

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

MISSION

The Mission of National 7002 Impacted Schools is to secure federal funding which reimburses eligible districts for tax revenue lost (for student programs) due to the federal governments removal of land from the local tax roles; such revenue to be used for the public education of students.

VISION

Secure **100%** funding for the 7002 program

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

7002 Impact Aid Funds will be distributed in a fair and equitable manner

Membership in Section 7002 will be expanded

No decision will financially destroy or severely harm any district

GOAL

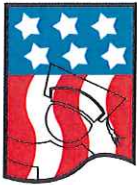
Secure funding to increase the 2009 appropriations for Section 7002 to \$104,208,335, which would bring it to a funding level of one-third of our entitlement over the next ten years.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop the strategy that will cause the achievement of this goal
2. Enhance communications among 7002 districts
3. Enhance communication with members of Congress
4. Work with the leadership of other NAFIS groups to form a unified front to speak with one voice
5. Cultivate leadership from within the 7002 group
6. Assure continued reauthorization of the 7002 Impact Aid Program
7. Broaden participation by increasing membership and encouraging active participation by current members

ACTION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES

*As outlined in Advocacy Action Plan



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association Statement in Opposition to CHOICE Act (115th Congress)

ISSUE:

Title III of S. 235, the “Creating Hope and Opportunity for Individuals and Communities through Education” (CHOICE) Act, establishes a voucher program for the children of military personnel who live on military installations. The Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) opposes this legislation.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- Military parents and their children deserve the support of our nation. Public school districts with significant numbers of military dependents have a strong history of offering the academic and emotional supports necessary to support this unique population, including educational counseling and other programs specifically designed for military students.
- The Impact Aid program provides funding to public school districts based on the number of military-connected children enrolled, those living both on and off the installation. Rather than creating a new program when funding is scarce, Congress should invest in programs like Impact Aid to safeguard the ability of public schools to provide a high-quality education to the students they serve.
- The Federal government should not create a new program when funding for current obligations, including Impact Aid, is not being met. The Federal government should not fund voucher programs as extensive research has shown that voucher schools do not improve the educational outcomes for students.¹

STATEMENT:

The Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) stands with the military impacted schools community in strong opposition of “The CHOICE Act.” Diverting federal funding to non-public schools would place a greater financial burden on local communities and taxpayers. Instead of providing funds to an unproven school voucher program, Congress should increase funding for Impact Aid for military impacted schools, and to benefit all federally connected students.

¹ [New York Times](https://nyti.ms/2maWvKN), “Dismal Voucher Results...”, February 23, 2017: <https://nyti.ms/2maWvKN>



Mulvaney: Trump 'wanted the decks' in deal with De

BY MAX GREENWOOD - 09/08/17 10:05 AM EDT

4 SHARES

f SHARE t TWEET

Just In...

Clinton won't rule out questioning legitimacy of election

ADMINISTRATION

— 26S AGO

Schumer calls for gas price 'gouge watch' after hurricanes

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

— 1M 41S AGO

Pence hires Freedom Caucus adviser

ADMINISTRATION

— 2M 31S AGO

Biden rejects universal basic income idea popular in Silicon Valley

FINANCE

— 5M 37S AGO

Virginia gov: Cassidy-Graham bill 'nothing more than a tax cut for the rich'

HEALTHCARE

— 38M 36S AGO

NY Times's WH reporter to delete 'distraction' Twitter account

MEDIA

— 40M 43S AGO

Drudge: Ingraham's new prime-time Fox show could begin next week

MEDIA — 49M 43S AGO

Democratic leaders want full CBO analysis of ObamaCare repeal



White House budget director Mick Mulvaney on Friday cast President Trump's decision to strike a short-term deal to raise the debt ceiling with Democrats as an attempt to "clear the decks" in order to push tax reform.

"The very first thing he was thinking was, 'Look, we have things to do,' " Mulvaney said on "Fox & Friends." "We have a hurricane, still, in Texas. ... We've got a hurricane getting ready to hit Florida, and right after we deal with that, we want to deal with tax reform."

In a meeting with congressional leaders on Wednesday, Trump shocked Republicans by agreeing to a deal with Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to raise the debt limit and fund the government until December, in addition to passing billions in relief for Hurricane Harvey.



Mulvaney said tax reform "is and has been and remains the president's top domestic priority, and he wanted to clear the decks so that we can deal with those three things — those two emergencies and tax reform. And to the extent that he was able to sort of move those issues off to December, I think that was a great idea."

The Senate on Thursday passed the stopgap measure to fund the government and raise the debt ceiling.

That legislation also included more than \$15 billion for hurricane and disaster relief in response to the devastation caused by Harvey in Texas and Louisiana. Another storm, Hurricane Irma, is expected to make landfall in Florida on Saturday, and Hurricane Jose lingers behind it.

Trump has begun a more aggressive push for tax reform in recent weeks, making appearances in Missouri and North Dakota to pitch his plan.

TAGS CHARLES SCHUMER MICK MULVANEY TAX REFORM

and Trump's deal with the Democrats

In spite of the hurricanes, the week's most unexpected event came Wednesday when Trump sided with the Democrats on a [deal to keep the government running until December 8](#). The bill (signed Friday) appropriated \$15.3 billion for hurricane relief, continued government spending at current levels elsewhere, and raised the debt ceiling. It did all that without any of the usual hostage-taking: no spending cuts to balance the hurricane relief, no attacks on ObamaCare or Medicaid, not even money for Trump's border wall. There was also none of the brinksmanship we've gotten used to: The House and Senate didn't play chicken with each other, and the vote wasn't delayed until minutes before the government would have to shut down.

Republicans felt undercut and several were "seething" (according to [The L.A. Times](#)). All 90 of the House votes against the bill came from Republicans. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Budget Director Mulvaney reportedly were "[met with groans, boos and hisses](#)" Friday morning when they tried to get Republican congresspeople to support the deal.

That agreement was part of a larger Trump charm offensive towards Democrats. When Trump went to North Dakota Wednesday to promote his (so far vacuous, as I explained [last week](#)) tax reform proposal, he [took Democratic Senator Heidi Heitkamp with him](#) on Air Force One, and appeared with her on stage.

For a Democrat fighting to keep her seat next year in a state Trump won by 36 points, the senator's day could not have gone much better. Trump's tax push has yet to be written as legislation, and a vote still remains a hypothetical. Heitkamp's appearance with the president, then, cost her little in exchange for what amounted to an endorsement of her willingness to work across the aisle.

Since so far Trump's tax reform "proposal" is only a vague list of principles, Heitkamp could easily support it in theory and still vote against the bill that ultimately comes to the floor.

He also [took Nancy Pelosi's suggestion](#) to reassure DACA immigrants that they won't be deported in the next six months. He [agreed with Chuck Schumer](#) on the goal of repealing the debt ceiling permanently.

(BTW: That's a good idea. The debt limit has essentially become a self-destruct button that Congress must periodically decide whether to push. A debt ceiling made sense [before 1974](#), when Congress considered each tax and appropriation separately and members could duck responsibility for the deficits those bills added up to. But now the irresponsibility runs in the other direction: A member can vote for a budget that includes a deficit, and then preen for his constituents by voting against allowing the government to borrow the money.)

The punditry has a number of theories about why Trump is doing this. If you're in a generous mood, you might imagine that he's doing it for the good of the country. After all, we avoid a government shutdown or a debt crisis for another three months, and hurricane victims start getting help, all without creating another artificial crisis.

You might also imagine that he's decided to begin taking seriously the **populism** he campaigned on. Up until now, Trump's executive orders have nodded in the direction of campaign promises about immigration and trade, but he has let Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell control his legislative agenda. So ObamaCare repeal-and-replace would have done its greatest damage **in precisely the poor rural communities where Trump is so popular**, and tax reform looked likely to become yet another **giveaway to the super-rich**, with working-class Americans offered little more than a **mess of pottage** in exchange for Social Security and Medicare birthrights that would inevitably be cut once budget deficits balloon.

So charming Democrats could, in theory, be the overture of an **authentically populist** tax reform, one that eliminates the loopholes where the rich hide their income and uses the money to either cut middle-class taxes or lower the deficit.

Another theory is that Trump didn't like hearing that Congress would be too busy in September to accomplish much on tax reform or infrastructure, so he made a quick deal that would **"clear the decks"**. [The Hill](#) reports:

Lawmakers had expected to fight over fiscal issues right up until the end of September, but now the schedule for the month is surprisingly clear.

Finally, there's [Josh Marshall's theory](#), which I have to say sounds the most plausible to me:

*Trump needs to dominate people. Clearly Trump felt that **McConnell and Ryan are not serving him well enough** or loyally enough or both. So he lashed out or tried to damage them. **Schumer and Pelosi were simply the most convenient cudgels available.** ... It's been clear for weeks that [Trump] feels routinely betrayed by these two men. They don't produce for him. They embarrass. They fail to defend him. The need to dominate runs deeper than any policy agenda or ideological ambition.*

I interpret the recent overtures with a high-school-dance metaphor: Trump's date hasn't been giving him enough adulation, so he's punishing her by **flirting with her rival**. Pelosi and Schumer should enjoy the dance, but not get fooled into thinking that some great romance is starting. Trump will be back with Ryan and McConnell as soon as he thinks they've learned their lesson.

SATIRE FROM THE BOROWITZ REPORT

IN STUNNING NEW DEAL WITH DEMOCRATS, TRUMP AGREES TO BE IMPEACHED



By Andy Borowitz September 15, 2017



Photograph By Tom Williams / CQ Roll Call via Getty

WASHINGTON (The Borowitz Report)—In his most stunning deal yet with Democratic leaders, Donald Trump agreed on Friday to be impeached by the end of 2017.

Emerging from an Oval Office meeting with Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, a beaming Trump touted the deal for his imminent removal from office.

“Chuck and Nancy and I got a deal done on impeachment,” Trump said. “It was a good deal and it was a fast deal.”

Trump said that the Democrats had convinced him that agreeing to be impeached would make him soar in popularity. “People are going to love me for doing this,” Trump said. “They’re going to love it on all the channels.”

In a barb aimed at House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Trump said that the impeachment agreement was something he “never could have gotten done” with the Republican leadership.

“I went around and around with the Republicans for months on health care,” he said. “This meeting with Chuck and Nancy took, what, five minutes, and I could get back to watching TV.”

Hoping to capitalize on their momentum, Pelosi and Schumer said that they would meet with Trump next week to discuss the ouster of Vice-President Mike Pence.

