

# Another Year, Another “Change Election”

## A Look at 2024 Results

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# National Results 2024 : It Was Really Close

## First time since 1892

<b>Trump</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>EV</b>
<b>Harris</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>EV</b>

**Trump wins all 7 swing states**

## Senate flips to GOP

**53-47**

**Special Senate elections in FL, OH**

## House remains tight

<b>GOP</b>	<b>218</b> → <b>219*</b>
<b>DEM</b>	<b>211</b> → <b>214</b>

## Ballot questions

**7 states add constitutional rights to reproductive freedoms**

**AL, AZ, MO protect minimum wage  
MA, CA do not**

# Minnesota: Wasn't it just a normal election?

Doesn't this  
look familiar?



- ✓ Harris wins by 4%  
(Avg. result since 2000: D+5%)
- ✓ 16 of last 17 presidential elections go Blue
- ✓ No GOP statewide winner since 2006
- ✓ Amy Klobuchar wins by 16%
- ✓ No congressional race closer than 13%
- ✓ Legislature remains purple –  
15 times in 17 elections

# Presidential Election Results: US and MN

		DEM		
		Votes	Pct.	States/ Counties
<u>2024</u>		74.1m	48%	19
<u>MN</u>		1.66m	51%	9
<u>2020</u>		81.3m	51%	25
<u>MN</u>		1.72m	52%	13
<u>2016</u>		65.9m	49%	20
<u>MN</u>		1.37m	46%	9

		GOP (Trump)		
		Votes	Pct.	States/ Counties
		76.7m	50%*	31
		1.52m	47%	78
		74.2m	47%	25
		1.48m	45%	74
		63.0m	46%	30
		1.32m	45%	78

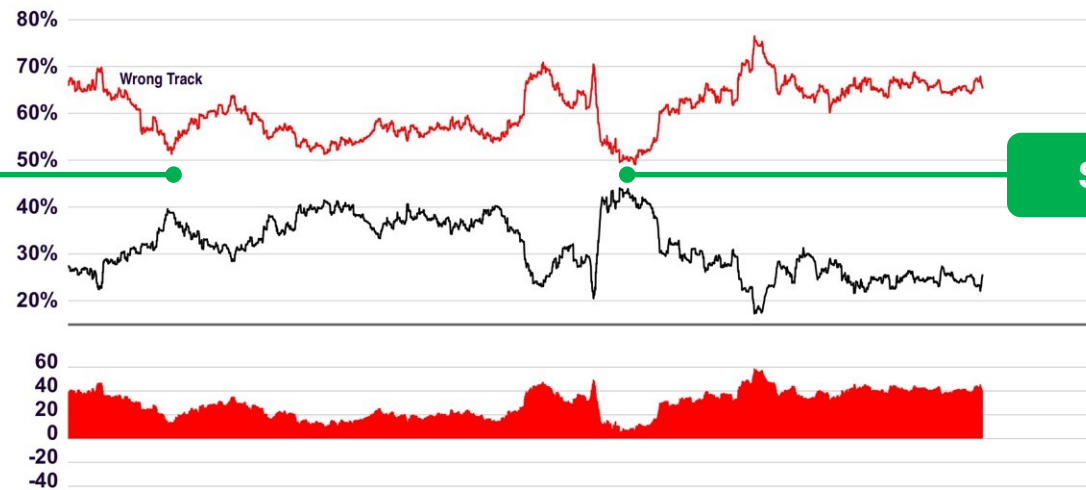
# The Queen of All Polling Questions



RealClearPolitics Poll Average

65.3 Wrong Track -39.7 25.6 Right Direction

## Direction of Country



December 2017

Spring 2021

Can we  
ever trust  
**polling**  
again?



