# Massachusetts Elections and the Blue Wave

*Current events for Grade 4 | November 4, 2026*

## Words to know

**Political party:** a group of people with shared ideas about government.

**Midterm election:** an election halfway through a president's four-year term.

**Congress:** the House of Representatives and the Senate, which make national laws.

**Majority:** more than half.

**Bill:** a proposal for a law.

**Veto:** a president's decision to reject a bill passed by Congress.

## Massachusetts chooses its leaders

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Massachusetts voters chose leaders for their state and for the nation. Across the country, the results also changed which party will lead Congress.[1,2,3]

Voters reelected **Maura Healey** as governor. She defeated Republican Mike Minogue and won a second four-year term. They also reelected **Ed Markey** to the U.S. Senate. He defeated Republican John Deaton and won another six-year term. Healey and Markey are Democrats.[1,2]

The governor helps lead our state government in Boston. A U.S. senator helps make national laws in Washington, D.C. Both jobs affect our lives, but they have different duties.

## A blue wave across the country

On election maps, news outlets usually show Democrats in blue and Republicans in red. A **blue wave** means Democrats win many important races across the country.

Reuters reported that Democrats won majorities in both parts of Congress: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Democrats also won Senate races in Texas, Kansas, and South Carolina, states that often elect Republicans.[3]

A blue wave does not mean Democrats won every race or that all voters agreed.

## A possible message to the president

This was a midterm election. **President Donald Trump** was not running for president this year. Still, voters can choose members of Congress partly because of how they feel about a president's work.[4]

Reporters sometimes call an election like this a **referendum on the president**. Usually, a referendum is a direct vote on a question. Here, the word means the election may act like a report card on the president's leadership.

The Associated Press, or AP, surveyed people who voted. About **7 out of 10 voters surveyed** said Congress was not doing enough to check the president's power. AP also reported concerns about high everyday costs.[5]

That evidence supports the idea that many voters wanted Congress to challenge Trump more often. But the results cannot tell us why every person voted. Some may have cared most about a local problem or a particular candidate.

## The red VETO hat

Trump responded with a picture. According to The National, he posted an image on Truth Social of a red hat with one word across the front: **"VETO."** He also said he planned to use his veto power against some Democratic proposals.[6]

The hat appeared to send a message: Trump was ready to block some bills Democrats might pass. Posting the picture was a message, not an actual veto.

When Congress passes a bill, it goes to the president. The president can sign it into law or reject it with a veto. **A veto does not cancel an election** or remove newly elected lawmakers.[7]

Congress can sometimes **override**, or overcome, a veto. At least two-thirds of the lawmakers voting in each part of Congress must agree. That takes more support than a simple majority.[7]

## What happens next

The new Congress begins its term in January 2027. Trump remains president. With Democrats leading Congress and a Republican president, the country will have **divided government**.[3]

Congress and the president have powers that limit each other. This is part of **checks and balances**, rules that keep one part of government from having all the power. Leaders may need to compromise to pass laws. A compromise is an agreement in which each side accepts some of the other side's ideas.[7]

## Think about the reading

Discuss these questions with a partner or write your answers in your notebook.

**1.** Who won the Massachusetts governor's race? How is the governor's job different from a U.S. senator's job?

**2.** What does the phrase blue wave mean? Does it mean that every voter chose a Democrat?

**3.** Why might reporters call a midterm election a referendum on the president, even when the president is not running?

**4.** What evidence in the reading suggests that many voters wanted a stronger check on presidential power? Why does that evidence not explain every voter's choice?

**5.** What message might the VETO hat have sent? Explain one power the president has and one power Congress has.

## News and civics sources

Reported results and coverage checked November 4, 2026. Superscript numbers in the reading point to the sources below. Vote totals may change as counting continues.


**1. WBUR** | Nov. 3, 2026
Healey wins second term, defeating GOP challenger Mike Minogue

**2. WBUR** | Nov. 3, 2026
Sen. Markey cruises to victory against Republican John Deaton

**3. Reuters via Investing.com** | Nov. 4, 2026
Democrats seize Congress in sweeping midterm repudiation of Trump

**4. USAGov** | updated Oct. 6, 2026
Congressional elections and midterm elections

**5. Associated Press** | Nov. 4, 2026
How Trump and Republicans lost the 2026 midterm elections, according to The AP Voter Poll

**6. The National** | Nov. 4, 2026
From Mr Veto to a political pundit: Five striking things Trump said about the elections

**7. U.S. Senate** | accessed Nov. 4, 2026
Glossary entries for veto and veto override