Andy Borowitz is the New York Times best-selling author of “The 50 Funniest American Writers,” and a comedian who has written for The New Yorker since 1998. He writes the Borowitz Report, a satirical column on the news, for newyorker.com. [Read more »](#)





Patricia Murphy

Follow: [@1patriciamurphy](#) patriciamurphy1@yahoo.com

Opinion

Opinion: How Donald Trump Made Congress Great Again

It may help the country — if not the president

Posted Sep 14, 2017

5:01 AM



Patricia Murphy
[@1patriciamurphy](#)

Opinion: Trump Giving Ryan and McConnell the Power on DACA

Opinion: Texas Is Doing Its Part — Now It's Congress' Turn

Opinion: Don't Worry Jeff Flake — Trump Won't Hurt Your Chances



President Donald Trump's rocky relationship with lawmakers has made Congress free enough to act in the country's best interests, Murphy writes. (Win McNamee/Getty Images)

If you were a member of Congress, especially a Republican member of Congress, you could be forgiven for having at least some contempt for President Donald Trump.

He's used the GOP-led Congress as a punching bag and a scapegoat. He demands absolute loyalty from Republican members, but abandoned them last week the moment he saw an opening to strike a deal to raise the debt ceiling with Senate Minority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#) and House Minority Leader [Nancy Pelosi](#).

He's called Republicans losers and flakes. He's defamed their parents and insulted their spouses. He dispatched a Cabinet secretary to threaten Sen. [Lisa Murkowski](#), R-Alaska, after she blocked an Obamacare repeal bill and told his 36 million Twitter followers that Tennessee is "not happy!" with Sen. [Bob Corker](#), R-Tenn., after Corker voiced concern about Trump's fitness for office. He has openly courted primary challengers to run against members of his own party, even the ones who have voted for almost all of his agenda.

On the plus side ...

So it's ironic that, in more ways than one, Congress is living its best life under Trump. **After years of partisan gridlock, bills are moving, or at least being debated.** Long-sidelined committees are doing essential work. And in a town where party politics has swamped almost every other governing instinct, members of Congress are showing more real independence to speak their minds and vote accordingly.

Somehow, all of the dysfunction between the Republican House and Senate and Trump's White House has created a Congress that is showing signs of functioning again. In Oprah parlance, Congress is becoming its best self. In Trump verbiage, Congress is making itself great again.

In the last two weeks alone, Congress has quickly approved disaster relief, raised the debt ceiling and dispensed with a government shutdown weeks before the deadline, three items they've struggled with for years. Sens. [Orrin Hatch](#), R-Utah, and [Ron Wyden](#), D-Ore., struck a five-year funding deal in the Senate Finance Committee to extend CHIP funding for five years.

Sens. [Lamar Alexander](#), R-Tenn., and [Patty Murray](#), D-Wash., are holding hearings to repair, not replace, Obamacare. Speaker [Paul Ryan](#) and Pelosi are meeting with House leaders on a DACA bill that has tied Congress in knots for the last five years.

Committee chairmen are leading in their areas of expertise, leaders are meeting to strike deals, and the legislative branch is finally legislating.

A significant piece of the new dynamic has been Congress stepping up as a co-equal branch of government to rein in and even reject the president when he has said or done things few people can explain, even his fellow Republicans.

Want insight more often? Get Roll Call in your inbox

email address

That was certainly the case when Democrats and Republicans acted almost unanimously, 517-votes strong, to strengthen sanctions against Russia for hacking American election systems, even when Trump made it clear [he didn't want to](#).

That was also the case when the House and Senate [unanimously passed a joint resolution](#), which the president must sign, to denounce white nationalists, neo-Nazis, the Klu Klux Klan and other hate groups who caused the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, last month.

'Not his subordinates'

Standing up for the country, despite the president's objections, seems to be the primary motivation behind the Russian hacking investigation by the Senate Intelligence Committee, which has been serious, disciplined, and bipartisan. And that was absolutely the thinking behind Sen. [John McCain's extraordinary op-ed](#) last month reminding his fellow members of Congress that they don't work for Trump.

"We must, where we can, cooperate with him," McCain wrote in The Washington Post. "But we are not his subordinates. We don't answer to him. We answer to the American people."

As much as Republicans in Congress are acting out against Trump, he has been acting out against them, too, beyond just mean tweets. Frustrated by slow Republican progress on his agenda, Trump [decided to skip the headaches of a GOP-only deal](#) last week and strike the debt ceiling deal with Pelosi and Schumer, over the objections of his own Cabinet officials. It wasn't what Republicans wanted, but the deal got done. The crisis was averted, and for once, Congress and the president avoided a self-inflicted wound.

Almost despite himself, Trump has made Congress free enough to act in the country's best interests and independent enough to act against their own president, no matter their affiliation, if that's what it takes.

He's strengthening the resolve of the one group that can make him a success or take him down.

A stronger, more independent Congress may not always be in this president's best interests, but it is in the country's best interests, and we have Donald Trump to thank for it.

Roll Call columnist Patricia Murphy covers national politics for The Daily Beast. Previously, she was the Capitol Hill bureau chief for Politics Daily and founder and editor of Citizen Jane Politics. Follow her on Twitter [@1PatriciaMurphy](#).

Get breaking news alerts and more from Roll Call [on your iPhone](#) or your [Android](#).

CONGRESS

GOP struggles to control its own agenda

The next six months are full of hazards for Republicans — largely created by Trump.

By BURGESS EVERETT, SEUNG MIN KIM and KYLE CHENEY | 09/09/2017 07:33 AM EDT



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell talks about recently passed House disaster relief funding during a stakeout following policy luncheons on Sept. 6. | John Shinkle/POLITICO

President Donald Trump's flirtations with Democrats and fixation on divisive campaign promises have paved the way for hazardous, rolling deadlines over the next six months on spending, the debt ceiling and immigration.

The debt and spending bill approved by Capitol Hill on Friday averted imminent fiscal disaster, but it's added more misery for a Republican Party whose agenda has floundered even with unified control of Washington for the first time in a decade. It's also given Democrats significant leverage to imperil tax reform, the GOP's best hope at a major legislative victory.

Rather than dictating the agenda of Capitol Hill, Republican lawmakers oftentimes find themselves at the whims of a capricious White House, Democrats in the minority and a calendar that's getting increasingly packed ahead of campaign season next spring.

Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) predicted in January that tax reform, Obamacare repeal and a border wall would all be done by now. Instead, Obamacare repeal may be completely dead at month's end, there are just broad strokes on tax reform, and many Republicans oppose the border wall being pushed by their own president.

Now GOP lawmakers across the party's ideological spectrum are agonizing about the party's stark lack of achievements after getting rolled by Democrats in debt ceiling negotiations this week.

The most reliable politics newsletter.

Sign up for POLITICO Playbook and get the latest news, every morning — in your inbox.

✉ Sign up for POLITICO Playbook and get the latest news, every morning — in your inbox.

Your email...

By signing up you agree to receive email newsletters or alerts from POLITICO. You can unsubscribe at any time.

“If we get to December and we’ve not repealed and replaced Obamacare, we’ve not built the wall, we’ve not done tax reform, let me just tell you it is not going to be pretty,” said House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-N.C.).

“I’m extremely worried,” said Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), an ally of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), who’s urging him to cancel an October recess to get more accomplished. “My gosh, why were we not here in August doing all of this?”

The crush of deadlines and internal GOP feuds only begins to describe the obstacles facing Republicans this fall. The most immediate decision is whether to revisit the painful health care debate that seemingly ended when Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) voted down a repeal bill in July. The Senate parliamentarian recently ruled that the GOP loses its powerful party-line repeal powers to dismantle the 2010 health care law after Sept. 30.

The quick passage this week of the deal brokered by Trump and Democratic leaders to provide Hurricane Harvey relief, fund the government and lift the debt ceiling into December could open a hole in the Senate’s schedule in late September to take one more shot at Obamacare, depending on how quickly the chamber can pass a defense policy bill this month.

No health care plan seems likely to get 50 votes, but there is immense pressure from the White

House and its congressional allies for the Senate to try again — a battle beleaguered GOP leaders are wary of fighting again.

And for all the talk about tax reform, the GOP is nowhere close to passing a budget resolution for the next fiscal year — a critical step to unlocking procedural tools to allow Republicans to avoid a Democratic filibuster in the Senate.

The GOP leadership is considering bringing a budget to the Senate floor in the first week of October, according to Republican sources. But drafting a fleshed-out fiscal blueprint with policy details, rather than a “shell” resolution that Republicans did last year for Obamacare repeal, may also prompt internal GOP battles over spending priorities.

“This budget process is broken,” said Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.), who is close to Trump. “I’ve been screaming about it for two years.”

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, the House’s point man on tax reform, said there’s still no time frame for the budget to pass or for lawmakers to release substantive details of a tax reform package.

“I don’t know what that schedule is,” the Texas Republican said. He added, “We’re just focused on delivering [tax reform] to the president’s desk by the end of the year.”

Democrats, high on their victory this week with the fiscal deal, hope to build on their momentum and throw another wrench into the Republicans’ ambitious agenda, particularly on tax reform. They believe the pressure of the new December deadline will make it difficult for the GOP to juggle both a spending bill and a partisan tax code rewrite.

“I certainly hope it makes it more difficult to carry out an agenda of trickle-down economics,” House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said of the internecine GOP fight in a conference call

with reporters on Friday.

Still, Republicans remain outwardly optimistic for a tax overhaul's prospects, viewing it as a political imperative for the party after the GOP crashed and burned on its push to dismantle Obamacare. Ryan has vowed to complete a tax overhaul by the end of the year, and other Republicans also view Dec. 31 as a drop-dead date.

Without action on tax reform, Republicans risk ending the year 0 for 2 on their major priorities, potentially presaging a difficult midterm campaign next year.

"It's just going to be more difficult to have a spending debate in three months. We ought to do a longer-term [spending stopgap]. That's my biggest concern," said Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio). "We can still get [tax reform] done, though. Let me say that definitively."

Trump administration officials have also insisted that the three-month fiscal deal, which set up a massive year-end deadline in Congress, actually cleared the decks for doing tax reform — comments that puzzled some Republicans.

WHITE HOUSE

Trump gets cozy with Democrats, and Republicans say 'I told you so'

By ELIANA JOHNSON, BURGESS EVERETT and HEATHER CAYGLE

"I'm not quite sure what they mean," said Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho).

"I don't like to see the big train wreck in December," said Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.). "I like to clear everything so we don't have everything hitting at the same time. My preference was to have a longer deal on the debt ceiling."

Republicans are now hoping the Treasury Department's practice of extending the government's borrowing capacity through "extraordinary measures" will give them at least until early next year before another painful debt ceiling vote. But that is uncertain and based on tax revenues and macroeconomic factors out of Congress' hands.

Complicating matters further is how to address hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants whose future in the United States was thrown into question when Trump announced that he would end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Work permits and deportation protections for so-called Dreamers will begin to expire in early March unless Congress codifies the Obama-era executive action into law. That's another cliff Republicans had not previously anticipated.

