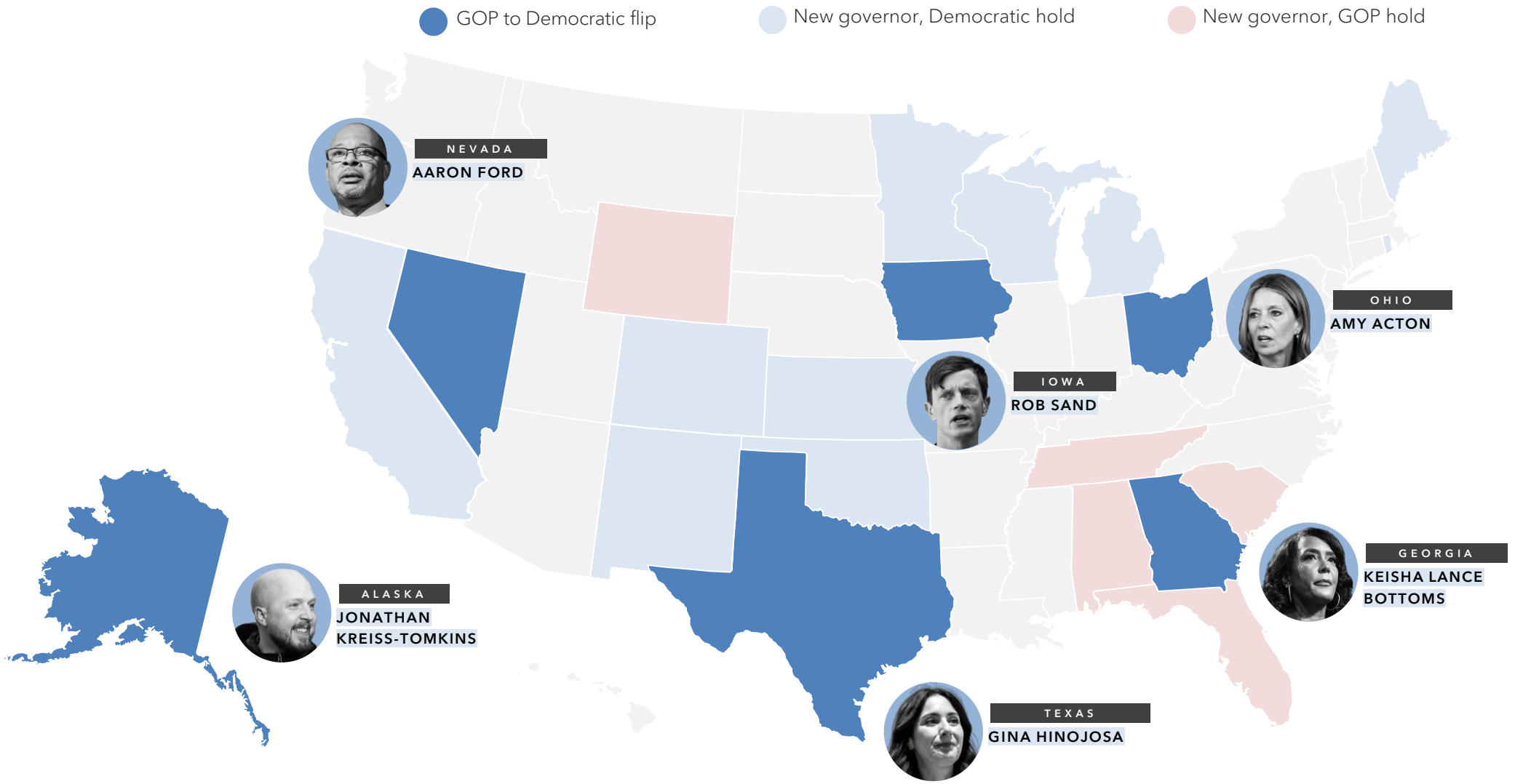
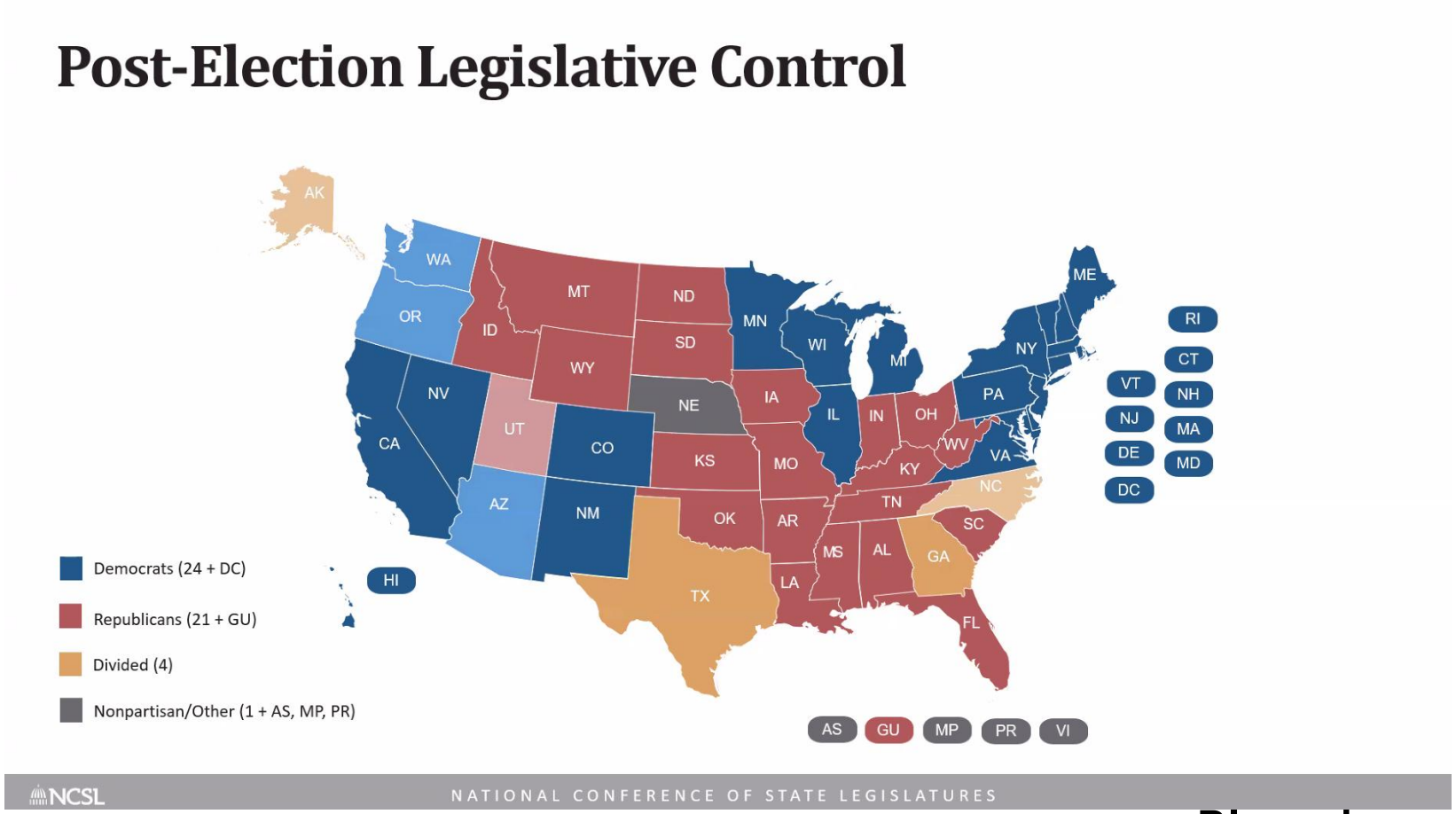
Democrats Flip Control of Six Governors' Mansions in Blue Wave



