

Swing States and Violence – U.S. Midterm Election in 2022

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Overview of 2022 US Congressional Elections

While midterm elections are expected to see the incumbent party lose a substantial number of seats in Congress, Democrats dramatically outperformed this anticipated historical trend, and a projected 'red wave' clamored by Mr. Trump and major media did not materialize. Not even a 'red ripple' was hardly detected except in some of the areas: Republicans did well in Florida, Tennessee, and Texas, and also saw a surge in traditionally Democratic New York, which was enough to give them a slim majority in the House, however, Republicans lost its chance to gain a majority in the Senate.

Democrats made a net gain in the gubernatorial elections, flipping governorships in Arizona, Maryland, and Massachusetts. Republicans flipped Nevada's governorship, while Republican governor Ron DeSantis of Florida—previously considered one of the nation's most contested swing states—won reelection in an unexpectedly large landslide, making him the election night's biggest hero and the next hopeful for 2024 Presidential election.

Why a Red Ripple not a Red Wave

The reasons are somewhat obvious when the exit poll data are analyzed. (See CNN exit poll of Table 1) The main element has been a demographic shift. 63% of 18-29 year-old voted to Democrats. They only consist 12% of voters but they had keener awareness about abortion issues and overly conservative social trends than previous younger generations. They are the ones who would control U.S. politics instead of elder Republican generations henceforth.

Table 1. CNN Exit Polls

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 or older
18,571 total respondents	12%	21%	39%	28%
Democrats	63%	51%	44%	43%
Republicans	35%	47%	54%	55%

Updated 2:14 p.m. ET, Nov. 9

Race

18,571 total respondents

	White	Black	Latino	Asian	Other racial/ethnic groups
	73%	11%	11%	2%	3%
Democrats	40%	86%	60%	58%	41%
Republicans	58%	13%	39%	40%	54%

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Area type

18,571 total respondents

	Urban	Suburban	Rural
	31%	52%	17%
Democrats	58%	46%	34%
Republicans	41%	52%	63%

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Abortion should be:

18,571 total respondents

	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases
	29%	30%	26%	10%
Democrats	86%	60%	9%	11%
Republicans	11%	38%	90%	88%

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Income

18,571 total respondents

	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 or more
	30%	33%	37%
Democrats	52%	45%	46%
Republicans	45%	52%	53%

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Education by race

18,571 total respondents

	White voters, college degree	White voters, no degree	Voters of color, college degree	Voters of color, no degree
	34%	39%	9%	18%
Democrats	50%	32%	68%	68%
Republicans	47%	66%	30%	29%

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View of Donald Trump		
18,571 total respondents		
	Favorable	Unfavorable
	39%	58%
Democrats	4%	77%
Republicans	95%	20%

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Confident your state's elections are fair/accurate?				
18,571 total respondents				
	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident
	47%	33%	13%	6%
Democrats	70%	36%	20%	12%
Republicans	28%	62%	78%	85%

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Most important issue to your vote					
18,571 total respondents					
	Crime	Abortion	Inflation	Gun policy	Immigration
	11%	27%	31%	11%	10%
Democrats	41%	76%	28%	60%	25%
Republicans	57%	23%	71%	37%	73%

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Exit polls for Midterm Election Results 2022 | CNN Politics

<https://edition.cnn.com/election/2022/exit-polls/national-results/house/0>

Another reason is existence of Donald Trump himself. In the final stage of elections, Trump exposed himself too much, too loudly. CNN exit poll data shows 58% of Americans views him 'unfavorably' and at least 80% of voters are confident that American election system is accurate or fair. Trump's noisy assertion on 'stolen election' would not cause a red wave but a blue ripple in some of the states. Also, it should be noted some mass media overly covered Trump's political moves as if he were a strong Presidential hopeful in 2024 elections which may have had a reverse trumpet effect. The predictions of 'Red Wave' utterly failed the expectations of Republicans.

Swing States and Political Violence

From a plot to kidnap Michigan's governor and the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol and to Nancy Pelosi's home invasion on October 29, 2022, acts of political violence in the United States have skyrocketed in the last five years. Also, the nature of political violence has also changed. According to the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism

and Responses to Terrorism (START), most political violence in the United States is committed by people who do not belong to any formal organization- people in general.

In this paper, one hypothesis will be tested: in highly contested states, violent crime rate has some relation with some kind of party orientation or not.

Swing States

Six states were at the center of the political universe in November, 2022: The five President Joe Biden flipped in 2020: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — plus Nevada. They were most heated swing states in 2022 midterm elections.

The crime rate ranking can be obtained by Table 2 while the final result of 2022 elections is shown in Table 3.

Table 4 explains the correlations between some of the elements. By examining figures. Two points can be seen.