Democrats want to pass legislation creating a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers as soon as possible, and believe the year-end deadlines give their party significant leverage on immigration. But Republicans are pumping the brakes, insisting that tax reform has to come before immigration fixes.

"Regardless of the six-month deadline, I think [for] people on our side of the aisle, tax reform is the thing that has to be dealt with first," said Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.).

Republicans started the year aiming to ram through Trump's Cabinet, his Supreme Court nominee, Obamacare repeal and tax reform all along mostly party-line votes.

Now there is concern among Republicans that Trump's growing closeness with Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) could complicate the party's efforts to move tax reform with only GOP votes.

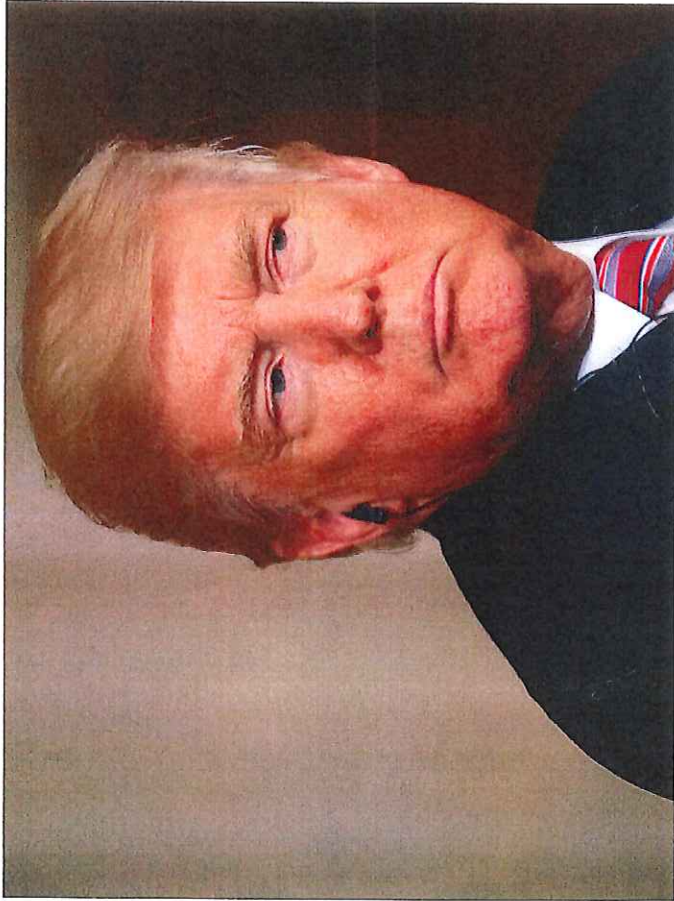
"Many in the Republican Party are now saying: 'Hey, the president just made a deal with the Democrats. What's our path forward?'" McCain said.

Why Republicans Can't Govern

Trump's deal with Democrats shows that controlling the White House and Congress isn't enough.

By Julia Azari

Filed under The Trump Administration



President Trump during a news conference in the East Room of the White House on Thursday, EVAN VUCCI / AP

You might think that securing the White House, Senate, House of Representatives and a majority of seats on the Supreme Court would enable a party to practically dictate laws and policy. But so far, unified government hasn't worked out too well for Republicans. The GOP has controlled both houses of Congress and the presidency since January but has **no major legislative accomplishments** to show for it. President

WWW.FIVE-TWENTYEIGHT.COM

Trump finally managed to close a **big deal** last week, to stave off a government shutdown and Treasury default for the next three months and secure hurricane disaster relief. And yet he cut the deal with Democrats — **against the wishes of GOP leaders**.

One thing the Republicans have done, however, is demonstrate that controlling government isn't enough to govern. Since the U.S. system is **designed to slow down and complicate attempts at change**, even parties in control of the whole government have to learn how to navigate it. What makes that so hard? There are several things that a majority party needs in order to convert political victories into legislative ones, and the **GOP doesn't have them**.

A prioritized agenda

This one seems obvious but can be deceptively difficult. Research shows that **agenda control** is a key source of power for the majority party in Congress. For a party to effectively implement an agenda, it has to (i) agree on what that agenda is, and (ii) how that agenda **should be prioritized**. The first part isn't a given; Republicans largely **support lower taxes**, for instance, but — as the recent **healthcare debate showed** — they are less unified on health care policy.

Even when there's agreement on the issues, parties must also **decide on which ones to focus**. Democrats, for example, controlled the White House, Senate and House in the post-New Deal era, through most of Harry Truman's presidency, from 1961 through 1969 under John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, and again from 1977 to 1981 when Jimmy Carter was in office. During this time, they had to decide what policy goals to prioritize: economic reforms, health care coverage, arts and education, rural development, urban revitalization, civil rights? Some leaders, like Johnson, were able to **tie many domestic issues** together, while others, like Carter, came off as **unfocused**. Health care reform wasn't prioritized and it remained on the Democratic to-do list all the way to the presidencies of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Modern Republicans face an additional problem. Much of the party's stated governing **ideology rests on the premise that "government is the problem," which makes it difficult to develop a coherent agenda for determining what the government should be doing**. And currently, there isn't much else unifying a party fragmented along lines of **ideology, openness to compromise and support for the president**.

Trump's own approach to policy, meanwhile, hasn't helped the party set priorities. He hasn't clearly articulated what he wants the GOP to focus on, jumping from infrastructure to taxes to health care to immigration, and from controversy to controversy. He has also promised a number of governing outcomes — better health care coverage, stronger national security, a better economy — but he's often short on the details about what kinds of policies might achieve them. Legislation tends to die in the course of working out the specifics, and without a stable, widely shared set of priorities, it can be hard to achieve anything.

Public support

Whatever agenda emerges, it helps a lot if it has public support. Public opinion doesn't always direct policy, of course. But members of Congress tend to be motivated by an interest in reelection, and don't want to be caught on the wrong side of a national debate.

The GOP is finding this out the hard way. Some of the few core positions that have been staked out by Republicans in Congress — such as bills to repeal the Affordable Care Act — have proven very unpopular. Trump also ran into this problem with the Russia sanctions bill: He opposed it, but widespread public support translated into veto-proof majorities in Congress.

In contrast, the mid-century Democratic Party had lots of disagreements, but its major agenda items, such as Medicare, were generally popular with the public. Historian Julian Zelizer has explained how Johnson's extensive agenda — arts funding, fair housing, immigration laws — was successful, in part, because the electorate had voted in a liberal Democratic Congress in 1964, signaling support for a liberal policy direction.

Similarly, the GOP has successfully enacted tax cuts, which are usually popular, on several occasions. But public support for the party's social agenda has declined; many more people support same-sex marriage nowadays, for instance, and there's been a recent increase in support for marijuana legalization.

The GOP faces another challenge here: Trump won the Electoral College but not the popular vote. This matters for perceptions about whether he has an electoral mandate for his policies, which can sometimes influence how Congress acts. Some research

suggests that members of Congress are more likely to support the White House's agenda, at least in the short term, when they perceive an election to have been a mandate. As a result, the preferences of Trump's core supporters are not always in line with the majority of the country.

A way to address internal divisions

Even with a governing agenda and public support, there will be disagreements over specifics, clashes between factions and disputes over resource allocation. Institutions can help resolve these disputes — especially organizational rules in Congress that create incentives for compromise. The strong committee model of the mid-20th Century provided this: Congressional committees enjoyed sole jurisdiction over their issues, and often worked across party lines. Under this system, elected officials could be responsive to the needs of their districts, and worried less about party discipline.

This approach wasn't perfect, of course. There were plenty of conflicts, and critics complained about the lack of party discipline and ideological definition. But it did allow for greater legislative productivity than we see today. Strong committees were replaced after the reforms in the 1970s (and another set of changes in the 1990s) that empowered party leadership, creating a structure that rewarded party loyalty and often discouraged ideological diversity.

Ideological diversity brought its own negatives, of course, including tolerating objectionable viewpoints for the sake of forming a wider coalition. We can't talk about the mid-century Democratic Party without considering its Southern contingent, which held back progress on civil rights and also pushed back against issues like labor and wage protections that might benefit black workers. Mid-century Democrats compromised with their racist faction, sometimes sacrificing the interests of racial minorities for the sake of moving forward on policy.

The Republican Party now includes the successors to this Southern faction, as well as immigration hard-liners. But the political climate has changed since the 1960s. Many overtly racist attitudes have fallen out of favor. While New Deal Democrats sometimes governed by accommodating racists (a practice with a lasting, damaging legacy), those kinds of compromises may no longer be politically viable.

The U.S. system isn't set up to let majorities just do what they want, as I mentioned above. Protections for the political minority are built into the system: The Electoral College and the Senate protect smaller states from being dominated by more populous ones, and part of the role of the judicial branch is to protect **minority rights**, when necessary, from the will of the majority.

So governing as the majority party requires know-how. Since 1981, however, neither party has **held both chambers of Congress** and the **presidency** for more than **four years** (and then only once). So neither one has had much time to learn the tricks that help majority parties govern.

Instead, both often act like minority parties, engaging in what political scientist Frances Lee calls a "perpetual campaign": Since most of the time either party stands a realistic chance of winning a majority in the next election, both parties have an incentive to compete rather than cooperate. Refusing to cooperate proved especially **advantageous politically** for Republicans during the Obama years, when they could rally around opposition to the president's actions and object to government overreach.

Now, with Trump in office, Democrats are the ones with little incentive to cooperate. And there are still some Republicans **behaving as though they're in the minority**. Those dynamics give the GOP very little room for error. The party has only a thin margin in the Senate, with 52 seats, so they can't afford a lot of defections even on votes where a simple majority is enough. Trump opponents, meanwhile, have also had some success in the courts, which have been especially sympathetic to objections against the administration's **travel bans**.

So what's the outlook for the GOP as a governing majority? Various public breaks between Trump and congressional Republicans — including the most recent one over the debt ceiling — illustrate that the **GOP coalition hasn't yet figured out how to overcome its differences**. But that's a hard lesson to learn, let alone apply for any length of time. The coalition of New Deal-era Democrats eventually fell apart, after all — once they finally addressed the challenge of civil rights, the party's hold on majority status **started to crumble** under the weight of disagreements over this and other policies.

An opposition party has the luxury of a unifying objective — pointing out the shortcomings of the majority. As the musical Hamilton tells us, "**governing is harder.**"

WHITE HOUSE

GOP shudders as Trump courts Democrats on taxes

The White House outreach threatens to upend months of planning on a party-line strategy.

By RACHAEL BADE and BURGESS EVERETT | 09/13/2017 06:30 PM EDT | Updated 09/13/2017 07:47 PM EDT



President Donald Trump meets with Democratic and Republican members of Congress, including Democratic Rep. Josh Gottheimer (left), in the White House on Sept. 13. | Win McNamee/Getty Images

President Donald Trump's courtship of Democrats on tax reform is dividing congressional Republicans on the merits of a bipartisan bill — and could upend the party-line strategy that White House and GOP leaders have been pursuing for months.