Note: Kreiss-Tomkins leads in Alaska but race hasn't been called as of Nov. 9

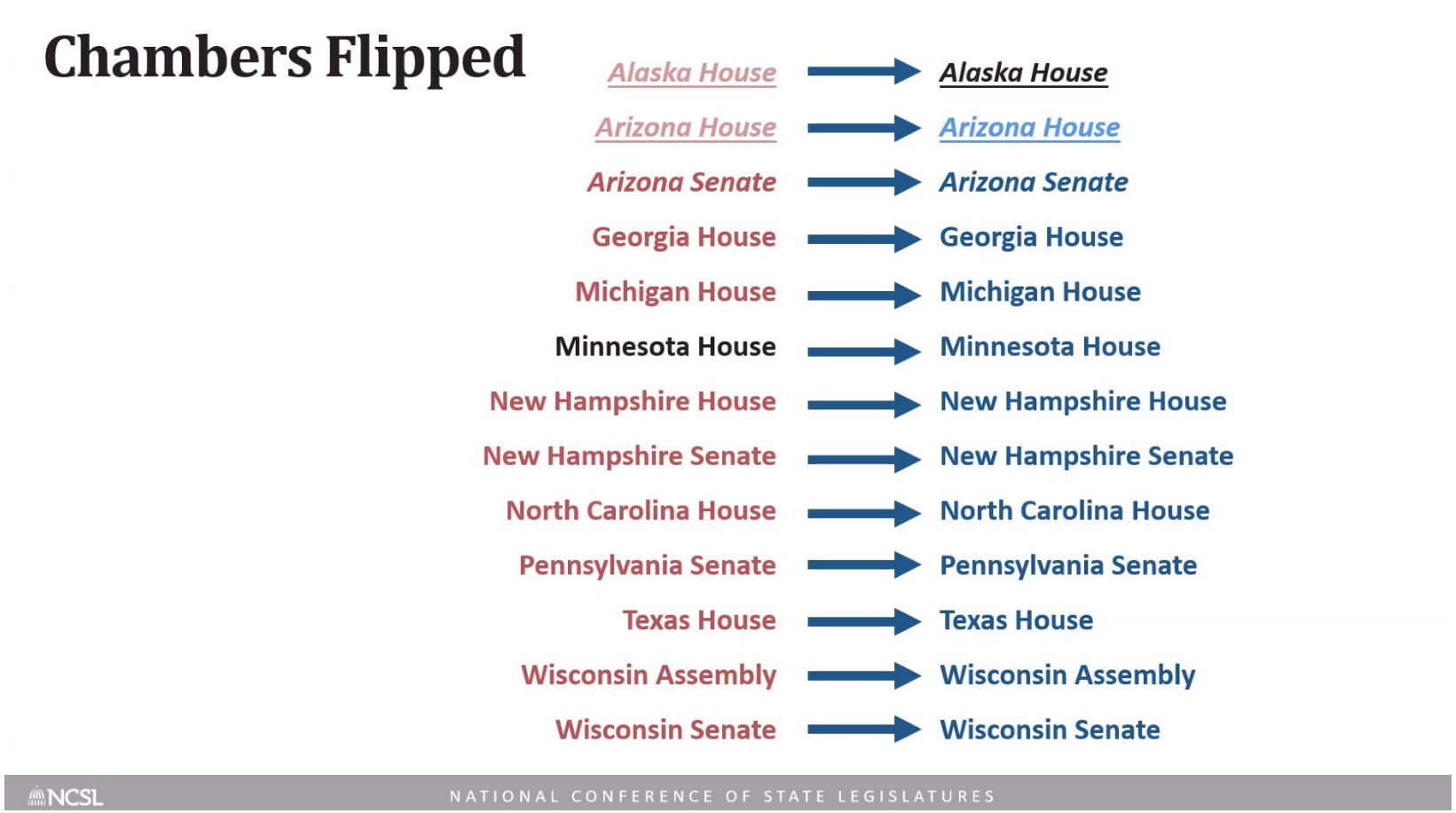
Bloomberg Government

States of Play



Bloomberg Government

Chambers Flipped



Texas Democrats Begin State Agenda Setting After Election Sweep



Texas Gov.-elect Gina Hinojosa (D) will take office alongside other Democrats elected statewide. Photographer: Ronaldo Schemidt / AFP via Getty Images

