

Signs of a wave election

Using history as a guide to the 2018 midterms with The Cook Political Report

April 17, 2018

Producer

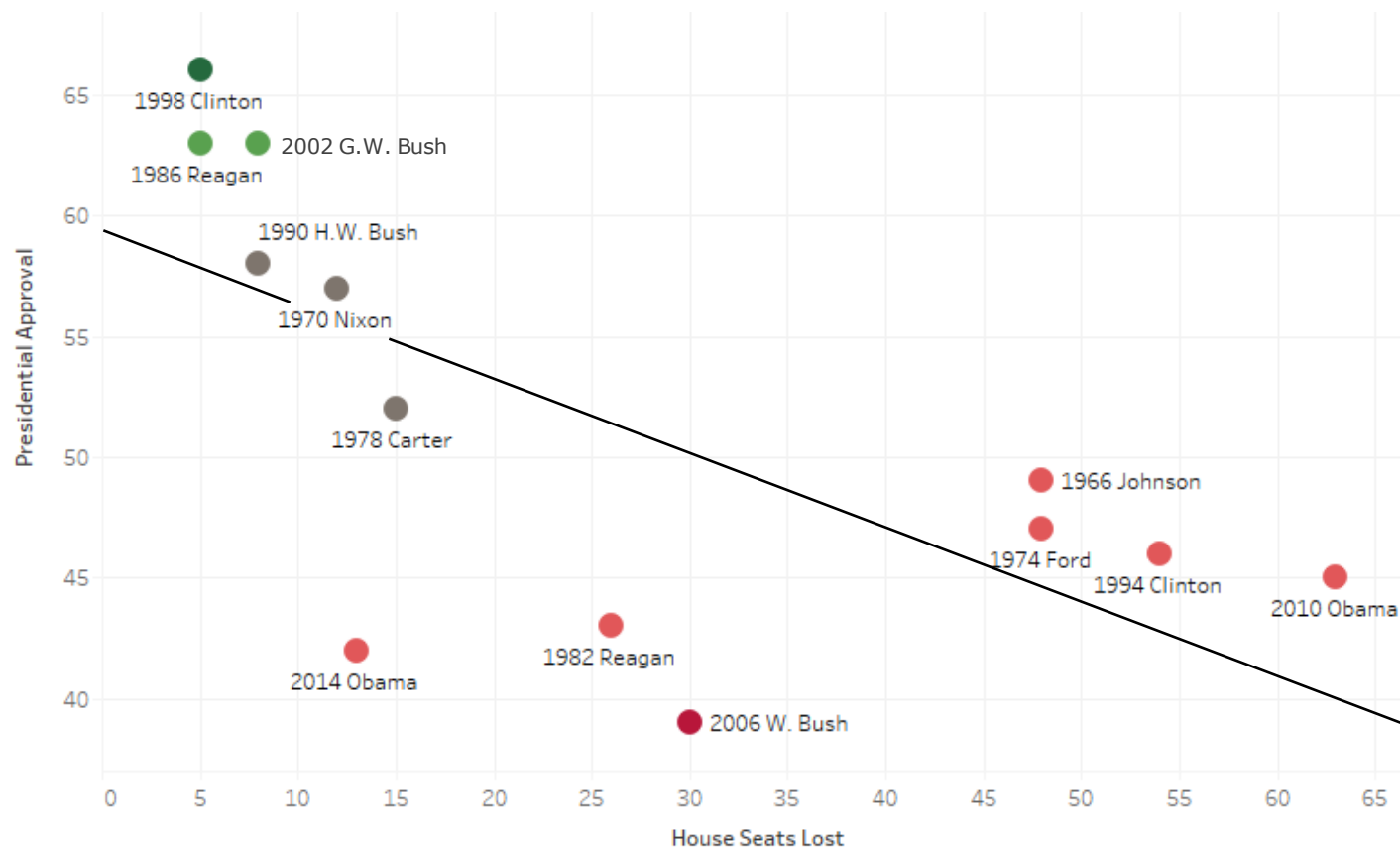
Madelaine Pisani

Director

Alistair Taylor