Trump has talked tax reform with two bipartisan groups of senators and House members since Tuesday, dining with swing state Democrats and hobnobbing with centrists in the lower chamber. He told them he wants their votes on a tax bill, even entertaining a Democratic request to raise taxes on wealthier individuals.

"If they have to go higher, they'll go higher, frankly," Trump told reporters Wednesday just before his meeting with the House Problem Solvers Caucus, a cluster of moderate Republicans and Democrats pushing him for a bipartisan tax bill.

Raising taxes on the rich is the polar opposite of supply-side economics espoused by Republicans. Indeed, while GOP leaders welcome Democratic votes on tax reform, they're loath to compromise on key provisions of their plan.

Tax decision-makers in the "Big Six" — House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, White House economic adviser Gary Cohn and the GOP chairmen of the House and Senate tax-writing committees — opted months ago to pursue a bipartisan tax bill all but writing off Democrats. They aim to pursue tax reform via budget

partisan tax bill, an act writing on Democrats. They aim to pursue tax reform via budget "reconciliation," a procedural tool that allows them to evade a 60-vote threshold in the Senate, where the GOP controls just 52 seats.

Now, GOP leaders and conservative lawmakers are warning that a Trump alliance with Democrats could upend all those plans.

The most reliable politics newsletter.

Sign up for POLITICO Playbook and get the latest news, every morning — in your inbox.

Your email...

By signing up you agree to receive email newsletters or alerts from POLITICO. You can unsubscribe at any time.

"It'd be a mistake to assume that if we're going to lose some Republicans that we can make up for it with a few Democrats," said Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the third-ranking Republican.

But that opinion is at odds with the emerging White House sentiment that Democrats could provide the votes to get a tax bill over the finish line — and perhaps even reach 60 votes in the Senate.

Skepticism in the House is just as pronounced. It's one thing for Trump to cut a three-month spending deal with Democrats; overhauling the tax system with the help of the opposition party is another matter entirely.

"Trump is talking about doing bipartisan stuff with Chuck and Nancy on taxes, and I don't want to open the door to that until we see what this [GOP] tax plan looks like," said Rep. Dave Brat (R-Va.).

"If we can reach across the aisle and get them on board, heck yes. But my guess is: They're not going to be too thrilled about jacking up the supply side."

Trump suggested Wednesday that the wealthy "will not be gaining at all with this plan," predicting that their tax rates will remain "pretty much where they are" or even increase. But Republicans of all stripes — especially in the Big Six — believe taxes should be reduced across the board.

"We need rates to come down for every American," said Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.). "When you have a taxpayer that's a [small business] that might have a \$1 million income, that's not \$1 million to an individual person. That's a job-creating small business!"

Not every Republican denounced Trump's comments. After meeting with the president Wednesday afternoon, Problem Solvers Caucus leader Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) praised Trump for "not worrying about the extremes on either side of the party."

"What you saw today was a president who's leading for the American people, and that's what it's about: getting the deal done," he said on Fox News.

Some Senate Republicans are also excited by the possibility of a bipartisan deal — even if it would likely move the bill far to the left of where Republicans would go on their own.

"Why don't you start with a bipartisan discussion, see if you can find areas of agreement? Which is the point I made to President Trump ... that was my advice," said Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), who attended a bipartisan dinner at the White House on Tuesday.



WHITE HOUSE

Teflon Don confounds Democrats

By EDWARD-ISAAC DOVERE

After Republicans failed to repeal Obamacare on their own, top White House officials began worrying that the chamber wouldn't be able to pass a tax bill on a party-line basis, either. While they're fine with the Big Six continuing to pursue a GOP tax bill, administration officials believe they'll need a handful of Senate Democrats to pass legislation and will need to strike a deal at some point.

Hence the invitation to swing-state Democratic Sens. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Donnelly of Indiana and Joe Manchin of West Virginia to dine with Trump on Tuesday — then the Problem Solvers the day after.

Speaking to reporters at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast Tuesday, White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short acknowledged as much, saying Trump wanted a bipartisan tax plan after finding that Republicans were “not reliable” on Obamacare repeal.

“We don't feel like we can assume that we can get tax reform done strictly on a partisan basis,” he said. “So it is wise for us, not just from a policy perspective but from a vote-counting perspective, to try to reach out and earn the support of Democrats as well.”

Senate GOP leaders, however, warn that relying on Democrats is short-sighted. Don't expect Heitkamp, Manchin or Donnelly to come through, they say, if Republicans are three votes short.

Democrats are “never there if you need 'em,” said Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.).

While GOP leaders haven't publicly discouraged Trump from wooing moderate Democrats, they believe those Democrats are just flirting politically with the president. Many of them are up for reelection in states that Trump won, so it's in their interest to at least appear open to a deal.

In the end, though, “their fear of political retribution from leadership and their base I think will make it hard for them” to side with Republicans, said Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas). “I hope I'm wrong, but I'm not optimistic.”



Trump encourages latest Senate effort to repeal Obamacare

By NOLAN D. MCCASKILL

Still, after the Obamacare debacle, some Senate Republicans agree with the White House that Senate Republicans could come up short if they go the GOP-only route. A number of rank-and-file members told Politico on Tuesday that it's very possible they'll need a handful of Democrats even to get 50 votes.

“We're going to need some Democratic votes to get this passed, most likely,” said Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.). Added Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.): “I don't know of any tax reform bill that could eventually pass — given the circumstances we faced in our party — without Democratic votes.”

It's the cost of that support that has Republicans worried.

Trump budget director Mick Mulvaney, a former member of the House Freedom Caucus, told Fox Business Network on Wednesday that it's “fair” to assume Democratic buy-in would result in a watered-down tax plan.

“I think the president recognizes that,” he added.

Nancy Cook and Josh Dawsey contributed to this report.

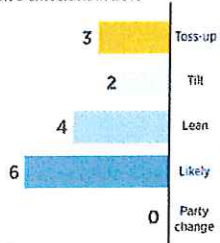
House Seats in Play in 2018

The midterms might seem far away, but re-election is on members' minds as they cast votes this year. The initial battleground of competitive House races, as rated by Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales/Roll Call, is probably too small for Democrats to gain the 24 seats they need for a majority. But there is plenty of time for the playing field to expand.



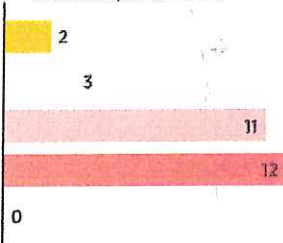
15 Democrats to watch

Race ratings for in-play seats that went Democratic in 2016



28 Republicans to watch

Race ratings for in-play seats that went Republican in 2016



Who's in play?

Seats that went Democratic in 2016

TOSS-UP

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
Arizona 1	Tom O'Halleran	50.7%
New Hampshire 1	Carol Shea-Porter	44.3%
New Jersey 5	Josh Gottheimer	51.1%

TILT DEMOCRATIC

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
Florida 7	Stephanie Murphy	51.5%
Nevada 3	Jacky Rosen	47.2%

LEAN DEMOCRATIC

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
Florida 13	Charlie Crist	51.9%
Minnesota 1	Tim Walz	50.4%
Minnesota 7	Collin C. Peterson	52.5%
Minnesota 8	Rick Nolan	50.3%

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
California 24	Salud Carbajal	53.4%
California 7	Ami Bera	51.8%
Illinois 10	Brad Schneider	52.6%
Iowa 2	Dave Loebsack	53.7%
Pennsylvania 17	Matt Cartwright	53.8%
Wisconsin 3	Ron Kind	uncontested

Seats that went Republican in 2016

TOSS-UP

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
Minnesota 2	Jason Lewis	47.0%
Texas 23	Will Hurd	48.3%

TILT REPUBLICAN

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
California 49	Darrell Issa	50.3%
Florida 26	Carlos Curbelo	53.0%
New York 19	John J. Faso	54.1%

LEAN REPUBLICAN

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
California 10	Jeff Denham	51.7%
California 25	Steve Knight	53.1%
California 39	Ed Royce	57.2%
Colorado 6	Mike Coffman	50.9%
Georgia 6	Vacant	61.7%
Iowa 1	Rod Blum	53.8%
Nebraska 2	Don Bacon	48.9%
New York 22	Claudia Tenney	46.5%
Pennsylvania 16	Lloyd K. Smucker	53.8%
Pennsylvania 8	Brian Fitzpatrick	54.4%
Virginia 10	Barbara Comstock	52.9%

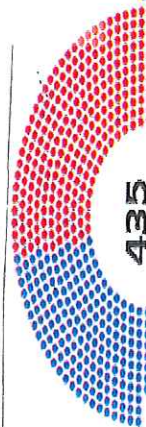
LIKELY REPUBLICAN

District	Incumbent	2016 vote
Arizona 2	Martha E. McCally	57.0%
California 21	David Valadao	56.7%
California 48	Dana Rohrabacher	58.3%
Iowa 3	David Young	53.5%
Kansas 3	Kevin Yoder	51.3%
Maine 2	Bruce Poliquin	54.8%
Minnesota 3	Erik Paulsen	56.9%
New Jersey 7	Leonard Lance	54.1%
New York 24	John Katko	60.6%
Pennsylvania 6	Ryan A. Costello	57.2%
Pennsylvania 7	Patrick Meehan	59.5%
Texas 7	John Culberson	56.2%

Sources: Inside Elections; Associated Press
Graphic by Larry Nista/CQ Roll Call

House of Representatives:

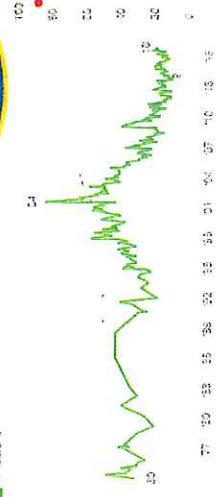
- 2016 Dems needed (only got 6)
- 242-193 Republican Controlled
- 380 of 393 incumbents were re-elected even with less than 18% approval rating
- 78 of 88 Impact Aid Coalition Members back in 115th Congress



