2018 Midterm Elections:
A Look at Student Aid Policy Development
The Numbers

As of November 12\textsuperscript{th}: 

- **House**
  Democrat 227 – Republican 199  (9 undecided / net change 23)

- **Senate**
  Republican* 52 - Democrat 46 (1 undecided / net change 3)
  *2 Independents caucus with Democrats

- **Governors**
  Republican 26 - Democratic 23 (1 undecided)

Notes

- Moderates in both parties suffer loses
- 2018 House winners will be difficult to defeat in 2020
- 2020 Presidential election campaigns start
Setting the Stage for 2020

Voter Priorities from 2018 Exit Polls

• Healthcare availability/affordability
• Immigration reform
• Economic growth
• Trade disagreements resolution
• Strengthening infrastructure

Notes: While higher education access and affordability were campaign issues, they did not reach priority status in exit polls.
Political Overview: Congress

• Ability to pass—but not block—legislation
• Oversight hearings compete with legislative matters
• Compromise for common good
• Senate continues judicial confirmations
• Budget/Appropriations continue as primary legislative vehicles
• Increase of “Message” bills
Political Overview: Administration

- Empowerment of all federal agencies to advance administrative priorities
- Sub-regulatory guidance increases
- Set foundation for 2020 presidential election
- Agency leadership begin to depart in early 2019
Political Overview: States and Others

States
• Take lead on public policy development
• States become more important in national elections

Others
• All types of advocacy groups gain primary role as motivators of political bases
• There is never too much to spend on campaigns

Notes
• For third consecutive election cycle, healthcare turns out electorate
• Both party “middles” continue to erode; single-party rule proves ineffective
• Increased influence of interest groups and social media
School Environment

• Increased risks resulting from differing regulations between states and the federal government

• Potential for differing regulatory frameworks

• Courts could become arbitrator in policy/regulatory disputes

• NASFAA, regional, and state financial aid associations become more important to help navigate uncertainties
Thank You!

About Windham Professionals

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Bret Lief
Chief Strategic Advisor, Government and Higher Education
(202) 365 – 2271
Brett.Lief@windhampros.com