History tells us that the president's party will lose seats in midterm elections

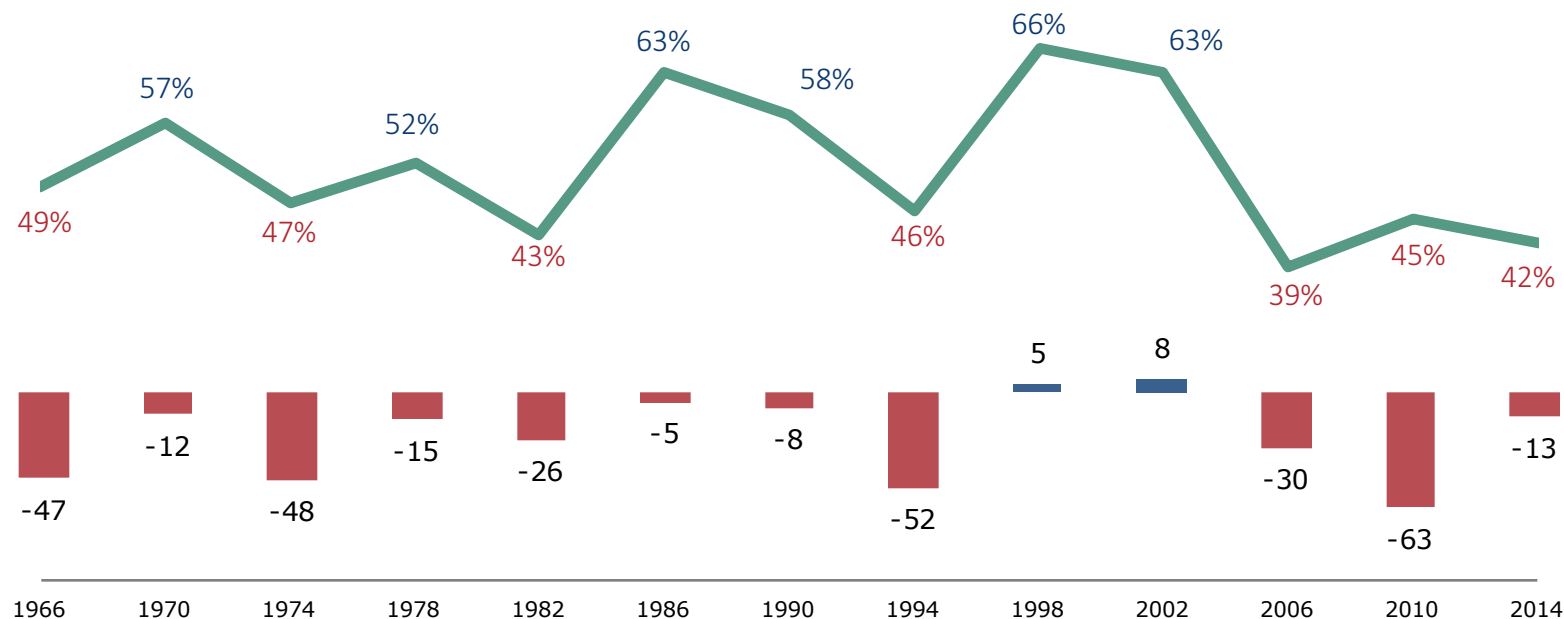
Presidential approval ratings vs. House seats lost, 1966-2014



Sources: Ally Flinn, David Wasserman, "Follow 2018 with us," The Cook Political Report, April 10, 2018.

