

# Federal Advocacy Update

## Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Steve Palmer

January 13, 2021



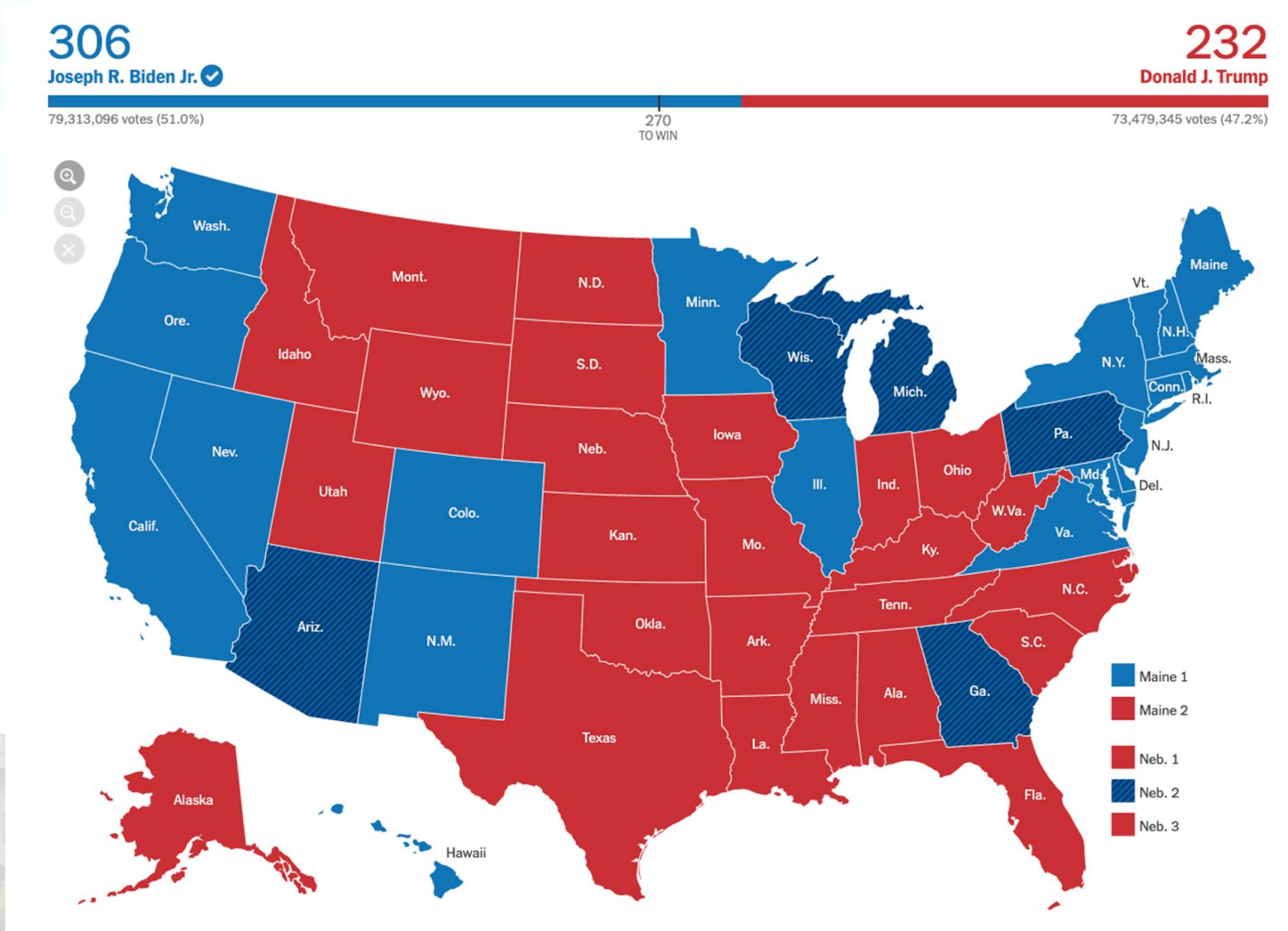
**VAN SCOYOC**  
ASSOCIATES

# 2020 Election and Federal Agenda in 2021

## Summary of Presentation

- Outcome of elections
- Makeup of 117<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Congressional leaders next year
- Biden Administration
  - Campaign priorities
  - Secretary designate Pete Buttigieg
- COVID-19 Relief legislation
- FY 2021 DOT Appropriations
- Surface transportation reauthorization
- Challenges that lie ahead