Table 2. The US states by crime rate per 100,000 population are given below:

1. District of Columbia	5,416.09
2. New Mexico	3,944.96
3. Alaska	3,777.89
4. Louisiana	3,711.29
5. South Carolina	3,451.58
6. Arkansas	3,442.67
7. Oklahoma	3,277.08
8. Tennessee	3,247.83
9. Alabama	3,185.26
10. Missouri	3,133.66
11. Hawaii	3,126.7
12. Oregon	3,015.01
13. Washington	2,975.76
14. Colorado	2,971.61
15. Arizona	2,895.83
16. Nevada	2,815.93
17. Texas	2,809.63
18. California	2,772.42
19. North Carolina	2,729.11
20. Kansas	2,725.28
21. Georgia	2,716.47
22. Delaware	2,674.78
23. Mississippi	2,653.73
24. Montana	2,598.11
25. Florida	2,524.08
26. Utah	2,404.87

27. Maryland	2,404.31
28. Ohio	2,348.85
29. Indiana	2,341.87
30. Nebraska	2,340.25
31. Minnesota	2,315.19
32. North Dakota	2,261.63
33. Illinois	2,253.39
34. South Dakota	2,169.99
35. Kentucky	2,114.52
36. Michigan	2,022.48
37. Iowa	2,000.24
38. West Virginia	1,899.96
39. Virginia	1,850.69
40. Wyoming	1,788.48
41. Wisconsin	1,764.59
42. Rhode Island	1,755.87
43. New York	1,731.91
44. Pennsylvania	1,709.84
45. Vermont	1,626.63
46. Connecticut	1,610.19
47. New Jersey	1,542.55
48. Massachusetts	1,507.36
49. Idaho	1,443.32
50. New Hampshire	1,361.76
51. Maine	1,360.72

Maine has the least crime rate among the US states, and the District of Columbia has the highest one. The crime rates data include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

US Crime Rate by States [Report 2022] (usabynumbers.com)

<https://usabynumbers.com/crime-rate-by-states/>

Table 3. Swing State Results

Ranking	Senate		Governor		House		Violence
	(R)	(D)	(R)	(D)	(R)	(D)	
Arizona	46.5 (%)	51.4	49.7	50.3	6	3	15
Georgia	48.5*	49.4*	53.4	45.9	9	5	21
Michigan	X	X	43.9	54.4	6	7	36
Pennsylvania	46.4	51.2	41.7	56.5	8	9	44
Wisconsin	50.4	49.4	47.8	51.1	6	2	41
Nevada	48	48.8	48.8	47.3	1	3	16

● tentative

Compiled from the author by the data Michigan [Midterm Election 2022](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2022-elections/michigan-results?icid=election_nav) ([nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2022-elections/michigan-results?icid=election_nav))

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Table 4. Correlation Table

	Senate(R)	Senate(D)	Gov(R)	Gov(D)	House(R)	House(D)	CRIME Rank
Arisona	46.5	51.4	49.7	50.3	6	6	15
Georgia	48.5	49.4	53.4	45.9	9	5	21
Michigan			43.9	54.4	6	7	35
Pennsylvania	46.4	51.2	41.7	56.5	8	9	44
Wisconsin	50.4	49.4	47.8	51.1	6	2	41
Nevada	48	48.8	48.8	47.3	1	3	16
	Gov(R)&House(R)		-0.00692		Gov(D)&House(D)		0.6766
	Gov(R)&Crime		-0.73775		Gov(D)&Crime		0.775315
	House(R)&Crime		0.398986		House(D)&Crime		0.292

Copiled and calculated by the author

First, in the swing states, Republicans had a split voting between House and Governor elections, while Democrats had a measure of consistency (correlation coefficient=0.67). In other words, there seem some cleavages emerging among Republicans as to the levels of elections. Second, Republicans have an inverse relation between Gubernatorial election and crime rate ranking (correlation coefficient=-0.74), while Democrats show the otherwise (correlation coefficient=0.775). Since the figure used is the crime rate ranking among 50 states and Washington DC, the absolute numbers of crimes show the opposite tendency: Republican gubernatorial elections have positive correlations with crime numbers and Democrats otherwise. The exit poll shows, only 11% of voters responded crime as the most important issue in their election choice, nevertheless, the Democratic tendencies are worth noting.

Conclusion

In the highly contested states, election results and rates of violence show contradictory relations in the gubernatorial elections: Republicans gubernatorial elections have a high correlation with the crime rates, while Democrats show almost opposite trend. Republicans show a split voting tendency between governor's elections and House elections but Democrats manifest a considerable 'straightness' between the two. In a summary, in 2022 elections it was among Republicans a Red political cleavage started to emerge not a Red Wave nor a Red Ripple in the elections of 2022 nationwide.

(Last updated on 2022-11-26)