.	Rep.
Kamala Harris (Dem) 49%	97%	2%
Donald Trump (Rep) 44%	7%	91%
Other 2%	57%	30%
Did not vote 4%	70%	25%



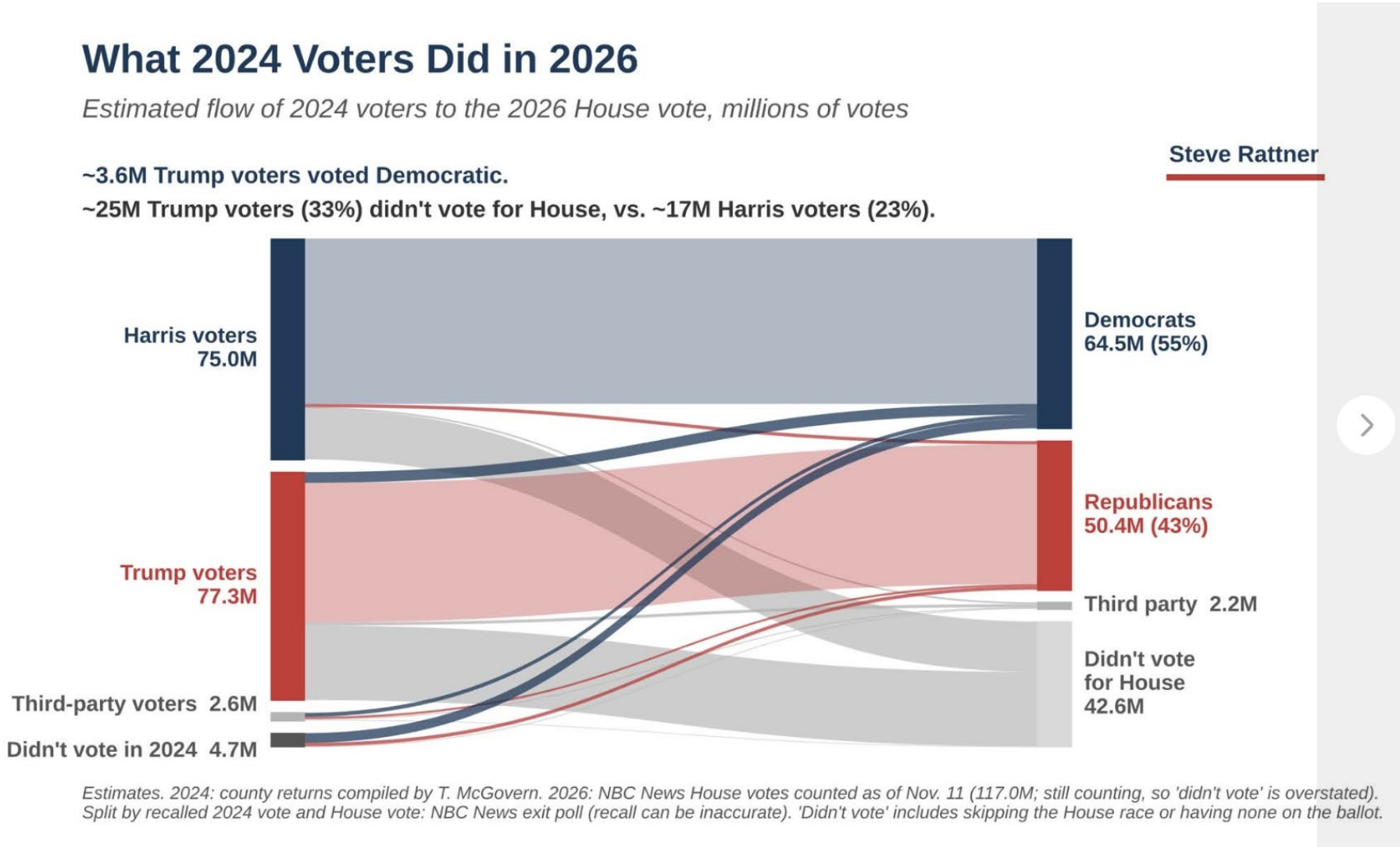
What Motivated Voters

- Corruption & Affordability dominate exit polls
- Dems win both issues but strongly overperform on corruption
- Healthcare still more important than Iran…



Bottom Line

- Democrats showed up
- Black vote was historic
- Latinos swung back to D
- Independents voted for Ds in huge numbers
- ~5% of Republicans voted Democratic
- Republican turnout collapsed



Key Questions:

- Why and how did corruption break through to non-high information / non-Democratic voters?
- Once voter files are available (in January), will exit polls turn out to still be valuable? (55 million people voted early)
- What are the lessons learned in terms of how money was allocated to races, states, candidates, etc?