Nov 5, 2026, 5:00 AM EST



Alexandra Samuels
Correspondent

Texas Democrats plan to revisit Republican-backed education and election policies after Tuesday's historic sweep, although unresolved legislative races could determine how much they can accomplish.

Gov.-elect Gina Hinojosa and Lt. Gov.-elect Vikki Goodwin, who will preside over the traditionally Republican-controlled state Senate, will take office alongside other Democrats elected statewide, ending more than three decades of Republican control.

Democrats flipped the 150-member Texas House for the first time since 2002. The Associated Press had called 76 races for Democrats and 61 for Republicans by Wednesday afternoon, with several races still undecided.

But Republicans retained control of the 31-member Senate, whose makeup could shift further: state Sens. Sarah Eckhardt (D) and Nathan Johnson (D) are moving into statewide office as comptroller and attorney general, respectively. Eckhardt's election would open her Austin-area seat, while Johnson's victory created another vacancy in Dallas. Both seats would require special elections.

While Goodwin will preside over the state Senate, the Republican majority could curtail her authority over legislation, much of which depends on Senate rules. Hinojosa will have more independent power to appoint agency leaders and veto bills.

Democratic lawmakers are already abuzz about who among their caucus might lead the Texas House next session and identify proposals for January's legislature to tackle, including changes that would limit the powers of statewide officials.

