Political Outlook 2020
Political Outlook 2020

What to expect in the coming year...

1. Impeachment
2. Trump’s prospects
3. Democratic 2020 primary
4. Congressional outlook
Impeachment

- Likely over relatively quickly
- Trump likely to be acquitted (20 Republicans would have to flip)
- Democrats not putting pressure on vulnerable Republicans
- What happens after? Trump takes message to the campaign trail
Trump’s prospects

**High:** 44% (Sept. 2019 - economy)

**Low:** 37% (Jan. 2018 - Shutdown)

SOURCE: NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll
Trump’s prospects

- Trump’s average approval rating is the lowest of any president seeking reelection since WWII

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESIDENT</th>
<th>ELECTION YEAR</th>
<th>ON JAN. 1</th>
<th>ON ELECTION DAY</th>
<th>CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyndon B. Johnson*</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
<td>-2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight D. Eisenhower</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>-7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W. Bush</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>-8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Carter</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>-18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>+3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry S. Truman*</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>-14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Clinton</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>54.6%</td>
<td>+2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Nixon</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
<td>+10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George H.W. Bush</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>-16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barack Obama</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>+3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donald Trump</strong></td>
<td><strong>2020</strong></td>
<td><strong>42.6%</strong></td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Trump’s prospects

#### Battleground State Approval Ratings - Midwest/Rust Belt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OH</td>
<td>46%/50% (-4)</td>
<td>51%/37% (+14)</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>46%/51% (-5)</td>
<td>49%/39% (+10)</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>44%/53% (-9)</td>
<td>47%/41% (+6)</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>44%/53% (-9)</td>
<td>49%/40% (+9)</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>43%/54% (-11)</td>
<td>46%/43% (+3)</td>
<td>-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>40%/55% (-15)</td>
<td>48%/40% (+8)</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Avg. Net change of 17 points**

**Avg. approval rating of 44%**

*SOURCE: Morning Consult*
## Trump’s prospects

### Battleground State Approval Ratings - Sun Belt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>48% / 48% (even)</td>
<td>53% / 35% (+18)</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>48% / 48% (even)</td>
<td>54% / 34% (+20)</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>48% / 49% (-1)</td>
<td>56% / 34% (+22)</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>47% / 49% (-2)</td>
<td>53% / 35% (+18)</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>47% / 50% (-3)</td>
<td>55% / 35% (+20)</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td>43% / 53% (-10)</td>
<td>52% / 35% (+17)</td>
<td>-27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avg. Net change of **22 points**  
Avg. approval rating of **47%**

SOURCE: Morning Consult
Trump’s prospects

**National**
- Biden +9
- Bloomberg +9
- Sanders +7
- Warren +5
- Buttigieg +4
- Klobuchar +3

**Wisconsin**
- Biden +4
- Sanders +1
- Warren -3
- Buttigieg -2

**Florida**
- Sanders +6
- Biden +2
- Warren +2
- Buttigieg tie

**Source:**
- National: CNN, Jan. 16-19
- Wisconsin: Marquette Law School, Jan. 8-12
- Florida: Florida Atlantic University, Jan. 9-12
Trump’s prospects

And yet...

- The betting markets like Trump’s chances

Why?
Trump’s prospects

- 89% of Republicans approve of the job he’s doing
- 92% of Republicans oppose his impeachment and removal

Plus...
Trump’s prospects

- The economy is buoying Trump
- Unemployment 3.5%, lowest since December 1969
- Economic handling approval: 55%

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, RealClearPolitics economic handling average
Democratic 2020 Primary

- Voting kicks off Feb. 3, one week from today!
- Iowa, New Hampshire - *four different leaders* in both states
Democratic 2020 Primary

• Biden maintains national lead narrowly
• Sanders in a strong position
• Warren led, but receded some
• Buttigieg Bounce appears to have come down
Democratic 2020 Primary

- That rising yellow line Bloomberg
- Jumped to 10% in some polls
- $250 million in ads SO FAR
- *But Bloomberg’s REAL impact might be...*
Democratic 2020 Primary

Michael Bloomberg Is Open to Spending $1 Billion to Defeat Trump

The Democratic presidential candidate said he would spend big even if the nominee was someone he had sharp differences with, like Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren.
Democratic 2020 Primary

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Democratic 2020 Primary

*Michael Bloomberg Is Open to Spending $1 Billion to Defeat Trump*

The Democratic presidential candidate said he would spend big even if the nominee was someone he had sharp differences with, like Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren.
Democratic 2020 Primary

- The primary is about to hit warp speed
- Over seven weeks, through March, **38 contests** take place
- Four early states: Just 5% of delegates
- **90% of delegates by end of April**
Democratic 2020 Primary

• If 5% of delegates decided after the first four, why are Iowa and New Hampshire so important?

• Momentum is the name of the game

• No Democrat has won the nomination without competing in Iowa, New Hampshire
Democratic 2020 Primary

- Iowa has been more predictive than New Hampshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iowa</th>
<th>New Hampshire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Clinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Obama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Kerry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Gore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Harkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Gephardt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Mondale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Carter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Iowa winner has gone on to be the nominee in 7 of the last 9 elections and in each of the last four
The House  \textit{(Democrats favored to retain power)}

- 232-197 Democratic advantage (1 independent, 5 vacancies)
- Republicans need to net \textbf{18 seats}
- 29 Republicans aren’t running for reelection
- Just 11 Democrats not running
- Up to 70 competitive seats (38 D, 32 R)
- GOP hasn’t gained 20+ seats in presidential year in almost three decades

\textsc{Source: Inside Elections, Cook Political Report}
Congressional outlook

The Senate (Senate is in play, but a narrow path)

- 53-47 Republican advantage
- Democrats need a net of 3 seats if a Democrat wins the White House and 4 if Trump is reelected
- 35 seats up: 23 R, 12 D
- 5 Toss up or Lean R seats, 2 Toss Up or Lean D
Congressional outlook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democratic Targets</th>
<th>Republican Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. CO-Gardner</td>
<td>1. AL-Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. AZ-McSally</td>
<td>2. MI-Peters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ME-Collins</td>
<td>3. MN-Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NC-Tillis</td>
<td>4. NM-Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. IA-Ernst</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. GA-Perdue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. GA-Loeffler</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. TX-Cornyn</td>
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</table>
Looking ahead

- All signs point to a close, base election
- That’s what the campaigns and parties are preparing for
- Run up score even more with rural voters
- Democrats looking to register more Latinos, young voters
- Only 8%-10% of country is persuadable