# Presidential Election



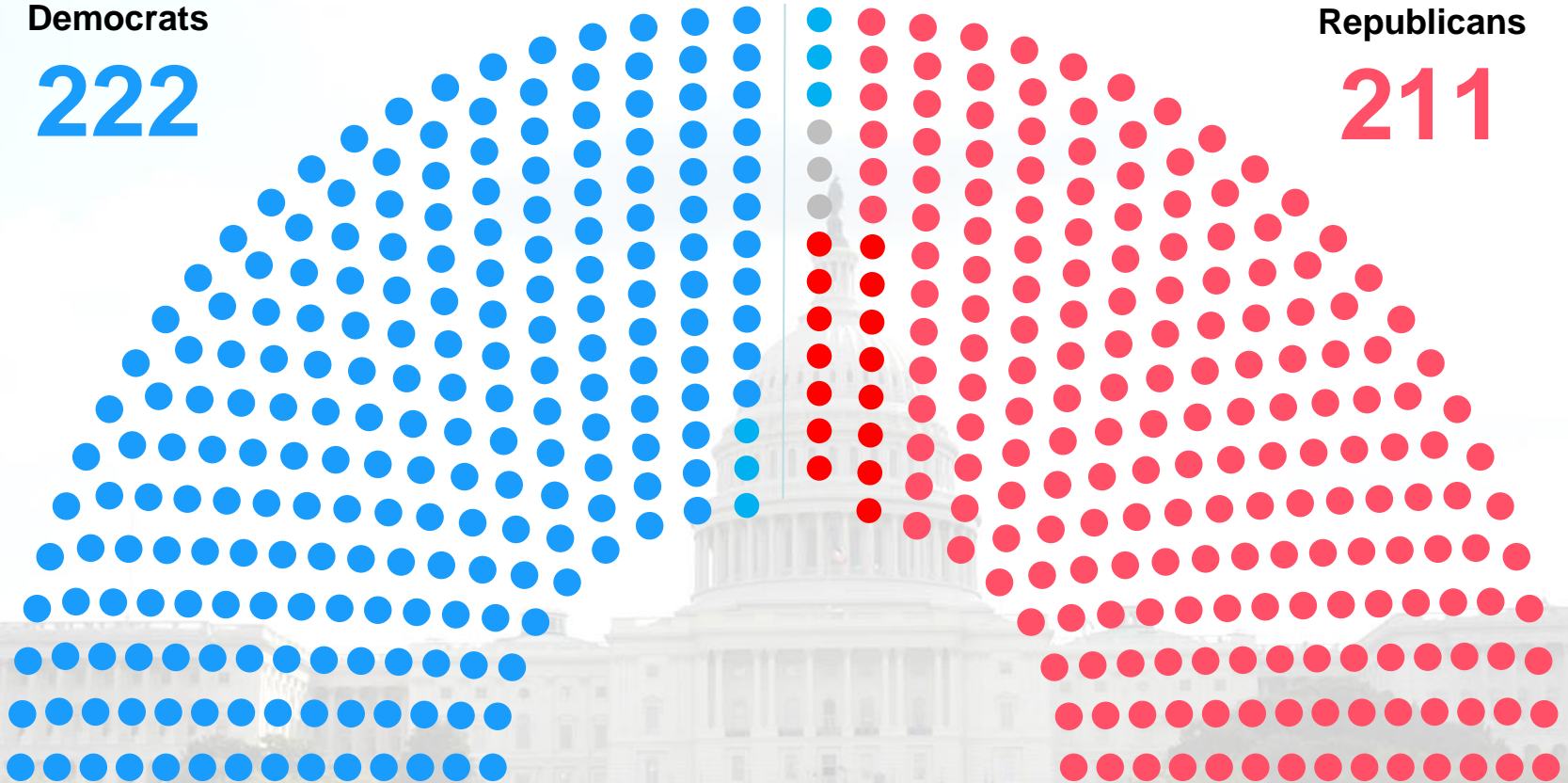
# House of Representatives Balance of Power