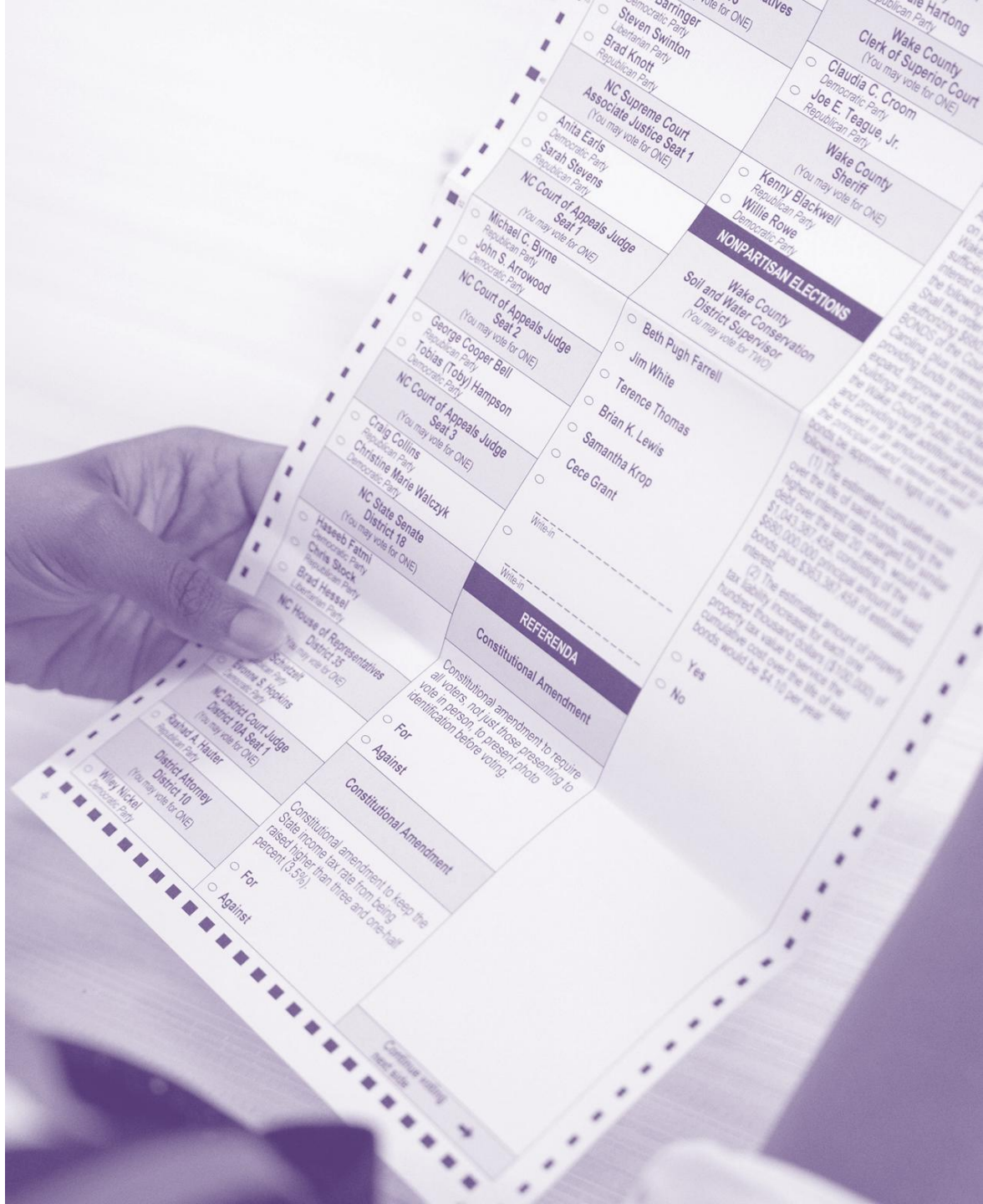
Source: "Texas Democrats Begin State Agenda Setting After Election Sweep," Bloomberg Government

