

Polling News & Notes

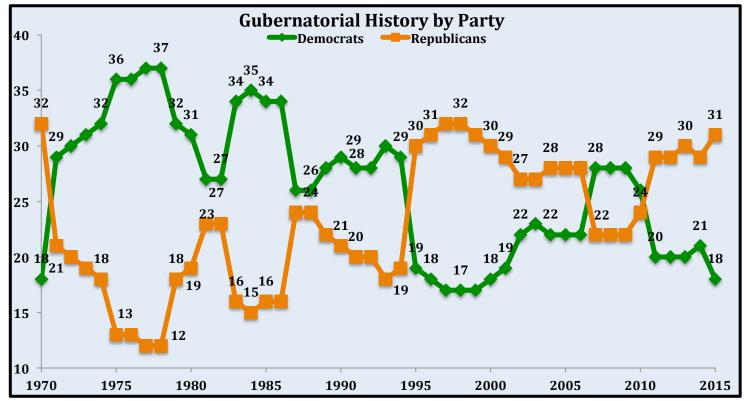
Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • November 12, 2015

Republicans Likely To Retain Majority Of Governorships: Last week, now Governor-elect Matt Bevin defeated Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway and picked up another gubernatorial seat for the Republican Party. This brings the total number of Republican governors to 32, tied for the highest number of Republican governors, which the GOP previously had in 1970, 1997 and 1998.

When President Obama took office in 2009, there were 28 Democratic governors and 22 Republicans. After the 2014-midterm elections, there were 18 Democratic governors and 31 Republicans. This includes Republican governors elected in deep-blue states such as Illinois, Massachusetts and Maryland.

In 2016, the Republican Party may pick-up three additional gubernatorial seats in West Virginia, Missouri and New Hampshire. These are open races without incumbent governors running for reelection. There is the potential that the party may lose a seat in Louisiana if Senator David Vitter is unsuccessful in succeeding Governor Bobby Jindal.

The dominance of the Republican Party in state elections since the beginning of President Obama's tenure could have long-lasting implications in future state and federal elections. While Republicans continue to build a deep bench of talent, Democrats will have difficulty finding worthy contenders for future elections.



Source: National Governors Association

Note: Chart reflects number of Democratic and Republican governors at the beginning of each calendar year.