

# CH. 18 ELECTIONS

**TOPIC 5.8-5.9**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?



# I. ELECTING A PRESIDENT

## A. ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

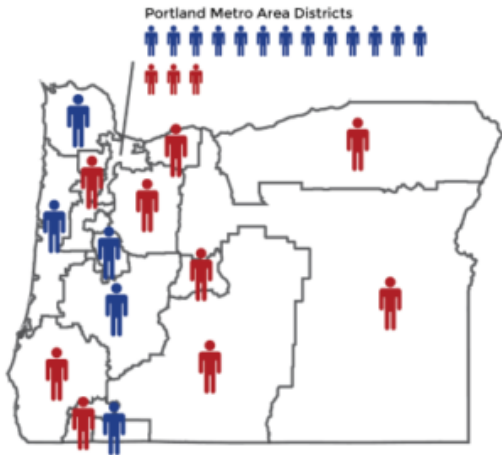
- **THE INVISIBLE PRIMARY?**
- **INCUMBENT ADVANTAGE: 80%**
- **PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES (15-30% PARTICIPATE)**
  - **CLOSED V. OPEN, BLANKET PRIMARY, SPLIT TICKET,**
  - **IOWA, NEW HAMPSHIRE (FRONT LOADING), AND SUPER TUESDAY**
- **PARTY CONVENTIONS: DIFFERENT STATES DIFFERENT SYSTEMS**
  - **DISTRICTS, WINNER TAKE ALL, PROPORTIONAL**
- **THE GENERAL ELECTION: SWING STATES**
- **ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