BLOOMBERG GOVERNMENT **ONPOINT**

Voters Weigh Statewide Ballot Measures

Updated November 4, 2026

Claire Hebert
State Legislative Analyst



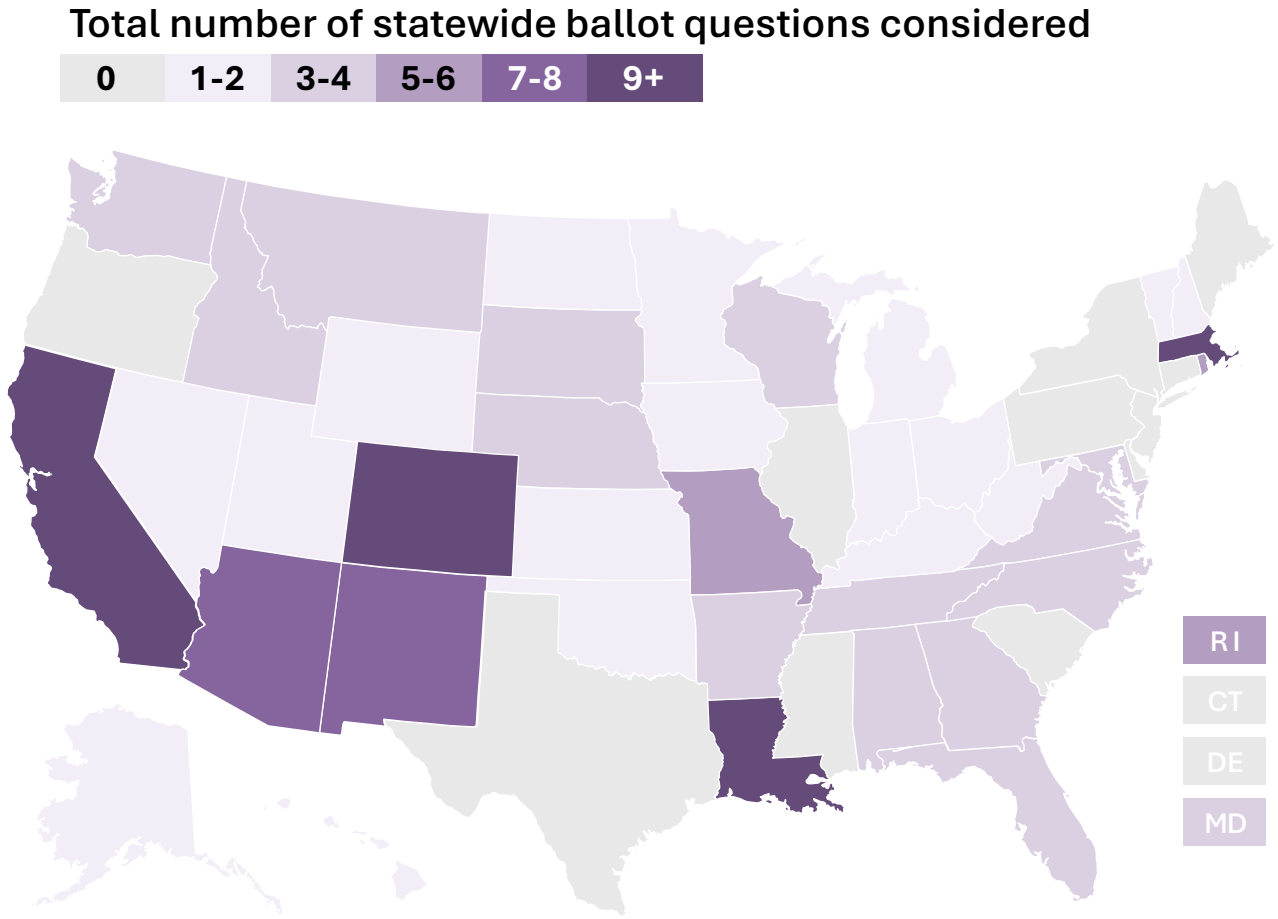
Voters in Nearly 4 out of 5 States Considered Ballot Measures

Voters in 39 states considered more than 100 ballot measures in midterms

- All 50 states let legislatures refer measures to the ballot for voter approval — a legislative referendum
- Procedures and the types of measures vary and can amend a state's constitution or statutes

