**THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS AND THE DANCE ECOSYSTEM**

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Each and every election cycle at all levels of government is important and consequential for the vibrancy of the dance ecosystem and overall arts and cultural sector. The November 8, 2022 elections were no different. The dance ecosystem and the overall arts and cultural sector are impacted by a wide range of legislation, regulation, and policies considered by all levels of government throughout any given year, including, but not limited to the following issues: taxes, government support for the arts, arts education, energy, environment, and workforce development.

As the non-partisan, national service organization for the dance ecosystem, Dance/USA has been involved in the election space through its [#Dance2Vote initiative](https://www.danceusa.org/dance2vote) for the last several election cycles to urge creative workers, interested stakeholders, the overall arts and cultural sector, and the supportive general public to register to vote and to vote during each and every election at all levels of government. There have been many examples over the years at all levels of government where specific election results have come down to a small handful of votes. For example, during the 2017 election cycle, there was one vote that decided and flipped control of the Virginia House of Delegates (the house chamber of the state’s general assembly) from the political party that was in control for 17 years! Every vote is important and every vote counts. Dance/USA will continue to be involved in the election space to ensure creative workers have accurate information to be informed voters and exercise their civic duty.

This document provides an analysis concerning the results of the November 8, 2022 elections and how the results will impact the dance ecosystem and overall arts and cultural sector going forward.

***Please note that this is a living document that will be updated as new information becomes available.***

**U.S. CONGRESS**

Prior to the November 8 election, the Democratic Party held the majority in the U.S. House (**220-213 with 2 vacancies**) and controlled the U.S. Senate (**48-50**). **Two of the U.S. Senators are independents who caucus with the Democratic Party**. Per the U.S. Constitution, the Vice President is president of the U.S. Senate and is able to cast a tie breaking vote in the chamber. In fact, Vice President Kamala Harris voted on several occasions over the last couple of years to break tie votes on legislation and Presidential nominations.

**For the November 8 election, all 435 U.S. House seats were up for election and 35 of the 100 U.S. Senate seats were up for election**. The November 8 election is considered a mid-term election because there is no election for the U.S. President.

*U.S. House of Representatives*

As of November 10, major media outlets are currently reporting that the **Republican Party has won 215 seats (18 pickups) and the Democratic Party has won 204 seats (5 pickups).**

The number needed to control the U.S. House is **218 seats**. There are several races that remain uncalled at this time and will be called in the coming days.

*U.S. Senate*

As of November 10, major media outlets are reporting that the **Republican Party has won 49 seats and the Democratic Party has 50 seats (1 pickup)**.

The U.S. Senate race in Georgia will go to a runoff scheduled for December 6 as neither major candidate reached the 50% vote threshold. **Regardless of the end result of the Georgia race, the Democratic Party will maintain control of the U.S. Senate chamber for the next two-year session of Congress (118th Congress) commencing in January 2023.** The number needed to control the U.S. Senate is **51 seats**.

**STATE ELECTIONS**

According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)](https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/ncsl-state-elections-2022.aspx), voters in **46 states** decided **36 gubernatorial seats, 6,279 state legislative seats, and 133 statewide ballot measures**.

*Governor Races*

According to the [National Governors Association (NGA)](https://www.nga.org/governors/elections/), gubernatorial elections were held in **36 states** and **3 territories** with **31 incumbent governors** eligible to run for re-election and **8 governors** not eligible or not seeking re-election. Specifically, there were **20 Republican and 16 Democratic seats were up for election in states**. Prior to the November 8 election, there were **28 Republican governors and 22 Democratic governors**.

As a result of the November 8 election, the Republicans hold **24 gubernatorial seats (lost 2 seats)** and the Democrats control **22 gubernatorial seats (gained 2 seats)**. There are 3 gubernatorial seats (**AK, OR, and NV**) yet to be called. Also, there are historic firsts as a result of the November 8 election: the U.S. will have a record number of **12 female governors in 2023**. The highest number of female governors in any given year was 9 in 2004. Voters in Arkansas, Massachusetts, and New York elected their first female governors. Arkansas and Massachusetts are the first states to have women serving as governors and lieutenant governors at the same time. Also, the newly-elected governor in Massachusetts will be the first openly-lesbian governor in the U.S.