## B. WINNER-TAKE-ALL



# What the Oregon Legislature Could Look Like with Mixed Member Proportional Voting

30 Local Representatives



20 Statewide Representatives



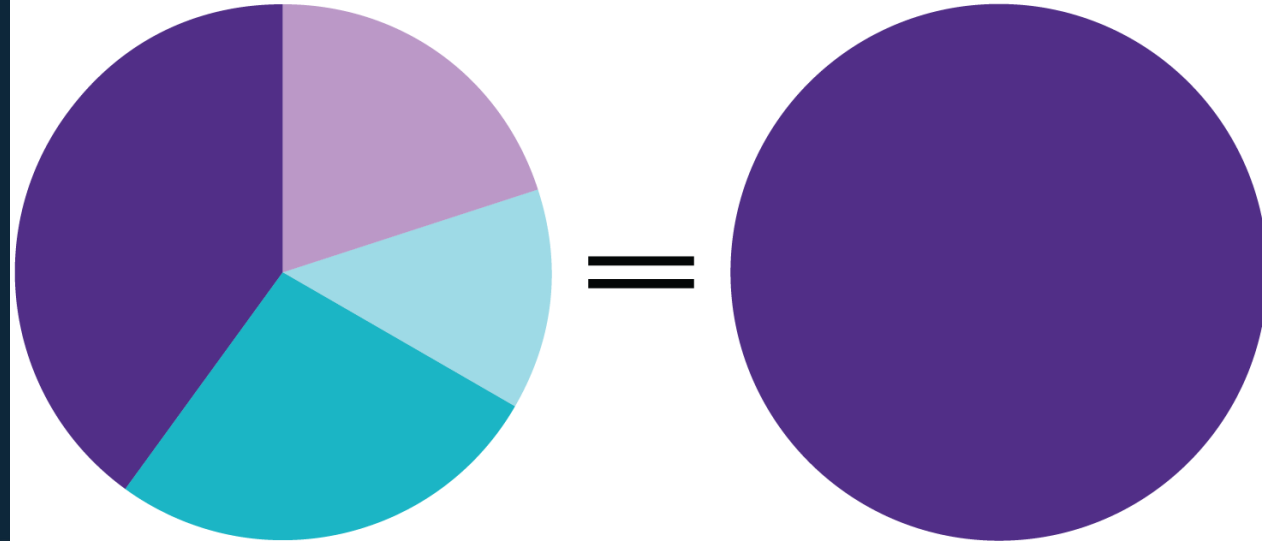
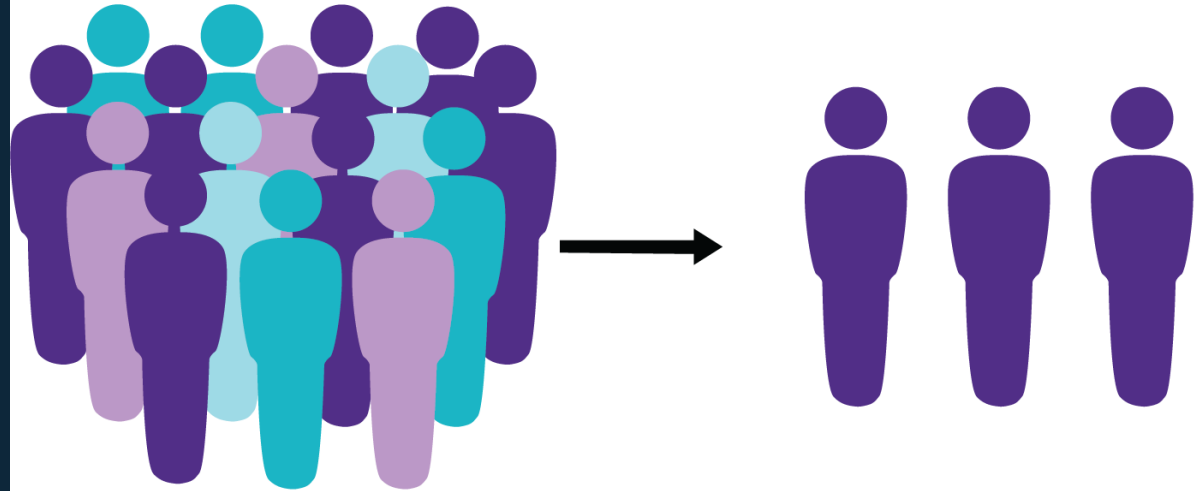