Presidents with a sub-50% approval rating lose an average of 40 House seats in the midterms

Presidential job approval vs. midterm results since 1966



Trump Job Approval
42.4%
 RCP Average: April 16, 2018

Job Approval	Average Change
Over 60%	+3 Seats
50%-60%	-12 Seats
Under 50%	-40 Seats

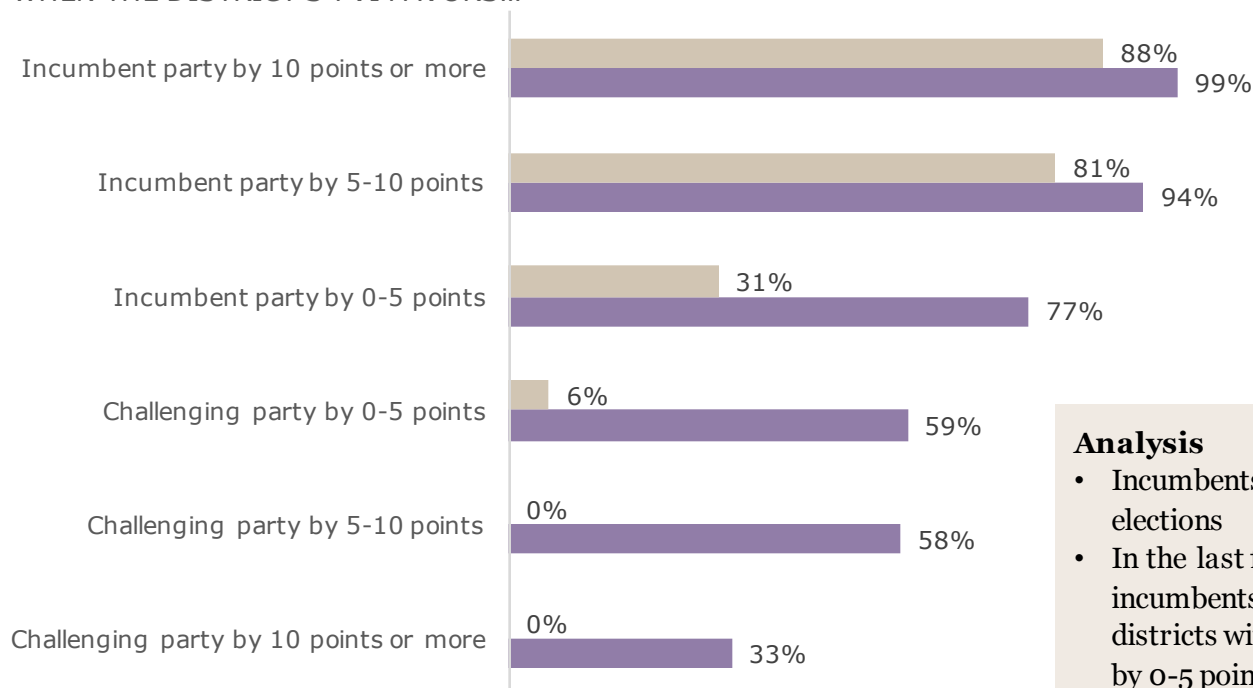
Sources: Gallup, The Cook Political Report, National Journal

In the last four House wave elections, roughly two-thirds of vulnerable incumbents from the president's party still won

Incumbent party's retention rates in the past four House wave elections*

■ Open seats ■ Incumbent running

WHEN THE DISTRICT'S PVI FAVORS...



*1994, 2006,
2008, 2010

Analysis

- Incumbents are hard to beat, even in wave elections
- In the last four House wave elections, 59% of incumbents from the president's party in districts with a PVI favoring the other party by 0-5 points still won
- However, when those seats were open, the president's party only held 6% of them

