THE HISTORICAL RECORD: NOVEMBER 3, 2026 MIDTERM ELECTION

Election record compiled November 15, 2026. The Associated Press called Democratic control of the U.S. Senate at 11:36 p.m. ET November 3 and the U.S. House at 1:24 a.m. ET November 4. Control of both chambers is established; some individual races remained uncalled in the latest published reports. The figures below are dated reported totals, not a claim that every race was certified.

Chamber	Democratic / caucus	Republican	Uncalled
U.S. Senate	55	44	1
U.S. House	256	169	10

Senate Democratic caucus count includes two independents who caucus with Democrats. The AP reported an eight-seat Democratic net gain in the Senate. The House figures are an AP-based November 14 snapshot; later reports can change the counts as outstanding races are called.

Historic victories and representation

Scott Colom, Mississippi: Democratic U.S. Senate winner, defeating incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith. First Black senator elected from Mississippi since Reconstruction. The AP cited Democratic strength in the Jackson and Delta regions and updated county and provisional-ballot counts. Hinds County is part of the community history of this victory, though the statewide result cannot be assigned to a single county.

Keisha Lance Bottoms, Georgia: Former Atlanta mayor elected governor; historic first Black woman elected governor in the United States.

Gina Hinojosa, Texas: Elected governor; first Latina elected governor of Texas.

Deb Haaland, New Mexico: Elected governor; first Native American woman elected governor in U.S. history.

Aaron Ford, Nevada: Elected governor; first Black governor of Nevada.

Byron Donalds, Florida: Republican elected governor; first Black governor of Florida, showing that racial representation and partisan affiliation are not interchangeable.

The political ramifications

Congressional authority: Democratic control of both chambers changes committee leadership, legislative scheduling, oversight, investigations, and budget negotiations. It does not guarantee enactment of every proposed policy; presidential vetoes, Senate rules, courts, and future elections remain important.

Political geography: Victories in states previously regarded as Republican strongholds demonstrate that entrenched assumptions about voter coalitions and electoral safety can be challenged.

Representation: The election of women and leaders of color expands who holds executive and legislative office. Those victories are historically significant, while every officeholder must still be judged by conduct and policy.

Voting rights: Redistricting, access to the ballot, equal representation, and transparent counting remain critical matters of public accountability. A major electoral victory does not complete the work of justice.

A declaration for the pulpit: The Voting Booth Spoke

Beloved, I will not ignore what we have witnessed. The American people changed the balance of power in both chambers of Congress. Political strongholds were challenged and historic barriers broken. The election of Scott Colom in Mississippi and Keisha Lance Bottoms in Georgia, together with other historic victories, shows that the voting booth can still reshape the direction of this nation. **The voting booth spoke, and its message cannot be ignored.**

But the Church must understand that a change in political leadership is not the completion of justice. Protecting human dignity, defending the vulnerable, and holding leaders accountable remain our responsibility. No political party possesses a monopoly on righteousness. We must examine every leader by truth, justice, integrity, and human dignity. The same God who calls the nation to righteousness calls the Church to repentance.

The wind of change is blowing. Yet our foundation must remain the Word of the living God. **Mercy found us. Truth must guide us. Justice must be pursued. And the fear of the Lord must keep us.**

Sources for the historical record

Associated Press, "Calling control of Congress in the 2026 midterm elections": https://www.ap.org/the-definitive-source/behind-the-news/calling-control-of-congress-in-the-2026-midterm-elections/

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A PLACE OF HONOR: MAMA AND THE POWER OF THE PEN

In loving memory of Catherine Coleman-Myers

Beloved, I must pause to honor someone whose love for God, family, and the right to vote helped shape the woman standing before you: my Mama, Catherine Coleman-Myers.

Mama loved voting. She treasured its importance and proudly wore her "I Voted" sticker. That little sticker was more than something on her clothing. It declared that her voice, her citizenship, and her vote mattered.