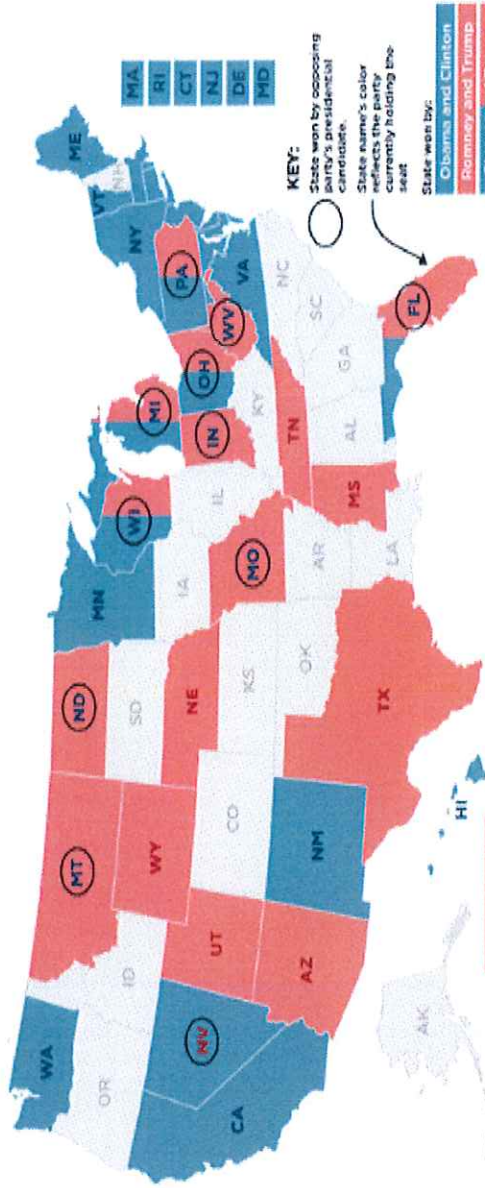
Senate:

- Dems needed 5 to take control..got 2
- 52-48 Republican Controlled

Congressional Job Approval



At Stake in the 2018 Senate Races



MS Roger Wicker 57%	MT John Tester 55%	ND Heidi Heitkamp 49%	NE Deb Fischer 50%	NJ Robert Menendez 58%	NM Martin Heinrich 60%	NV Dean Heller 51%	NY Kristen Gillibrand 46%	OH Sherrod Brown 72%	PA Bob Casey 51%	RI Sheldon Whitehouse 65%	TN Bob Corker 55%	TX Ted Cruz 61%	UT Mike G. Hatch 57%	VA Tim Kaine 53%	VT Bernie Sanders 73%	WA Mara Cantwell 65%	WI Tammy Baldwin 60%	WV Joe Manchin 54%	WY John Barrasso 62%
---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------

ME Angus King 56%	MI Debbie Stabenow 48%	MN Amy Klobuchar 54%	MO Claire McCaskill 59%
-------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------

IN Joe Donnelly 54%	MA Elizabeth Warren 57%	MD Baltimore L. Cardin 61%
---------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------------

DE Thomas R. Carper 59%	FL Bill Nelson 53%	HI Mauia K. Hironaka 50%
-------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------

AZ Jeff Flake 54%	CA Claire Farnsworth 50%	CT Chris Murphy 60%
-------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------

Graphic by Ryan Kelly/CG Roll Call

ANALYSIS

Americans Prefer Democratic House Candidates In 2018 ... For Now

July 24, 2017 · 5:00 AM ET



DANIELLE KURTZLEBEN



House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Eric Swalwell, Rep. Joe Crowley and Rep. James Clyburn after Republicans withdrew their health care bill in March.

Draw Angerer/Getty Images

Throughout the Trump presidency, Democrats have had one glimmer of optimism looking ahead to 2018. Polls continue to show that the party is well ahead of Republicans on the "generic ballot" — the term for when pollsters ask voters which party they would like to win the House of Representatives in the next election, or which party's House candidate they would likely vote for.

Last week, an ABC News/Washington Post poll showed Democrats with a 14-point lead on the generic ballot. That's one of several polls since May that have shown Democrats with a double-digit lead in the generic ballot. Altogether, Democrats lead Republicans by around 9 points in the generic ballot, according to the latest average from RealClearPolitics.

That's likely encouraging for many Democrats after suffering stinging losses in 2016. But how big of a deal is that?

One simple (and, admittedly, simplistic) gauge is to look at past performance. In both 2006 and 2008, Democrats went into Election Day with a lead of 9-plus points...and gained 30 and 23 House seats, respectively, according to data compiled by Kyle Kondik, managing editor for Sabato's Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia. To win the House, Democrats would have to win 24 seats next year.

Year	Final RCP generic ballot average	Actual House popular vote differential	Net change in seats
2002	R +1.7	R +4.6	R +8
2004	Tie	R +2.6	R +3
2006	D +11.5	D +6.4	D +30
2008	D +9.0	D +10.6	D +23
2010	R +9.4	R +6.6	R +63
2012	R +0.2	D +1.4	D +8
2014	R +2.4	R +5.1	R +13
2016	D +0.6	R +1.1	D +6

 Kyle Kondik
@kkondik



House generic ballot in RCP vs. seats gained, 2002-2016. Note where it was in 2006-2008, when Dems took and built on House majority

10:10 AM - Apr 14, 2017

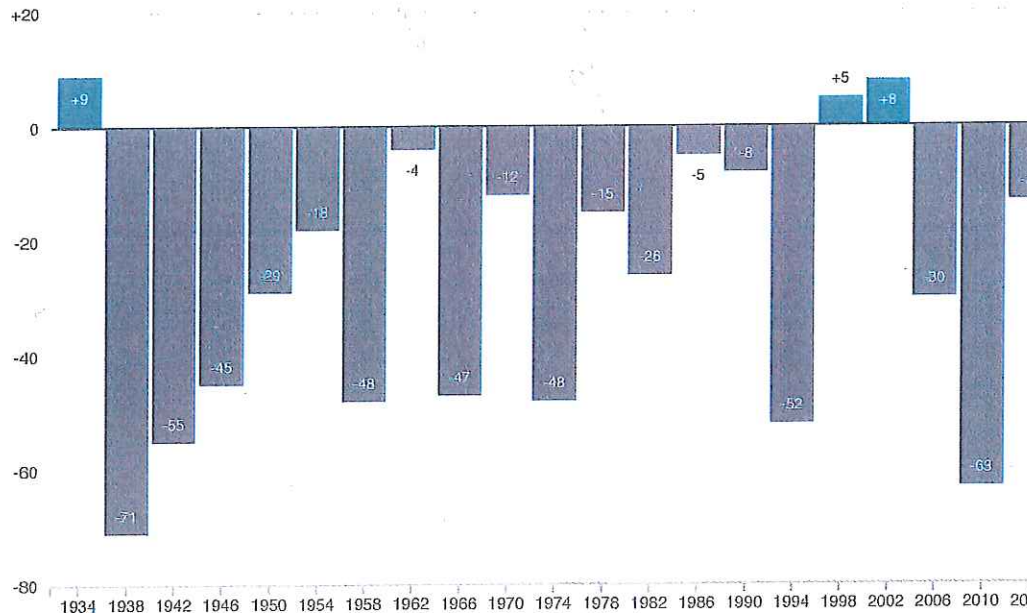
4 12 8

This, of course, comes with the usual caveats of any well-ahead-of-time midterm election story: we're still 15 months from Election Day 2018, lots could change and so on. But the point here is that nine points has in the past translated to a wave of House seat gains for Democrats.

On top of all that, there are a couple of other encouraging signs for Democrats: for example, in midterm elections, there is almost always a backlash against the party in power in the White House.

The President's Party Almost Always Loses House Seats In Mid-Term Elections

Democrats weathered some heavy losses while President Obama was in office, losing 63 seats in 2010 and 13 in 2014. It's typical for the president's party to lose House seats in mid-term elections...and when it does manage to make gains, those gains tend to be small.



Source: *The American Presidency Project* at the University of California, Santa Barbara

Credit: Daniella Kurtzleben/NPR

Since 1934, the president's party has only ever gained House seats in a midterm three times, according to data from the University of California Santa Barbara's American Presidency Project. And those gains are always small; they are never as big as the sometimes-massive losses that presidents' parties suffer in midterms.

Trump's low approval rating — right now, at around 37 percent, according to Gallup — could be an additional source of hope for Democrats as well. But as FiveThirtyEight's

Harry Enten noted earlier this year, the correlation between approval rating and House seat gains is "rough."

(And as with the generic ballot numbers, Trump's approval rating could turn around in the next year-and-a-quarter.)

One potential — but surmountable — hurdle for Democrats is that, altogether, House seats skew more Republican than the nation as a whole.

"[Democrats] are going to have to win some seats that are more Republican than the national average," Kondik told NPR. "Which I think they can do; it happens in midterm elections all the time," he continued.

Kondik provided data illustrating this. For recent election years, he determined the median House district in terms of presidential performance — that is, if you rank districts from the most Democratic to the most Republican in terms of presidential votes, the median is the 218th out of 435, or the exact middle district.

What he found is that in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 the median House district was more Republican than the total national performance was. In 2016, for example, the median district was Iowa's First District. Trump won that district by 3.8 points, while the rest of the nation voted for Clinton by 2.2 points — a six-point differential.

Median House Districts Tend To Be More Republican Than The Nation

In the last four presidential elections, the median House district has tended to vote more Republican than the nation as a whole. For example, in 2016, the median district in terms of presidential vote chose Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton by a margin of 3.8 points. Meanwhile, the nation preferred Clinton over Trump by 2.2 points. Altogether, that's a six-point advantage for Republicans in that district.

YEAR	DISTRICT	DISTRICT PRESIDENTIAL MARGIN	NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL MARGIN	DIFFERENCE
2004	IL-11	R +7.4	R +2.4	R +5
2008	NC-8	D +5	D +7.4	R +2.4
2012	WA-3	R +1.8	D +4	R +5.8
2016	IA-1	R +3.8	D +2.2	R +6

Source: Kyle Kondik, University of Virginia

Credit: Danielle Kurtzleben/NPR

That *might* seem like a good sign for the GOP for 2018, but not necessarily — in 2004, for example, the median district was 5 points more Republican (by this measure) than the nation was. But in 2006, Democrats nevertheless picked up 23 seats.

And yet: there are a few reasons why Americans' seeming preference for a Democratic House shouldn't get Democrats too excited just yet.

One is the simple benefits of incumbency. In any given race, the incumbent often has natural advantages in terms of fundraising potential and name recognition.

Considering that Republicans hold more districts than Democrats, that's one simple hurdle to retaking the House for Democrats.

It's also true that votes don't necessarily equal seats. In every election since 2010, Democrats have won a smaller share of congressional seats than votes. This is a relatively new trend — as the Brookings Institution found in November, Democrats

used to regularly win a "seats bonus."

In other words, even assuming Democrats lead decisively in the generic ballot in November 2018, and assuming that lead translates to a greater vote share, it won't necessarily mean a similarly sizable gain in House seats.

And, of course, it is more than 15 months until Election Day 2018. At this point in 2013, Democrats had a lead of around 3.5 points in the generic ballot. They would go on to slip behind Republicans by around 2.4 points just before Election Day 2014 — and lose 13 seats.

One final point: Democrats generally have a tougher time turning out voters in midterms than Republicans do.