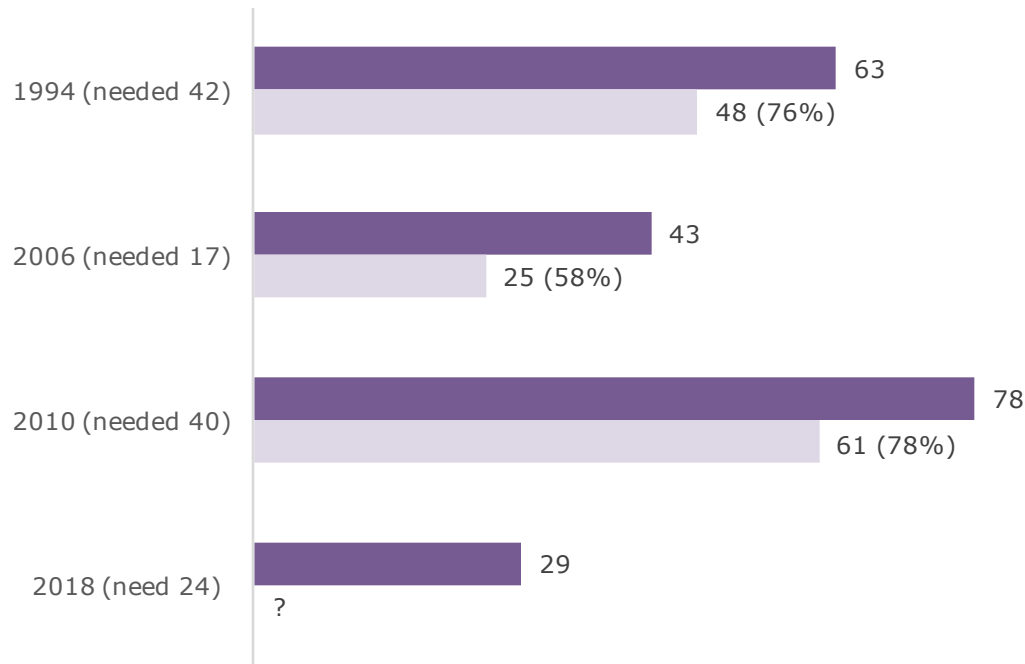
Sources: Ally Flinn, David Wasserman, "Follow 2018 with us," The Cook Political Report, April 10, 2018.

In the last three midterm waves, the out party won an average of 71% of seats in the Toss Up or worse column

How races in Toss Up or worse break in midterm wave elections*

■ Seats in Toss Up or worse ■ Seats **won** in Toss Up or worse

*1994, 2006, 2010



Analysis

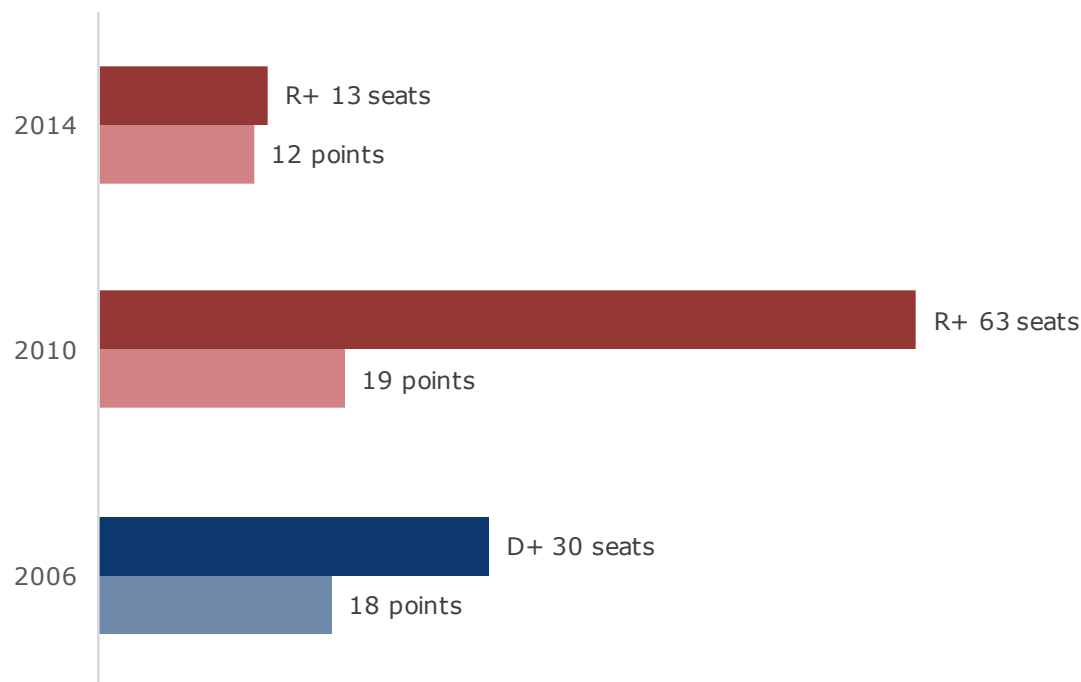
- Democrats need to flip 24 seats to take back the House
- As the ratings currently stand, Democrats would have to pick up over 82% of Republican-held seats in districts rated toss up or worse