Mama did not live to see the first Black U.S. senator elected from Mississippi since Reconstruction. But she lived to see Barack Obama elected the first Black President of the United States. In my heart, I can almost hear Mama shouting Hallelujah from the gates of Heaven!

I imagine her rejoicing and praying that love will rise above hatred, that justice will overcome oppression, and that her beloved Mississippi will emerge from the vicious winds of racial hatred into the dignity, unity, and love she carried in her heart.

Mama, this victory belongs to you, too. It belongs to every mother and father, grandmother and grandfather, and ancestor who sacrificed, struggled, marched, prayed, and refused to surrender hope.

Mama took us to the voting booth, not simply to cast a ballot, but to teach a lesson no classroom could fully contain. She taught us the power of the pen, the responsibility of citizenship, and the importance of civic engagement. She reminded us that **every vote must count because the vote is one of our greatest weapons for peaceful change.**

Those moments were lessons in courage, dignity, responsibility, and the extraordinary price our ancestors paid for the right to vote. We stand on the shoulders of those denied the ballot, those who faced intimidation and violence, and those who gave their lives so future generations could exercise that right.

I believe our ancestors would be pleased. Not because the struggle has ended, but because the seeds they planted are still producing a harvest. Not because hatred has disappeared, but because hope continues to rise.

Mama, your lessons were not forgotten. Your prayers were not in vain. Your love continues to speak through the generations you helped raise.

We are their children. We are their answered prayers. And we must become faithful guardians of the inheritance placed in our hands. To God be the glory. Hallelujah!

> *We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. - Psalm 78:4*

Mama taught us the power of the vote, but also that our lives must remain under God's authority. Political victories may change a nation's direction; reverence for the Lord must govern our hearts.

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

When Injustice Meets Truth, Mercy and Justice Still Speak

Beloved Congregation, we are living in a defining moment in the history of our nation, our state, and the Church.

We have witnessed attempts to reverse hard-won civil rights and redraw political districts in ways that diminish the voices of the people. We have been eyewitnesses to injustice, hatred, manipulation, and political gerrymandering. **But the voices of the people have not been silenced.**

The election has changed the balance of power in Congress. Historic victories by women and men of color have challenged old assumptions. And here in Mississippi, Scott Colom's election is a milestone our ancestors could scarcely have imagined. Hinds County, my county, participated in that history through the power of its voters.

The power of the vote, the determination of morally conscious people, and the cries for justice carried through generations remind us that the struggle for human dignity continues. The wind of change is blowing.

But a political victory does not mean the work is finished. **This is not the end. This is the beginning of renewed hope, greater responsibility, and continued work confronting injustice.**

We must plan, organize, and prepare purposefully. We must move with intention, wisdom, discernment, and unwavering commitment to truth. Above all, **we must seek the face of God.**

Proverbs 28:14 calls us to holy and trembling reverence. Not trembling because we fear people, political power, or threats, but because we recognize the holiness, sovereignty, righteousness, and justice of Almighty God.

We serve a just God: the God who speaks to the winds and rain, commands storms, sees pain, hears cries, and remembers the oppressed. I believe God is reminding His people that injustice does not possess the final word.

The seeds of corruption bear consequences. Traps built to destroy others may become pits for those who made them. What the enemy planned for evil, God is able to turn for good.

But God's justice is not permission for us to become hateful, vindictive, or cruel. **We must not become what we prayed to overcome.** Romans 12:19 reminds us: "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Every movement toward justice has encountered resistance. We may yet face intimidation, manipulation, and new efforts to reverse progress. But we will not surrender to fear. **For we know that our Redeemer liveth!** We believe He goes before us, strengthens us, and surrounds us with His protection.

And now I must speak to the Church. If we call the nation to repentance, we must examine our own hearts. Have we returned to our first love? Have we become more devoted to political personalities than biblical principles? Have hatred, pride, greed, or power compromised our witness?