It's true that recent special elections in Georgia, Kansas and Montana showed that Democrats could mobilize — if not win — in some heavily Republican districts.

But at least for now, Democrats nationwide don't look particularly energized for 2018. While Democrats lead by 14 points in the generic ballot, Trump supporters, in particular, are far more likely than Democrats to say they are "absolutely certain" to vote in midterms, as the Washington Post's Mike DeBonis and Emily Guskin wrote. Seventy-two percent of Trump supporters said this, compared to 65 percent of all Republicans and Republican-leaners, and just 57 percent of Democrats and Democrat-leaners.

So once again, even if Americans prefer Democratic House candidates in November 2018, it won't mean a thing if those people don't get out to their polling places.

Nation's only federally funded voucher program has negative effect on student achievement, study finds

By Emma Brown and Mandy McLaren April 27

Students in the nation's only federally funded school voucher initiative performed worse on standardized tests within a year after entering D.C. private schools than peers who did not participate, according to a new federal analysis that comes as President Trump is seeking to pour billions of dollars into expanding the private school scholarships nationwide.

The study, released Thursday by the Education Department's research division, follows several other recent studies of state-funded vouchers in Louisiana, Indiana and Ohio that suggested negative effects on student achievement. Critics are seizing on this data as they try to counter Trump's push to direct public dollars to private schools.

Vouchers, deeply controversial among supporters of public education, are direct government subsidies parents can use as scholarships for private schools. These payments can cover all or part of the annual tuition bills, depending on the school.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has long argued that vouchers help poor children

escape from failing public schools. But Sen. Patty Murray (Wash.), the top Democrat on the Senate Education Committee, said that DeVos should heed the department's Institute of Education Sciences. Given the new findings, Murray said, "it's time for her to finally abandon her reckless plans to privatize public schools across the country."

DeVos defended the D.C. program, saying it is part of an expansive school-choice market in the nation's capital that includes a robust public charter school sector.

"When school choice policies are fully implemented, there should not be differences in achievement among the various types of schools," she said in a statement. She added that the study found that parents "overwhelmingly support" the voucher program "and that, at the same time, these schools need to improve upon how they serve some of D.C.'s most vulnerable students."

The D.C. program serves about 1,100 students, giving them up to \$8,452 to attend a private elementary or middle school and up to \$12,679 for high school. Participating private schools must be accredited by 2021 but otherwise face few requirements beyond showing that they are in good financial standing and demonstrating compliance with health and safety laws.

D.C. students who used vouchers had significantly lower math scores a year after joining the program, on average, than students who applied for a voucher through a citywide lottery but did not receive one. For voucher students in kindergarten through fifth grade, reading scores were also significantly lower. For older voucher students, there was no significant difference in reading scores.

For voucher recipients coming from a low-performing public school — the population that the voucher program primarily aims to reach — attending a private school had no effect on achievement. But for voucher recipients coming from higher-performing public schools, the negative effect was particularly large.

The analysis reviewed data for more than 1,700 students who participated in the lotteries from 2012 to 2014.

Martin West, a professor of education at Harvard, said the D.C. study adds to an emerging pattern of research showing declines in student achievement among voucher

recipients, a departure from an earlier wave of research — often on smaller, privately funded scholarship programs — that skewed more positive.

“I think we need to be asking the question: Why is this happening and what should we make of it and should we care?” West said. He said weaker scores among voucher recipients may be a result of the fact that public school performance is improving, particularly in the District, where math and reading scores at traditional public and public charter schools have increased quickly over the past decade.

Kevin Chavous, a national voucher advocate who lobbied for the program as a member of the D.C. Council in 2004, said he wasn't surprised by the findings because the study examined student performance after only one year in private school.

“These are kids that come from some of the most challenged backgrounds, and they're just getting adjusted. It's no question that the longer they're in our schools, the better they do,” Chavous said. “We have to look at the ultimate judge of the quality of the program, and that's the graduation rate and the college-going rate.” Chavous said the voucher program gave disempowered parents something they lack in many other parts of their lives: control. “That's a landmark thing in urban America,” he said.

Over the past two decades, a pile of contradictory studies including on programs in Charlotte, Milwaukee and New York — have painted a muddy picture of how funneling public funds toward private-school tuition affects student achievement. In some cases, students receiving private-school tuition assistance modestly outperformed similar students who stayed in public schools; in other cases, including the first federal analysis of the District's program in 2010, there was no difference.

“It's not a picture you should hang a policy on,” said Martin Carnoy, a Stanford professor of education who has studied vouchers. The administration's focus on choice is “diverting attention from ways to really improve schooling,” he said. “I think that's the harm in all of this.”

School-choice advocates argue that test scores offer a limited picture of performance and that graduation and college-enrollment rates mean far more for long-term success. Several studies have shown that voucher recipients tend to do better on these measures, including in the District, where the 2010 federal analysis showed that

91 percent of students who used a voucher to attend a private school graduated on time, compared with 70 percent of those without vouchers.

The 2010 analysis also showed that parents of students who were offered vouchers, but not the students themselves, felt more confident in the safety of their schools. The new evaluation echoes that finding. The new evaluation also found that the program had no effect on parents' school satisfaction.

Congress created the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program in 2004 with the support of key local leaders, including then-Mayor Anthony A. Williams.

Advocates of the program spent the past eight years fighting for its survival under President Barack Obama, who opposed vouchers. Now they are hopeful that the White House's staunch support for choice, coupled with Republican majorities in Congress, will enable the program to grow. Already, Trump has freed up millions of dollars in carry-over funding from previous years that officials say will allow the program to nearly triple the number of students it serves — from about 1,100 this year to 3,000 in the next school year.

More than 6,000 students, most of them African American or Latino, have used D.C. vouchers since the program's inception.

Voucher critics often argue that sending taxpayer dollars to private schools drains public schools, which serve the vast majority of children, of necessary resources. In her statement Thursday, DeVos said that the D.C. voucher program had clearly not damaged progress in the city's public schools.

But the D.C. voucher program is singular. Rather than diverting funds from the District's public schools, it has brought them additional revenue. To make the program politically palatable in a city dominated by Democrats, Congress has appropriated millions of dollars a year for the city's traditional public schools and its growing set of public charter schools.

The Upshot
SCHOOL CHOICE

Dismal Voucher Results Surprise Researchers as DeVos Era Begins

Kevin Carey FEB. 23, 2017

The confirmation of Betsy DeVos as secretary of education was a signal moment for the school choice movement. For the first time, the nation's highest education official is someone fully committed to making school vouchers and other market-oriented policies the centerpiece of education reform.

But even as school choice is poised to go national, a wave of new research has emerged suggesting that private school vouchers may harm students who receive them. The results are startling — the worst in the history of the field, researchers say.

While many policy ideas have murky origins, vouchers emerged fully formed from a single, brilliant essay published in 1955 by Milton Friedman, the free-market godfather later to be awarded a Nobel Prize in Economics. Because “a stable and democratic society is impossible without widespread acceptance of some common set of values and without a minimum degree of literacy and knowledge on the part of most citizens,” Mr. Friedman wrote, the government should pay for all children to go to school.

But, he argued, that doesn't mean the government should run all the schools.

Instead, it could give parents vouchers to pay for “approved educational services” provided by private schools, with the government's role limited to “ensuring that the schools met certain minimum standards.”

The voucher idea sat dormant for years before taking root in a few places, most notably Milwaukee. Yet even as many of Mr. Friedman's other ideas became Republican Party orthodoxy, most national G.O.P. leaders committed themselves to a different theory of educational improvement: standards, testing and accountability. That movement reached an apex when the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 brought a new focus on tests and standards to nearly every public school nationwide. The law left voucher supporters with crumbs: a small demonstration project in Washington, D.C.

But broad political support for No Child Left Behind proved short-lived. Teachers unions opposed the reforms from the left, while libertarians and state-rights conservatives denounced them from the right. When Republicans took control of more governor's mansions and state legislatures in the 2000s, they expanded vouchers to an unprecedented degree. Three of the largest programs sprang up in Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio, which collectively enroll more than a third of the 178,000 voucher students nationwide.

Most of the new programs heeded Mr. Friedman's original call for the government to enforce “minimum standards” by requiring private schools that accept vouchers to administer standardized state tests. Researchers have used this data to compare voucher students with similar children who took the same tests in public school. Many of the results were released over the last 18 months, while Donald J. Trump was advocating school choice on the campaign trail.

The first results came in late 2015. Researchers examined an Indiana voucher program that had quickly grown to serve tens of thousands of students under Mike Pence, then the state's governor. “In mathematics,” they found, “voucher students who transfer to private schools experienced significant losses in achievement.” They also saw no improvement in reading.

The next results came a few months later, in February, when researchers published a major study of Louisiana's voucher program. Students in the program were predominantly black and from low-income families, and they came from

public schools that had received poor ratings from the state department of education, based on test scores. For private schools receiving more applicants than they could enroll, the law required that they admit students via lottery, which allowed the researchers to compare lottery winners with those who stayed in public school.

They found large negative results in both reading and math. Public elementary school students who started at the 50th percentile in math and then used a voucher to transfer to a private school dropped to the 26th percentile in a single year. Results were somewhat better in the second year, but were still well below the starting point.

This is very unusual. When people try to improve education, sometimes they succeed and sometimes they fail. The successes usually register as modest improvements, while the failures generally have no effect at all. It's rare to see efforts to improve test scores having the opposite result. Martin West, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, calls the negative effects in Louisiana "as large as any I've seen in the literature" — not just compared with other voucher studies, but in the history of American education research.

There's always the chance that a single study, no matter how well designed, is an outlier. Studies of older voucher programs in Milwaukee and elsewhere have generally produced mixed results, sometimes finding modest improvements in test scores, but only for some subjects and student groups. Until about a year ago, however, few if any studies had shown vouchers causing test scores to decline drastically.

In June, a third voucher study was released by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a conservative think tank and proponent of school choice. The study, which was financed by the pro-voucher Walton Family Foundation, focused on a large voucher program in Ohio. "Students who use vouchers to attend private schools have fared worse academically compared to their closely matched peers attending public schools," the researchers found. Once again, results were worse in math.

Three consecutive reports, each studying one of the largest new state voucher programs, found that vouchers hurt student learning. Researchers and advocates

began a spirited debate about what, exactly, was going on.

Mark Dynarski of the Brookings Institution noted that the performance gap between private and public school students had narrowed significantly over time. He argued that the standards, testing and accountability movement, for all its political shortcomings, was effective. The assumed superiority of private schools may no longer hold.

Some voucher supporters observed that many private schools in Louisiana chose not to accept voucher students, and those that did had recently experienced declining enrollment. Perhaps the participating schools were unusually bad and eager for revenue. But this is another way of saying that exposing young children to the vagaries of private-sector competition is inherently risky. The free market often does a terrible job of providing basic services to the poor — see, for instance, the lack of grocery stores and banks in many low-income neighborhoods. This may also hold for education.