Democrats

222

Republicans

211



# House of Representatives Leadership

Democrats	
Speaker of the House	Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D, CA-12)
Majority Leader	Rep. Steny Hoyer (D, MD-05)
Majority Whip	Rep. Jim Clyburn (D, SC-06)
Assistant Speaker	Rep. Katherine Clarke (D, MA-05)
Democratic Caucus Chair	Hakeem Jeffries (D, NY-08)

Republicans	
Republican Leader	Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R, CA-23)
Republican Whip	Rep. Steve Scalise (R, LA-01)
Republican Conference Chair	Rep. Liz Cheney (R, WY-01)
Republican Policy Committee Chair	Rep. Gary Palmer (R, AL-06)

# House Transportation Committee Leaders

Committee	Dem Leader	GOP Leader
Transportation and Infrastructure	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)
Highways and Transit Subcommittee	Del. Elanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)	Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)
Ways and Means	Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)	Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX)
Appropriations	Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee	Rep. David Price (D-NC)	Rep. Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL)



## Senate – Balance of Power

## 51 SEATS NEEDED FOR CONTROL

48

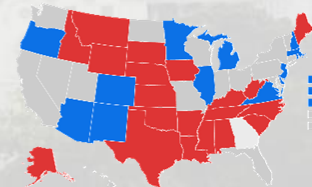
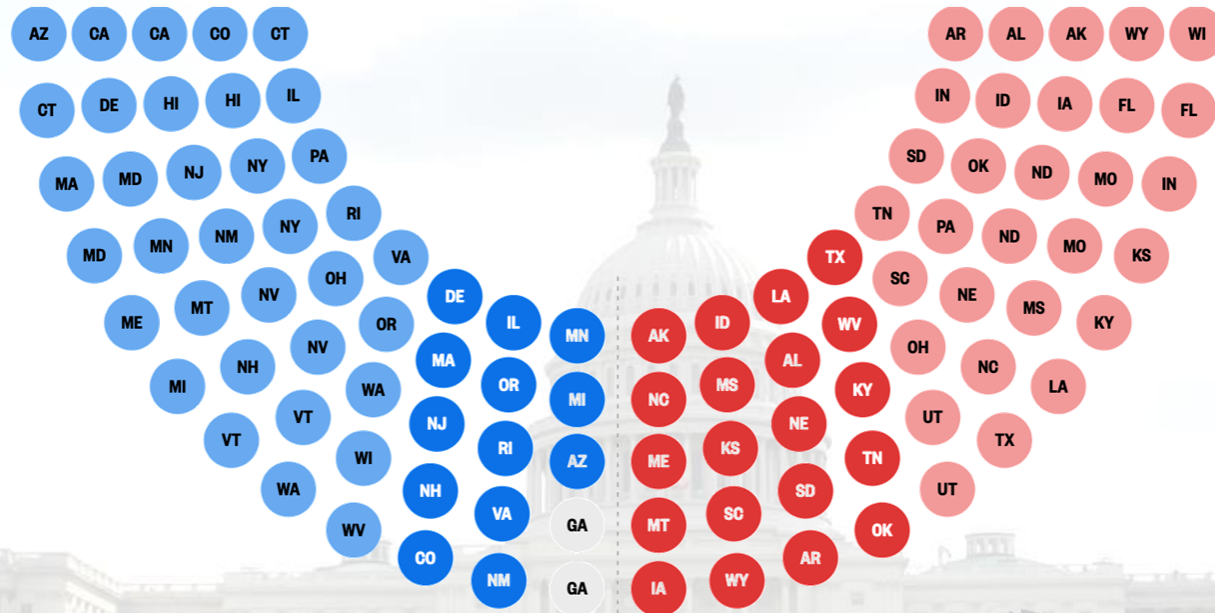
50

**DEM** (2 IND caucusing with Dems)

**GOP**

- 35 not up for election

30 not up for election ■



# Senate Leadership

Republicans	
Republican Leader	Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Majority Whip	Sen. John Thune (R-SD)
Republican Conference Chairman	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)
Republican Policy Committee Chairman	Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)
Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference	Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)
Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman	Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Democrats	
Senate Democratic Leader and Chair of the Conference	Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
Democratic Whip	Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)
Assistant Democratic Leader	Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
Chair of the Democratic Policy	Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Vice Chair of the Conference	Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)
Vice Chair of the Conference	Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)