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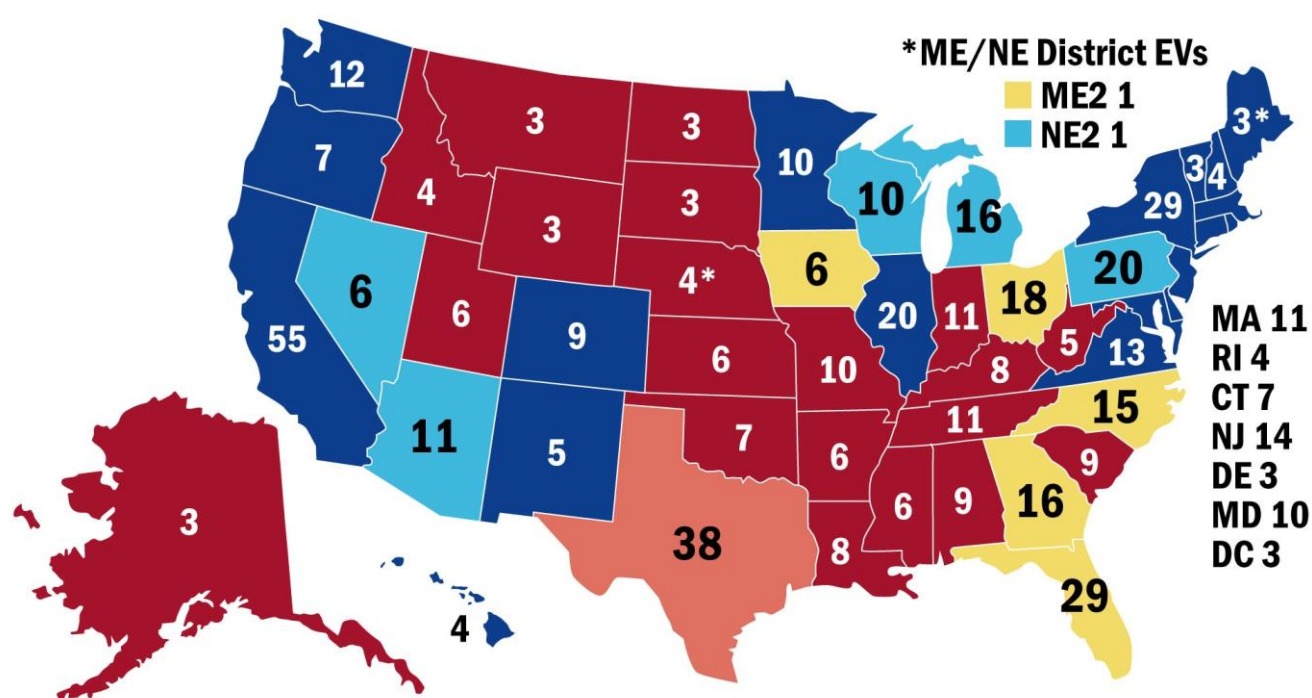
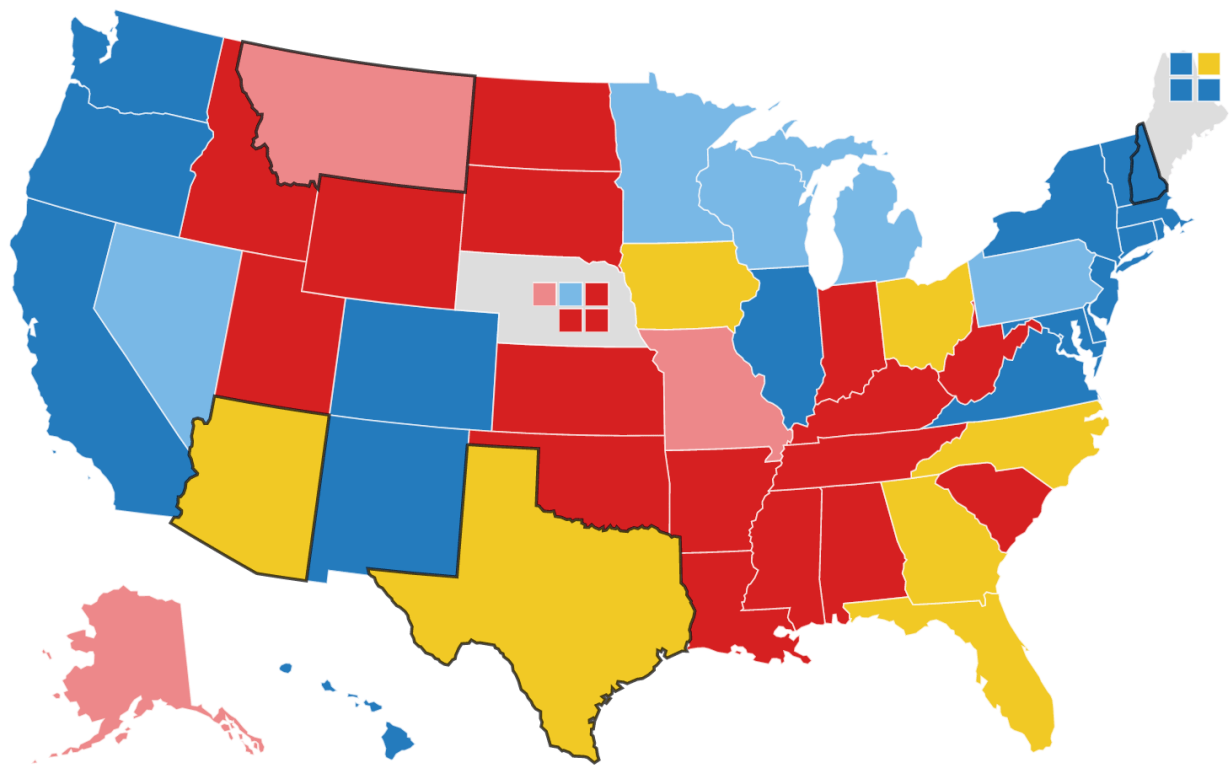
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50-Member State Legislature



