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2018 Midterm Elections: A Look at Student Aid Policy Development

As of November 12th:

- **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 losses
- 2018 House winners will be difficult to defeat in 2020
- 2020 Presidential election campaigns start

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.

- 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

- 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



States

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

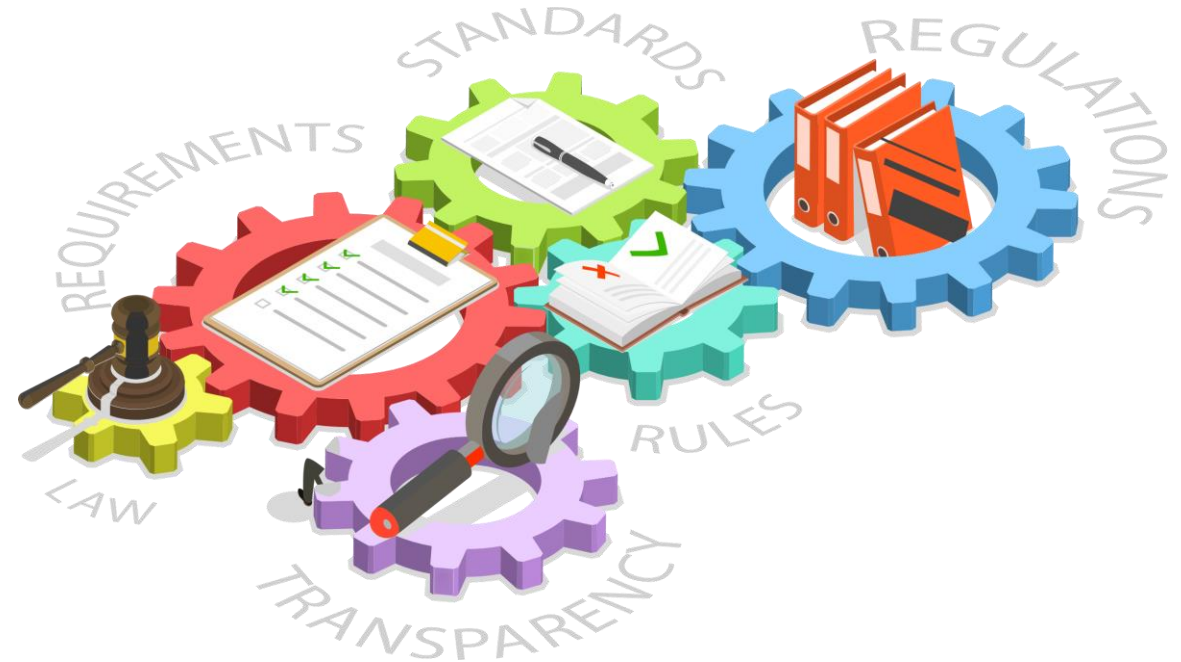
Others

- 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

- 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

Built from 36 years of forward-thinking customer care and accounts receivable management experience, our student contact center solutions offer a collaborative and comprehensive way to address your student communications and A/R challenges.

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