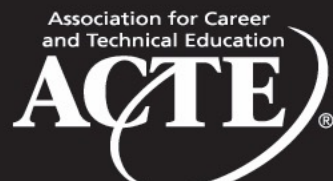





**March 21-23**  
**Arlington, Virginia**

# NATIONAL POLITICAL TRENDS AND FEDERAL CTE POLICY

REG LEICHTY | FORESIGHT LAW + POLICY | TWITTER: @REGLEICHTY



# POLITICAL LANDSCAPE NUMBERS TO KNOW IN 2022



50/50

60

218

53

42

# THE CLOSELY DIVIDED SENATE WILL INFLUENCE EVERY POLICY AND POLITICAL DECISION IN 2022

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For the fourth time in U.S. History the Senate is split evenly (50/50) between the political parties (2022, 2000, 1954, 1881)

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117<sup>TH</sup> Congress: 48 Democrats, 2 Independents, 50 Republicans (Independents caucus with the Ds)

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**BREAKING A FILIBUSTER TAKES 60 VOTES:** Passing contested policies and funding levels generally requires Democrats to maintain the support of every member of the caucus plus at least 10 Republicans.

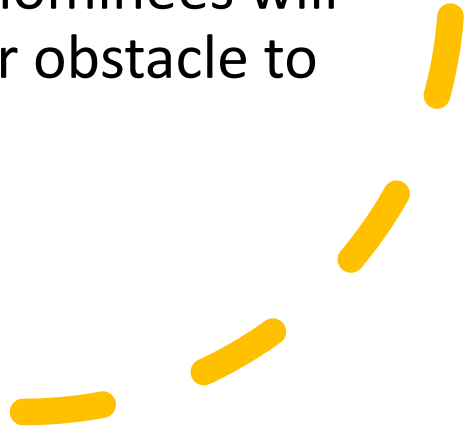
MAJORITY  
HOUSE  
CONTROL  
PROVIDES  
GREAT  
FLEXIBILITY, BUT  
LEGISLATING IS  
NOT A SLAM  
DUNK

Democrats control the House: **222 Democrats, 211 Republicans, and 2 vacancies.**

The Speaker must secure 218 votes to move legislation through the House, so she can only lose 4 Democrats on any partisan issue.

The Speaker must balance the needs of 35 “frontline members” and the sometimes-strident perspectives of the Progressive Caucus (97 members).

# THE PARTY IN CONTROL OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE SETS THE AGENDA

- Most legislating, including on education policy, happens within committees, so committee leadership and structures have huge policy and political implications.
  - Committee leaders, policy priorities, the focus of oversight hearings, and more are determined by the majority party.
  - The majority party also determines which bills come to the floor, when presidential nominees will be considered, and serves as an ally or obstacle to the White House.
- 

# One of the most predictable features of American politics is the loss of seats in Congress for the president's party at the midterm.

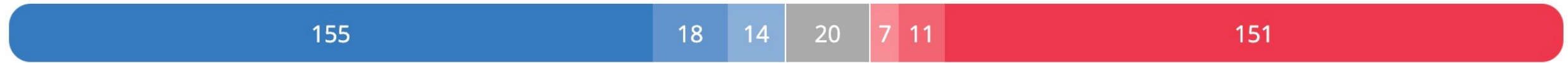
- **Fifty-three** members of Congress have already announced retirements: Six senators (5 Rs and 1 D) and Forty-seven representatives (23 Ds and 8 Rs).
- President Biden's national approval rating is **42%** (up slightly the past few weeks, but "underwater" since August 2021).
- The economy is strong, but historic midterm patterns, inflation, and other headwinds make change of control in House and/or Senate likely.

# Cook Political Report (March 2022)

There are 20 “toss up” House races (13 Democrats and 7 Republicans)

SOLID DEMOCRAT

SOLID REPUBLICAN



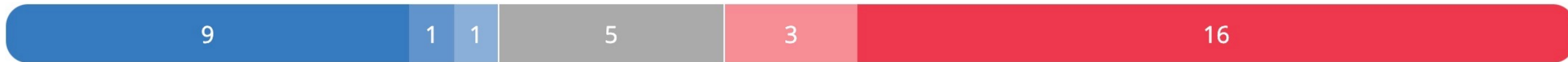
- **Likely** : These seats are not considered competitive at this point, but have the potential to become engaged.
- **Lean** : These are considered competitive races, but one party has an advantage.
- **Toss Up** : These are the most competitive; either party has a good chance of winning.

# Cook Political Report (March 2022)

There are five “toss up” Senate races  
(3 Democrats and 2 Republicans)

SOLID DEMOCRAT


SOLID REPUBLICAN



- **Likely** : These seats are not considered competitive at this point, but have the potential to become engaged.
- **Lean** : These are considered competitive races, but one party has an advantage.
- **Toss Up** : These are the most competitive; either party has a good chance of winning.



# The Changing Political Landscape has Implications for Education Policy

- Possible change of House/Senate control may prevent action on traditionally bipartisan priorities like CTE and workforce.
  - Successful campaign use of ed policy in 2021 to distinguish parties and candidates (e.g., parental bills of rights) may spark new/renewed opposition to federal programs and spending.
  - Significant non-education challenges (e.g., Ukraine, inflation, and other surprises) may crowd-out work on 2022 education priorities.
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