# WINNER-TAKE-ALL





# 306

Joseph R. Biden Jr. ✓

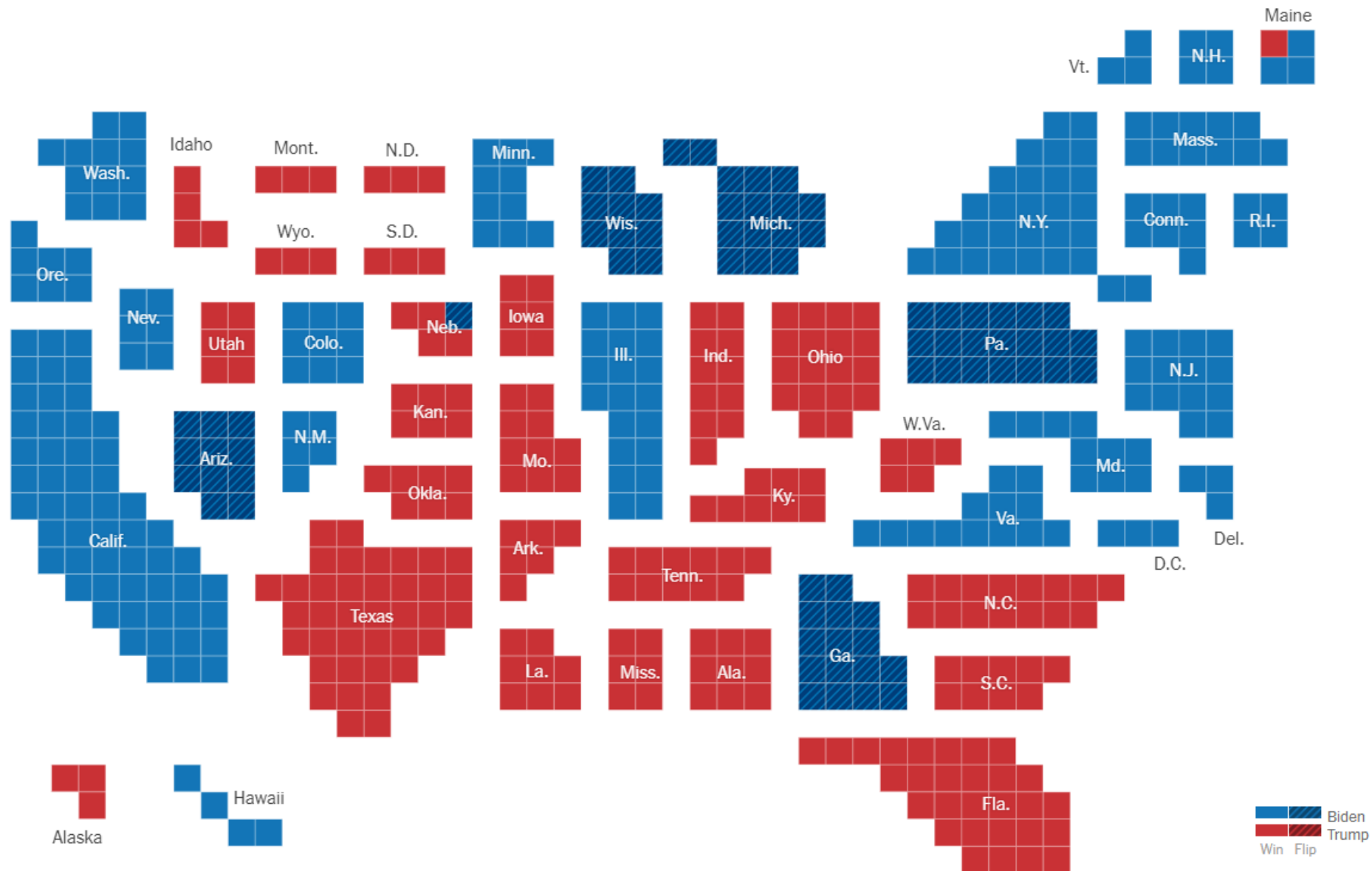
# 232

Donald J. Trump

79,554,207 votes (51.0%)