Others have argued that standardized test scores are the wrong measure of school success. It's true that voucher programs in Washington and some others elsewhere, which produced no improvements in test scores, increased the likelihood of students' advancement and graduation from high school. One study of a privately financed voucher program in New York found positive results for college attendance among African-Americans.

But research has also linked higher test scores to a host of positive outcomes later in life. And voucher advocates often cite poor test scores in public schools to justify creating private school vouchers in the first place.

The new voucher studies stand in marked contrast to research findings that well-regulated charter schools in Massachusetts and elsewhere have a strong, positive impact on test scores. But while vouchers and charters are often grouped under the umbrella of "school choice," the best charters tend to be nonprofit public schools, open to all and accountable to public authorities. The less "private" that school choice programs are, the better they seem to work.

The new evidence on vouchers does not seem to have deterred the Trump administration, which has proposed a new \$20 billion voucher program. Secretary [...]

[AdChoices](#)**Arthur H. Camins, Contributor**

Science Educator, Education Policy Writer. All opinions are his alone.

Don't Be April Fooled: Public is Better

03/31/2017 04:21 pm ET



It's April Fools Day, which reminds me: Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos want us to think that private schools are better, not just for rich folks like them, but for everyone else too— Just like with Paul Ryan and health care. Don't be fooled. It is a ruse. Public is better!

Growing up, I knew the meaning of private places. Private places were about gates, both physical and de facto. Private meant, "Keep out!" Private schools were not for me, but for someone else. Private clubs were for someone else. Private roads were for someone else. I understood that the people who were saying, "Stay on your side of the gate," were usually rich and Christian, and always White. That meant not me as a Jew. I knew for certain that it also meant, not for Blacks and not for poor folks. Sometimes, private meant no women. The message was always clear: "We do not want you around us!"

As a nation, we need to be better than that.

Make no mistake. The folks inside the gates of privilege aim to stay there. However, to do so they need the rest of us to believe three things: First, that they have privileges because they deserve them and the rest of us do not; Second, that there is a chance, however slim, that a few of us just might get inside and become privileged too; Third, having just a few folks inside the gates and the rest of us outside is the way things are and always will be.

Unfortunately, in the minds of some of those standing outside the gates looking in, private implies, "That's Better than what I have. I want that too." Growing up, I also knew about some *outside* folks who managed to slip inside the gate. I grew to despise them because once inside they chose to identify with their former gatekeepers. They did not join struggles to remove gates or to make things better for everyone.

The ruse is clear, so we would be fools to believe it. The so-called replacement for the ACA called for less coverage and lower taxes for the wealthy. Having more coverage and less taxes is simply not possible. Similarly, Trump's budget calls for more money for vouchers, less money for the US Department of Education and, of course, tax cuts for the wealthy. Neither of these plans is about those outside the gates having the same choices or services as the wealthy. Privatization is never about spreading the wealth.

If we want a country in which the greatest good for the greatest number of people is a high priority, public is better. I think most folks think so too. That's why we have public schools, roads and bridges, police, firefighters, parks, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid just to name a few public services. These are common-good activities that we cannot afford as individuals, so we share the costs. Not everyone goes to school, but we all benefit from an educated citizenry. Not everyone drives, but without good road and bridges, we would all suffer. Some of us are not old and in need of

extra medical care, but we might be someday. Cost sharing brings broad access. It makes economic sense. For most of us, it is also a moral responsibility.

Most folks understand that without such public (aka government) programs most of our lives would be less bearable. That's why Republicans got so much flack when they tried to reverse the clock on the progress made by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). That's why Democrats and Republicans alike got so many calls to oppose the nomination of Betsy DeVos, a privatization champion, as Secretary of Education. That's why private school voucher advocates think up truth-deflecting, disingenuous names like, "Opportunity Scholarships." That's why privatizers started to call the *Affordable Care Act*, Obamacare— easier to drum up opposition to a person than to affordable medical care.

Most of us understand that if such services are privatized— if they become a competitive businesses trying to make a profit— privilege and inequality will surely follow. **Think about the difference between a public service such as the New York City subway and air travel.** We all pay the same fare on the subway, have equal access to the same seat, and either benefit or suffer from the same good or bad service. No privilege. If we want it to be better, we need to make it better for everyone. The wealthy can still hire private limousine drivers, but no one proposes limo vouchers or tax credits as the solution for transporting millions of New Yorkers each day.

Alternatively, think about private airlines. Extra fees buy comfort (and maybe even food). The boarding process makes it clear: It's First Class first, then business class, and finally coach. Airlines have figured out that sorting people by their ability to pay is profitable. But it does not improve overall service.

In the subway example, we are citizens. With the airlines, we are customers. Sure, we pay a fare to ride on the subway, but the route to cleaner, safer, more on time train rides is as voting citizens and better public funding. As customers on the plane, the choices are either pay more or pick another airline with the same basic rules. Competition among airlines has us scrambling on the Internet for access to an artificially limited number of cheaper seats, but not improved overall quality. The magic of the market gives us smaller, more crowded seating, extra charges for luggage, and fewer, if any, snacks for those who can only afford coach fare. The sorting mechanism of the market brings comfort for the wealthy and profits for airlines.

The same is true for education. The wealthy send their children to expensive private schools. The gates are high and locked. Vouchers will not change that. Admission is a privilege. **With vouchers, no one has to go to school or learn to live with anyone they deem undesirable or too different. That is bad for the common good.**

In addition, most private schools cost more than the average per pupil expenditures in public schools and more than any direct voucher or tax credit can offer. Those private schools are not building new additions or opening their gates.

Even if every current education tax dollar were converted to vouchers, the fundamental idea that **wealth buys privilege** would not change. As with medical care, the privatizers propose cuts in education funding and cuts in taxes for the wealthy.

Even if every current education tax dollar were converted to vouchers, the fundamental idea that wealth buys privilege would not change. As with medical care, the privatizers propose cuts in education funding and cuts in taxes for the wealthy.

Badass Teachers Association

This is for every teacher who refuses to be blamed for the failure of our society to erase poverty and inequality, and refuses to accept assessments, tests and evaluations imposed by those who have contempt for real teaching and learning.

Home

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Top 10 Reasons Public Schools are the BEST Choice for Children, Parents & Communities by Steven Singer



Originally posted at: <https://gadflyonthewallblog.wordpress.com/2017/09/15/top-10-reasons-public-schools-are-the-best-choice-for-children-parents-communities/>

Everywhere you look today you'll find ~~profits~~ prophets of doom bemoaning the quality of our public school system.

We've got too many failing schools, they say. **The only thing to do is to invest in private and privatized institutions – vouchers, charters, ANYTHING but public.**

But as education professors Christopher and Sarah Lubienski wrote in their landmark book "*The Public School Advantage: Why Public Schools Outperform Private Schools*" there's little evidence behind the hype. Public schools are far from perfect, but even given their deficiencies, they have benefits that far outweigh those of privatized schools. Indeed, market-based educational reform, wrote the Lubienskis, is "increasingly a belief system rather than a policy theory."

Privatized schools are sometimes great at **boosting standardized test scores**, but when it comes to **authentic indicators of student learning**, they often fall well behind their traditional public school counterparts.

And **when you stop to consider things like finances, accountability, self-governance, social justice and life-long learning**, then public schools prove themselves to be a much better choice than any privatized system.

Clearly we're speaking in generalities here. Every school – public or privatized – is different. But there is enough commonality to identify certain trends between each type of school to make general conclusions about each category. In short, despite any media or political propaganda to the contrary, public schools come out on top.

Here are the top 10 reasons public schools are the best choice for children, families and communities

1) Public Schools Attract the Best Teachers

When choosing a school for your children, you want them to have the best teachers possible. You want life-long, committed educators – people who entered the profession as a calling, who dedicate their lives to young people.

This is not the case at many charter or private schools. **Their teachers often don't have the same high level of education**, experience, or commitment. In many states, they aren't required to earn a 4-year degree from an accredited college, they routinely have less experience and higher turnover.

Compare that with public schools. With rare exceptions, teachers must have at least one bachelors degree in a specialized education field, and many have masters degrees or more. In addition, teacher turnover is much lower. This is partly because **public school teachers usually earn a higher salary than those at privatized schools.** (It's still not comparable with professionals in other fields with similar levels of education, but it's better than they get at privatized schools.) In addition they have higher job satisfaction because of increased union membership, which enables greater stability and helps create a safer workplace for teachers and their students.

Think about it. If you were one of the best teachers in the country, wouldn't you want to work where you get the highest salary and benefits? Of course!

2) Public Schools Have a Greater Sense of Community

Most public schools have been around for a long time. **They are the heart of the communities they serve.** They do so much more than just teach children. They host continuing education courses for adults, extracurricular activities, sporting events, academic clubs, public swimming pools, open libraries, and invite the community for local events, concerts, seminars, etc.

This is rarely the case at privatized schools. Charters and private institutions are often fledgling startups. They're located in rented office spaces, renovated store fronts and other **locations chosen more for their cost benefits to investors** and not for their efficacy as places of education or community outreach.

Public schools have **histories that go back generations.** Everyone in the community knows the teachers who work there. Parents often send their kids to the same educators who taught them when they were young. Sometimes this goes back to grandparents and even great grandparents. Older brothers can advise younger sisters what it was like to have this teacher or that principal. The kinds of relationships you get at public school just aren't there at institutions that model themselves on big box stores like WalMart and Target.

3) Public Schools Increase Educational Choice

Privatizers often talk about charters and voucher schools as if they are the only places that offer parents and students choice. It's simply untrue. **Many public school districts offer a tremendous amount of alternatives for students living in their neighborhoods.** Larger urban districts often have magnet or theme schools. But even beyond that, most schools offer a wide variety of classes and curriculum. Students can take foreign languages, vo-tech, arts and humanities, independent studies, and advanced placement or college credit courses. Students can take advantage of a plethora of services designed to personalize their academic experience to meet their individual needs with special and gifted education, even choosing which teachers are the best fit for their learning styles.

Obviously, these options increase with the degree of wealth in a community, but they prove that increasing choice doesn't have to mean privatization. **It means equitable funding.**

4) Public Schools Have Greater Diversity

Students learn a lot more than reading, writing and arithmetic in school. They also learn how to deal with different kinds of people – they learn to share this world with other humans from various racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual backgrounds. **The more diverse an environment they grow up in, the more well-adjusted they will be for the adult world,** and the less racist, sexist and prejudiced they'll probably become.