Governors are important as they nominate or otherwise determine the membership of state arts agencies in several states. As leaders of their respective states, governors determine if the arts and humanities are a priority for their states and determine how the sector is supported as an important part of the state economy.

*What Can Dance Advocates Can Do*

**Dance/USA encourages its members and interested stakeholders to develop relationships with their governors and their staff to ensure the arts and humanities remain a priority for their respective states as well as to ensure their participation in various state-level initiatives impacting their state and local arts and cultural sectors.**

*State Legislative Races and Local Government Races*

According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)](https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/ncsl-state-elections-2022.aspx), voters in **46 states** decided **6,279 state legislative seats and 133 statewide ballot measures**. There are a total of **7,383 state legislative seats** across the country (1,972 state Senate seats and 5,411 state House seats).

Prior to the November 8 election, the Republican Party controlled 61 individual state legislative chambers (either the state House or Senate) and the Democrats controlled 37 chambers. The major political parties share one chamber (i.e., Alaska House of Representatives). There are a **total of 98 individual chambers across the country**.

As a result of the November 8 election, the Republicans control **57 individual chambers** (**lost 4 seats**) and the Democrats **control 41 individual chambers (4 pickups).**

Prior to the November 8 election, the Republicans had full control of the gubernatorial seat and the state legislature in **23 states** and Democrats had full control in **15 states** with **12 states under divided control** between the major political parties.

As a result of the election, the Republicans maintain full control in **23 states**, the Democrats are in full control in **19 states** and the **number of states with divided control is 8**.

There were hundreds of local government elections across the country, including mayoral elections and local county government elections. Please go to the websites of the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](https://www.usmayors.org/elections/election-results-2/) and [National Association of Counties](https://www.naco.org/) for the latest election results.

Mayors are important targets of dance and arts advocacy. It is important to note that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a non-partisan organization of 1,400 cities with populations of 30,000 or more, recently [passed several resolutions](https://www.danceusa.org/advocacy-resources) supporting the arts and cultural sector, including increased federal funding.

**Dance/USA encourages its members and interested stakeholders to develop relationships with their state and local legislators and their staff to ensure the arts and humanities remain a priority for their respective states as well as to ensure their participation in various state-level initiatives impacting their state and local arts and cultural sectors.** State legislatures in most, if not all, states have the power of the purse and provide potential state-level funding to their arts and cultural sector.

Specific state and local election results can be found on respective [state and local board of election websites](https://www.usa.gov/election-office).

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS ON THE DANCE ECOSYSTEM**

Regardless of which political party controls the U.S. Congress, the White House, or state and local governments, effective dance and arts advocacy is critical to ensuring that arts and humanities remain a priority as an industry and economic engine at all levels of government.

*U.S. Congress*

There are [several pieces of federal legislation](https://www.danceusa.org/117th-congress) that directly and indirectly impact the dance ecosystem and overall arts and cultural sector that passed by the end of the year. Any legislation in Congress that is not passed by the end of the year will need to be reintroduced during the new two-year session of the U.S. Congress (118th Congress) commencing in January 2023.

More immediately, Congress will reconvene following the November 8 election to consider funding for the federal government for the remainder of FY2023, ending September 30, 2023. This past July, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a six-bill appropriations package (totaling $405 billion) that funds several federal agencies and programs for FY2023 beginning October 1, 2022. [H.R. 8294](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8294?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+8294%22%2C%22HR%22%2C%228294%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1), Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2023, provides **$207 million each** for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Here is a [press release](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-passes-six-bill-government-funding-package) from the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. The bill is in the U.S. Senate for consideration. The $207 million amount would be the highest level of funding for the NEA and NEH. Both federal agencies are currently funded at [$180 million for FY2022](https://www.arts.gov/about/appropriations-history).

*What Can Dance Advocates Can Do*

**Dance/USA encourages its members and interested stakeholders to urge their federal elected officials to pass increased funding for all the federal arts and cultural-related agencies and arts education programs within the U.S. Department of Education by the end of the year.** Members and interested stakeholders can use this [Dance/USA action alert](https://www.theperformingartsalliance.org/homepage/issues/voter-voice/?vvsrc=%2Fcampaigns%2F92284%2Frespond) to quickly send their advocacy message to their U.S. Senators for action.