270  
TO WIN

73,611,180 votes (47.2%)



# II. CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

## A. SENATE V. HOUSE: MIDTERMS

## B. INCUMBENCY ADVANTAGE: HOUSE 90%, SENATE 80% ISH

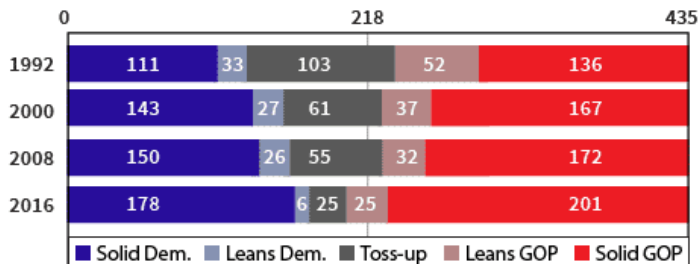
- WHY?
- COATTAIL EFFECT

## C. DISTRICTS AND PRIMARIES

- WHY ARE MOST SEATS SAFE?

### Gerrymandering Has Made Most Seats Safe

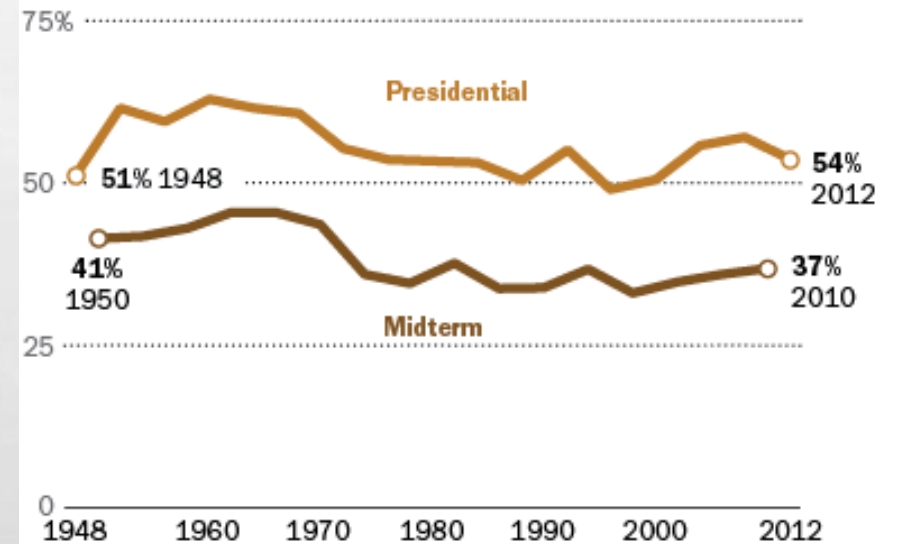
In the past 25 years, the number of congressional districts considered competitive has plunged from 103 to about 25. The high number of "safe seats" has allowed more extremists to get elected.



Sources: FiveThirtyEight, Cook Political Report

## When the Presidency's Not at Stake, Fewer Voters Turn Out

Turnout rate during ... election years



Note: Turnout rates calculated as total votes cast for president (in presidential election years) or House of Representatives (in midterm election years) divided by voting-age population.

Source: Census Bureau (voting-age population), Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (vote totals)

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# Source of Funds to 2010 Congressional Candidates

## How One Senate Campaign Spent \$7.3 Million Since Last October