Public schools are often a sea of diversity. They are the best place to meet the entire spectrum of humanity. On the other hand, **charter and voucher schools are routinely segregated and homogenous**. Sometimes privatized schools make efforts to fight against this, but you can't make much headway when your entire system is based on sorting out the underprivileged in favor of white, affluent children whose parents can afford tuition (private schools) or poor black but high achieving children (charter schools).

5) Public Schools Are More Fiscally Responsible

Public schools spend their money more wisely than privatized schools. They have to! Their records are an open book. All the spending decisions happen in public view. And the law requires that all expenses must relate to educating children.

Privatized schools rarely do this, and if they do, it's by choice not necessity. They could close their books any day, make whatever decisions they like behind closed doors and layout bundles of cash for their CEOs or investors. **Privatized schools are for-profit. Even when they aren't explicitly labeled as such,** they usually operate in the same way – cut student services to increase the bottom line. Their explicit goal is to make money off your child – not simply earn a middle class income like public schools. No, **they want to get rich off of your dime.**

Privatizers buy mansions and yachts with your money. Public school teachers pay off their mortgages. And in the rare instances where public school employees break the law and try to embezzle funds, they are much more likely to be caught because the books are right there for all to see.

6) Public Schools Are More Reliable

When you send your child to most privatized schools, **you never really know if it's going to be there tomorrow.** Charter schools **often close without a moments notice.** Private schools declare bankruptcy.

If there's one thing you can be reasonably sure of, it's that your neighborhood public school will still be there. It's been there for decades, sometimes hundreds of years. Charter and voucher schools are often fly-by-night affairs. Public schools are solid bedrock. If public schools close, it's only after considerable public comment and a protracted political process. No one ever shows up to find the local public school chained shut. **Not the same at charters or private schools.**

7) Public Schools Have Greater Commitment to Students

Charter and vouchers schools **don't have to accept your child.** Public schools do.

When you enroll in a privatized school, **the choice is all up to administrators.** Is your child a safe bet? Can they let your little one in without breaking the bank? Will he or she make the school look good with better test scores? Will he or she be easy to educate?

Public schools, on the other hand, have a commitment to educating every child who lives in the district. They even take homeless children. Only under the most extreme circumstances would they expel a young person. No matter who your offspring is, no matter how good or bad a student, public school operators have faith they can help the youngster succeed.

8) You Have Ownership of Public Schools

With privatized schools, you're paying for a business to provide services. Public schools belong to you. In

fact, you're the boss.

Public schools are run by your friends, neighbors and co-workers. Privatized schools are most often run by appointed boards of directors who are not beholden to you but to the investors. As education blogger Peter Greene puts it, "The charter is a business, run by people who don't ever have to let you into their board room."

In addition, many public schools go beyond even this level of parental involvement. They more often have PTAs or PTOs. They have advisory councils where elected parents, teachers and community members can work together to advise the school board on important matters like hiring superintendents. If parents and the community want a voice, the public school system is overflowing with options. Ironically, the community rarely has any say over privatized schools and parents can only vote with their feet.

9) Public Schools Provide More Amenities

Public schools routinely offer so much more than privatized schools. At many charter and voucher schools, parents are required to buy supplies for the whole institution. Public schools accept donations and sometimes teachers ask for help, but if parents can't (or won't) send in pencils or tissues, the school provides it *gratis*. And even when the district is cheap in this regard, teachers often make up the difference from their own pockets. It's not right that they have to do so, but they constantly step up for your children.

Moreover, public schools offer a much expanded range of services for your children than privatized schools. Special education and gifted programs are first rate at public schools while often intermittent or nonexistent at privatized schools. And the requirements put on parents at public schools are much lower – less restrictive dress codes, fewer demands on parents' time and they take a greater responsibility for your children.

Heck, private schools rarely even pay for transportation. Public schools offer a free ride via the school bus from home and back again.

10) Public Schools Match or Outperform Privatized Schools

When it comes to academic performance, comparisons all come down to what data you think is indicative of student learning and which factors you exclude. You can find plenty of studies funded by privatizers that unsurprisingly conclude their backers business model is the best. However, when you look at peer reviewed and nonpartisan studies, the story changes.

The Lubienskis, in particular, paint an extremely compelling picture of public school superiority based on numerous complex statistical models including hierarchical linear modeling and multivariate regression. In short, the authors conclude that after accounting for the demographic differences among various school sector populations, traditional public school students outperform those at private schools over time. Students typically enter public schools with much greater degrees of poverty than those entering private schools. As such, public school students start with greater academic deficiencies. Even so, public schools are able to make up for these deficiencies over time more easily than privatized schools. And by fourth grade, public school students actually have greater academic success than their demographically similar peers at private or charter schools. The Lubienskis call it "The Public School Effect."

With all these benefits, you'd think we'd be cheering on our public school system, not denigrating it. However, the failing schools narrative sells a lot of people on privatized alternatives. But it's not fact. It's marketing.

It's time someone explicitly outlined the benefits of our public schools. We could be doing a lot more to help make them even better. But the first step is recognizing what an asset these schools already are.

Public schools. they're what happens when we value children over profit.

+ The Public School – Private/Charter School Check List

Service or Practice	Private or Charter	Public School
Local School Board Control of Schools		
Compliance with State and Federal Policies and Rules		
Protections based Federal and State Laws and Regulations		
Certificated classroom teachers and building administrators		
Trained and qualified support staff		
Subject Offerings		
Learning opportunities		
Remedial Services		
Gifted Program Opportunities		
Drama and Music Opportunities		
Special clubs and service organizations		
Individual and team sports		
Transportation and Food services		
Certificated support services, e.g., counseling, guidance		
Certificated teachers and support staff for special needs students		
Equipped science labs at the high school		
Organized subject matter from basics to advanced levels		

Faces of Impact Aid

LOGOOTEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION *Learning today **L**earning tomorrow*

FACES OF IMPACT AID

Quick Facts:

- Logootee Community School Corporation (LCSC) is a public district in southwestern Indiana that serves 845 students from the towns and rural areas in the western half of Martin County.
- Crane Naval Support Activity Base (located in our district) takes up a large amount of our land that would normally be taxed.
- Impact Aid dollars in the annual amount of around \$300,000 are a critical source of funding.
- Impact Aid is placed in our General Fund that supports classroom expenses including teacher salaries.
- Impact Aid makes up 6.5% of our General Fund revenue. Losing Impact Aid would create massive cuts throughout our district. (NOTE: LCSC has cut \$2.6 million from our General Fund since 2005).

IMPACT AID EFFECTS:

1. Lower Teacher - Student Ratios = Better readers and higher test scores: Although LCSC has increased our class sizes dramatically in recent years due to cuts in state revenue, we have been able to use Impact Aid money to keep our lower elementary class sizes at a ratio of 18:1. Shannon Wagler and Britney Bateman are two examples of additional teaching positions LCSC is able to offer to lower our class sizes. Logootee Schools ranked 8th out of over 400 districts in Indiana on ISTEP testing in 2015-16. Logootee Elementary is rated an 'A' by the IDOE.
2. LCSC Student Services Program: Without Impact Aid, LCSC would have only 1 counselor for all students K-12. Because of Impact Aid, LCSC offers our students a full-time Youth First (YF) Social Worker - Elizabeth Christmas. YF places social workers in schools to provide prevention and early intervention services for at-risk students who are assisted in areas including: school behavior problems, peer relationship difficulties, depression and home life conflicts. During this past school year alone, Elizabeth served our students in the following ways:
 - 1334 teacher and administrative consultations regarding students
 - 661 total students served
 - 560 individual meetings with students
 - 285 parent consultations to assist with parent - child relationships
 - 73 classroom presentations
 - 1 student life saved who was hours from committing suicide

Logootee Community School Corporation thanks our senators and representatives for your continued support through Impact Aid.



Brittney Bateman, Teacher



Elizabeth Christmas, Social Worker



Shannon Wagler, Teacher



Burr Ridge C.C.S.D. 180
Thomas Schneider, Ed.D.
Superintendent
15W451 91st Street
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 734-6600
Fax (630) 325-6450
tschneider@ccsd180.org

Burr Ridge CCSD 180

Where education and diversity meet to create real world success.

Faces of Impact Aid

How do you change the life of a student living in subsidized housing? Have them work with a high-quality teacher for as long as possible. That's what Impact Aid dollars are used for at Burr Ridge School District 180 in Burr Ridge, Illinois.



For the students in Burr Ridge schools, Impact Aid is not just a number in an appropriations bill...for our students Impact Aid is an additional twenty-minutes a day or nearly two weeks of instruction per year. Impact Aid means small class sizes and after school tutoring twice a week for academically struggling students who happen to be near the poverty line. More time and quality student relationships lead to the clearly staged photo at the right when I went down to the after school reading club for a photo of students working to improve their comprehension and their futures.

These students were working hard to prepare for the next day's lesson, but when I asked to take a photo of their reading club, they spontaneously got out of their seats to take a photo surrounding their teacher. Although it was an hour after school let out they laughed and giggled, so no need to ask them to say "cheese". And then they were back at work. And the district academic scores are rising thanks to their work and Impact Aid dollars. In the last seven years the district has improved from the bottom 15% of schools in the state to nearly being in the top half of all districts.

Impact Aid provides for almost 5% of Burr Ridge C.C.S.D. 180's overall budget. These dollars help to provide approximately seven to eight teachers, low class size, a longer school day, after school tutoring and quite often smiles.

Impact Aid
Supports
Learning



Tom Schneider, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Burr Ridge CCSD 180
Burr Ridge, Illinois
tschneider@ccsd180.org
7002 Impact Aid School: Argonne National Laboratory
86% Low Income—19% Mobility—87% Minority Students

The Success of this Meeting

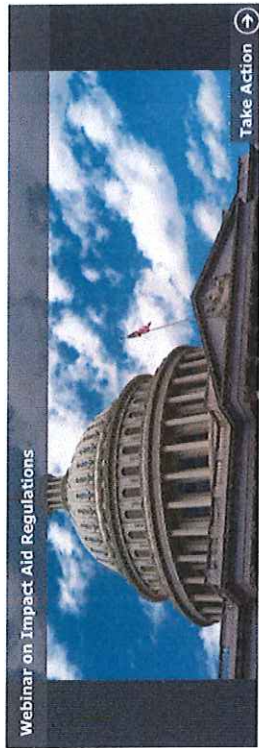


444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 419
Washington, DC 20001

Home Basics Meetings Members More

Call: 202-544-5465
Email: byrnen@nafis.org

NAFIS Action Center



- Have districts sign on to NDD United letter working to “Raise the Caps” on Non-Defense Spending that happens under Sequester
- Make sure your community and staff know how to lobby congress... NAFIS makes it really easy

Think about what you are going to do when you get back home to advance the cause of Federal Property Schools and Impact Aid funding.

This is what will determine the success of this meeting.

- We have already witnessed the impact that overwhelming public response can have... there is reason for hope