

For God's Sake, What is Going On?

Todd Explains the Election of 2018

Wherein I Brag About My Past Predictions

- In 2016, I supported SMOD
- I was disappointed...and continue to be
- Before I move on, I remind everyone of my record of prediction accuracy from 2016.

- In 2016, I said Donald Trump would...



...never, never, never, never...

...never...

...never, ever, never, never...

...never, be elected. Ever. Never.

Seriously.



Nowhere to Go But Up!

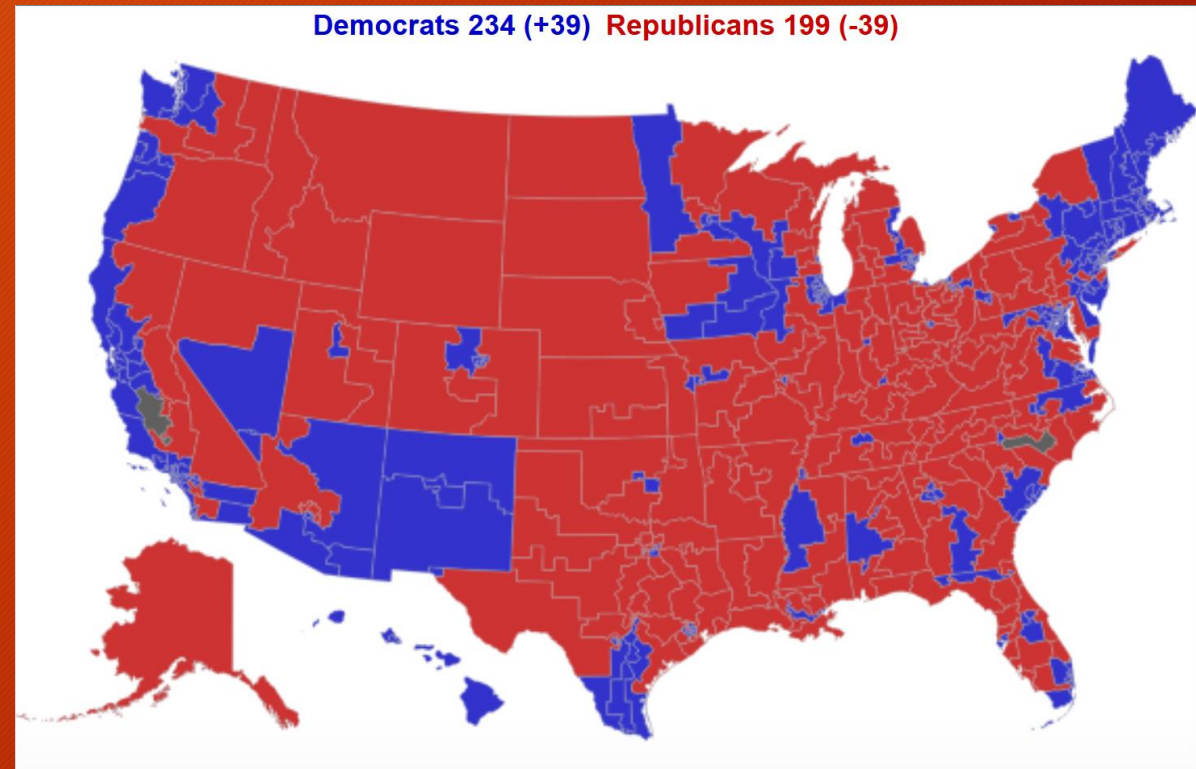
- Now the election of 2018 has happened, so what does it mean.
- Three interesting areas:
 - Federal results - in WA and across the country
 - State legislative results
 - State initiatives
- Ultimately, it wasn't that weird an election.
 - The left won an off-year election, as is typical
 - Voters turned down taxes, as is typical

Keep in mind, when you hit rock bottom, there ain't nowhere to go but up, baby.

Ludacris

Federal Results

- Everyone is happy!
- Democrats picked up the House, gaining 39 seats.
 - This is big, but smaller than the 2014 Republican wave
 - Here Republicans only lost the 8th
- Republicans kept the Senate, picking up 2 Senate seats
 - This is good, but lost winnable seats like Arizona
- Republicans are also happy Nancy Pelosi is Speaker
- Well, except normal humans
 - We get to endure gridlock, grandstanding, hearings, and lots and lots of Tweets. Sad!



State Legislative Results

- Democrats now have strong majorities in both chambers
 - Democrats lead 58-40 in House
 - 28-21 in Senate
- They control the agenda, but can't do anything they want
 - Speaker Chopp will try to hold it together
 - The Progressive Caucus will Resist!
 - A few house seats are close, so many freshmen members will be careful
- The Good News and the Bad News
 - Lots more money - a 17% increase in revenue from last projection
 - Lots more promises - school bailouts, salary increases, mental health, orca, culverts, roads, etc.

Voters Don't Like Taxes, But Happy to Restrict What Others Do

- Voters said no to taxes
 - Crushed 1631 - 57% - 43%
 - Supported 1634, which restricted food/beverage taxes - 56% - 44%
 - Encouraged the legislature to repeal taxes for oil spills
- Said “OK” to limits on guns and cops
 - Gun control initiative, 1639, passed (this is being challenged in court)
 - Initiative 940, which limits police officers passed (legislators already planning to revise this)
- Legislators looking to pass new taxes - and they are - should be wary



Where We Are

- “But he fights!”
 - People like Donald Trump because they aren’t winning in the current system and want someone to fight for them
 - That overrides actual policy considerations - saying nice things about him is more important than supporting his policies
- “Resist!”
 - The left is doing much the same thing - every issue is an opportunity to show their own righteousness and the evil of the other side
 - But, they end up complaining about actions they supported just two years ago - the tear gassing at the border being a case in point.

