

**GOVLEARN**

**MIDTERMS AND WHY THEY MATTER**

# Presidential?

You may be hearing a lot on the news about midterms and you may not know what that means. You may be thinking, "Another election? Why does it matter? I thought the next presidential election wasn't until 2020!" Well, you're right. The next presidential election will be in 2020. But the midterms are not presidential elections.

# Then what are midterms?

- Midterms are US elections that take place in the middle of the President's four year term
- They are NOT a presidential election
- They elect the entire House of Representatives (they are elected every two years)
- They elect a handful of Senate seats (in 2018 it was 35, Senators have six year terms)
- They elect a handful of Governors of states
- They pass or block local propositions for policy (ever seen an advertisement to for example, vote "No on 45"?)
- They occur every four years

# What is a “wave” election?

- A wave election is one in which a political party makes major gains
- For instance, in the 2010 and 2014 midterms, Republicans made major gains, but in the 2018 midterms, Democrats made major gains
- Notable wave elections include 2008, 1980, and 1964
- Wave elections typically occur during midterms, but not always

# When are the next midterms?

- The next midterm elections will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022
- 34 Senate seats and 39 governorships will be up for election