Congress could also potentially consider a tax package by the end of the year, which may include increased federal incentives for charitable giving and language to reinstate the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) program for the 4th quarter of 2021. **Dance/USA encourages its members and interested stakeholders to urge action on these pieces of legislation as well.** Members and interested stakeholders can use these respective action alerts – [charitable giving](https://www.theperformingartsalliance.org/homepage/issues/voter-voice/?vvsrc=%2Fcampaigns%2F92985%2Frespond) and [ERTC reinstatement](https://www.theperformingartsalliance.org/homepage/issues/voter-voice/?vvsrc=%2Fcampaigns%2F91917%2Frespond) – to quickly send their advocacy messages to their U.S. Representatives and Senators. Dance/USA has been collaborating with the business community and non-profit sector to pass these pieces of legislation.

**Dance/USA also encourages its members and interested stakeholders to urge their newly-elected officials to join** [**U.S. House and Senate arts and cultural-related caucuses**](https://www.americansforthearts.org/advocate/house-and-senate-cultural-caucuses) **as soon as the 118th Congress commences in January 2023.** These caucuses – Congressional Arts Caucus, Congressional STEAM Caucus, and Senate Cultural Caucus – are groups of U.S. Representatives and Senators who are supportive of the arts and cultural sector and ensure that the sector remains a priority for Congress.

*State and Local Advocacy*

All elected officials, including state and local elected officials, are and will continue to be concerned about the economy and how it impacts families and communities. It is important for dance advocates to leverage current economic data as part of their advocacy messaging to urge increased support for the arts and cultural sector in respective states and local communities.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), under the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) released [current economic data (2020)](https://www.arts.gov/about/news/2022/new-data-show-economic-impact-covid-19-arts-culture-sector) (March 2022) that shows a decline in the production of arts and cultural goods and services as a percentage of the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP). In 2020, the overall arts and cultural sector added **$876.7 billion or 4.2 percent of the nation’s GDP**. This represents an economic impact that is $43 billion lower than [2019 economic data](https://www.arts.gov/about/news/2021/new-report-released-economic-impact-arts-and-cultural-sector) — **4.3 percent** directly to the nation’s GDP, for a total approaching a trillion dollars (**$919.7 billion**) — released by both federal agencies in March 2021.

The latest economic report indicates that the creative economy shrank at nearly twice the rate (6.4%) of the overall economy (3.4%) when adjusted for inflation. Performing arts companies joined air transportation and oil drilling/exploration as industries that suffered the steepest decline within the economy in 2020. Between 2019 and 2020, the creative economy shed more than 600,000 workers, not including self-employed artists and other creative workers. Employment by performing arts companies fell by 50,000 workers, not including self-employed workers. The overall unemployment rate for artists in 2021 was 7.2 percent, down from 10.3 percent in 2020, but still higher than 3.7 percent based on 2019 data. The latest report also provides [state data profiles](https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/arts-data-profile-series/adp-30). For additional state-level resources, BEA has also produced [ACPSA fact-sheets for each state](https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/arts-and-culture) and, in partnership with the NEA, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies has created an [interactive dashboard](https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/) by state.

**NEXT ELECTION CYCLE - U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 2024**

**The 2024 general election is scheduled for November 5, 2024.** The election will involve voting for the next U.S. President who can determine that the arts and cultural sector is a priority for the country. In the coming months, various candidates will announce their candidacies for the position. Dance/USA encourages its members and interested stakeholders to ensure these candidates understand the importance of the dance ecosystem and overall arts and cultural sector. Dance/USA will continue to advocate and collaborate with its partners across the arts and cultural sector to ensure the sector remains a priority and to increase support for the creative economy and its workers.

[*Dance/USA*](https://www.danceusa.org/) *is the national service organization for dance, serving a broad cross-section of the dance ecosystem. Established in 1982, Dance/USA’s mission is to champion an inclusive and equitable dance field by leading, convening, advocating, and supporting individuals and organizations. We represent hundreds of individual dance artists; dance companies; international touring companies; studio owners; production houses; agents, managers, producers; and educational affiliates among other dance-related individuals and entities who each contribute to the robust economic and cultural dialogue of our nation.*