TRUMP WINS: PART 1

# Change is the New Norm

**Unhappy Voters  
Keep Opting  
for Change**

Change in Control  
of House, Senate  
and/or White House

Graph source: Mehlman Consulting

## Change in Control of House, Senate and/or White House

1960's	1970's	1980's	1990's	2000's	2010's	2020's
1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
1962	1972	1982	1992	2002	2012	2022
1964	1974	1984	1994	2004	2014	2024
1966	1976	1986	1996	2006	2016	2026
1968	1978	1988	1998	2008	2018	2028

## TRUMP WINS: PART 2

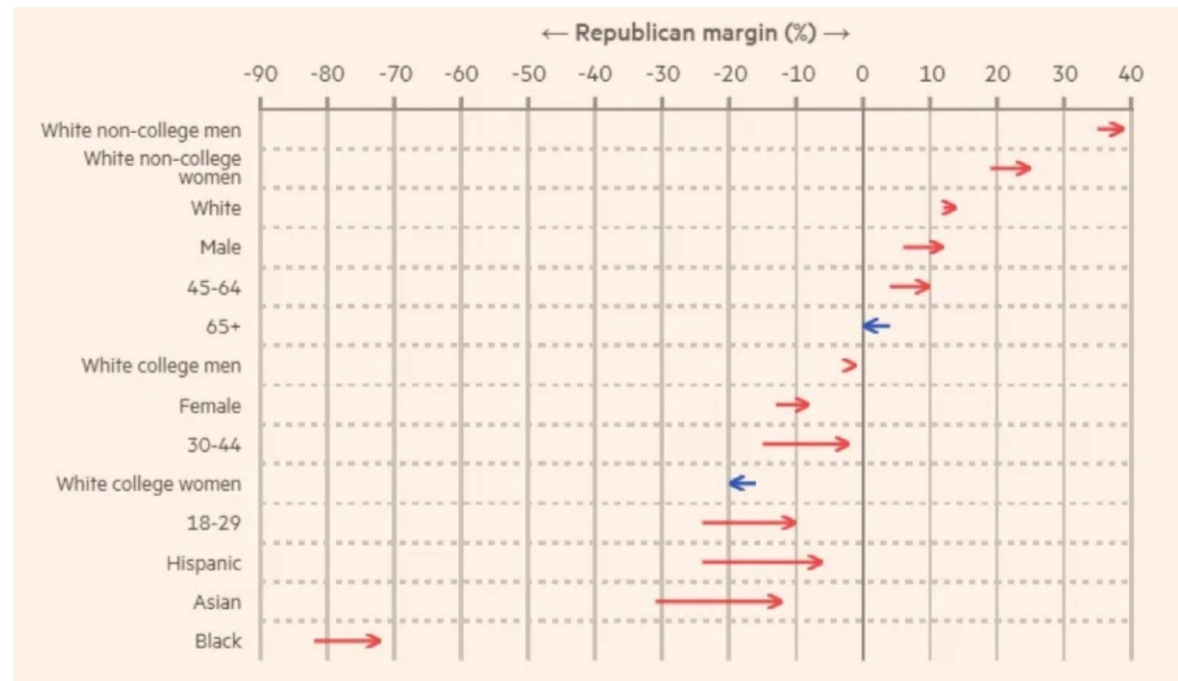
# Demographic Changes

**Trump has increased his support across the electorate**

Republican margin over Democrats, change since 2020, by demographic group

● Shifted Democrat ● Shifted Republican

Source: Financial Times  
Graph Source: Catalist, Edison Research





TRUMP WINS: PART 3

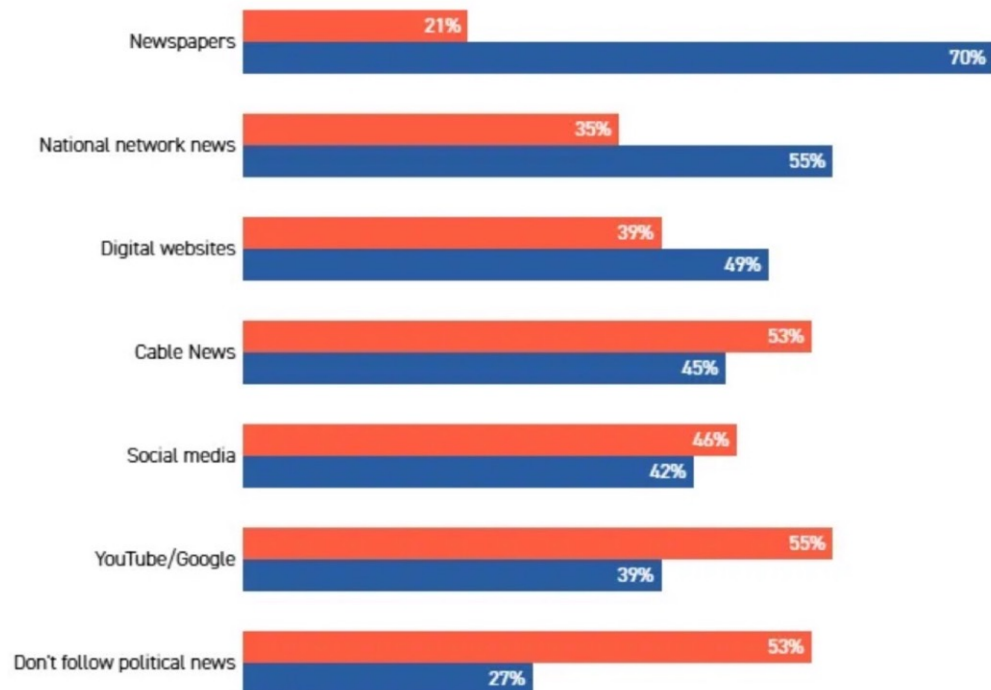
# GOP Dominated New Media

**Democrats are more likely to get their news by newspapers than Republicans**

How registered voters consume news, by their support in the 2024 election

● DEM ● GOP

Graph source: [Washington Post](#)



# The Harris Campaign

## What Worked

- ✓ Quick transition
- ✓ The debate
- ✓ Dobbs decision
- ✓ Appeal to unity

## What Didn't

- ✗ Danger to democracy
- ✗ Hope without clear change  