# Senate Transportation Committee Leaders

Committee	GOP Leader	Dem Leader
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	Sen. Patrick Toomey (R-PA)	Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Environment and Public Works	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)
Finance	Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Appropriations	Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)	Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee	Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)	Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)

# Biden Administration – Infrastructure Campaign Proposals

- \$2 trillion over four years
  - Infrastructure: “Create millions of good, union jobs rebuilding America’s crumbling infrastructure – from roads and bridges to green spaces and water systems to electricity grids and universal broadband”
  - Transit: “Provide every American city with 100,000 or more residents with high-quality, zero-emissions public transportation options through flexible federal investments with strong labor protections that create good, union jobs and meet the needs of these cities.”

# Secretary of Transportation Designate Mayor Pete Buttigieg

- Campaign Proposal: \$1 trillion in states, cities, and local governments to build sustainable infrastructure
- Transportation Priorities:
  - Ensure that federal projects improve access to opportunity
  - Invest in electric buses and reduce carbon emissions
  - Build equitable public transportation
    - \$100 billion in grants to bring existing transit systems to a State of Good Repair and expand service
    - Encourage cities to develop comprehensive mobility plans that improve services like bike-sharing and low-cost ride-sharing
    - Map communities where residents have limited access to basic services and provide dedicated funds for transportation in these communities.

# COVID-19 Relief Legislation

- CARES Act – signed into law 3/27/20
  - Provided \$25 billion for transit
  - 100-percent federal share, no local match required
  - Available to support capital, operating, and other expenses eligible to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
- Revised HEROES Act – House passed 10/1/20
  - Included \$32 billion for transit
- Senate HEALS Act – No funding for transit
- Final COVID bill for 2020 – (as of 12/22/20)
  - \$13.3 billion in urban formula/state-of-good repair grants
  - \$679 million for non-urbanized grants
  - \$50 million to states for older adults and people with disabilities

# FY 2021 DOT Appropriations

- TIGER/BUILD Program - \$1 billion
  - Ensures parity between urban and rural grants
  - Allows cost-share waivers for grants in persistent poverty areas
  - Includes \$30 million for planning grants
- Federal Transit Administration
  - \$13 billion for FTA, including \$516.2 million from the General Fund
  - \$2 billion for Capital Investment Grants
  - \$516 million for formula bus grants, Low-No grants, and bus/bus facilities grants
  - Blocks the “Rostenkowski Test” to prevent a \$6 billion (or 60 percent) across-the-board cut of FY 2021 transit formula funds to each public transit agency

# Surface Transportation Authorization Senate Bill

- Current law - FAST Act – extended to 9/30/21
- Senate - America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019
  - Five-year, \$287 billion for highways and bridges
  - Includes \$10 billion to increase resiliency, charging stations, and carbon emission reductions
  - Transit, passenger rail, highway safety, and revenue TBD
- Next Congress
  - New Committee Chairs will bring new priorities
    - Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
      - Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) or
      - Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)



# Surface Transportation Authorization Invest in America Act

- Five-year \$494 billion surface transportation bill
  - \$105 billion for transit
  - Increases funding for zero emission buses fivefold
  - Prioritizes formula funds on service frequency
  - Provides resources for bus lanes, signal priority route optimization and on-time performance measures
  - Requires FTA to conduct rolling stock certifications to remove the burden from transit agencies.
  - Strengthens Buy America domestic content
  - Creates a pilot project to enable transit agencies to experiment with reduced fares for low-income riders

# Surface Transportation Authorization House Republican Principles

- T&I Ranking Republican Sam Graves priorities
  - Addressing long-term sustainability of Highway Trust Fund
  - Incorporate innovative technology
  - Streamline project delivery process to maximize funding
  - Address infrastructure needs of rural communities
  - Prioritize core programs and functions of our existing federal surface transportation programs
  - Ensure state flexibility

# Challenges in the Current Environment

- Will there be another COVID relief bill in 2021?
- How to finance the Highway Trust Fund?
  - \$150 billion has supplemented HTF user fees
    - \$159 billion is needed in next 5 years to maintain current program levels
- What can be done?
  - Bond against revenues
  - Transition to vehicle miles traveled
  - Toll roads and private financing
  - Cut federal spending
- Debt limit must be increased in July/August
- Will congressional earmarks return?

# Questions?