

# October Leadership Summit with Hotline

Key takeaways

**October 19, 2016**

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# Roadmap for the presentation

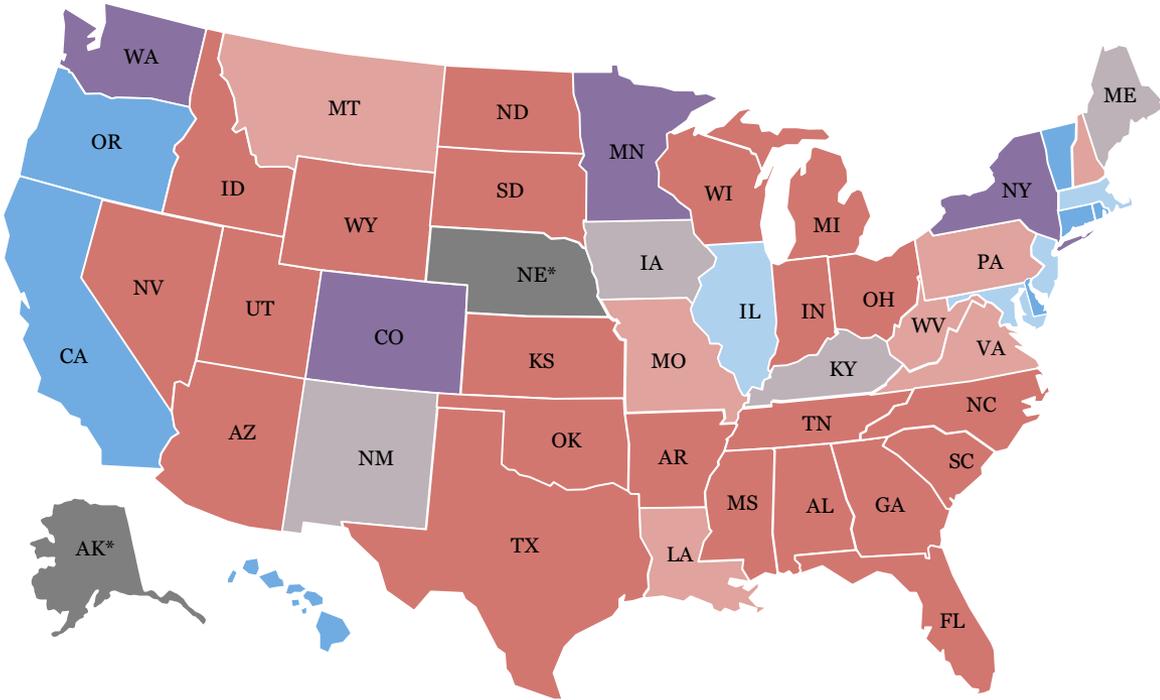
What would a White House loss mean for the GOP?

↳ Could a Clinton win end gridlock?

# Losing the White House is not an extinction event for the GOP

## Party control of state legislatures and governorships

- Dem Legislature, Dem Governor
- GOP Legislature, GOP Governor
- Split Legislature, Dem Governor
- Dem Legislature, GOP Governor
- GOP Legislature, Dem Governor
- Split Legislature, GOP Governor



**Analysis**

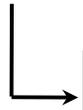
- Although it would be the first time in history that a party lost the popular vote six of the last seven presidential elections, the GOP would not fall apart
- The GOP controls most state legislatures and governorships, and will likely retain control of at least one chamber of Congress

\* Nebraska has a unicameral, nonpartisan legislature and a GOP governor; Alaska has an independent governor and a GOP legislature

Sources: Hotline panel, Leadership Summit 2016: Charting new channels of influence, National Journal, October 14, 2016.

# Roadmap for the presentation

What would a White House loss mean for the GOP?



Could a Clinton win end gridlock?

# If Clinton wins and faces a closely divided Senate and a GOP House, it is in her best interest to compromise

## Why a Clinton presidency could lead to an end to gridlock

1. **2016 congressional primaries indicate the ultra conservative wing of the Republican party is waning:** The only congressional Republicans who lost primaries were challenged from the center or threatened by redistricting. House Speaker Paul Ryan defeated a Trump acolyte with 84 percent of the vote. Senator John McCain, who has a low home approval rating, still defeated his Tea-Party-aligned opponent by 12 points.
2. **In order for Clinton to keep the Senate in 2018, she will have to cater to red-state Democrats:** Democrats will not be able to keep the Senate in 2018 if she moves too far left. Sens. Heitkamp, McCaskill, Tester, Manchin and Donnelly will be up for reelection in states that Trump will likely carry.
3. **The special election for Tim Kaine's Senate seat will serve as an early battleground-state referendum of Clinton's first year in office:** Virginia has a long record of voting for the out party in elections held the year after the presidential election and Republicans will be looking to deliver a blow to Democrats, so Clinton will have to show she is capable of compromise.



4. **Incoming Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer is more inclined to compromise than outgoing leader Harry Reid:** Senator Schumer has a history of breaking with the White House and recruiting moderate Democrats in red states.
5. **Clinton is less of an ideologue than Obama and more focused on the political bottom line:** Obama's past as an academic and his strong ideological commitments make him often uninclined to compromise. Clinton, however, has close relationships with many Senate Republicans and has pledged to improve relationships with Congress on the campaign trail.

Sources: Hotline panel, Leadership Summit 2016: Charting new channels of influence, National Journal, October 14, 2016; Noun Project, Artem Kovyazin.