Sources: Ally Flinn, David Wasserman, "Follow 2018 with us," The Cook Political Report, April 10, 2018.

In the last three midterm waves, the party that won the House also decisively won the independent vote

How races in Toss Up or worse break in midterm wave elections

■ House results (R) ■ Independent vote differential in favor of Republicans
■ House results (D) ■ Independent vote differential in favor of Democrats



Trump job approval among
independent voters

33%

Gallup: April 15, 2018

Sources: Ally Flinn, David Wasserman, "Follow 2018 with us," The Cook Political Report, April 10, 2018.

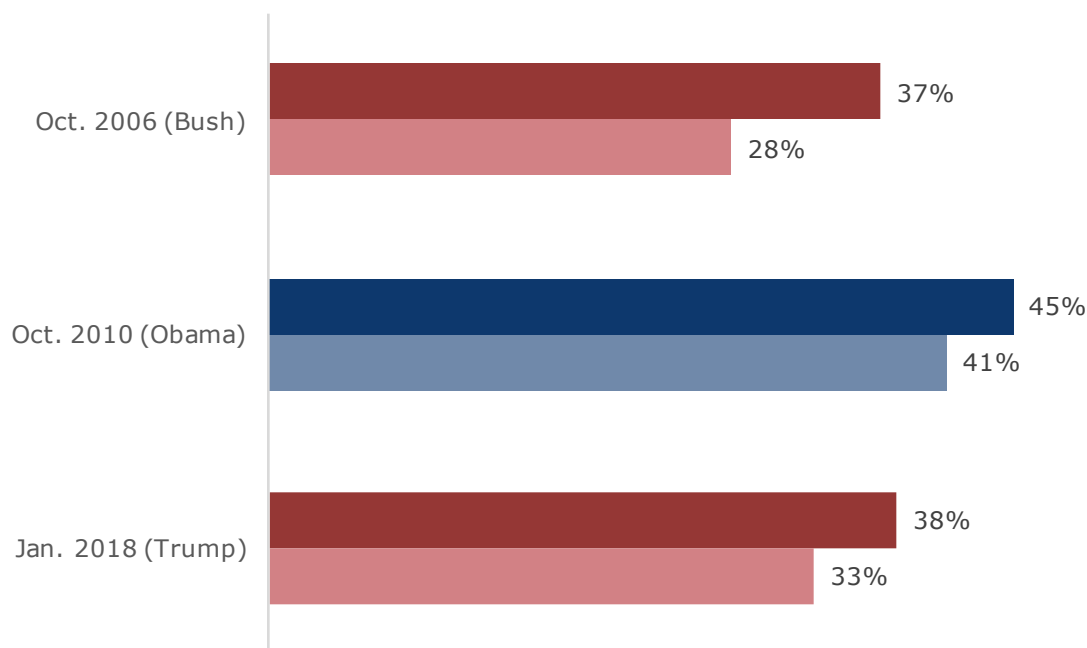
Going into the last two wave elections Bush and Obama both had poor approval numbers among independents

Total job approval and independent job approval going into the last two wave elections*

■ Job approval (R) ■ Independent job approval (R)

■ Job approval (D) ■ Independent job approval (D)

*2006,
2010



Analysis

- Currently Trump is polling poorly with independent voters, with a job approval rating of roughly 33%
- According to Gallup, his highest approval was 42% when he first took office and his lowest was 29% in early August

Sources: Ally Flinn, David Wasserman, "Follow 2018 with us," The Cook Political Report, April 10, 2018.