(2020 Kamala vs 2024 Kamala)
- ✗ Prep for interviews
  - The View
  - “Fascism”
- ✗ GOTV strategies
  - Celebrities
  - Trump’s suppression plan

# What Swing Voters Finally Decided

1. “I don’t feel secure.”

- *Economic*
- *Border*
- *Too many wars*
- *New technologies*

2. “My financial situation is worse.”

- *Better than before: 24%*
- *Worse: 45%*
- *Trump policies helped: 44%*
- *Biden helped: 25%*

3. “I don’t want Joe Biden, Act 2”

- *41% favorable*
- *36% approve handling of inflation*
- *35% approve handling of immigration*
- *Wasn’t he only supposed to serve one term?*

4. “Effective leadership trumps character.”

- *Harris cares about people like me: 75%-23%*
- *Trump is a better leader: 65%-34%*

*Polling data is from national exit polls*



## A look ahead: The Trump Challenge

- **He is not viewed favorably.**
  - But ... his negatives are already baked into our beliefs
- **He struggled with crisis management in his first term.**
  - Yet ... focusing on economy, border and peace initiatives will enhance leadership credentials.
- **Democrats will struggle to combat Trump policies, will continue their attack on character and decision-making.**
  - Then again ... even if people tire of Trump, will they ask for a return to uber-progressive politics?