Revelation 2:4 warns of leaving our first love. We cannot demand righteousness from the nation while refusing correction in the house of God. **Mercy must find us, but repentance must change us.**

Let us teach children the value of truth, the history of sacrifice, the responsibility of citizenship, and reverence for God. Let us build churches that speak truth, communities that protect dignity, and a generation that understands justice requires continuing responsibility.

The wind of change is blowing. Hope is rising. We shall not harden our hearts when God calls us to greater obedience. **Mercy found us. Truth is calling us. Justice still matters. And the fear of the Lord must keep us.**

Let us rise, not merely to celebrate what has happened, but to become faithful stewards of what comes next. It is well with us, because our Redeemer lives!

With pastoral love, conviction, and unwavering faith,

Bishop Dr. Carolyn Coleman | The Lady of Wisdom

Prayer for Our Children and Future Generations

Heavenly Father, we bring our children, grandchildren, and generations yet unborn before Your throne. Teach them to love truth more than popularity and righteousness more than advantage. Give them wisdom to recognize injustice and courage to confront it without hatred. Help them remember the sacrifices of those who came before them. Raise up leaders who honor You through integrity. Protect our children from greed, prejudice, violence, and deception. Let them seek Your face, hear Your voice, and obey Your instructions. In Jesus' Mighty name, Amen.

Altar Call: Has Mercy Found You?

Beloved, has mercy found you? Have you allowed God to reach the places you kept hidden? Have you surrendered bitterness, confessed what needs confession, and forsaken what needs forsaking? Have you become so focused on others' wrongdoing that you have neglected your own heart? Today the Lord calls us to repentance, restoration, and renewed reverence.

You may have been wounded by injustice, betrayal, discrimination, or loss. But pain does not have to become your prison. Jesus Christ offers forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and new life. Come to the altar, not because you are perfect, but because you need His mercy.

Prayer of Repentance and Renewal

Lord Jesus, I come with an open heart. I confess my sins and my need for mercy. Forgive me for resisting Your instructions, hardening my heart, or allowing anger and pride to guide me. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I trust You as Savior and Lord. Cleanse my heart, renew my mind, teach me righteousness, and help me forgive as I have been forgiven. Let reverence for You govern my choices and Christ's love shape my conduct. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Congregational Charge

Church, do not confuse the fall of an obstacle with the completion of your assignment. Do not allow victory to produce complacency or injustice to produce hatred. Do not let opposition silence your witness or political power replace spiritual authority. Remain faithful, prayerful, courageous, and teachable. Seek God before seeking approval. Follow His instructions. Honor those who came before you by faithfully stewarding the opportunities now in your hands. **Mercy found you. The fear of the Lord must keep you.**

BE READY: Closing Exhortation

Be ready to stand when righteousness requires courage. Be ready to speak when truth needs a witness. Be ready to repent when the Word reveals what must change. Be ready to forgive when mercy challenges your heart. Be ready to serve, lead, and follow the Holy Spirit. Above all, be ready to meet the Lord.

> *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. - Matthew 24:44*

Winds may change. Governments may change. Seasons may change. But our God remains faithful. His Word remains true, His mercy remains available, and His call to righteousness remains unchanged. **Be Ready! Be Righteous! Be Faithful! Be Obedient! Remain in the fear of the Lord!** We know that our Redeemer liveth. It is well with me. I receive it now. In the Mighty name of Jesus. Amen and Amen!

Scripture Reference Index

Proverbs 28:1, 4, 10, 12-14, 20-23; Joshua 1:9; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 6:13; Psalm 7:15-16; Psalm 57:6; Genesis 50:20; Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 4:16; Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 14:26-27; Psalm 112:1; Luke 16:10; Galatians 6:9; James 1:22; Psalm 78:4; Romans 12:19; Revelation 2:4; Job 19:25; Matthew 24:44.

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