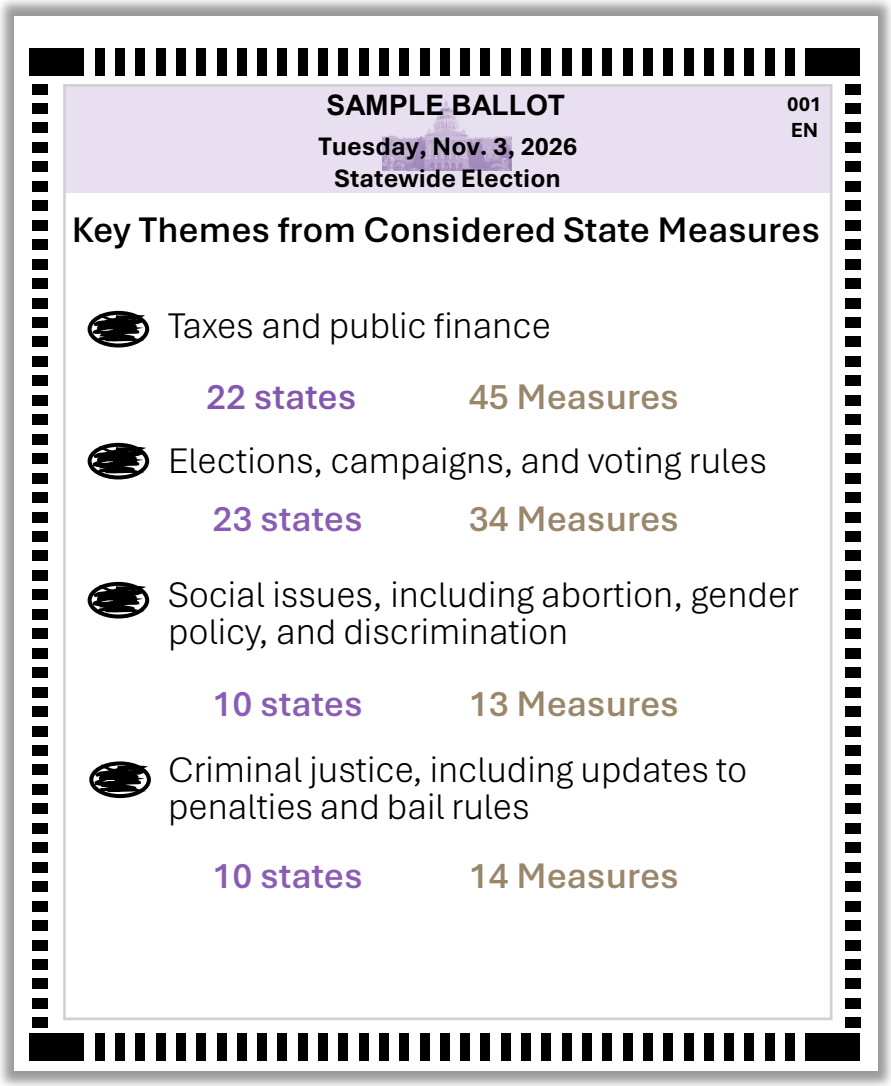
Twenty-six states and Washington, D.C., allow voters to petition for proposed changes with sufficient signatures

- A constitutional amendment or new statute can be placed on the ballot under the "initiative process," while a "veto referendum" asks voters whether to uphold or repeal an already-enacted law



Note: Mississippi's initiative process was effectively suspended in 2021 after the state Supreme Court ruled that its constitution's signature requirements couldn't be met with four congressional districts.
Source: Bloomberg Government analysis

Taxes, Election Rules, and Abortion Were Common Midterm Themes



- **Elections** measures tackled topics of US citizenship, voter identification, procedural changes, as well as campaign donation limits
- **Tax** measures aimed to impose a wealth tax on assets, reduce individual income taxes, and expand property tax exemptions
- **Social issues** included abortion care, gender determinations in school sports, and broad discrimination policies
- **Criminal justice** measures proposed increased penalties and stricter bail rules, and updated policy on recreational marijuana

State Ballots Targeted Wealth, Income, and Property Taxes

TAX ON WEALTHY

California would ? tax individuals with assets over $1 billion and ✓ make permanent rates for earnings over $371,000
? Washington would repeal a 9.9% tax on annual individual income over $1 million and prohibit taxes on individual income



PROPERTY TAX

✗ Wyoming would create a property tax exemption equal to 50% of the assessed value of a qualifying homeowner's primary residence
✓ North Carolina and ✗ Oklahoma measures would limit increases in property taxes or taxable value

INCOME TAX

Competing ballots in Colorado would either ? establish a graduated income tax or ? cap individual or corporate income tax rate at 4.4%
✓ North Carolina would reduce the maximum income tax rate to 3.5%, from 7%



HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS



✓ Florida and ✓ Louisiana would expand property tax relief for qualifying primary residences

TAX PROHIBITIONS

? California would prohibit new state taxes imposed on the ownership of personal property or tax that applies retroactively based on past activities
✓ Tennessee would bar the legislature from taxing real, personal, or mixed property



APPROVAL PROCEDURES



✓ Wisconsin would prohibit the governor from using a partial veto to increase any tax

? Iowa would raise the threshold to increase income tax rates to two-thirds vote of both chambers