# Can Minnesota Have A Closer Result?

## MN Senate

**34-33 DFL**

*\*DFL won SD 45  
special election*

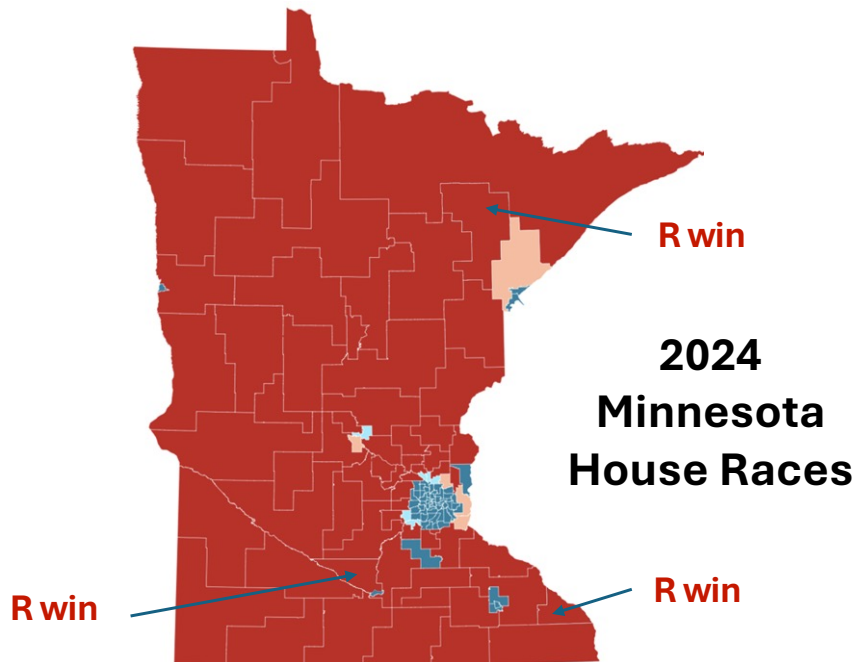
## MN House

**67-67 tie**

*\* Still need two recounts  
of close DFL victories*



# MN Legislature: Continued Geographic Consolidation



**MN House:**  
**Rural Districts without  
Four-Year Public Colleges:**

**2000 – 19 DFL winners**

**2024 – 0 DFL winners**

# Did Big Money Matter in Local Races?

**GOP +3 in MN House.**

Many believed those seats (**Brand, Lislegard and Pelowski**) were likely to **go Red** if **Harris won MN** by less than 6 percent

<u>House District</u>	<u>Money Spent</u>	<u>2022 Winner</u>	<u>2024 Winner</u>
<b>03B</b>	<b>\$1.5 million</b>	<b>R +33</b>	<b>R +160</b>
<b>14B</b>	<b>\$1.3 million</b>	<b>D +540</b>	<b>D +33</b>
<b>32B</b>	<b>\$1.0 million</b>	<b>D +413</b>	<b>D +408</b>
<b>35A</b>	<b>\$1.5 million</b>	<b>D +856</b>	<b>D +871</b>
<b>41B</b>	<b>\$1.0 million</b>	<b>R +418</b>	<b>R +490</b>

# MN House “Class of 2024”

- **GOP +3**
  - **2016 +4, 2020 +4**
  - *First time DFL lost seats with Klobuchar on the ballot*
- **22 new members**
  - **14 GOP**
  - **8 DFL**
- **81 (!) members with 4 years or less experience**
- **Only 1 incumbent lost: Jeff Brand (D-St. Peter)**
- **End of the “Class of 1986”**
  - *31 new members that year, 424 total years of legislative service*
  - **Greg Davids** (Class of 1991) is now Dean of the House



# 67-67 Tie: What does that mean?

## Parliamentary Process

1. **MN Constitution**

2. **MN Law**

3. Joint Rules

4. **House Rules**

5. Custom and Usage

6. Mason's Manual

- Bill must cover only one subject
- Revenue bills must start in the House
- A majority of members are needed to pass a bill
- Done by Monday, May 19

- Must elect a member as speaker
- A legislative day ends at 7 a.m.
- Members must get paid
- Revisor's Office is responsible for content of bills

- Pretty much everything else



## Tim Walz: What's Next?

- **Unprecedented situation**
  - *D or FL have never held Governorship for more than 8 years*
  - *No one has held Governor's office more than 8 years (Rudy Perpich and Tim Pawlenty tried)*
- **Only candidate on the two national tickets with a positive approval rating**
- **Liked by progressives and moderates**
- **Higher office options are currently blocked**
- **Vetted nationally – not all positive**
- **Lost the BIG microphone that the DFL Trifecta gave him**

# Next Two Years: D.C. As The Change Agent?

## The Washington Agenda

- Energy:** What happens to incentives for expanding renewable energy?
- Health:** Is the government safety net for individual insurance coverage out of vogue?
- Taxes:** Extend the Trump tax cuts? Expand them?
- Trade:** Tariffs as a weapon or a negotiations play?
- Immigration:** Will Trump deport, prevent or both?
- Inflation:** Can Trump influence Federal Reserve? Will tax cuts refuel inflation?
- Conflict:** How does Russia-Ukraine war end? Can Israel become less militant?
- Culture:** Roll back DEI? Change the administrative state?
- Technology:** How will a Trump administration address AI and crypto?

## The Minnesota Agenda

*Can we get a budget done in 2025 before Deer Hunting Season?*